

The message also announced that pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2761, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Speaker appoints the following Members on the part of the House of Representatives to the British-American Interparliamentary Group: Mr. Meeks of New York, Ms. DelBene of Washington, Mr. Kilmer of Washington, Mr. Crow of Colorado, Mr. Gomez of California, and Mr. Jeffries of New York.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 550. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act with respect to immunization system data modernization and expansion, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 951. An act to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to carry out a national campaign to increase awareness of the importance of maternal vaccinations for the health of pregnant and postpartum individuals and their children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1550. An act to amend the Public Health Service Act to provide for a public awareness campaign with respect to human papillomavirus, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 4026. An act to require the Comptroller General of the United States to submit to Congress a report on actions taken by the Secretary of Health and Human Services to address social determinants of health; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bill was read the first time:

S. 3299. A bill to prohibit the Department of Defense from discharging or withholding pay or benefits from members of the National Guard based on COVID-19 vaccination status.

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-2675. A communication from the Assistant Legal Adviser for Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to the Case-Zablocki Act, 1 U.S.C. 112b, as amended, the report of the texts and background statements of international agreements, other than treaties (List 2021-0142—2021-0145); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-2676. A joint communication from the Secretary of Labor and the Director of the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Corporation's Annual Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-2677. A communication from the Interim President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's FY21 Annual Performance

Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2678. A communication from the General Counsel and Acting Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Merit Systems Protection Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2679. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2021 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2680. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Hiring Authority for College Graduates" (RIN3206-AN79) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2681. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Prevailing Rate Systems; Conduct of Local Wage Surveys" (RIN3206-AO15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2682. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Representative Payees Under the Civil Service Retirement System and Federal Employees' Retirement System" (RIN3206-AO08) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2683. A communication from the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the semi-annual report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2021 through September 30, 2021 received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2684. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2685. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's fiscal year 2021 Annual Financial Report (AFR); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2686. A communication from the Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2687. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2021; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-2688. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the sixteenth report to Congress on crime victims' rights; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2689. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supportive Services for Veterans Families"

(RIN2900-AR15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2690. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Supportive Services for Veterans Families" (RIN2900-AR15) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-2691. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Assistance to Eligible Individuals in Acquiring Specially Adapted Housing" (RIN2900-AR26) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2021; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-94. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to oppose unnecessary and harmful changes to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements for Michigan's financial institutions; to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 85

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Treasury has proposed requiring financial institutions to report financial account information for accounts with a gross flow threshold or fair market value of \$600 or more. The proposal calls for financial institutions to report gross inflows and outflows with a breakdown for physical cash, transactions with foreign accounts, and transfers to and from another account with the same owner. It would apply to business and personal accounts, including bank, loan, and investment accounts at those financial institutions subject to the proposed requirement; and

Whereas, there are very real concerns over data privacy and security if this proposed Internal Revenue Service reporting requirement, or a similar requirement, is put in place. Keeping member and customer account information private and secure is among the primary goals of all financial institutions in Michigan and this proposal could jeopardize the security of accounts and personal information. As we have seen, numerous government data breaches have occurred in recent years. Moreover, the proposal constitutes an invasion of consumer privacy; and

Whereas, Financial institutions throughout our state and country are already subject to many burdensome regulations that increase costs, damage customer relations, and otherwise hurt these businesses. The adoption of this extensive and intrusive financial reporting proposal would deepen that burden for Michigan's community-based and other financial institutions; now, there, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we urge the United States Congress to oppose unnecessary and harmful changes to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements for Michigan's financial institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the chairs of the United States

Committee on Finance and United States House Committee on Ways and Means.

POM-95. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan urging the United States Congress to oppose unnecessary and harmful changes to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements for Michigan's financial institutions; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 174

Whereas, The U.S. Department of Treasury has proposed requiring financial institutions to report financial account information for accounts with a gross flow threshold or fair market value of \$600 or more. The proposal calls for financial institutions to report gross inflows and outflows with a breakdown for physical cash, transactions with foreign accounts, and transfers to and from another account with the same owner. It would apply to business and personal accounts, including bank, loan, and investment accounts at those financial institutions subject to the proposed requirement; and

Whereas, There are very real concerns over data privacy and security if this proposed Internal Revenue Service reporting requirement, or a similar requirement, is put in place. Keeping member and customer account information private and secure is among the primary goals of all financial institutions in Michigan and this proposal could jeopardize the security of accounts and personal information. As we have seen, numerous government data breaches have occurred in recent years. Moreover, the proposal constitutes an invasion of consumer privacy; and

Whereas, Financial institutions throughout our state and country are already subject to many burdensome regulations that increase costs, damage customer relations, and otherwise hurt these businesses. The adoption of this extensive and intrusive financial reporting proposal would deepen that burden for Michigan's community-based and other financial institutions; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we urge the United States Congress to oppose unnecessary and harmful changes to Internal Revenue Service reporting requirements for Michigan's financial institutions; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Speaker of the United State House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, the members of the Michigan congressional delegation, and the chairs of the United States Senate Committee on Finance and United States House Committee on Ways and Means.

POM-96. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan demanding the President of the United States and the United States Congress provide no support to the Taliban, either direct or indirect, including but not limited to aid; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 177

Whereas, Over the past 20 years, the United States has provided billions of dollars in foreign aid to Afghanistan. The foreign aid had been used to help Afghan leaders establish a stable government and support the human rights of Afghan citizens; and

Whereas, Despite the billions of dollars that the United States provided Afghanistan in foreign aid, Taliban fighters overran several provincial capitals less than two weeks after the complete withdrawal of U.S. troops from the country. This led to the departure of Afghanistan's president and the total collapse of the established government; and

Whereas, Attempting to use money as leverage to persuade the Taliban will prove to be futile and dangerous. The Taliban, unlike the previous Afghan leaders, have no reason to prioritize the stability and safety of the Afghan people. Providing financial support to Afghanistan would only strengthen the Taliban's efforts to terrorize its citizens and smother revolutions in their crib; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, by the House of Representatives, That we demand that President Biden and the United States Congress provide no support to the Taliban, either direct or indirect, including but not limited to aid; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the President of the United States, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the President of the United States Senate, and the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-97. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan supporting the religious liberty of Michigan citizens; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 88

Whereas, The Declaration of Independence affirms that people are "... endowed by their Creator with certain unalienable Rights, that among these are Life, Liberty, and the pursuit of Happiness ..."; and declares that governments derive "their just powers from the consent of the governed ..."; and

Whereas, The First Amendment to the Constitution of the United States clearly, plainly, and unequivocally states that "Congress shall make no law respecting an establishment of religion, or prohibiting the free exercise thereof or abridging the freedom of speech ...". The constitutional protection of these bedrock principles of religious liberty and freedom of expression was extended to the actions of the states through the Fourteenth Amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, The Michigan Constitution unambiguously affirms that "[e]very person shall be at liberty to worship God according to the dictates of his own conscience"; and that "[t]he civil and political rights, privileges and capacities of no person shall be diminished ... on account of his religious belief" and that "[e]very person may freely speak, write, express and publish his views on all subjects" and "no law shall be enacted to restrain or abridge the liberty of speech ..."; and

Whereas, Despite the clear prohibition against government actions infringing upon freedom of expression and the free exercise of religion, religious people and religious organizations have been frequent targets of governmental actions by state and local government officials seeking to limit religious expression and exercise, including by executive orders that close houses of worship, mandates that effectively prohibit religious student athletes from participating in collegiate sports, and policies that exclude religious families and organizations from foster care programs; and

Whereas, Religious expression is essential for maintaining societal morality. As George Washington stated, "Let us with caution indulge the supposition that morality can be maintained without religion. Reason and experience both forbid us to expect that national morality can prevail in exclusion of religious principle"; and

Whereas, When religious-based ideas inform the public ethic, society benefits greatly. For example, the idea that God created humans in His image, and that all human life has dignity, significantly contributed to

ending slavery and advancing the rights of women and minorities. Censuring an idea that is informed by ancient sacred tenets prevents thousands of years of wisdom from informing the public ethic; and

Whereas, In this country, individuals, houses of worship, and religious organizations compelled by their religious beliefs have served the needy, the homeless, widows, and orphans long before government and continue to partner with government to serve our communities. Indeed, this is a vital notion in our pluralistic society: The ability and freedom of Americans of any faith—or no faith at all—to be free to serve in ways consistent with the commitments that inspire their service in the first place; and

Whereas, A moral republic cannot function without religious expression. Government suppression of a citizen's religious expression or religious exercise sends a bitter chill throughout the citizenry in a republic. Instead of censoring or punishing religious speech or religious conscience, the answer in a republic valuing freedom must always be to foster and support expression; and

Whereas, The test of a functioning moral republic is not only whether government protects speech and religious expression with which it agrees—it is whether government will protect speech and religious expression with which it disagrees. The constitutional liberty here does not protect governments from religious conscience—it protects the exercise of religious conscience from government infringement. When government suppresses or punishes a citizen's religious expression or conscience, it betrays the fundamental principle of freedom on which our country was founded; and

Whereas, Good governance and civic institutional integrity rest on the virtue of its citizens. Religious ideas support and nurture this virtue and should, therefore, always be permitted within the marketplace of ideas; and

Whereas, it is the duty of elected officials to uphold the Constitution of the United States and the Michigan Constitution; Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we support the religious liberty of Michigan citizens; and be it further

Resolved, That we will not infringe upon the ability of citizens to act in accordance with their religious conscience and beliefs; and be it further

Resolved, That we will not tolerate persecution of religious people because of their beliefs; and be it further

Resolved, That we condemn any behavior by government authorities that limits the ability of individuals to express their religious conscience and beliefs; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this resolution be transmitted to the Governor, the Michigan Attorney General, the Michigan Secretary of State, the President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the United States House of Representatives, and the members of the Michigan congressional delegation.

POM-98. A petition from a citizen of the State of Texas relative to asylum federal laws; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CARPER, from the Committee on Environment and Public Works, without amendment:

H.R. 390. An act to redesignate the Federal building located at 167 North Main Street in