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of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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WASHINGTON, TUESDAY, JANUARY 21, 2025

No. 12

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 21, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable ADRIAN SMITH 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 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### DELIVERING ON PRESIDENT TRUMP'S PROMISES

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, yesterday, President Trump was inaugurated for his second term as President. Now, it is time for us to deliver on his promises.

The American people overwhelmingly supported President Trump's candidacy, a candidacy that was built on restoring the American Dream,

strengthening our national security, and making America once again energy dominant.

I have no doubt that President Trump will continue to do the work that we have already started right here in the House of Representatives to Make America Great Again. The golden age of America does start right now.

PRESIDENT TRUMP'S POLICIES RESONATE WITH AMERICANS

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, after the inauguration, President Trump shared his plans for the American people.

During his speech, the President made it clear that the days of a weak America are over, and now, we will return to being that shining city on a hill. The policies that President Trump laid out in his speech resonate with the American people.

More than his policies, his message resonates with Americans throughout this great land. It is a message of strength on the international stage, a message of dominance in the production of energy, and a message of safety on our city streets.

President Trump's speech is why the American people overwhelmingly returned him to the White House.

LAYING OUT NEW VISION FOR NATION

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, President Trump has laid out a vision for our Nation over the past few months, from the campaign trail to his first day back in office, a vision that he took action on immediately after being sworn in by signing numerous executive orders to secure our border, lower costs for the American public, and drain the swamp.

President Trump also shared his support for ending California's out-of-touch electric vehicle mandate. I strongly support this action and look forward to working with President Trump to pass my legislation, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, to protect the individual con-

sumer's right to drive the type of vehicle that they want.

PRESERVING LIFE AT ALL STAGES

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, thousands of pro-life advocates will be coming to Washington for the annual March for Life this week. Like these fierce advocates, I firmly believe that all life is worth protecting.

This week, I was proud to be an original cosponsor of H.R. 21, the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. This important piece of legislation will require medical attention for children who survive botched abortions and impose strong penalties for those who do not comply.

Life is truly a gift from God, and I will always work to preserve the sanctity of human life.

### HONORING CONTRIBUTIONS OF MARIE RIDDER

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

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I rise once again to honor the lifetime contributions of Marie Ridder to Virginia and the Nation.

Marie, a distinguished journalist and one of the most passionate conservationists I have known, will celebrate her 100th birthday next Monday, January 27.

Marie Ridder began her career as a journalist covering the reconstruction of post-World War II Europe, writing for the Philadelphia Bulletin. Over the next few years, she wrote for The Washington Post, the Boston Globe, and Knight Ridder publications. Not just a writer, Marie edited for Vogue, Glamour, Mademoiselle, and Conde Nast magazines.

I became close with Marie when she hosted my first-ever political event more than 37 years ago. When everyone else was skeptical, including my own family, Marie believed in me. Over the

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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years, Megan and I have visited Marie's home myriad times, always surrounded by the most interesting people. It was there I first met and heard Dr. Howard Dean, perhaps the strongest voice against our invasion of Iraq and for healthcare for all Americans.

Marie is passionate about saving our landscapes and our environment. She has been the champion of the Piedmont Environmental Council for decades and led the successful fight against the 1990s Disney effort to blanket the Virginia Piedmont with houses. She has served on the boards of the League of Conservation Voters and the Trust for Public Land.

Maria is a master gardener, working in her garden high above the Potomac River in McLean. It was there that she was first bitten by a copperhead snake and rushed to Sibley Hospital for the antivenom. When she was struck again by a copperhead a few years later, the emergency room doctor noted that he had only treated two snake bites in his career. Both were on Ms. Ridder.

It will come as no surprise that he was yet again the attending physician on her third snake bite. This is the same garden where Marie or her gardener—it is not clear who—killed an invasive deer with a bow and arrow. I do my best to avoid that garden.

Marie's public service history is both remarkable and intriguing. She was deputy national director of Head Start, where she also served as the direct liaison for First Lady Lady Bird Johnson for 4 years. Later, she led the Sasha Bruce House, a compassionate home for the lost children of our Capital City—the abused, abandoned, neglected, and runaways.

Marie has won many awards in her fight for democracy. In 2019, I was privileged to honor her with the Clara Mortenson Beyer Women and Children First Award for her outstanding accomplishments and commitment to empowering women.

Megan and I are most fortunate to count Marie Ridder as our beloved friend. America is the longtime beneficiary of her creativity, energy, and tireless commitment to others.

When you earn her trust, Marie will even tell you about her date with the bachelor John F. Kennedy.

#### HONORING TIM BAUER

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

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Timothy "Tim" Cliff Bauer, of Winnie, Texas, who passed away at his home on December 19, 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Tim was born to Patricia and Leroy Bauer on September 13, 1951, in Beaumont, Texas. He grew up in the Winnie-Stowell community and was a devoted member of Grace Methodist Church.

While attending East Chambers High School, he met the love of his life,

Vicki Cuniff. After graduation, Tim attended Texas A & M University, earning his bachelor of science in agronomy in 1973. He married Vicki during his senior year, and they returned to Winnie, where Tim farmed rice and raised Red Angus cattle.

In 1998, Tim and Vicki moved to the original Bauer Ranch homestead and lovingly restored it, going to great lengths to preserve its wonderful history and significance to the local agricultural community.

Tim founded Texas Financial in 2002 and revived the Bauer Ranch's cattle operation in 2011. He created the F1 Braford herd. He retired from his financial advisement business in 2015 but continued to ranch for another 7 years.

In 2023, Tim and Vicki moved to Kerrville, Texas, where he enjoyed the golden years of his life.

Tim was a man of conviction, stewardship, and passion. He held leadership roles in many organizations and was very well known for his love of hunting, fishing, and Western art.

Tim will be remembered for his sincere adoration for his family, unwavering faith, and steadfast presence. He was a true cowboy, a man's man, and tough as a boot. I am incredibly proud to have called him my friend.

May the Lord bless his memory and his wonderful family. We will all miss him.

Farewell, Tim.

#### CALLING FOR WILDFIRE RECOVERY AID WITH NO STRINGS ATTACHED

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart for the thousands of California families who have been devastated by the recent wildfires in and around the Los Angeles area.

Homes have been burned to the ground. Lives have been lost. Family pets are gone. Precious family photos and sentimental belongings have been charred, damaged, and, in many cases, totally destroyed.

The fires didn't just destroy personal possessions. The fires took away the safe place we gather with family and call home, and it took out entire communities.

What I saw, what I witnessed on my tours of the fire-damaged areas, was heartbreaking, devastating, just unreal. It was like being in a war zone. There was a smell of burnt trees and homes, with smoke still in the air, as firefighters continue to put out smoldering fires. The ash irritates your eyes.

What was equally heartbreaking was the evidence of a desperate panic to evacuate, shown by the abandoned cars left in the middle of the streets, many charred, as I imagine people started to run to safety.

Yet, I also saw our brave firefighters. I say thank you to them and our first

responders for being on the front lines and for all that they are doing.

There will be a long road to recovery. We must stand with our neighbors, with our friends, with humankind. It is the right thing to do. It is the compassionate thing to do. It is what we have done repeatedly when communities face natural disasters.

It does not matter if you are in Louisiana, Florida, Georgia, or California. When our communities suffer, we must pull together as one to help communities with the aid they need to rebuild.

When hurricanes hit Florida, Georgia, and North Carolina over the years, we didn't say, "Don't send aid because of politics." When the Speaker's home State of Louisiana suffered losses and devastation, we didn't say, "Let's attach strings to the aid."

We don't do that because, above all, we help our fellow Americans. We don't turn tragic situations caused by natural disasters into political fights. Let's not start now.

I implore my colleagues to put politics aside, to love thy neighbor as yourself, to support a bipartisan recovery effort with no strings attached that builds a safer, more resilient future for our communities harmed by the wildfires.

#### RECLAIMING OUR FUTURE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, on his first day in office, President Trump wasted no time in addressing California's water crisis by signing the memorandum titled "Putting People Over Fish: Stopping Radical Environmentalism to Provide Water to Southern California." We are very pleased with the President's strong actions on that and many fronts yesterday. We look forward to working with his administration on that.

Now, it did say "southern California." As a Representative of northern California, I was like, what are you doing, Doug? We want people to understand that, due to stories like this—this is Lake Shasta up in Shasta County, just north of Redding. It holds 4½ million acre-feet of water when full. It is part of the Federal project known as the CVP, the Central Valley Project, built in the 1930s.

□ 1215

We have an opportunity to raise it 18 feet, add 600,000 more—that is a different story for a different day right now—as well as the other projects we have around the State that hold a lot of water; Lake Oroville, right near my home, 3½ million acre-feet.

The President wanting to have water that is already available, useful for other Californians, instead of being lost or not stored to begin with, I appreciate that directive. You know

what, we have plenty of water in California that falls on the Sierras in rain and snowpack, if we would capture it.

Instead, we have this situation year after year. This poster is a bit dated, but it is the same thing year after year. It shows how much water is being lost out through the Bay Delta. We have this massive flow, in this particular timeline, 7 million acre-feet came in. We are losing 6½ million acre-feet because we are just letting it go out.

It is not helping the delta smelt you have heard about. The delta smelt, they can't find it anymore. They do trolls, and they can't find it. It is gone. Even with all the extra water that has been pushed out since 1992, it never did help the smelt. Maybe too much water actually drowns the fish or something. I don't know.

We don't need to flush that much water through the delta even to keep saltwater intrusion from coming back up and affecting some of the Delta. We need to be trapping that water. We need to be saving that water for the San Luis Reservoir and for crops which would be helpful in the San Joaquin Valley.

Also, when we talked about southern California—my colleague just talked about the horrendous fires down there. This is a reservoir right near the Pacific Palisades, which burned to the ground. This reservoir had that been full, would have had enough water to last several days instead of just a few hours that their hydrant system had.

That is what it looks like full, more or less. That is what it looks like empty. It was empty. It had been empty for nearly a year. What kind of management or planning is that where they don't need to tell the fire department it wasn't full at the time?

They are supposed to be doing some kind of repair on it. It probably could have been done in a couple of weeks. Instead, they are putting it out for bid and this or that. Probably, their local staff could have done it, they say. We lost that opportunity to trap water. Get this: It holds about 40 acre-feet. I just showed you how many hundreds of thousands of acre-feet go out through the delta. You could fill that up in minutes if you could somehow channel the delta into that. Yet, this is what you get.

Instead, we would have the opportunity to have those reservoirs full, and have southern California have what it needs. Also, let's not forget the San Joaquin Valley, which President Trump knows a lot about. They grow these amazing crops. So many of them come from down there, as well as my part of northern California, to feed the United States and even the world.

These products—when we show you these percentages here—these are percentages of crops that come from California that Americans use; not just Californians. If we don't grow them in California with all this abundant water we have, then where is this stuff going

to come from? Where is this food going to come from? We are going to have to import it or do without it. We think, well maybe we don't have mandarins anymore, maybe we don't have avocados anymore. We will just eat something else. Why?

We need to have these choices, and we have the ability to grow them because we have plenty of water when we trap it. Even in drought years, there is still enough water that comes down.

With that, the management of water supply is also tied back to fire management. Unfortunately, what my colleague was talking about, the horrific fires in southern California, this is some of the brush that grows on the hills above those areas. It is a pretty arid climate down there. We know that.

If we are smart about it, we can actually be removing this brush, and make it so that if fire does happen, it is just burning weeds at a slow pace instead of being driven by the Santa Ana winds at a high rate of speed, 80 miles an hour. You can't beat that. Firefighters can't beat that.

They do their best efforts. They have got to try and at least make a line of defense at the city, but when it is flowing over the top of them like fire does and like happens in my district all the time, it is humanly not possible.

This is how we stay ahead of it; removing this brush in the timber areas, like in my district where fire burned 1 million acres one time. We can be removing brush. We can be removing dead trees and small trees. We are still leaving the forest, but it is a thin forest. It is a managed forest.

Instead of empty promises being made—empty-handed like Gavin Newsom time and time again saying: Oh, we are going to do something about the water. We are going to do something about the fuel in the forests. No, he isn't. He is dragging his feet on seeing the water supply built in California.

He needs to be directing his people on the water commission, directing people on the water control board to make things happen to build these projects as expeditiously as possible instead of just trying to slow down the lawsuits. We need to do this to scale. We need to do this with speed. We are tired of the empty talk from the Governor.

President Trump is leading the way on his first day, showing the path forward on helping our water supply, on helping our forests, helping the people in our State at home and our country to have what they need.

No more empty promises. No more nonsense. Gavin Newsom needs to get out of the way. Let President Trump—instead of putting aside \$50 million in the legislature, which is what they are talking about to fight Trump, and they want to tie that to State aid for southern California for fires.

Talk about conditions—we hear about conditions a lot around here. Oh, no, conditions. You are making condi-

tions on the State legislature to tie \$50 million to fight Trump with lawsuits for State aid.

#### 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.

#### ENHANCING AMERICA'S LIFELINE

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address a critical issue for all of America, Social Security.

Mr. Speaker, as you know, there are more than 70 million Social Security recipients in the United States of America. What most Americans don't realize is that it has been more than 50 years since Congress last enhanced Social Security. Richard Nixon was President of the United States the last time Congress voted to enhance benefits.

Now, some will say: Well, wait a minute, didn't we just recently vote on Social Security in terms of making sure that teachers and firefighters and municipal employees and police officers would be able to get Social Security insurance? The answer is, yes, we did, except it wasn't paid for, which means that when we say it hasn't been enhanced, in fact, what that did is cut the Social Security trust fund.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to say that it is long overdue that we have a vote on Social Security. That doesn't seem to ask too much of the new Congress, and after all, the incoming President says that he cares about Social Security and has proposed also that there be tax cuts for people on Social Security. That is a good idea, except they have to be paid for. His legislation doesn't call for that, but ours does.

We have put before the American people, and will be bringing to the floor, Social Security legislation that enhances the program for the first time in 50-plus years. Imagine that, 70 million recipients. There are 5 million of our fellow Americans who get below-poverty-level checks from Social Security after having paid into the system all their lives because Congress hasn't acted. Congress hasn't voted.

There are some 35 million Americans whom the only benefit that they have is Social Security. The average Social Security payment is \$18,000 for a male, \$14,000 for a female. No one is getting wealthy on Social Security, but it is, as I like to say, the lifeline of capitalism, the full support for capitalism.

It allows people to take risks. It allows us to be entrepreneurial because in the event the business doesn't succeed or fail, there is that system. The

genius of Franklin Delano Roosevelt was that he saw that, and the genius of successive Congresses was that they enhanced the program. However, the last time it was enhanced, Richard Nixon was President of the United States in 1971.

This also is, for Americans, a lifeline because of what it does. Speaker SMITH was just in the chair before, and I was explaining that in his district, he has over 150,000 recipients, Mr. Speaker. Those recipients are broken down in several different ways: Retirees, over 100,000; spouses, over 8,000; widows, 8,000; 14,000 disabled people in Speaker SMITH'S district, but they haven't received an increase from the United States Congress since 1971.

If you disagree with it—if you disagree that people don't deserve this, to have their Social Security updated, brought into the modern times that we live in, then vote against it, but for God's sake, for the more than 70 million Americans who rely on this and need this, it is long overdue for a vote. Don't you think so?

#### SENDING A CLEAR MESSAGE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss a vital piece of legislation, the Laken Riley Act.

On February 22, 2024, Laken Riley, a 22-year-old Augusta University nursing student was murdered by an illegal Venezuelan migrant while she was jogging in Athens, Georgia.

Prior to the attack on Laken, her killer illegally entered the United States and was apprehended and released at the border. The perpetrator was also previously arrested by both Federal and State officials in multiple jurisdictions, and each time released due to certain States' soft-on-crime policies and the failures of the Biden-Harris administration to protect our southern border.

The Laken Riley Act is straightforward in its purpose, safeguarding the safety and security of our neighborhoods from the threat posed by criminal, illegal aliens who disregard our laws and endanger our citizens. It sends a clear message that we will no longer tolerate leniency when it comes to those who commit theft, burglary, larceny, shoplifting, or other serious crimes.

This bill also empowers States to hold future administrations accountable. For too long, radical far-left policies weakened immigration enforcement and prioritized open borders over the safety of American families.

By providing States with legal standing to challenge Federal officials who fail to enforce immigration laws, we ensure that no administration, present or future, can turn a blind eye to the dangers posed by criminal, illegal aliens.

Recently, January 10 would have been Laken Riley's 23rd birthday. This legislation isn't just another bill. It is a promise to address the real challenges and commitment to creating a safer, more equitable future for all. This is our chance to honor Laken Riley's legacy by building something lasting and meaningful.

It is a chance to prove that we can rise above partisanship and come together to solve real problems for real people. This will protect the fundamental rights and freedoms of every American, restore trust in our immigration system, uphold the rule of law, and ensure that every community in this country is safe and secure. It is time to put the safety and security of the American people first.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this vital legislation and to return it to the Senate.

#### WILDFIRE WORKERS

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor those fighting the deadly wildfires that are destroying our homes, businesses, and taking lives across southern California. In the face of this natural disaster, I thank our brave first responders who are on the front lines fighting one of the worst fires in California history.

I am also proud of our local Orange County firefighters that are helping our neighbors in Los Angeles. I am happy to say that we are not alone. I am grateful for firefighters from across the country, neighboring States, as well as our neighboring countries, Canada and Mexico, who have also come to help us fight these fires.

Moments like this remind us that strength is through unity and helping each other out. Of course, that includes almost 750 incarcerated individuals who are stepping up and acting as firefighters on the front lines.

□ 1230

Mr. Speaker, I also want to thank the immigrant community in the area who are offering free food to the first responders and collecting donations for the families in need.

From firefighters to food vendors, friends, and local neighbors, all coming together in this time of tragedy, that is what community is all about. That is what this Nation is all about.

#### RECOGNIZING LESTONNAC FREE CLINIC EXECUTIVE DIRECTOR EDWARD GERBER

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the work of my very good friend, Ed Gerber, the executive director of the Lestonnac Free Clinic in Orange.

Ed graduated from the University of Texas after 4 years in the military. Since then, he has dedicated his time as an executive director at the Lestonnac Free Clinic. His priority is free medical and dental services to the

uninsured and low-income families across southern California.

Under his leadership, Lestonnac Free Clinic has expanded to 13 satellite clinics and 2 mobile medical vehicles. He pioneered the specialty care program to help low-income families access specialty medical care.

We love Ed. We want him to stay healthy. We need him, and we thank him for his very, very good work in our community.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 31 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

#### PRAYER

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

On these days after the long-sought ceasefire in Israel and Gaza, we pray in thanks to You, Lord Almighty, that as You promised, You have given freedom to the captives. You have broken the shackles of their confinement, that the Israeli and Palestinian men, women, and children, soldiers and civilians, sick and infirmed, may be returned to their homelands and to the embrace of their loved ones.

Bind up the brokenhearted, those whose arms remain empty, grieving the death of the ones who did not live to see this day. Bind up the wounds of the hostages released as they suffer injury of mind and body that has penetrated their very souls.

In these next weeks, Sovereign God, intercede and effect the end of the region's warfare. Abolish the bow and the sword, put an end to the gunfire and bombardment, silence the battle that rages, and remove from the land all desire for vengeance.

Clear the way for safe troop withdrawal and swift delivery of humanitarian aid. May all, under Your watchful eye, soon lie down in safety. In You, may we find everlasting peace, and in Your name, may we lift up 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 gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MOORE of Utah 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.

## 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, January 21, 2025.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
The 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 January 21, 2025, at 10:29 a.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 5.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

KEVIN F. MCCUMBER,  
Clerk.

## APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS TO PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces, without objection, the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to clause 11 of rule X, clause 11 of rule I, the order of the House of January 3, 2025, and notwithstanding the requirement clause 11(a)(4)(A) of rule X, of the following Members of the House to the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:

Mr. HIMES, Connecticut  
Mr. CARSON, Indiana  
Mr. CASTRO, Texas  
Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Illinois  
Mr. CROW, Colorado  
Mr. BERA, California  
Ms. PLASKETT, Virgin Islands  
Mr. GOTTHEIMER, New Jersey  
Mr. GOMEZ, California  
Ms. HOULAHAN, Pennsylvania  
Mr. QUIGLEY, Illinois

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

## HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass

the bill (H.R. 186) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 186

*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 "Hershel 'Woody' Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act".

## SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Congress in 2021 unanimously passed, and the President signed, Public Law 117-80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note), which authorized the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish on Federal land in the District of Columbia a commemorative work to honor the acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

(2) The Medal of Honor was established by President Abraham Lincoln and first awarded 160 years ago on March 25, 1863, and is part of Lincoln's lasting and living legacy.

(3) In 1991, during the administration of President George H.W. Bush, this legacy was extended further when National Medal of Honor Day was established as March 25th of each year.

(4) The Medal of Honor is awarded to all branches of the United States Armed Forces as our nation's highest recognition for valor in combat.

(5) The number of living Medal of Honor recipients has been steadily declining, making it even more crucial to honor and recognize their heroic sacrifices and inspire future generations.

(6) Hershel "Woody" Williams, the last World War II Medal of Honor recipient, passed away in 2022 and laid in honor at the United States Capitol.

(7) The Medal of Honor represents the very best of our Nation—ordinary citizens, who took extraordinary action above and beyond the call of duty and became heroes of our Republic.

(8) These examples inspire all citizens and ignite within us the very spirit of America.

(9) The Medal of Honor rises to the level of supreme national and historical importance necessary to warrant representation on the National Mall.

(10) Locating the National Medal of Honor Monument in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial within the Reserve would be a respectful extension of his enduring legacy and recognition of what ordinary people can accomplish when working for the greater good.

## SEC. 3. NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION.

(a) SITE.—Notwithstanding section 8908(c) of title 40, United States Code, the commemorative work authorized by section 1(a) of Public Law 117-80 (40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall be located within the Reserve (as defined in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code).

(b) APPLICABILITY OF COMMEMORATIVE WORKS ACT.—Except as provided in subsection (a), chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the "Commemorative Works Act"), shall apply to the commemorative work.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gen-

tleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

## GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 186, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, as we approach the 250th celebration of our Nation next year, there is perhaps no greater way to celebrate our history than passing H.R. 186, which honors the valor and sacrifice of some of our Nation's bravest heroes, Medal of Honor recipients.

Madam Speaker, 162 years ago, President Abraham Lincoln awarded the first Medal of Honor in the midst of the Civil War. It remains our Nation's highest honor awarded to members of the Armed Forces and is bestowed sparingly to only those who have demonstrated the highest acts of valor. Less than 70 Medal of Honor recipients are alive today out of the more than 3,500 medals that have been awarded.

As the highest and most prestigious military decoration in the United States, the Medal of Honor symbolizes extraordinary acts of bravery, selflessness, and sacrifice beyond the call of duty.

□ 1415

Madam Speaker, by recognizing these remarkable individuals, the Medal of Honor inspires a sense of national pride, honors the memory of fallen heroes, and motivates future generations to embody the values of courage and honor.

The Medal of Honor continues to instill a profound sense of respect and gratitude for the sacrifices made in the defense of freedom and justice.

Congressman MOORE's bipartisan bill, the Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act, will ensure that the monument honoring these brave heroes can be placed on what is known as the Reserve but is commonly referred to as "The National Mall" here in Washington, D.C.

A monument honoring our most exceptional citizens should be placed in an equally exceptional location. According to National Park Service data, The National Mall receives upward of 25 million visitors each year. The monuments and memorials located on The National Mall are the centerpiece of this history, and it is appropriate to include a new monument honoring veterans who have displayed the most courageous acts of valor recognized by our country.

In my home State of Arkansas, our State capital also has a memorial dedicated to Medal of Honor recipients. I hope the monument in D.C., like the one in Arkansas, can inspire reflection, patriotism, and gratitude for our Nation's military heroes.

Last Congress, the Committee on Natural Resources had the privilege of hearing from one of the 61 living Medal of Honor recipients, Master Chief Special Warfare Operator Britt Slabinski. In his inspiring testimony, he reminded us the Medal of Honor represents those willing to go above and beyond in any circumstance, no matter how small.

This monument will serve as an everlasting reminder of this country's greatness and the difference that one single person can make. The legislation before us today, H.R. 186, would authorize the location of the National Medal of Honor Memorial in a prominent location on The National Mall, with the intent to keep it near the Lincoln Memorial as President Lincoln was the first to give out this special award.

I was proud to support the original legislation authorizing this memorial. I am proud to support this subsequent legislation today.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman MOORE for his leadership. I urge my colleague to support the bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I agree with the chairman. The Medal of Honor is the highest military decoration. It is awarded to brave individuals whose extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice exceed the call of duty.

In 2021, Congress authorized establishing a National Medal of Honor Monument to honor over 3,500 Medal of Honor recipients from the Army, Navy, Marine Corps, Air Force, and Coast Guard, ensuring that their courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, and commitment are shared for generations to come.

The bill before us today would allow for this memorial to be placed on The National Mall in close proximity to the Lincoln Memorial. That is appropriate, and Democrats support it.

In December of 1861, as the first brutal year of the Civil War came to an end, President Lincoln signed a bill authorizing the Medal of Honor recipients. I think it is appropriate to place this memorial in the footprint of the Lincoln Memorial as a fitting tribute to that legacy.

I thank Representatives MOORE and VEASEY for their collaboration and leadership on this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

Before moving on, I do want to mention that there are growing demands on The National Mall. In 2003, Congress declared The National Mall a completed work of civic art and prohibited future construction of new memorials

and monuments in the core area known as the Reserve. As we all know, Congress changes its mind. Since then, it has agreed to authorize the placement of several new memorials and for good reason.

Just last month we approved the Women's Suffrage National Monument sponsored by Representative NEGUSE. That new memorial will ensure that women's stories are better reflected, filling an important gap that perhaps was not considered when Congress established the Reserve 20-plus years ago.

The National Medal of Honor Monument is another fitting tribute that deserves a place on The National Mall. We need to be clear-eyed about the future of The National Mall. I hope that this is a conversation we can have this Congress so that we can continue to make the best decisions about what has been dubbed America's front yard, one of the most visited and revered units of the National Park System.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member for the time.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hershel "Woody" Williams National Medal of Honor Monument Location Act. This bill, which passed the House unanimously during the 118th Congress, is the final legislative step to establish a location for a monument recognizing America's Medal of Honor recipients on The National Mall.

Of the estimated 40 million individuals who have served in the United States Armed Services, fewer than 4,000 have been awarded the Medal of Honor.

President Abraham Lincoln awarded the first Medals of Honor more than 160 years ago, and it is only fitting that this monument is located near the Lincoln Memorial on The National Mall.

This monument will serve as a reminder that freedom is not free, and it will inspire new generations of Americans to revere and support the brave men and women who we owe our freedom to.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 186 to give America's heroes and their families a monument for their sacrifices for our Nation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his hard work on this legislation. I thank the gentleman from California and the minority for supporting it, as well.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I note that this bill has been named after Hershel "Woody"

Williams who, sadly, passed away in June of 2022. He was known for his extraordinary heroism in the Battle of Iwo Jima in World War II. At the young age of 21, he single-handedly cleared a path for American troops against Japanese forces in an act of extraordinary bravery.

This is a good bill that honors Hershel "Woody" Williams, our Nation's heroic Medal of Honor recipients, and all those who have served. It honors their memory, remembers their legacy, and reaffirms our unwavering commitment to upholding the principles for which they fought so valiantly.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 186.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC WATERS ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 187) to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 187

*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 "Modernizing Access to our Public Waters Act of 2025" or the "MAPWaters Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTION.—The term "Federal fishing restriction" means a defined area in which all or certain fishing activities are temporarily or permanently prohibited or restricted by a Federal land or water management agency.

(2) FEDERAL LAND OR WATER MANAGEMENT AGENCY.—The term "Federal land or water management agency" means—

(A) the Bureau of Reclamation;

(B) the National Park Service;

(C) the Bureau of Land Management;

(D) the United States Fish and Wildlife Service; and

(E) the Forest Service.

(3) FEDERAL WATERWAY.—The term "Federal waterway" means waters managed by 1 or more of the relevant Secretaries.

(4) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTION.—The term "Federal waterway restriction" means

a restriction on the access or use of a Federal waterway applied under applicable law by 1 or more of the Secretaries.

(5) SECRETARIES.—The term “Secretaries” means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service; and  
(B) the Secretary of the Interior.

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

### SEC. 3. INTERAGENCY DATA STANDARDIZATION.

Not later than 30 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretaries, in coordination with the Federal Geographic Data Committee established by section 753(a) of the FAA Reauthorization Act of 2018 (43 U.S.C. 2802(a)), shall jointly develop and adopt interagency standards to ensure compatibility and interoperability among applicable Federal databases with respect to the collection and dissemination of geospatial data relating to public outdoor recreational access of Federal waterways and Federal fishing restrictions.

### SEC. 4. DATA CONSOLIDATION AND PUBLICATION.

(a) FEDERAL WATERWAY RESTRICTIONS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable, geographic information system data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway restrictions—

(1) status information with respect to the conditions under which Federal waterways are open or closed to entry or watercraft, including watercraft inspection, decontamination requirements, low-elevation aircraft, or diving;

(2) the dates on which Federal waterways are seasonally closed to entry or watercraft;

(3) the areas of Federal waterways with restrictions on motorized propulsion, horsepower, or fuel type;

(4) the areas of Federal waterways with anchoring restrictions, no wake zones, exclusion zones, danger areas, or vessel speed restrictions;

(5) Federal waterway restrictions on the direction of travel, including upstream or downstream travel; and

(6) the uses, including by watercraft, that are restricted on each area of a Federal waterway, including the permissibility of—

(A) canoes and other paddlecraft;  
(B) rafts and driftboats;  
(C) motorboats;  
(D) personal watercraft;  
(E) airboats;  
(F) amphibious aircraft;  
(G) hovercraft;  
(H) oversnow vehicles and other motorized vehicles on frozen bodies of water;  
(I) oceangoing ships;  
(J) swimming; and  
(K) other applicable recreational activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Secretaries.

(b) FEDERAL WATERWAY ACCESS AND NAVIGATION INFORMATION.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online, as applicable, geographic information system data that includes, with respect to Federal waterway access and navigation information—

(1)(A) the location of boat ramps, portages, and fishing access sites under the authority of the Federal land or water management agency; and  
(B) the identification of the dates on which the facilities and sites identified under subparagraph (A) are open or closed, as applicable; and

(2) bathymetric information and depth charts, as feasible.

(c) FEDERAL FISHING RESTRICTIONS.—Not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, each of the Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall digitize and make publicly available online geographic information system data that describes, with respect to Federal fishing restrictions—

(1) the location and geographic boundaries of Federal fishing restrictions on recreational and commercial fishing, including—

(A) full or partial closures;  
(B) no-take zones; and  
(C) Federal fishing restrictions within or surrounding marine protected areas;  
(2) Federal fishing restrictions on the use of specific types of equipment or bait; and  
(3) Federal requirements with respect to catch and release.

(d) PUBLIC COMMENT.—The Secretaries shall develop a process to allow members of the public to submit questions or comments regarding the information described in subsections (a) and (b).

(e) UPDATES.—The Secretaries, to the maximum extent practicable, shall update—

(1) the data described in subsections (a) and (b) not less frequently than 2 times per year; and  
(2) the data described in subsection (c) in real time as changes go into effect.

(f) EXCLUSION.—This section shall not apply to irrigation canals and flowage easements.

(g) DISCLOSURE.—Any geographic information system data made publicly available under this section shall not disclose information regarding the nature, location, character, or ownership of historic, paleontological, or archaeological resources, consistent with applicable law.

### SEC. 5. COOPERATION AND COORDINATION.

(a) COMMUNITY PARTNERS AND THIRD-PARTY PROVIDERS.—For purposes of carrying out this Act, the Secretaries may—

(1) coordinate and partner with non-Federal agencies and private sector and non-profit partners, including—

(A) State natural resource agencies;  
(B) Tribal natural resource agencies;  
(C) technology companies;  
(D) geospatial data companies; and  
(E) experts in data science, analytics, and operations research; and  
(2) enter into an agreement with a third party to carry out any provision of this Act.

(b) UNITED STATES GEOLOGICAL SURVEY.—The Secretaries may work with the Director of the United States Geological Survey to collect, aggregate, digitize, standardize, and publish data on behalf of the Secretaries to meet the requirements of this Act.

(c) REQUIREMENT.—With respect to data developed and distributed under this Act, the Secretaries shall—

(1) develop the data in accordance with applicable Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regulations); and  
(2) include a notice that any geospatial data are subject to applicable Federal, State, and Tribal laws (including regulations).

(d) EXISTING EFFORTS.—To the extent practicable, the Secretary concerned shall use or incorporate existing applicable data, maps, and resources in carrying out this Act, including data, maps, and resources developed and published under—

(1) the Modernizing Access to Our Public Land Act (16 U.S.C. 6851 et seq.);  
(2) section 103 of division DD of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2023 (43 U.S.C. 776); or  
(3) other applicable law.

### SEC. 6. REPORTS.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act and annually thereafter

through March 30, 2034, the Secretaries shall submit a report that describes the progress made by the Secretaries with respect to meeting the requirements of this Act to—

(1) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives;

(4) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate; and

(5) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

### SEC. 7. EFFECT.

Nothing in this Act—

(1) modifies or alters the definition of the term “navigable waters” under Federal law;

(2) affects the jurisdiction or authority of State or Federal agencies to regulate navigable waters;

(3) modifies or alters the authority or jurisdiction of Federal or State agencies to manage fisheries; or

(4) authorizes or is intended to result in a change in the accessibility of waters open to hunting, fishing, or other forms of outdoor recreation as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 187, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 187, the Modernizing Access to Our Public Waters Act, or MAPWaters Act, sponsored by Congressman MOORE of Utah.

This bill seeks to improve recreational access for our country's boaters and anglers by requiring agencies to digitize the maps of Federal waterways and information related to the regulations and restrictions on accessing those waterways.

The bill then calls upon Federal land management agencies to publish this information online and work with the private sector to make it easily available to the public. This bill is necessary because access to information related to regulations and restrictions on Federal waterways can often be hard to come by.

The Natural Resources Committee heard testimony about a specific example of an unfortunate situation at Yellowstone National Park. A group of backpackers were hiking to a remote lake in the park where the group planned to fish. Upon arriving at the lake, they discovered that half the lake was off-limits to fishing because of nesting swans. The half of the lake

that was closed to fishing was the part of the lake where they were permitted to fish.

This is unacceptable. Passing this bill would prevent incidents like this by ensuring this information is easily available to the public.

The House passed a nearly identical version of this bill by voice vote in December. The bill language we are considering today incorporates technical edits that have been agreed to with the Senate, helping to ensure that this bill can advance through both Chambers in a timely fashion.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 10, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 187, the "MAPWaters Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 187 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, January 13, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 187, the "MAPWaters Act."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 187 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

I am pleased to support your request to name members of the Committee on Agriculture to any conference committee to consider such provisions. I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD during floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation.

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman.

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

Madam Speaker, I support this bill. It is a good idea to standardize infor-

mation to improve the accessibility of that information if we want to help users, such as recreational fishers, navigate and access Federal waterways. This includes access, fishing restrictions, and navigation information, which are all very important.

On the Natural Resources Committee, we strive to ensure that Federal outdoor spaces are accessible to fishers, hunters, boaters, and other recreational users. It is important that they have up-to-date, easily accessible maps. This will allow us to improve outdoor recreation experiences while protecting existing natural, cultural, and recreational values.

To that end, this bill will direct agencies to develop and adopt inter-agency standards, ensuring that their databases are compatible and interoperable. They can more effectively collect and disseminate geospatial data to help inform folks about recreational opportunities.

I see multiple important applications for collecting and publishing this data. It could include vessel speed restrictions, the types of watercraft allowed in certain areas, the location of boat ramps, fishing sites, equipment and bait usage restrictions, and even waterway catch and release policies which can vary from place to place.

By standardizing and digitizing all of this, it gives Americans the information they need and the confidence to engage in recreation without the nightmare of searching through and trying to decipher a tangled web of information on numerous agency websites.

Madam Speaker, this is a good bill. I support this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I again thank Representative MOORE from Utah for his work on this bill and as a Member of this body to increase recreational access to our public lands. It is something he cares deeply about. I thank Mr. HUFFMAN and the minority for supporting this good legislation.

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, the Modernizing Access to Public Waters, or MAPWaters Act.

This legislation builds upon the success of my MAPLand Act, enacted in 2022, and MAP Army Corps language included in last year's Water Resources Development Act to ensure Americans can quickly see the public resources around them and spend more time recreating on the land and water they love.

The MAPWaters Act will improve the standardization, consolidation, and availability of information on the recreational opportunities on Federal waterways, allowing recreationalists in Utah and around the country with the most up-to-date information on what is available to them.

In addition to providing chances for families to experience the outdoors and instill a love of nature in new generations, recreational boat-

ing and fishing are major drivers of Utah's economy, contributing over \$536 million in 2023.

As our love for the outdoors continues to grow, accessing these public treasures should be as easy as possible.

I thank my friends Mr. PANETTA from California, Mr. FULCHER from Idaho, and Mrs. DINGELL from Michigan, as well as our Senate companions, Senators BARRASSO and KING, for partnering with me on this effort. I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 187.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 187, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

□ 1430

#### SUPPORTING THE HEALTH OF AQUATIC SYSTEMS THROUGH RESEARCH KNOWLEDGE AND ENHANCED DIALOGUE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 207) to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 207

*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 "Supporting the Health of Aquatic systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act of 2025" or the "SHARKED Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE AND RESEARCH PROJECTS.

(a) SHARK DEPREDAATION TASK FORCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Commerce shall establish a task force (referred to in this subsection as the "task force") to identify and address critical needs with respect to shark depredation.

(2) MEMBERSHIP.—The Secretary of Commerce shall appoint individuals to the task force, including—

(A) 1 representative from—

(i) each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1));

(ii) each Marine Fisheries Commission, as such term is defined in section 3 of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1802);

(iii) the fish and wildlife agency of a coastal State from each Regional Fishery Management Council established under section 302(a)(1) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1852(a)(1)); and

(iv) the National Marine Fisheries Service;



(B) an individual with expertise in the management of highly migratory species;

(C) a researcher with expertise in shark management and behavior; and

(D) a researcher with expertise in shark ecology.

(3) RESPONSIBILITIES.—The task force shall—

(A) develop ways to improve coordination and communication across the fisheries management community and shark research community to address shark depredation;

(B) identify research priorities and funding opportunities for such priorities, including—

(i) identifying shark species involved in interactions;

(ii) shark stock assessments;

(iii) how sharks become habituated to humans and thus lead to more interactions between sharks and humans;

(iv) how angler behavior and fishery regulatory frameworks may influence shark interactions;

(v) techniques and strategies to reduce harmful interactions between sharks and humans, including the development and use of non-lethal deterrents;

(vi) the role of healthy shark populations in the ocean food web; and

(vii) climate change impacts on shifting shark populations, prey, and shark behavior;

(C) develop recommended management strategies to address shark depredation; and

(D) coordinate the development and distribution of educational materials to help the fishing community minimize shark interactions including through changed angler behavior and expectations.

(4) REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this section, and every 2 years thereafter until the termination of the task force in accordance with paragraph (5), the task force shall submit to Congress a report regarding the findings of the task force.

(5) SUNSET.—The task force shall terminate not later than 7 years after the date on which the Secretary of Commerce establishes the task force.

(6) COASTAL STATE DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “coastal State”—

(A) means a State of the United States in, or bordering on, the Atlantic Ocean, Pacific Ocean, Arctic Ocean, Gulf of Mexico, or Long Island Sound; and

(B) includes Puerto Rico, the Virgin Islands of the United States, Guam, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, and American Samoa.

(b) SHARK DEPREDEATION RESEARCH PROJECTS.—Section 318(c) of the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1867(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(6) Projects to better understand shark depredation, including identifying what causes increases in shark depredation and determining how to best address shark depredation.”

(c) EFFECT.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to affect the authority and responsibility of the Secretary of Commerce in carrying out the Endangered Species Act of 1973 (16 U.S.C. 1351 et seq.) or the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act (16 U.S.C. 1801 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Mem-

bers may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 207, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 207, sponsored by the Committee on Natural Resources vice chairman, Congressman ROB WITTMAN of Virginia.

Concerns over shark depredation are increasingly common in the Florida Keys, the Gulf of Mexico, and North Carolina’s Outer Banks. Shark interactions can be frustrating for anglers, resulting in loss of catch, damaged gear, and degraded fishing experiences. They also potentially impact the post-release survival of both target fish and bycatch.

As the number of reports of shark depredation has increased, the underlying cause remains uncertain. It could be due to an increase in the number of sharks as stocks rebuild, a learned behavior by sharks as they recognize motors, fishing techniques, or shark feeding locations as a source of food. We simply don’t have enough information to answer all the questions.

To emphasize the scale of this issue, during the consideration of this legislation, we heard from Captain Jack Graham, who fishes out of the renowned Oregon Inlet in North Carolina. Captain Graham has been keeping records of tuna depredation impacting his small marina of about 25 boats. By his estimates, a staggering 250,000 pounds of tuna are depredated each month during tuna season just within his marina.

To make matters worse, shark depredation involves many Federal and State jurisdictions, but because no single entity is responsible for addressing it, very little is being done.

H.R. 207 would require the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force to address shark depredation. The task force membership would include representatives from NOAA, the Regional Fishery Management Councils, marine fisheries commissions, State fish and wildlife agencies from the States within the Regional Fishery Management Councils, and non-Federal experts.

In the 118th Congress, this legislation was passed unanimously through the Committee on Natural Resources, and it passed the House by voice vote. I am grateful that we are again considering this legislation that will help the Federal Government respond to the challenge.

Madam Speaker, I applaud Representative WITTMAN for his work, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, this bill would establish a new task force led by the National Marine Fisheries Service to

identify shark conservation needs and depredation research. That is fine.

Before getting into that, I want to point out that the suspensions today are supposed to reflect some of the bipartisan work of the Committee on Natural Resources to find common ground and move bills that had process last Congress. This legislation should certainly be one of those, but committee Republicans blocked an accompanying bill, Representative KEATING’s Sea Turtle Rescue and Rehabilitation Act. We should be voting on that bill today, and we are not.

Last year’s hurricanes and floods damaged key sea turtle rescue and rehabilitation facilities, forcing them to lose money and space that would otherwise go toward recovering stranded turtles. Representative KEATING’s legislation would help support these facilities as they care for Endangered Species Act-listed sea turtles.

The Committee on Natural Resources and the Senate Commerce Committee secured a deal in December to move that bill, along with this SHARKED Act and two other bills. Unfortunately, unelected billionaire Musk’s last-minute power play on the CR scuttled that modest package, and here we are.

It is disappointing that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle have decided to forgo those bipartisan commitments and move this legislation as a standalone. If House Republicans won’t even follow through on these easy bipartisan agreements, it is hard to see how Democrats can trust them to keep their word in the midst of the tougher negotiations that lie ahead. It is very disappointing and part of a growing pattern of striking deals and then immediately walking away from them.

Turning to this bill, sharks are critical to healthy ocean ecosystems. As the oceans’ apex predators, they help shape marine food webs, and they are a key indicator of ocean health. Unfortunately, many shark species are also threatened or endangered. Oceanic sharks and rays have declined by a whopping 71 percent since 1970. That happened in many of our lifetimes. Three-quarters of these remaining species are at risk of going extinct.

In the seventies and eighties, a fundamental lack of understanding of shark biology and their ecological importance, combined with widespread fear, was partially responsible for dramatic increases in the recreational harvest of sharks in the U.S.

Some shark populations are recovering now, but human activities are reversing even those meager gains. Scientific estimates are that humans are causing nearly 100 million shark deaths every single year, and current levels of fishing pressure will cause the majority of shark populations to continue to decline. According to the International Union for Conservation of Nature, overfishing threatens half of coastal sharks and rays with extinction.

Given these declines and their causes, any effort to address shark depredation must align with our Nation's goal to recover shark populations and consider the impact of heightened fishing pressure and climate change.

Last year, we passed the SHARKED Act in the House. However, I recognize the concern over whether this legislation goes far enough to ensure good outcomes for shark populations and isn't just a slippery slope toward increasing shark harvests.

Through a collaborative effort, we refocused this bill on changing angler behavior and managing expectations, as well as building out the scientific understanding of shark ecology and the impacts of climate change on predators and prey in the ocean. This is vital because nonlethal deterrents and simple changes in angler behavior are proven to reduce the probability of sharks taking fish by 65 percent.

NOAA admitted in the legislative hearing on this bill that depredation research is complex and requires sustained investment due to sharks' high intelligence and adaptability.

Another area of concern is that this bill doesn't include funding. Without it, NOAA will be unable to expand their work to address shark conservation and depredation.

I hope my colleagues who support this bill will also work with us to ensure robust funding for shark conservation priorities, like increased shark stock assessments.

This bill should promote better collaboration between the fishing community and shark researchers. That is a good thing. This partnership is necessary to reduce risks to both sharks and humans from depredation events and build our understanding of the importance of sharks and how to conserve them. These are goals we should all support.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. WITTMAN), the lead sponsor of this bill.

Mr. WITTMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge support for my bill, H.R. 207, the Supporting the Health of Aquatic Systems through Research Knowledge and Enhanced Dialogue Act, also known as the SHARKED Act. As a lifelong recreational fisherman, I am particularly passionate about this bill.

Picture this: A charter boat fisherman takes an excited group of anglers 90 miles off the coast in hopes of reeling in a bluefin tuna, tarpon, or other big game species. One of the individuals hooks the first fish and starts to fight to reel it in, but before the fish ever gets to the boat, sharks have bitten and eaten the fish. This phenomenon is called depredation, which occurs when sharks interfere with fishing activities. It is essentially a massive impact on the coastal recreational fishing industry, especially the charter industry.

Shark depredation is accepted as a natural part of fishing, but it has become a widespread issue in our waters and has increased rapidly in recent years.

During the House Natural Resources Committee hearing for the SHARKED Act last year, we heard from experts discussing the impact of this phenomenon.

According to the American Sportfishing Association, 52.4 million people went fishing in the United States in 2023, supporting 826,000 jobs and contributing \$129 billion to the economy.

The American Sportfishing Association also found that 87 percent of charter guides surveyed said they experienced depredations with clients, resulting in negative impacts on their business.

Anglers are losing their catch and tackle to sharks at alarming rates, and they are understandably becoming increasingly frustrated by it.

I introduced the SHARKED Act to study this issue and evaluate how we can improve sportfishing conditions for anglers while protecting sharks.

This bill establishes a fishery management task force to focus on identifying research opportunities, recommending management strategies, and developing educational materials for fishermen. The task force's membership would be appointed by the Secretary of Commerce and include representatives from the Regional Fishery Management Councils, marine fisheries commissions, the National Marine Fisheries Service, and State fish and wildlife agencies, as well as folks who enjoy recreational fishing.

This legislation will help fishermen and -women understand which species of sharks have higher rates of depredation and where you are most likely to run into that species. It will also serve as the first major step in improving communication and coordination among fisheries managers in addressing shark depredation nationwide.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the passage of H.R. 207.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I again thank my colleague, Mr. WITTMAN, for taking action to address the challenge that fishing communities across the United States currently face.

I have had the opportunity to do some recreational fishing in the western and eastern Gulf. I have had the opportunity to go out on research vessels and even down in the Florida Keys and on the Atlantic Coast. There is one thing in common, and it is you can be certain somebody is going to be reeling in a fish and a shark is going to take everything but pretty much the lips off of the hook.

People who fish more than I do and who are around this will tell you that it has gotten much more common over the years. Improving coordination between fisheries managers, State agencies, and other experts to solve the challenge of shark depredation is an approach that respects the bottom-up approach that has allowed the United States to be the gold standard in fisheries management.

Madam Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 207.

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.

#### LAKE WINNIBIGOSHISH LAND EXCHANGE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 197) to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 197

*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 "Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **BWLT**.—The term "BWLT" means Big Winnie Land and Timber, LLC, a Minnesota Limited Liability Corporation.

(2) **MAP**.—The term "Map" means the map entitled "Heig Land Exchange" and dated December 14, 2023.

(3) **FEDERAL LAND**.—The term "Federal land" means the approximately 17.5 acres of Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as the "Federal Parcel" on the Map.

(4) **NON-FEDERAL LAND**.—The term "non-Federal land" means the approximately 36.7 acres of non-Federal land in Itasca County, Minnesota, generally depicted as the "Non-Federal Parcel" on the Map.

(5) **SECRETARY**.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service.

#### SEC. 3. EXCHANGE OF LAND.

(a) **EXCHANGE AUTHORIZED**.—Subject to the provisions of this Act, if BWLT offers to convey the non-Federal land to the United States, the Secretary shall, not later than 1 year after the date on which such offer is made—

(1) accept the offer;

(2) convey to BWLT all right, title, and interest of the United States in and to the Federal land, excepting and reserving an easement for road access to National Forest System land west of the Federal Parcel; and

(3) accept from BWLT all right, title, and interest of BWLT in and to the non-Federal land.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS**.—The exchange under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) conditioned on title approval for the non-Federal land by the Secretary in accordance with subsection (e);

(2) conditioned on a cash equalization payment made by BWLT to the United States in accordance with subsection (c) if, under the appraisals conducted in accordance with this Act, it is determined that the value of the Federal land exceeds the value of the non-Federal land;

(3) conditioned on the satisfactory completion of a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment by BWLT, provided to the Secretary, in advance of the acceptance of the non-Federal parcel;

(4) subject to valid existing rights; and

(5) subject to any other terms and conditions the Secretary determines appropriate.

(c) EQUAL VALUE AND CASH EQUALIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the exchange under subsection (a) shall be for equal value or the values shall be equalized by a cash payment.

(2) EXCEPTION.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, if the appraised value of the non-Federal land to be conveyed to the United States exceeds the appraised value of the Federal land, a cash equalization payment by the United States to BWLT is hereby waived and the amount of such waived payment shall be considered a donation by BWLT to the United States for all purposes of law.

(d) APPRAISALS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The value of the land to be exchanged under this Act shall be determined by appraisals conducted by an independent and qualified appraiser mutually agreed to by the Secretary and BWLT.

(2) APPRAISAL STANDARDS.—The Secretary shall complete appraisals of the land to be exchanged under this Act in accordance with—

(A) the Uniform Appraisal Standards for Federal Land Acquisitions; and

(B) the Uniform Standards of Professional Appraisal Practice.

(e) FORMAT.—Title to the non-Federal land to be conveyed to the United States under this Act shall be found sufficient by the Secretary pursuant to section 3111 of title 40, United States Code.

(f) MANAGEMENT OF ACQUIRED LAND.—The non-Federal land acquired by the United States under subsection (a) shall be—

(1) added to, and managed as part of, the Chippewa National Forest; and

(2) managed in accordance with the laws, rules, and regulations pertaining to National Forest System lands.

(g) MAP AND LEGAL DESCRIPTIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—As soon as practicable after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall finalize the Map and legal descriptions of all land to be conveyed under this Act.

(2) CONTROLLING DOCUMENT.—In the case of a discrepancy between the Map and a legal description, the Map shall control.

(3) CORRECTIONS.—The Secretary and BWLT, by mutual agreement, may correct any minor errors in the Map or in the legal descriptions, including with respect to the boundaries of the Federal land and the non-Federal land.

(4) MAP ON FILE.—The Map and legal descriptions shall be on file and available for public inspection in appropriate offices of the Forest Service.

(h) CLOSING COSTS.—As a condition for the exchange under subsection (a), BWLT shall pay all closing costs associated with the exchange, including for—

(1) title insurance and title search;

(2) any applicable inspection fees, escrow fees, attorneys fees, and recording fees; and

(3) any environmental analysis or resource survey required under Federal law, regula-

tion, or policy, including a Phase I Environmental Site Assessment of the non-Federal land.

(i) SURVEY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The exact acreages and legal descriptions of the Federal and non-Federal land to be exchanged under subsection (a) shall be determined by surveys satisfactory to the Secretary.

(2) COSTS OF SURVEY.—BWLT shall bear all costs associated with the surveys under paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 197, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 197, the Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act of 2025, led by Representative STAUBER.

This commonsense legislation authorizes the U.S. Forest Service to enter into a land exchange with the Bowen Lodge, a family-operated resort on the shores of Lake Winnibigoshish in northern Minnesota.

Exchanging parcels between the Chippewa National Forest and Bowen Lodge will create a win-win scenario. The lodge will gain permanent access to the lake, and the Forest Service will be able to reconfigure part of its unwieldy checkerboard pattern of land ownership. This change will provide excellent fishing and recreation opportunities for the local community and improve management efficiencies for the Federal Government.

Representative STAUBER has done an excellent job of leading this bill that would help this small business improve its operation for years to come. This bill would improve outdoor recreation opportunities for its constituents and for all who have the pleasure of visiting and recreating in northern Minnesota. He has long been a strong advocate for responsible public land management and access to outdoor recreation, and this legislation is an excellent reflection of that commitment.

Last Congress, this bill passed the House unanimously by voice vote. I urge my colleagues to do the same today and support this important piece of legislation.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I support this bill, which would authorize the Forest Service to exchange a parcel of the Chippewa National Forest for a parcel of land currently owned by the Big Winnie Land and Timber company in Minnesota.

We note that the Forest Service land in question is already used commercially through a permit at the site of Bowen Lodge, a fishing and hunting resort that operated a marina on the shores of Lake Winnie, a place where Mr. STAUBER has never invited me to go fishing, I am sad to say, even though it sounds pretty wonderful and I might be able to catch the first musky in my life. I will continue to wait for that invitation.

In the meantime, the land exchange in this bill would help simplify the operation of the resort and marina for continued visitor and commercial activity. In turn, the Forest Service would gain a parcel of land directly adjacent to the Chippewa National Forest and the shoreline of Lake Winnie.

Integrating this parcel into the Forest Service will provide for better management of undisturbed sites, critical wetlands, and wildlife habitat that are currently adjacent to Federal lands. That makes good sense.

□ 1445

To quote my Republican colleague, this is a win-win near Lake Winnie, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, the gentleman from Minnesota has invited me to Minnesota to fish before. It is a lovely time of year to fish in Minnesota if you like fishing through a little hole in the ice, but I am sure it would be great on Lake Winnie.

Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER), who is the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, to the ranking member from California, it is 37 degrees below zero in Minnesota with the wind chill. Come on over.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 197, the Lake Winnibigoshish Land Exchange Act of 2025.

Lake Winnibigoshish, or Lake Winnie, as it is also known, is located within the boundaries of the Chippewa National Forest and is home to Bowen Lodge, a premier, family-owned fishing lodge. Bowen Lodge has been in operation and welcoming guests since 1925.

For the past four decades, Bill and Gail Heig and their family have operated Bowen Lodge, serving as great stewards of Lake Winnie and providing incredible fishing and vacation memories for Minnesotans and other out-of-towners over these many years.

Currently, Bowen Lodge has a 20-year agreement with the U.S. Forest Service to lease 17½ acres of shoreline along the lake, where they operate their marina. Under the Heigs' stewardship, Lake Winnie has remained accessible to citizens of Itasca County and the many people who visit.

Notably, the Heigs purchased extra acreage in 2021 after an out-of-State mega resort developer sought to purchase a parcel of land, which would have changed the face of Lake Winnie forever. Now Bowen Lodge is seeking to convey that extra acreage to the Chippewa National Forest.

It is in the best interest of the public that the Forest Service take stewardship of this land rather than out-of-State developers who may not prioritize public access for our local community. Additionally, this land will make it easier for the Forest Service to access and responsibly maintain their other acreage in the area.

The bill before us today would facilitate the land exchange between Bowen Lodge and the Forest Service: 17 acres of shoreline to Bowen Lodge, so they can continue to operate their marina in exchange for 37 acres of nearby land to the Forest Service, which would then be added to the Chippewa National Forest.

This exchange would better align boundaries, put the right acreage under the right management, and ensure Minnesotans have the ability to boat, fish, and enjoy beautiful Lake Winnie. Thanks to the Heigs' quick thinking and strong advocacy, our way of life will be preserved.

I am proud that this land exchange is supported by the local community in Itasca County, including the local county board of supervisors who testified in support of the bill before the Natural Resources Committee last Congress, as well as the Mississippi Headwaters Board and other local environmental organizations. It is also supported by the U.S. Forest Service and leadership of the Chippewa National Forest Service.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Minnesota.

Mr. STAUBER. The House of Representatives passed this bill unanimously last September, but the Senate, unfortunately, never took it up. It is my hope that after this House passes the bill today, the Senate will quickly take it up and send this good piece of legislation to President Trump for his signature.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I have no further requests for time.

In closing, Madam Speaker, this is a straightforward bill that benefits the people of northern Minnesota and our public lands.

Once again, I applaud Representative STAUBER for his work on the legislation. I urge its passage today. I hope the Senate will take up this legislation quickly, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 197.

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.

#### ACCURATELY COUNTING RISK ELIMINATION SOLUTIONS ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 204) to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 204

*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 "Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions Act" or the "ACRES Act".

#### SEC. 2. ACCURATE HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORTS.

(a) INCLUSION OF HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION REPORT IN MATERIALS SUBMITTED IN SUPPORT OF THE PRESIDENT'S BUDGET.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first fiscal year that begins after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each fiscal year thereafter, the Secretary concerned shall include in the materials submitted in support of the President's budget pursuant to section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, a report on the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the preceding fiscal year.

(2) REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of the report required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall—

(A) in determining the number of acres of Federal land on which the Secretary concerned carried out hazardous fuels reduction activities during the period covered by the report—

(i) record acres of Federal land on which hazardous fuels reduction activities were completed during such period; and

(ii) record each acre described in clause (i) once in the report, regardless of whether multiple hazardous fuels reduction activities were carried out on such acre during such period; and

(B) with respect to the acres of Federal land recorded in the report, include information on—

(i) which such acres are located in the wildland-urban interface;

(ii) the level of wildfire risk (high, moderate, or low) on the first and last day of the period covered by the report;

(iii) the types of hazardous fuels activities completed for such acres, delineating between whether such activities were conducted—

(I) in a wildfire managed for resource benefits; or

(II) through a planned project;

(iv) the cost per acre of hazardous fuels activities carried out during the period covered by the report;

(v) the region or system unit in which the acres are located; and

(vi) the effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire.

(3) TRANSPARENCY.—The Secretary concerned shall make each report submitted under paragraph (1) publicly available on the website of the Department of Agriculture and the Department of the Interior, as applicable.

(b) ACCURATE DATA COLLECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary concerned shall implement standardized procedures for tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The standardized procedures required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) regular, standardized data reviews of the accuracy and timely input of data used to track hazardous fuels reduction activities;

(B) verification methods that validate whether such data accurately correlates to the hazardous fuels reduction activities carried out by the Secretary concerned;

(C) an analysis of the short- and long-term effectiveness of the hazardous fuels reduction activities on reducing the risk of wildfire; and

(D) for hazardous fuels reduction activities that occur partially within the wildland-urban interface, methods to distinguish which acres are located within the wildland-urban interface and which acres are located outside the wildland-urban interface.

(3) REPORT.—Not later than 2 weeks after implementing the standardized procedures required under paragraph (1), the Secretary concerned shall submit to Congress a report that describes—

(A) such standardized procedures; and

(B) program and policy recommendations to Congress to address any limitations in tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities under this subsection.

(c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a study on the implementation of this Act, including any limitations with respect to—

(A) reporting hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (a); or

(B) tracking data related to hazardous fuels reduction activities under subsection (b); and

(2) submit to Congress a report that describes the results of the study under paragraph (1).

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this Act:

(1) HAZARDOUS FUELS REDUCTION ACTIVITY.—The term "hazardous fuels reduction activity"—

(A) means any vegetation management activity to reduce the risk of wildfire, including mechanical treatments and prescribed burning; and

(B) does not include the awarding of contracts to conduct hazardous fuels reduction activities.

(2) FEDERAL LANDS.—The term "Federal lands" means lands under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of the Interior or the Secretary of Agriculture.

(3) SECRETARY CONCERNED.—The term "Secretary concerned" means—

(A) the Secretary of Agriculture, with respect to National Forest System lands; and

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, with respect to public lands and units of the National Park System.

(4) WILDLAND-URBAN INTERFACE.—The term "wildland-urban interface" has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Healthy

Forests Restoration Act of 2003 (16 U.S.C. 6511).

(e) NO ADDITIONAL FUNDS AUTHORIZED.—No additional funds are authorized to carry out the requirements of this Act, and the activities authorized by this Act are subject to the availability of appropriations made in advance for such purposes.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to add extraneous material on H.R. 204, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of Representative TIFFANY's legislation, H.R. 204, the Accurately Counting Risk Elimination Solutions, or ACRES Act. This is a commonsense, good-governance bill that will bring sorely needed transparency and accountability to the misleading way our Federal land managers are tracking and reporting hazardous fuel treatments.

This month, wildfires in southern California leveled entire communities and took the lives of at least 24 people. Local residents forced to flee their homes described the scene as a war zone.

Unfortunately, the tragedies in southern California are just the latest consequences in what has been a historic wildfire crisis, devouring an average of 7 million acres every year for the last two decades. This alarming figure is more than double the annual losses seen during the 1990s. This worsening problem is directly linked to insufficient forest management, which has created a dangerous build-up of hazardous fuels in our forests.

Despite the clear need to confront this crisis head-on, Federal land management agencies like the Forest Service are still failing to increase the pace and scale of their treatments. Alarmingly, investigative reporting from "NBC News" found that the Forest Service is overreporting the number of acres they treat annually by over 20 percent, but that is not all. The same report found that overcounting was worse in areas of greater risk, such as California, where the total acres treated were overcounted by 35 percent in the wildland-urban interface. In one example, the Forest Service reported that they treated 744 acres of land when, in fact, only 173 acres of land had been treated.

This means that the Forest Service suggested to Congress and the public

that they had done four times more work than they had actually accomplished. This is unacceptable, particularly in an area where wildfire risk and the risk to communities and lives is extremely high.

This inaccurate and misleading reporting results from the Forest Service counting the same piece of land towards its risk reduction goals multiple times if different treatments, such as prescribed thinning and burning, are completed on that land. In some cases, the Forest Service counted the same parcel of land 30 times, meaning the agency reported to Congress that they reduced hazardous fuels on 30 acres when, in fact, only 1 acre received treatment.

This legislation simply requires the Forest Service to submit data to Congress annually that details their hazardous fuels reduction work by only counting each acre once, even if multiple treatments were performed. This exact idea has been supported in reports from the Government Accountability Office and the USDA's Office of Inspector General.

The fact that we even need to pass legislation to tell the Forest Service how to count makes it clear just how deep this problem runs when it comes to confronting our catastrophic wildfire crisis. Holding our Federal land managers accountable for their actual work on the ground is a good first step. We need to improve the health of our Nation's forests as we fight against these catastrophic wildfires, and this bill will help us do that.

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

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 10, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 204, the "ACRES Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 204 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES,  
Washington, DC, January 13, 2025.

HON. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 204, the "ACRES Act."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 204 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

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

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman.

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. The Forest Service manages millions of acres of forestland, including vital watersheds, critical wildlife habitat, and countless outdoor recreational areas.

The Forest Service's 10-year wildlife crisis strategy implementation plan stresses the importance of fire-adapted landscapes and hazardous fuel treatments to build resilient forests. These critical wildfire risk reduction projects are complex, multistep processes requiring significant planning and investments often carried out over several years.

In order for these projects to operate effectively, we must receive accurate, transparent, and accessible data on how they are planned and implemented. This bill proposes requiring the Forest Service and the Department of the Interior to include in the President's annual budget a report on hazardous fuel activities carried out in a given fiscal year to account for each treated acre.

The ongoing reporting requirement would enhance transparency and accountability, providing critical information that could help guide investments in the management of our national forests, including how we deploy the historic funding for wildfire risk reduction efforts that were included in the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act and in the Inflation Reduction Act if we can hang on to that historic funding in the coming months. I certainly support this bill for proposing that idea of an ongoing reporting requirement. However, I want to clarify that the bill does not actually require or even authorize it. The Congressional Budget Office found that the reporting requirements proposed by this bill would need significant funding, including for hiring 30 additional Federal employees.

Now, I think that would be a worthwhile investment for wildfire risk reduction. These days the Freedom Caucus tends to call the shots on these matters, and they don't allow us to consider bills that authorize that kind of money without spending reductions elsewhere.

So what we have before us is a revised version of the bill, a workaroud, that doesn't even authorize the reporting activities that it describes. It is right there on the last page of the bill in all caps: No additional funds authorized.

Madam Speaker, you will notice that the CBO score on this bill is now zero. That is because the revised bill doesn't actually do anything.

We need to do better than this. We have a serious, real fire crisis in front of us. We can't fight climate change with window dressing or thoughts and prayers. I am going to support this bill because it doesn't do any harm and it does bring attention to a good idea, but this is nowhere near enough.

I will point out that the Biden-Harris administration achieved record acres of annual forest treatments thanks to the investments secured by House Democrats in both the IIJA and the IRA. This includes vegetation management to reduce hazardous fuels and prescribed burns.

That is important work worth doing, and I look forward to continuing to work with the majority and the new administration if they are willing to make those investments. We have to ensure that agencies have resources so they can continue reporting back with record-breaking numbers that we achieved under the last administration.

Unfortunately, this bill and the so-called Fix Our Forests Act that we will be considering later this week simply fail to provide any resources. Team extreme might be unhappy with a bill that includes a price tag, but I guarantee that it would be far less than the cost of the mass destruction from fires that we are seeing in places like L.A., and it is certainly worth the lives that would be saved.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friends across the aisle, Mr. HUFFMAN and the minority, for supporting forestry bills both small and large. This is, I think, a small step in the right direction, and it shouldn't cost any more to report accurate data than to report inaccurate data.

I look forward to passing this bill as well as some larger bills like the Fix Our Forests Act that we hope to have before the body this week.

Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. TIFFANY), who is the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, in spite of what was just said on the other side of the aisle, I want to invite the gentleman from California to Wisconsin. He can get some good fishing in

in northern Minnesota, good musky fishing, but if the gentleman wants the best, then come to northern Wisconsin. I have an invitation for my friend.

This bill will bring transparency, Mr. Speaker, to the misleading and inaccurate way hazardous fuels treatments are reported.

Decades of mismanagement of our Federal lands have left our forests overstocked with trees and created tinderbox conditions, and we have long known the reported pace and scale of forest management has been insufficient to truly address our catastrophic forest health crisis.

There is a better way to actively manage our public lands, and that starts with holding our Federal land management agencies accountable by requiring accurate reporting on the effectiveness of their work in fuel reduction.

According to troubling reports, the situation is even worse than we have been led to believe, as agencies have been overstating their treatments by over 20 percent. Accurate reporting is necessary to broadly track the progress made on our larger wildfire mitigation targets as well as individual projects.

The ACRES Act is a simple solution to hold our Federal agencies accountable to see the actual work they are doing to reduce the enormous risks of wildfire. American taxpayers deserve to know they are getting what they paid for. This bill will help ensure that happens.

Mr. Speaker, this is a small step in what needs to be a number of steps to get back to active forest management to protect the life and health of our forests and the people who live around them in the United States of America. I hope this incoming administration and this Congress are active in getting us back to active forest management here in America.

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

□ 1500

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with our friends across the aisle on the accounting issue that has been discussed here today. Obviously, we want to make sure that the Forest Service is not taking advance credit for phases of projects that haven't happened yet.

I think that is for the most part what has happened that the gentleman from Arkansas identified. I don't believe there has been any actual double or triple counting, but either way, we want it to be accurate. We all need good, accurate data on that reporting.

We will work together on that. In the meantime, I urge my colleagues to support this bill. I have no further requests for time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, as we continue to pray for communities

across the Nation that have been impacted by wildfire, we do need to put feet to our prayers to ensure that our forests are being properly managed.

The ACRES Act is a step in the right direction and a commonsense solution to a problem that really shouldn't even exist in the first place.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BOST). The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 204.

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.

#### WOUNDED KNEE MASSACRE MEMORIAL AND SACRED SITE ACT

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 165) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 165

*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 "Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) RESTRICTED FEE STATUS.—The term "restricted fee status" means a status in which the Tribal land—

(A) shall continue to be owned by the Tribes;

(B) shall be part of the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation and expressly made subject to the civil and criminal jurisdiction of the Oglala Sioux Tribe;

(C) shall not be transferred without the consent of Congress and the Tribes;

(D) shall not be subject to taxation by a State or local government; and

(E) shall not be subject to any provision of law providing for the review or approval by the Secretary of the Interior before the Tribes may use the land for any purpose as allowed by the document titled "Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe" and dated October 21, 2022, directly, or through agreement with another party.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) TRIBAL LAND.—The term "Tribal land" means the approximately 40 acres (including the surface and subsurface estate, and mineral estate, and any and all improvements, structures, and personal property on those acres) on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in Oglala Lakota County, at Rural County Road 4, Wounded Knee, South Dakota, and generally depicted as "Area of Interest" on the map entitled "Wounded Knee Sacred Site and Memorial Land" and dated October 26,

2022, which is a segment of the December 29, 1890, Wounded Knee Massacre site.

(4) TRIBES.—The term “Tribes” means the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe of the Cheyenne River Reservation, both tribes being among the constituent tribes of the Great Sioux Nation and signatories to the Fort Laramie Treaty of 1868 between the United States of America and the Great Sioux Nation, 15 Stat. 635.

**SEC. 3. LAND HELD IN RESTRICTED FEE STATUS BY THE TRIBES.**

(a) ACTION BY SECRETARY.—Not later than 365 days after enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall—

(1) complete all actions, including documentation and minor corrections to the survey and legal description of Tribal land, necessary for the Tribal land to be held by the Tribes in restricted fee status; and

(2) appropriately assign each applicable private and municipal utility and service right or agreement with regard to the Tribal land.

(b) CONDITIONS.—

(1) FEDERAL LAWS RELATING TO INDIAN LAND.—Except as otherwise provided in this Act, the Tribal land shall be subject to Federal laws relating to Indian country, as defined by section 1151 of title 18, United States Code and protected by the restriction against alienation in section 177 of title 25, United States Code.

(2) USE OF LAND.—The Tribal land shall be used for the purposes allowed by the document titled “Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe” and dated October 21, 2022.

(3) ENCUMBRANCES AND AGREEMENTS.—The Tribal land shall remain subject to any private or municipal encumbrance, right-of-way, restriction, easement of record, or utility service agreement in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(4) GAMING.—Pursuant to the document titled “Covenant Between the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe” and dated October 21, 2022, the Tribal land shall not be used for gaming activity under the Indian Gaming Regulatory Act (25 U.S.C. 2701 et seq.).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members are given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 165, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

H.R. 165, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, introduced by Congressman JOHNSON from South Dakota, would place approximately 40 acres of fee land within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation into restricted fee status for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

The land would be held as a memorial and as a sacred site in remembrance of the Indian people killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre in 1890.

During the mid and late 1800s, several armed conflicts occurred between Tribes, settlers, and U.S. military on the Great Plains in the Western United States.

This contributed to distrust, fear, and misconceptions between groups, and the Wounded Knee Massacre was a result of that atmosphere.

On December 29, 1890, a group of Lakota Indians led by Chief Spotted Elk made camp near Wounded Knee Creek on the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation in South Dakota. The U.S. Army’s 7th Cavalry were sent to disarm the Lakota.

A struggle occurred between the U.S. Army and some of Chief Spotted Elk’s Band, a majority of which consisted of women and children.

A shot rang out, and the U.S. Army opened fire on the largely unarmed group. At the time, it was estimated that approximately 300 Indian people were killed.

In September 2022, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe jointly purchased 40 acres of land where an old trading post was located. The piece of land also contains a portion of the area where the Wounded Knee Massacre took place.

On October 21, 2022, both Tribes signed a covenant stating that this property shall be held and maintained as a memorial and sacred site without any economic development and prohibited any gaming on the land.

I applaud the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) for working collaboratively with both Tribes to develop H.R. 165, which would place the 40 acres into restricted fee status held jointly by both Tribes and memorialize their covenant.

Restricted fee land contains the same restrictions against alienation and taxation as land held in trust, but the Federal Government does not hold title. Instead, it will be held by the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes.

This legislation and the land it sets aside will memorialize and honor the Indian men, women, and children who were killed in 1890.

I again thank the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON) and the Oglala Sioux and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribes for their work on this important legislation.

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

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

I rise in support of H.R. 165, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act.

This is an important step to honor the Lakota lives lost at Wounded Knee and the Lakota people for generations to come.

The bill would place approximately 40 acres of land located within the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation into restricted fee status for the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe.

This is land believed to be the site of the 1890 Wounded Knee Massacre.

In the late 1800s, Tribes began holding Ghost Dances for the renewal of stolen land and in protest of the U.S. Government, which had prohibited American Indians from practicing their religious freedom.

In December of 1890, the government, our government, sent the Army’s 7th Cavalry to disarm the Lakota near Wounded Knee Creek, and what resulted was a brutal massacre. Troops murdered over 350 American Indian women, men, and children. Mr. Speaker, 25 U.S. soldiers were lost in that massacre, as well.

The Wounded Knee Massacre was one of the most atrocious moments in our Nation’s history, the dark side of that manifest destiny that was romanticized in the President’s speech yesterday.

In 2022, the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe purchased this land and signed a covenant to hold and maintain the land as a memorial and sacred site.

This bill would reaffirm that covenant and would allow the Tribes to hold, maintain, and protect the land from any development.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from South Dakota (Mr. JOHNSON), the lead sponsor of the bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair and the body for bringing up my bill, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, this afternoon.

This is the greatest country in the history of the world, and when you are a country that is that great, it is important that you acknowledge your failures and that you try to do better in the future.

As has been said, in December 1890, Chief Spotted Elk and his band of Lakota, which largely consisted of women and children, were headed from the Cheyenne River Indian Reservation to the Pine Ridge Indian Reservation. While they were en route, they were stopped by the Army’s 7th Cavalry, and they were forced to make camp at Wounded Knee Creek.

It was the next morning, December 29, 1890, that the 7th Cavalry began to disarm the Lakota. There was a struggle, a shot rang out, and before people realized it, there were hundreds of Lakota being massacred, the overwhelming majority of which were non-combatants, women and children.

On the 100th anniversary of Wounded Knee, this body made a formal apology and expressed deep regret for what had happened that day.

Another important step forward was in October of 2022 when the Oglala Sioux Tribe and the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe jointly purchased that 40 acres that is the site of the 1890 massacre.

This bill very simply places those 40 acres into restricted fee status, which is in essence putting it into trust.

My bill ensures that those two Tribes working together can protect this land as sacred without any commercial development, and they can retain their sovereignty to manage that land appropriately.

It was last Congress that I told you all about my trip to the massacre site in June of 2023. It was there I spoke at length to an older gentleman whose grandmother had survived the massacre that day. He, with his own ears, had heard the oral history of the terrible tragedy that occurred that day.

I then went and visited St. John's Church where the Lakota had taken their wounded to treat their injuries. Their blood, the blood of the survivors, stained the floorboards in the church that day. The wounds of that dark day remain present to this day, and this land is sacred. I do think this action, this cooperation between the two Tribes and our Federal Government, will make sure that we do right as much as we can in the wake of that tragedy.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Wounded Knee descendants. I thank Oglala Sioux Tribal Chairman Frank Star Comes Out and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribal Chairman Ryman LeBeau for their teamwork in advancing this legislation.

Last Congress, this bill passed unanimously out of this body, and I would just ask my colleagues to again vote for H.R. 165, the Wounded Knee Massacre Memorial and Sacred Site Act, so that we can provide the Oglala and the Cheyenne River Tribes the authority they need to protect this land.

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from South Dakota for this bill. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will further allow the Lakota people to memorialize and honor their relatives and ancestors killed in the Wounded Knee Massacre.

It gives the title of the land to both the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, while ensuring that the land has the protections provided by restrictions against alienation and taxation.

I again commend my friend from South Dakota for bringing us this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 165.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### CONTINUED RAPID OHIA DEATH RESPONSE ACT OF 2025

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 375) to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 375

*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 "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025".

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **RAPID OHIA DEATH.**—The term "Rapid Ohia Death" means the disease caused by the fungal pathogen known as *Ceratocystis fimbriata* that affects the tree of the species *Metrosideros polymorpha*.

(2) **STATE.**—The term "State" means the State of Hawaii.

#### SEC. 3. COLLABORATION.

The Secretary of the Interior shall partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State to address Rapid Ohia Death.

#### SEC. 4. SUSTAINED EFFORTS.

(a) **TRANSMISSION.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Geological Survey, and the Chief of the Forest Service, acting through the Forest Service Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry, shall continue to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death vectors and transmission.

(b) **UNGULATE MANAGEMENT.**—The Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, shall continue to partner with the Secretary of Agriculture, the State, and with local stakeholders to manage ungulates in Rapid Ohia Death control areas on Federal, State, and private land, with the consent of private landowners.

(c) **RESTORATION AND RESEARCH.**—The Secretary of Agriculture, acting through the Chief of the Forest Service, shall continue to provide—

(1) financial assistance, including through agreements with the Secretary of the Interior—

(A) to prevent the spread of Rapid Ohia Death; and

(B) to restore the native forests of the State; and

(2) staff and necessary infrastructure funding to the Institute of Pacific Islands Forestry to conduct research on Rapid Ohia Death.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) and the gentleman from California (Mr. HUFFMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arkansas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask that all Members be given 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H.R. 375, the bill now under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, Representative TOKUDA's legislation, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025, is important legislation that directs the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address rapid ohia death.

Rapid ohia death is a fungal disease that has ravaged Hawaii's ohia tree population. The ohia tree is important ecologically and culturally to Hawaii. Ohias play an important role in regulating water flow in addition to preventing soil erosion.

If the loss of ohia trees continues, there could be significant economic impacts, including lost tourism revenue and increased water treatment and erosion control costs. Unfortunately, there is currently no cure that can help the afflicted trees.

H.R. 375 helps address rapid ohia death by focusing Federal and State agencies' efforts on detection, prevention, and restoration to combat this disease.

I thank Representative TOKUDA for her work on this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 15, 2025.

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

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 375, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act." Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees should it become necessary and ask that you support such a request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 375 and request a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,



COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,  
Washington, DC, January 15, 2025.

Hon. GLENN "GT" THOMPSON,  
Chairman, Committee on Agriculture, Wash-  
ington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: I write regarding our mutual understanding of H.R. 375, the "Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act."

I recognize that the bill contains provisions that fall within the jurisdiction of the Committee on Agriculture and appreciate your willingness to forgo further consideration of the bill. I acknowledge that the Committee on Agriculture will not formally consider H.R. 375 and agree that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained therein.

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

Sincerely,

BRUCE WESTERMAN,  
Chairman.

□ 1515

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act, introduced by my colleague from Hawaii, Representative JILL TOKUDA. We worked on this bill last Congress. Unfortunately, it didn't make it all the way across the finish line, but I thank Chair WESTERMAN and my colleagues across the aisle for agreeing to schedule a vote early in this new Congress to keep the momentum going.

This legislation is vital. It addresses an urgent need to combat rapid ohia death, which has already led to the loss of over 1 million native ohia trees in Hawaii just since 2014 when this harmful fungus was discovered.

The significance of these trees can't be overstated. They are Hawaii's most abundant native tree. They play a critical role in preserving the State's unique biodiversity and protecting its native ecosystems. It is essential that we take immediate action to prevent further devastation and ensure the survival of this iconic species.

This bill emphasizes the need for research and aid to enhance our understanding of this deadly fungus and explore innovative solutions to combat its impact. It also fosters collaboration between Federal agencies, the State of Hawaii, and local stakeholders.

This comprehensive approach will help mitigate the threat of this disease and protect Hawaii's native forests and ecosystems, safeguarding these treasured and ecologically vital trees for future generations and preserving the unique ecosystems and rich biodiversity that make our Nation so exceptional.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative TOKUDA for her leadership and tenacity on this critical issue, and I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the bill.

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

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

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA).

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 375, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act of 2025.

The ohia lehua tree forms the backbone of Hawaii's forest and watersheds making up 80 percent of our native forests. It is the very first tree that you will see spring up from a recent lava flow. It grows from sea level to 8,000 feet above, and it protects our communities by literally holding up our mountains from eroding, keeping them together.

Ohia lehua also provides critical habitat for Hawaii's federally endangered forest birds and many culturally important species.

These trees are a keystone species in Hawaii's forest, and it is catastrophic to see its decline. It has the potential to trigger major imbalances in our ecosystem that would impact watersheds, cultural traditions, natural resources, and the safety and quality of life of our people.

Because of the vital role they play in maintaining Hawaii's forest canopies and watersheds, rapid ohia death, or ROD, poses an existential threat to the ecological balance of our islands and the everyday life of our people.

Initially reported in 2010, ROD has already spread to tens of thousands of acres and killed over a million trees on Hawaii island alone. If you visited the Big Island of Hawaii where our volcano erupts from time to time, literally, we have lost a million trees just on that island. Large swaths of dead ohia trees leave environments more prone to habitat-modifying noxious weeds and trees like miconia and strawberry guava, all of which are known to harm watershed health and alter ecosystem functions.

Efforts to contain ROD have also failed to prevent its spread to the islands of Oahu, Kauai, and Maui. With no known cure for ROD, it has the potential to kill off ohia trees statewide and devastate our island ecosystems.

In addition to its impacts on delicate native ecosystems, ROD has the potential to create deadly consequences for our local residents and visitors alike. The death of tens of thousands of acres of native forests, turning them into brittle tinder, creates acres of deadly fire fuel for wildfires that pose a growing threat to our communities. One of the things that people love about Hawaii is the greenery and the vegetation in and around our communities. Tragically, we know all too well the risks that come when our greenery and vegetation are no longer green and the consequences that can happen as a result of fire.

Despite the dire implications of ROD on Hawaii's natural resources and com-

munities, Federal support for combating ROD has been extremely limited. For example, the Lyon Arboretum, a local research facility on Oahu, relied on funding through a GoFundMe campaign to further the vital seed banking for ohia lehua.

My bill, the Continued Rapid Ohia Death Response Act, seeks to address ROD and the urgent threat that it presents. The bill requires the Department of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Department of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address ROD. It also supports ongoing detection, prevention, and restoration efforts to combat rapid ohia death. By empowering the U.S. Forest Service and U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service to fully assist the State of Hawaii in its ROD efforts, we can begin to not only more effectively prevent the spread of ROD but move to restoring native forests throughout our State.

Mr. Speaker, I very much thank and send our sincerest "mahalos," "thanks" to Chairman WESTERMAN, Ranking Member HUFFMAN, and their staff, especially the Federal lands team, for the support, assistance, and continued prioritization of this very important bill.

We cannot afford to wait. We cannot afford to stand alone and continue to lose our native forests in Hawaii. They protect and sustain our people and provide critical habitat for native species. This bill can also help to turn the tide in the fight against Rapid Ohia Death and, in doing so, protect and preserve ohia lehua and Hawaii's unique ecosystems for our future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank again all who have supported our bill, and I urge my colleagues to join me in voting "yes."

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

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

Mr. Speaker, again, I thank the gentlewoman from Hawaii (Ms. TOKUDA) for her work on this bill.

Mr. Speaker, before a lot was understood about the science of forestry, Teddy Roosevelt, maybe our original conservationist in America, understood that trees were the lungs of the Earth. They breathe in carbon dioxide; they breathe out oxygen, but he also understood that trees are kind of like the kidneys of the Earth. They are extremely important to protect watersheds. They are extremely important to maintain our ecosystems. It is what we are looking at today with the ohia tree and the importance that it has to Hawaii's ecosystem, to the people there, and to the economy.

When we talk about an ounce of prevention is worth a pound of cure, figuring out what is happening to these trees and stopping that will save tens of millions if not billions of dollars in the future if damage is done to the watershed there in Hawaii.

It is another example of how having a healthy resilient forest benefits everyone. We are not necessarily talking

about wildfire. We are not talking about a tree that has timber value, but it has tremendous value in the ecosystem and the economy there in Hawaii.

This legislation, again, will help focus Federal and State resources on conserving one of Hawaii's most important species.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 375.

The question was taken.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MILLER of Ohio) at 6 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:

H.R. 186; and

H.R. 187.

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

#### HERSHEL "WOODY" WILLIAMS NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MONUMENT LOCATION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 186) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of

Honor recipients, 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 414, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 18]

YEAS—414

Adams	Crow	Harris (NC)
Aderholt	Cuellar	Harshbarger
Aguilar	Davidson	Hayes
Alford	Davis (IL)	Hern (OK)
Amo	Davis (NC)	Higgins (LA)
Amodei (NV)	De La Cruz	Hill (AR)
Ansari	Dean (PA)	Himes
Arrington	DeGette	Hinson
Auchincloss	DeLauro	Horsford
Babin	DelBene	Houchin
Bacon	Deluzio	Houlahan
Baird	DesSaunier	Hoyer
Balderson	DesJarlais	Hoyle (OR)
Balint	Dexter	Hudson
Barr	Diaz-Balart	Huffman
Barragán	Dogett	Huizenga
Barrett	Donalds	Hunt
Baumgartner	Downing	Hurd (CO)
Bean (FL)	Dunn (FL)	Issa
Beatty	Edwards	Ivey
Begich	Elfreth	Jack
Bell	Ellzey	Jackson (IL)
Bentz	Emmer	Jackson (TX)
Bera	Bergman	Jacobs
Berman	Beyer	Escobar
Bice	Bice	Espallat
Biggs (AZ)	Biggs (SC)	Estes
Biggs (SC)	Bilirakis	Evans (CO)
Bishop	Bishop	Evans (PA)
Boebert	Bishop	Ezell
Bonamici	Bishop	Jordan
Bost	Bishop	Joyce (OH)
Boyle (PA)	Bishop	Joyce (PA)
Brecheen	Bishop	Kamlager-Dove
Bresnahan	Bishop	Kaptur
Brown	Bishop	Kean
Brownley	Bishop	Keating
Buchanan	Bishop	Kelly (IL)
Budzinski	Bishop	Kelly (MS)
Burchett	Bishop	Kelly (PA)
Burlison	Bishop	Kennedy (NY)
Bynum	Bishop	Kennedy (UT)
Calvert	Bishop	Khanna
Cammack	Bishop	Kiggans (VA)
Carbajal	Bishop	Kiley (CA)
Carey	Bishop	Kim
Carson	Bishop	Knott
Carter (GA)	Bishop	Krishnamoorthi
Carter (LA)	Bishop	Kustoff
Casar	Bishop	LaHood
Case	Bishop	LaLota
Casten	Bishop	LaMalfa
Castor (FL)	Bishop	Landsman
Castro (TX)	Bishop	Langworthy
Cherfilus-	Bishop	Larsen (WA)
McCormick	Bishop	Larson (CT)
Chu	Bishop	Latimer
Ciscomani	Bishop	Latta
Cisneros	Bishop	Lawler
Clark (MA)	Bishop	Lee (FL)
Clarke (NY)	Bishop	Lee (NV)
Cleaver	Bishop	Lee (PA)
Cline	Bishop	Leger Fernandez
Cloud	Bishop	Letlow
Clyburn	Bishop	Levin
Clyde	Bishop	Liccardo
Cohen	Bishop	Lieu
Cole	Bishop	Lofgren
Collins	Bishop	Loudermilk
Comer	Bishop	Lucas
Conaway	Bishop	Luna
Connolly	Bishop	Luttrell
Costa	Bishop	Lynch
Courtney	Bishop	Mace
Craig	Bishop	Mackenzie
Crane	Bishop	Magaziner
Crank	Bishop	Malliotakis
Crawford	Bishop	Maloy
Crenshaw	Bishop	Mann
Crockett	Bishop	Mannion
		Massie
		Mast
		Matsui

McBath	Perez	Steil
McBride	Perry	Steube
McCaul	Peters	Stevens
McClain	Pfleger	Strickland
McClain Delaney	Pingree	Strong
McClellan	Pocan	Stutzman
McClintock	Pou	Subramanyam
McCollum	Pressley	Suozi
McCormick	Quigley	Swalwell
McDonald Rivet	Ramirez	Sykes
McDowell	Randall	Takano
McGarvey	Raskin	Taylor
McGovern	Reschenthaler	Tenney
McGuire	Rivas	Thanedar
McIver	Rogers (AL)	Thompson (CA)
Meeks	Rogers (KY)	Thompson (MS)
Menendez	Rose	Thompson (PA)
Messmer	Ross	Tiffany
Meuser	Rouzer	Timmons
Mfume	Roy	Titus
Miller (IL)	Ruiz	Tlaib
Miller (OH)	Rulli	Tokuda
Miller (WV)	Rutherford	Tonko
Miller-Meeks	Ryan	Torres (CA)
Mills	Salazar	Torres (NY)
Min	Salinas	Trahan
Moolenaar	Sánchez	Tran
Moore (AL)	Scalise	Turner (OH)
Moore (NC)	Scanlon	Turner (TX)
Moore (UT)	Schakowsky	Underwood
Moore (WI)	Schmidt	Valadao
Moore (WV)	Schneider	Van Drew
Moran	Scholten	Van Dуйne
Morelle	Schrier	Van Orden
Morrison	Schweikert	Vargas
Moskowitz	Scott (VA)	Vasquez
Moulton	Scott, Austin	Veasey
Mullin	Scott, David	Velázquez
Murphy	Self	Vindman
Nadler	Sessions	Wagner
Neal	Sewell	Walberg
Neguse	Sherman	Wasserman
Nehls	Shreve	Schultz
Norcross	Simon	Waters
Norman	Simpson	Watson Coleman
Nunn (IA)	Smith (MO)	Weber (TX)
Obernalte	Smith (NE)	Webster (FL)
Ocasio-Cortez	Smith (NJ)	Westerman
Ogles	Smith (WA)	Whitesides
Olszewski	Smucker	Wied
Omar	Sorensen	Williams (CA)
Onder	Soto	Wilson (SC)
Owens	Spartz	Wittman
Pallone	Stansbury	Womack
Palmer	Stanton	Yakym
Panetta	Staubert	Zinke
Pappas	Stefanik	

#### NOT VOTING—18

Allen	Gottheimer	Pelosi
Carter (TX)	Grijalva	Pettersen
Correa	Jayapal	Riley (NY)
Dingell	Meng	Sherrill
Garamendi	Mrvan	Williams (TX)
Gimenez	Newhouse	Wilson (FL)

□ 1858

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.

#### MODERNIZING ACCESS TO OUR PUBLIC WATERS ACT OF 2025

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LAWLER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 187) to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

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

the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 413, nays 0, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 19]

YEAS—413

Adams Davis (NC) Houlahan  
 Aderholt De La Cruz Hoyer  
 Aguilar Dean (PA) Hoyle (OR)  
 Alford DeGette Hudson  
 Amo DeLauro Huffman  
 Amodעי (NV) DelBene Huizenga  
 Ansari Deluzio Hunt  
 Arrington DeSaulnier Hurd (CO)  
 Auchincloss DesJarlais Issa  
 Babin Dexter Ivey  
 Bacon Diaz-Balart Jack  
 Baird Doggett Jackson (IL)  
 Balderson Donalds Jackson (TX)  
 Balint Downing Jacobs  
 Barr Dunn (FL) James  
 Barragán Edwards Jeffries  
 Barrett Elfreth Johnson (GA)  
 Baumgartner Ellzey Johnson (SD)  
 Bean (FL) Emmer Johnson (TX)  
 Beatty Escobar Jordan  
 Begich Espallat Joyce (OH)  
 Bell Estes Joyce (PA)  
 Bentz Evans (CO) Kamlager-Dove  
 Bera Evans (PA) Kaptur  
 Bergman Ezell Kean  
 Beyer Fallon Keating  
 Bice Fedorchak Kelly (IL)  
 Biggs (AZ) Feenstra Kelly (MS)  
 Biggs (SC) Fields Kelly (PA)  
 Bilirakis Figures Kennedy (NY)  
 Bishop Finstad Kennedy (UT)  
 Boebert Fischbach Khanna  
 Bonamici Fitzgerald Kiggans (VA)  
 Bost Fitzpatrick Kiley (CA)  
 Boyle (PA) Fleischmann Kim  
 Brecheen Fletcher Knott  
 Bresnahan Flood Krishnamoorthi  
 Brown Fong Kustoff  
 Brownley Foster LaHood  
 Buchanan Foushee LaLota  
 Budzinski Foxx LaMalfa  
 Burchett Frankel, Lois Landsman  
 Burlison Franklin, Scott Langworthy  
 Bynum Friedman Larsen (WA)  
 Calvert Frost Larson (CT)  
 Cammack Fry Latimer  
 Carbajal Fulcher Latta  
 Carey Garbarino Lawler  
 Carson Garcia (CA) Lee (FL)  
 Carter (GA) Garcia (IL) Lee (NV)  
 Carter (LA) Garcia (TX) Lee (PA)  
 Casar Gill (TX) Leger Fernandez  
 Case Gillen Letlow  
 Casten Golden (ME) Levin  
 Castor (FL) Goldman (NY) Liccardo  
 Castro (TX) Goldman (TX) Lieu  
 Cherfilus-Gomez Gomez Lofgren  
 McCormick Gonzales, Tony Loudermilk  
 Chu Gonzalez, V. Lucas  
 Ciscomani Gooden Luna  
 Cisneros Goodlander Luttrell  
 Clark (MA) Gosar Lynch  
 Clarke (NY) Graves Mace  
 Cleaver Gray Mackenzie  
 Cline Green (TN) Magaziner  
 Cloud Green, Al (TX) Malliotakis  
 Clyburn Greene (GA) Maloy  
 Clyde Griffith Mann  
 Cohen Grothman Mannion  
 Cole Guest Massie  
 Collins Guthrie Mast  
 Comer Hageman Matsui  
 Conaway Hamadeh (AZ) McBeth  
 Connolly Harder (CA) McBride  
 Costa Haridopolos McCaul  
 Courtney Harrigan McClain  
 Craig Harris (MD) McClain Delaney  
 Crane Harris (NC) McClellan  
 Crank Harshbarger McClintock  
 Crawford Hayes McCollum  
 Crenshaw Hern (OK) McCormick  
 Crockett Higgins (LA) McDonald Rivet  
 Crow Hill (AR) McDowell  
 Cuellar Himes McGarvey  
 Davids (KS) Hinson McGovern  
 Davidson Horsford McGuire  
 Davis (IL) Houchin McIver

Meeks  
 Menendez  
 Messmer  
 Meuser  
 Mfume  
 Miller (IL)  
 Miller (OH)  
 Miller (WV)  
 Miller-Meeks  
 Mills  
 Min  
 Moolenaar  
 Moore (AL)  
 Moore (NC)  
 Moore (UT)  
 Moore (WI)  
 Moore (WV)  
 Moran  
 Morelle  
 Morrison  
 Moskowitz  
 Moulton  
 Mullin  
 Murphy  
 Nadler  
 Neal  
 Neguse  
 Nehls  
 Norcross  
 Norman  
 Nunn (IA)  
 Obernolte  
 Ocasio-Cortez  
 Ogles  
 Olszewski  
 Omar  
 Onder  
 Owens  
 Pallone  
 Palmer  
 Panetta  
 Pappas  
 Perez  
 Perry  
 Peters  
 Pfluger  
 Pingree  
 Pocan  
 Pou  
 Pressley  
 Quigley  
 Ramirez

Subramanyam  
 Suozzi  
 Swalwell  
 Sykes  
 Takano  
 Taylor  
 Tenney  
 Thanedar  
 Thompson (CA)  
 Thompson (MS)  
 Thompson (PA)  
 Tiffany  
 Timmons  
 Titus  
 Tlaib  
 Tokuda  
 Tonko  
 Torres (CA)  
 Torres (NY)  
 Trahan  
 Tran  
 Turner (OH)  
 Turner (TX)  
 Underwood  
 Valadao  
 Van Drew  
 Van Duyne  
 Van Orden  
 Vargas  
 Vasquez  
 Veasey  
 Velázquez  
 Vindman  
 Wagner  
 Walberg  
 Wasserman  
 Schultz  
 Waters  
 Watson Coleman  
 Weber (TX)  
 Webster (FL)  
 Westerman  
 Whitesides  
 Wied  
 Williams (GA)  
 Wilson (SC)  
 Wittman  
 Womack  
 Yakym  
 Zinke

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
 Washington, DC, January 21, 2025.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON, I write to inform you of my intention to resign from the House Foreign Affairs Committee (HFAC) in order to focus on my work as a member of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and as Chairman of the Capital Markets Subcommittee of the House Financial Services Committee. During my eight years on HFAC, I was honored to work with principled leaders in Chairman ROYCE, ENGEL, MEEKS, and MCCAUL. I know Chairman MAST will continue their good work in service of American interests, and I wish him all the best.

Sincerely,  
 ANN WAGNER,  
 Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted. There was no objection.

KINLEY FARM RECEIVES CENTENNIAL DESIGNATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the Kinley family's Pennsylvania Centennial Farm designation.

For over 100 years, the Kinley beef farm has operated in Cogan Station, Lycoming County. This farm has been more than a source of livelihood. It has been a legacy of hard work, dedication, and love for the land.

When Samuel Kinley first purchased this 106-acre farm in 1904, he likely couldn't have imagined that his vision and determination would span five generations. From Samuel's hands to Adam and Shannon Kinley's stewardship today, this farm has been a cornerstone of Lycoming County agricultural heritage.

Our producers are the backbone of our Nation. They work tirelessly every day to feed, fuel, and clothe the world. Farms like the Kinleys remind us that agriculture is not just about feeding our families today. It is about sowing the seeds for future generations.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the Kinleys for their contributions to the community and to Pennsylvania agriculture.

CONGRATULATING NORTH CROWLEY PANTHERS

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the North Crowley Panthers football team on their 6A Division 1 State championship in the Texas UIL.

NOT VOTING—19

Allen  
 Carter (TX)  
 Correa  
 Dingell  
 Garamendi  
 Gimenez  
 Gottheimer  
 Grijalva  
 Jayapal  
 Meng  
 Mrvan  
 Newhouse  
 Pelosi  
 Petterson  
 Riley (NY)  
 Rogers (AL)  
 Sherrill  
 Williams (TX)  
 Wilson (FL)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

□ 1904

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I missed the following votes, but had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 18 and YEA on Roll Call No. 19.

[PERSONAL EXPLANATION]

Mr. RILEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I was unavoidably absent in the House chamber today due to illness. On January 18, 2025, I was seen in the emergency room and subsequently admitted for treatment of influenza and pneumonia. Had I been present, I would have voted: YEA on Roll Call No. 18 and YEA on Roll Call No. 19.

The Panthers completed their perfect season with a sound defeat of a venerable Westlake Austin team in the title game 50–21, behind performances from senior receiver Quentin Gibson and senior quarterback Chris Jimerson, Jr.

Head Coach Ray Gates emblazoned the 817 area code on the helmets and turned this team into an instant contender, going 42–2 since he took over 3 years ago. This is the first time in 76 years that a State champion in Fort Worth received the highest division high school football championship, and that was my alma mater of Arlington Heights High School.

Our entire community could not be prouder of these young men for their achievement this season. I hope North Crowley keeps the momentum going and can bring home another State championship to Funky Town Fort Worth. Go, Panthers.

#### AMERICAN PATRIOTISM RENEWED

(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, yesterday Donald Trump was sworn in as President of the United States, and there is a feeling of patriotic renewal among Americans.

Don Feder with the Washington Times wrote an appropriate editorial yesterday titled, “Trump’s presidency heralds a patriotic renewal in America,” stating: “The most iconic image of the 2024 campaign came from the . . . Pennsylvania rally, where President-elect Donald Trump stood with blood on his face . . . shouting ‘Fight’. . . The moment seems to symbolize the patriotic renewal thanks to the [now] President.”

“Mr. Trump is perfectly positioned to lead a patriotic renewal. While others talk about patriotism, he acts.”

Mr. Trump understands that national security hinges on patriotic renewal. Secretary of Defense nominee Pete Hegseth, a combat veteran, agrees.

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

#### TARBORO HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONS

(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, I rise to recognize the Tarboro High School football team for clinching our State’s 1A Championship and ending their season with a 14–1 record.

As the reigning champions, they own a whopping nine State titles. The Vi-

kings defeated a physical Corvian Community Cardinal team 45–24.

I am so proud to congratulate Coach Jeff Craddock, also known as the GOAT. I congratulate all of the coaches, parents, the community, and players, including Kameran McDowell-Moore, who scored a sensational four touchdowns to secure the MVP.

Tarboro High School, in the heart of eastern North Carolina, has produced NFL greats such as Kelvin Bryant, Shaun Draughn, Donald Frank, Todd Gurley, Bill Hull, and Tyquan Lewis. Clearly, the Vikings are a powerhouse. If America didn’t know about Tarboro High School, well, now they know.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF MILES TAYLOR

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

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the life and legacy of Miles Taylor, a cherished leader and beloved member of the Nyack community, who passed away suddenly at the age of 60.

A 1982 graduate of Nyack High School, Miles dedicated over 25 years as the school’s track and cross country coach, mentoring countless student athletes, and leaving an enduring mark on their lives.

Just this past October, he was inducted into the Nyack High School Athletic Hall of Fame, a testament to his exceptional contributions to the school and its athletic programs.

Beyond his commitment to athletics, Miles served his community as a life-long member of the Nyack Fire Department, joining at just 16 years old and eventually rising to the rank of chief.

His dedication to public service, both on and off the track, exemplified the spirit of selflessness and leadership. Miles Taylor’s sudden passing is a profound loss for the entire Rockland County community. May his memory be a blessing to those who knew him, especially his family, his student athletes, and the Nyack community.

#### PROTECTING OUR GREAT LAKES

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, freshwater is life. I rise to highlight the importance of the first piece of legislation introduced this year, the Great Lakes Restoration Initiative by our bipartisan Great Lakes champions, the GLRI Act of 2025.

This Act was introduced earlier this month alongside my congressional Great Lakes co-chairs DAVID JOYCE, DEBBIE DINGELL, and BILL HUIZENGA. This bill is among our highest priorities for the Great Lakes region.

The district we represent traces much of the entire Great Lakes region,

but mine alone, the southern rim of Lake Erie, is the largest watershed in the entire Great Lakes. It is the largest body of freshwater on Earth.

We all know how important protecting our Great Lakes is for the generations to come. The GLRI provides instrumental funding to meet an enormous unmet need for our region and the millions of people who depend on the Great Lakes for their drinking water, livelihoods, and leisure.

Our legislation would provide an annual authorization level of \$500 million beginning in FY27. By the way, that is half as much as the West receives for the Bureau of Reclamation. They get well over \$1 billion.

In 2020, the GLRI contributed \$3.1 trillion to our economy. Mr. Speaker, there is nothing more important than our colleagues say than, let’s protect the Great Lakes and turn it over to future generations in better condition than we found it.

#### HONORING WILLIAM G. FALLIN

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William G. Fallin who passed away on January 4, 2025, at the age of 92.

Mr. Fallin was born on September 9, 1932 in Thomas County, Georgia, and later moved to Moultrie where he graduated high school at just 15 years old. He went on to attend Georgia Military College and Mercer University, earning degrees in history and law.

He was married to his beloved wife, Barbara Vines, for 67 years, and together, they raised three wonderful children. A dedicated attorney, Mr. Fallin practiced law for over 60 years and cofounded the law firm Fallin & McIntosh. He also served two terms in the Georgia House of Representatives and chaired the Colquitt County Board of Commissioners for 12 years.

Mr. Fallin left a lasting legacy, helping the construction of Colquitt Regional Medical Center and preserving historic landmarks in his community. He was deeply committed to his faith, serving as a deacon, Sunday school teacher, and choir member at First Baptist Church. An avid sportsman and outdoorsman, he enjoyed tennis, golf, hunting, and fishing. His life was celebrated on January 8, 2025, at First Baptist Church in his hometown.

#### FOCUS ON INNOVATION

(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, on day 1, President Trump took bold action to revoke the unrealistic Biden mandate that aimed for 50 percent of all new cars to be electric by 2030, only 4½ model years from now.

This decision protects Americans and industries from being sacrificed on the altar of radical environmentalism. Automakers can now focus on innovation and consumer desires, rather than being forced into a one-size-fits-all EV agenda that stifles competition and choices for real people.

Gavin Newsom's California has been a cheerleader for these extreme policies, pushing mandates that hurt working families and drive up costs to meet their California goals.

President Trump's move rejects that failed approach, puts common sense back in the driver's seat. That is part of a broader effort to restore energy independence, roll back harmful regulations, and ensure America isn't crippled by radical climate agendas.

Today's actions are putting the needs of Americans ahead of an out-of-touch environmental elite. Instead of empty-handed promises by Gavin Newsom, we have President Trump who is focused on a forward-moving approach on real solutions, leading the way to support our economy, our workers, and our future.

#### HONORING TRACIE POUGH

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Florida?

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, before I yield to other Members, Mr. Speaker, I will begin with my own remarks regarding my longtime chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor a woman who, as much as anyone in my adult life, has been a true partner, mentor, counsel, confidant, and quite frankly, like the sister that I never had. I do have a great brother, though.

I rise to honor my chief of staff, Tracie Pough, who is retiring after 20-plus years of service in the House, which has spanned my own 20 years representing my community in our beloved home State of Florida.

Rarely, Mr. Speaker, are any of us blessed with someone who can see our inner self with just a glance, someone who without one word knows exactly where you stand, someone who is truly your natural alter ego.

Throughout all of my time in Congress, and even before that, in my time

in the Florida Legislature, I leaned on no one more than my chief of staff, Tracie Pough.

We often joke in my office about how the two of us share one brain. I can't tell you how many nights I leaned on her for advice, knowledge, and insights, not just on how to make life better for the people that I represent, but how to navigate through life.

Anyone who knows her has benefited from her Tracie-isms, wisdom that comes with its own vocabulary. She is a staff leader who has mentored and trained dozens of staffers on our team, many of whom are watching C-SPAN. I know I am breaking rules referring to people in the gallery, but many are also joining us in the gallery tonight.

She is a staff leader who is sought out by other staffers, as well as chiefs, for her guidance. She is widely respected on both sides of the aisle, and her political acumen is legendary. Tracie is and always has been a trusted voice, an empathic voice to all who seek her counsel.

Her amazing political instincts, unmatched relationships, and her highly structured leadership of my office is something I have come to rely on for two decades.

When former staffers reached back to me with their thoughts about her leadership, many shared how Tracie was an invaluable mentor to them over her 21 years in Congress.

She has been both my top general and that ever-reliable shoulder to cry on. She has been there with me through it all. Tracie helped lift me to my highest of highs, and she was right there to pick me up in those low times.

It is during these times that you find out who you can really count on, Mr. Speaker, who has the courage, the passion and temperament and loyalty to continue to help you take steps forward, never back.

I have a couple of items that I want to recall, one of which was the story behind my passage of the first bill that I ever passed as a Member of Congress all the way back in 2005, which created Jewish American Heritage Month.

It is a lengthy story, but suffice it to say, you want to find yourself—to the new Members who may be listening to these remarks—you want to find yourself a chief of staff, a team leader, who knows the intricacies of the legislative process, who actually picks up the daily calendar, who looks closely at it, and then figures out what plays need to be made to get your legislation to the floor.

I can comfortably say that we would not have just celebrated the 17th year of Jewish American Heritage Month this past year in May if not for Tracie Pough's acumen, her strategic incite, and her relationships. As a freshman, I can tell you, I would not have been able to carry that ball by myself.

Tracie has also been an incredible generational bridge, which both of us have very much needed as the evolution of the age and generations of my

staff have gotten younger than we are today.

I was elected to Congress, Mr. Speaker, when I was 37 years old, and suffice it to say, that I had several staffers that were older than me back then. No longer. If anyone has dealt with the challenges—and I am now a parent of Gen Zers, three Gen Zers, whom I, like every parent, struggle to understand—but now I have an entire team, almost an entire team of staff who are either Millennials or Gen Zers, and Tracie and I have enjoyed helping raise them up.

Under her leadership, we taught them how to actually pick up the telephone and call other people, rather than just shoot them a text or send them an email. When they are sitting there wondering why someone hasn't gotten back to them, or they are ready to throw their hands up, and say, you know, it is time to move on, Congresswoman, Tracie will say, why don't you have Debbie actually go talk to that Member on the other side of the aisle.

Lo and behold, when I take the opportunity to do that, the logjam and the dam breaks. Human interaction is so incredibly important, and with the explosion of technology that the next generation of staffers and children and kids grow up with, she has been an incredible guide to ensuring that old school remains new school.

As with all wonderful relationships, this one will now evolve. She is prepared to move on and start that inevitable new chapter. Her impact on me, our staff, and the people that I represent runs so deep.

Through her tireless work, Tracie has made life better for millions of people across Florida, across my congressional district, and this entire Nation. She is someone who there aren't words to describe the depth of my feeling about her departure, but I will so miss working with directly and spending time with her each day. Although, I am confident that we will probably talk almost every day, at least for the foreseeable future and much to her dismay, probably.

She is someone to whom I will forever remain attached to. Tracie Pough is family to me, and I cherish her friendship and the time we have spent together more than I can ever put into words. As I always say, when a trusted and valued team member goes on to the next stage of their career, they will always be on team DWS, but she will technically move to the concentric circles of our family. She will always remain in the center as a trusted adviser, dearest friend, and sister.

On behalf of so many here today, and so many others, I thank her. I am honored to have her by my side and to celebrate her work, her character, and the indelible mark she has left on all of us.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank you so much for allowing me to join you in honoring our mutual friend and confidant, Tracie Pough.

Robert Frost, the great writer, once wrote:

Two roads diverged in a wood, and I—  
I took the one less traveled by,  
And that has made all the difference.

I don't argue with Robert Frost, but I beg to differ a little bit with that notion because I am of the opinion, and from my own experiences, no matter what road one chooses to travel, it is the people with whom you intersect that make the difference.

When I first met Tracie Pough, I don't remember where it was or exactly when it was, but it was more than 20 years. It was not long after I came to Congress. Of course, I am a bit older than both Debbie and Tracie.

We for some reason just kind of hit it off. Our spirits kind of congealed. I don't know exactly how to explain it. We started doing political stuff together, traveling.

She just reminded me of a trip we shared to Louisiana, a part of Louisiana I didn't know existed. I didn't know about all these places. It was this little place we went to work on behalf of a candidate, and we won. Of course, the candidate later switched parties. Then, I think we lost.

The fact still remains I got to know her on that trip. I often wonder what it is about Tracie that makes my chief of staff sometimes have to consult with her before he answers my question.

Be that as it may, I do believe it is because of her background. Early in our relationship, for some reason I went to Jacksonville, Florida. I met her parents, and we began to compare notes. Then it occurred to me. Jacksonville, Florida, is in Geechee country. I was married for 58 years to a Gullah woman.

People tend to separate those two. There isn't a separation. If you are in North Carolina and South Carolina, it is Gullah. If you are in Georgia and Florida, it is Geechee. I think my getting to know the Gullah-Geechee culture is really the background as to why our spirits tend to agree.

If I had met her before the first 2 or 3 years of my marriage, we might not have gotten along because I didn't particularly get along with the Gullah culture. I learned I had to make some adjustments. Those adjustments worked. It was the same thing with Tracie.

I really feel a part of her, getting to know her family, getting to work with her, getting to really consult with her sometimes behind Debbie's back but oftentimes for the benefit of both of us.

I really was a bit surprised when I was told several days ago, maybe several weeks that she was going to retire and leave the Hill. I can say this. Truly. I love this young lady. She has been a part, an extension really of my staff, a part of my life. I have enjoyed every minute of our relationship, and I feel that she is in many instances as

close to me as those three daughters that I have.

Tracie, you are going to be missed on this Hill. I want you to know that you won't be far from us because I know how to use this device in my pocket, and I expect you to answer my calls when I call you. I want you to enjoy whatever it is you are doing after you leave this Hill.

I also want you to know that if you ever think that I can be of any assistance in helping you do what you do better, just call. I know how to answer this device, as well. I also know I owe it not just to you but to your lovely family to respond in a positive way.

I often rely upon great writers to make the point. I am now thinking of the great writer, Shakespeare, when he wrote his I think it was his Sonnet 116. Shakespeare wrote:

Let me not to the marriage of true minds  
Admit impediments; love is not love  
Which alters when it alteration finds,  
Or bends with the remover to remove.  
O no, it is an ever-fixed mark  
That looks on tempests and is never shaken;  
It is the star to every wand'ring bark  
Whose worth's unknown, although his height  
be taken.  
Love's not time's fool, though rosy lips and  
cheeks  
Within his bending sickle's compass come.  
Love alters not with his brief hours and  
weeks,  
But bears it out even to the edge of doom:  
If this be error and upon me proved,  
I never writ, nor no man ever loved.

That is the love that I have for you. I thank you so much for being a part of my life. I join Debbie in wishing you great success, and let me know when I need to answer this device.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Mr. Whip, for helping me honor my friend, my sister, Tracie Pough.

Mr. Speaker, I recognize the gentlewoman from the great State of Florida (Ms. CASTOR), my colleague and friend.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and colleague from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to express my gratitude and good wishes to Tracie Pough for her years of service to this body, to the Congresswoman, to the State of Florida.

I also share that on behalf of the two chiefs of staff that I have had during my terms here, Clay Phillips and Lara Hopkins, they always consulted Tracie. They sought her counsel on how to run a congressional office, and how to do it in a proactive and positive way.

There are often twists and turns here on Capitol Hill, especially here in the people's House. Tracie has always had that steady hand. She has an open door. She is a good listener. She is the chief of staff to chiefs of staff. She is known as the consummate professional. She doesn't lose her temper. To the contrary, she is even-keeled and thoughtful in everything she does.

Let me say that sometimes that is not easy when you work for a Member

of Congress who is a go-getter and is trying to accomplish a hundred things at a hundred miles per hour every single day.

I think it is that yin and the yang where Tracie has been able to provide that steady hand and leadership to Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ that has really demonstrated her unbelievable capacity for being able to get things accomplished.

The record out of her office is incredible. It is not just because of Debbie's senior seat on the Appropriations Committee. It is because of her knowledge of our beautiful State of Florida. I don't think we would have such massive investment in saving the Florida Everglades without Tracie standing firm and getting to know the Army Corps of Engineers probably on a first-name basis.

I think some of her expertise comes from her service back in the Florida Legislature. We will claim you from the Tampa Bay area, a little Tampa credit, because she reminded me that she worked for Jim Hargrett who is a statehouse member from Tampa, who went on to be a State Senator; the great Jim Davis who was my predecessor here in Congress but also served in the statehouse; and also Arthenia Joyner.

On behalf my neighbors across the Tampa Bay area, I want the world to know that Tracie Pough has made an incredible difference. She has made the lives of the people of the State of Florida and the United States better. It takes a lot to serve a Member over the course of 21 years in the United States House of Representatives.

Every day there is a new challenge, and Tracie has handled these challenges with intelligence. Because of her even-keeled nature, her sense of fairness, her love for this country and the State of Florida, her love for the Congresswoman and all of the interns and staffers that came through her office over the years, Tracie Pough will leave an incredible legacy of service. For that, I am extremely grateful.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Thank you so much, Congresswoman CASTOR. That was a very special and important tribute. I appreciate it so much.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to yield to the Congresswoman from the great State of Florida (Ms. LOIS FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I met Tracie almost 27 years ago. I am looking at her and thinking it was when I was a Member of the Florida Legislature. She was a very young, clear-eyed, energetic person with the belief that she could make a difference in the lives of people.

Mr. Speaker, do you know what? It is the same thing today. She is smart. She is energetic. I am even going to call her young at heart but still with that belief, and she has made that difference. She has had an extraordinary career in public service.

I feel so blessed that our lives have become interwoven, going back to the

Florida Legislature and then again now as a Member of Congress, with her work for the Democratic Party and for the DNC. We know she worked for an extraordinarily talented Member, but not to be trite, there is something about the wind beneath the wings. That is Tracie.

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Tracie still has that great smile.

I will thank her, as Representative CASTOR did, for her work with our staff and all the work she has done for our State, especially for the children and families of America.

I am going to say thank you to Tracie. Her work has inspired us. She leaves a really great legacy.

Mr. Speaker, for anyone who is listening to this, what they need to know is that they don't have to run for political office to really make a difference in the lives of people. Tracie has proven it.

I am going to read the words of a poet that I think describes Tracie.

Ever heard of Maya Angelou? I will just read a passage.

Now you understand  
Just why my head's not bowed.  
I don't shout or jump about  
Or have to talk real loud.  
When you see me passing,  
It ought to make you proud.  
I say,  
It's in the click of my heels,  
The bend of my hair,  
The palm of my hand,  
The need of my care.  
'Cause I'm a woman  
Phenomenally.  
Phenomenal woman.

That is you. That is you. I am wishing you the best in your next chapter. I hope it is exciting and fulfilling. Come back anytime to see us. Love you.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman FRANKEL, my friend, for her remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. SOTO).

Mr. SOTO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Tracie Pough: This Is Your Life, the Congressional Version.

In this House of Representatives, every knight needs a good squire, and Tracie has been a super squire. Team WS is one of the most prolific offices in this Chamber, and Debbie's legacy is her legacy. We all know it.

Disaster relief, protecting reproductive rights, advocating for immigrant rights, a strong U.S.-Israel relationship, navigating the COVID crisis—but for me, the biggest legacy is all the funding brought back for the Everglades.

None of this was a guarantee. It took 20 years of work. When we started, water was drying up in the Everglades, and the water supply in south Florida was a real challenge. Roads cut right through it.

There was a lot of hope with CERP in 2000, a little before they got here, but

without all the work, CERP would have been just words on a paper. Instead, they wrote a reg.

To the gentlewoman, how long did it take before you became a cardinal, literally working the budget that makes that happen? What was it, 6 years?

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Two.

Mr. SOTO. Two years.

Mr. Speaker, Tracie is a super squire for all that, and Debbie's legacy is Tracie's legacy, in particular with the northern Everglades, which we are starting to work on. I know Tracie worked a lot with our team, helping us navigate the Army Corps of Engineers. That is like the seventh level of black belt Kung Fu legislating around here. I thank her for helping us with that.

Secondly, as it was alluded to a little bit, Tracie is a chief of chiefs. Not only has she advised a lot of other chiefs, new ones coming in for the entire Florida Democratic delegation over the years, but she was my chief's boss back in the day. That was on the DCCC side, and that is a whole other thing, but my chief still to this day considers Tracie a mentor, so I thank her for helping because that knowledge can be lost. Imagine being a chief with no mentor coming into this place. Tracie served Florida well through that.

Tracie has also been a committee assignment guru, with Debbie always seemingly one way or another getting onto steering and policy, now one of the chairs two terms in a row. It was with Tracie's help and DWS' help getting on the Energy and Commerce Committee, getting on the Agriculture Committee, getting on the Natural Resources Committee as of just a few hours ago. Her legacy is still being written right now.

I thank Tracie for all of her help personally because it makes me more effective to be on the committees I need to be on. I thank her for all the advice to my team to help her boss navigate that.

Central Florida also lays claim to Tracie, too. I heard the Tampa Bay story, but she went to Rollins College, so we claim Tracie also as a favorite daughter of central Florida.

Lastly, since there have been a lot of things about age and all this and that, Tracie has a whole third act left. I am looking forward to seeing what she ends up doing. I know it is going to be something special. Because of her work ethic and passion, I know it is going to be another big thing—hopefully, a little easier for a while, maybe a sabbatical for a few weeks. Maybe not. Probably not, but I am hoping.

Either way, I wish Tracie well in this third act. I know it is going to be amazing.

Thank you so much for all you have done for my team. On behalf of our constituents, we appreciate you.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. SOTO and all of my colleagues for helping me honor this remarkable woman.

Mr. Speaker, I will close with this. I think every Member can appreciate

that their chief of staff, really their entire congressional staff, but their chief of staff is often a person we spend more time with than we spend with any member of our family, including our spouses and significant others. It is someone who needs to put up with us and tolerate the highs and lows.

Tracie has done all that and more. She has taken calls at all hours of the night. Then, in the morning, she has always made herself available.

The sacrifices that all of our staff members make to be able to help us be successful and make sure that our constituents are able to have their representation maximized is truly remarkable.

Tracie and I have been through marriage, children, raising those children, helping one another raise our children; appointments to committees for me, like the Appropriations Committee in my second term, becoming a cardinal on my first day; being diagnosed, beating, and surviving breast cancer; and chairing the Democratic National Committee, and surviving the aftermath of that experience, including threats, bomb threats, international hacks.

We had the absolutely incredible opportunity to be able to do all of that together and to be able to make sure that we do the best job every day when we walk across the threshold of our office doors to give voice to the people of now Florida's 25th Congressional District, but prior to that the 23rd, and prior to that the 20th.

Mr. Speaker, I am so proud to be able to honor this remarkable woman on the floor of the United States House of Representatives, the beacon of democracy, our temple of democracy that is a light unto the world and whose light is going to be a little bit dimmer with her departure on Friday.

I know that we will continue to work together and lean on one another for all the rest of our days.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. HURD of Colorado). The Chair reminds Members that the rules do not allow references to persons in the gallery.

#### ADJOURNMENT

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 53 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-59. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy,

transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974: Implementation of Exemptions [DOE-HQ-2024-0084] (RIN: 1903-AA16) received January 8, 2025, 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 Government Reform.

EC-60. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act of 1974: Implementation of Exemptions [DOE-HQ-2024-0085] (RIN: 1903-AA18) received January 8, 2025, 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 Government Reform.

EC-61. A letter from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Privacy Act; Implementation [Docket Number: NIH-2022-0002] (RIN: 0925-AA69) received January 14, 2025, 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 Government Reform.

EC-62. A letter from the Biologist (Regulations), Migratory Bird Program, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Regulatory Authorizations for Migratory Bird and Eagle Possession by the General Public, Educators, and Government Agencies [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-MB-2022-0023; FXMB12320900000-245-FF09M31000] (RIN: 1018-BC76) received January 8, 2025, 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-63. A letter from the Fish and Wildlife Biologist, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's affirmation of interim rule as final — Injurious Wildlife Species; Listing Salamanders Due to Risk of Salamander Chytrid Fungus [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-FAC-2015-0005; FXFR13360900000-245-FF09F14000] (RIN: 1018-BA77) received January 16, 2025, 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-64. A letter from the Acting Division Chief, Endangered Species Division, National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration NMFS, Office of Protected Resources, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Reclassification of Pillar Coral (*Dendrogyra cylindrus*) From Threatened to Endangered [Docket No.: 241112-0291; RTID 0648-XR126] received January 16, 2025, 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-65. A letter from the Acting Chief of Staff, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of Section 1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules, Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation received January 15, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-66. A letter from the Sanctions Regulations Advisor, Office of Foreign Assets Control, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received January 14, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-67. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Office of General Counsel, Department of Energy, transmitting the De-

partment's final rule — Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties received January 8, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-68. A letter from the Attorney Advisor, Regulatory Affairs Division, Pipeline and Hazardous Materials Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's correcting amendments — Pipeline Safety: Safety of Gas Transmission Pipelines: Repair Criteria, Integrity Management Improvements, Cathodic Protection, Management of Change, and Other Related Amendments: Corrections to Conform to Judicial Review [Docket No.: PHMSA-2011-0023; Amdt. No. 192-138] (RIN: 2137-AF39) received January 16, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-69. A letter from the Federal Register Liaison, Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau, Department of the Treasury, transmitting the Department's final rule — Addition of American Single Malt Whisky to the Standards of Identity for Distilled Spirits [Docket No.: TTB-2022-0007; T.D. TTB-199; Re: Notice No. 213] (RIN: 1513-AC88) received January 8, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 53. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands, on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes (Rept. 119-1). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. STRONG, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. CLINE, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. OGLES, Mr. BURLISON, Mrs. HARSHARGER, Mr. ROY, Mr. ROSE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. CRANE, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. MORAN, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. ESTES, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WIED, Mr. CLYDE, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. COLLINS, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 569. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the

United States who are nationals and citizens of the United States at birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 570. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow the child tax credit with respect to stillbirths; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 571. A bill to amend title II of the Social Security Act to means-test certain child's insurance benefits; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. SESSIONS (for himself and Ms. HAGEMAN):

H.R. 572. A bill to prohibit the use of non-monetized or unqualified factors for regulatory analyses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. YAKYM (for himself and Mr. PANETTA):

H.R. 573. A bill to require the Council on Environmental Quality to publish an annual report on environmental reviews and causes of action based on alleged non-compliance with the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ARRINGTON (for himself, Mr. ESTES, Mr. LAHOOD, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. COLLINS, Ms. MACE, Mr. CAREY, and Mr. KUSTOFF):

H.R. 574. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to permanently allow a tax deduction at the time an investment in qualified property is made, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BAIRD (for himself, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. BOST, Mr. STEIL, Ms. PETTERSEN, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. BACON, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHRIER, and Mr. POCAN):

H.R. 575. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. BARRAGAN (for herself, Mr. TONKO, Mr. CARSON, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. TLALIB, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. ANSARI, Mr. GRIMALVA, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Ms. MCCLELLAN):

H.R. 576. A bill to codify Executive Order 14096 relating to revitalizing our Nation's commitment to environmental justice for all; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, 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 Mr. CALVERT (for himself and Mr. VALADAO):

H.R. 577. A bill to direct the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to establish a demonstration program to refer qualified participants within the Continuum of Care Program to Certified Community Behavioral Health Clinics for certain treatment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.



By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. ESTES, Mr. BOST, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. BACON, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. MACE, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. BABIN, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. WIED, Mr. OGLE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. RULLI, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, and Mr. MCCORMICK):

H.R. 578. A bill to require U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to take into custody certain aliens who have been charged in the United States with a crime that resulted in the death or serious bodily injury of another person, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FEENSTRA (for himself and Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 579. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. SESSIONS):

H.R. 580. A bill to amend the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act of 1995 to provide for regulatory impact analyses for certain rules, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, and in addition to the Committees on Rules, the Budget, and 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. HARDER of California (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 581. A bill to assist States in carrying out projects to expand the child care workforce and child care facilities in the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H.R. 582. A bill to establish a community protection and wildfire resilience grant program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, and 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. JOYCE of Ohio (for himself, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. ROUZER, and Mrs. SYKES):

H.R. 583. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to grants for beach monitoring, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 584. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit States from making medical assistance available to certain individuals under the Medicaid program; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. CASE, Ms. LEE of Nevada, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina):

H.R. 585. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make permanent the authority of the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to provide financial assistance for supportive services for very low-income veteran families in permanent housing; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. LALOTA (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CISCOMANI):

H.R. 586. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to study and report on the prevalence of cholangiocarcinoma in veterans who served in the Vietnam theater of operations during the Vietnam era, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. MANN (for himself, Mrs. BICE, Mr. ESTES, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BACON, Mr. PALMER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. HUNT, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mr. BABIN, Mr. SELF, and Mr. BAIRD):

H.R. 587. A bill to remove the lesser prairie-chicken from the lists of threatened species and endangered species published pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973 and to amend that Act to exclude the lesser prairie-chicken from the authority of that Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MCCOLLUM (for herself, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. BEYER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Mr. COHEN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. MORRISON, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 588. A bill to provide for the protection of the Boundary Waters Canoe Area Wilderness and interconnected Federal lands and waters, including Voyageurs National Park, within the Rainy River Watershed in the State of Minnesota, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROY (for himself, Ms. HAGEMAN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. CRANE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. OWENS, Mr. BURLISON, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. OGLE, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. LAMALFA):

H.R. 589. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to repeal prohibitions relating to freedom of access to clinic entrances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 590. A bill to amend title 32, United States Code, to clarify certain limitations on full-time National Guard duty performed in a State, Territory, or the District of Columbia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mr. ESTES, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. HERN of Oklahoma, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. VAN DUYNE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. CAREY, Mr. YAKYM, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. BEAN of Florida, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 591. A bill to provide an enforcement of remedies against the extraterritorial taxes and discriminatory taxes of foreign countries; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Government Reform, 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. TENNEY (for herself, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 592. A bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act with respect to the types of milk offered under the school lunch program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Ms. TOKUDA (for herself, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 593. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain health professions education scholarship and loan payments from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 594. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the detention of certain aliens who commit assault against law enforcement officers; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. VAN DUYNE (for herself, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. AMODEI of Nevada, Mr. OWENS, and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 595. A bill to amend the Convention on Cultural Property Implementation Act to make certain technical corrections to facilitate the lawful trade and collecting of numismatic materials; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. MENG, Mr. ESPAILLAT, and Mr. HERNÁNDEZ):

H.R. 596. A bill to require a study relating to the consolidation of certain grant programs currently available to insular areas and the suitability of such consolidation for Puerto Rico, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. WOMACK (for himself, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. HARDER of California, and Mr. SCHMIDT):

H.R. 597. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to clarify and update the authority of the Food and Drug Administration to ensure national uniformity in the regulation of the labels, labeling, and advertising of companion animal pet food, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

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

H.R. 598. A bill to amend the Forest and Rangeland Renewable Resources Planning Act of 1974 and the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to provide that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior are not required to reinstate consultation on a land management plan or land use plan under certain circumstances, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.J. Res. 25. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule

submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales"; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

#### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 569.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 4; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 570.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution as well as Amendment XVI

By Mr. GRIFFITH:

H.R. 571.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution as well as Amendment XVI

By Mr. SESSIONS:

H.R. 572.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. YAKYM:

H.R. 573.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. ARRINGTON:

H.R. 574.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BAIRD:

H.R. 575.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by that clause 11 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 any Department or Office thereof. 11

By Ms. BARRAGÁN:

H.R. 576.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. CALVERT:

H.R. 577.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 578.

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

Article I Section 8 Clause 4 of the Constitution

By Mr. FEENSTRA:

H.R. 579.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 580.

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

The authority to enact this bill is derived from, but may not be limited to, Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution, and Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 581.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 582.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Ohio:

H.R. 583.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. KILEY of California:

H.R. 584.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 585.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LALOTA:

H.R. 586.

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

Article 1 Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. MANN:

H.R. 587.

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

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

By Ms. MCCOLLUM:

H.R. 588.

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

Pursuant to Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 589.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. SHERRILL:

H.R. 590.

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

Clause 16 of Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 591.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Ms. TENNEY:

H.R. 592.

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

Article 1

By Ms. TOKUDA:

H.R. 593.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 594.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

By Ms. VANDUYNE:

H.R. 595.

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

Article 1 Sec. 8

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ:

H.R. 596.

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

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

The Congress shall have Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory or other Property belonging to the United States . . .

By Mr. WOMACK:

H.R. 597.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3.

The Congress shall have the power to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

By Mr. ZINKE:

H.R. 598.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CAREY:

H.J. Res. 25.

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

Article 1, Section 8

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 21: Mr. KNOTT, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. BEGICH, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. FRY, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. GILL of Texas, Mr. PALMER, Mr. CAREY, Mr. MILLS, and Ms. FEDORCHAK.

H.R. 24: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 31: Mr. SCHMIDT.

H.R. 35: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 38: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.

H.R. 45: Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.

H.R. 163: Mr. STAUBER.

H.R. 205: Mr. WIED.

H.R. 221: Mr. HARRIS of North Carolina, Mr. BRECHEEN, and Mr. WIED.

H.R. 236: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 250: Mr. COHEN.

H.R. 264: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 265: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 273: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. MANN, Mr. CLINE, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 274: Mr. TIFFANY and Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 307: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mrs. BEATTY.

H.R. 309: Mr. GUEST, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. TENNEY, and Mr. PETERS.

H.R. 318: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 327: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.

H.R. 332: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. BALDERSON, and Mrs. HOUCHEIN.

H.R. 335: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 342: Mr. LUTTRELL.

H.R. 343: Mrs. HARSHBARGER and Mr. KNOTT.

H.R. 361: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 377: Mr. YAKYM.

H.R. 380: Ms. PLASKETT.

H.R. 390: Mr. WHITESIDES and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 397: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ and Ms. VELÁZQUEZ.

H.R. 404: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 406: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 407: Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 416: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 418: Mr. GILL of Texas.  
 H.R. 422: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 429: Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. VALADAO, Ms. CHU, and Mrs. HINSON.  
 H.R. 431: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. BURLISON.  
 H.R. 450: Mr. GUEST, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. BAIRD, Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina, Ms. LEE of Florida, and Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 452: Mr. OWENS, Ms. PETTERSEN, Mr. MILLS, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CLINE, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Ms. HAGEMAN, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
 H.R. 469: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. McIVER, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Ms. TITUS, Mr. WITTMAN, and Ms. HOULAHAN.  
 H.R. 470: Mr. EZELL, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.  
 H.R. 471: Mr. McDOWELL, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. HUNT, Mr. WIED, Mr. KILEY of California, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. CALVERT.  
 H.R. 477: Mr. WHITESIDES.  
 H.R. 478: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 479: Mr. CRANE and Mr. HARRIS of Maryland.

H.R. 485: Mr. QUIGLEY and Mr. TURNER of Texas.  
 H.R. 486: Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 492: Mr. BEYER and Mr. VINDMAN.  
 H.R. 495: Mr. GUEST.  
 H.R. 500: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
 H.R. 503: Ms. TENNEY, Mr. MEUSER, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. BACON, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GARBARINO, and Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.  
 H.R. 507: Mr. HORSFORD and Mr. SIMPSON.  
 H.R. 511: Mr. BAUMGARTNER and Mr. McDOWELL.  
 H.R. 513: Mr. STAUBER, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. BAIRD, and Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 520: Mr. SORENSEN.  
 H.R. 521: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 524: Mrs. MCCLAIN and Ms. PEREZ.  
 H.R. 526: Mr. MANN and Mr. GILL of Texas.  
 H.R. 534: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 535: Mr. BEYER.  
 H.R. 536: Mr. COSTA.  
 H.R. 556: Mr. GOSAR, Mr. OWENS, Mr. SELF, Mr. CARTER of Texas, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 562: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H. Res. 23: Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. DEGETTE, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BURCHETT, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. COHEN, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. AMO, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.  
 H. Res. 47: Mr. STAUBER.  
 H. Res. 52: Mrs. FOUSHEE and Mr. OLSZEWSKI.

## CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

### OFFERED BY MR. THOMPSON OF PENNSYLVANIA

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Agriculture in H.R. 471, the "Fix Our Forests Act," do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

### OFFERED BY MR. WESTERMAN OF ARKANSAS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Natural Resources in H.R. 471, the Fix Our Forests Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

### OFFERED BY MR. BABIN OF TEXAS

The provisions that warranted a referral to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology in H.R. 471, the Fix Our Forests Act, do not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 119<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, FIRST SESSION

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No. 12

## Senate

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### PRAYER

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

Let us pray.

O God, our Father, how excellent is Your Name in all the Earth. From dawn to sunset, Your mercies sustain us.

Today, inspire our Senators to embrace Your promises. May they remember Your promises to supply their needs, to never forsake them, and to prevent anything from separating them from Your love.

Lord, bestow Your blessings upon our lawmakers, making them wiser, stronger, and better, glorifying You in their work. Use them to advance Your Kingdom in our Nation and world as they attune their will to Your purposes. Create in them a life of purity, honesty, and altruism that contributes to solving the problems we face.

We pray in Your blessed Name. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Resumed

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to S. 6, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 4, S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I ask consent to speak for 3 minutes as in morning business.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NATIONAL TRAFFICKING AND MODERN SLAVERY PREVENTION MONTH

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, January is National Trafficking and Modern Slavery Prevention Month, so today, Senator CORTEZ MASTO and I are introducing a resolution to honor victims and to raise very needed awareness.

As I speak, victims are being trafficked across our southern border. We each have a role to play in protecting the most vulnerable among us, especially women and children, from becoming victims of trafficking.

As chairman of the Senate Judiciary Committee, I am committed to making human trafficking prevention a priority in this Congress, and I thank the Senator from Nevada for leading this effort.

#### BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on his watch, President Biden wiped away student debt for more than 5 million borrowers, stiffing taxpayers with a heavier burden. That is on top of trillions of dollars in pr-

tisan deficit spending that fueled the fires of inflation to 20 percent during his administration.

His failed border policies allowed more than 10 million people to come into the country illegally.

I remember, during his inaugural address, President Biden pledged to unite Americans. At that time, I welcomed that very much. Unfortunately, his administration's actions did not match those lofty words of uniting Americans.

During his 4 years in the Oval Office, the 46th President adopted the divisive policies of leftwing ideologues and the more radical candidates that he beat in the Presidential primary. It was a notable departure from my 28 years serving together with him here in the U.S. Senate.

Even on his way out the door, President Biden doubled down on the dark and divisive rhetoric that failed his party in this most recent election. He put illegal immigrants before the security of Americans. He doubled down on class warfare, hammering, as you so often hear, the same nail that the "wealthy" need to pay their "fair share" when our Tax Code is among the most progressive in the world.

Many Iowans question the fairness of pardoning the President's son, including for tax evasion and crimes not even specified, especially when President Biden promised that he would not pardon his son. Iowans also tell me that wiping away student debt isn't fair to those who saved and sacrificed to pay their fair share.

In this Congress, I will work with President Trump to put America first and strengthen the economy so hard-working families, farmers, and small businesses can get ahead and, of course, stay ahead. That includes renewing the Trump tax cuts, securing our border, and securing peace through strength.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

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



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S261

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER  
The majority leader is recognized.

CABINET NOMINATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, in his inaugural address yesterday, President Trump spoke of his confidence in America. He spoke of the country's future: prosperity, security, strength. And I share the President's confidence and his optimism about what we can accomplish in the coming years.

President Trump has brought a new direction to Washington, and yesterday marked the beginning of a new era.

Here in the Senate, we have begun the process of confirming the President's Cabinet. Within hours of President Trump taking office, we confirmed the first of his Cabinet nominees—Marco Rubio to be Secretary of State—in a unanimous vote.

Secretary Rubio demonstrated his command of foreign policy last week at his confirmation hearing. He made it clear that under his leadership, the State Department will be focused on its core mission.

In his own words, that mission is “to promote peace abroad, and security and prosperity here at home.”

Gone are the days of a foreign policy exporting progressive ideologies, appeasing our adversaries, and demonstrating weakness on the world stage. The State Department is back in the business of advancing America's interests.

This is a welcome change in direction to our foreign policy, and Secretary Rubio is ready to hit the ground running. During his time in the Senate, he was a leading voice, articulating America's role in the world, and he has a clear command of the issues facing the world today.

As a Senator, he was vocal about the threat the Chinese Communist Party poses and the stakes of the competition between the United States and China. He recognizes the need for American leadership in Latin America to promote democracy and justice.

And he is clear-eyed about the threats that America faces from other countries as well as from nonstate actors.

I look forward to working with Secretary Rubio and the Trump administration to restore American strength abroad and promote peace and prosperity here at home.

In the coming days, the Senate will hold additional votes on the President's national security team. We expect a vote on the nomination of John Ratcliffe to be Director of the CIA later today. Mr. Ratcliffe, like Secretary Rubio, earned bipartisan support after his confirmation hearing last week.

He was reported out of the Intelligence Committee with a bipartisan vote yesterday, and he will bring valuable knowledge and experience to his new post, including from his time on the House Intelligence Committee and as Director of National Intelligence in the first Trump administration.

Under the Biden administration, the intelligence community made some notable misses. In 2021, the intelligence community failed to anticipate the swift collapse of Afghanistan in response to President Biden's decision to go ahead with the withdrawal, a withdrawal that cost the lives of 13 American servicemembers.

In 2022, the intelligence community warned that Ukraine would fall in days in the face of a Russian attack. Yet Kyiv is still firmly in Ukrainian hands almost 3 years later.

And in 2023, Hamas's October 7 attack on Israel took place with little or no warning from the intelligence community. And unfortunately, the list goes on. We need a return to fundamentals.

Last week, in his confirmation hearing, Mr. Ratcliffe promised to return to the CIA's core mission. That means recruiting spies to collect intelligence and providing objective intelligence analysis without bias.

Mr. Ratcliffe brings the right experience and the right approach to the CIA, and I look forward to working with him in this position.

REPUBLICAN SENATORS-ELECT

Mr. President, before I close, I want to say a word about two new Senators who will take office later today. I am very pleased to welcome Ashley Moody of Florida and John Husted of Ohio to the U.S. Senate. Ashley Moody began her career as a lawyer in private practice, and in all the spare time that a young lawyer has, she volunteered to help domestic violence victims seeking protection in court.

At the age of 31, after already practicing at a law firm and as a Federal prosecutor, she became the youngest judge in the State of Florida. During her time as a judge, she recruited volunteer attorneys to stand with children whose parents did not appear in court with them and developed a mentoring program for at-risk youth.

In 2018, she was elected attorney general in Florida, a post from which she held the Biden administration accountable and defended Florida law. And now, she is bringing her energy and experience here to the U.S. Senate.

Being sworn in alongside Ashley Moody today will be Jon Husted, Ohio's new Senator. “Senator” is just the latest title that Ohioans have called Jon Husted. He has been a State representative, speaker of the statehouse, a State senator, secretary of state for Ohio, Lieutenant Governor, and now U.S. Senator.

No matter his title, Ohioans know that they can depend on Jon Husted to fight for a smaller and more efficient government that genuinely serves its

citizens. And I am very pleased to welcome him here to the Senate.

Both our new Senators bring valuable experience, expertise, and perspective to the Senate Republican majority. And the whole Senate will benefit from their joining our ranks. I look forward to working with them.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

RYAN CORBETT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, this morning I have some amazingly great news. After more than 2 years of being unjustly detained by the Taliban, Ryan Corbett from Dansville, NY, is finally free and on his way home. In just a few hours—praise God—Ryan will be back on American soil and will be able to hug his wife Anna and his beautiful children, Miriam and Caleb and Ketsie. They represent the very best of Upstate New York—hard-working, God-fearing, persistent, and humble. Soon, Ryan will be back home in Western New York in the community he loved so much and that waited so desperately for his return.

I met with the Corbett family repeatedly. Every time I met with them, his wonderful wife Anna—strong but quiet—never gave up; and his beautiful children who so miss their dad, you could just feel it. And every time I met with them, just my heart went out, and I said “I have to do more and more and more.” It is a moment we have all prayed for and hoped for. And thank God this day has finally come. What a blessing. What an amazing day.

When I heard Ryan's story from his family and listened to them as they pushed and pushed for his release, I saw that even in the darkest moment, even when hope seemed lost, the Corbett family never, never gave up, and they never got angry. They never pointed fingers or called names. They just kept persisting and persisting and persisting. And their beautiful, hard, unrelenting, patient persistence has paid off.

I worked very closely with the Corbett family to build bipartisan support for Ryan's release. We brought attention to his imprisonment and made dozens of calls to elevate his case to the very highest levels of government. I want to thank President Biden and his administration's negotiating team as well as my colleagues on both sides of the aisle for helping bring Ryan back.

We can finally, finally say these five amazing words: Ryan Corbett is coming home. He is coming home to New York. He is coming home to Dansville.

I can't wait to see him and welcome him back very, very soon.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, now on the first day of President Trump's presidency, moments after taking the oath of office, President Trump declared that it was the dawning of a golden age here in America. But on day one into his presidency, it is clear that Donald Trump's golden age is not for the working and middle class. His golden age, rather, is for the special interests, the wealthy elite, and the corporate insiders he promised to take on as President. Just look at his first day in the White House, which shows exactly what I am saying.

On day one, President Trump, in his Executive orders, made it harder for Americans to save on prescription drug costs. President Trump cleared the way for Big Oil and polluters and halted leasing of offshore wind farms. He took steps to make it harder to enroll in the ACA and made Medicaid less generous. He removed the United States from the Paris Climate Accords.

Nothing the President did on day one lowered grocery prices. Nothing helped Americans achieve their dream of owning a home. Nothing will help working families earn more and save more. Their drug costs will go up. The cost of buying and maintaining a home will go up. The cost of healthcare will go up. The cost of energy will go up.

So who is exactly Donald Trump's golden age for? Not for working Americans; that is for sure. President Trump's golden age is one for America's biggest drug companies, who can now worry less about lowering their prices. It is a golden age for America's richest oil executives, who want nothing more than to kill clean jobs and deepen America's dependence on fossil fuels. It is a golden age for America's top 1 percent, who want another trillion-dollar tax break, paid for on the backs of workers in the middle class.

And, sadly, it is a golden age for lawlessness and lawbreakers who were pardoned yesterday by President Trump. There is no other way to describe President Trump's pardon of January 6 offenders than un-American. Let's be clear. President Trump didn't just pardon protesters; he pardoned some people convicted of assaulting police officers and seditious conspiracy. It is a betrayal of the highest order of our Capitol police officers who risked their lives to keep us safe.

When President Trump talks about a golden age, he is talking about a golden age for drug companies, powerful oil executives, and rioters who attack our police and attack our democracy. That is not the golden age Americans want.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, nominations, this week the Senate will continue exercising its constitutional duty to offer advice and consent on the President's nominees.

Last night, the Senate unanimously confirmed our former colleague, Sen-

ator Rubio, as Secretary of State. Even though Senator Rubio and Democrats differ on many issues, it was clear he was very well-qualified for the job and deserved confirmation.

Now, if every one of President Trump's nominees were as qualified and experienced as Senator Rubio, they would sail through the Senate with bipartisan support. But, sadly, too many of the President's nominees do not match Senator Rubio's caliber, too many have troubling backgrounds, too many seem unprepared for the job and proved so during testimony, too many nominees have been rushed through before their paperwork has been submitted.

Senator Rubio was thorough and quick with his background checks and documentation. He did it the right way. But too many other nominees have delayed and dragged their feet. So it is wrong to try and rush them through.

And too many of the President's nominees seem more interested in pushing the ultraright's extremist agenda than in fighting for working- and middle-class families.

Later today, I will meet with President Trump's nominee for OMB Director, Russell Vought. Mr. Vought is one of the most troubling nominees that President Trump has selected. He is about as ultraright as they come. So during our meeting, I hope to get a clarity on a simple question: Who will Mr. Vought fight for if confirmed? Is it the American people, or is it Project 2025, which Americans have already rejected?

I look forward to our conversation because I believe it is important both sides hear directly and candidly from the President's nominees before we are asked to vote on their nomination. After all, the debate over President Trump's nominees is not just about senior-level positions in the administration; the debate on nominees is a debate about the President's very agenda and about who will benefit. Whose side are these nominees on?

President Trump promised an agenda that will fight for the working and middle class. He promised a golden age for the country, but actions speak louder than words. And so far, the President's nominees suggest that if there is any golden age coming, it is only one for the very, very elite.

So Democrats will continue to get the President's nominees on the record on very important questions. Will Donald Trump's nominees focus on cutting costs, or will they be more interested in cutting sweetheart deals for big businesses? Will they protect our communities, or will they focus more on protecting special interests? Will they serve middle-class and working families, or will they serve the swamp? That is what the American people want to know.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, there are certain things we all agree on, I believe. No. 1, our border must be secure, and, No. 2, we should deport any dangerous individuals who are here illegally, period. But the Executive order signed by President Trump last night did not target criminals or even those who entered our country without authorization.

For example, the President suspended the task force on the reunification families created in the aftermath of his disastrous family separation policy of his first Presidency. Over 1,000 families remain separated today—in other words, children who don't know where their parents are. This task force was created to reunite them—simply that—and, now, it has been suspended. Stopping this task force does not make us a safer Nation and certainly doesn't help these children.

The President also suspended the Refugee Admissions Program, which provides a safe haven for those fleeing oppressive regimes around the world. They include Afghans, Afghan women, Uighurs, and Rohingya. Many refugee applicants wait decades to come to the United States lawfully, and every single one of them must undergo a rigorous vetting, more than any other group of immigrants coming into the United States. I have worked in and with these refugee camps. They literally stay in tents and temporary shelters for months and years, going through background checks before they are even considered eligible for coming to the United States. Yet the Trump administration has already canceled flights for over 1,600 Afghan refugees scheduled to come here.

Who are these people? Many of them are families of Active-Duty U.S. military personnel and those who are at risk because they fought on our side, defending our troops in the Afghan theater. Stopping these flights of friendly refugees coming to America, after having helped us and risked their lives to help us, doesn't make America safe. It sends a message, sadly, to allies supporting our troops around the world that we may not be there to support them when they need us.

The President also announced his plan to attempt to deny citizenship to children born in the United States if their parents are not citizens or lawful permanent residents. I ask anyone who is interested in this issue to do something very basic: Read the first sentence of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution. It is in clear violation of our Constitution to eliminate birthright citizenship. It does nothing to make our country safer—nothing.

We need to secure our border. That is why I worked for years to pass bipartisan legislation that fixes our broken immigration system.

Mr. President, before you came to the Senate, we considered comprehensive immigration reform on a bipartisan basis. I was part of an eight Senators task force—Democrats and Republicans, equal numbers. We wrote a bill, brought it to the floor, and got over 60 votes for the bill. Unfortunately, the House, under Republican control at the time, wouldn't take up the issue. We had an approach that still ought to be considered when it comes to changing our immigration system to make it safer for America.

But we also need to protect millions of noncitizens who Americans rely on each day. All across America this morning, many parents headed off to work and stopped to drop their kid off at daycare. They handed their child over to an undocumented person who works during the course of the day to keep your child safe and to make sure they are there at night when you return to pick them up.

The same thing is true about nursing homes and a lot of care facilities. Parents and grandparents are being carefully watched every minute of every day by undocumented people who are working there, whose wages aren't the greatest, but these people are willing to take on this job. For most people, it is a critically important job for their family. They want their mom to not only go to breakfast with a smile but to be escorted back to her room safely. They need undocumented people for that to happen. A high percentage of those who work in these facilities qualify as undocumented.

Immigrants have been a key part of America. I know that, and I say that as a son of an immigrant to this country. Our Nation has always needed immigrants. It still does. They put food on our tables, they care for our kids, and they help care for our parents and grandparents. What would we do without them? They don't deserve to live in fear every single day that they are going to be part of a mass deportation.

Any real solution to our immigration challenge must give them stability. Americans deserve a real fix to our broken immigration system that protects America, protects American workers, and treats immigrants fairly.

Mr. President, 13 years ago, in response to a bipartisan request from myself and the late Republican Senator Richard Lugar of Indiana, President Obama established the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals, or the DACA Program. DACA has protected from deportation over 800,000 young people, all of whom arrived in our country as children, some as young as a few months old.

These young kids are known as Dreamers. I know a little bit about that. I was the sponsor of the original DREAM Act, over 20 years ago. They grew up alongside our kids, with the

same hopes and ambitions. They stood up in a classroom every morning and pledged allegiance to that flag, believing it was their flag too. Many have gone on to serve our Nation as service-members, doctors, and first responders. They believe in the American dream just as much as we do.

Without permanent legal protection, these young people have been forced to live in uncertainty. They have to renew their DACA status every 2 years, go through a background check, and pay a filing fee.

In December, President Trump committed to work with Congress on a plan to protect Dreamers. I am looking forward to that. I worked with the President in his first term, and I am ready to work with him again. Let's get this done as part of immigration reform.

But, last Friday, the Fifth Circuit Court of Appeals declared the DACA Program illegal again. The decision left in place protections for current DACA recipients, while the appeal is pending, but left other Dreamers in limbo. The time to act is now.

I urge the President to come to the table to negotiate a solution for Dreamers as part of immigration reform.

#### JANUARY 6 PARDONS

Mr. President, on another matter, on January 6, 2021, I was seated in the chair right here on the floor of the Senate. A solemn constitutional proceeding was disrupted when a mob of thugs attacked and trashed the U.S. Capitol in an attempt to overturn a free and fair election.

I remember it well.

Vice President Pence was sitting in the chair that you are occupying now. The Secret Service came in and, literally, physically removed him, out that door of the Chamber.

They then announced to us to sit tight. This was going to be a safe room in the Capitol. There was a mob that was descending on the Capitol at the moment. We are going to keep everybody safe. They warned us that there were a lot of people coming into this Chamber to line the walls because they wanted to be kept safe from this mob that was coming into the Capitol.

Ten minutes later, a Capitol Hill policeman stood up and said: New plans. We are all leaving immediately. Get out of your chairs and go out that door. We will lead you to another safe room.

That was the circumstance of January 6, 2021. I remember it well. I saw the mob as we went outside. It was growing in size, thousands of people descending on the Capitol. That was the grim reality of that day.

At the end of the day, the mob confronted the Capitol Hill police and the DC police who were here, trying to keep this building and keep us safe as Members of Congress who were doing our constitutional duty.

The subsequent deaths of five of our law enforcement officers because of that mob and the injuries to approximately 140 others are a matter of fact,

many of whom still pay a price day for what happened on January 6, 2021.

And now the attackers have been pardoned by President Trump, who literally sent them from a rally to come up here, and what happened happened.

Consider the following individuals who received their pardon yesterday from President Trump:

David Dempsey was one of them. He was convicted of assaulting police officers by using "his hands, feet, flagpoles, crutches, pepper spray, broken pieces of furniture, and anything else he could get his hands on" as weapons.

Shane Jenkins was another one, convicted of using two tomahawk axes to break into the Capitol and assaulting police officers by throwing a wooden desk drawer and flagpole at them.

Kyle Fitzsimons was convicted for five separate assaults against law enforcement, including one that caused career-ending and life-altering injuries to U.S. Capitol Police Sergeant Aquilino Gonell.

And Kenneth Bonawitz, a member of the so-called Proud Boys, assaulted at least six officers, including placing one officer in a chokehold and lifting him up by the neck. Bonawitz injured one officer so severely that the officer has been forced to retire.

All of these people were among the roughly 1,500 January 6 insurrectionists who President Trump pardoned last night.

What happened to claims by a party of being in favor of law and order?

Even President Trump's own Vice President said last week—the Senator from the State of Ohio:

If you committed violence on [January 6], obviously you shouldn't be pardoned.

That didn't apply last night. All the people I just described were pardoned by President Trump for their actions in harming law enforcement in the Capitol on January 6.

Last week, I asked President Trump's Attorney General nominee, Pam Bondi, about pardoning January 6 rioters who assaulted police officers. She said: "I condemn any violence on a law enforcement officer."

Don't we all?

One of my Judiciary Committee Republican colleagues actually criticized me last week for even asking that question. Here is what he said:

I find it hard to believe that the President of the United States . . . would look at facts that were used to convict the violent people on January 6th and say it was just an intemperate moment. . . . it's an absurd and unfair hypothetical.

The action by President Trump is unfair, but, unfortunately, it is no longer hypothetical. These law enforcement officers risk their lives for us—literally, all of us, not just the elected officials but the thousands of visitors who come to this Capitol. They stand quietly by, watching to make sure that nothing goes wrong, but they are literally risking their lives for us every single day.

What was the message last night of pardoning the people who assaulted them on January 6, 2021?

Some people died as a result of that attack. Every American should be appalled.

I am very unhappy that these men and women who give us so much every single day are taken for granted so much that the President pardoned those who attacked them. That was wrong. We should stand by those who stand by us, and we should be willing to say to them: Thank you. Thank you for risking your lives for our visitors, for Members of Congress. And those who assaulted you were not just on a pleasant Capitol tour; they had a goal in mind. That goal, unfortunately, was at the expense of these men and women in uniform.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). The Senator from Texas.

TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, as the world knows by now, yesterday, President Trump was sworn in as the 47th President of the United States. I think he is only the second President who has been sworn in on two different occasions. He is both the 45th and the 47th President of the United States.

It was an honor to see him take the oath of office yesterday in the Capitol Rotunda. I only regret, because of the weather, that more people weren't able to see that in person. I was with a number of my Texas constituents this morning. They are not accustomed to the cold temperatures, but they were prepared to dress warmly and to deal with it. They all seemed to be in good spirits because of the outcome of the election, and they were happy to see the President sworn in, as was I.

I want to express my personal congratulations, along with that of millions of people across the country, to President Trump and our former colleague J.D. VANCE.

I have told people, when J.D. VANCE came to the Senate, I actually had met him before because when he went to Yale Law School, he actually was an intern on the Judiciary Committee that I serve on, and he worked in my office for a very brief period of time. I didn't know him then. As I told him, I knew him before he was famous, before he wrote "Hillbilly Elegy" and his career took off like a rocket ship. I am proud of what Vice President VANCE has been able to accomplish.

If you think about it, here is a guy who at 40 years old is Vice President of the United States, and if you read or listen to "Hillbilly Elegy"—about the circumstances under which J.D. VANCE was raised—you can see that he has overcome a lot of obstacles in life. He served as a U.S. marine, and I know he was celebrating last night with the Ohio State championship win, being a graduate of that school. It was great to see him get sworn in yesterday as well. Again, only in America—only in America—can something like that happen.

IMMIGRATION

It is no secret either that in the last 4 years, the Biden administration's

policies have been nothing but a disaster for the Nation, and no State has been more negatively affected than my State, the State of Texas. We have 1,200 miles of common border with Mexico, and the open border policies of the Biden administration have been an unmitigated disaster from a public health standpoint and a public safety standpoint. Many of our border communities have simply been overwhelmed and overrun just by the sheer volume of people coming from all around the world.

This is not the sort of immigration that you have seen in the past where poor people have come to the United States across the border to work and send money home. You literally have seen, with the Biden open border policies, people from all around the world show up and claim asylum or be paroled into the interior of the United States, which is like a blinking green light to anybody and everybody who wants to come to America, knowing they would be released under the Biden administration's policies.

We have seen millions. Nobody really knows for sure how many millions of people come and basically move into the United States outside of our legal immigration program, which I think is very important, but there are also the roughly 2 million, we think, "got-aways"—people evading law enforcement—and you can only imagine what they are up to. We know that there was no reason to evade law enforcement under the Biden administration if you didn't have a criminal record or if you weren't up to no good, because you knew you would be released. So it only was logical—it only made sense—that these were people who were either carrying drugs or had criminal records or were otherwise engaged in antisocial activities. Like I said, we think maybe about 2 million of those people made their way into the interior of the United States.

One of the most important ways that President Trump began with his signature on these Executive orders, beginning yesterday, was to reverse the policies of the Biden administration and to get our country back on track in securing our southern border. This border crisis, as I indicated, is one that President Biden himself practically invited—invited—during his first campaign when he encouraged migrants to "immediately surge the border." I mean, this is crazy talk if you think about it, but that is what he said. Of course, this is perhaps the one campaign promise President Biden actually kept.

In the early months of 2021, President Biden appointed Vice President Harris—we all remember this—as his border czar. Well, he tasked her with the role of managing this growing surge of migrants. Even back then, in the early stages of what was to become a historic humanitarian disaster, some expressed concerns that Ms. Harris might not be up to the task, but when she was made

aware of and made to answer for her lack of qualifications, she hadn't actually been to the border.

Specifically, as to the fact she hadn't been there, Kamala Harris made light of the question with a famous quip.

She said:

And I haven't been to Europe. . . . I don't understand the point you're making.

Somebody pointed out that she hadn't been to the border. She said, "I haven't been to Europe," and she didn't understand the point. Well, everybody else got it even if she didn't. She was singularly unqualified, and she bore this out, I think, by her service as the border czar. She was singularly unqualified to be the border czar, and it took another 3 months for her to accomplish her one and only visit to the Texas-Mexico border.

I can tell you that, as I said, Texas has a 1,200-mile common border, and the United States has a 2,000-mile common border, and not every piece of the border is the same. If you go to Arizona or California or New Mexico, many of those places are very different from the border with Texas and Mexico. But on this one visit to the border in Texas, Vice President Harris steered clear of ground zero of the surge of illegal immigration, which is the Rio Grande Valley. That was the epicenter of the border crisis, yet she was a no-show. Instead, she traveled to El Paso—which is another border town but very, very different—for a sanitized, made-for-TV visit.

To add insult to injury, the Vice President visited Texas multiple times last summer to fundraise and to campaign for President, but she didn't take the time to go to the border at all. But this should come as no surprise because she seemed completely disinterested in performing any function as the border czar. Under her negligent watch, the surge at the beginning of President Biden's Presidency only went from bad to worse.

The Biden-Harris administration presided over daily, weekly, and monthly records of illegal crossings across the border. Customs and Border Protection, the Federal Agency responsible, has tracked more than 10 million encounters across the Nation under President Biden's leadership, including 8.7 million at the southern border. More than 400,000 unaccompanied children—to me, this is one of the scandals that really hasn't gotten adequate attention—400,000 unaccompanied children have been encountered at the border and placed with sponsors in the United States.

Now, the Biden administration resisted any sort of background checks on the sponsors. As a matter of fact, they placed these children with other illegal immigrants in the country and in homes where we didn't know whether there were either gang members or people with records as sex offenders, for example. And the sad truth is that these children, like the 10 million or so other migrants that came across the



border, ended up in the United States courtesy of the cartels, criminal organizations that get rich smuggling people into the United States. But they don't just smuggle people; they smuggle drugs and other contraband too.

But these children in particular, once they arrive in the United States, many of them are exploited, treated as indentured servants until they pay back the debt they owe their traffickers. And those are the lucky ones. Others are trafficked for sex, recruited into gangs, neglected. We don't know.

The Biden administration couldn't tell you whether these children were going to school or getting the healthcare they need or the like. As a matter of fact, they said: We have no responsibility. That is the responsibility of the State child welfare organizations.

We know they are overwhelmed, and here are 400,000 more children that are dumped into their hands. As a result of the shelter facilities becoming increasingly crowded, the Biden administration rushed the placement process of these children and now has completely lost track of at least 85,000 of those unaccompanied minors. That is according to a New York Times investigative story where they actually followed up calling the sponsors, only to get no answer. Knocking on the door, nobody would come to the door. So we don't know—they don't know—what happened to these children.

We also know the cartels are getting richer trafficking in drugs, as I mentioned, including fentanyl, a synthetic opioid which is very different from heroin and cocaine, which require a lengthy process of growing a plant and then processing the drug. Cartels are selling fentanyl, which uses chemical precursors that come from China that then go to Mexico and are mixed up and then pressed to look like a pharmaceutical drug. But they are counterfeit drugs, and they killed more than 70,000 people last year alone.

This drug that comes across the southern border with very little—well, we just don't know how much of it actually makes its way across. We know how much is interdicted, but it could be just a fraction of the number that actually makes its way across the border. And here is the tragic statistic. This is the leading cause of death for young people between the age of 18 and 45 in America.

I have been to numerous high schools in Texas where grieving parents said: Well, our child ate dinner at the dinner table; then, the next morning, we went and found him or her dead in her room—having taken something they thought was a relatively innocuous drug, only to find out the hard way that it was laced with fentanyl, which took their life.

Well, our Border Patrol has simply been overwhelmed by the volume of people coming across the border because there is no such thing as deterrence. One of the things about law en-

forcement you learn is, by enforcing the law, you can discourage other people from violating the law. And by actually enforcing border security, you can deter people from coming in the first place.

But without deterrence, under the Biden administration, the Border Patrol has simply been overwhelmed. With historic numbers of people attempting to cross and successfully crossing, they have not gotten the support they need to handle the magnitude of challenges they face every day.

The men and women who serve in the Border Patrol are my heroes. They are loyal, patriotic Americans who put on the uniform and do what their government has asked them to do, until they are told that you have to tie one hand behind your back and you can't actually do your job because you just have to welcome people into the country, and you can't keep people out who are violating the law.

So I am going to extend my gratitude to the men and women who serve in the Border Patrol, as well as the National Border Patrol Council, which has been enormously helpful as a credible source of what actual conditions have been along the border so that the American people can know how bad it has gotten to be. The National Border Patrol Council has been our partner and friend and helped as Senator CRUZ and I have welcomed many of our colleagues to the border so that they can see firsthand what we have learned as a result of our many times visiting there.

And I particularly want to express my gratitude to Jason Owens, who is the outgoing Border Patrol Chief. Even when the administration did not provide adequate support to handle this historic crisis, Jason had the backs of the men and women of the Border Patrol.

But the good news is that, under President Trump, all of our Border Patrol agents will start receiving the support that they need and that they deserve from the Federal Government.

President Trump used his first day in office to make a number of actions addressing this crisis. He declared that this historic, ongoing crisis is a national emergency, which it is. He designated the cartels that smuggle the people and the drugs into the country as foreign terrorist organizations. He directed the Departments of State and Homeland Security to resume the migrant protection protocols, otherwise known as the "Remain in Mexico" program.

So people who want to come to the United States legally through the asylum system, they can't come to the interior of the United States and simply be released; they have to remain in Mexico and await the processing of their claim for asylum. This will, of course, deter economic migrants from making this dangerous journey by having them await their asylum hearings in Mexico.

At the same time, the President directed the Department of Homeland Security to stop catch-and-release. If you ask the Border Patrol: How do you explain all of this, this huge mass of humanity, this tsunami of people coming across the border, they say: There are no consequences for coming illegally under the Biden administration. And one of those incentives for people to continue to come is employing a catch-and-release policy because, without detention, you are never going to stop the flow. And this was a primary pull factor of migrants under the Biden administration.

President Trump also terminated the Biden administration's unlawful Cuban-Haitian-Nicaraguan-Venezuelan parole program. So "parole" is a word that people may be familiar with in a criminal context, where people can be paroled out of prison. This is a little different. In the immigration context, this means that individuals who meet certain select criteria can be released into the interior of the United States, but it is supposed to be done on a hardship, case-by-case basis.

The Biden administration completely transformed parole by doing it categorically. In other words, they said 30,000 migrants per month are allowed to be released in the United States if you come from Cuba, Haiti, Nicaragua, or Venezuela. That is 360,000 a year just released into the interior of the United States and not done on a case-by-case basis. It violated the law Congress put in place, but the Biden administration didn't really seem to care about what the law was; they were going to do what they wanted to do.

I am pleased that President Trump has directed the Department of Homeland Security and the Department of Justice to completely fulfill the requirements of the DNA Fingerprint Act of 2005, a bill that the former Senator from Arizona, Senator Jon Kyl, and I worked to enact. Under that law, the Department of Homeland Security will protect Americans from dangerous criminal illegal immigrants by collecting DNA samples from migrants apprehended at the border. In many instances, it can just be a cheek swab, but that DNA allows you to positively identify people who may be criminal aliens.

President Trump's order that the Department of Homeland Security verify the relationships claimed by family units apprehended at the border will help put an end to the cartels' child trafficking that the Biden administration policies enabled. Because the cartels are smart and they knew what the policies were, if a family unit—that is, an adult and a child—came together, they were treated a little bit differently. But we found out the hard way that the cartels would simply hire out these children so that the adults could get into the country claiming to be a family unit. Again, more child trafficking—child abuse, if you will. President Trump's order that the Department of Homeland Security verify

these relationships will help put an end to the cartels' child trafficking which the Biden administration enabled.

I am pleased that President Trump has also ended the use of the Customs and Border Protection One app. This was an app that you could download on your phone that allowed migrants to more quickly and efficiently cross the open border.

Under the Biden administration, you could simply make an appointment using this app on your phone, meaning the Federal Government would facilitate your entry into the United States on a quicker basis. It is really bizarre if you think about it. But it gave the cartels other ways to make money by selling appointments that they had made on the app. It was obviously hijacked by the cartels, who are not dumb—they are smart—and they are driven by a profit motive.

I am glad that President Trump made border security a day one priority of his administration. I look forward to continuing to work with him to help improve the safety for communities all across Texas and all across the Nation.

But I am also thrilled that President Trump has chosen a new U.S. Border Patrol Chief, a Texan, Mike Banks. People may have heard of Mike Banks before because he was Governor Abbott's border chief.

Mike brings incredible credentials to this job. While the Vice President made only one trip to the Texas-Mexico border during her entire tenure, Mike is a former Border Patrol agent. He has got vast experience at the border.

He understands firsthand the impact on our border communities and what our Border Patrol agents have been through. He spent two-thirds of his more than three decades of Federal law enforcement at the United States-Mexico border. As I indicated, Governor Abbott had selected him to serve as the Texas border czar, and Mike has also served in the U.S. Navy military police.

So I have had the privilege of getting to know Mike, and I know his qualifications, his experience and his competence and his firsthand experience dealing with the challenges at our border, and I have no doubt that he will make an outstanding 27th head of the U.S. Border Patrol.

I look forward to working with him and President Trump to secure our borders and to make our community safe again.

This is one of the main reasons that President Trump was elected, along with sky-high inflation, and the very dangerous world that seems to have grown up in the face of the weakness projected by the Biden administration around the world. But job No. 1 is to secure our borders and protect the American people. And I am proud of the fact that President Trump has, on day one, taken such important steps to begin that process.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:33 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Mrs. BRITT).

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Oregon.

##### NOMINATION OF JOHN RATCLIFFE

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, at some point, the Senate will vote on the nomination of John Ratcliffe to be the Director of the CIA. I am here to outline for just a few moments why I oppose this nomination.

Let me begin by saying I often vote for nominees who have different policy views than I do. However, my concerns with Mr. Ratcliffe are much deeper than that.

In 2020, I opposed his confirmation to be Director of National Intelligence because I believe his partisanship and willingness essentially went to the proposition of doing what would please Donald Trump. Unfortunately, his actions as head of National Intelligence only confirmed my concerns. Today, I want to focus on John Ratcliffe's commitment to the law and his truthfulness with Congress. I will give a couple of examples to illustrate my concerns.

In 2019, the Congress passed a law requiring the Director of National Intelligence to submit an unclassified report on who was responsible for the brutal murder of Washington Post reporter and U.S. resident Jamal Khashoggi. In 2020, after John Ratcliffe was nominated to be the head of National Intelligence, I asked him at his confirmation hearing whether he intended to follow that law. He responded that he needed to take a look at the underlying intelligence to see what could be released, and that is not the same as saying he would do as the law required.

After Director Ratcliffe was confirmed as DNI, he decided that nothing more could be declassified about the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. The effect of that decision was to cover up the fact that Saudi Prince Mohammed bin Salman approved the operation to capture or kill Khashoggi. The public only has the facts today because after the 2020 election, then-head of National Intelligence Avril Haines abided by the law and released the report.

But while John Ratcliffe was Director of National Intelligence, the Saudi leadership was protected from public accountability. While he was Director of National Intelligence, Director Ratcliffe wrote to multiple Members of Congress saying that he had completed his review of the intelligence and determined that nothing more could be

released. Despite the fact that the Congress passed a law, Director Ratcliffe insisted that there was only marginal public interest in declassification. He said this in three letters to me, to Acting Chairman Rubio and Vice Chairman WARNER, and to the chair of the House Intelligence Committee. To me, this raises questions about John Ratcliffe's commitment to the law.

Basically, I have concerns about his truthfulness with the Congress. As part of this nomination process, I submitted a written question asking him why he didn't obey the law. He responded that a review had been necessary to determine what could be declassified and I quote here:

This review was not completed until after I left office.

Madam President, that statement by Mr. Ratcliffe just wasn't true. Mr. Ratcliffe wrote three letters to the Congress saying that the review had been completed. That fact was even included in the ODNI's representations to a court in a FOIA case.

So here is why I am opposing the Ratcliffe nomination. If John Ratcliffe is willing to make representations to the Congress that are contradicted by what is in the public record, imagine how easy it would be for him to misrepresent classified matters behind a veil of secrecy.

There are other aspects of John Ratcliffe's record as DNI that are troubling. He said during his confirmation hearing he would tell truth to power. The record suggests otherwise. For example, at the end of September 2020, he released intelligence about Hillary Clinton's 2016 campaign. That was even though the intelligence community didn't know if it was accurate or the extent to which it was fabricated or exaggerated by Russian intelligence. Needless to say, this was a major break from standard practice, and it is hard to escape the conclusion that it was done for partisan political purposes, particularly given the timing.

I asked Mr. Ratcliffe whether he had ever taken any actions that were actually in conflict with the positions of the President. His response was simply to offer nothing.

Madam President, my concerns in 2020 that John Ratcliffe was too partisan to be confirmed as the head of an intelligence Agency have been validated by these specific examples I have cited today. As I said, he also now has a record of ignoring a law passed by the U.S. Congress and then misrepresenting basic facts about that decision.

So when the Senate does vote on the Ratcliffe nomination, I want the record to show that I strongly oppose the nomination.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

##### HAMAS

Ms. ROSEN. Madam President, on October 7, 2023, Hamas terrorists shocked the human conscience when they carried out an attack on Israel

that killed innocent men, women, and children and took hundreds of hostages, including Americans.

I still remember waking up that day to horrific reports coming out of Israel—the heart-wrenching stories of people brutalized, of women raped, the mass murder of more than 1,200 people, and the abduction of so many men and women and babies and the elderly.

These hostages, they are more than just names; they are more than just statistics. They are mothers. They are fathers. They are sons. They are daughters. They are friends. They are community.

Since that horrific day more than a year ago, Hamas has kept them captive, enduring inhumane conditions that no one—I repeat no one—should be subjected to. And in doing so, Hamas has inflicted an unimaginable amount of pain and suffering on the families of the hostages as well; families who have been living a nightmare—a nightmare. They don't know the fate of their loved ones, and they are tormented by every video that Hamas releases.

For others, it meant the heartbreak of knowing their loved one was murdered by Hamas, but their body has remained captive. Families have been unable to properly bury and grieve their loved one.

In the days, weeks, and months since that terrible day, I met with many of the hostage families repeatedly, both in Israel and the United States. Their resilience and their strength—I don't know how they do it. They wake up every day and they stand tall and they are resilient and they are strong and they speak out in the face of such pain and suffering. It is remarkable and unimaginable that they have to do this all at the same time.

Each time I met with these families, I made it clear, I will continue to do everything I can to make sure that they are reunited with their loved ones.

That is why the agreement between Israel and Hamas—which has paused the conflict and commits to bringing the remaining hostages home—is welcome relief. The deal is also helping to save civilian lives in Israel and Gaza by putting a stop to the fighting. It is ramping up the delivery of much needed humanitarian aid into Gaza.

So let's be clear: This agreement was possible because of the steadfast and unwavering support of the United States for Israel. And it was brought about because of the advocacy of the hostage families, together with bipartisan diplomatic leadership.

Now I am going to take a moment and speak directly to all of the families who have been waiting for nearly 500 days—waiting for news, waiting for a phone call, waiting for a moment that they could embrace their loved ones once again.

Your pain, your perseverance, your strength in the face of heartbreak and tragedy and your tireless effort pushing forward for a deal, pushing forward

for progress—you got us to this point. You did. You have made the difference.

Though nothing can undo the devastation in the past 15 months, I can only hope that this agreement can begin to provide some form of relief.

I know that we are all relieved to see three hostages finally freed over the weekend and reunited with their families. Romi, Emily, and Doron are finally home—finally home. The images of embraces with their mothers, fathers, sisters, brothers filled our hearts; it fuels our resolve.

We know that our work is not yet over, so I want to be clear: The United States will not rest until every single hostage is returned home. Now more than ever, we must continue being vigilant to make sure this agreement is fully carried out. The road ahead undoubtedly will be difficult, but with our continued, unconditional support of Israel and commitment to regional stability, this deal can bring some much needed peace of mind to the people of Israel, to the hostages, to their families, and to the region as a whole.

We pray for the families who are still waiting the returns of their loved ones, and we hope to bring peace through strength.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). The Senator from Louisiana.

GEORGE SOROS

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, last week, President Biden—I wish him well—gave his farewell address to America. He said a number of things, but one in particular got my attention. He warned America about—his words, not mine—“a dangerous concentration of power in the hands of a very few ultra-wealthy people.”

President Biden went on to say:

Today, an oligarchy is taking shape in America of extreme wealth, power, and influence that literally threatens our entire democracy, our basic rights and freedoms, and a fair shot for everyone to get ahead.

I don't know who President Biden was talking about, but I know one particular circumstance about which I am going to speak that fits his warning. Again, I don't know if the circumstance I am about to describe is what President Biden meant, but if the shoe fits, wear it, Cinderella.

Let me cut to the chase. Mr. George Soros is an oligarch. He is one of the wealthiest people in the world. He is a friend of President Biden's—nothing wrong with that. In fact, President Biden just gave him I think the highest civilian honor that a President can give to a civilian—the Presidential Medal of Freedom.

Mr. George Soros is buying WWL AM radio in New Orleans. Let me say that again. That may not mean much to you, Mr. President, but it means a lot to my people in Louisiana. Mr. George Soros is buying WWL AM radio in New Orleans.

WWL AM radio is practically an institution in my State. It has been around since 1922—1922—over 100 years.

It is a clear channel—what the communications experts call a clear channel class A station. Its transmitter output is about 50,000 watts. That is a lot, folks. That is the maximum for commercial AM stations in the United States. It is the lead station on the New Orleans Saints Radio network. It is an important station, and Mr. George Soros is buying it.

What does that mean, and how did this happen? WWL is owned by a national company called Audacy. Audacy has about 220 radio stations nationwide, one of which, of course, is WWL—the second largest radio network in America. It reaches I think 45 different markets throughout our country, 165 million Americans. It is huge.

Audacy borrowed too much money. They took on too much debt. They took on about \$1.9 billion worth of debt, and they couldn't service that debt with their revenues. So what did they do? They did what many other corporations do when they can't service their debt: They went into what is called chapter 11 bankruptcy—not chapter 7. Chapter 7 is when they liquidate the company. Chapter 11 bankruptcy is when a company goes into bankruptcy in front of a bankruptcy judge and says: Judge, we want to get all of our creditors and debtors together and restructure our cash flow and our debt so we can come out of this bankruptcy a surviving entity.

They went into chapter 11 with a bankruptcy plan. Mr. George Soros immediately pounced. Of that \$1.9 billion in debt, he bought about \$415 million of it; cash on the barrelhead; paid 50 cents on the dollar.

One of the tenets of the reorganization was that all the current shareholders would be wiped out. The new creditors would assume equity positions in the company. I know that sounds complicated, and it can be, but really what it means is that the bondholders—one of which is Mr. Soros after he bought it, bought the \$450 million worth of debt—became a shareholder, and Mr. Soros is now the largest single shareholder in Audacy radio stations, including WWL AM in New Orleans, an institution.

In America, you can't just go do this. Why is that? Because those airwaves on which WWL and the other radio stations broadcast—they don't belong to the radio stations. They belong to you and you and you. These airwaves—the spectrum, if you will—are owned by the American people.

Years ago, we created the Federal Communications Commission, the FCC. We set it up to be in charge of the airwaves that belong to the American people to make sure that those airwaves were being used prudently by radio stations. For example, if a radio station is bought by a bunch of foreign nationals or foreign entities, the FCC has to approve it. For example, any-time a broadcast license, as is the case with Audacy, is transferred, the FCC has to approve it. So Mr. Soros's purchase of WWL Radio and the 219 other

radio stations had to go before the FCC, and it did, and it went—the approval for Mr. Soros went through the FCC like green grass through a goose. It was a party-line vote. It was last September. All three Democrats—there are five people on the FCC—all three Democrats said let it go, and they short-circuited the normal process.

Now, I am not an FCC expert, and I am not a communications law expert, but this has been widely reported, and I have read about it in many reports. Normally, on a deal of this size, when 220 radio stations are being transferred—their licenses—using airwaves that belong to the American people and there is a substantial percentage of foreign owners, it would take about a year to get through the FCC. The FCC would do a complete investigation. Not this time—no. This time was special. What happened was what some members of the media have called the Soros shortcut. They just got together and rammed it through. Did I mention it was like green grass through a goose—3 to 2?

Now, the two Republicans on the Commission—they are screaming the whole time: Whoa, Nellie! Whoa! Whoa! Why aren't we taking this seriously? Why aren't we investigating this? Why aren't we doing our due diligence?

They were outvoted 3 to 2.

You know, even in a democracy, when you have the votes—you can make a porcupine like hot peppers if you have the votes. That doesn't make it right.

A number of people petitioned the FCC and said: Please don't do this.

One of the groups that petitioned the FCC was a group called Media Research Center. The FCC—three Democrats, two Republicans—dismissed them. But this is what the Media Research Center said—their words, not mine:

There is no question that George Soros and his affiliated businesses are looking to control these radio stations to advance their particular brand of activism.

The MRC urged the FCC not to create a "special Soros shortcut" that would circumvent their rules and allow the deal to move forward. They did it anyway.

Here is what Mr. Troy A. Miller, NRB president and CEO, said. He said—his words, not mine:

The fact that the FCC is apparently willing to bypass the usual protocols—

That means the normal procedures—to get this transaction done just weeks before a presidential election—

And right after the President of the United States gave Mr. Soros the Presidential Medal of Freedom—

seriously undermines the Commission's credibility and raises warranted questions of whether administrative processes are being manipulated—

Manipulated—

to exert political [interference and] preference.

Here is what one of the Republican members of the FCC, in dissent, said—

Commissioner Brendan Carr, who is soon to be Chairman of the FCC now that there is a new sheriff in town. Here is what Mr. Carr said:

The Commission's decision today [approving Mr. Soros's plan] is unprecedented. Never before has the Commission voted to approve the transfer of a broadcast license—let alone the transfer of broadcast licenses for over 200 radio stations across more than 40 markets—without following the requirements and procedures codified in federal law.

Pass me the sick bucket. This isn't right, but they did it.

Now, this is America. You are entitled to believe what you want. If it is legal, you are entitled to do what you want. And Mr. Soros is certainly entitled to his opinion. He is. I don't agree with him, but he is certainly entitled to it in America. I am not much into this cancel culture, and hopefully we have seen the end of it, but when you are acquiring radio licenses which can influence public opinion and you are doing it in part—not exclusively but in part—with foreign money, well, that is why we have the FCC.

But I want to make this clear: I believe in free speech and free expression. You are not free if you can't say what you think. You are not free if you can't express yourself. Mr. Soros has that right. But here is where he stands. I want my people in Louisiana to know who is buying WWL Radio in New Orleans. Mr. Soros is a billionaire. God bless him. He made his money himself. He has poured much of his wealth into what, in my opinion, are radical causes.

He is now working with his son, who I understand is a very smart young man. His name is Alex Soros. Mr. George Soros and Mr. Alex Soros hold some—how should I put this?—non-mainstream American beliefs.

For example, Mr. George Soros has called the United States "the main obstacle to a stable and just world." Mr. Soros believes that our country is "the main obstacle to a stable and just world," not China, not Iran, not North Korea—the United States of America.

Pass me the sick bucket.

Mr. Soros has also said that China has—his words, not mine—that China has a "better functioning government than the United States of America."

Mr. Soros does not believe that the United States should have secure borders. He once called national borders an "obstacle" to his plan for widespread immigrant resettlement.

Mr. Soros and his family, as you probably know, have spent millions and millions of dollars to elect prosecutors throughout America who believe that violent criminals are the real victims. These prosecutors believe for the most part that if a cop has to shoot a criminal, it is always the cop's fault, but if a criminal shoots a cop, it is always the gun's fault. These prosecutors whom Mr. Soros has backed with millions of dollars all believe that if you are concerned about crime, you are automatically a racist.

Mr. Soros and his son Alex—Alex in particular—have called for softer sentences on violent criminals. This is what he has said—his words, not mine. Mr. Alex Soros said:

But if we are serious about ending mass incarceration, we must also rethink our response to crimes that are more serious, including violent ones. Even those who have been victims of violence increasingly do not believe in long-term prison sentences.

In short, Mr. Soros—both George and Alex believe that America would be better off if we had open borders. They believe that America would be better off, in my opinion—this is how I read their writings—if we ended jails and if we ran our government like the Communist Party of China. I don't agree with that, but Mr. Soros—both of them are entitled to their opinion.

But my people in Louisiana are entitled to know whose opinion they are hearing on the radio, and this has not been reported once in Louisiana. Let me say it again.

Mr. George Soros, through an expedited procedure—I am trying to be evenhanded here—who received the Presidential Medal of Freedom from President Biden and who is close to President Biden and all of my Democratic colleagues, on a 3-to-2 vote at the FCC, has been able to buy over 200 radio stations throughout America, including WWL Radio. I want my people to know about it, and I want us to make sure that it was done legally. I am not saying it wasn't done legally; I am saying that it looks funny. Not funny ha-ha—it looks weird the way this was done. It has the aroma of politics, and I hope the new FCC revisits this issue.

These licenses and these airwaves do not belong to me or to the FCC or to Audacity or to WWL; they belong to you and you and you—the American people. We are supposed to make sure, through our FCC—that is why God created the FCC—that these licenses are not just given to anybody.

#### CHAGOS ISLANDS

Mr. President, let me say one other thing quickly. I didn't mean to go on this long. You have heard me talk about this before, and I am going to talk about it again.

This is India. This is China. Right here are the Chagos Islands—right now owned by the United Kingdom. America, the United States of America, with your tax dollars, has a very important military base out in the Chagos Islands, on an island called Diego Garcia.

Now, the United Nations, as I have said before, has said to Britain, the UK, which acquired the Chagos Islands from France—the folks at the United Nations, with their whey protein powder and man purses, say: Bad United Kingdom. Bad United Kingdom. You are a bunch of colonialists. Give it back. Give the Chagos Islands back—not "give them back to the people of the Chagos Islands"; give them back to this island down here, Mauritius, over 1,000 miles away. Give it back to Mauritius. That is who had it when France

transferred—Mauritius was a province of France when France transferred all of its ownership to Mauritius and to the Chagos Islands in the early 1800s.

The new government in the United Kingdom said: Oh, we feel so guilty. We are going to give it back. We are going to give it back—and our Air Force base with it, which we use to rearm and restock our submarines in Indochina—in the Indian Ocean to combat China.

This kind of stupid takes a plan, folks. This kind of stupid takes a plan.

The United Kingdom said: OK. We feel guilty. We are going to give it back. We are going to give it to Mauritius, and we are going to start paying Mauritius £9 billion over 10 years. And you know who went along with it? The prior administration.

Now, I have talked to President Trump about this, and I have talked to Marco Rubio about this—our esteemed new Secretary of State—and I am hoping they are going to do something about it.

The United Nations has no jurisdiction over the United Kingdom or us in America, and this is our military base. And, already, if we give the Chagos Islands to Mauritius, Mauritius says they will lease to us our own base for about 9 billion pounds over 10 years. Already, China is circling Mauritius. Already, China is trying to be Mauritius' best friend.

And I don't have anything against the Government of Mauritius. They are wonderful people. I understand they want the money. They want our money. They want your money. They want us to pay them for our own military base.

We need to stop this deal. President Trump and Secretary Rubio need to pick up the phone and call Prime Minister Starmer in the United Kingdom and say to the Prime Minister: Mr. Prime Minister, with all due respect, stop dipping into your ketamine stash. Put down the bong. We need this military base to combat China. Don't do it.

And if the President will do that and the Secretary of State will do that, I believe Mr. Starmer, who tried to ram this through the week before President Trump took office but was stopped—I believe that he will give in.

I don't have anything against Mr. Starmer. I don't have anything against the people of Mauritius Island. I am sure they are all wonderful people.

But our struggle with China is serious. It is as serious as four heart attacks and a stroke. And it is bone-deep, down-to-the-marrow stupid for us, because of guilt over colonialism, to bow to the wishes of the United Nations and give a military base that we built to Mauritius, which eventually will end up in the hands of the Communist Party of China. That is why I say that kind of stupid takes a plan.

#### SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA WILDFIRES

Mr. President, on a final point, I want to just highlight this. The people of Mexico have sent some of their firefighters to help us in California, and I

want to thank our friends in Mexico for doing that. Other countries have sent their firefighters too. But because we are proximate to Mexico, their fighters were able to get here earlier, and I just want to thank the people of Mexico for their generosity.

My work here is done. I will show myself to the door.

And before I do that, I will suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Washington.

#### BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, families are looking to us to solve problems. They are looking at us to lower prices. They are looking for help getting food on the table or getting childcare or getting their prescriptions filled. But what they are seeing instead, today, is Republicans lying about women, lying about healthcare, and lying about the tragic realities that families face when they learn that their baby has a fatal diagnosis and cannot survive long after birth.

Of all the bills that we could be voting on right now, it is an absolute disgrace that Republicans are spending their first weeks in power attacking women, criminalizing doctors, and lying about abortion.

This bill would create a new government mandate that would override the best judgment of grieving families who find out their fetus has a fatal condition. And it would create new, medically unnecessary barriers for doctors and patients, at a time when doctors already have their hands tied when it comes to providing basic reproductive healthcare.

Republicans' whole premise on this bill is a sham. Their whole bill is a disgrace, and we are here on the floor today to call it out.

I am not going to let anyone perpetuate the so-called "abortion until birth" myths and lies about people who have abortions and the providers who care for them. That is not how abortion works, and Republicans know it.

Killing a baby is already illegal in every single State. In fact, we passed a law in 2002 that made that crystal clear. I would know because I was here. It passed unanimously. Doctors already have a legal obligation to provide appropriate medical care to any infant born in this country.

And let's be clear: We already know Republicans' sham bill is not going to go anywhere, by the way. We have been here before. After all, Republicans held a vote on this bill a few years ago, and not a single Democrat who is still in the Senate today voted for it.

The last time we voted on this bill, I spoke about something Republicans re-

fused to acknowledge in this debate: the actual voices and experiences of women who receive a heartbreaking diagnosis late in pregnancy, what they actually go through, and how this bill would hurt them and their families.

I spoke then about Judy. She is from Washington State. Her son's organs did not develop properly. One lung was 20 percent formed, and the other was missing entirely.

I spoke about Lindsay. Her daughter had an aggressive, inoperable tumor growing into her brain, her heart, and her lungs.

I spoke about Darla. One of her twins had serious medical complications. Not terminating that pregnancy would have put her other twin's health at risk. How you ignore something like that I will never understand. But instead Republicans are talking about things that simply do not happen.

However, I have a different story to share today. You see, the last time I shared those stories of women who were able to make the choice that was right for their family, but the stories now are of women who were denied that choice. And that is because Republicans have ripped away abortion rights, and State abortion bans have forced some women into the kind of nightmare Republicans are now seeking to take nationwide.

In Florida, Deborah learned, at 23 weeks, her baby had no kidneys, and it would not survive after birth. She felt an abortion was the right step for her family. But Florida gave her no choice about what happened next. They forced her to carry a doomed pregnancy for months.

Do you know what it is like to go for months, pregnant with a baby you know will not survive, and getting questions and comments like: Oh, is this your first child? Are you excited?

Do you know what it is like fighting back tears as you try to decide whether to just nod politely or explain that, actually, your world is falling apart and, all the while, knowing you have to go through all of this against your will because some politician decided they knew better?

Deborah avoided going out. She was afraid to go to the grocery store. And she said:

I just went into a really dark place, you know, essentially planning my son's birth and funeral at the same time.

That is what abortion bans do. That is what happens when we take choice away from patients, when Republicans decide they know better.

And Deborah is far from the only woman to go through this. Infant deaths from birth defects jumped in Florida following their abortion ban.

Now, Republicans have a bill here to take that issue nationwide. That is what we are voting on here tomorrow. That is their top priority, now that Trump is in office. And not only are they trying to take that abortion heartbreak nationwide, they are lying about what is at stake here and lying

about what women like Deborah are going through, what their own policies will cause more women to go through.

Shame on them. This is infuriating.

Women like Deborah may not be billionaires, but they should still have their voices heard. And as long as I am here, they will be.

So here is my message for Republicans: Families don't need less choice about how to handle tragic medical news. What families actually need is affordable groceries. What families actually need is childcare. What they actually need is paid leave, quality healthcare, access to programs like SNAP and Medicaid, which Republicans want to cut to the bone.

Now, I can't predict what attack Republicans will launch on abortion next, but I can promise we will be here to call them out, both for what they are trying to do—lie about women and doctors—and for everything they are failing to do—lowering costs and making life easier for folks back home.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, first, I really want to thank my friend, our great leader on women's issues and on choice issues, Senator MURRAY, for leading this floor block. She has been indomitable on this issue. I can't think of a person who has done more to protect the rights of women than PATTY MURRAY. So thank you for your great leadership.

I want to thank all my other colleagues who will join me as well.

Look, it is Donald Trump's first week as President, and Republicans are already escalating their war on women's reproductive freedoms. They didn't wait long. And the Republicans' desire to impose politicians' and their views on women's health and substitute their judgment for the judgment of the woman, her family, and her doctor continues.

There are many different permutations and combinations of this, but it is always: Take the women's rights away. Let some politician for some ideological reason decide.

This week, Senate Republicans will advance their so-called Born-Alive bill, a bill we have all seen before, which the Senate squarely rejected in the past. The bill is deeply pernicious because it attacks women's healthcare through false narratives and outright fearmongering. It seeks to make something illegal that is already illegal.

In essence, the Republican bill would substitute the judgment of qualified medical professionals and the wishes of millions of women and their families with an ultraright ideology. It is the long hand of injustice reaching down and hurting women from afar.

And so much of the legislation is passed, frankly, by men who have, really, no understanding of what women go through when they are through difficult situations like the one my colleague from Washington State has outlined.

This would harm the ability of medical professionals to provide healthcare based on evidence and on science. It would expose medical professionals to the risk of punishment and prosecution if they don't comply with the hard right.

So we are here because we need to expose this bill exactly for what it is: myth-based fearmongering. It is an attack on reproductive care.

The anti-choice movement keeps trying to come up with these scenarios to try and scare people, but they misstate the facts and misstate the evidence.

This bill is clear. It is an attack on reproductive care. It is anti-women, anti-family, anti-science.

I will tell my Republican colleagues this: Democrats will oppose any attempt to erode access to high-quality and safe reproductive care. Democrats will continue to fight for America's women, America's doctors, and America's families who sometimes have to make heartbreaking, difficult decisions when serious complications arise during pregnancy.

That is what makes this bill so, so horrible. It basically takes a woman who is in a very serious, difficult situation and tries to use her as a political football. That is a bad, bad thing.

So we should resoundingly reject this deeply partisan bill when it comes to the floor later this week.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, this is not the first time we have considered this measure on the floor nor the first time I have spoken about it.

I want to thank Senator MURRAY for leading this conversation on a very serious topic.

I want to thank Senator SCHUMER for joining in this conversation as well. I couldn't agree with him more when he said: What we are trying to do with this bill is to make illegal what is already illegal.

I am going to make an invitation to anyone following this debate who wants to judge for themselves, to reach their own conclusion, as to whether or not there are laws existent in America today which cover the situation described in this bill.

I am going to give you the name of a physician in Philadelphia who is serving a life sentence in prison for having violated the current law, and I want you to look it up and read it yourself. Don't take my words for it. His name is Kermit, K-E-R-M-I-T, Gosnell, G-O-S-N-E-L-L. Write that down if you want to follow this debate and want to draw your own conclusions by doing some personal research. Look it up on the internet: Kermit Gosnell. I will tell you his story in a moment, but it proves the fact that we have existing laws that make this current bill unnecessary.

Tomorrow marks the 52nd year since our Nation's highest Court issued a rule recognizing a woman's constitu-

tionally protected right to choose. *Roe v. Wade* enshrined into law something that should have been a given in America: In America, women have the right to make decisions about their own bodies. And, as a result of *Roe*, America's women took a giant leap forward in gender equity. The decision in *Roe* afforded women the right to choose whether, when, and how to start a family.

But after nearly 50 years of progress, in June 2022, the Supreme Court overruled *Roe* with *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*, dragging women's rights half a century backward. Following that decision, we saw Republican-led States open the floodgates to abortion restrictions—laws that, in some cases, have had deadly consequences for women who could not access critical healthcare that they needed.

Instead of addressing the healthcare crisis that *Dobbs* has unleashed, Republicans are now instead looking to make it even harder for women to access comprehensive and compassionate healthcare.

Tomorrow, they will attempt to bring to the floor the so-called Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act. They want to bring it to a vote—this bill that, as Senator SCHUMER said, is already covered in law.

The bill, they say, creates new standards of care for physicians providing reproductive healthcare that are not based in medicine, fact, or science.

The goal of the bill that we will consider, introduced by the Republicans, is to target and intimidate reproductive healthcare providers and make it harder for women to access comprehensive and compassionate healthcare. This bill offers a poorly drafted and dangerous solution to a problem that simply does not exist.

The authors of this bill will tell you that this legislation simply ensures that all children born alive as a result of a so-called attempted abortion are provided the same medical care as any other newborn of the same gestational age. They say that is all it does. But we already have a law on the books that ensures that any child born in America, regardless of the circumstances surrounding that birth, is afforded equal protection under the law.

In 2002, the House and Senate passed, on a bipartisan basis, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act. Do you know who signed that into law? Then-President George W. Bush. Put simply, it is already illegal to kill a child born alive in America. And in rare cases where a doctor does harm a baby in violation of State and Federal laws, they are held legally accountable.

The year was 2013. Dr. Kermit Gosnell, a Pennsylvania doctor, was convicted on three counts of first-degree murder for murdering babies after botched abortions. Gosnell was sentenced to life in prison without possibility of parole under existing law, and he is currently serving that sentence at

Pennsylvania's State Correctional Institution at Huntingdon.

Do you know what else the authors of this legislation didn't tell you and won't tell you? Abortions late in pregnancy are incredibly rare. And when they do occur, it is most often because of a heartbreaking, late-breaking, fatal fetal diagnosis or because a woman's doctor has told her that she may not survive the pregnancy or because a woman lives in a State that prevented her from getting an abortion earlier. No, Republicans would rather have you believe that vast numbers of women are intentionally waiting until the final days of their pregnancy to have abortions.

This is a cruel political contrivance. These are women who often already have had their baby showers, picked out names, persevered through morning sickness, back pain, swollen ankles, countless doctors' appointments and tests. These are women who wanted their babies.

And what is the response from the actual doctors on this legislation? Ask the professionals to respond to the Republican bill that is coming to the floor, the so-called Born-Alive bill. The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists said this when the House passed the bill last year:

The offensively named "born-alive" legislation is another cruel and misguided attempt to interfere with evidence-based medical decision making between patients and their physicians.

Laws that ban or criminalize evidence-based care and rely on medically unsupported theories and misinformation are dangerous to families and their clinicians. This bill negatively affects all obstetric and gynecologic care.

What I just read to you is a quote from the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists. Given this reality, what would happen if this bill were signed into law by the new President?

Take the case of Meredith Shiner, a constituent of mine in Illinois who was thrilled to learn a few years ago that she and her husband were going to have a little baby boy. However, at 22 weeks and 6 days, Meredith woke up with a terrible abdominal pain, rushed to the hospital thinking she had a bladder infection. She didn't realize the seriousness of what was happening until the doctor told her she was in labor. The prognosis was grim. Having the baby at 22 weeks and 6 days meant although the baby would be born alive, the chances of survival were almost nonexistent.

Knowing medical interventions would be futile, Meredith and her husband made the difficult decision to take the minutes they had with their son to hold him, to touch him, to look at him until he gently passed away, as doctors provided palliative care.

This bill is written in such an overly broad way, vague way, that had it been the law, those same doctors that provided compassionate care to Meredith, her husband, and their son could be subject to 5 years in prison.

In these heartbreaking situations, it is not the time for politicians to dictate the course of medical treatment, as this bill would do. Those wrenching decisions, those personal tragic moments, must be left to medical professionals and the individuals in their care. It is the only compassionate outcome.

This week, we lost a lifelong advocate for women's rights, Cecile Richards. She spent her life fighting to keep politics out of healthcare and defending every woman's right to decide when and how to start their family. We lost Cecile to glioblastoma—the same brain cancer that took John McCain, Beau Biden, and Teddy Kennedy.

If Senate Republicans truly cared about saving lives, they would be working with us to expand access to healthcare, increase funding for medical research that results in new cures, and implement policies that address our Nation's abysmal record of infant and maternal mortality.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. SMITH. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues Senator MURRAY and Senator SCHUMER and Senator DURBIN and my close colleague from Minnesota Senator KLOBUCHAR and others to stand up for women and for doctors in my home State of Minnesota and around the country.

And I just want to appreciate Senator DURBIN for raising Cecile Richards, who was a dear friend of mine and someone who I worked with closely when I worked at Planned Parenthood. And I was thinking about something that Cecile often pointed to. She would quote the great American poet, Edna St. Vincent Millay, and this poet would say: It is not one damn thing after another. It is the same damn thing over and over again.

And here we have that being shown on the Senate floor. Once again Republicans are here introducing this bill—not to talk about what we can do to lower prices for Americans, not to talk about how we can lower the cost of housing, or how to help people's lives become more affordable.

Instead, one of the very first bills that they are putting forward is for a vote in service of a national abortion ban that, I can tell you, the people in Minnesota do not want, the people in America have made it abundantly clear that they do not want. And I guess the nicest thing you could say about this is that it is out of touch with where Americans are.

But let's talk about it a little bit more because I think it is important that we fight some of the myths and the disinformation that this legislation promotes.

What this bill would do, it would put Congress and politicians in the middle of personal medical decisions that patients and doctors should be able to make together without political interference. It would override physicians'

professional judgments about what is best for their patients, and it would put physicians in the position of facing criminal penalties if their judgment about what is best for their patients goes against what is described in this bill.

So, colleagues, let's be clear. At the core of the debate here is whether or not we trust women to make the very best decisions for themselves and their families. And in difficult medical, challenging, often tragic, medical situations, should women and their physicians be making decisions about their lives and their health—often their very lives—or is this about politics?

And I think Americans say this is not about politics. Politics should stay out of it.

I know that everybody on this floor has talked to their own constituents who have experienced what really happens for women who are needing abortion care later in their pregnancy. These stories are inevitably heartbreaking and tragic, and they each are individual and unique. Every situation is different. But they always are about women and families that are thrilled to be pregnant. In some cases, as my colleagues have said, they have already picked out a name. They have decorated the nursery. They have planned a baby shower. But it becomes clear, as the pregnancy progresses, the devastating news that this child is not going to survive. And in some cases, the mother's life is also at risk; her health, her ability to have children in the future are at risk.

And as I said, every situation is going to be unique because everyone is going to have a different diagnosis, different personal histories, different family circumstances, and that means everybody is going to need to have their own individual care. But what every single one of these women have in common is that each one of them deserves the dignity and the autonomy and the freedom to be able to make those decisions, make their own medical decisions, without a bunch of politicians getting in the way.

But let's be really clear here. Women are not waking up in the last weeks of their pregnancy just to change their mind about that pregnancy. I mean, how disrespectful of women is that attitude? Because these are terrible situations where something has gone catastrophically wrong. They are not just changing their minds. They are doing everything they can to take care of themselves and their families.

You know, I know that in this country, we don't tell oncologists how to treat their patients. We don't tell emergency room doctors what they need to do in any specific circumstances to save lives, and we shouldn't be telling women's doctors how to take care of their patients.

But, colleagues, that is what this bill does. It would give politicians in this room a seat in the doctor's offices and in the ERs with women all over this

country. And that has an intimidating impact on providers who are already desperately trying to keep their head down and do their jobs while operating under the chaos that has erupted after the Supreme Court overturned Roe.

So, colleagues, this should be about treating women with respect. We should be all in agreement that decisions about women's healthcare aren't different from decisions about men's healthcare or anyone's healthcare. So why would we be treating women differently?

Colleagues, let's get out of the business of dictating medical care for women. Let's trust women and their doctors.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Minnesota.

**Ms. KLOBUCHAR.** Mr. President, I rise today with my colleagues. I want to thank Senator MURRAY for her leadership, but also Senator SMITH, who has long led on this issue and has stood up time and time again for freedoms and reproductive freedom.

Yesterday, as she noted, we lost Cecile Richards, who was a true force of nature who spent her career fighting for reproductive freedom. We lost her just 2 days before what would be the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade.

But we all know that our country is now well into its third year without the protections of Roe. In the years since the Supreme Court overturned half a century of precedent and stripped away a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions—going against 70, 80 percent of Americans who believe that this decision should be made by a woman, her family, her doctor, and not by politicians; who believe, as my colleagues just noted, that politicians should not be in the waiting room making the decisions for families—women are now at the mercy of a patchwork of State laws that are creating chaos when it comes to accessing reproductive care.

So the solution is not the bill before us this week. The solution is not to take rare cases of the most tragic nature, as my colleagues have described.

I am a former prosecutor. I know what murder is. Murder is murder, including murder of a baby.

We are here talking about tragic cases where doctors have to make a decision in the moment with the family about how they are going to handle very, very tragic situations with a baby.

Today, nearly 20 States have enacted some form of abortion restriction. The result, a third of women of reproductive age now live under extreme, dangerous bans. And in States across the country, women are being turned away from emergency rooms, forced to travel hundreds of miles for healthcare. So adding to that situation, this idea that we are going to start intervening in these rare, tragic cases would be a horrible result for so many women.

I am thinking about the pregnant teenager in Texas who died after being denied care in three hospital visits. I am thinking about the young woman from Florida who was forced to miscarry in a bathroom due to her State's restrictions. By the time she finally got to a hospital, she had lost almost half the blood in her body. And we will never forget the heartbreaking story of the 10-year-old in Ohio who had to go to Indiana in order to get a legal abortion after she was raped. People said that story was a hoax. It wasn't a hoax; it was true.

Doctors are being threatened with prosecution for doing their jobs, an issue that will only get worse if we pass the legislation that Republicans have brought to the floor.

We already know that there have been repeated attempts to restrict mifepristone. Just last week, a judge allowed Idaho, Kansas, and Missouri to proceed with their lawsuit challenging FDA approval of the drug, which is safely used in 90 countries.

This is our reality right now, but it doesn't have to be our future. I call on our colleagues to join us in codifying Roe v. Wade into law. And simply because someone may have different views—I know many people in my own family who may be pro-life, but they don't believe that their views for what they would do in their personal life would apply to other people—and certainly not people—women—who at the very end of a pregnancy, something they have been so looking forward to, having a baby, have to have the Federal Government intervene and tell the doctor that we can't do this or she can't do that.

This isn't about politics. This isn't about red States and blue States. People across the country are on our side on this, and we ask our colleagues to vote with us and reject this bill.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** (Mr. BUDD). The Senator from Connecticut.

**Mr. BLUMENTHAL.** Mr. President, I am proud to join my colleagues on the floor today in opposition to the Born-Alive Abortion Survivor Protection Act.

If you are wondering whether that title to a legislation makes sense, the answer is, no, it does not. This legislation is simply a blatant attempt to interfere with evidence-based patient care and medical practices while enshrining lies about abortion care.

My Republican colleagues spent the last 4 years calling Democrats alarmists. But here they are aggressively pursuing legislation that would persecute providers for doing their jobs and making a tragic situation for families even worse. Medical professionals are and have always been required by law to provide infants high-quality care from the moment they are born.

There is absolutely no evidence that this law is being broken. To suggest otherwise is deeply offensive and dangerous. For any family—all of us know

families, if they are not our own—learning their child will be stillborn or not survive beyond birth is a profound loss, deeply grief-stricken.

This legislation would deepen that loss. It would remove any control a woman may have over her pregnancy and force the family to endure unnecessary and unethical medical overreach at the hands of politicians—that is right, at the hands of politicians, not medical personnel.

The bill would force physicians to provide invasive and hopeless measures, which are both medically and ethically inappropriate in these situations. That is why the American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists strongly oppose this legislative effort.

Let's listen to the doctors, the scientists, the professionals, rather than trying to "message bill" an anti-scientific, anti-medical science stand.

We have seen now how overturning Roe has emboldened Republicans across the United States and in this very Chamber to make policy based on their own personal beliefs instead of evidence-based practices. This legislation is just another opportunity for Republicans to stand on their soapbox and lie to the American people.

It also creates fear and apprehension on the part of people across the country. These policies actively harm families. Pretending otherwise is a slap in the face to those who voted for all of us and you, in particular.

Let me close by invoking the spirit of Cecile Richards, after losing her just yesterday. She was a giant. She modeled guts and grit and public service, showing courage and fortitude beyond words as a champion of women's reproductive freedom. I will always remember her smile, her fierce determination, her endless energy. They will be with me always, and they inspire me to say today to my Republican colleagues: Please leave alone the women who deserve doctor's care and that care alone, not our interference.

I yield the floor.

**THE PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Senator from Oregon.

**Mr. WYDEN.** Mr. President, I come to the floor today to express my strong opposition to Republicans' so-called Born-Alive bill.

I want to commend Senator MURRAY and all my colleagues who have done so much good work on this. This is not the first time the Senate has debated this bill on the Senate floor, and I doubt it will be the last.

Republicans claim this legislation will protect women and children. The foundation of this Republican bill is that babies are forced to go without basic medical care after they are born. This is a disgusting, stomach-churning lie that is pedaled to fearmonger the American people.

No child born alive in the United States is denied the healthcare they need to survive. It is already illegal to do so. In reality, what this bill does is turn what is already an impossibly difficult situation for countless expecting parents into a living hell.



Imagine you and your spouse get the good news that you are expecting. You are over the Moon until a few months later when you get the worst news you could possibly imagine receiving during pregnancy. For reasons out of your control, your baby has developed a terminal medical condition and will not survive once they are born. On top of that, to force the mother to continue carrying the baby to term would most likely be deadly for her.

Many women and couples are all too familiar with the gut-wrenching decisions that come next. What a statement about Republican priorities that this is one of the first pieces of legislation brought to the Senate floor just a few hours after Donald Trump was sworn into office.

Republicans talk a big game about being “pro-life” and being the party of family values. Their actions show reality couldn’t be any further from the truth. For example, the Republicans recently blocked a bipartisan expansion of the child tax credit that would have really helped to lift kids out of poverty. Now they are gearing up to cut food stamps so kids go hungry. They put Medicaid and health insurance for millions of children on the chopping block.

If Republicans really care about helping women and children, they would be using their new-found majority to vote on legislation that cuts housing and childcare costs or grocery bills and keep moms safe.

Let me close this way, Mr. President, and colleagues. This deeply flawed Republican Born-Alive bill is the real Republican agenda on full display. While Republicans are full steam ahead with their crusade against reproductive freedom, all my colleagues who are here today, led by Senator MURRAY, are focused on fighting inflation, bringing down costs, getting to work for working families. I am proud to be associated with their efforts.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, I am pleased to join my colleagues today because I strongly oppose this legislation. I oppose it because it would significantly interfere with the doctor-patient relationship. And I oppose it because it would pose unnecessary and harmful obstacles to a woman’s right—to all women’s right to make our own decisions about our own reproductive health.

This legislation has one purpose, and that is to make safe abortion services even more inaccessible by intimidating doctors with the threat of criminal liability. This is fearmongering at its finest.

And by choosing to focus on this bill during President Trump’s first week in office, some Republicans—and I say some because they don’t all support this bill—are choosing to politicize a family’s problem instead of focusing on making life easier, more affordable,

and better for all Americans, which President Trump promised when he was campaigning when he said he wasn’t interested in a Federal law that would outlaw abortions.

Abortions performed later in pregnancy are rare, and they are done as the result of fatal diagnoses for the fetus, the mother, or both. These are tragic, heartbreaking situations that no one—I am going to repeat that—that no one wants. And by inserting new uncertainty and risk of criminal liability into the process, this legislation only further increases the risk that a woman will not be able to get the medical care that she needs.

This bill ignores these important realities in hopes of scoring political points with anti-choice factions.

And the timing is done deliberately because many of those groups are going to be here in Washington on Friday. So we should see this bill for what it is. It is a political stunt.

Again and again, at every turn, some Republicans and the Trump administration have pushed forward dangerous policies intended to threaten access to abortion care. I think it is just shameful. They should be ashamed of themselves. This bill is just another battle in a long line of attacks on the ongoing war on women’s health.

Now, more than ever, we need to stand up and defend women’s healthcare, make certain that abortions are safe and legal. And we know that banning abortions doesn’t actually stop them. You just make them more dangerous for women. Enough is enough. I urge my colleagues to oppose this legislation and its consideration on the Senate floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleagues in opposing this legislation that is the Republican Party’s latest effort to take away a woman’s fundamental freedom to make her own healthcare decisions and take away a family’s fundamental right to navigate heartbreaking and complex health decisions without government interference.

I come from the “Live Free or Die” State. Granite Staters and Americans love freedom. Our country’s promise is that freedom belongs to everyone.

But today, thanks to the Supreme Court’s decision to overturn *Roe v. Wade* and the extreme actions by Republican legislatures in some States, women in America are not free. In a sense, this legislation that we are debating right now is disconnected from reality. This bill ignores a pretty basic fact: Infanticide is illegal in every corner of this country.

The claim that this legislation will save lives is disingenuous, and the assumption underlying this bill that an expectant mother would seek an abortion after months of pregnancy for anything but the most dire of reasons shows a deliberate willingness to ignore the realities of women’s health.

So here are the facts. All that this legislation will do is make it harder for doctors to perform lifesaving care for their patients. And it will make it harder for families to make the best healthcare decisions for themselves in moments of great heartbreak as they face the final moments of a desired pregnancy or the final moments of a terminally ill newborn’s life.

It is also remarkable that this is among the first pieces of legislation that the Republicans have brought to the floor since the inauguration of the new President. This is, of course, legislation in search of a problem. But it is not in search of a motive.

Some of my colleagues have decided that rather than address the most pressing issues facing the American people, they will, instead, push legislation to curtail the freedom of women—just the latest in their long line of effort since *Roe* was overturned to take away more and more freedom from half of the population.

I am willing and eager to work with my colleagues to tackle the greatest challenges facing our country. That is what our constituents expect and deserve of us and something that this bill so clearly fails to do. This legislation will not bring down the price of groceries, nor will it reduce rents or do anything to make it easier for families to make ends meet. But it will make life harder for expectant mothers facing a painful choice.

It won’t make healthcare more affordable, though it provides that doctors can be put in jail for providing care for their patients. It won’t keep our children safe from crime or fentanyl traffickers, though it will make our daughters less free.

This legislation, in short, does nothing to address any of the great challenges that America faces. It seeks only to deny and diminish the freedom of our fellow Americans.

But this is what some of our colleagues have decided to focus on during the first full day of the new administration. Across our country, in red States and blue alike, in the distant corners of the land of the free, there is no great clamor to further limit freedom; there is no great clamor to have Members of Congress substitute their judgment for that of a woman’s, her doctor’s, and her family’s. But you wouldn’t know it if you follow the action of the Senate majority today.

We cannot lose sight of what this debate is ultimately about. At the center of this debate is a very simple question: Do we believe in the promise of our Declaration of Independence that we all are created equal? Do we believe that freedom belongs to everyone? And do we believe that women deserve to be free and equal citizens in the United States of America?

This is America, the world’s greatest democracy. Here, women should not be second-class citizens. In this country, each of us is supposed to have the freedom to chart our own future. We know

well that that freedom includes the freedom to make personal, private decisions that others may disagree with.

Our commitment to putting freedom first is part of what makes America different. Indeed, that is what makes us exceptional. The American people understand freedom's importance. Their leaders should remember it too. The American people have not asked for the extreme agenda that this legislation represents. They haven't asked the majority to further restrict their freedom.

I urge my colleagues to listen to the American people, to put aside this partisan agenda, and to get to work on tackling the challenges that are facing our country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I rise today in opposition to this deceptively named Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

Tomorrow is the 52nd anniversary of Roe v. Wade, the decision that guaranteed fundamental rights to choose abortion before that right was stripped away. Now reproductive freedom is under attack in multiple States. Over a dozen States have passed abortion bans, and several pregnant women in Georgia and Texas have died because they could not access safe abortions. In some States, patients don't have access to legal abortion care even after they have been raped. Multiple States are currently suing to restrict access to even medication for abortion.

We don't yet know how the new administration is going to handle Federal protections for pregnant women in medical emergencies. The new administration, yesterday, took down a government website that offered just information about reproductive care. This was one of the top priorities yesterday of this administration on day one—taking down that website.

Instead of working to resolve any of the serious, real challenges, my colleagues are trying to force a vote on something that is completely unnecessary. It is already illegal to kill a child who is born alive in this country. I was a Member of the Senate when we passed, in 2002, the Born-Alive Infants Protection Act to ensure that all infants have legal protections.

The so-called Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Act, as my colleague from New Hampshire just said, is legislation in search of a problem. It is deliberately misleading and offensive to pregnant people and to their healthcare providers.

It is incredibly heartbreaking—these scenarios—where a baby is born with a fatal diagnosis, and the baby's parents must want to spend those precious moments holding and saying goodbye to their child, but under these extreme ideas, doctors would have to perform aggressive medical care that would only prolong a family's suffering.

We need to honor that these are medical decisions left to the woman, her

physician, and to her family. We trust that doctors and nurses know how to carry this out. We want to honor these—not politicians, not lawyers—so I will be voting against this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to do so.

We also need to make sure that here in the Senate, as my colleague said, we are working to lower costs. We need to make sure that they don't try to cut Medicare or food assistance or the neediest of issues for young families who are being impacted. Healthcare in the United States needs to be strengthened; drug costs need to be lowered; and we need to help and protect working families.

I thank my colleagues for being here today.

I yield the floor.

CERTIFICATES OF ELECTION

The VICE PRESIDENT. The Chair lays before the Senate the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator J.D. VANCE of Ohio and the certificate of appointment to fill the vacancy created by the resignation of former Senator Marco Rubio of Florida.

The certificates, the Chair is advised, are in the forms suggested by the Senate. If there be no objection, the reading of the certificates will be waived, and they will be printed in full in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the certificates were ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

STATE OF OHIO  
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Ohio, I, Mike DeWine, the Governor of Ohio, do hereby appoint Jon Husted a Senator from Ohio to represent Ohio in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein, resulting from the resignation of JD Vance to assume the Vice Presidency of the United States, is filled by election as provided by law.

Witness: His excellency our Governor Mike DeWine, and our seal hereto affixed at Washington, D.C. this 18th day of January, in the year of our Lord 2025.

MIKE DEWINE,  
Governor.  
FRANK LAROSE,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

STATE OF FLORIDA  
CERTIFICATE OF APPOINTMENT

To the President of the Senate of the United States:

This is to certify that, pursuant to the power vested in me by the Constitution of the United States and the laws of the State of Florida, I, Ron DeSantis, the Governor of Florida, do hereby appoint Ashley Moody a Senator to represent the State of Florida in the Senate of the United States until the vacancy therein caused by the resignation of the Honorable Marco Rubio, is filled by election as provided by law.

In Testimony Whereof, I have hereunto set my hand and caused the Great Seal of the

State of Florida to be affixed at Tallahassee, this 21st day of January, 2025.

RONALD D. DESANTIS,  
Governor.

Attest:

CORD BYRD,  
Secretary of State.

[State Seal Affixed]

ADMINISTRATION OF OATHS OF OFFICE

The VICE PRESIDENT. If the Senators-designate will now present themselves at the desk, the Chair will administer the oaths of office.

The Senator Jon Husted, escorted by Mr. Moreno and Governor DeWine, and the Senator Ashley Moody, escorted by Mr. SCOTT of Florida, advanced to the desk of the Vice President; the oaths prescribed by law were administered by the Vice President of the United States; and they subscribed to the oaths in the Official Oath Book.

The VICE PRESIDENT. Great. Congratulations, Senators.

(Applause, Senators rising.)

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The VICE PRESIDENT. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

(Mr. BUDD assumed the Chair.)

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

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. CURTIS). Without objection, it is so ordered.

BORN-ALIVE ABORTION SURVIVORS PROTECTION ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. COTTON. Mr. President, unfortunately, we were at the point of almost having a consent agreement to have a vote on the confirmation of John Ratcliffe to be CIA Director tomorrow—not today, not yesterday when it should have happened, but tomorrow—but the Senator from Connecticut has decided to object at the last minute.

I don't really understand the objection to Mr. Ratcliffe. He was confirmed by this Senate to be the Director of National Intelligence. He was fully vetted through the bipartisan process in the Senate Intelligence Committee. We voted him out yesterday on a 14-to-3 vote.

Senator SCHUMER stood here yesterday and talked about how we are going to cooperate on highly qualified, capable nominees with integrity, which John Ratcliffe is, but the only vote we got yesterday was Senator Rubio.

Now we are not going to have a vote today, and apparently we are not going to have a vote tomorrow, which means I hope nobody is making any plans for the weekend or the evenings because

we are going to get these nominees confirmed—starting with Mr. Ratcliffe and then moving on to Mr. Hegseth and moving on to Ms. Noem—the easy way or the hard way.

We tried to cooperate with the Democrats. The cooperation has not been forthcoming, so I guess it is going to be the hard way starting on Thursday.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that, at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Democratic leader, on January 22, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Executive Calendar No. 1, John Ratcliffe to be the Director of the CIA; that there be up to 2 hours of debate equally divided between the two leaders or their designees on the nomination; that following the use or yielding back of that time, the Senate vote on the nomination; that, if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any related statements be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, as the Senator knows, there are serious concerns that many of us have about John Ratcliffe's ability to distance himself from the political interests of President Trump in his work as CIA Director.

During his short 8 months as DNI in 2020, he repeatedly politicized intelligence in a way that does raise for many of us real questions about whether he is going to spin highly sensitive intelligence his Agency will gather for political purposes.

I don't think it is too much to ask to make sure that we have a full, real debate that lasts 2 days on the Senate floor given the serious questions that have arisen about his qualifications to do this job in an apolitical manner. I understand that we have differences about the qualifications of this nominee, but it is important for the American public to hear us have a debate here about the qualifications of folks who are going to be leading the most sensitive national security Agencies. If he has the votes, he can be on the job this weekend.

For that reason, I would object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from Arkansas.

Mr. COTTON. It is fine if the Democrats have legitimate concerns with this nominee or any other nominee. We had legitimate concerns with President Biden's nominees. Come down to the floor. Get it off your chest.

You talk about a full and real debate for 2 days. I hate to disappoint the people watching here. You are probably seeing more debate than we will have

on John Ratcliffe's nomination for the next 48 hours before we confirm him. That is what I predict.

We could have debated this anytime today. We debated it for 2 months in the Intelligence Committee. The Senator from Virginia, the vice chair of the committee, worked diligently and promptly with me—his team with my team—to process this nomination so it would be ready for confirmation yesterday. On a bipartisan basis, 14 to 3—not many other nominees are going to come out of committee with that kind of vote.

So I understand the Democrats are opposed to some of President Trump's nominees, and I understand they want to vote no, and I respect that. But should we be denying the country a Senate-confirmed CIA Director in such dangerous times for no good reason?

Again, maybe Senator MURPHY has more to say. I invite him to come down to the floor and speak again if there is a lot more to say. I predict, though, that once again this will be the longest debate we have about John Ratcliffe's nomination over the next 2 days.

What this is really about is trying to drag out all of these nominations, to play procedural games, as we are about to with Pete Hegseth's nomination, to try to deny President Trump his Cabinet in a prompt and timely fashion, just like the Democrats did in 2017. Yep, it happened in 2021 as well because around here, the shoe gets on the other foot pretty quickly. But it didn't happen in 2009. It didn't happen in 2001 and before that. We should get back to that practice. We should especially get back to that practice when it is a highly accomplished, well-qualified nominee of integrity like John Ratcliffe is.

So I regret that now we are going to spin our wheels for 2 days, but, as I said, don't make plans for the weekend, and don't have any dinner dates scheduled starting on Thursday night because we are going to get these nominees done the easy, collegial way or apparently the hard way.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I was listening to the chair of the Intelligence Committee just a moment ago talking about this nominee, and I was curious.

I ask the Senator from Arkansas, the chairman of the Intelligence Committee, what was the vote coming out of committee for Mr. Ratcliffe?

Mr. COTTON. The vote was 14 to 3.

Mr. THUNE. OK. So 14 to 3 coming out of committee, and we have now wasted a whole day where we could have been acting on that nomination.

So, really, I think the question before the Senate is, Do we want to vote on these folks on Tuesday or vote on them on Friday, Saturday, and Sunday? Because that is what we are going to do. This can be easy or this can be hard.

This is a nominee that came out of the Intelligence Committee 14 to 3. It

is a bipartisan nomination to the Central Intelligence Agency. This is about America's national security interests, and we are stalling.

So that is not going to happen. We are going to file cloture on him. You can force us to hang around here, and we can vote on these things Thursday, Friday, Saturday, and Sunday. But we are going to vote on him.

This one shouldn't be hard, folks. I understand there are some that are going to draw some opposition from the other side of the aisle. But Democrats and Republicans, in a very big bipartisan fashion, agree that he is very qualified for this job that is an important job to America's national security interests. And, frankly, I believe, we ought to fill it as soon as we possibly can. So it is going to be a big vote here on the floor.

Everything we are doing right now is just stalling. I don't know what that accomplishes for you, but we are going to be here voting on it.

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## EXECUTIVE SESSION

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### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1, John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency.

John Thune, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Pete Ricketts, Katie Britt, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Eric Schmitt.

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## LEGISLATIVE SESSION—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

### VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 54, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 9 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Banks	Fischer	Moran
Barrasso	Graham	Moreno
Blackburn	Grassley	Mullin
Boozman	Hagerty	Murkowski
Britt	Hawley	Paul
Budd	Hoeven	Ricketts
Capito	Husted	Risch
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Collins	Johnson	Schmitt
Cornyn	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cramer	Lankford	Sheehy
Crapo	Lee	Sullivan
Cruz	Lummis	Thune
Curtis	Marshall	Tillis
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	McCormick	Wicker
Fetterman	Moody	Young

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gallego	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

The motion was agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 3.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion to proceed.

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO: The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 10 Leg.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Blackburn	Britt
Barrasso	Boozman	Budd

Capito	Hawley	Mullin
Cassidy	Hoeven	Murkowski
Collins	Husted	Ricketts
Cornyn	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cotton	Johnson	Rounds
Cramer	Justice	Schmitt
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cruz	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Curtis	Lee	Sheehy
Daines	Lummis	Sullivan
Ernst	Marshall	Thune
Fetterman	McCormick	Tillis
Fischer	McCormick	Tuberville
Graham	Moody	Wicker
Grassley	Moran	Young
Hagerty	Moreno	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Baldwin	Hirono	Sanders
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warner
Durbin	Murray	Warnock
Gallego	Ossoff	Warren
Gillibrand	Padilla	Welch
Hassan	Peters	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Reed	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Markey Paul

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 3, Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

John Thune, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Mike Crapo, Tim Sheehy, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Pete Ricketts, Katie Britt, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Eric Schmitt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 4.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 4, Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

John Thune, Steve Daines, John Kennedy, Jim Justice, James E. Risch, Tim Sheehy, Mike Crapo, Deb Fischer, Tommy Tuberville, Rick Scott of Florida, Pete Ricketts, Katie Britt, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Mike Rounds, Roger Marshall, Eric Schmitt.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE CATFISH FARMERS OF ARKANSAS

● Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the 50th anniversary of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas.

Established in 1975, members of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas include producers, suppliers, businessowners, researchers, educators, and many other stakeholders. Together, they work to ensure the success of the catfish industry in both the Natural State and nationwide.

The Catfish Farmers of Arkansas has made enormous strides advancing its

unique interests over five decades by providing regular industry updates, supporting research, and promoting policies that support producers. The association has demonstrated time and time again its invaluable role on behalf of catfish farmers across the State.

As the birthplace of the commercial catfish industry, Arkansas has had a long and proud history with catfish production. Today, catfish is the leading aquaculture good in the United States, and the Natural State continues to be a top producer. This legacy of catfish production is widely appreciated and recognized by Arkansans.

In honor of its 50th anniversary, the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas will host the 2025 annual convention for the Catfish Farmers of America. By bringing in catfish producers from across the region, this event will honor both the present and past leadership of the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas for its efforts in elevating catfish production to consistently meet consumer demands for quality and availability.

Congratulations to the Catfish Farmers of Arkansas on 50 successful years. I applaud the organization's continued support for catfish producers and look forward to working together further to advocate for the industry and our farmers.●

#### RECOGNIZING JONES DAIRY

● Ms. ERNST. Mr. President, as chair of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Jones Dairy of Milford, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

In 1903, Minor Jones and his wife Emma opened Jones Dairy when they rented 160 acres of farmland in Milford, IA. The family raised a variety of crops and livestock, ranging from cattle and pigs to corn and soybeans. In 1934, the couple purchased the land where Jones Dairy Farm remains today. Upon returning home from World War II, their son James became the second-generation owner of the Jones family farm. James and his wife raised their five children on the farm and began specializing in dairy cattle. Their youngest son Patrick developed a strong interest in dairy farming and, specifically, Jersey cows. Patrick and James worked together to expand the business while modernizing dairy production on the farm. In 1982, Patrick and his wife Nancy purchased Jones Dairy, becoming the third-generation owners. The couple raised their eight children on the farm and oversaw an expansion to 1,500 cows and over 1,200 acres of farmland.

Today, two of Patrick and Nancy's children Aaron and Nathan manage the dairy operations full time. Jones Dairy continues to be a beloved gathering place for the family, including Patrick and Nancy's 14 grandchildren.

Jones Dairy has grown to employ 20 northwest Iowa community members and boasts a sophisticated operation, milking 1,800 cows three times a day using a 64-stall DeLaval rotary parlor that was added in their 2023 expansion. The Grade A milk is then transported by a semi-tanker to where it is made into cheese and sent out across the Midwest. Over 12,000 gallons of milk are produced each day, and Jones Dairy sells nearly 4.3 million gallons of milk annually. Jones Dairy also grows cover crops, such as winter rye, for soil health and forage feed for the cows.

Beyond the milk production, the farm offers daily tours for visitors to have the chance to milk cows, bottle-feed newborn calves, and enjoy a petting zoo. In 2015, Jones Dairy was awarded the Iowa Venture Award by the Iowa Area Development Group. Additionally, during their 2023 expansion project, the farm not only sought to prioritize cow comfort and efficiency, but also hospitality. State-of-the-art viewing windows and programming space enable Jones Dairy to fulfill its mission to educate guests about the important connection between farms and food. The family farm remains an active part of the community by hosting local school districts for immersive field trips and 4-H-sponsored events, with over 500 schoolchildren visiting annually. Later this year, Jones Dairy looks forward to celebrating 122 years in Iowa.

It is clear that the family-owned and operated Jones Dairy's commitment to family while supporting Iowa's dairy industry. I want to congratulate the Jones family, as well as the entire team at Jones Dairy, for their continued dedication to family farming and educating the next generation of Iowans. I look forward to seeing their continued success in Iowa.●

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-112. A communication from the Attorney Advisor, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revisions to Civil Penalty Amounts, 2025" (RIN2105-AF16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-113. A communication from the Manager of Legal Litigation and Support, Federal Aviation Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ottumwa, IA" ((RIN2120-AA66) (Docket No. FAA-2024-2293)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-114. A communication from the Acting Chief of Staff, Enforcement Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "In the Matter of Amendment of Section

1.80(b) of the Commission's Rules Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties to Reflect Inflation" (DA Docket No. 25-5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-115. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Marine Equipment on Board Vessels and Offshore Units or Facilities" ((RIN1625-AC76) (Docket No. USCG-2020-0519)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-116. A communication from the Legal Yeoman, U.S. Coast Guard, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Mariner Credentialing Program Transformation" ((RIN1625-AC86) (Docket No. USCG-2021-0834)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

EC-117. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Update and Relocation of the Department of Energy Technology Investment Agreement Regulations" (RIN1991-AC19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-118. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Inflation Adjustment of Civil Monetary Penalties" received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-119. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act of 1974: Implementation of Exemptions" (RIN1903-AA16) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-120. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation, and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps" (RIN1904-AF19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-121. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the 2024 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau (2024 Palau FPSA); to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-122. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Reference Measurement Principle and Calibration Procedure for the Measurement of Ozone in the Atmosphere (Chemiluminescence Method); Correction" ((RIN2060-AV63) (FRL No. 9344.1-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-123. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; State of California; Coachella Valley; Extreme Attainment Plan for 1997 8-Hour Ozone Standards" (FRL No. 11677-03-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-124. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Withdrawal of Technical Amendment" (FRL No. 11687-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-125. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Minor Corrections to National Pollutant Discharge Elimination System Regulations" ((RIN2040-AG39) (FRL No. 12062-01-OW)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-126. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Air Plan Approval; AK; Updates to Materials Incorporated by Reference" (FRL No. 12384-01-R10) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-127. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Defer Sanctions, San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District" (FRL No. 12536-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-128. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hazardous and Solid Waste Management System: Disposal of Coal Combustion Residuals from Electric Utilities; Legacy CCR Surface Impoundments; Correction" ((RIN2050-AH34) (FRL No. 7814.1-04-OLEM)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-129. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Medicare Beneficiary Ombudsman Fiscal Year 2021 Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-130. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Finalizing Medicare Rules under Section 902 of the Medicare Prescription Drug, Improvement, and Modernization Act of 2003 for Calendar Year 2024"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-131. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "The Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services' COVID-19 Public Health Emergency Response"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-132. A communication from the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Total Medicare Part B Spending on Lab Tests Decreased in 2023, Driven in Part by Less Spending on COVID 19 Tests"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-133. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2022 Annual Report to Congress on the Child Support Program"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-134. A communication from the Regulations Writer, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Use of Electronic Payroll Data to Improve Program Administration" (RIN0960-AH88) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 15, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-135. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Patient Protection and Affordable Care Act; HHS Notice of Benefit and Payment Parameters for 2026; and Basic Health Program" (RIN0938-AV41) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-136. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Preventive Medicine and Public Health Training Grant Program Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-137. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2022-2023 Report to Congress on Organ Donation and the Recovery, Preservation, and Transportation of Organs"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-138. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "2020-2021 Scientific and Clinical Status of Organ Transplantation"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-139. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Substance Use Disorder Treatment and Recovery Loan Repayment Program for the Year 2023"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-140. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "FY 2019 Older Americans Act Report to Congress"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-141. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program Parts A and B Supplemental Awards Fiscal Year 2024"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-142. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Biennial Report to the President, Congress, and the National Council on Disability on the Developmental Disabilities Assistance and Bill of Rights Act"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-143. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Prevention and Reduction of Underage Drinking"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-144. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report to Congress on the Benefits and Costs of Federal Regulations and Agency Compliance with the Unfunded Mandates Reform Act"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-145. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Statistical Programs of the United States Government: Fiscal Year 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-146. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Fiscal Year 2018 and Fiscal Year 2019 Report to Congress on the Administration of the Indian Health Service Tribal Self-Governance Program"; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-147. A communication from the Legal Advisor, Office of the Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-148. A communication from the Chief of Foreign Investment Review Section, National Security Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Preventing Access to U.S. Sensitive Personal Data and Government-Related Data by Countries of Concern or Covered Persons" (RIN1124-AA01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 13, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-149. A communication from the Acting Chief Privacy and Civil Liberties Officer, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal years 2021-2024 annual privacy report; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-150. A communication from the Senior Advisor for Oversight, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Presumptive Service Connection for Leukemia, Multiple Myelomas, Myelodysplastic Syndromes, and Myelofibrosis Due to Exposure to Fine Particulate Matter" (RIN2900-AS27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 14, 2025; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-1. A petition from citizens of the United States relative to votes on motions to exclude Members-elect and Senators-elect who are disqualified under Section 3 of the 14th Amendment, to exclude electoral votes for candidates disqualified thereby, and to invoke the 12th Amendment as necessary; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PAUL, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment with a preamble:

S. Res. 29. An original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses legal authority under existing law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States.

## EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO for the Committee on Finance.

\*Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. HICKENLOOPER (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. LUMMIS, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 154. A bill to amend the Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2015, to reauthorize the Colorado River System conservation pilot program; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. RISCH, and Mr. SCHATZ):

S. 155. A bill to improve communication between the United States Postal Service and local communities relating to the relocation and establishment of Postal Service retail service facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BENNET):

S. 156. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to modify the delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 157. A bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN:

S. 158. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide that aliens who have been convicted of, or who have committed, sex offenses or domestic violence are inadmissible and deportable; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. COTTON, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. BUDD, Mr. CORNYN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. SCHMITT, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BRITT,

Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CASSIDY, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 159. A bill to designate Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization and impose certain sanctions on Ansarallah, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. SHEEHY (for himself and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 160. A bill to amend the Wildfire Suppression Aircraft Transfer Act of 1996 to reauthorize the sale by the Department of Defense of aircraft and parts for wildfire suppression purposes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mrs. MURRAY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 161. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to issue rules relating to the testing procedures used under the New Car Assessment Program of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. WICKER):

S. 162. A bill to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 163. A bill to require institutions of higher education participating in Federal student aid programs to share information about title VI of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, including a link to the webpage of the Office for Civil Rights where an individual can submit a complaint regarding discrimination in violation of such title, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 164. A bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide for en bloc consideration in resolutions of disapproval for "midnight rules", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. JOHNSON (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. RISCH, Mr. BANKS, Mr. CRUZ, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 165. A bill to amend the Controlled Substances Act to list fentanyl-related substances as schedule I controlled substances; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 166. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to create or enhance penalties for murder and assault committed against a law enforcement officer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TILLIS:

S. 167. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to punish criminal offenses targeting law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCHMITT:

S. 168. A bill to establish a debt reduction fund to reduce the national debt of the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. KING, Mr. MERKLEY, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 169. A bill to assist States in carrying out projects to expand the child care workforce and child care facilities in the States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 170. A bill to prohibit the appointment of former fossil fuel executive officers and fossil fuel lobbyists as the heads of certain departments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. MORAN):

S. 171. A bill to remove the lesser prairie-chicken from the lists of threatened species and endangered species published pursuant to the Endangered Species Act of 1973, to amend that Act to exclude the lesser prairie-chicken from the authority of that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida:

S. 172. A bill to clarify the country of origin of certain articles imported into the United States for purposes of certain trade enforcement actions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 173. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase excise taxes on fuel used by private jets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. FISCHER:

S. 174. A bill to improve the transparency of Amtrak operations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. MORENO:

S. 175. A bill to rescind the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated for Internal Revenue Service enhancements and use such funding for an External Revenue Service; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SHEEHY, and Mr. BUDD):

S.J. Res. 3. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales"; to the Committee on Finance.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. PAUL:

S. Res. 29. An original resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses legal authority under existing law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States; from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs; placed on the calendar.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 6

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the names of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 6, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion.

S. 40

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 40, a bill to address the fundamental injustice, cruelty, brutality, and inhumanity of slavery in the United States and the 13 American colonies between 1619 and 1865 and to establish a commission to study and consider a national apology and proposal for reparations for the institution of slavery, its subsequent de jure and de facto racial and economic discrimination against African Americans, and the impact of these forces on living African Americans, to make recommendations to the Congress on appropriate remedies, and for other purposes.

S. 68

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 68, a bill to prohibit the suspension of collections on loans made to small businesses related to COVID-19, and for other purposes.

S. 100

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 100, a bill to repeal the Corporate Transparency Act.

S. 112

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. MORENO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 112, a bill to amend section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act to require the implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols.

S. 124

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 124, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for disciplinary procedures for supervisors and managers at the Department of Veterans Affairs and to modify the procedures of personnel actions against employees of the Department, and for other purposes.

S. 126

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 126, a bill to increase the rates of pay under the statutory pay systems and for prevailing rate employees by 4.3 percent, and for other purposes.

S. 133

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 133, a bill to modify the fire management assistance cost share, and for other purposes.

S. 134

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Massachu-

setts (Ms. WARREN), the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 134, a bill to place limitations on excepting positions from the competitive service, and for other purposes.

S. 143

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 143, a bill to amend the Clean Air Act to repeal the natural gas tax.

S. 145

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. THUNE) were added as cosponsors of S. 145, a bill to require the redesignation of Ansarallah as a foreign terrorist organization.

S. 146

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 146, a bill to require covered platforms to remove nonconsensual intimate visual depictions, and for other purposes.

S. 147

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. SCHIFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 147, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to provide grants to air pollution control agencies to implement a cleaner air space program, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 28

At the request of Mrs. MURRAY, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) were added as cosponsors of S. Res. 28, a resolution honoring the service of women in combat roles in the Armed Forces.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 29—EX-PRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES POSSESSES LEGAL AUTHORITY UNDER EXISTING LAW TO TAKE IMMEDIATE AND NECESSARY ACTION TO SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. PAUL submitted the following resolution; from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs which was placed on the calendar:

S. RES. 29

Whereas, since the start of the Biden-Harris Administration, nearly 11,000,000 individuals have been encountered attempting to enter the United States unlawfully;

Whereas U.S. Customs and Border Protection has—

(1) apprehended nearly 400 suspected terrorists attempting to enter the United States illegally between ports of entry;

(2) encountered an additional 1,587 suspected terrorists at United States ports of entry; and

(3) identified more than 1,700,000 special interest aliens;

Whereas, since October 1, 2021, more than 120,000 illegal aliens with criminal warrants or convictions were encountered along United States borders, including—

(1) more than 4,800 illegal aliens who were convicted of assault, battery, or domestic violence;

(2) more than 3,300 illegal aliens who were convicted of theft-related offenses;

(3) nearly 1,400 illegal aliens who were convicted of sexual offenses; and

(4) nearly 200 illegal aliens who were convicted of homicide or manslaughter;

Whereas, under section 235(b)(2)(C) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(2)(C)), the Department of Homeland Security is authorized to immediately return certain applicants for admission or asylum to a contiguous foreign territory in accordance with the memorandum from the Secretary of Homeland Security entitled “Policy Guidance for Implementation of the Migrant Protection Protocols”, dated January 25, 2019, or any substantially similar policy changes issued or taken on or after January 20, 2025, whether set forth in a memorandum, executive order, regulation, directive, or by other action;

Whereas, under section 212(f) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(f)), the President has been given broad authority to suspend the entry of all aliens, or to impose any restrictions upon the entry of aliens the President deems appropriate, allowing the President to bar the entry of nationals whose admission could be detrimental to the interests of the United States;

Whereas, under section 208(b)(2)(C) of such Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)(C)), the Department of Homeland Security is authorized to promulgate additional limitations and conditions under which an alien shall be ineligible for asylum, including making asylum seekers ineligible if they enter or attempt to enter the United States across the southern border without first applying for protection from persecution or torture in at least 1 country, other than the alien’s country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence, through which the alien transited en route to the United States; and

Whereas the “Remain in Mexico” policy (also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols) was an effective measure that enhanced border security, helped deter illegal entries, and made the United States safer: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) affirms that the President has the authority under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.), including sections 208(a)(2)(A), 212(f), and 235(b)(2)(C) (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)(A), 1182(f), and 1225(b)(2)(C)) to take action to secure the southern border and protect the sovereignty and security of the United States; and

(2) urges the President and the Secretary of Homeland Security to utilize all available statutory authority to expeditiously reinstate or implement policies and programs that will promote orderly and lawful entry at the border, deter illegal immigration, and protect national security, including by—

(A) immediately removing illegal aliens;

(B) immediately returning illegal aliens to Mexico;

(C) reinstating the Migrant Protection Protocols (commonly known as “Remain in Mexico”) or any substantially similar policy;

(D) ending the catch-and-release policy;



(E) ending abuses of humanitarian parole authority;

(F) detaining inadmissible aliens;

(G) making illegal aliens ineligible for asylum;

(H) using expedited removal authority; and

(I) eliminating taxpayer-funded benefits for illegal aliens.

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. President, I have four requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FINANCE

The Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to consider a nomination.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider nominations.

COMMITTEE ON HEALTH, EDUCATION, LABOR, AND PENSIONS

The Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions is authorized to meet in executive session during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider the adoption of committee rules.

COMMITTEE ON VETERANS' AFFAIRS

The Committee on Veterans' Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Tuesday, January 21, 2025, at 10 a.m., to consider a nomination.

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ORDERS FOR WEDNESDAY,  
JANUARY 22, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I further ask unanimous consent that when the

Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 4, S. 6; finally, that the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 4, S. 6 at 2:30 p.m.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:11 p.m., adjourned until Wednesday, January 22, 2025, at 11 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING THE LIFE OF  
DEBBIE SHESS

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Debbie Shess.

Debbie was a devoted mother and wife and a tireless advocate for her community. She was a dedicated parent, serving as the Elementary School Auction Chair at her children's schools and cheering her sons on as a De La Salle Baseball Mom. Throughout her life, she continually exemplified her commitment to service and was highly active in the community. Debbie was critical in organizing the Contra Costa County Wine, Women, and Shoes Event which worked with businesses to raise money for local non-profits. She also played a key role in her husband Zac's campaign for Pleasant Hill City Council, serving as his Assistant Campaign Manager and helping to organize community events, parades, and fundraisers.

When she was diagnosed with breast cancer, Debbie became a strong advocate for breast cancer awareness. She took part in the Avon Walk for Breast Cancer Awareness and served as a Breast Cancer Representative, always willing to provide support and comfort to others facing cancer.

Sadly, Debbie passed away at the age of 59 on October 7, 2024. She is survived by her loving husband, Zac and her children, Cole and Jackson. She will be remembered for her outstanding character, kind spirit, and compassion. Please join me in recognizing Debbie Shess for her many contributions to our community.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE  
HODAN HASSAN

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the accomplishments of Representative Hodan Hassan, who served District 62B in Minnesota's House of Representatives for three terms. I wish to express my heartfelt gratitude to Rep. Hassan for her dedication to making positive change in our communities.

Rep. Hassan emigrated to the United States from Somalia in 1999. After earning her bachelor's degree in social work from Metropolitan State, she earned a Master of Social Work and Public Health from Augsburg University. She went on to be a mental health practitioner and Executive Director of Pathways 2 Prosperity where she led programming to empower communities through education and support, and to address systemic gaps in behavioral health.

In 2018, Rep. Hassan made history by becoming the second Somali-American woman elected to the Minnesota legislature. While in office, she was Assistant Majority Leader during the 91st legislative session, chaired the Economic Development Finance and Policy Committee and was a member of the Housing Finance and Policy, Ways and Means, and Workforce Development Finance and Policy Committees, among others.

Throughout Rep. Hassan's tenure, she championed many initiatives that significantly impacted the lives of her constituents. To name a few: Rep. Hassan co-authored the Rideshare bill to ensure fair wages, safe working environments, and workplace protections for drivers against discrimination and retaliation. Rep. Hassan also strengthened the Increase Teachers of Color Act to grow and maintain more diversity in Minnesota's teaching workforce, help to close the education gap, and enrich the education experience for all children. She also championed the MN PROMISE Act, a state-funded small business revitalization program that provides essential support through grants and loans to disadvantaged businesses.

I ask my colleagues to join me in thanking Rep. Hassan for her years of dedicated public service. From the beginning, she has demonstrated a strong commitment to justice that has made a profound difference on her constituents in District 62B and our community at large. Her leadership will continue to inspire us all.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2025, I was unable to vote as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 16 and YEA on Roll Call No. 17.

HONORING THE LIFE OF PAUL  
OREFFICE

**HON. JOHN R. MOOLENAAR**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. MOOLENAAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the remarkable life and legacy of Paul Oreffice, the former Chairman of the Board of The Dow Chemical Company, who passed away on December 26, 2024, at the age of 97.

Paul was born in Venice, Italy and came to the United States with his family when he was 17 years old. He went on to attend Purdue University and graduated with a bachelor's degree in chemical engineering in 1949. After

serving in the U.S. Army during the Korean conflict, Paul began his career at Dow Chemical in Midland, Michigan.

Following international assignments in Switzerland, Italy, Brazil and Spain, Paul became the first president of Dow Chemical Latin America in Coral Gables, Florida, in 1970. In 1971, he was elected as a member of the Board of Directors, and later as president of Dow Chemical U.S.A. in August 1975. Paul was named president and CEO of The Dow Chemical Company in May 1978 and chairman in May 1986.

As a humanitarian, Paul received the Encomienda del Merito Civil (Order of Civil Merit) in 1966 from the government of Spain and in 1978 he was honored with the title "Grand Ufficiale" by the Italian government. Paul is the first person to receive both the Société de Chimie Industrielle's Palladium medal and SCI America's Chemical Industry medal, which he received in 1981 and 1983, respectively.

Paul was especially helpful in giving back to the state of Michigan through his intentional engagement of the community. His involvement in bringing the Midland Soccer Club and the Greater Midland Tennis Center to life has not only provided opportunities for the local youth to come together to be active within the community but also has brought tourism to the area through tournaments and other events. Paul's involvement in philanthropy touched not only the Midland community but reached across the country as he served as a Trustee of the Rollin M. Gerstacker Foundation, served as a Senior Member of the MD Anderson Cancer Center Visitors Board, and he served as Chairman of the Board of the Parkinson's Foundation from 2003 to 2007. His strategic thinking and contributions have greatly impacted families across the state and the country.

Today, we celebrate the enduring legacy of Paul Oreffice. On behalf of the people of Michigan, I am honored today to recognize Paul Oreffice for his commitment to humanitarian service, a lifetime of leadership and work in chemical engineering, and unwavering leadership that has changed our community for the better.

Please join me in celebrating the life of Paul Oreffice for a lifetime of tremendous service.

HONORING THE LEGACY OF THE  
HONORABLE JOHN C. HOLSTEIN  
OF SPRINGFIELD, MISSOURI

**HON. ERIC BURLISON**

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of the late Judge John Charles Holstein of Springfield, Missouri, who passed away recently at the age of 79.

A native of Springfield, Judge Holstein was born on January 10, 1945, to the late Wanda

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

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

and Earl Holstein. He and his brother, Dr. David Holstein, were raised to value education and were both instilled with a strong sense of faith, justice and service.

Judge Holstein graduated from Parkview High School and went on to earn a bachelor's degree in political science from Southwest Missouri State University. He subsequently received his law degree from the University of Missouri-Columbia and a Master of Laws degree from the University of Virginia.

Following a successful law career in private practice, Judge Holstein started his judicial career as a probate judge, moving on to be an associate circuit judge and then a circuit judge. He was appointed to the Missouri Court of Appeals by then Gov. John Ashcroft in 1987. In 1989, he was appointed to the Missouri Supreme Court where he served as chief justice from 1995 to 1997. He retired from the court and returned to private practice in 2002 where he focused on mediation and arbitration.

Judge Holstein's legal career and public service earned him many awards and accolades. In addition, he served his country on active duty with the U.S. Army, Army Reserve and National Guard, retiring as a lieutenant colonel in 1997.

Judge Holstein is survived by Mary, his wife of 57 years, and their three daughters, Robin Comacho and her spouse Jesse, Katy Link and her spouse Paul, and Erin Cutler and her spouse Michael. He also was a proud grandfather to 12 grandchildren.

Judge Holstein's life was a testament to integrity, faith and service, and his contributions have left an indelible mark on the community and the state. He will be deeply missed.

RECOGNIZING THE HEROIC ACTIONS OF SGT. BRIAN DAVENPORT AND SGT. DANIEL GARNICK OF THE RIVERVIEW FIRE DEPARTMENT

**HON. DEBBIE DINGELL**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sergeant Brian Davenport and Sergeant Daniel Garnick of the Riverview Fire Department for their vigilance and bravery in responding to a resident who had fallen through the ice and saving their life. The contribution that they have made to the safety and well-being of the residents of Riverview and the surrounding area is worthy of commendation.

On December 8, 2024, Riverview emergency services acted quickly to save a local resident who had fallen through the ice of Riverview's beloved Reflection Pond. Sergeants Davenport and Garnick showed tremendous courage saving this resident, but their success was also a direct result of preparation and training. Sgt. Davenport has been with the Riverview Fire Department since 2008 and has his ICE Water Rescue Certification as well as being a Registered Nurse. Sgt. Garnick has been with the Riverview Fire Department since being hired in 2000. Many of the firefighters at the Riverview Fire Department are members of various rescue teams, including the Downriver Mutual Aid Dive Team, HAZMAT, and logistics, to name a few.

I also want to recognize our partners with Downriver Mutual Aid for providing training and resources to regional fire departments. This incident underscores the importance of strengthening our mutual aid organizations so we can provide the requisite gear and training for local departments that may otherwise struggle for resources.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me today in celebrating Sergeant Davenport and Sergeant Garnick. Our communities are safer because of selfless actions that our front-line workers take every day to protect their fellow community members. We thank them for their dedication and bravery in their dangerous line of work. I thank Brian and Daniel.

RECOGNIZING THE HISTORICAL SIGNIFICANCE OF THE HIGHLAND BEACH RESORT

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the historical significance of the Highland Beach Resort in Sandy Hook, New Jersey which was once the birthplace of Northern Jersey Shore tourism. From 1888 through 1962, this historic location was beloved for its beautiful views and beachside amenities. This destination was a trailblazer for people to begin traveling by rail, excursion trains, steamboats, and automobiles. I would also like to applaud the Jersey Coast Heritage Museum for preserving this history.

In a groundbreaking way, the Highland Beach Resort flourished with thousands of tourists every summer, and was home to four-towered carousels, arcades, and one of the first roller coasters in the country. Highland Beach Resort's "great switchback railroad" rollercoaster was constructed in 1889 by Highland Beach Resort using an original design by Mr. Thompson, the same inventor of the Nation's first carousel in 1876 and first roller coaster in 1884 nearby in Coney Island. It is truly honorable how this resort fostered innovation and business models that developers all along the Jersey Shore would eventually follow.

Since 1893, William Sandlass has been denoted as the legendary developer and entrepreneur who led the construction of the historic Highland Beach Resort. When the remarkable "great switchback railroad" rollercoaster was called to be disassembled, Mr. Sandlass repurposed the timbers into a two-story building to be used to expand the resort, eventually becoming a home for his family, and now in service to the National Park Service. When considering the rare architectural characteristics of the home, along with a trace to the history of American and New York Harbor, it becomes clear that this nature-resilient 131-year-old house is truly historic.

The geographical history of this location also includes when explorer Giovanni de Verrazano first laid eyes on The Highlands of Navesink in 1525. Evidently, Mr. Sandlass' home is the last remaining structure of the Jersey Shore's start to tourism at the northernmost point and will be remembered as a first-of-its-kind summer refuge for residents traveling for the first time since their immigration

to the United States. Where some of the earliest citizens of the United States of America found comfort away from conditions of sweltering hot temperatures and poor sanitary systems of New York City. In many ways, this house symbolizes exploration, cultural heritage, and appreciation of the Jersey Shore.

Mr. Speaker, once again, please join me in honoring the late Mr. Sandlass, his landmark home from the Highland Beach Resort, and the members of the Jersey Coast Heritage Museum. Their efforts to preserve the history of the Northern Jersey Shore are truly deserving of this body's recognition.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF MICHAEL DYE

**HON. HARRIET M. HAGEMAN**

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is an incredible privilege to recognize an extraordinary individual, Chief Dye on the momentous occasion of his retirement—a milestone that marks the culmination of nearly 39 years of dedicated service on active duty in the United States Army. Chief Dye's career reflects a legacy of leadership, sacrifice, and unwavering commitment to our Nation's ideals.

Chief Dye's remarkable career stands as a testament to the bravery, dedication, and selfless devotion that our Nation's veterans exemplify. It is because of individuals like him that we continue to enjoy the freedoms and Constitutional rights that define our way of life. His unwavering love for this country is unparalleled and serves as an inspiration not only to those who have served alongside him but to all Americans, myself included.

As he embarks on this new chapter of life, I hope it is filled with new adventures, joys, and opportunities. Chief Dye's legacy of hard work, integrity, and commitment has left an indelible mark on the U.S. Army, the USAWOA, and every unit he has served. The influence he has had on his peers and those under his leadership will continue to resonate for generations to come.

I am confident that as he transitions into this next phase, he will continue to excel and make meaningful contributions to his community and to our great state of Wyoming.

I thank Chief Dye for his service, his sacrifices, and his unwavering commitment to this Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF PAM KESSLER

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and service of Pam Kessler.

Pam was born and raised in Detroit, Michigan and graduated from the University of Colorado, Boulder. She worked in television in the Denver area before relocating to the Bay Area in the 1980s with her husband, Anthony. Pam and Anthony were highly active in the community and raised their two children, Lauren and

David, in Walnut Creek. At this time, Pam made a career shift toward sales and marketing. She served as President and Publisher of Walnut Creek Magazine for over ten years, highlighting the City's residents and businesses. Pam has been a fierce advocate for our local businesses and her work has helped to bring community members together and spotlight local history, entertainment, restaurants, and more. As small newspapers and news outlets become more scarce, Pam's efforts to support local journalism have been critical in keeping our community connected and the public informed on local issues. Through her work with the magazine, Pam has fostered a strong and vibrant community in Walnut Creek and beyond.

Outside of her work with Walnut Creek Magazine, Pam was a devoted wife and mother. Additionally, she continually demonstrated her commitment to service, supporting local education and youth sports and often engaging in volunteer and philanthropic efforts. In her free time, she loved walking the East Bay's beautiful trails with her dog, Sadie.

Sadly, Pam passed away in January 2025. She will be remembered for her passion, leadership, and her deep love for this community. Please join me in honoring Pam Kessler for her many contributions to our community.

RECOGNIZING MS. DAWN BAKER  
FOR EXCEPTIONAL CON-  
STITUENT SERVICES IN OHIO'S  
SIXTH DISTRICT

**HON. MICHAEL A. RULLI**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. RULLI. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Ms. Dawn Baker for her service in my office and to the people of the Ohio Sixth District. For seven years, Ms. Baker has dedicated herself to the aid of my constituents and I am proud to have witnessed the positive impact her work has created.

Dawn began her journey of public service at Muskingum University in New Concord, Ohio where she earned her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science and Government. While attending university, she met her husband of 24 years and the father of their two exceptional daughters, Jason Baker. She dedicated herself fully to her family, taking an active role in her children's education and their passion for athletics. In 2017, she decided to put her degree to use as an advocate for the people of Ohio within the office of former Congressman Bill Johnson.

Under the administration of my predecessor, Dawn began her federal career as a Field Representative and caseworker. Being a delegate for OH-06, she took great pride in going out in public and listening to the needs of the people. She worked diligently and, within a few short years, was promoted to Director of Outreach; mentoring those under her tutelage in all aspects of championing the residents of our district.

I have known Dawn and her family both personally and professionally for many years, so upon my election to this esteemed office, I was pleased to make her my Director of Constituent Services. In this role, Dawn has been on the front lines of my office answering calls

to assist my constituents. She saw firsthand the struggles many in East and Southeast Ohio face and has never wavered in her commitment. Dawn's strength is one of her greatest assets, affording her the will to get the job done, but so too is her compassionate spirit as she works tirelessly to assist in any way she can.

As we, the Members of the House of Representatives well know, our staff are often the unsung heroes working hard behind the scenes. So, I ask you today to assist me in thanking Ms. Dawn Baker for her many years of vigorous and dedicated work for the people of Ohio's Sixth District and the Nation, and I wish her the best in her next endeavor.

HONORING FREDERICK "JAY"  
STEFANY, III

**HON. JOE COURTNEY**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick "Jay" Stefany for his 44 years of outstanding Federal service as a senior acquisition executive, as well as the first Maritime Industrial Base Program Manager for the Department of the Navy (DON).

Since he began his distinguished career with the DON in 1981, Mr. Stefany has held several acquisition positions. Notably, he became a member of the Senior Executive Service in March 2012. In January 2021, he was selected to serve as Acting Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Research, Development, and Acquisition, (ASN RD&A) overseeing the Navy's acquisition workforce of more than 50,000 professionals and annual budgets more than \$150 billion. His service to the Navy and Nation has included a variety of key leadership positions including Program Manager for the LPD 17 Class Amphibious Transport Dock ship program, Executive Director, Amphibious, Auxiliary, and Sealift Office, Program Executive Office, Ships, Deputy Assistant Secretary of the Navy for Ship Programs, and as the Principal Civilian Deputy to ASN RD&A. In September of 2024, the Secretary of the Navy selected Mr. Stefany to stand up the Navy's Maritime Industrial Base Office responsible for strengthening and increasing the capacity of the Nation's maritime industrial base to build the Navy and the Nation's needs.

As the Ranking Member and Chair of the House Armed Services Committee's Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, I had the pleasure of working with Jay directly on a wide range of issues in his portfolio. He was the consummate professional who gave Congress good advice and information so that we could perform our constitutional duty to "provide and maintain" for the Navy.

Mr. Stefany's leadership of the Navy's acquisition corps was instrumental during a historic time in our Nation's history. With a rising China and resurging Russia, the imperative to grow the Nation's Navy and deliver advanced capabilities were critical to ensure the National Security of the United States. As the industrial base was recovering from the impacts of the COVID pandemic, under Mr. Stefany's steady

leadership, the Navy delivered over 90 ships, thousands of critical munitions, and spurred new technologies to include unmanned and autonomous systems. Along with his leadership to strengthen and grow the maritime industrial base, his efforts have ensured the Navy is ready to compete and if required, defeat any adversaries.

Throughout his illustrious career, Mr. Stefany has received various awards for his outstanding contributions to the DON, the Department of Defense (DoD), and the Nation. These include the Presidential Rank Award for Meritorious Service, DON Civilian Meritorious Service award, and two DON Civilian Superior Service awards. In addition, he is the recipient of performance-related accolades, to include the Navy's most prestigious acquisition excellence award, the Rear Admiral Wayne E. Meyer Memorial Award.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I ask the House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Mr. Frederick "Jay" Stefany the III as he retires from Federal service.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. FRANK J. MRVAN**

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. MRVAN. Mr. Speaker, on January 16, 2025, I missed roll call vote No. 17. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on ROLL Call No. 17 (On Passage of H.R. 30).

RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF  
C.W. WHITAKER

**HON. JASMINE CROCKETT**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Ms. CROCKETT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mr. C.W. Whitaker, a dedicated leader in Dallas and friend to Texas' 30th District. Mr. Whitaker has used his platform as the owner of DFWBAM, a social media company to spread, in his words, "blessings, love, and support" to his community.

Mr. Whitaker understands the value of investing in our youth and growing generational wealth for our communities. For thirty-one years, he mentored high school students on what it takes to start and run one's own business, taking them to visit Black-owned businesses in the DFW area. Yet Mr. Whitaker's call to service is not limited to the classroom. Not only has he sat on multiple philanthropic boards and volunteered many hours through his company, Mr. Whitaker has also helped to elevate the businesses, churches, and other community events in the district. The exposure these businesses receive and the community that is built is an invaluable part of what makes this country and individuals, like Mr. Whitaker so amazing: neighbors helping neighbors for the good of all. That was clear during the pandemic when Mr. Whitaker graciously used his voice and resources to publicize four COVID vaccine events my office hosted, contributing to over two-hundred low-income constituents receiving their first and second vaccine shots.

It is individuals like C.W. Whitaker that make serving Texas' 30th Congressional District a privilege and responsibility I do not take lightly. I am proud to recognize the humble servant that is Mr. Whitaker, for the deep passion and commitment he has. May we all follow in his footsteps of selfless action for the betterment of those around us. I thank Mr. Whitaker.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY  
OF SHIRLEY MAE BEARD

**HON. MORGAN MCGARVEY**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. MCGARVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and enduring legacy of Shirley Mae Beard, a cherished figure in Louisville, Kentucky, who passed away on January 11, 2025. As the founder and owner of Shirley Mae's Cafe in the Smoketown neighborhood, Shirley Mae was renowned not only for her exceptional culinary skills but also for her unwavering commitment to our community.

For over 30 years, Shirley Mae's Cafe has been a cornerstone of Louisville's restaurant scene and recognized nationally for its fried chicken, hot water cornbread, and warm, welcoming atmosphere. Shirley Mae's Cafe occupies a three-story building built in 1880 on the site of a post-Civil War encampment for freed slaves. Shirley Mae bought the building the same year she opened the restaurant, becoming the first Black owner of the building.

Shirley Mae's dedication to preserving and sharing authentic Southern cuisine provided nourishment for both the body and soul, fostering a sense of unity and belonging among local diners and celebrity visitors alike.

Shirley Mae was an advocate for civil rights and a pillar of strength within our community. Her leadership and passion for justice left an indelible mark on Louisville, inspiring countless individuals to pursue equality and understanding. Shirley Mae Beard shaped our community in more ways than we can count from her civil rights leadership to her famous cornbread.

As we reflect on her life, let us not just remember Shirley Mae Beard for her culinary talents, but also carry forward her legacy of love, unity, and service. May her memory continue to inspire us all to make a positive difference in our community, just as she did throughout her remarkable life.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TIMOTHY  
CLIFF BAUER

**HON. BRIAN BABIN**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to my good friend, Timothy "Tim" Cliff

Bauer of Winnie, Texas, who passed away at his home on December 19, 2024, after a hard-fought battle with cancer, surrounded by his loving family.

Tim was born to Patricia and Leroy Bauer on September 13, 1951, in Beaumont, Texas. He grew up in the Winnie-Stowell community and was a devoted member of Grace Methodist Church. While attending East Chambers High School, he met the love of his life, Vicki Cuniff. After graduation, Tim attended Texas A&M University, earning his Bachelor of Science in Agronomy in 1973. He married Vicki during his senior year, and they returned to Winnie, where Tim farmed rice and raised Red Angus cattle.

In 1998, Tim and Vicki moved to the original Bauer Ranch Homestead, lovingly restoring it and going to great lengths to preserve its history and significance to the local agricultural community. Tim founded Texas Financial in 2002 and revived the Bauer Ranch's cattle operation in 2011, creating the FI Braford herd. He retired from his financial advisement business in 2015 but continued to ranch for another seven years. In 2023, Tim and Vicki moved to Kerrville, where he enjoyed the golden years of his life.

Tim was a man of conviction, stewardship, and passion. He held leadership roles in many organizations and was well known for his love of hunting, fishing, and Western art. Tim will be remembered for his sincere adoration for his family, unwavering faith, and steadfast presence. He was a true cowboy, a man's man, and tough as a boot—I am incredibly proud to have called him a friend. May the Lord bless his memory and his wonderful family. We will miss him.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. MICHAEL R. TURNER**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. TURNER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, on January 15, 2025, I was unable to vote as I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 13; YEA on Roll Call No. 14; and YEA on Roll Call No. 15.

RECOGNIZING HENNEPIN COUNTY  
EFFECTIVELY ENDING VETERAN  
HOMELESSNESS

**HON. ILHAN OMAR**

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hennepin County's remarkable achievement of reaching functional zero status in ending veteran homelessness. This designation comes from the Department of Vet-

erans Affairs, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, and the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness. This milestone is a testament to the unwavering commitment of our community, local governments, and multiple organizations that worked rigorously to ensure that every veteran has a place to call home.

While reaching functional zero does not mean the work is done, it formally recognizes that veterans experiencing homelessness in Hennepin County will be quickly identified, sheltered, and transitioned to permanent housing. Hennepin County's robust homeless response system serves as an example to many counties across the U.S. to provide the same adequate support to our veterans.

Please join me in honoring Hennepin County for this outstanding achievement and expressing our deepest gratitude to all of those who have contributed to this incredible milestone.

HONORING THE LIFE OF DEBRA  
GONSALVES

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Tuesday, January 21, 2025*

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Debra Gonsalves.

Throughout her life, Debra demonstrated her deep love for her family, friends, and her community. She was a proud alumna of Clayton Valley High School, often attending football games and sporting her CVHS jacket. Debra adored her family and was a devoted wife, mother, and grandmother. She often volunteered at her daughters' schools, helping to plant flowers and leading yard duty. She regularly attended her children and grandchildren's sporting events and organized family gatherings. Additionally, she loved to travel and often visited Cabo San Lucas, Mexico where she was affectionately known as "Miss Debra". When Cabo was impacted by hurricanes, Debra worked quickly to provide support to victims and organize relief efforts. Debra's kindness and compassion were evident to all who knew her.

Sadly, Debra passed away at the age of 70 on October 4, 2024. She is survived by her husband of 48 years, Steve Gonsalves; her daughters, Kelli Dupell (Josh) and Jennifer Herrera (Brandon); her grandchildren, Whitney, Andrew, Steven, Camden, and Paige; her mother, Marie Culum; her sisters, Demery Donovan, Denise Willett, and Diane Culum; her brothers, Frank Culum, Donald Culum, and David Davi; as well as numerous in-laws, nieces and great-nieces, nephews, and great-nephews.

Debra will be remembered for her warm and caring nature and her heart of gold. Please join me in recognizing Debra Gonsalves for her incredible impact on our community.

# Daily Digest

## HIGHLIGHTS

Senator-designate Ashley Moody, of Florida, was administered the oath of office by the Vice President.

Senator-designate Jon Husted, of Ohio, was administered the oath of office by the Vice President.

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S261–S282*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-two bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 154–175, S.J. Res. 3, and S. Res. 29. **Page S280**

#### Measures Reported:

S. Res. 29, expressing the sense of the Senate that the President of the United States possesses legal authority under existing law to take immediate and necessary action to secure the southwest border of the United States, with a preamble. **Pages S281–82**

#### Measures Considered:

**Born–Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act—Agreement:** Senate continued consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 6, to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a health care practitioner from failing to exercise the proper degree of care in the case of a child who survives an abortion or attempted abortion. **Pages S261–75**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Wednesday, January 22, 2025; and that Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at 2:30 p.m. **Pages S275–76**

**Swearing in of Senator Moody:** The Chair laid before the Senate the certificate of appointment of Senator-designate Ashley Moody, of the State of Florida, and the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law. **Page S275**

**Swearing in of Senator Husted:** The Chair laid before the Senate the certificate of appointment of Senator-designate Jon Husted, of the State of Ohio, and

the oath of office was then administered as required by the U.S. Constitution and prescribed by law.

**Page S275**

**Ratcliffe Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. **Page S276**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Thursday, January 23, 2025. **Page S276**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Pages S276–77**

**Hegseth Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense. **Page S277**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of John Ratcliffe, of Texas, to be Director of the Central Intelligence Agency. **Page S277**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 9), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S277**

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. 10), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S277**

**Noem Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Kristi Noem, of South Dakota, to be Secretary of Homeland Security.

**Page S277**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Peter Hegseth, of Tennessee, to be Secretary of Defense.

**Page S277**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session.

**Page S277**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination.

**Page S277**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S278–79**

**Petitions and Memorials:** **Page S279**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S280**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S280–81**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:** **Page S280**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S277–78**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S282**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—10) **Page S277**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 11 a.m. and adjourned at 7:11 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Wednesday, January 22, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S282.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Finance:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Scott Bessent, of South Carolina, to be Secretary of the Treasury.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Elise Stefanik, of New York, to be the Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and the Representative of the United States of America in the Security Council of the United Nations, and to be Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations during her tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senators Capito and Cotton, testified and answered questions in her own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* Committee ordered favorably reported the committee rules for the 119th Congress.

### NOMINATION

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nomination of Douglas Collins, of Georgia, to be Secretary of Veterans Affairs, after the nominee, who was introduced by Senator Cramer, testified and answered questions in his own behalf.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 30 public bills, H.R. 569–598; and 1 resolution, H.J. Res. 25, were introduced. **Pages H256–58**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H258–59**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 53, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 471) to expedite under the National Environmental Policy Act of 1969 and improve forest management activities on National Forest System lands,

on public lands under the jurisdiction of the Bureau of Land Management, and on Tribal lands to return resilience to overgrown, fire-prone forested lands, and for other purposes, and providing for consideration of the bill (S. 5) to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to take into custody aliens who have been charged in the United States with theft, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 119–1). **Page H256**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Smith (NE) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H233**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:31 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H236**

**Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence—Appointment:** The Chair announced the Speaker appointment of the following Members of the House to the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Representatives Himes, Carson, Castro (TX), Krishnamoorthi, Crow, Bera, Plaskett, Gottheimer, Gomez, Houlahan and Quigley. **Page H237**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:23 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H250**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

*Authorizing the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients:* H.R. 186, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on the National Mall to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 414 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 18; **Page H250**

*Providing for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies:* H.R. 187, amended, to provide for the standardization, consolidation, and publication of data relating to public outdoor recreational use of Federal waterways among Federal land and water management agencies, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nay vote of 413 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 19; **Pages H238–40, H250–51**

*Directing the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation:* H.R. 207, to direct the Secretary of Commerce to establish a task force regarding shark depredation; **Pages H240–42**

*Providing for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota:* H.R. 197, to provide for a land exchange in the Chippewa National Forest, Minnesota; and **Pages H242–44**

*Requiring that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities:* H.R. 204, to require that the Secretary of Agriculture and the Secretary of the Interior submit accurate reports regarding hazardous fuels reduction activities. **Pages H244–46**

**Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed:** The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

*Directing the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe:* H.R. 165, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to complete all actions necessary for certain land to be held in restricted fee status by the Oglala Sioux Tribe and Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe; and **Pages H246–48**

*Requiring the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death:* H.R. 375, to require the Secretary of the Interior to partner and collaborate with the Secretary of Agriculture and the State of Hawaii to address Rapid Ohia Death. **Pages H248–50**

**Committee Resignation:** Read a letter from Representative Wagner wherein she resigned from the Committee on Foreign Affairs. **Page H251**

**Senate Referral:** S. 5 was held at the desk. **Page H237**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page S237.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Two yeas-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H250 and H251.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 7:53 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### FIX OUR FORESTS ACT; LAKEN RILEY ACT

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 471, the “Fix Our Forests Act”; and S. 5, the “Laken Riley Act”. The Committee granted, by a record vote of 9–3, a rule providing for consideration of H.R. 471, the “Fix Our Forests Act”, and S. 5, the “Laken Riley Act”. The rule provides for consideration of H.R. 471, the “Fix Our Forests Act”, under a structured rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Natural Resources or their respective designees. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule makes in order only those amendments printed in the Rules Committee report. Each amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated



in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against the amendments printed in the report are waived. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of S. 5, the “Laken Riley Act”, under a closed rule. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that the bill shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. Finally, the rule provides one motion to commit. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, and Representatives Huffman, McClintock, and Raskin.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR WEDNESDAY, JANUARY 22, 2025

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

*Committee on the Budget:* to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Russell Vought, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office of Management and Budget, 10 a.m., SD-608.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* business meeting to consider the nomination of Sean Duffy,

of Wisconsin, to be Secretary of Transportation, 2 p.m., SR-253.

#### House

*Committee on Energy and Commerce,* Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “A Decade Later: Assessing the Legacy and Impact of the Frank R. Lautenberg Chemical Safety for the 21st Century Act”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unconstrained Actors: Assessing Global Cyber Threats to the Homeland”, 10:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary,* Subcommittee on Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement, hearing entitled “Restoring Immigration Enforcement in America”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Small Business,* Full Committee, organizational meeting, 11 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure,* Full Committee, business meeting on Amending Rule VII of the Rules of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure for the 119th Congress, due to Subcommittee ratio changes; and approval of Subcommittee rosters, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Highways and Transit, hearing entitled “America Builds: Highways to Move People and Freight”, 10:15 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Restoring Focus: Putting Veterans First in Community Care”, 1 p.m., 360 Cannon.

*Committee on Ways and Means,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 1100 Longworth.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Wednesday, January 22

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Wednesday, January 22

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of S. 6, Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon at 2:30 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Wednesday:** Consideration of S. 5—Laken Riley Act (Subject to a Rule).

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

Babin, Brian, Tex., E54  
Burlison, Eric, Mo., E51  
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