

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. EDWARDS 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.

#### UNPAID LOCAL HEROES

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

Mr. EDWARDS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to point out how, once again, the Biden administration is failing America.

When emergency strikes, who answers the call? Well, I can tell you in western North Carolina that it is usually the brave men and women who serve in our rural volunteer fire departments. It is these unpaid local heroes who save American lives and protect our property.

Volunteer fire departments are struggling to keep up. Recruitment is down, call volume is up, and there is little money to replace old equipment. Now, to add insult to injury, OSHA is proposing a rule that will effectively obliterate these critical organizations serving the majority of America.

This rule will add complex operating and reporting requirements, as well as costly and unrealistic equipment replacement requirements. The rule for these volunteer departments doesn't consider that they do not have the resources to continue to spend money on bureaucracy. Yet, this OSHA rule would be detrimental to American public safety and the volunteer fire model that serves us today. I urge the Biden administration to reconsider its proposal.

#### HONORING JACOB ELLIS

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

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, on Sunday, I attended the funeral of Jacob Ellis, who devastatingly passed away at the age of 15 after a brief but vicious course of cancer.

Jacob lived his all-too-brief life to the fullest, volunteering with local animal shelters, traveling the world to ride roller coasters, and baking desserts for his friends and family.

My heart goes out to the Born and Ellis families and to all families touched by pediatric cancer, which has left a hole in far too many hearts. Almost every week, I am visited here by advocates for pediatric cancer research funding. I can think of no cause more worthy.

In honor of Jacob and so many other young people who have passed all too soon, I am honored to be cosponsoring an amendment to the Defense appropriations bill allocating \$2 million for

research on pediatric brain cancer and spinal cord tumors.

I will also work to make sure that we are developing medications and therapies for our youngest cancer patients that do not themselves cause residual injury or illness. I have heard from so many who developed a new cancer from a toxic medication they were given as a child.

May Jacob's memory be a blessing, and may we never stop working until we have eradicated pediatric cancer from our world.

#### THE CRISIS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, after 3½ years of open-border policies, the Biden administration has turned every State in the Union into a border State.

On Monday, the special agent in charge of the FBI field office in Albuquerque was asked about the rise in violence and drug trafficking in New Mexico. He placed the blame squarely on the crisis along our southern border.

He said, in part: "Part of the problem . . . is we have an incomplete border. There is no structure that separates our country from Mexico."

He rightfully noted some are crossing in search of a better life, while others are crossing to avoid consequences and to commit crime.

This is a real-time example of how the border crisis continues to hurt the American people. It is also further proof that we should resume construction on the border wall and finish the job.

#### RECOGNIZING MARK SCIRTO

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Mark Scirto, a trusted and beloved figure in the east Texas community.

As a meteorologist for KLTV since 1987, Mark has worked hard to provide accurate and timely weather forecasts for our region.

Mark is a steady voice in times of trouble, a calming guide in the midst of storms, and a bright smile and hearty laugh when the days get tough.

Whether it was a tornado, thunderstorms, or beautiful days between Texans knew that they could count on Mark. We know his words by heart: Get to a small, windowless, interior room. We did just that when he told us to do so.

Mark Scirto's journey with KLTV began in 1987. He was nominated for a Dallas Press Club Katie Award, an honor no other meteorologist in east Texas has ever received. Mark has also held the seals of approval from the Na-

tional Weather Association and the American Meteorological Society since 1989.

He gave everything of himself for the rest of us, and we are grateful. Mr. Speaker, please join me in honoring Mark Scirto for his remarkable career and his dedication to our community. His legacy will live on, and his presence in our homes will be missed. We wish him all the best.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE DEMOCRATIC LEADER

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CARL) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

JUNE 24, 2024.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Pursuant to section 2(b) of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys Act (Public Law 116-156), amended by Section 201 of Title II, Division O of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, I am pleased to appoint the following individual to the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys:

The Honorable Yusef Idris Faadel Salaam of New York, New York

Thank you for your attention to this appointment.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,  
*Democratic Leader.*

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1600

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MEUSER) at 4 p.m.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### STRATEGY TO OPPOSE FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO THE TALIBAN

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 6586) to require a strategy to oppose financial or material support by

foreign countries to the Taliban, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 6586

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

**SECTION 1. STRATEGY TO OPPOSE FINANCIAL OR MATERIAL SUPPORT BY FOREIGN COUNTRIES TO THE TALIBAN.**

(a) **STATEMENT OF POLICY.**—It is the policy of the United States to oppose the provision of financial or material support by foreign countries to the Taliban that is inconsistent with United States law or policy.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report identifying, to the maximum extent possible—

(1) foreign countries that have provided financial or material support to the Taliban since September 1, 2021, that is inconsistent with United States law or policy, including—

(A) the amount of United States-provided foreign assistance each country receives, if any;

(B) the amount of financial or material support each country has provided to the Taliban; and

(C) a description of how the Taliban has utilized such financial or material support; and

(2) efforts the United States has taken since September 1, 2021, to oppose foreign countries from providing financial or material support to the Taliban if doing so is inconsistent with United States law or policy.

(c) **STRATEGY AND REPORTS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall develop a strategy to discourage foreign countries from providing financial or material support to the Taliban that is inconsistent with United States law or policy.

(2) **REPORTS.**—

(A) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than the date on which the strategy required by paragraph (1) is completed, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing the strategy and a plan for its implementation.

(B) **SUBSEQUENT REPORTS.**—

(i) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date on which the strategy required by paragraph (1) is completed, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the implementation of the strategy, including the impact of the strategy in discouraging foreign countries from providing financial or material support to the Taliban that is inconsistent with United States law or policy.

(ii) **FORM.**—The report required by this subparagraph shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex if necessary.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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

**SEC. 2. REPORT ON DIRECT CASH ASSISTANCE PROGRAMS IN AFGHANISTAN.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall submit to the appro-

priate congressional committees a report on United States Government-funded direct cash assistance programs in Afghanistan during the period beginning on August 1, 2021, and ending on the date that is 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act. The report shall be submitted in conjunction with the submission of the Fiscal Year 2023 Annual Financial Report of the United States Agency for International Development.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall, with respect to such direct cash assistance programs, include—

(1) a description of method of payments;

(2) a description of how and where currency exchanges occur;

(3) a description of if and how hawalas are used and the oversight mechanisms in place regarding use of hawalas to transfer funds in United States Government funded direct cash assistance programs in Afghanistan; and

(4) a description of safeguards, including oversight processes, to prevent the Taliban from accessing cash assistance under such programs.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

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

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

**SEC. 3. REPORT ON STATUS OF AFGHAN FUND.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of State shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the status of the Afghan Fund.

(b) **MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.**—The report required by subsection (a) shall include, to the maximum extent possible—

(1) a description of the Taliban’s influence over Da Afghanistan Bank, including a list of Taliban members employed by such Bank or serving on its board of directors;

(2) a description of the Afghan Fund’s board of trustees, including the process for vetting and selection of trustees;

(3) the conditions necessary for the United States Government to support disbursements from the Afghan Fund to Da Afghanistan Bank;

(4) how the Afghan Fund’s board of trustees determines the Fund’s activities, including what kind of information will inform the board’s decisions, and how the board will collect and verify this information; and

(5) a description of what controls have been put into place to ensure funds and disbursements are not diverted to or misused by the Taliban.

(c) **SUNSET.**—This section shall terminate on the date that all disbursements from the Afghan Fund have been made.

(d) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK) and the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. STANTON) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Georgia.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6586. I thank my colleague from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT) for introducing this important legislation to prevent U.S. taxpayer dollars from ending up in the Taliban’s hands.

Since the Biden administration’s disastrous withdrawal nearly 3 years ago, the Taliban has established a reign of terror in Afghanistan. The Taliban has banned girls from receiving an education and essentially banned women from participating in public life in any meaningful way. They have supported the public flogging and stoning of women and have prevented women from working for NGOs, significantly restricting the delivery of humanitarian aid.

These abhorrent policies reveal the barbaric heart of Taliban control over Afghanistan.

Meanwhile, the Biden administration continues to flood Afghanistan with money. Since 2021, the U.S. has appropriated nearly \$3 billion for assistance to Afghanistan, yet we have little to no oversight over much of this assistance, which is administered by third parties. This administration must be held accountable to ensure that U.S.-provided assistance to Afghanistan does not end up in the Taliban’s hands.

Recent reports show that at least 10.9 million U.S. taxpayer dollars have been paid to the Taliban in the form of taxes and fees. Due to lax oversight by this administration, the real number is probably much higher.

Congress has a responsibility to ensure that U.S. tax dollars are not hand-delivered to Taliban terrorists.

While the U.S. maintains a policy of nonrecognition toward the Taliban, countries in the region show increasing signs of engagement. Most recently, the leader of the United Arab Emirates received a number of Taliban officials, including the head of the Haqqani Network terrorist group, which is on the FBI’s Most Wanted list.

This administration has no written strategy to discourage foreign nations from providing financial or material support to the Taliban. It is essential that we hold nations that receive U.S. assistance accountable and ensure that they do not empower the Taliban.

This bill requires the administration to report on what exactly they are doing to conduct oversight of U.S. money going to Afghanistan and requires them to identify which foreign nations are funding the Taliban. This

basic oversight is essential to ensuring that the American people and our partners around the world are not paying for the Taliban's reign of terror.

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

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 6586, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, even several years after our withdrawal, the United States continues to have important interests in Afghanistan, not only ensuring it is never again used as a base for terrorists to plan attacks against the United States but also keeping our commitment to the Afghan people.

Keeping that commitment means continuing to advocate for a more inclusive government that respects human rights, particularly for women and girls. It means that we continue humanitarian assistance to support the Afghan people, and it means that we never forget that too many Afghans who supported our decades-long mission are there.

The reports and strategy included in this legislation address the important issue of how we can prevent the erosion of our tools to influence Taliban behavior without a presence on the ground. We must ensure our assistance is not diverted or misused and that the international community remains unified in insisting that the Taliban fulfill their commitment and improves their record, particularly on human rights, before they can receive international recognition. We must ensure that the Afghan Fund, which holds the former assets of the Afghan central bank, is used for the benefit of the Afghan people.

I thank Mr. BURCHETT and Chairman MCCAUL for their collaboration with the Foreign Affairs Committee minority staff to improve this legislation, particularly in clarifying that what we are looking to address are actions that are inconsistent with U.S. law and policy. For example, we have made exceptions in sanctions against the Taliban to allow for the continued delivery of humanitarian aid, which supports our interests.

I hope that the reports mandated by this bill will offer valuable insights and assurances about our continued engagement in Afghanistan.

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

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT), the author of this bill.

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman, and I appreciate the kind words of the gentleman across the aisle and his support for this important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, when the United States withdrew from Afghanistan in 2021, over \$7 billion worth of military equipment was left behind for the Taliban. This seems to be a usual occurrence for

this country, no matter who is in power.

I was the mayor of Knox County. With anywhere from \$10 million to \$15 million, we can build a high school in Tennessee. I can't imagine what \$7 billion would do across the country. Anyway, all that is outrageous.

Every cent our government spends comes from the American people, and right now, we are borrowing a whole heck of a lot of it. We are \$35 trillion in debt. The fact that their money has gone to terrorists, to me, is just a complete disgrace, Mr. Speaker. This bill would help prevent any more money from ending up in the hands of the Taliban.

The bill does three things.

First, it states the policy of the United States is to oppose financial or material support to the dadgum Taliban. It also calls for a report on any foreign countries that have given financial or material support to the Taliban and calls for the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to discourage foreign countries from providing support.

This came from a conversation I had in a committee. I want to give John Stout in my office some incredible kudos for helping me craft this bill. We asked a member, I believe it was, of the State Department, this money that we give to these organizations, these countries, is there any way to keep it from getting into the hands of terrorists? In fact, he said: No. In this case, there was not.

Second, this bill calls for a report on cash assistance programs in Afghanistan and puts safeguards in place to prevent the Taliban from accessing it, keeping them from getting to the money.

Third, it requires a report on the Afghan Fund and the Afghanistan central bank and what controls are in place to make sure these funds are not diverted or misused.

Thirteen brave servicemembers, including a constituent of mine, Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss, lost their lives in the Afghanistan withdrawal. He was technically the last American to lose his life in Afghanistan. The road I live on, the State Highway, has been named in his honor. I see it every day when I drive down it, and I think about that.

I have held his parents both when they have cried and I have cried, and it is just very emotional for me. These folks lost their lives in the Afghanistan withdrawal, and we need to make sure our tax dollars don't go toward terrorists who killed Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this bill, which keeps our government accountable and prevents the Taliban from getting its hands on any more of Americans' hard-earned money. I thank my friends across the aisle as well for their support.

Mr. STANTON. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time that I am aware of, and I yield myself the bal-

ance of my time for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, this legislation is critical for preserving the United States' ability to influence the Taliban and keep our commitments to the Afghan people.

Again, I thank Mr. BURCHETT and Mr. MCCAUL for working with the House Foreign Affairs Committee minority to ensure that this bill remains aligned with our values and aligned with our larger policy goals in Afghanistan.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the world cannot turn a blind eye while the Taliban continues to wreak havoc on the lives of the Afghan people.

The Biden administration and our partners and allies have a responsibility to ensure that funding flowing to Afghanistan solely benefits the Afghan people and not their Taliban overlords. We must not be complicit in funding Taliban atrocities in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. MCCORMICK) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 6586, as amended.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

#### KOREAN AMERICAN DIVIDED FAMILIES NATIONAL REGISTRY ACT

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 7152) to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry of Korean American divided families, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 7152

*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 "Korean American Divided Families National Registry Act".

#### SEC. 2. NATIONAL REGISTRY OF KOREAN AMERICAN DIVIDED FAMILIES.

The Secretary of State, acting through the Special Envoy on North Korean Human Rights Issues or such other individual as the Secretary may designate, shall—

(1) collate information on Korean American families who wish to be reunited with family members in North Korea from which such Korean American families were divided after the signing of the Agreement Concerning a Military Armistice in Korea, signed at Panmunjom July 27, 1953 (commonly referred to as the "Korean War Armistice Agreement"), in anticipation of future