

their members with an expanded offer of loan products. My bill, the Expanding Access to Lending Options Act, will increase the cap on the maturity of a loan from 15 to 20 years, allowing the flexibility to offer longer terms with lower monthly payments for consumers, while offering greater competition for lending products, including products for small business, student, and agricultural loans.

I look forward to working with my colleagues on this bipartisan bill to support Wisconsin credit unions and their members.

HONORING THE KING KAMEHAMEHA III ELEMENTARY SCHOOL REBUILDING CREWS

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

Ms. TOKUDA. Mr. Speaker, among the cherished symbols of our Lahaina community burned and lost last August was the former King Kamehameha III Elementary School.

If the historic banyan tree represents the proud roots and history of this community, then King Kamehameha III, right next to it, represents its future. Since the 1880s, generations of Lahaina residents went to school here. Our commitment and promise to Lahaina keiki are that they and their children will one day go to King Kamehameha III Elementary again.

Last month, while many of us took off for the holidays, I visited construction crews on Maui working around the clock to build a temporary school that will give some stability to the 600 students and staff displaced by the fires.

This project is personal for every single person involved. Some went to school there. Others have family currently enrolled. Each person on the build site has a strong sense of “kuleana,” “responsibility” to get this done right. So committed to their mission, crews worked even on Christmas and New Year’s Day to keep on track.

To the Army Corps and the crew of Pono Aina Management who worked so hard over the holidays and continue to do so, mahalo, and I cannot wait to walk through the new school again.

HONORING ALAN C. YOVICH

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Alan Yovich, who passed on September 14, 2023, at the age of 77.

Alan was born in Union City, Pennsylvania, and later on moved to Savannah, Georgia, with his wife. Promptly after his high school graduation, he joined the Marine Corps and proudly served our country as an E5 sergeant in Vietnam.

Alan then became a pharmacist, receiving his degree from the University

of Pittsburgh. Alan always enjoyed cars, boating, and travel. In his retirement, Alan was active with the Marine Corps League and served on the board of the Savannah Navy League Council of the United States. He was a role model for so many of the enlisted men and women.

He will be remembered by many, including his family; his patients; his friends; his best buddy, Dexter; and his community and Nation, which he served well.

□ 1230

HONORING THE LIFE OF DONA ADELA OBREGON

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Dona Adela Obregon who passed away on December 14.

Adela was born in Nuevo Laredo, Mexico, where she met her husband and started a family. Eventually they made their way north in search of a better life for their children. Like many Mexican immigrants in my district, Adela was undocumented for several years. After two of her sons served in the U.S. Army, she applied for residency, and years later she became a citizen.

Whether it was fighting for better healthcare for seniors in our State capital, or as president of the Harrison Park Seniors Club where she organized folkloric dance groups, or legendary games of loteria and much more, Adela became a pillar of our community.

Throughout her life, Adela won many awards. Indeed, the list is far too long to mention in 1 minute, but they confirm what many in our community already know.

Adela was the definition of service and activism. We are grateful for her life, and my heart is with her family as they mourn her passing.

REFORMING THE SECOND AMENDMENT

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

Mr. MOULTON. Mr. Speaker, Americans bought nearly 60 million guns between 2020 and 2022. It is not hard to understand why. People are scared. Each day brings news of another gun violence tragedy, and most don’t even make the headlines.

It is natural to think that we need guns to feel safe, but the way to stop gun violence is not with more guns. The risk of homicide is three times higher when there are guns in a home. Women who own handguns are 35 times more likely to commit suicide than those who don’t; men are eight times more likely.

To be clear, this isn’t about taking away guns from responsible gun own-

ers. We can live in a country with a healthy Second Amendment but where we don’t have multiple mass shootings or 68 gun suicides a day.

Democrats want reasonable solutions to get us there, and we stand ready to work with Republicans and gun owners on policies that will save lives.

A few commonsense steps are to ban high-capacity weapons of war, to expand background checks and red flag laws, to increase access to mental health care, and to hold gun manufacturers accountable.

This is the number one cause of death for American children, so let’s stop the denial. This crisis won’t end until we take decisive action. We can’t just shoot our way out of it.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Any record vote on the postponed question will be taken later.

NO RUSSIAN AGRICULTURE ACT

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4768) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States Executive Directors at the international financial institutions to advocate for investment in projects that decrease reliance on Russia for agricultural commodities, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4768

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 “No Russian Agriculture Act”.

SEC. 2. UNITED STATES ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—Title XIV of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262n–262n–3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1405. ADVOCACY FOR INVESTMENT IN PROJECTS THAT DECREASE RELIANCE ON RUSSIA FOR AGRICULTURAL COMMODITIES.

“(a) *IN GENERAL.*—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at each international financial institution (as defined in section 1701(c)(2)) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, to the maximum extent practicable, to encourage the respective institution to—

“(1) support projects that decrease the reliance of countries on Russia for agricultural commodities, particularly fertilizer and grain;

“(2) ensure the resilience of global grain supplies; and

“(3) stimulate private investment in the projects.

“(b) *WAIVER AUTHORITY.*—The Secretary of the Treasury may waive subsection (a) with respect to a project upon notifying Congress that

the waiver is in the national interest of the United States.”.

(b) *REPEAL*.—Section 1405 of such Act, as added by this section, is repealed effective on the earlier of—

(1) the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(2) the date that is 30 days after the date the President reports to the Congress that the termination of such section 1405 is important to the national interest of the United States, with an explanation of the reasons therefor.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) and the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 bill.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4768, the No Russian Agriculture Act, introduced by the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee, the former chair, MAXINE WATERS.

Since Russia's invasion of Ukraine in 2022, the global agricultural markets have been severely disrupted.

Post invasion, Russia withdrew from an agreement allowing Ukrainian grain shipments to pass through the Black Sea to international markets, thus eliminating a major competitor to Russian exports in the process.

As a result, Russian agricultural exports have remained robust. Additionally, Moscow-imposed export taxes and quotas have only further secured its own domestic food supply at the expense of the international community.

Nearly 2 years later, Moscow continues to diligently weaponize its agricultural trade to ensure dependence on Russian exports. Russia's actions have not only impacted farmers in Ukraine and Europe but across America, as well. As with many things, the United States should never have to rely on foreign adversaries for our food supply.

Diversifying agricultural supplies is imperative for our economic growth and our national security. International financial institutions like the World Bank and the IMF can play a critical role in providing financial and technical assistance to develop the agricultural sectors of poorer countries.

Ranking Member WATERS' bill is a critical step in the right direction. It will deter Russia's calculated acts by limiting the reliance of other countries on Russian agricultural commodities.

The voice, the vote, and the influence of the United States is a powerful mechanism at the international financial institutions that we are a part of, and it will allow the world to continue to fight Russia in its path of destruction and injustice.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the committee, Ms. WATERS, for her leadership on this legislation. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 4768, the No Russian Agriculture Act. I thank Chairman MCHENRY for his support of my bill and his efforts to get it to the House floor. I certainly appreciate the ability to start the new year on this bipartisan note.

Over nearly 2 years, Russia's unprovoked and criminal war against Ukraine—led by Russian President Vladimir Putin, his military, and his mercenaries—has inflicted tremendous harm to Ukraine's people and infrastructure.

Among its many horrific acts, Russia has endeavored to strangle Ukraine's economy by restricting the country's exports, including those of its agricultural sector, which is critical to maintaining the world's food supply.

Prior to the war, Ukraine was the world's fourth largest corn exporting country and the fifth largest wheat exporting country. Annually, 400 million people were fed with Ukrainian food products with more than 50 nations receiving those goods. It is why Ukraine has been called the breadbasket of Europe.

Russia previously agreed to the Black Sea grain initiative, pledging to allow for Ukrainian commercial food and fertilizer exports from three Ukrainian ports in the Black Sea.

In July of last year, however, Russia withdrew from that initiative, causing global food prices to spike and hunger and pain around the world. Since then, Russia has attacked ports and grain stores in Ukraine, limiting the entrance of its agricultural products into the global market.

Today, Russia is not only trying to unjustly seize Ukrainian land, but it is also trying to sell its own grain and stolen Ukrainian grain into the world's market to support its war efforts.

This bill will help to push back on Russia while also increasing grain supply resiliency in the face of the shocks that Russia is causing in the world's agricultural markets. Specifically, H.R. 4768 would require the Treasury to press the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other multilateral development banks to fund projects that decrease the reliance that countries around the world have on Russian agricultural commodities, particularly fertilizer and grain.

Doing so will help to undercut the financing of Russia's war and will help to improve global resiliency to the food supply disruptions that are caused by Russian President Putin.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4768, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

The brutality that Russia has unleashed upon the Ukrainian people is having profound effects in Ukraine and around the world. This includes significant cuts to global food supply and steep prices for countless foods and fertilizers.

This bill provides a novel way for the United States to further counter Russia; to stand with our fellow democracy, Ukraine; to reduce the world's reliance on Russian food; and to undercut Putin's use of food as a weapon. However, I would emphasize that this bill is not a substitute for providing additional funding for Ukraine so that it can stand up to Putin and his invasion. Congress must come together to stand behind Ukraine and to display U.S. strength in the face of injustice.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I would just reiterate that Ranking Member WATERS' bill is a critical step in the right direction. We are trying to deter Russia's calculated acts by limiting the reliance of other countries on Russia's agricultural commodities.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4768, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 42 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

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