

woman. To make matters worse, this illegal immigrant was out on Governor Hochul's cashless bail for previously raping someone.

One instance of a woman being raped or assaulted should be enough and should have been enough for President Biden and Vice President HARRIS to take executive action to close the border.

The Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act will ensure that these evil individuals, these criminals, are arrested and deported.

I urge my colleagues to support the bill so that we can remove any illegal immigrant who commits awful crimes against women.

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, this bill does not close any gaps in the law, does not fix any of the myriad problems with our immigration system or the southern border, and would actually harm the very people it purports to protect.

It is another excuse for the Republican majority to play politics with immigration without doing any of the hard work involved in finding bipartisan solutions.

I urge Members to oppose this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1630

Ms. LEE of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Democrats assert today that this bill is unnecessary, but that ignores the clear reality of the crisis affecting our southern border and how it has affected those who are victims of these crimes in our country.

Take, for example, the fact that under current immigration law, there is no explicit ground for inadmissibility of illegal aliens who commit domestic violence offenses, despite a ground of removability for such aliens.

Consider that despite certain sex offenses making aliens removable from the country, there is currently not a ground of inadmissibility or removability for certain sex offenses.

The Biden-Harris administration's war on women must come to an end. H.R. 7909 is one step toward that. Making people inadmissible to and removable from the United States because they have committed a sex offense or a domestic violence offense should be something that even open-border Democrats can agree with us on.

The Violence Against Women by Illegal Aliens Act is a straightforward, commonsense bill that I urge my colleagues to support.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1455, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on passage of the bill.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. LEE of Florida. 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 question will be postponed.

CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS AND OTHER MATTERS ACT, 2025

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1430, I call up the bill (H.R. 9494) making continuing appropriations for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the amendment printed in part D of House Report 118-656 is adopted, and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill, as amended, is as follows:

H.R. 9494

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 "Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act, 2025".

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

- Sec. 1. Short title.
- Sec. 2. Table of contents.
- Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

DIVISION B—SAVE ACT

- Sec. 201. Short title.
- Sec. 202. Ensuring only citizens are registered to vote in elections for Federal office.
- Sec. 203. Election assistance commission guidance.
- Sec. 204. Inapplicability of paperwork reduction act.
- Sec. 205. Duty of secretary of homeland security to notify election officials of naturalization.
- Sec. 206. Rule of construction regarding provisional ballots.
- Sec. 207. Rule of construction regarding effect on state exemptions from other Federal laws.
- Sec. 208. Effective date.

SEC. 3. REFERENCES.

Except as expressly provided otherwise, any reference to "this Act" contained in any division of this Act shall be treated as referring only to the provisions of that division.

DIVISION A—CONTINUING APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2025

The following sums are hereby appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, and out of applicable corporate or other revenues, receipts, and funds, for the several departments, agencies, corporations, and other organizational units of Government for fiscal year 2025, and for other purposes, namely:

SEC. 101. Such amounts as may be necessary, at a rate for operations as provided in the applicable appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024 and under the authority and conditions provided in such Acts, for continuing projects or activities (including the costs of direct loans and loan guarantees) that are not otherwise specifically provided for in this Act, that were conducted in fiscal year 2024, and for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were made available in the following appropriations Acts:

(1) The Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118-42).

(2) The Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118-42).

(3) The Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118-47).

(4) The Energy and Water Development and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118-42).

(5) The Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Act, 2024 (division B of Public Law 118-47), except section 637.

(6) The Department of Homeland Security Appropriations Act, 2024 (division C of Public Law 118-47), except section 546(e).

(7) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118-42), except section 447.

(8) The Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division D of Public Law 118-47).

(9) The Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2024 (division E of Public Law 118-47), except the matter under the heading "Joint Items—Joint Congressional Committee on Inaugural Ceremonies of 2025", and section 7 in the matter preceding division A of Public Law 118-47.

(10) The Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division A of Public Law 118-42), except section 259.

(11) The Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-47), except section 7075(a).

(12) The Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2024 (division F of Public Law 118-42).

SEC. 102. (a) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used for:

(1) the new production of items not funded for production in fiscal year 2024 or prior years;

(2) the increase in production rates above those sustained with fiscal year 2024 funds; or

(3) the initiation, resumption, or continuation of any project, activity, operation, or organization (defined as any project, subproject, activity, budget activity, program element, and subprogram within a program element, and for any investment items defined as a P-1 line item in a budget activity within an appropriation account and an R-1 line item that includes a program element and subprogram element within an appropriation account) for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2024.

(b) No appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 for the Department of Defense shall be used to initiate multi-year procurements utilizing advance procurement funding for economic order quantity procurement unless specifically appropriated later.

SEC. 103. Appropriations made by section 101 shall be available to the extent and in the manner that would be provided by the pertinent appropriations Act.

SEC. 104. Except as otherwise provided in section 102, no appropriation or funds made available or authority granted pursuant to section 101 shall be used to initiate or resume any project or activity for which appropriations, funds, or other authority were not available during fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 105. Appropriations made and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall cover all obligations or expenditures incurred for any project or activity during the period for which funds or authority for such project or activity are available under this Act.

SEC. 106. Unless otherwise provided for in this Act or in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025, appropriations and funds made available and authority granted pursuant to this Act shall be available until whichever of the following first occurs:

(1) The enactment into law of an appropriation for any project or activity provided for in this Act.

(2) The enactment into law of the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2025 without any provision for such project or activity.

(3) March 28, 2025.

SEC. 107. Expenditures made pursuant to this Act shall be charged to the applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization whenever a bill in which such applicable appropriation, fund, or authorization is contained is enacted into law.

SEC. 108. Appropriations made and funds made available by or authority granted pursuant to this Act may be used without regard to the time limitations for submission and approval of apportionments set forth in section 1513 of title 31, United States Code, but nothing in this Act may be construed to waive any other provision of law governing the apportionment of funds.

SEC. 109. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, for those programs that would otherwise have high initial rates of operation or complete distribution of appropriations at the beginning of fiscal year 2025 because of distributions of funding to States, foreign countries, grantees, or others, such high initial rates of operation or complete distribution shall not be made, and no grants shall be awarded for such programs funded by this Act that would impinge on final funding prerogatives.

SEC. 110. This Act shall be implemented so that only the most limited funding action of that permitted in the Act shall be taken in order to provide for continuation of projects and activities.

SEC. 111. (a) For entitlements and other mandatory payments whose budget authority was provided in appropriations Acts for fiscal year 2024, and for activities under the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008, activities shall be continued at the rate to maintain program levels under current law, under the authority and conditions provided in the applicable appropriations Act for fiscal year 2024, to be continued through the date specified in section 106(3).

(b) Notwithstanding section 106, obligations for mandatory payments due on or about the first day of any month that begins after October 2024, but not later than 30 days after the date specified in section 106(3) may continue to be made, and funds shall be available for such payments.

SEC. 112. Amounts made available under section 101 for civilian personnel compensation and benefits in each department and agency may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to avoid furloughs within such department or agency, consistent with the applicable appropriations

Act for fiscal year 2024, except that such authority provided under this section shall not be used until after the department or agency has taken all necessary actions to reduce or defer non-personnel-related administrative expenses.

SEC. 113. Funds appropriated by this Act may be obligated and expended notwithstanding section 10 of Public Law 91-672 (22 U.S.C. 2412), section 15 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2680), section 313 of the Foreign Relations Authorization Act, Fiscal Years 1994 and 1995 (22 U.S.C. 6212), and section 504(a)(1) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3094(a)(1)).

SEC. 114. (a) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act is designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of such Act or as being for disaster relief pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(D) of such Act, respectively.

(b) Section 6 of Public Laws 118-42 and 118-47 shall apply to amounts designated in subsection (a) and in sections 130 and 146 of this Act as an emergency requirement.

(c) Each amount incorporated by reference in this Act that was previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget shall continue to be treated as amounts specified in section 103(b) of division A of Public Law 118-5.

(d) This section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act, and shall remain in effect through the date in section 106(3).

SEC. 115. (a) Rescissions or cancellations of discretionary budget authority that continue pursuant to section 101 in Treasury Appropriations Fund Symbols (TAFS)—

(1) to which other appropriations are not provided by this Act, but for which there is a current applicable TAFS that does receive an appropriation in this Act; or

(2) which are no-year TAFS and receive other appropriations in this Act, may be continued instead by reducing the rate for operations otherwise provided by section 101 for such current applicable TAFS, as long as doing so does not impinge on the final funding prerogatives of the Congress.

(b) Rescissions or cancellations described in subsection (a) shall continue in an amount equal to the lesser of—

(1) the amount specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act; or

(2) the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2024, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101 of this Act.

(c) No later than November 18, 2024, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall provide to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate a comprehensive list of the rescissions or cancellations that will continue pursuant to section 101: *Provided*, That the information in such comprehensive list shall be periodically updated to reflect any subsequent changes in the amount of balances available, as of October 1, 2024, from the funds specified for rescission or cancellation in the applicable appropriations Act referenced in section 101, and such updates shall be transmitted to the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate upon request.

SEC. 116. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, there is appropriated

to the Department of Defense for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$1,950,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until September 30, 2029, for the Virginia Class Submarine program.

SEC. 117. Notwithstanding sections 101 and 104, amounts provided by section 101 for “Corps of Engineers—Civil—Operation and Maintenance” may be used up to an amount not to exceed \$37,600,000, adjusted for inflation beginning August 1, 2024, as compensation for reserving and operating 3.6 million acre-feet of pre-planned flood storage at Hugh Keenleyside Dam to minimize the flood risk in the Columbia River Basin in the United States.

SEC. 118. (a) Funds made available by section 101 for “Department of Energy—Atomic Energy Defense Activities—Environmental and Other Defense Activities—Other Defense Activities” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to sustain specialized security activities.

(b) The Secretary of Energy shall notify the Committees on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Senate not later than 3 days after each use of the authority provided in subsection (a).

SEC. 119. Notwithstanding section 101, the matter under the heading “Election Assistance Commission—Election Security Grants” in division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$0” for “\$55,000,000”.

SEC. 120. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, for “General Services Administration—Expenses, Presidential Transition”, there is appropriated \$10,202,314, for necessary expenses to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 (Public Law 88-277), as amended, of which \$6,971,863 is available for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(1) through 3(a)(7) and 3(a)(10) of such Act; \$2,730,451 is available for activities authorized by section 5 of such Act; and not to exceed \$500,000 is available for activities authorized by sections 3(a)(8) and 3(a)(9) of such Act: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred and credited to the “Acquisition Services Fund” or the “Federal Buildings Fund” to reimburse obligations incurred prior to enactment of this Act for the purposes provided herein related to the Presidential election in 2024: *Provided further*, That amounts available under this section shall be in addition to any other amounts available for such purposes.

(b) Notwithstanding section 101, no funds are provided by this Act for “General Services Administration—Pre-Election Presidential Transition”.

SEC. 121. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “District of Columbia—Federal Payment for Emergency Planning and Security Costs in the District of Columbia” at a rate for operations of \$47,000,000, for an additional amount for costs associated with the Presidential Inauguration to be held in January 2025: *Provided*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain emergency planning and security activities relating to such Presidential Inauguration.

SEC. 122. Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, except section 106, the District of Columbia may expend local funds made available under the heading “District of Columbia—District of Columbia Funds” for such programs and activities under the District of Columbia Appropriations Act, 2024 (title IV of division B of Public Law 118-47) at the rate set forth in the Fiscal Year 2025 Local Budget Act of 2024 (D.C. Act 25-501), as modified as of the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 123. Notwithstanding section 101, for “Executive Office of the President and Funds

Appropriated to the President—Office of Administration—Presidential Transition Administrative Support”, there is appropriated \$8,000,000, for expenses necessary to carry out the Presidential Transition Act of 1963 and other similar expenses: *Provided*, That such funds may be transferred to other accounts that provide funding for offices within the Executive Office of the President and the Office of the Vice President in this Act or any other Act, to carry out such purposes: *Provided further*, That such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out such responsibilities.

SEC. 124. Notwithstanding section 106, for the duration of fiscal year 2025, amounts made available under section 601(f)(3) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 801(f)(3)) shall be available for any necessary expenses of the Department of the Treasury Office of Inspector General with respect to section 601 of that Act, subtitle A of title V of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act of 2021, or section 3201 of the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

SEC. 125. Notwithstanding section 101, the second proviso under the heading “Office of Personnel Management—Salaries and Expenses” in title V of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied by substituting “\$204,975,000” for “\$192,975,000”.

SEC. 126. (a) Notwithstanding section 101, section 747 of title VII of division B of Public Law 118-47 shall be applied during the period covered by this Act by—

- (1) substituting “2026” for “2025”;
- (2) substituting “2025” for “2024” each place it appears;
- (3) substituting “2024” for “2023” each place it appears; and
- (4) substituting “section 747 of title VII of division B of Public Law 118-47, as in effect on September 30, 2024” for “section 747 of division E of Public Law 117-328” each place it appears.

(b) Subsection (a) shall not take effect until the first day of the first applicable pay period beginning on or after January 1, 2025.

SEC. 127. Notwithstanding section 104, amounts provided by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security for “Coast Guard—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements” may be used for closeout costs relating to the C-27J missionization program.

SEC. 128. During the period covered by this Act, section 11223(b)(2) of division K of Public Law 117-263 shall be applied by substituting “shall not apply” for “shall apply”.

SEC. 129. Amounts made available by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security under the heading “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to carry out response and recovery activities under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.).

SEC. 130. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Disaster Relief Fund”, there is appropriated \$10,000,000,000, for an additional amount for fiscal year 2025, to remain available until expended, of which \$9,500,000,000 shall be for major disasters declared pursuant to the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act (42 U.S.C. 5121 et seq.): *Provided*, That such amount is designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

SEC. 131. Amounts provided by section 101 to the Department of Homeland Security for “United States Secret Service—Operations and Support” may be apportioned up to the

rate for operations necessary to carry out protective operations, including activities related to National Special Security Events and the 2024 Presidential Campaign.

SEC. 132. In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of the Interior—National Park Service—Operation of the National Park System” at a rate for operations of \$5,000,000, for an additional amount for security and visitor safety activities related to the Presidential Inaugural Ceremonies.

SEC. 133. During the period covered by this Act, section 113 of division G of Public Law 113-76, as amended by Public Law 116-6, shall be applied by substituting “2025” for “2024”.

SEC. 134. During the period covered by this Act, section 8206(b)(2)(C)(ii) of the Agriculture Act of 2014 (16 U.S.C. 2113a(b)(2)(C)(ii)) shall be applied by substituting the date that is 1 day after the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “October 1, 2024”.

SEC. 135. (a) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Services” at a rate for operations of \$24,262,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

(b) In addition to amounts otherwise provided by section 101, amounts are provided for “Department of Health and Human Services—Indian Health Service—Indian Health Facilities” at a rate for operations of \$2,060,000, for an additional amount for costs of staffing and operating facilities that were opened, renovated, or expanded in fiscal years 2024 and 2025, and such amounts may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to staff and operate such facilities.

SEC. 136. Amounts provided by section 101 for “Department of Agriculture—Forest Service—Wildland Fire Management” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary for wildfire suppression activities.

SEC. 137. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Commodity Assistance Program” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current program caseload in the Commodity Supplemental Food Program.

SEC. 138. Amounts provided by section 101 for “Rural Housing Service—Rural Community Facilities Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain activities as authorized by section 306 and described in section 381E(d)(1) of the Consolidated Farm and Rural Development Act.

SEC. 139. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Farm Service Agency—Agricultural Credit Insurance Fund Program Account” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to accommodate approved applications for direct and guaranteed farm ownership loans, as authorized by 7 U.S.C. 1922 et seq.

SEC. 140. Section 260 of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1636i) and section 942 of the Livestock Mandatory Reporting Act of 1999 (7 U.S.C. 1635 note; Public Law 106-78) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2024”.

SEC. 141. Amounts made available by section 101 for “Domestic Food Programs—Food and Nutrition Service—Special Supplemental Nutrition Program for Women, Infants, and Children (WIC)” may be apportioned at the rate for operations necessary to maintain participation.

SEC. 142. Notwithstanding any other provision of this joint resolution, there is appropriated:

(1) For payment to Beatrice Y. Payne, widow of Donald M. Payne, Jr., late a Representative from the State of New Jersey, \$174,000.

(2) For payment to the heirs at law of Sheila Jackson Lee, late a Representative from the State of Texas, \$174,000.

(3) For payment to Elsie M. Pascrell, widow of William Pascrell, Jr., late a Representative from the State of New Jersey, \$174,000.

SEC. 143. Notwithstanding section 101, section 126 of division A of Public Law 118-42 shall be applied by substituting “fiscal year 2017, 2018, 2019, and 2020” for “fiscal year 2017, 2018, and 2019”.

SEC. 144. (a) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Services” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain current program operations including inpatient and outpatient care and treatment to beneficiaries of the Department of Veterans Affairs and veterans described in section 1705(a) of title 38, United States Code.

(b) Amounts made available by section 101 for “Veterans Health Administration—Medical Support and Compliance” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain administration of medical, hospital, nursing home, domiciliary, supply, construction and research activities authorized by law.

SEC. 145. Amounts provided by section 101 for “Department of Transportation—Office of the Secretary—Payments to Air Carriers” may be apportioned up to the rate for operations necessary to maintain Essential Air Service program operations.

SEC. 146. Notwithstanding section 106 of this Act, for the duration of fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development may use the unobligated balances of amounts made available in prior fiscal years in the second paragraph under the heading “Department of Housing and Urban Development—Public and Indian Housing—Tenant-Based Rental Assistance” to support additional allocations under subparagraph (D) of paragraph (1) and subparagraph (B) of paragraph (4) of such heading to prevent the termination of rental assistance for families as a result of insufficient funding in the calendar year 2024 funding cycle: *Provided*, That amounts repurposed pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the budget or the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985 are designated by the Congress as being for an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985: *Provided further*, That such amounts shall be available only if the President designates such amounts as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 251(b)(2)(A)(i).

SEC. 147. (a) Sections 1309(a) and 1319 of the National Flood Insurance Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 4016(a) and 4026) shall be applied by substituting the date specified in section 106(3) of this Act for “September 30, 2024”.

(b)(1) Subject to paragraph (2), this section shall become effective immediately upon enactment of this Act.

(2) If this Act is enacted after September 30, 2024, this section shall be applied as if it were in effect on September 30, 2024.

DIVISION B—SAVE ACT

SEC. 201. SHORT TITLE.

This division may be cited as the “Safe-guard American Voter Eligibility Act” or the “SAVE Act”.

SEC. 202. ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE IN ELECTIONS FOR FEDERAL OFFICE.

(a) **DEFINITION OF DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.**—Section 3 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20502) is amended—

(1) by striking “as used” and inserting “(a) IN GENERAL.—As used”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.**—As used in this Act, the term ‘documentary proof of United States citizenship’ means, with respect to an applicant for voter registration, any of the following:

“(1) A form of identification issued consistent with the requirements of the REAL ID Act of 2005 that indicates the applicant is a citizen of the United States.

“(2) A valid United States passport.

“(3) The applicant’s official United States military identification card, together with a United States military record of service showing that the applicant’s place of birth was in the United States.

“(4) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government showing that the applicant’s place of birth was in the United States.

“(5) A valid government-issued photo identification card issued by a Federal, State or Tribal government other than an identification described in paragraphs (1) through (4), but only if presented together with one or more of the following:

“(A) A certified birth certificate issued by a State, a unit of local government in a State, or a Tribal government which—

“(i) was issued by the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

“(ii) was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State;

“(iii) includes the full name, date of birth, and place of birth of the applicant;

“(iv) lists the full names of one or both of the parents of the applicant;

“(v) has the signature of an individual who is authorized to sign birth certificates on behalf of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government in which the applicant was born;

“(vi) includes the date that the certificate was filed with the office responsible for keeping vital records in the State; and

“(vii) has the seal of the State, unit of local government, or Tribal government that issued the birth certificate.

“(B) An extract from a United States hospital Record of Birth created at the time of the applicant’s birth which indicates that the applicant’s place of birth was in the United States.

“(C) A final adoption decree showing the applicant’s name and that the applicant’s place of birth was in the United States.

“(D) A Consular Report of Birth Abroad of a citizen of the United States or a certification of the applicant’s Report of Birth of a United States citizen issued by the Secretary of State.

“(E) A Naturalization Certificate or Certificate of Citizenship issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security or any other document or method of proof of United States citizenship issued by the Federal government pursuant to the Immigration and Nationality Act.

“(F) An American Indian Card issued by the Department of Homeland Security with the classification ‘KIC’.”

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a), by striking “subsection (b)” and inserting “subsection (c)”; and

(2) by redesignating subsection (b) as subsection (c); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection:

“(b) **REQUIRING APPLICANTS TO PRESENT DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.**—Under any method of voter registration in a State, the State shall not accept and process an application to register to vote in an election for Federal office unless the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship with the application.”

(c) **REGISTRATION WITH APPLICATION FOR MOTOR VEHICLE DRIVER’S LICENSE.**—Section 5 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20504) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1), by striking “Each State motor vehicle driver’s license application” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State motor vehicle driver’s license application”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by striking “Each State shall include” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall include”; and

(3) in subsection (c)(2)(B)—

(A) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in clause (ii), by adding “and” at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) verify that the applicant is a citizen of the United States;”

(4) in subsection (c)(2)(C)(i), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “, including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship”; and

(5) in subsection (c)(2)(D)(iii), by striking “; and” and inserting the following: “, other than as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who knowingly attempts to register to vote and knowingly makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and”.

(d) **REQUIRING DOCUMENTARY PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP WITH NATIONAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.**—Section 6 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20505) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) by striking “Each State shall accept and use” and inserting “Subject to the requirements under section 8(j), each State shall accept and use”; and

(B) by striking “Federal Election Commission” and inserting “Election Assistance Commission”; and

(2) in subsection (b), by adding at the end the following: “The chief State election official of a State shall take such steps as may be necessary to ensure that residents of the State are aware of the requirement to provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.”;

(3) in subsection (c)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (B) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) the person did not provide documentary proof of United States citizenship when registering to vote.”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e) **ENSURING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP.**—

“(1) **PRESENTING PROOF OF UNITED STATES CITIZENSHIP TO ELECTION OFFICIAL.**—An applicant who submits the mail voter registration

application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) shall not be registered to vote in an election for Federal office unless—

“(A) the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship in person to the office of the appropriate election official not later than the deadline provided by State law for the receipt of a completed voter registration application for the election; or

“(B) in the case of a State which permits an individual to register to vote in an election for Federal office at a polling place on the day of the election and on any day when voting, including early voting, is permitted for the election, the applicant presents documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official at the polling place not later than the date of the election.

“(2) **NOTIFICATION OF REQUIREMENT.**—Upon receiving an otherwise completed mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a), the appropriate election official shall transmit a notice to the applicant of the requirement to present documentary proof of United States citizenship under this subsection, and shall include in the notice instructions to enable the applicant to meet the requirement.

“(3) **ACCESSIBILITY.**—Each State shall, in consultation with the Election Assistance Commission, ensure that reasonable accommodations are made to allow an individual with a disability who submits the mail voter registration application form prescribed by the Election Assistance Commission pursuant to section 9(a)(2) or a form described in paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a) to present documentary proof of United States citizenship to the appropriate election official.”

(e) **REQUIREMENTS FOR VOTER REGISTRATION AGENCIES.**—Section 7 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20506) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (4)(A), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iv) Receipt of documentary proof of United States citizenship of each applicant to register to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.”; and

(B) in paragraph (6)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)(i)(I), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “, including the requirement that the applicant provides documentary proof of United States citizenship”; and

(ii) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (C); and

(iii) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraph:

“(B) ask the applicant the question, ‘Are you a citizen of the United States?’ and if the applicant answers in the affirmative require documentary proof of United States citizenship prior to providing the form under subparagraph (C);”;

(2) in subsection (c)(1), by inserting “who are citizens of the United States” after “for persons”.

(f) **REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO ADMINISTRATION OF VOTER REGISTRATION.**—Section 8 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) by striking “In the administration of voter registration” and inserting “Subject to the requirements of subsection (j), in the administration of voter registration”; and

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “or” at the end; and

(ii) by adding at the end the following new subparagraphs:

“(D) based on documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen; or

“(E) the registration otherwise fails to comply with applicable State law;”;

(2) by redesignating subsection (j) as subsection (l); and

(3) by inserting after subsection (i) the following new subsections:

“(j) ENSURING ONLY CITIZENS ARE REGISTERED TO VOTE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a State may not register an individual to vote in elections for Federal office held in the State unless, at the time the individual applies to register to vote, the individual provides documentary proof of United States citizenship.

“(2) ADDITIONAL PROCESSES IN CERTAIN CASES.—

“(A) PROCESS FOR THOSE WITHOUT DOCUMENTARY PROOF.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship under paragraph (1) may, if the applicant signs an attestation under penalty of perjury that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and eligible to vote in elections for Federal office, submit such other evidence to the appropriate State or local official demonstrating that the applicant is a citizen of the United States and such official shall make a determination as to whether the applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State.

“(ii) AFFIDAVIT REQUIREMENT.—If a State or local official makes a determination under clause (i) that an applicant has sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote in elections for Federal office in the State, such determination shall be accompanied by an affidavit developed under clause (iii) signed by the official swearing or affirming the applicant sufficiently established United States citizenship for purposes of registering to vote.

“(iii) DEVELOPMENT OF AFFIDAVIT BY THE ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION.—The Election Assistance Commission shall develop a uniform affidavit for use by State and local officials under clause (ii), which shall—

“(I) include an explanation of the minimum standards required for a State or local official to register an applicant who cannot provide documentary proof of United States citizenship to vote in elections for Federal office in the State; and

“(II) require the official to explain the basis for registering such applicant to vote in such elections.

“(B) PROCESS IN CASE OF CERTAIN DISCREPANCIES IN DOCUMENTATION.—Subject to any relevant guidance adopted by the Election Assistance Commission, each State shall establish a process under which an applicant can provide such additional documentation to the appropriate election official of the State as may be necessary to establish that the applicant is a citizen of the United States in the event of a discrepancy with respect to the applicant's documentary proof of United States citizenship.

“(3) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—Each State shall take affirmative steps on an ongoing basis to ensure that only United States citizens are registered to vote under the provisions of this Act, which shall include the establishment of a program described in paragraph (4) not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection.

“(4) PROGRAM DESCRIBED.—A State may meet the requirements of paragraph (3) by establishing a program under which the State identifies individuals who are not United States citizens using information supplied by one or more of the following sources:

“(A) The Department of Homeland Security through the Systematic Alien Verification for Entitlements (‘SAVE’) or otherwise.

“(B) The Social Security Administration through the Social Security Number Verification Service, or otherwise.

“(C) State agencies that supply State identification cards or driver's licenses where the agency confirms the United States citizenship status of applicants.

“(D) Other sources, including databases, which provide confirmation of United States citizenship status.

“(5) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—At the request of a State election official (including a request related to a process established by a State under paragraph (2)(A) or (2)(B)), any head of a Federal department or agency possessing information relevant to determining the eligibility of an individual to vote in elections for Federal office shall, not later than 24 hours after receipt of such request, provide the official with such information as may be necessary to enable the official to verify that an applicant for voter registration in elections for Federal office held in the State or a registrant on the official list of eligible voters in elections for Federal office held in the State is a citizen of the United States, which shall include providing the official with such batched information as may be requested by the official.

“(B) USE OF SAVE SYSTEM.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may respond to a request received under paragraph (1) by using the system for the verification of immigration status under the applicable provisions of section 1137 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-7), as established pursuant to section 121(c) of the Immigration Reform and Control Act of 1986 (Public Law 99-603).

“(C) SHARING OF INFORMATION.—The heads of Federal departments and agencies shall share information with each other with respect to an individual who is the subject of a request received under paragraph (A) in order to enable them to respond to the request.

“(D) INVESTIGATION FOR PURPOSES OF REMOVAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall conduct an investigation to determine whether to initiate removal proceedings under section 239 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229) if it is determined pursuant to subparagraph (A) or (B) that an alien (as such term is defined in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101)) is unlawfully registered to vote in elections for Federal office.

“(E) PROHIBITING FEES.—The head of a Federal department or agency may not charge a fee for responding to a State's request under paragraph (A).

“(K) REMOVAL OF NONCITIZENS FROM REGISTRATION ROLLS.—A State shall remove an individual who is not a citizen of the United States from the official list of eligible voters for elections for Federal office held in the State at any time upon receipt of documentation or verified information that a registrant is not a United States citizen.”.

(g) CLARIFICATION OF AUTHORITY OF STATE TO REMOVE NONCITIZENS FROM OFFICIAL LIST OF ELIGIBLE VOTERS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 8(a)(4) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20507(a)(4)) is amended—

(A) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(B) by adding “or” at the end of subparagraph (B); and

(C) by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(C) documentary proof or verified information that the registrant is not a United States citizen;”.

(2) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 8(c)(2)(B)(i) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20507(c)(2)(B)(i)) is amended by striking “(4)(A)” and inserting “(4)(A) or (C)”.

(h) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO FEDERAL MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—

(1) CONTENTS OF MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “(including citizenship)” and inserting “(including an explanation of what is required to present documentary proof of United States citizenship)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (4), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

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

“(5) shall include a section, for use only by a State or local election official, to record the type of document the applicant presented as documentary proof of United States citizenship, including the date of issuance, the date of expiration (if any), the office which issued the document, and any unique identification number associated with the document.”.

(2) INFORMATION ON MAIL VOTER REGISTRATION FORM.—Section 9(b)(4) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20508(b)(4)) is amended—

(A) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iii) as subparagraphs (A) through (C), respectively; and

(B) in subparagraph (C) (as so redesignated and as amended by paragraph (1)(C)), by striking “; and” and inserting the following: “, other than as evidence in a criminal proceeding or immigration proceeding brought against an applicant who attempts to register to vote and makes a false declaration under penalty of perjury that the applicant meets the eligibility requirements to register to vote in an election for Federal office; and”.

(i) PRIVATE RIGHT OF ACTION.—Section 11(b)(1) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20510(b)(1)) is amended by striking “a violation of this Act” and inserting “a violation of this Act, including the act of an election official who registers an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails to present documentary proof of United States citizenship.”.

(j) CRIMINAL PENALTIES.—Section 12(2) of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20511(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (A);

(2) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as subparagraph (D); and

(3) by inserting after subparagraph (A) the following new subparagraphs:

“(B) in the case of an officer or employee of the executive branch, providing material assistance to a noncitizen in attempting to register to vote or vote in an election for Federal office;

“(C) registering an applicant to vote in an election for Federal office who fails to present documentary proof of United States citizenship; or”.

(k) APPLICABILITY OF REQUIREMENTS TO CERTAIN STATES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (c) of section 4 of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20503), as redesignated by subsection (b), is amended by striking “This Act does not apply to a State” and inserting

"Except with respect to the requirements under subsection (i) and (j) of section 8 in the case of a State described in paragraph (2), this Act does not apply to a State".

(2) PERMITTING STATES TO ADOPT REQUIREMENTS AFTER ENACTMENT.—Section 4 of such Act (52 U.S.C. 20503) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

"(d) PERMITTING STATES TO ADOPT CERTAIN REQUIREMENTS AFTER ENACTMENT.—Subsections (i) and (j) of section 8 shall not apply to a State described in subsection (c)(2) if the State, by law or regulation, adopts requirements which are identical to the requirements under such subsections not later than 60 days prior to the date of the first election for Federal office which is held in the State after the date of the enactment of the SAVE Act."

SEC. 203. ELECTION ASSISTANCE COMMISSION GUIDANCE.

Not later than 10 days after the date of the enactment of this division, the Election Assistance Commission shall adopt and transmit to the chief State election official of each State guidance with respect to the implementation of the requirements under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by section 202.

SEC. 204. INAPPLICABILITY OF PAPERWORK REDUCTION ACT.

Subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44 (commonly referred to as the "Paperwork Reduction Act") shall not apply with respect to the development or modification of voter registration materials under the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.), as amended by section 202, including the development or modification of any voter registration application forms.

SEC. 205. DUTY OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY TO NOTIFY ELECTION OFFICIALS OF NATURALIZATION.

Upon receiving information that an individual has become a naturalized citizen of the United States, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall promptly provide notice of such information to the appropriate chief election official of the State in which such individual is domiciled.

SEC. 206. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING PROVISIONAL BALLOTS.

Nothing in this division or in any amendment made by this division may be construed to supercede, restrict, or otherwise affect the ability of an individual to cast a provisional ballot in an election for Federal office or to have the ballot counted in the election if the individual is verified as a citizen of the United States pursuant to section 8(j) of the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (as added by section 202(f)).

SEC. 207. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING EFFECT ON STATE EXEMPTIONS FROM OTHER FEDERAL LAWS.

Nothing in this division or in any amendment made by this division may be construed to affect the exemption of a State from any requirement of any Federal law other than the National Voter Registration Act of 1993 (52 U.S.C. 20501 et seq.).

SEC. 208. EFFECTIVE DATE.

This division and the amendments made by this division shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this division, and shall apply with respect to applications for voter registration which are submitted on or after such date.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill, as amended, is debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. COLE) and the gentlewoman from Con-

necticut (Ms. DELAURO) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Oklahoma.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. COLE. 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 measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 9494, the Continuing Appropriations and Other Matters Act of 2025.

Today's bill arises at a particularly challenging time for our country. For 4 years, President Biden and Vice President HARRIS' self-inflicted border crisis has caused chaos in communities across our country. Our national debt has risen to over \$35 trillion, threatening the future financial stability of our country.

Across the world, America's adversaries continue to march forward, threatening our friends and democratic partners, and now we are facing a looming deadline to fund the government and keep it serving the American people.

Given the state of the world and our approaching election, this is no time to shut the government down. That means Congress needs to act, and we need to do so today.

The appropriations process is one that is never easy. It requires time and hard work to complete. Frankly, I am proud of what this body has accomplished this year. Even after a late start due to the delay of the fiscal year 2024 process and the President's late budget request, the Appropriations Committee succeeded in passing all 12 of our fiscal year 2025 bills out of committee.

The House also passed five of those bills across the floor, representing nearly 71 percent of overall discretionary spending. Unfortunately, time is drawing short, and our colleagues in the Senate, who have yet to pass a single fiscal year 2025 bill across the floor, have not kept pace with the House.

It is clear that we are unable to complete the full appropriations process by September 30. That means that a continuing resolution is needed. The bill before us extends government funding through March 28, 2025, ensuring that the government remains open and providing critical services to our constituents.

This extension will not only give us the time we need to complete our appropriations process for 2025 but also will allow the American people to have a say in the appropriations process.

The bill includes certain key extensions, including essential programs like flood insurance, WIC, and TANF. It also provides needed funding for dis-

aster relief, helping communities across the country that have faced natural disasters this year or that will face them in the coming months.

Lastly, Mr. Speaker, in just 2 short months, Americans will go to the polls to elect a new President of the United States. This is a critical time for American democracy, and it is more important than ever that our elections are secure.

That is why H.R. 9494 includes the text of the Safeguard American Voter Eligibility Act, or SAVE Act, which will ensure that only American citizens may vote in Federal elections. This commonsense legislation is necessary to protect the sanctity and security of our elections, making sure that it is American citizens alone who will choose the future direction of our country. This is as the Founding Fathers intended and as it should be.

Mr. Speaker, governance by continuing resolution is not ideal. It is always better to pass full-year appropriations bills through regular order, but we are out of time and we cannot afford a government shutdown, which would be greatly damaging to our national security, to critical government programs, and to the American people.

The stakes could not be higher. That is why I urge all of my colleagues to vote in support of H.R. 9494 today. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I oppose this continuing resolution, which would shortchange our veterans, absolve the House Republican majority of their responsibility to govern, and move us closer to a shutdown. I urge my colleagues to vote against it.

The majority's proposal completely abandons our Nation's veterans. We have been informed by the Department of Veterans Affairs and the Office of Management and Budget that \$12 billion more is required to provide necessary medical care for veterans who have been exposed to toxic substances.

Despite the urgency, the majority has decided to provide nothing, zero, for veterans' medical needs. I cannot understand how anybody who supports this bill can go home and look their veteran constituents in the eye and tell them that they voted to shortchange the medical care they earned with their service.

I am glad that the majority heard House Democrats' protests when we pointed out how cruel and misguided this bill was when it was first introduced. The original proposal would have shut off all funding for the Temporary Assistance for Needy Families program, which would have undercut support for over 1 million families.

While the majority may have fixed that, House Republicans' bill demonstrates a belief that the need to care for veterans who have been exposed to burn pits and other toxic substances is less of a priority than everything else in this bill. It is disgraceful.

We could have solved this issue had the majority considered a bipartisan path forward at any point in this entire process; but instead, just like last year, House Republicans squandered an entire year by taking us down a partisan path, forcing us to waste time considering extreme funding bills based on Trump's Project 2025 that they could not pass and that have no chance of becoming law.

Just like last year, House Republicans' refusal to meet Democrats at the table has left us without time to pass all 12 full-year appropriations bills before the end of September. Rather than admitting the inevitable defeat of their Project 2025 spending bills and passing a bipartisan bill to keep the government open while we finish our work, the majority proposes abandoning their obligation to govern, forcing a new Congress to clean up their mess. They have included an extraneous, partisan, controversial measure, nongermane to appropriations, that guarantees this continuing resolution will not become law.

The majority all but admitted this bill could not pass the House last week, but they are forcing us to waste more time on it anyway. Despite the looming threat of a government shutdown, even if it has the votes in the House, this bill will not pass in the United States Senate. The President has said he would veto it. This bill has no path to becoming law. If the government shuts down, Republicans bear the responsibility.

A 6-month continuing resolution is a ploy to force the extreme Project 2025 manifesto agenda on the American people. They want to slash domestic investments in healthcare, education, job training, and every other discretionary program, which will hurt the middle class and the economy.

This Project 2025 is no wish list, I might add. If you look at the appropriations bills that are coming forward, you can see the direction and the cuts that Project 2025 proposes to make.

The Republican majority believes a continuing resolution to the end of March provides them with more leverage to force their unpopular cuts to services that American families depend on to make ends meet.

The majority knows that the fiscal year ends September 30 and that we cannot fund the government without the support of Democrats and Republicans in the House and in the Senate. However, for the second time in the 118th Congress, the majority does not want Congress to finish its work until March, nearly halfway through the fiscal year, wasting time, avoiding the inevitable, and failing to meet our obligations to the American people. A half-year continuing resolution is no way to govern. This is no way to serve the American people.

The American people have a choice to make in November, and come January, we will have a new President, and we will have a new Congress. While we

presumably disagree on who we think will be leading our country and which side of the aisle will hold the gavel, we should agree that it is not right, not in the interest of the American people for us to punt this year's work deep into next year for a different Congress and a different White House to be confronted with.

We must pass a continuing resolution that allows us to finish our work before the new President and Congress are sworn in and which addresses the immediate needs of American families, workers, and veterans. A continuing resolution that ends in December rather than one that lasts half a year better serves our national security and military readiness, veterans, their families, victims recovering from natural disasters, and all hardworking American taxpayers.

Instead, the majority's bill fails our veterans. The majority's bill fails our military.

Putting government funding on autopilot for 6 months means the Department of Defense cannot execute its strategic priorities, such as investing in cutting-edge technologies and capabilities. Investments in our defense industrial base will be put on hold, including the submarine and shipbuilding bases.

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Last weekend, Secretary Austin said in a letter: "Asking the Department to compete with the [People's Republic of China], let alone manage conflicts in Europe and the Middle East, while under a lengthy [continuing resolution], ties our hands behind our back while expecting us to be agile and accelerate progress."

He continued: "The single most important thing that Congress can do to ensure U.S. national security is to pass timely legislation for all 12 appropriations bills for fiscal year 2025."

The majority's bill fails our seniors and Americans with disabilities on Social Security.

In a letter sent last week to the Appropriations Committee, Social Security Administration Commissioner O'Malley warned of the ramifications of a 6-month continuing resolution, stating: "We would likely be forced to reduce the hours field offices are open to the public and would need to close offices over time, extending wait times for seniors and individuals with disabilities."

He continues: "Through a lifetime of hard work, the American people have paid for and earned their Social Security benefits, and they have also paid for and earned the customer service they need to access those benefits. Another 6 months at current funding levels, as the House has proposed, would be devastating for the many Americans we serve every day."

The majority's bill also fails communities devastated by disasters by short-changing emergency funds for FEMA. This one you almost cannot believe.

The bill provides nothing to rebuild the Key Bridge in Maryland, nothing for block grants to help communities recover from devastating natural disasters, including the horrifying wildfires in Hawaii and the tornadoes that devastated communities in places like Oklahoma.

The majority is failing to live up to their own promises to the American people, that they are capable of being trusted to do the hard work of governing. They have unequivocally demonstrated that they cannot.

This bill is an admission that a House Republican majority cannot govern. They would rather gamble on an intervening election than attempt to complete their work on time.

Let us hope the majority does not drive us straight to a Republican shutdown. If they do shut down the government, I have no doubt the American people will know who is to blame.

Vote "no" on this continuing resolution. Abandon this partisan game. Join Democrats at the table. It is past time to govern.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I would quickly make a point to my very good friend, who knows quite well I hold her in very high regard.

On the veterans issue, I just point out that we actually appropriated more to the VA than the administration asked for. We are certainly willing to sit down and have a discussion over any additional needs. Nobody wants veterans to be shortchanged.

Approaching Congress at the last minute, when it gave you more money than you asked for, suggests a high level of incompetence in this administration's management of the Veterans Affairs Department.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Alabama (Mr. ADERHOLT), my very good friend and the chairman of the Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies Subcommittee of the Appropriations Committee.

Mr. ADERHOLT. Mr. Speaker, we once again find ourselves debating a commonsense measure that would actually safeguard the American people's vote in the upcoming elections.

The rhetoric surrounding this bill is that it fixes a problem that does not exist. My answer is simple. Come to Alabama's Fourth Congressional District where just last week an illegal immigrant pleaded guilty to identity theft and voter fraud after it was discovered that she illegally voted in at least four U.S. elections.

Just last month, our secretary of state for the State of Alabama, Wes Allen, found at least 3,000 noncitizens who were registered to vote in the State of Alabama and removed them from the voting rolls.

Mr. Speaker, these people should never have been allowed to register in the first place. This is exactly what the SAVE Act will prevent.

The SAVE Act, which is included in this continuing resolution, shows the American people that their government will use every tool at our disposal to protect the sanctity of our electoral system and stop illegal votes before they are counted.

My colleagues across the aisle have talked about our shared belief that the Federal Government must remain open. Mr. Speaker, House Republicans have put forward a continuing resolution that would do just that.

Continuing resolutions are never ideal. However, in this instance, a continuing resolution is necessary and the right thing to do.

Republicans have extended an opportunity to our colleagues across the aisle to not only keep the Federal Government open but also to enhance the integrity of our elections.

The eyes of the American people are upon this Chamber this afternoon as we debate this. They are watching carefully to see if their government will take a stand to improve the sanctity and security of our electoral system and see that their Representatives fulfill our constitutional duty of responsibility of funding the United States Federal Government.

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

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

Let me make a point on veterans as well for my dear friend, the chairman. The fact of the matter is that the expansion of the PACT Act, which is a bipartisan piece of legislation, really is so important to the health and welfare of our veterans, our service people, who have been exposed to burn pits and toxic chemicals. That has exploded the participation within the VA for medical services.

This is a success story of reaching out and helping our veterans. In fact, they have a \$12 billion shortfall. Do we say no? Do we say no to what we agreed to on a bipartisan basis for medical services for our veterans? My gosh, who are we and what are we about?

A final note on this: Further on in this continuing resolution, they tell the VA to spend faster the dollars for medical services. Do you know how much those dollars are? Zero. They said to spend zero dollars faster.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MCCOLLUM), the distinguished ranking member of the Defense Subcommittee.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the 6-month continuing resolution. It is deeply unfortunate that any CR is necessary.

Once again, the Senate did not get its work done and failed to pass any of the appropriations bills off the floor. The House Republican majority wasted months writing bills loaded with extreme social policy that the American people do not want.

Republicans passed only half their bills. Why? Because they were so unpopular, their own Conference wouldn't vote for them.

Having failed to complete their work, Republicans now want to kick the can down the road for 6 months, wasting half the fiscal year and costing taxpayers billions of dollars.

A CR this long would be irresponsible, and the Department of Defense has identified the consequences for our national security. This CR would have negative impacts on our military personnel and their families. It would not include the funds to cover a 4.5 percent pay raise. It would not fund the nearly \$3 billion increase required by law for the basic housing allowance. It would not include funds needed to cover medical costs for military families and stabilize the military healthcare system.

These services would not be able to offer new enlistment and reenlistment bonuses. New program starts can't happen under a CR, harming innovation and delaying getting weapons and equipment to our personnel. Keeping major programs on time and on budget will be more difficult.

A CR will delay multiyear procurement of platforms like heavy lift helicopters and the Virginia-class submarines. It will prevent fully funding the Columbia-class submarine and will delay procurement on the B-21 Raider.

Finally, the CR damages the readiness of the joint force. Some training exercises and operations just won't happen. The Navy will suffer a delay of 58 ship maintenance availabilities, limiting the work for our public and private shipyards. Air Force flying hours, weapon system sustainment, and ground combat readiness will all suffer.

We just had a nearly 6-month CR in fiscal year 2024, which impacted DOD's ability to budget appropriately. The last thing we should do is compound this problem.

We also have the Fiscal Responsibility Act to consider. If all 12 appropriations bills are not enacted by the end of April, sequestration takes effect. What does that mean? It means across-the-board spending cuts impacting everything: our national security, infrastructure, healthcare, and education.

I strongly believe we should reject this legislation, pass a short-term CR, roll up our sleeves, and get back to work.

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

I just remind my friends, for the VA, which we both support, we offered more money than the administration asked for. It is pretty notorious for not doing a very good job of budgeting. That hasn't changed over the years. That is why we took away their ability to build hospitals.

Finally, I agree with my good friend from Minnesota about the importance of trying to get things done for the military, but I would remind everybody here that there has been a long history of CRs on both sides of the aisle. These aren't that unusual.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS), my very good friend.

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I don't know where to begin. I have 5 minutes. I could use 500.

The American people are watching. They recognize that our Nation suffers under the burden of a threatened government shutdown and the very real threat of millions of illegals who have flooded into our country who could potentially vote in this very important election cycle in November.

If you don't think it can happen, you haven't been paying attention. There have been thousands and thousands of illegal voters removed from precincts across the country in any sovereign State that had the courage to pursue the endeavor of looking into those voter rolls.

Many congressional races and the balance of this people's House are determined by hundreds of votes, sometimes less. We just had a colleague lose an election by 317 votes, a man who serves in this body with us right now. If you don't think millions of illegals can potentially influence a Federal election, you are really not being intellectually sound.

To talk about money, the good lady said disgraceful. I will tell you what is disgraceful, Mr. Speaker, is to stand here and say that the Federal Government is too small and doesn't spend enough money. That is outrageous. We have a \$36 trillion debt. If this body were to run a \$1 billion surplus, it would take 36,000 years to address a \$36 trillion debt.

Do you think a 6-month CR at a flat-line spending level is not a compromise, Mr. Speaker, from my perspective as a constitutional conservative? It most certainly is.

I am extending a respectful compromise. I would bring this thing back to 2019 spending if I could.

□ 1700

I cannot find one American in my townhall—and I do many—when I ask them: Does anyone in here think that the Federal Government was too small and didn't spend enough money in 2019? Nobody raises their hand, no matter where they are on the political spectrum. Yet, my colleagues in this body want more and more money in this environment that is supercontentious.

So, we take a 6-month CR that flatlines spending levels and move it into the next Congress, the 119th Congress, and into a new Presidential administration, whoever that may be.

They say they are going to control the White House. Good. Go ahead. I say they are not. We will let the American people determine that, but we will remove this political nightmare show from the entire consideration of the American people.

Let the American people have a clear field to vote in. Let them hear about the policies and principles of the candidates that stand before them and make their determination reflective of their own deep policy principles and their core beliefs.

We have a solid solution to this thing. To say that my colleagues in the Committee on Appropriations have not performed, no, you are not getting that past me. They passed five appropriations bills funding 72 percent of the Federal Government months ago, and where do those bills sit? In the Democrat-controlled Senate.

Pay attention to what is happening, America. This is the future of our country we are talking about. It is the right thing to do to pass this 6-month flatlined spending CR into March.

Let the new Presidential administration, whomever it may be, get situated and name their team. Let the 119th Congress get sworn in and populate our committees. Then, we will continue again.

This is a very important election cycle. We have to protect the integrity of that election, and we have to remove this contentious environment of this threatened government shutdown from this election cycle.

Mr. Speaker, my bill accomplishes that, and I encourage all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support H.R. 9494.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. JEFFRIES), the distinguished Democratic leader.

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished once and future chair of the House Committee on Appropriations (Ms. DELAURO) for her leadership and for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to the extreme MAGA Republican effort to shut down the government and hurt everyday Americans.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle have suggested that this is anti-woke week. It is not anti-woke week. It is Project 2025 week because, at the end of the day, my extreme MAGA Republican colleagues are determined to jam Trump's Project 2025 down the throats of the American people.

From the very beginning of this Congress, House Democrats have made clear that we will find bipartisan common ground with our Republican colleagues on any issue whenever and wherever possible in order to make life better for the American people, deliver real results, and solve problems for hardworking American taxpayers, and that is what we have repeatedly done.

House Democrats have repeatedly governed in the minority as if we were in the majority, finding bipartisan common ground to deliver for everyday Americans, and we are prepared to do that once again.

Yet, this extreme MAGA Republican shutdown bill that is on the floor of the House of Representatives today is not a serious effort to meet the needs of the American people in terms of their health, their safety, their national security, and their economic well-being.

The extreme MAGA Republican shutdown bill that is on the floor today would shortchange our veterans by \$12

billion. That is a Project 2025 objective—\$12 billion—shortchanging our veterans who have been suffering from painful exposure to toxic substances, burn pits, and Agent Orange.

People who have served our country, we should stand by them in the way that they have stood by us, but this extreme MAGA Republican shutdown bill will shut out the veterans of the United States of America.

The extreme MAGA shutdown bill will shortchange the administration of Social Security here in the United States of America. Why? Because one of the goals of Project 2025, effectively, is to end Social Security and Medicare as we know it.

There is no circumstance where we can support such legislation that will hurt the well-being of older Americans all across the United States of America. These are people upon whose shoulders we stand.

The extreme MAGA shutdown bill will shortchange everyday Americans who have been suffering harm from extreme weather events all across America, in blue States, purple States, and red States, shortchange our taxpayers by \$25 billion. That is unacceptable. That is unserious. That is unconscionable for people who have had their lives upended.

Now, in the context of whether we are able, capable, to reach a bipartisan resolution, the answer to that is pretty clear because there is already an agreement connected to the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act passed by both Houses of Congress last May, signed into law by President Joe Biden, that sets top-line spending numbers for fiscal year 2025. It also enters into an agreement across the parties that says there will be no partisan policy riders attached to an appropriations bill.

So, why are we here right now with an extreme MAGA Republican shutdown bill that includes elements, partisan elements, rightwing elements, extreme elements of Trump's Project 2025? That is a breach of an agreement that we all reached connected to the bipartisan Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This is a shutdown effort. That is not hype. That is not hysteria. That is not hyperbole. It is history because in the DNA of extreme MAGA Republicans has consistently been an effort to make extreme ransom demands of the American people, and if those extreme ransom demands are not met, we shut down the government. That is history.

The 1990s extreme MAGA Republicans shut down the government because they were determined to end Medicaid as we know it. In 2013, extreme MAGA Republicans shut the government down for 14 days, and the demand at that point was to repeal President Obama's signature legislative accomplishment, the Affordable Care Act, that benefits more than 100 million Americans.

In 2018 and 2019, extreme MAGA Republicans shut the government down for a record 35 days. What was the ran-

som demand in that particular moment? The former President and Republicans in the House and Senate demanded that the American taxpayer fund Trump's ineffective, medieval border wall, notwithstanding the fact that the promise was clearly made that Mexico would pay for that wall. Because we were defending taxpayer interests, they shut the government down for 35 days.

The notion that we are here today facing another extreme MAGA Republican-driven shutdown, concerned about it, the only thing standing between a shutdown and the American people is not hype, not hysteria, not hyperbole, not a hypothetical, it is history.

We are simply asking our traditional Republican colleagues to break with the extreme wing of your party, break with the extremism around a national abortion ban, break with the extremism connected with Trump's Project 2025, which, by the way, includes government surveillance of pregnancies and miscarriages. There is no circumstance that we can ever support such an outrageous agenda.

We are asking our traditional Republican colleagues to stand up for working families, the middle class, older Americans, our children, our veterans, and people from all across the land, in urban America, rural America, small-town America, the heartland of America, suburban America, exurban America.

Stand up for the American people as opposed to standing up for massive tax cuts for the wealthy, the well-off, and big corporations. That is the other part of Project 2025.

This is not anti-woke week. It is extreme MAGA Republican Project 2025 week.

House Democrats right now are the only thing standing between Project 2025 and the extreme agenda you want to jam down the throats of the American people and keeping the government open and doing the right thing for everyday Americans.

Vote "no" on this extreme MAGA Republican shutdown bill and partner with us to do the right thing for the American people.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the legislation before us here today, and I thank the gentleman for his work on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, the fact is, what we just heard from the minority leader in trying to describe this as a so-called extreme MAGA partisan agenda, let's be very clear what we are talking about for the average American. To the average American listening, what the minority leader, what the radical, progressive Democratic Party, is saying is extreme is a spending freeze into the next year combined with legislation

that would guarantee that only American citizens vote in American elections.

Let's just be very clear. I think the American people need to know this: What our radical, progressive Democratic colleagues deem extreme is a spending freeze combined with only American citizens voting in American elections. That is a really important thing for the American people to know.

We are here, yes, because Congress is not getting the job done, but let's be very clear that the United States Senate, which is controlled by majority Democrats, has passed precisely zero appropriations bills through the body in the Senate.

The House of Representatives and the Republican majority have passed five bills. It would be my preference that we passed 12, but we sit here today trying to make a determination on how to proceed.

I don't think anyone in this body on either side of the aisle, nor my colleagues or friends around this country, to look at me and question whether I would prefer that we cut spending. I would like to cut spending. I don't think we should be funding the agenda that is being driven by Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, President Joe Biden, and my radical, progressive Democratic colleagues.

□ 1715

I don't believe we should continue to fund a Secret Service that can't protect the former President without reforms.

I don't think we should continue to fund at current levels a Department of Homeland Security that leaves our borders wide open so that Laken Riley is killed, so that Rachel Morin is killed, so that Kayla Hamilton is killed, and so that Jocelyn Nungaray is killed and her poor 27-year-old mother is left having to be a witness in a hearing in the House Judiciary Committee talking about the gagging, the raping, the binding, and the murder of her 12-year-old daughter in Houston, Texas.

The ultimate result of all of that is that we now have to wonder whether noncitizens are voting in our elections. The fact is we know they are. We have cleaned up rolls in Texas, 6,500, including the 2,000 we know voted in elections. In Virginia 6,300 were cleaned off with thousands who were included in the election. We have cleaned up 3,251 in Alabama, 300 in Oregon, and we can keep going down the list.

All we are saying is that American citizens should vote. That is it.

So my Democratic colleagues seemingly want noncitizens to vote, and they can't accept a spending freeze as being reasonable.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to say a word to my friends on this side of the aisle. One year ago, 21 of my conservative colleagues opposed a continuing resolution that would have cut nondefense, nonveteran, and non-Homeland Security spending by 30 percent for 30 days and included H.R. 2. A lot of those same people are walking away from a piece of legislation that we are putting forward right now.

I am asking them to stand up with the Republican Party, stand up with President Trump, and stand up with the American people to demand that we freeze spending, hold it in check, take the pen away from the radical, progressive Democrats of Joe Biden in a lameduck, and let's make sure that only American citizens can vote in American elections.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Energy and Water Development Subcommittee.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Ranking Member DELAURO for yielding me time to rise in opposition to shutting down our government.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this resolution.

Frankly, in less than 2 weeks, the Federal fiscal year of 2025 is set to commence the beginning of October, yet this House finds itself embroiled in yet another perilous impasse because the extreme Members of the majority cannot govern.

Why? Why can they not compromise? America needs compromise, not chaos.

As America's economy settles into a steady recovery, House leaders must lead and stop the reckless threats to shut down our Federal Government.

Why does the majority seek to withhold critical resources from those Americans who safeguard our borders and defend our Nation?

House extreme Republicans risk the livelihoods of our border agents. They compromise the readiness of our military. They engage in legislative stunts that do not reflect the decency and worth of the American people and our Federal workers.

Think about some of those workers, those veterans and those military members in the nuclear Navy.

How about our Army Corps of Engineers who function in every single district in our country?

What about those who answer the phones as Social Security recipients have questions about enrollment and difficulties that they are facing in their lives?

Our Nation's security and the well-being of all of our citizens should not be held hostage for an extreme, partisan agenda.

Let the American people know—hear me—illegal immigrants are rightfully barred from voting. Any assertion otherwise is false, and the majority had best talk to their secretary of state.

Illegal immigrants are rightfully barred from voting. If our colleagues

were actually serious about bolstering our border security, then they would advance Senator LANKFORD's bipartisan border bill here. We have been waiting, and so is the Senate waiting. We must pass that bill to provide the necessary resources to pay and equip our Customs and Border Protection agents instead of touting a resolution here that jeopardizes our national security.

Our military leaders have explicitly warned that a 6-month resolution would severely undermine our defense readiness. Hear them. Our adversaries are not just observers. They are keenly watching.

An extreme wing is causing this House to falter in fulfilling our most basic constitutional duties. Chaos is not the message we should be sending on a global stage. We should be compromising and setting a good example.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Ohio.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, chaos is not the message we should be sending on a global stage; compromise is. The consequences of failing to pass essential appropriations bills extend far beyond defense. They touch every corner of American life: seniors waiting for operations and children relying on programs like Head Start.

Obstruction exacerbates the challenges facing everyday Americans. Now is the time for compromise, not chaos. Americans want unity, not division. Frankly, our national security depends on it.

This House must return to regular order. That is what real leadership looks like. This is what our Constitution expects, and that is what our constituents expect, deserve, and pay us for.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JORDAN), who is the distinguished chairman of the House Judiciary Committee.

Mr. JORDAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, go to any community anywhere in this country and walk up to someone on the street and say: Do you think it makes sense—in light of the fact that 10 million migrants have come into the country in 3½ years and 99 of those individuals are on the terrorist watch list—do you think it makes sense before a new voter registers to vote that they demonstrate they are a citizen of this great country?

Any person you ask that question to will say: Well, of course, of course that makes sense.

Every Democrat and Republican district will all say the same thing. Everyone will agree with that except Democrats in the United States House of Representatives. They disagree with that.

They say: No, no, no. We can't have that requirement on a bill that spends

what we are already spending. We can't put that requirement on a bill.

That is ridiculous.

As Sarah Huckabee Sanders said a couple of years ago in response to the state of the Union, the divide in America today is normal versus crazy.

It is a crazy policy position not to agree with that, not to put the SAVE Act on this bill.

Think of the positions the left now takes. It is crazy to defund the police, it is crazy not to have a border, and it is crazy to say that men can compete against women in sports. Those are all positions that the left takes, and they take the position that in light of the 10 million people coming into our country in 3½ years you shouldn't have a requirement to demonstrate you are a citizen before you register as a new voter.

The people see this. The people understand in this country that this is crazy.

Support this legislation. This is a good bill with a commonsense, normal policy that we are putting in the legislation that makes absolute sense. Nonetheless, they are going to vote against it.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER), who is the distinguished ranking member of the Financial Services and General Government Subcommittee.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, Americans know that it is crazy to do something you know will not have any effect. That is what is crazy.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this bill.

As majority leader in the last Congress, I put 365 pieces of legislation on the floor that became law.

Under the Republican majority this Congress, our House has only passed 78 pieces of legislation that have become law, and they have the majority. That is fewer than any of the 22 previous Congresses in which I have served.

It is because the Speaker wastes our time on blatantly partisan legislation, including the bill before us today that has no chance of becoming law and risks shutting down the government and which MITCH MCCONNELL, the Republican leader, says makes no sense. He didn't say that it was crazy, but I might add that.

The Senate, including several Senate Republicans, made it clear that this bill's impact on military readiness, veterans' healthcare, and disaster response will make it dead on arrival. It is crazy to send it as dead on arrival.

Furthermore, the President has said that he would not sign it.

Mr. Speaker, this House's most basic constitutional responsibility is to fund the government, not to appease a handful of far-right Members.

We know how this situation ends. It will end the same way as the fight for

supplemental aid for Ukraine and Israel. It will end the same way as the battle to raise the debt ceiling. It will end the same way as the effort to fund the government at the start of this year and, very frankly, throughout the year. It will end with this partisan appeasement failing. A period of finger pointing will follow.

Finally, after much hand-wringing and some strongly worded tweets, the Speaker will ask Democrats for our votes to pass a bipartisan alternative that avoids shutting down the government of the American people.

Everyone knows how this ends because this deeply divided and dysfunctional majority hasn't accomplished anything of substance without Democratic support.

There were compromises, compromises that Democrats agreed to so that our government could function effectively for the American people, not because we agreed on everything that was in the bill any more than you will agree on the Republican side with everything in the bill. We did it because it was the responsible thing to do. It was the right thing to do.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Maryland.

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have seen this film before. Let's just skip to the ending today. Put a CR on the floor.

I don't like CRs. We should have done our work. We should have passed 12 bills, sent them to the President, and had him sign it.

Let's skip this pretense that we have been involved in. Let's get to the nub of the issue. We haven't done our work, and therefore we need a short-term solution. Let's do it.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the chairman of the Appropriations Committee, for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, a very fine gentleman and good friend by the name of Bill Rosado, who is a first-generation, very successful, and self-made Mexican-American entrepreneur in my district, recently said that allowing a free-for-all immigration system is in total violation of the law and unacceptable for most of us who came here legally.

Mr. Speaker, a free-for-all, out-of-control immigration system is exactly what the Biden-Harris administration and far too many in this House have delivered over the past 3½ years.

Mr. Speaker, 10 to 15 million-plus illegal crossings, drug cartels, human trafficking, migrant crime, and, yes, noncitizens registering to vote is an unmitigated disaster.

Nonetheless, the legislation we are considering here gives us an opportunity to address part of the problem

by prohibiting noncitizens from voting while keeping our government running.

Mr. Speaker, while it is written in our Constitution that only U.S. citizens can vote, the SAVE Act attached to this continuing resolution prohibits bad actors from registering noncitizens and noncitizens from registering to vote and requires States to purge their voter rolls of all noncitizens, such as illegal immigrants.

To anyone considering opposing this bill, a "no" vote implies and states to the American people why the Biden administration has left the border open in the first place. It is for potentially more votes.

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

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. MEUSER. The American people want this bill to pass. They need this bill to pass. It will help, as well, restore confidence in our elections. Let's do the right thing on a bipartisan basis as we head towards this momentous election. We came here today to ensure that only U.S. citizens can register and vote in Federal elections.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass the SAVE Act, safeguard our elections, and fund our government.

□ 1730

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO), the distinguished ranking member of the Veterans' Affairs Committee.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 9494, a fundamentally flawed attempt by the Republican leadership to save face for their inability to govern and a bill which lacks \$12 billion in critical funding for the Veterans Health Administration.

Leaving out this critical funding for veterans' healthcare is the latest in a cynical political game playing that we have seen in this Congress. It is blatant, and I know my stating this fact will cause some howling complaints on the other side, just as it did last night when the House approved almost \$3 billion in funding for the Veterans Benefit Administration.

This was done with a lot of misinformation and mudslinging about how this is all the fault of the Biden-Harris administration rather than recognition that this is the bill coming due for the true cost of war and what we owe to veterans, which we finally started paying with the Honoring our PACT Act.

This is not a last-minute request, and it is certainly not grounded in mismanagement, despite my Republican colleagues making this accusation.

This \$12 billion shortfall is a direct result of President Biden and the VA's rapid implementation of the Honoring our PACT Act, which I got signed into law in 2022.

The VA Secretary McDonough told Congress in July that the Veterans Health Administration will need the \$12 billion to continue to provide world-class care and ensure it has the resources and staff to uphold that standard.

Therefore, why not include the needed funds in the CR? My colleagues think that I am somehow opposed to oversight on this issue, which is not true. I support oversight when it is well-intentioned, and we want to ensure we improve the budget process and not put veterans in a position that they become concerned about the availability of healthcare or benefits.

I agree with my colleagues' calls for more oversight, but let's be honest about that oversight because what is needed is significantly more oversight of the funding going from VHA direct care to for-profit healthcare, a part of the budget that has grown over 15 percent year after year, and this is unsustainable.

With these growing costs, I would think the Veterans' Affairs Committee would have held several oversight hearings to determine whether veterans are receiving the same quality of care by the for-profit providers and that taxpayers are getting the best value from these providers.

We have held no such hearings.

The VA has been transparent about both the VBA and VHA shortfalls. The VBA supplemental passed the House unanimously last night and is awaiting prompt action in the Senate.

The need for the VHA funding is fast approaching, so why add the uncertainty for veterans who receive their care at VA? Let's end the political games and get serious.

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

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, have my colleagues across the aisle proposed a plan to leadership to address these additional funds needed by the VA? No. Of course not. My Republican colleagues would rather point fingers under the guise of accountability than legislate. In the process, my colleagues are shortchanging veterans.

Why do my colleagues insist on wasting time? We are wasting time voting today on a CR we know will not pass and will never become law, and we are wasting time by not doing our jobs and prioritizing funding for the VA.

Mr. Speaker, we have the opportunity to stand with veterans and fix this now.

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN), my very good friend.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, one citizen, one vote. It is the foundation of our government, and it is the ability to vote in a free and fair election, but the pillar of our democracy is under vicious attack be-

cause the Biden-Harris administration refuses to enforce the law.

Since 2021, this administration has allowed over 10 million illegal immigrants into our Nation. It is the most, Mr. Speaker, in recorded history. That number is greater than the population of 36 existing States.

Mr. Speaker, the far left claims illegals are not registering to vote. My Democratic colleagues claim illegals are not voting in our election. Members on the other side of the aisle claim it is already illegal. Democrats claim that the SAVE Act is not needed.

Mr. Speaker, I have some breaking news. It is happening. I spoke to my supervisor in Nassau County, Florida, Janet Adkins, yesterday. She has, indeed, found illegals who have already registered to vote and have already voted in previous elections. She is working on cleaning up the rolls.

Our team reached out to other election supervisors in my district in northeast Florida: Duval County, Jacksonville, Florida, the office of Jerry Holland, and in Clay County, the office of Chris Chambless. Both of them also found illegal immigrants who have voted. Oh, wait a minute. Is it not happening? I hear that it is not needed, but it is.

I challenge each of my colleagues to call their supervisor and ask them: Is it happening in my county? Then ask: What are you doing to ensure that we have free and fair elections and only citizens vote? How do you know? How do they know?

The best example is it is already illegal for a minor to purchase alcohol, yet we still card them. We still enforce the law. Mr. Speaker, 87 percent of Americans want our election laws enforced.

I guess the 13 percent that don't are sitting on that side of the aisle, Mr. Speaker.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me and pass the SAVE Act.

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. KENNEDY).

Mr. KENNEDY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Connecticut (Ms. DELAURO) for yielding me time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to this extreme MAGA Republican continuing resolution that will defund our veterans.

We have mere days to fund the government and avoid a shutdown that will force millions of Federal employees to be without pay, halt work on critical infrastructure projects, and prevent Americans from receiving the benefits they rely on.

Unfortunately, extreme MAGA Republicans have abdicated their responsibility to govern even further. This continuing resolution fails to meet the needs of our heroes who have fought and served in our Nation's military. It shortchanges our veterans by \$12 billion.

This is funding that is desperately needed by the Department of Veterans Affairs to maintain its workforce at

VA hospitals across the country, which is critical to providing the quality of medical services our veterans need.

Without the full \$12 billion included in the continuing resolution, the VA is being forced to make choices regarding care that could degrade services for patients, reduce support for veterans who experience homelessness, and limit programs that support caregivers.

We are already seeing the harm being done from a lack of resources for the VA across our country. In my district, the Buffalo VA does not have the funding needed to maintain its workforce, driving nurses to the picket line to call for more hires, all while patients are receiving delayed care in crumbling facilities.

It is unacceptable, and it will directly impact the 40,000 veterans living in my district and more than 18 million veterans across the country. This disastrous budget also comes as the Honoring our PACT Act brings a record number of benefits to our veterans, including those who were exposed to toxic burn pits during tours in Iraq and Afghanistan while defending our Nation, and who deserve to receive the benefits they have earned.

Now is not the time to disinvest from our veterans. We need to follow through with a bipartisan commitment this body made to make the men and women who served in our military whole.

In funding the United States Government, we need to deliver for the heroes who have sacrificed so much for our country.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote against this measure as-is and work with us to pass a clean CR that ensures our Nation's veterans are treated with the dignity and respect that they rightfully deserve.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me state a fact. The Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 prohibits noncitizens from voting in Federal elections. It is not legal in any State for a noncitizen to vote for a Federal office. It is the law of the land of the United States.

Mr. Speaker, moving to appropriations, vote "no" on this bill. This bill is an admission that the House Republican majority cannot govern. It abandons veterans. It abandons our military, our Social Security recipients, and our cities and families who are grappling with disasters and no disaster relief.

Mr. Speaker, I believe that every appropriator on both sides of the aisle would prefer a 3-month continuing resolution. Republicans and Democrats need to come to the table. Let us move to setting a date in December. Let us get on with the business of governing, hammer out the programs and the numbers with regard to the programs,

and let the American people know that we are working on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, to my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, particularly my Republican colleagues, it is now time to govern. Stop the game playing. Stop the foolishness and the wasting of the time we have, and let's get on to the business of the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, as usual, these debates, particularly at these moments, get a little overheated, and I think we have seen a lot of that. I think the essence of what we are talking about here is pretty simple, and I think some of the charges that have been made against my colleagues in the majority are pretty ridiculous.

We are told we want to shut down the government. Really? What we are proposing actually keeps the government open longer than anything my friends on the other side are proposing.

We are told we didn't get our work done. Really? The United States Senate hasn't passed a single bill. It has not passed all of its bills out of committee. To be fair to my friends, and I have been around here a long time, when Democrats were in the majority, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle never got 71 percent of the bills passed in time, the money spent because Democrats couldn't pass a defense bill. My Democratic colleagues have never been able to do that. Once my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do that, the minority, frankly, will exceed whatever the Democratic target was.

All of this stuff about not getting our work done or whatever, or we are not taking care of veterans, we gave this administration more money than it asked for, for veterans. At the last minute, we come back. I am for the Honoring our PACT Act. I voted for the Honoring our PACT Act. I am anxious to make sure it is appropriately funded, but if my colleagues think I am going to take the word of this administration's Department of Veterans Affairs at face value, no, I am not.

Frankly, that agency has a long history of surprising administrations at the last minute, and this one is particularly bad.

We are more than happy to deal with this. It doesn't have to be dealt with in a CR. It ought to be dealt with in the full bill during the final negotiations, and that is true for most of the things my friends have brought up. My colleagues like to talk about a clean CR and then give us a list as long as our arm of what is not in it.

Mr. Speaker, a clean CR is a clean CR. It is not full of all these other things that you are requesting and demanding. My Democratic colleagues need to decide which one it is.

Mr. Speaker, let's talk about what this bill does. It is pretty simple. It keeps the government open until the

end of March, or roughly, March 28, about 6 months. If we can get our business done faster, I am with my friend, the ranking member. I would prefer to do that. Looking at the record of Congress, I wouldn't hold my breath. Having some extra time is not a bad idea.

Second, I am extraordinarily perplexed that the idea of reaffirming, in a time of unmitigated disaster at the southern border, that you have to be an American citizen to vote in an election is somehow controversial. That is mystifying.

Frankly, we have every reason to be worried given the disaster on the immigration front this administration has allowed to unfold. As colleague after colleague of mine have pointed out, they can talk to local supervisors in their district who tell them, yeah, we have some people here who are illegal, and they are registered, and they voted.

What is the big deal about saying we want to make sure, in what we know is going to be a close election, that only American citizens participate. That is incredible that that is a controversial thing.

Mr. Speaker, I conclude by, number one, thanking my friends who participated in the debate and worked so hard to present this. All we are trying to do is what my colleagues are asking us to do: Keep the government open. This bill will do that.

The controversial poison pill, as it is called, is simply saying: If you are going to vote in a Federal American election, you have to be an American citizen, and we are asking for proof to be provided.

□ 1745

I still get carded when I order a drink at a bar in some places. It is pretty flattering, but the requirement is there that I have to pull out my driver's license. I think it is a lot more important when we are talking about somebody voting in a consequential election that they be able to do that, so I think that is a perfectly reasonable thing.

If my friends want to go on record opposing that, that is up to them. I hope my friends on my side of the aisle see the wisdom of keeping the government open, particularly a few weeks before an election, and see the importance of reaffirming that only American citizens can vote in American elections.

We put those two things together. I think that is a very sensible thing to do, and I urge the support of this legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 1430, the previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Ms. DeLauro of Connecticut moves to recommit the bill H.R. 9494 to the Committee on Appropriations.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

The question was taken; and the Speaker pro tempore announced that the yeas appeared to have it.

Mr. COLE. 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 question will be postponed.

Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to recommit H.R. 5339;

Passage of H.R. 5339, if ordered;

Passage of H.R. 5179;

Passage of H.R. 7909;

The motion to recommit H.R. 9494; and

Passage of H.R. 9494, if ordered.

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

ROLL BACK ESG TO INCREASE RETIREMENT EARNINGS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to recommit on the bill (H.R. 5339) to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, and for other purposes, offered by the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE), on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the motion.

The Clerk redesignated the motion.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to recommit.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 206, nays 213, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 426]

YEAS—206

Adams	Blunt Rochester	Carson
Aguilar	Bonamici	Carter (LA)
Allred	Bowman	Cartwright
Amo	Boyle (PA)	Casar
Auchincloss	Brown	Case
Balint	Brownley	Casten
Barragán	Budzinski	Castor (FL)
Beatty	Bush	Castro (TX)
Bera	Caraveo	Cherfilus-
Bishop (GA)	Carbajal	McCormick
Blumenauer	Cárdenas	Chu