

and expanded their impact exponentially. Ms. Whitney-West has been a lifelong champion of equitable health outcomes for all and has promoted health equity while expanding NorthPoint's footprint and offerings. She shepherded the center to become a certified Health Care Home, provide expanded interpreter services, transition to an electronic health record system, and much more. Most importantly and impactfully, during her tenure Ms. Whitney-West oversaw a historic \$100 million campus expansion project, doubling the size of NorthPoint's main campus facility and opening several satellite clinic locations throughout North Minneapolis. As a result of her leadership and commitment to these historic changes, NorthPoint is now able to serve over 30,000 residents of North Minneapolis and provides a wide range of health and human services. As a lifelong member of the community, Ms. Whitney-West has surely made a meaningful impact at NorthPoint and in our community, creating standards for health and wellness across Hennepin County and the entire State of Minnesota. I wish you the best in your retirement.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 11:46 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Alli, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 537. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust.

H.R. 2964. An act to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes.

H.R. 6543. An act to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7984. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7988. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7989. An act to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the National Council on Disability to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8014. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules for cancelled covered solicitations, to amend the Small Business Act to provide assistance to small business concerns relating to certain cancelled solicitations, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House has agreed to the following concurrent resolution, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense

of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia.

ENROLLED BILL SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY) announced that on today, June 12, 2024, she had signed the following enrolled bill, which was previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 2051. A bill to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 537. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to 60 diplomats, in recognition of their bravery and heroism during the Holocaust; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 2964. An act to require certain products to be labeled with 'Do Not Flush' labeling, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 6543. An act to prohibit unfair and deceptive advertising of prices for hotel rooms and other places of short-term lodging, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 7984. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to improve access to disaster assistance for individuals located in rural areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7988. An act to amend the Small Business Act to include requirements relating to new small business entrants in the scorecard program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 7989. An act to provide for a memorandum of understanding between the Small Business Administration and the National Council on Disability to increase employment opportunities for individuals with disabilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 8014. An act to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules for cancelled covered solicitations, to amend the Small Business Act to provide assistance to small business concerns relating to certain cancelled solicitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

The following concurrent resolution was read, and referred as indicated:

H. Con. Res. 27. Concurrent resolution condemning Russia's unjust and arbitrary detention of Russian opposition leader Vladimir Kara-Murza who has stood up in defense of democracy, the rule of law, and free and fair elections in Russia; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ENROLLED BILL PRESENTED

The Secretary of the Senate reported that on today, June 12, 2024, she had presented to the President of the United States the following enrolled bill:

S. 2051. An act to reauthorize the Missing Children's Assistance Act, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4992. A communication from the General Counsel, Justice Management Division, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Implementation of HAVANA Act of 2021" (RIN1105-AB71) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 14, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4993. A communication from the Chief of the Immigration Law Division, Executive Office for Immigration Review, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Efficient Case and Docket Management in Immigration Proceedings" (RIN1125-AA81) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 4, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4994. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report entitled "2023 Report of Statistics Required by the Bankruptcy Abuse Prevention and Consumer Protection Act of 2005"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4995. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting legislative proposals that support the President's fiscal year 2025 budget request for the Department of Homeland Security; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-4996. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard for Presentation of Nucleotide and Amino Acid Sequence Listings Using eXtensible Markup Language in Patent Applications to Implement WIPO Standard ST.26; Incorporation by Reference" (RIN0651-AD53) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May 22, 2024; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

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

POM-120. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington requesting that the United States Congress pass, and the President of the United States sign measures addressing actions taken by financial institutions in terminating or restricting business relationships with certain customers to avoid regulatory concerns, or similar legislation; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8005

To the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled:

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

Whereas, The State of Washington welcomes refugees and immigrants who bravely leave behind everything familiar to seek safety, build a better life, and provide resources for loved ones in their country of origin; and

Whereas, Approximately one in every seven Washington residents is an immigrant and another one in every seven Washington residents is a native-born United States citizen with at least one immigrant parent;

Whereas, Many immigrants to Washington transfer money to loved ones in their country of origin in the form of remittances, and money remitted by migrants competes with international aid as one of the largest financial inflows to developing countries; and

Whereas, Many immigrants have continued to try to send money to their families despite uncertain and changing employment and circumstances following the COVID-19 pandemic and recovery; and

Whereas, The federal government has national security interests that have resulted in measures by federal agencies to block remittances that present significant security risks, and the federal Bank Secrecy Act and related Anti-Money Laundering rules (BSA/AML) impose due diligence, recordkeeping, reporting, and compliance program requirements on financial institutions with respect to remittances to foreign countries; and

Whereas, Some of the countries to which immigrants to Washington want to remit money have little or no central banking infrastructure, which makes compliance with BSA/AML rules difficult or impossible, and prevents immigrants from being able to remit money in a safe, reliable manner; and

Whereas, Financial institutions such as banks and credit unions play a pivotal role in facilitating commerce and enabling individuals to build financial prosperity; and

Whereas, Many of the local or community-based money transmitters that service underserved diverse communities in Washington have been excluded from obtaining or maintaining accounts from traditional financial institutions and have seen their accounts closed without explanation or justification, leaving underserved communities without banking options; and

Whereas, Many financial institutions appear to be engaging in de-risking, whereby they terminate or restrict business relationships with clients or categories of clients in order to avoid, rather than manage, risk; and

Whereas, De-risking has detrimentally impacted the ability of smaller, Washington-based money transmitters to serve underserved diverse communities, to the benefit of larger money transmitters that operate on a nationwide basis; and

Whereas, De-risking also presents a threat to public safety, as unbanked businesses often must store and transport large sums of cash at great risk to owners and their employees; and

Whereas, The state of Washington has an interest in promoting financial inclusion and in ensuring that every individual or business operating in compliance with the law can access regulated financial systems; and

Whereas, The federal National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) for fiscal year 2021 expresses Congress's sense that "anti-money laundering, countering the financing of terrorism, and sanctions policies must ensure that the policies do not unduly hinder or delay legitimate access to the international financial systems for underserved individuals, entities, and geographic areas;" and

Whereas, The NDAA directed the United States Government Accountability Office (GAO) to analyze financial services de-risking and report to Congress, and directed the United States Department of Treasury and others to review reporting requirements now in effect and propose changes to reduce unnecessarily burdensome regulation and to develop a strategy to reduce de-risking and related adverse consequences; and

Whereas, The United States Department of Treasury issued their report on April 25, 2023,

"The Department of the Treasury's De-Risking Strategy" with key findings and recommendations that include promoting consistent supervisory expectations that consider the impacts of de-risking; proposing regulations that require financial institutions to have reasonably designed and risk-based AML/CFT programs supervised on a risk basis, taking into consideration the effects of financial inclusion; and building on Treasury's work to modernize the United States sanctions regime and its recognition of the need to specifically calibrate sanctions to mitigate unintended economic, political, and humanitarian impacts, as outlined in *The Treasury 2021 Sanctions Review*; and

Whereas, The Washington state department of financial institutions has worked with representatives of local and community-based money transmitters, banks, and credit unions in Washington to develop enhanced regulatory guidance and a model account agreement to clarify expectations for financial institutions that might offer account services to affected money transmitters; and

Whereas, The Washington state department of financial institutions has forwarded that guidance to federal bank and credit union regulators for their review and comment in 2022; and

Whereas, Collaboration between federal bank and credit union regulators, the Washington state department of financial institutions, and industry stakeholders could lead to significant progress towards rolling back blanket de-risking by depository institutions with respect to local and community-based money transmitters;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

(1) Congress pass and the President sign legislation implementing strategies and recommendations that result from:

(a) Reports by the GAO and the Treasury Department in response to the NDAA; and

(b) Review of the Washington state department of financial institutions' regulatory guidance for depository institutions;

(2) Such legislation also include:

(a) Directives to federal financial regulatory agencies to develop regulations that clearly and specifically require financial institutions to have reasonably designed and risk-based AML programs supervised on a risk basis, taking into consideration the effects of financial inclusion;

(b) Provisions giving federal banking regulators clarity on how to improve examiners' ability to evaluate banks' BSA/AML compliance as applied to money transmitter accounts;

(c) A requirement that financial institutions disclose a specific reason when denying or closing an account; and

(d) Provisions to help financial institutions mitigate the cost of due diligence required to comply with BSA/AML provisions impacting money transmitters; and

(3) The President direct federal bank and credit union regulators to work with the Washington state department of financial institutions and industry stakeholders to support efforts to develop new and creative solutions to improve banking access for local or community-based money transmitters; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-121. A resolution adopted by the Senate of the State of Michigan affirming the

Chamber's commitment to supporting an extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program, recognizing that this program provides Michigan citizens statewide with access to affordable broadband services; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 90

Whereas, Congress has directed the Federal Communications Commission (FCC) to administer the Affordable Connectivity Program (ACP), which is a successor program to the Emergency Broadband Benefit, a program that helped almost nine million households nationwide afford internet access during the COVID-19 pandemic. Under the provisions of the ACP, eligible households may receive up to thirty dollars per month toward internet service. For households on qualifying tribal lands, this benefit may increase to seventy-five dollars per month. The ACP also provides that eligible households may receive a one-time discount of up to one hundred dollars to purchase a laptop, desktop computer, or tablet from participating providers; and

Whereas, Where broadband internet access is available, the ACP allows subscribers to afford internet speeds and devices sufficient for key online activities, such as at-home learning, health care, banking, and public services. Where broadband access is not available, the ACP incentivizes the deployment of new broadband infrastructure; and

Whereas, The FCC recently announced that, due to a lack of additional funding provided for the ACP, it would begin the process of terminating the program. Over 900,000 households within the State of Michigan are currently enrolled in the ACP and are at risk of losing affordable access to internet services in 2024 if Congress does not fund an extension of the program. The ACP is a critical program for Michigan citizens and, along with other sources of state funding, is a vital means to build and improve broadband infrastructure, provide internet devices to those who lack them, and promote the adoption of modern technology among our least-connected citizens. All these factors demonstrate that the ACP is an essential catalyst for Michigan's economic growth, workforce development, and innovation. Allowing this program to end would be a great disservice to Michiganders who rely on the program to access vital online services and resources; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate, That we affirm this chamber's commitment to supporting an extension of the Affordable Connectivity Program, recognizing that this program provides Michigan citizens statewide with access to affordable broadband services; and be it further

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

POM-122. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington requesting that the United States Congress pass, and the President of the United States sign legislation reforming the Harbor Maintenance Tax; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8009

To the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled:

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of

Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

Whereas, The United States created the harbor maintenance tax under the Water Resource Development Act of 1986; and

Whereas, The harbor maintenance tax is an ad valorem tax on goods imported into the United States through a United States port; and

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement was established in 1994 to create a broad North American marketplace where goods could move freely between the United States, Canada, and Mexico; and

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement and now its successor agreement the United States, Mexico, and Canada Agreement has failed to consider the impact of the harbor maintenance tax on United States ports; and

Whereas, The North American Free Trade Agreement and United States, Mexico, and Canada Agreement have created an incentive for importers of foreign goods to land cargo in Canada or Mexico and then use rail or trucks to move that cargo to the United States to avoid the harbor maintenance tax; and

Whereas, The harbor maintenance tax is not collected on transpacific and transatlantic cargo shipped to the United States via rail or roads from ports in Mexico and Canada; and

Whereas, The ability to move transpacific and transatlantic cargo through Canadian ports and avoid paying the harbor maintenance tax incentivizes diversion of cargo away from United States ports; and

Whereas, The federal maritime commission inquiry into the harbor maintenance tax found that up to half of United States bound containers coming into Canada's west coast ports could revert to using United States west coast ports if United States importers were relieved from paying the tax; and

Whereas, Current United States law does not require the revenues raised through the harbor maintenance tax to be fully spent on harbor maintenance-related investments, collections have far exceeded fund appropriation and surplus collections, resulting in a surplus of billions of dollars in the harbor maintenance trust fund; and

Whereas, Revenue raised through the harbor maintenance tax pays for dredging and other maintenance costs, with significant amounts being spent for dredging at east coast, gulf coast, and Columbia river ports; and

Whereas, Certain deep water ports on the west coast that require no or little dredging, including the Northwest Seaport Alliance consisting of the ports of Seattle and Tacoma, receive just over a penny on every dollar of harbor maintenance tax paid by ship-owners who use their ports; and

Whereas, The Columbia river channel is critical to maintain global trade and the port of Vancouver USA serves as the largest wheat export gateway in the nation; and

Whereas, With the recent widening of the Panama Canal, Washington ports face increasing competition for maritime goods bound for the United States; and

Whereas, Washington ports are ready to compete on a level playing field to efficiently move goods to market; and

Whereas, Congress passed substantial harbor maintenance tax reform legislation in 2020, the implementation of which requires additional actions by congressional appropriators and the US Army Corps of Engineers;

Now, therefore, Your Memorialists respectfully pray that:

(1) Congress direct the use of country-of-origin rules to be applied to the harbor maintenance tax so that United States bound

goods that currently still pay customs in the United States would also continue to pay the harbor maintenance tax in order to eliminate the current incentive that is leading to significant cargo diversion from United States ports to Canadian ports in violation of the spirit of the North American Free Trade Agreement.

(2) Congress appropriate the full amount of annual harbor maintenance tax revenues and unspent tax collections from the harbor maintenance trust fund consistent with the budget cap adjustments enacted in the CARES Act and the Water Resources Development Act of 2020.

(3) Congress direct the US Army Corps of Engineers to allocate the specified amounts for donor and energy transfer ports consistent with the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 and appropriate the amounts specified in section 101 of the Water Resources Development Act of 2020 to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

(4) The US Army Corps of Engineers allocate in its annual work plan 12 percent of annual harbor maintenance trust fund appropriations directly to eligible donor and energy transfer ports, as well as additional amounts to carry out subsection (c) of section 2106 of the Water Resources Reform and Development Act of 2014.

(5) The US Army Corps of Engineers shall collect appropriate data and reinstate publication of annual reports, which were terminated in FY 2006, on the status of the harbor maintenance trust fund. This report should also include an analysis of the impact of the harbor maintenance tax in disincentivizing shippers from using US ports and diverting freight to foreign ports, thereby avoiding the tax; and be it further

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-123. A joint memorial adopted by the Legislature of the State of Washington requesting that the United States Congress pass, and the President of the United States sign legislation to fully fund 40 percent of the costs of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

SENATE JOINT MEMORIAL NO. 8007

To the Honorable Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, and to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and to the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States, in Congress Assembled, and to Miguel Cardona, Secretary of the United States Department of Education:

We, your Memorialists, the Senate and House of Representatives of the State of Washington, in legislative session assembled, respectfully represent and petition as follows:

Whereas, We have witnessed a revolution in promoting, protecting, and advancing the education rights of students with disabilities since Congress originally enacted Public Law 94-142, The Education for All Handicapped Children Act in 1975, later to be known as the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act or IDEA; and

Whereas, IDEA has helped millions of children with special needs receive a quality education, with approximately 7 million children between the ages of 3 and 21, representing approximately 14 percent of all public school students, receiving services in the 2017-2018 school year alone; and

Whereas, When Congress enacted the predecessor legislation to IDEA in 1975, the federal government was to pay up to 40 percent of each state's "excess cost" of educating children with disabilities; and

Whereas, Appropriations for IDEA have increased over the last decade, however, federal funding for IDEA has averaged approximately 13 percent of the states' cost; and

Whereas, Underfunding results in districts being unable to offer competitive wages that support the recruitment and retention of personnel who are essential to delivering services promised by IDEA; and

Whereas, Consistently low wages for personnel, such as paraeducators cause those positions to go unfilled and turnover frequently, resulting in decreased services to IDEA students; and

Whereas, The inability of districts to provide required services and programming due to inadequate funding is causing increasing lawsuits from families, which further increases districts' expenses; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic harmed the ability of districts and states to adequately identify students with special needs, which has led to a significant increase in students needing referrals, which is exceeding capacity of current evaluative staffing in districts and requiring districts to seek more expensive, outside service providers; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has also resulted in a growing number of students who require supplementary services whose learning was impacted by the pandemic; and

Whereas, The COVID-19 pandemic has put further strain on school budgets that are thus significantly reduced; and

Whereas, States and districts have begun to implement inclusive practices for students with IEPs to increase their access to general education learning opportunities and this shift is widely acknowledged to require additional training and resources for school staff rather than more traditional and restrictive special education programs; and

Whereas, The chronic underfunding of IDEA by the federal government places an additional funding burden on states, local school districts, and taxpayers to pay for needed services. This compounds the existing pressure already placed on local budget dollars to cover the federal shortfall and will further shortchange other school programs that are also beneficial to students with disabilities; and

Whereas, Funding programs that serve students with disabilities is one of the best measures of Congress' desire to offer a quality education to every single student; and

Whereas, To fully achieve the goal of providing a free appropriate public education for all students, Congress must provide sufficient funding to support early intervention services, transition services, professional preparation and development, and other critical components within IDEA; and

Whereas, It is time for the federal government to pay its fair share of the costs of IDEA and fulfill its commitment to students with disabilities, their families, and the states and school districts that provide students with a free and appropriate public education; Now, therefore,

Your Memorialists respectfully request that Congress pass and the President sign federal legislation to fully fund 40 percent of the costs of IDEA, recognizing that some types of disabilities are much more expensive to address than others and that the distribution of children with severe and more expensive disabilities may cluster in some areas that have outstanding medical facilities or exemplary programs for specific disabilities. Be it

Resolved, That copies of this Memorial be immediately transmitted to the Honorable

Joseph R. Biden, Jr., President of the United States, Miguel Cardona, Secretary of the United States Department of Education, the President of the United States Senate, the Speaker of the House of Representatives, and each member of Congress from the State of Washington.

POM-124. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Michigan vehemently opposing the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 184

Whereas, The United States Postal Service has a long and venerable tradition of serving as a great equalizer between the people of our nation. Both the Articles of Confederation and the Constitution of the United States gave Congress the power to establish a system of post offices, and a Post Office Department was first established by the Second Continental Congress in 1775, with Benjamin Franklin appointed to serve as the Postmaster General. Throughout its 250-year history, the Post Office has chosen time and time again to prioritize service over profit, from President Washington's support for the subsidization of stagecoach in the 1780s, to the construction of money-losing postal routes to encourage settlement in the west during the mid-19th century, to the creation of the Pony Express to deliver the mail through extreme environments in 1860, to the elimination of price differences based on the distance a letter was to travel in 1863. While free home delivery began in cities in 1863, it was not initially offered in rural areas, though they paid the same rate. After initial experiments showed how happy rural customers were to be given the same attention as city-dwellers, rural free delivery became a permanent service in 1902. It is the mission of the United States Postal Service "to bind the Nation together through the personal, educational, literary, and business correspondence of the people"; and

Whereas, The Post Office is a service that we, as a society, have chosen to provide to our people. There is no constitutional mandate that the Post Office be run as a profitable business enterprise; to the contrary, our history shows that we have repeatedly used the Post Office to ensure that every American, no matter where they live, is connected through the post. The people can choose the level of postal service that they want the United States Postal Service to provide, and they can decide what costs they are willing to bear to provide that service; and

Whereas, Contrary to the desires of many that the United States Postal Service put service first, there are those who insist that it must be run like a business. The "Delivering for America" plan, published in March 2021, emphasizes the financial viability of the Postal Service, with a focus on raising enough revenue to cover their operating costs and fund investments. The plan proudly proclaims that it will enable the United States Postal Service to operate with a positive net income, and the most recent report boasts that it has reduced projected ten-year losses from 160 billion dollars to 70 billion dollars. Those publications read like a corporate marketing pitch, establishing goals such as a "more rational pricing approach," a "stable and empowered workforce" and a "bold approach to growth, innovation and continued relevance." What those profit-minded advocates seemingly fail to recognize is that lower-quality service and higher prices drive customers away, decreasing use of the postal service and thus decreasing revenue, while simultaneously undermining the

Postal Service's mission of binding the nation together; and

Whereas, The United States Postal Service's focus on financial optimization has already had negative impacts on those living in rural area, such as Michigan's Upper Peninsula. Local post offices have changed the time when mail is gathered for delivery from the afternoon to the early morning, meaning that a piece of mail dropped off during the day will remain at the post office for far longer before the shipping process begins. In practical effect, this adds one day to shipping times even while allowing the Postal Service to deny having done so for accounting purposes. Additionally, one-day Priority Mail Express shipping, which was available as early as early January 2024, is no longer available from the UP to anywhere in Michigan; instead, citizens are being charged the same rate for two-day shipping. Combined with the change in collection time above, next-day shipping has essentially been transformed into three-day shipping. This is extremely problematic for businesses and health departments that need to collect samples of drinking water and have them delivered to a laboratory for bacterial testing within 24 hours of sampling. Delays in shipping also have negative consequences for patients who receive medications through the mail, for people who need to ensure their bills are paid on time, and for businesses delivering frozen foods such as the UP's beloved pasties. Focusing too much on the postal network as a whole while ignoring the importance of timely local shipping is not modernization; it is regression. The people of the Upper Peninsula want what's best for their communities, not what's best for the pocketbooks of those in Washington; and

Whereas, In January 2024, the United States Postal Service announced plans to transfer some mail processing services, including outgoing mail operations, from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center in Kingsford, Michigan, to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin. The Postal Service has justified this plan based on the fact that a majority of the mail and packages sent from the Iron Mountain area are destined for locations outside the local area. While this might make sense from the standpoint of the Postal Service as a nationwide business, it does not make sense for the people of the Upper Peninsula, for whom timely local delivery is essential. The notices that have been published about this plan assure that, while five craft employee positions will be eliminated, no management positions will be eliminated. But the notices also indicate that there will be reassignments, which means that some employees could be left without a job if they are unwilling to be reassigned to a post office far away. Furthermore, recent changes to the Iron Mountain facility may have led to inaccurate conclusions about the need for it, stacking the deck so that the evidence would support the conclusion the government was looking for. The capacity of the Green Bay facility to handle the mail from the Iron Mountain area is curiously left out of the government's preliminary findings. When similar notices across the country all use identical, buzzword-riddled language about efficiency, cost-effectiveness, modern strategies, and "rightsizing" the postal workforce, it becomes difficult to trust that they have made a careful, informed decision about the proper level of services to provide at the Iron Mountain facility; now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the House of Representatives, That we vehemently oppose the transfer of mail processing operations from the Iron Mountain Processing and Distribution Center to the Green Bay Processing and Distribution Center in Wisconsin; and be it further

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

POM-125. A resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Minnesota urging the United States Congress to resolve that the requirements have been met to ratify the Equal Rights Amendment and that it shall now be known as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

HOUSE FILE NO. 197

Whereas, the Equal Rights Amendment (ERA) was first passed by Congress in 1972 and was sent to the states for ratification; and

Whereas, the ERA guarantees "[e]quality of rights under the law shall not be denied or abridged by the United States or by any State on account of sex."; and

Whereas, the adoption of the ERA will help to advance gender justice for women, girls, and gender-expansive individuals; and

Whereas, the ERA authorizes Congress to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of the ERA; and

Whereas, the ERA states that the amendment will take effect two years after the last constitutionally necessary state ratification occurs; and

Whereas, on January 27, 2020, Virginia became the 38th and final state needed to ratify the ERA, which has been ratified by the necessary three-fourths of states; and

Whereas, the Archivist of the United States performs a statutory and ministerial role with respect to certifying the ratification of amendments to the United States Constitution; and

Whereas, as of this date, the Archivist has not certified the amendment; and

Whereas, women, girls, and gender-expansive people across the country are experiencing declining access to health, wealth, and opportunity, and increasing incidences of poverty and violence; and

Whereas, the ERA was first written by Alice Paul, the head of the National Woman's Party, in order to guarantee that the rights affirmed by the United States Constitution are held equally by all citizens without regard to sex; and

Whereas, the ERA would clarify the legal status of sex discrimination for the courts, where decisions still deal inconsistently with such claims; and

Whereas, Minnesota ratified the ERA in 1973; and

Whereas, the first, and still the only, right that the United States Constitution specifically affirms to be equal for women and men is the right to vote under the 19th Amendment, which was ratified by the states in 1920; and

Whereas, the equal protection clause of the 14th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States has never been interpreted to protect against sex discrimination in the same way that the ERA would; and

Whereas, in September 2010, Supreme Court Justice Antonin Scalia said he did not believe that the United States Constitution, specifically the 14th Amendment, protects against sex discrimination; and

Whereas, in 1868, the 14th Amendment was added to the Constitution despite two states purporting to rescind their ratification; and

Whereas, without the addition of the ERA to the United States Constitution, legislation and case law that has resulted in extraordinary progress for women has the potential to be ignored, weakened, or reversed.

Congress can amend or repeal legislation advancing equality with a simple majority vote, the presidential administration can weakly enforce these laws, and the United States Supreme Court can continue to use intermediate scrutiny when reviewing cases concerning gender; and

Whereas, it is vital that the constitutional gender equality rights be upheld now that the ERA has been ratified as an amendment to the Constitution of the United States; and

Whereas, Section 3 of the Equal Rights Amendment states that the amendment shall take effect two years after the last constitutionally necessary state ratification occurs, which was January 27, 2020; Now, therefore, be it

RESOLVED, By the Legislature of the State of Minnesota that it urges the Congress of the United States to pass House Resolution 25 and Senate Resolution 4, resolving that the requirements have been met to ratify the ERA and that it shall now be known as the Twenty-Eighth Amendment to the Constitution; and be it further

RESOLVED, That the Secretary of State of the State of Minnesota is directed to prepare copies of this memorial and transmit them to the President of the United States, the President and the Secretary of the United States Senate, the Speaker and the Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and the Members of the United States Congress.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. WARNER, from the Select Committee on Intelligence:

Report to accompany S. 4443, a bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2025 for intelligence and intelligence-related activities of the United States Government, the Intelligence Community Management Account, and the Central Intelligence Agency Retirement and Disability System, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-181).

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Luke A. Frost, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Dennis E. Collins, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (lh) Gregory K. Emery, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (lh) Bradley D. Dunham and ending with Rear Adm. (lh) Douglas W. Sasse III, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 27, 2024.

Navy nomination of Capt. Troy S. Pugh, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Michael L. Freidberg and ending with Capt. Ryan K. Mahelona, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 27, 2024.

Navy nomination of Capt. Shawn G. Denihan, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Benjamin E. Baran, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. David N. Barnes and ending with Capt. Katie F. Sheldon, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on February 27, 2024.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Michael E. Conley, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. David H. Tabor, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Thomas K. Hensley, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. Tony D. Bauernfeind, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Sean C. Bernabe, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Christopher C. French, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Scott W. Pappano, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Jeffrey T. Anderson, to be Vice Admiral.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Nancy S. Lacore, to be Vice Admiral.

Army nomination of Col. Jorge M. Fonseca, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Nicole M. Balliet, to be Major General.

Army nomination of Col. Cindy M. Saladin-Muhammed, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Thomas C. Friloux, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Col. Gordon R. Meyer, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Carrie L. Perez, to be Brigadier General.

Army nominations beginning with Col. Adam K. Ake and ending with Col. John M. Dunn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 23, 2024.

Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Joseph B. Berger III, to be Lieutenant General.

Army nomination of Brig. Gen. Robert A. Borcharding, to be Major General.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Melvin G. Carter, to be Lieutenant General.

Marine Corps nomination of Maj. Gen. Benjamin T. Watson, to be Lieutenant General.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nomination of Christopher J. Rollins, to be Major.

Air Force nomination of Nyree Y. Watts, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Anthony B. Abraham and ending with Brian K. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 9, 2024. (minus 1 nominee: Peter I. Belk)

Army nominations beginning with Kristin E. Agresta and ending with Emilee C. Venn, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Barbara K. Bujak and ending with Joshua D. Walters, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Lovie L. Abraham and ending with Michael T. Walkingstick, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Marlene Ariasreynoso and ending with 0002516194, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 18, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Michael J. Browning and ending with 0002686492,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Todd M. Anton and ending with 0002951212, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Ryan H. Allred and ending with Brandon J. Wolf, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nominations beginning with Chad C. Adams and ending with 0002374957, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 7, 2024.

Army nomination of Edward Y. Park, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Bridgette R. Bell, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Jamal D. Snell, to be Major.

Army nomination of Terence W. Phillips II, to be Major.

Army nomination of Zachary T. Goehler, to be Major.

Army nomination of Keith M. Sanders, to be Major.

Army nomination of Chelsea M. Truax, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Taylor B. Evans, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Jacob C. Pipping, to be Major.

Marine Corps nomination of Shawn R. Loughman, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nominations beginning with Albert E. Arnold IV and ending with Justin R. Wiesen, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Gina M. D. Becker and ending with Anne L. Zack, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Allen M. Agor and ending with Steven Zielechowski, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Brian C. Earp and ending with Chad A. Redmer, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Travis J. Anderson and ending with Jeremy R. Woody, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Kitan Bae and ending with David T. Spalding, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew S. Cushmanick and ending with Jeffrey R. Portell, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew P. Allan and ending with Christina J. Wong, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Anthony J. Falvo IV and ending with Hayley C. Sims, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.

Navy nominations beginning with Michael A. Freas and ending with Nicholas T. Walker, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 30, 2024.