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No. 201

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Speaker:

WASHINGTON, DC,
December 6, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SCOTT FRANKLIN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 9, 2023, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 11:50 a.m.

THANKING INDIANOLA ROTARY CLUB

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Indianola Rotary Club for giving Indianola third graders over 5,280 dictionaries since its first year in 2003.

The Indianola Rotary supports youth leadership and literacy for children and adults. With their literacy focus, they have been able to support and inspire

children in our community. I thank Indianola Rotary Club members for the time and effort they have donated to their community.

CONGRATULATING AARON BARTHOLMEY ON HIS GUINNESS WORLD RECORD

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to congratulate Aaron Bartholmey on the newly announced Guinness World Record for his pencil collection.

In July of 2023, the Colfax Historical Society helped to certify the tally of his record-breaking collection of 69,255 pencils with assistance from the American Pencil Collectors Society. These wooden advertising pencils are mostly from local businesses, and one is recorded as over 100 years old.

His hobby began as a child, after going to a flea market with his grandfather, and it now has grown into a world record and a passion for history and local memorabilia.

Congratulations to Aaron Bartholmey on his Guinness World Record, and best of luck in finding his next pencil.

RECOGNIZING KELBY TELANDER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kelby Telander for his bravery and resilience.

As a toddler, Kelby Telander struggled with hearing loss and underwent many surgeries, including a life-changing cochlear implant surgery at the University of Iowa Stead Family Children's Hospital. While a patient, he was selected to be kid captain at the University of Iowa football game.

As many University of Iowa fans know, before games at Kinnick Stadium, a patient from the Stead Family Children's Hospital is chosen as kid captain to lead the University of Iowa football team onto the field. For Kelby, this was an impressive experience.

I am proud to recognize that over a decade later, Kelby Telander, a former kid captain and patient at Stead Family Children's Hospital has joined the

University of Iowa football team as a linebacker. Kelby is number 25 and recently saw his first career action in the Hawkeyes' 41-10 win against West Michigan.

I am proud of Kelby Telander for not only joining the powerhouse Hawkeye football team but for his bravery and resilience. Congratulations, and Go Hawks.

HONORING BRITT ORTIZ' CAREER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California (Mr. CÁRDENAS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor my friend Britt A. Ortiz and congratulate Britt on his retirement from a long, impressive career in higher education.

The son of Carmen and Arturo Ortiz, Britt grew up in Old Town Goleta, California. His mother, Carmen, was an assembly line worker for a manufacturing plant and later became a floor manager. His father, Arturo, is an electrician.

Britt attended public schools and graduated from Dos Pueblos High School in 1979. He went on to attend the University of California at Santa Barbara as a first-generation college student.

I know his journey well. Though I grew up many miles south of him in the San Fernando Valley, I, too, attended public schools, defying low expectations from my teachers, counselors, and others. Just like other Latino students like myself and Britt, we went on to be first-generation students at UC, Santa Barbara.

With dedication, grit, and hard work, Britt earned his bachelor's degree in 1985 with a double major in sociology and psychology. Britt went on to receive his master's degree in educational leadership and policy studies at the University of California, Northridge.

This symbol represents the time of day during the House proceedings, e.g., 1407 is 2:07 p.m.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.



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His first full-time job after college was as an outreach counselor for a UCSB partnership program that provided tutoring at junior high and high schools in Goleta and Santa Barbara. This kicked off a long career dedicated to helping students achieve their educational goals.

Seeing a need for dedicated and qualified educators and counselors in the San Fernando Valley, Britt used his acquired skills to motivate generations of Latino and Latina engineers and computer science students. His leadership set the gold standard for opening doors to traditionally underserved students.

He planned hundreds of bilingual financial aid workshops and organized college resource fairs. He partnered with groups such as the United Way to make these things happen.

During 2 years of work with CSUN's minority education program, Mr. Ortiz and the MEP team brought in the largest freshman class of minority engineering and computer science majors in the history of the College of Engineering and Computer Science at California State University, Northridge.

After mastering his skills in the San Fernando Valley, he returned to UC, Santa Barbara and led the UC system's largest and oldest precollege academic preparation program. His work helped prepare first-generation, low-income, and underserved students and their families for higher education.

Over the course of his career, he also worked to get \$4.5 million in grants and funding for various agencies, institutions, and early academic outreach programs that helped students across the State of California succeed and achieve their dreams.

He has done all of this work and more so that students who were often discouraged and overlooked had the support, encouragement, and opportunity they needed to chase after and achieve their dreams regardless of the circumstances they were faced with or what was thrown at them.

I thank Britt Ortiz for all that he has done during his 35-year career. He showed kids what is possible. He gave them the tools they needed to learn. He helped them achieve their full potential, and he helped make their dreams come true.

What makes Britt's career so special is that as a young boy, he was discouraged from going on to college, but he defied those negative thoughts and actions against him by proving to himself—not to anybody else, but to himself—that if he put his best foot forward, if he always tried his best, if he always gave it his best, he could achieve anything.

That is what is amazing about this great country, that no matter who you are, no matter what language you start with, no matter what it is that you are faced with, if you are focused and you take advantage of all the opportunities that are here for you in this great country, you can and will make it.

What is sad is all along the way some people may not believe in you. They may try to discourage you and actually get in your way. Some people may even try to get you thrown out of your school or out of your classroom or what have you for things you have never done.

I say this because I have witnessed these things with my own eyes, but it takes people like Britt Ortiz to prove to young people that those are just lies, and they can be overcome. That is why today I honor Britt Ortiz for his 35-year career of helping young people overcome these challenges and to live their dreams.

NOVEMBER 22 RECOGNIZED AS
KIMCHI DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Kimchi Day. Kimchi is a staple Korean banchan, or side dish, consisting of fermented cabbage and other vegetables.

What was once limited to Korean families' tables is now a culinary icon that reflects the growing Korean cultural influence in the United States since the first Korean immigrants arrived more than a century ago.

I am proud to be joined by many Korean Americans from all across the country in the gallery today to celebrate kimchi and the larger contributions that the Korean-American community have made here in the United States.

Later this afternoon, Members and those listening are invited to come to the Cannon Caucus Room at 2 p.m. as we celebrate Kimchi Day with our Korean-American community.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my Korean-American colleagues—there are four of us serving in Congress: ANDY KIM, YOUNG KIM, MICHELLE STEEL, and MARILYN STRICKLAND—who have been instrumental in working with me in a bipartisan way to introduce this Korean Kimchi Day resolution to make November 22 as Kimchi Day. I thank my colleagues and those who signed on to that resolution.

Lastly, I thank everybody for loving kimchi. "Kimchi mah-nee saranghae jooaeyo," "Please love kimchi a lot."

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER
PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will remind all persons in the gallery that they are here as guests of the House and that any manifestation of approval or disapproval of proceedings or other audible conversation is in violation of the rules of the House.

CELEBRATING HOMEGOING OF
LIEUTENANT FRED BREWER, JR.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from

North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS) for 5 minutes.

Ms. ADAMS. Mr. Speaker, there are more than 80,000 American military personnel who remain unaccounted for from previous conflicts around the world. Their families, nonprofit organizations, and the Defense POW/MIA Accounting Agency continue to fight tirelessly every day to bring these patriots home and to give them the dignified memorials they deserve.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the homecoming of one of these fallen heroes, Second Lieutenant Fred Lorenzo Brewer, Jr., who after nearly 80 years has returned home to Charlotte, North Carolina.

Born on August 4, 1921, Lieutenant Brewer was raised in Charlotte's historic Brooklyn neighborhood where his family attended the historic Ebenezer Baptist Church.

After graduating from Shaw University in Raleigh, the segregated South's first Black college, Lieutenant Brewer was commissioned by the United States Air Force and entered the uniformed service in November of 1942.

He was soon stationed at Tuskegee Army Airfield in Alabama, and he joined the 100th Fighter Squadron, 332nd Fighter Group. Completely segregated from their White peers, he was one of the nearly 1,000 Black pilots trained at Tuskegee who would eventually become known around the world as the Tuskegee Airmen.

Known for their extreme bravery and distinctive red-tail planes, the Tuskegee Airmen fought tirelessly to defend democracy abroad and to combat racism at home.

On October 29, 1944, Lieutenant Brewer's plane, named *Trav'lin' Light*, after the Billie Holiday song, went missing while on a mission out of Ramitelli Airbase in Italy.

That day, like so many other young Black men in his elite group, Lieutenant Brewer gave the ultimate sacrifice for a country that did not yet see him as an equal citizen. In serving and in giving his life, Lieutenant Brewer showed extraordinary faith in his country and in democracy that while imperfect in its protection and promotion of his life and livelihood, it could still be worthy of his ultimate sacrifice.

While Lieutenant Brewer did not live to see it, generations of survivors vindicated his sacrifice during the civil rights era, bringing our Nation closer to the dream of every man and every woman being created equal. That is the promise of democracy, Mr. Speaker. That is the promise for which he gave his life.

□ 1015

He was only 23 years old, and he left behind his parents, Fred, Sr., and Janie Brewer, and a younger sister, Gladys.

Thanks to the unyielding advocacy of his surviving cousins, Robena Brewer Harrison and Brenda L. Brewer, and the determined work of the POW/MIA Accounting Agency, Lieutenant Brewer's remains were identified in August.

Last Thursday, exactly 79 years and 1 month since his death, Lieutenant Brewer returned to Charlotte, receiving a dignified transfer. The U.S. flag was flown in his honor last Thursday at the U.S. Capitol at the request of my office.

Today, he will finally be laid to rest at Salisbury National Cemetery with full military honors.

While we celebrate today, we must never forget the countless Americans, including 25 Tuskegee Airmen, who remain unaccounted for and the families that long to bring their beloved heroes home, and we must never stop perfecting the cause for which they sacrificed.

We welcome Lieutenant Brewer home. We are forever indebted to his service.

CELEBRATING THE CHRISTMAS SEASON

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CARTER) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmastime approaches, I rise to share the history of another of our most beloved Christmas carols: "Hark! The Herald Angels Sing."

Felix Mendelssohn once commented that the music he wrote to commemorate Johannes Gutenberg and the invention of the printing press would not be suitable for hymn or church music. How wrong he turned out to be.

Formerly, the words of this hymn were: "Hark, how are all the welkin [heaven] rings! Glory to the King of Kings."

The hymn's composer, Charles Wesley, didn't originally intend this as a Christmas hymn but perhaps as a hymn for Easter.

Wesley, the cofounder of the Methodist Church, wrote more than 4,000 hymns over the course of his life. George Whitefield, Wesley's friend, later added the first two lines we now sing.

An organist named W.H. Cummings decided to adapt Mendelssohn's music to Wesley's hymn. He arranged the 10-line stanza that we sing today, which was published as a carol in 1856.

The words of the carol are as follows:

Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King;
 Peace on Earth, and mercy mild,
 God and sinners reconciled!"
 Joyful, all ye Nations rise,
 Join the triumph of the skies;
 With th'angelic hosts proclaim,
 "Christ is born in Bethlehem!"
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Christ, by highest Heaven adored;
 Christ the everlasting Lord;
 Late in time, behold Him come,
 Offspring of a virgin's womb.
 Veiled in flesh the Godhead see;
 Hail, th'incarnate Deity,
 Pleased with us in flesh to dwell,
 Jesus our Emmanuel.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"
 Hail the Heaven-born Prince of Peace!

Hail the Sun of righteousness!
 Light and life to all He brings,
 Ris'n with healing in His wings.
 Mild He lays His glory by,
 Born that man no more may die.
 Born to raise the sons of Earth,
 Born to give them second birth.
 Hark! The herald angels sing,
 "Glory to the newborn King!"

Mr. Speaker, I hope the history of this beautiful song will remind you of the Christmas season, of what it is all about and what the history is of this hymn.

On behalf of all the people of central Texas and all of Texas, I wish you a merry Christmas and a happy Hanukkah.

HONORING NOAH MACMILLAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. RASKIN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. RASKIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to honor my neighbor and my young friend, Noah MacMillan, who we lost last July when he died of complications from colon cancer at the age of 33 years old.

What an honor it is to speak to America this morning about Noah MacMillan. Noah's brilliance, his gentle soul, and his boundless creativity live on in the hearts of everybody he touched, in the truly extraordinary and imperishable art that he left behind, and in the beautiful devotion of his remarkable parents, Jeff MacMillan and Lucinda Leach; and his brothers, Seth and Julian.

Noah was an accomplished artist. He was a talented athlete and a soccer player. He was a gifted chef, and he was a generous teacher.

His stunning and thought-provoking illustrations were accomplished in a variety of news outlets, including The New York Times, Smithsonian Magazine, Bloomberg Business, Sports Illustrated, and Riverfront Times, to name just a few of the places that recognized his exceptional art.

One of the crowning achievements of Noah's life and one of his final projects was an illustration that fused his passions for exuberant, colorful art and for the game of soccer.

The vibrant stamp that you see next to me here bursting with energy and power honors the electrifying achievements of women's soccer in America.

It was released by the United States Postal Service at the beginning of this year, 2023. Now, countless little replicas of Noah's art are flying all across the country on envelopes and packages, inspiring artists and athletes, especially young girl soccer players everywhere, all over America and all over the world.

Noah first came to battle cancer at the age of 23. He had the same oncological surgeon that I had at Johns Hopkins; Dr. Efron.

Noah's quiet courage and insistence on living joyfully carried him through treatment and through a lot of times of adversity over the next 10 years of his life.

In that intervening decade before colon cancer stole this splendid young man from us, he lived with great purpose and great passion and an unwavering dedication to his art and to the people in his life who he loved and was devoted to.

To honor Noah's generosity and his creativity, his loving family has launched a scholarship in his honor at his alma mater, Washington University in St. Louis.

This fund will make it possible for a high school student artist to attend the same summer program at Wash U. in St. Louis that gave Noah the confidence and the skills to pursue his dreams of becoming an artist and an illustrator, a dream that led just one of his pieces of art to become a stamp in our country.

Noah was not only a remarkable artist, he was an astonishingly quick-witted and gentle and loving human being.

He left an indelible mark on everyone who knew him, including his fantastic care team led by Dr. Jonathan Efron and nurse practitioner Tam Warczynski.

Noah is survived by his fiancée, Hitomi Inoue; his devoted parents, Jeffrey and Lucinda; his two loving brothers, Julian and Seth; his extended family; countless friends and neighbors; grateful, loving students; and, of course, his timeless amazing art, which now the entire country will get to enjoy.

HONORING JOHN "ANDREW" FISTER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Amherst County teacher John "Andrew" Fister.

Mr. Fister was an exemplary educator who dedicated nearly 25 years of his life to teaching, training, and developing his students.

After teaching Bible, math, and German for 18 years in Ohio, he moved to Virginia to serve 3 years as an academic instructor, helping young adults enter the workforce.

In January of 2022, Mr. Fister joined Amherst County public schools as a math and German teacher. Despite his relatively short time there, he left an indelible impact on the student body.

Mr. Fister was loved by many students, even those not in his classes, and served as a mentor for many who walked those halls.

With a special gift working with students needing a second chance or just a little extra help, he taught them to believe in themselves and to work hard to achieve their dreams.

Mr. Fister's enthusiasm for life was contagious, and he meant so much to so many in the Amherst community.

Only 50 years old, his time on Earth was too short for those who loved him, but his personal testimony and the influence he had on others will live beyond his life here.

His family and those who knew him best are comforted by the knowledge that he is in Heaven with his Lord and Savior, Jesus Christ.

FUTURE OF DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. NICKEL) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak on the urgent need to stand up for democracy at home and abroad.

Yesterday, Members of Congress heard from our Secretary of State, our Secretary of Defense, and other senior leaders from the administration on the dire situation in Ukraine and Israel.

While they said the right things, the sense of urgency, the sense of passion is missing from all of this right now. It is missing from this debate, Mr. Speaker.

If we leave next week for the holidays with inaction, Russian will win, and we will begin to hand over Ukraine to Russia and Vladimir Putin.

Mr. Speaker, the world is watching the actions of this Chamber right now in the next 10 days, and the silence is deafening.

Let's be clear: Both Russia and Hamas seek to destroy democracy, and we must stand with our allies and pass a supplemental aid package now.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Ukraine. Right now, we risk Ukraine literally running out of bullets if we go 10 days with inaction here in Congress.

If we do nothing by the end of the month, Russia will begin to win in Ukraine. If we abandon Ukraine, Russia will win.

We need to be clear: The silence and inaction we are seeing play out here on the floor of the House means strong support for Russia and their invasion of Ukraine. That is the choice we are making by doing nothing.

Mr. Speaker, Ronald Reagan is rolling over in his grave right now as he watches far-right extremist Republicans standing with Russia and Vladimir Putin. How has the Republican Party become the party of Vladimir Putin?

Mr. Speaker, this place is broken. I want to be clear in what I am saying. We are witnessing a minority of the Republican Conference calling the shots in this Chamber.

A majority of the Republican Conference supports standing with Ukraine, but they have been cowed by the minority in their party, and we continue to see the tail wagging the dog.

To my Republican colleagues who remain silent, the time for action is now. Allow a clean vote on the supplemental funding package for Ukraine and for Israel. We must stand strong with Ukraine today.

Let's talk about the cost because that has been brought up over and over. If we gift wrap Ukraine for Vladimir Putin over this holiday season, we

will spend 100 times more money around the globe containing an aggressive Russia. Moldova and Georgia are next.

This is a national security issue for the American people, and support for Ukraine is in our national interest.

Mr. Speaker, I want to talk about Israel as well. We must stand with Israel and support its right to defend itself.

We must immediately pass humanitarian aid and security aid for Israel so that we can disarm and dismantle Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, 400 Members of this Chamber would easily support a clean security and humanitarian assistance package for Israel. It is shameful that our new Speaker chose to play partisan political games with support for Israel.

For the American people watching, the bill that passed out of this Chamber says we will stand with Israel, absolutely, only if we defund the police for billionaires and wealthy tax cheats. That is the choice that this body had, and it is shameful.

When someone's house is on fire, we don't say, hey, we will put out the fire as long as you let us not pay for a bunch of IRS agents to go after billionaires and wealthy tax cheats. You help them when their house is burning down.

Right now, that is what we are watching in Israel with Israel security assistance and humanitarian aid that we need to provide to the Palestinian people in Gaza.

An overwhelming majority of Members support standing with Ukraine and standing with Israel. If we could get a clean vote on this bill on the floor, it would pass, but it is time for action.

□ 1030

Let me say that House Democrats, Senate Democrats, and Senate Republicans all agree on the need to support Israel and Ukraine, and I would even say a majority of the Republican Conference agrees. However, we can't get a vote on this as long as the far-right extremists of the Republican Conference continue to wag the tail of the dog in this House.

Mr. Speaker, this is about the future of democracy for the world. The defining question for our great experiment in self-governance is whether we can defend democracy at home and abroad. We will face that question about defending democracy at home in November, but right now, we need to stand and be counted.

Authoritarianism is on the rise around the globe. We can either stand with democracies like Israel and Ukraine or we can bend the knee to Putin, terrorists, and other authoritarian regimes around the world.

As I voted for Speaker 19 times now, I have learned how incredibly fragile our democracy is. We must act now to pass a supplemental aid package and stand with Ukraine and Israel.

The world is watching, Mr. Speaker. Bring a clean bill to the floor now. The time for action is now.

SECURING OUR NATIONAL SECURITY IN U.S. COLLEGES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CLINE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, the Sixth District is blessed to be among those congressional districts with the highest number of colleges and universities among all the 435 House districts, but Joe Biden's weakness on the global stage has allowed America's foreign adversaries to target our Nation's college students.

From pushing propaganda to stealing critical research to censoring free speech, America's colleges and universities are now on the battleground of foreign interference.

Regimes like the Chinese Communist Party have expanded their influence by bribing American academic institutions with funding opportunities.

According to a Senate report from 2019, 70 percent of all institutions failed to comply with the enforcement tool that is used to protect against threats by foreign adversaries.

All of this is unacceptable and dangerous, as it poses a threat to our national security, research and intellectual property, and our students and academic freedom.

That is why this Congress must pass the DETERRENT Act, which provides transparency, accountability, and clarity to foreign gift reporting requirements for colleges and universities across the country.

House Republicans remain committed to delivering a future that is built on freedom for the American people, and that starts with preventing our adversaries from indoctrinating our students with their propaganda and stealing the research of our colleges and universities across this country.

CONGRATULATING THE JAMES WOOD VOLLEYBALL TEAM ON WINNING THE CLASS 4 STATE TITLE

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the James Wood women's volleyball team for winning the class 4 State title, the program's second straight State championship.

After working hard all season, the Colonels left it all on the floor and dominated the Hanover Hawks for their sixth 3-0 win in six postseason matches.

These talented student athletes include Kennedy Spaid, Ashlynn Spence, Alexys Taylor, Adeline Pitcock, Kyla Wilhelm, Tenley Mattison, Hannah McCullough, Paige Ahakuelo, Brenna Corbin, and Claire Keefer.

Throughout each set, the Colonels focused on working together as a team and doing what was necessary to get the job done, demonstrating resilience, adaptability, and impeccable skills.

Under the leadership and encouragement of Head Coach Adrienne Patrick,

the Colonels were on a mission all season to repeat history, and it ended with them once again as State champions.

Again, I congratulate the James Wood women's volleyball team, Head Coach Adrienne Patrick, parents, faculty, and staff on this incredible achievement.

COMBATING ANTI-SEMITISM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from New Jersey (Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, first and foremost, I want peace. I want a decisive victory over Hamas and an end to its hateful and destructive reign. I want Israel and Palestine to coexist safely, securely, and with prosperity for generations to come.

It is difficult to talk about peace during wartime, but that is exactly what we must do. We cannot be distracted by disingenuous messaging bills that do nothing but grab headlines with no plan forward.

As a person of faith, I have been taught not to hate, but I must admit that I have hated what I have seen in this Chamber recently. For as I hate anti-Semitism and Islamophobia and racism, as I despise homophobia and transphobia, as I reject and revile hatred and bigotry of any kind, I am also disgusted by the way those prejudices have been weaponized in our Chamber.

We voted yesterday on yet another nonbinding messaging resolution denouncing anti-Semitism, H. Res. 894.

To be clear, I have supported efforts to push back against anti-Semitism. That is why I am supporting Mr. NADLER's plan to combat anti-Semitism. It is why I am supporting Mr. GREEN's two-state solution resolution. It is why I signed on to Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ' letter regarding the safety of students on college campuses.

Let's face facts. That was not what this resolution was about. This resolution offers no solutions. It does not seek to bring people together. This resolution was a cynical attempt to weaponize the very real fears of some of our Jewish friends and our neighbors to push a specific political agenda, one that is strikingly disrespectful to the Palestinian state, the State of Israel, and others who support the cause of free and sovereign Palestinian and Israeli states.

On Monday, my colleague, Mr. NADLER, laid out how reckless and uninformed clause 4 of this resolution is. By making it the official position of this Congress that "anti-Zionism is anti-Semitism," we are labeling the thousands of Jews in this country who don't believe their deeply held faith is intrinsically tied to the modern State of Israel as anti-Semitic.

There are very real steps that we as the United States Congress can and should take to combat anti-Semitism in a productive and bipartisan manner.

Condemning anti-Semitism wherever it rears its ugly head is critical, but continuing to vote on nonbinding resolutions week after week after week to score political, partisan points does not get us closer to a solution. It is disrespectful to the seriousness of this situation.

Until Republicans are willing to address rising hate and fascism, we will be sitting here waiting without being able to accomplish anything. It is no better than moments of silence or thoughts and prayers with no substantive action to back it up, which were offered during the mass shootings in our schools, malls, and places of worship.

We have work to do for the American people. The rise of anti-Semitism, Islamophobia, racism, homophobia, and xenophobia are a threat to the American experiment in multicultural democracy, and there are Members of this body who are putting in the work to defend the more perfect Union that we built over the last 250 years.

When Republicans who have been obsessed with these messaging bills are ready to join us, we will welcome them with open arms.

AMERICAN LEADERSHIP IS POWERFUL AGENT FOR FREEDOM, PEACE, AND DEMOCRACY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) for 5 minutes.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, American leadership has always been the most influential, powerful agent for freedom, peace, and democracy.

One month ago, the House stood up to protect our values and national interests by passing a bipartisan package to help Israel defend itself from Hamas.

I recently attended a screening of the footage from Hamas that Chairman MCCAUL and Ranking Member MEEKS invited us all to, and I am so grateful for their leadership to have us do that. I knew it was footage that would be tough to see, but I knew it was footage I needed to see. I won't ever be the same after having seen that.

As we support our ally, we must take a comprehensive look at the Biden administration's Middle East policy.

Encapsulating all of my thoughts today in my remarks is a simple concept: With foreign policy, although it would be desired by all, you can't have it all. You have to make tough choices when it comes to foreign policy. You don't get to have everything that you would ever want. You cannot have it all with respect to foreign policy.

I will share a little bit about how important it is to take a stand.

While I am grateful for President Biden's clear support for Israel, his administration's attempts to placate Iran, the number one state sponsor of terrorism in the world, have been a critical misstep.

For the past 3 years, the Biden administration has embarked on a deeply

misguided and contradictory quest to resurrect the Iran nuclear deal while begrudgingly continuing one of the Trump and Pence administration's most successful efforts at peace in the Middle East, the Abraham Accords, and the recognition of Israel by its Arab neighbors in embracing diplomatic and economic ties through these accords.

Rather than maintaining the maximum pressure campaign that sanctioned and starved Iran of foreign revenue, the Biden administration has balked at enforcing sanctions. They have allowed Iranian oil exports to surge back to levels higher than they were in 2018 and attempted to unfreeze billions of dollars in Iranian assets from foreign banks.

The Iranian regime is flush with cash thanks to the global energy crisis and the administration's policy of appeasement. Iran uses this cash to fund, equip, and train a terrorist network across the region. This includes groups like Hamas and Hezbollah.

According to reports from The Wall Street Journal, 500 or so Hamas terrorists trained in Iran in the months leading up to the October 7 attack on innocent Israelis. The Iranian regime has developed this terror network not just in Gaza and Lebanon but also in Syria, Iraq, and Yemen for one purpose: to cause just enough chaos to make the Arab world think twice about sustainable peace with Israel and the reliability of U.S. diplomacy.

The Biden administration says its Iran appeasement is geared toward preventing Iran from acquiring nuclear weapons, a goal I think we could all get behind, but it has obviously emboldened Iran and undermined regional security.

We need our four main regional security partners—Israel, Saudi Arabia, Egypt, and Turkiye—to work together in unity, and we need America to lead on this front.

President Biden's approach creates tremendous doubt that the United States is more committed to the security of our partners than to a delusional accommodation of Iran. What must Riyadh, Cairo, and Istanbul have thought these past 3 years while watching the U.S. respond meekly to Iranian proxy groups disrupting political order, trafficking illegal weapons, and lobbing rockets at American diplomats with impunity?

Iran would love nothing more than for Saudi Arabia to think twice about normalizing relations with Israel, given the current crisis. Iran would love nothing more than for Egypt to decide that the opportunity costs for working with Israel on humanitarian corridors in Gaza, something that I have been calling for in a bipartisan fashion, is too high. Iran would love nothing more than for Turkiye to decide that it is more beneficial to work directly with Iran rather than through the United States.

The Trump-Pence administration correctly understood that the Abraham

Accords were the best chance we have for sustainable peace in the Middle East. We are stronger together than we are apart.

President Biden is undermining regional security and unity by appeasing the region's chief destabilizer: Iran. We must enforce sanctions, communicate clearly that we stand on the side of Israel and our partners, and line up our diplomatic and military commitments with our national interests that are also the national interests of Israel and the Arab world.

IN MEMORY OF PASTOR CHARLES GILCHRIST ADAMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. STRONG). The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB) for 5 minutes.

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Michigan's 12th Congressional District mourns the loss of Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams, a beloved spiritual and community leader. He was an activist in our district whose influence impacted so many of our lives across the State and the world. He was loved and respected by so many.

Pastor Adams served as a lead pastor for the historic Hartford Memorial Baptist Church in Detroit, a role that he held for more than 50 years.

As a pastor, he dedicated his life and mission to service, fighting for justice for our communities and improving the lives of our residents in northwest Detroit. He was a tireless advocate for safe and affordable housing for all and childcare for our working families.

He served as president of the Detroit Branch of the NAACP in 1984, and he also served on the executive board until 1992.

Please join me, Mr. Speaker, in remembering Pastor Charles Gilchrist Adams for his incredible advocacy, leadership, and impact on our district.

May he rest in love, and may his legacy live on in our community.

□ 1045

RECOGNIZING DEARBORN FIREFIGHTERS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, the 12th Congressional District recognizes two outstanding members of Dearborn's fire department: Battalion Chief Kenneth Murray, for his 26 years of service, and EMS Coordinator Glenn Owens, for his 25 years of service to our communities.

Battalion Chief Murray started with the Dearborn Fire Department in 1997 as a firefighter. He steadily rose through the ranks, serving as an engineer, lieutenant, and captain before he was promoted to battalion chief in 2020.

Over the course of his career, Battalion Chief Murray has garnered numerous awards and was recognized as Dearborn Exchange Club's Fire Officer of the Year in 2016. Battalion Chief Murray has been an outstanding public servant to the communities served by the Dearborn Fire Department.

EMS Coordinator Owens began his career as a firefighter in the Dearborn

Fire Department in 1998. Over the past 25 years, Owens has served in numerous roles, and he remains steadfast in his commitment to service and keeping our community safe.

EMS Coordinator Owens has been recognized many times over the course of his career in Dearborn for his incredible record, including saving lives and safe driving.

Please join me in recognizing Battalion Chief Kenneth Murray and EMS Coordinator Glenn Owens for their many years of outstanding service to the people of Dearborn in Michigan's 12th District Strong as we wish them well in their retirement.

ACKNOWLEDGING MY INCREDIBLE TEAM

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I want to take time to acknowledge my incredible team and our accomplishments these past few years for our community. I lovingly call our congressional district 12th District Strong.

At the beginning of this year, we opened three new Neighborhood Service Organizations in Detroit, Inkster, and Southfield.

Throughout the district, our Neighborhood Service Organizations have returned over \$5.5 million in constituent services dollars directly to over 8,000 residents, returning alone just this year over \$306,000 for our communities.

We served and responded to over 164,069 letters from our neighbors who advocate for clean water, clean air, utilities for all, and so much more. We have hosted and participated in over 120 events, including coffee hours, townhalls, resource fairs, and more to ensure that I remain accessible to my residents.

In Congress, in our legislative advocacy work from affordable housing to medical debt cancellation and auto insurance discrimination, we have introduced 160 bills, and 39 bills and amendments have actually passed since 2019.

This year, we celebrated the 1-year anniversary of the Congressional Mamas' Caucus, where we are committed to advocating for working moms and their families on issues of affordable childcare, paid leave, and ending poverty policies that are incredibly important, as well as something dear to me, combating Black maternal health, and so much more.

We also started the Get the Lead Out Caucus, where we know that no amount of lead is safe for our children or our families.

These accomplishments would not have been possible without our residents' faith in me and sending me here to the United States Congress to do the people's work. It has been an honor to serve as the Congresswoman for the 12th Congressional District, 12th District Strong.

I thank all of my team for all of their hard work and tenacity. This is just the beginning of what we will be able to accomplish.

CONGRATULATING THE STEWARTVILLE HIGH SCHOOL TIGERS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. FINSTAD) for 5 minutes.

Mr. FINSTAD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Stewartville High School Tigers on winning this year's Minnesota Class 3A high school football championship.

Stewartville capped off an undefeated season with their 43-13 victory over Annandale in the State championship game on November 25 at the U.S. Bank Stadium in Minneapolis.

While this marks the third time the Tigers have made it to the State finals, this year's win earned them the first-ever championship title in Stewartville's history.

The Tigers finished their 2023 season with a perfect 14-0 record, and all of us across the First Congressional District are incredibly proud to call them our own.

Congratulations to Coach Mueller, his team, and the entire Stewartville community on this well-deserved title.

Way to go, Tigers.

OHIO'S NUCLEAR ENERGY PROBLEMS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, the production of nuclear power in our country is an awesome responsibility. Put in the hands of the wrong people, it can be deadly.

Those who operate nuclear facilities must be highly trained and honorable. Recall Three Mile Island, Chernobyl, and Fukushima? They all teach us nuclear power in the hands of careless and, indeed, corrupt people can be deadly to thousands of innocent people.

This morning, let us turn to Ohio's two financially strapped nuclear plants, both located in northern Ohio, adjacent to our people's freshwater kingdom, Lake Erie.

In Ohio, the largest corruption crimes in America's commercial plant nuclear history are being litigated. These crimes are also the largest public corruption trials in Ohio's history.

Last week, a Federal grand jury in Cincinnati indicted former chair of Ohio's Public Utilities Commission, Sam Randazzo, on bribery and embezzlement for his role in receiving \$4.3 million in kickbacks for what has been labeled the biggest political bribery scandal in Ohio's history.

The nuclear power company, FirstEnergy, ultimately paid more than \$60 million in 2018 and 2019 to bribe public officials like the Speaker of the Ohio House, who has now been sentenced to 20 years in prison.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article entitled "Sam Randazzo, Ohio's former top utilities regulator, charged with bribery, embezzlement crimes."

[From the Plain Dealer Cleveland, Dec. 5, 2023]

SAM RANDAZZO, OHIO'S FORMER TOP UTILITIES REGULATORY, CHARGED WITH BRIBERY, EMBEZZLEMENT CRIMES
(By Jeremy Pelzer, Andrew J. Tobias, and Jake Zuckerman, Zuckerman)

COLUMBUS, OH.—A federal grand jury has indicted Sam Randazzo, the former chair of the Public Utilities Commission of Ohio, on 11 counts related to bribery and embezzlement. U.S. Attorney Kenneth Parker's office announced Monday.

The indictment states that Randazzo accepted a \$4.3 million bribe in exchange for helping FirstEnergy, an Akron-based electric utility, secure its policy priorities, including helping with House Bill 6, the 2019 energy law at the center of a federal bribery probe. FirstEnergy admitted to bribing Randazzo in 2021, but he wasn't charged until now.

If convicted, Randazzo could face up to 20 years in prison.

The 74-year-old Columbus resident self-surrendered on Monday morning at U.S. District Court in Cincinnati, according to a release. He appeared in federal court that afternoon, cuffed at the wrists and ankles, before Chief Magistrate Judge Karen Litkovitz at Cincinnati's federal courthouse. He pleaded not guilty and was released on a bond of his own recognizance.

The 11 counts against Randazzo include: one count of conspiring to commit travel act bribery and honest services wire fraud, two counts of travel act bribery, two counts of honest services wire fraud, one count of wire fraud and five counts of making illegal monetary transactions, according to the release.

As chairman of the PUCO from April 2019 until he resigned in November 2020, Randazzo reviewed requests from gas and electric companies seeking to levy new costs on customers. He accepted \$4.3 million soon after meeting with then-FirstEnergy executives Chuck Jones and Mike Dowling in December 2018, as Randazzo was applying to become PUCO chair.

In November 2019, Randazzo pushed to cancel a 2024 rate review case that the company believed would hurt its bottom line by forcing it to reduce the rates it charged customers, as well as open its books to regulators, which they saw as problematic.

Randazzo also played a key role in getting lawmakers, including Ohio Senate Finance Committee Chair Matt Dolan, to include language in the 2019 state budget that loosened state limits on FirstEnergy, and other utilities' ability to make "significantly excessive" profits, according to the indictment.

Dolan, a Chagrin Falls Republican now running for the U.S. Senate, previously acknowledged speaking to Dowling, who convinced him of the need to place the amendment in the state budget. The Plain Dealer/cleveland.com reached out to Dolan on Monday for comment.

The indictment states that Randazzo routed the bribe money through his consulting business, Sustainability Funding Alliance of Ohio. He also used that business to funnel to himself at least \$1 million meant for Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, a consortium of large-scale energy buyers who he represented in PUCO cases as an attorney.

"Public officials—whether elected or appointed—are tasked with upholding the highest level of integrity in their duties and responsibilities. Such service to the public must be selfless, not selfish," the U.S. Attorney said in a statement. "Through the indictment unsealed today, we seek to hold Randazzo accountable for his alleged illegal activities."

Roger Sugarman, an attorney representing Randazzo in criminal and civil lawsuits, de-

clined to comment Monday. Randazzo did not respond to questions posed by reporters.

Randazzo's arraignment on Monday advanced a stunning fall from grace from a once respected utility lawyer and lobbyist with notorious influence at the Statehouse. He is often credited with pushing for what would become state laws constricting the growth of wind, solar, and energy efficiency programs in Ohio. State lobbying records reflect years of lobbying work on behalf of the Ohio Gas Company, Vectren Energy and IEU. Now-state Sen. Shane Wilkin once told Randazzo in an email that "we already know you run the energy world." He was a mainstay at IEU's regular "Ohio Energy Management Conference."

Gov. Mike DeWine, who appointed Randazzo, had dinner with Jones and Dowling the same night as the latter pair's meeting with Randazzo. DeWine spokesman Dan Tierney said Monday that while the governor's office wasn't privy to the indictment and was still reviewing it, "the indictment alleges very serious acts. Our office has full faith in the criminal justice system to adjudicate these serious allegations in an appropriate manner."

Many of the emails and text messages referenced in the indictment to and from the former FirstEnergy executives and Randazzo have previously been made public. However, the indictment's details about his embezzlement charge are new, according to Dave DeVillers, Parker's predecessor as U.S. attorney.

Randazzo resigned as PUCO chair in November 2020, days after the FBI raided his Columbus townhouse. In the years that followed, prosecutors were silent about Randazzo, leading to questions about why they were taking so long to decide whether to file charges.

Ashley Brown, a former PUCO commissioner, said the delay has cost the state's electricity customers, given that the PUCO has paused its own investigations into the HB6 scandal at Parker's request to wait for the federal corruption investigation to wrap up.

In the meantime, electricity customers have continued to pay a fee contained in HB6 that subsidizes a pair of coal plants owned by FirstEnergy and several other utilities.

"It's hard to imagine why he wasn't indicted earlier," said Brown, who also questioned why no current or former FirstEnergy officials have been charged so far.

Asked about the length of time it took for charges to be brought, DeVillers said, "They could have been negotiating with the defense attorney, they could have been talking to him and it fell apart. And then it could be they dug into this count [the embezzlement charge], which seems to be completely different, and needed to ferret that out to find out what that was all about."

Randazzo is already a defendant in a civil lawsuit filed in 2021 by Ohio Attorney General Dave Yost. As part of that case, a Franklin County judge ordered the seizure of up to \$3 million worth of Randazzo's assets, though that decision is still being appealed.

Randazzo's indictment comes several months after ex-Ohio House Speaker Larry Householder was sentenced to 20 years in prison for leading a \$60 million bribery scheme using FirstEnergy money to help pass House Bill 6, which included a \$1 billion-plus ratepayer bailout for two nuclear power plants then owned by a FirstEnergy subsidiary. Former Ohio Republican Party Chair Matt Borges received 5 years in prison for his role in the scandal; two others connected to the bribery scheme have pleaded guilty and are awaiting sentencing.

FirstEnergy officials previously admitted that Randazzo helped them to develop strategy and legal language for HB6.

After HB6 passed, emails made public last year showed Randazzo, as PUCO chair, worked behind the scenes to hinder attempts to fully repeal the law, and he only grudgingly called for state regulators to take limited action—asking FirstEnergy to investigate itself over whether it misspent any customer money—in response to negative press.

To date, no current or former FirstEnergy officials, have been charged in connection with the HB6 scandal or any of Randazzo's alleged crimes.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, FirstEnergy's plot was to foist its billion-dollar-plus corporate losses on the consumers of Ohio due to its pitiful management of its two nuclear power plants in northern Ohio. These are crimes.

While Randazzo was being indicted, the Federal Government moved to claim an additional \$6.5 million from FirstEnergy for this crime. We should all be deeply disturbed that inherently dangerous nuclear assets have been in the hands of criminals.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an editorial titled: "Finally, 11 counts against ex-PUCO chief Sam Randazzo but why still none against then-FirstEnergy officials whose fingerprints are all over the case?"

[From The Plain Dealer Cleveland, Dec. 6, 2023]

FINALLY, 11 COUNTS AGAINST EX-PUCO CHIEF SAM RANDAZZO BUT WHY STILL NONE AGAINST THEN-FIRSTENERGY OFFICIALS WHOSE FINGERPRINTS ARE ALL OVER THE CASE?

(By Editorial Board)

Monday's unsealing of an 11-count federal conspiracy, bribery, wire fraud and embezzlement indictment against former Public Utilities Commission of Ohio chief Samuel Randazzo was a welcome sign of prosecutorial progress in the FirstEnergy/House Bill 6 corruption case—but it's like the first footfall in a long-delayed reckoning with some of the key officials at the heart of the asserted conspiracy.

Our editorial board had repeatedly urged the U.S. Attorney for Southern Ohio, Ken Parker, to explain publicly why such a long delay in a case whose first arrests—of five Statehouse figures, including now-convicted former House Speaker Larry Householder and former Ohio Republican Party chair Matt Borges—came more than three years ago.

And where is the second footfall—charges against any of the FirstEnergy Corp. executives whose roles in paying out the bribes and soliciting the corrupt actions by Randazzo and others have been detailed in this and prior indictments?

The Randazzo indictment refers to now-departed Executives 1 and 2 at Akron-based FirstEnergy—former CEO Chuck Jones and former Senior Vice President for External Affairs Michael Dowling—as those with the primary contacts with Randazzo over the \$4,333,333 bribe FirstEnergy Corp. previously admitted paying Randazzo in a 2021 deferred prosecution agreement.

But they're clearly not the only FirstEnergy officials privy to the laundry list of regulatory and legislative favors Randazzo was helping the company secure, including a lucrative decoupling accounting provision that PUCO staff opposed, modifications to the state's "significantly excessive earnings test" (SEET) that were added to the two-year state budget, and "burning" of

a critical PUCO audit about FirstEnergy's distribution modernization rider (DMR).

According to the Randazzo indictment, "On or about March 4, 2020, Executive 1 messaged another Company A executive: "He [Randazzo] will get it done for us but cannot just jettison all process. Says the combination of over ruling Staff and other Commissioners on decoupling, getting rid of SEET and burning the DMR final report has a lot of talk going on in the halls of PUCO about does he work there or for us? He'll move it as fast as he can. Better come up with a short term work around."

An indictment to shed light on the full scope of corruption entailed in FirstEnergy's actions is needed.

It's possible Parker's delay in indicting Randazzo over bribes long since acknowledged by FirstEnergy and favors that have come into clearer light in civil cases was because he hoped to turn others into cooperating witnesses—or Randazzo into one himself.

Then there's the unexpected embezzlement charge against Randazzo in the indictment, accusing him of defrauding another client, the Industrial Energy Users-Ohio, a group of big energy customers, of \$1,104,598.

David DeVillers, the former U.S. Attorney for Southern Ohio under whose leadership the corruption case was first investigated and prosecuted, told cleveland.com's Jeremy Pelzer, Andrew J. Tobias and Jake Zuckerman that the embezzlement charge might have been the whammy in the mix, taking time to sort out. "It could be they dug into this count, which seems to be completely different, and needed to ferret that out to find out what that was all about," DeVillers told the reporters.

Either way, it is to be hoped that the indictment of Randazzo will finally cause Parker to lift his effective hold on important PUCO and other state-level investigations into how both the PUCO and its processes, and the legislative process separately, were so distorted and corrupted, so reforms can be made. That's especially urgent given that unrepealed parts of fatally tainted House Bill 6 right now require electricity customers in Ohio to subsidize—to the tune of more than \$200 million so far, according to the Ohio Office of Consumers' Counsel—two money-losing coal plants, one in Indiana. Shining the full disinfectant of transparent investigations on how all this came to be is a critical first step to reform.

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, since the Davis-Besse plant came online in 1977, its corporate leadership has never understood nuclear power or its dangers. It is only the unionized workers that have saved our lives. The plant shares an old Babcock-and-Wilcox design with the Three Mile Island reactor that partially melted down in 1979. Another plant with the design, the Rancho Seco plant in Sacramento, California, permanently closed in 1989.

Davis-Besse itself is now nearly 50 years old and has a dismal reputation within the industry and a history of too many close calls. In 1985, the plant suffered a loss of the main and backup supplies of cooling water because of a series of system failures, and this should have been a wake-up call, but it went unheeded.

In 2002, we faced the worst nuclear safety incident since Three Mile Island when a major hole was discovered in Davis-Besse's reactor head, endangering the lives of millions of Ohioans

and the purity of Lake Erie. The plant's unionized workers again saved us all.

The Davis-Besse nuclear power plant, with its history of safety violations and close calls, is a clear example of how corporate culture can influence safety culture for the worst, and the industry around our country never held them accountable.

The fines and penalties imposed on FirstEnergy have done little to deter misconduct. It is time for us to take bold action and provide our region with safe, advanced, modern power in a platform akin to the Tennessee Valley Authority.

So much more needs to be done to make our communities safe and whole from FirstEnergy's fraud, starting with making sure that the Benton-Carroll-Salem school system where Davis-Besse is located can be made whole. The value of property in the region has gone down 90 percent, which means the school system is going to be nearly \$6 million short on what it needs to teach the next generation.

I urge judges in the case to take the grid under FirstEnergy's ownership under safe public conservatorship until a reliable operator can be stood up.

May we find the wisdom and courage to confront these nuclear challenges head-on to usher in a new era of clean and responsible energy for the consumers and people of northern Ohio who have been balked so royally over the last nearly half century.

CELEBRATING THE 30-YEAR ANNIVERSARY OF A PLACE CALLED HOME

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE) for 5 minutes.

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 30-year anniversary of A Place Called Home, a nonprofit that has served thousands of at-risk youth and families in the South Los Angeles community.

A Place Called Home provides free programs that focus on job readiness and mental health services as well as art and technology. It allows children to explore creativity through their arts programming.

Earlier this year, they hosted the Latinx Theater Festival in honor of Hispanic Heritage Month, where the children helped with ticketing, light, and sound design for the productions.

A Place Called Home aims to increase children's likelihood of staying in school and graduating, and in the past 30 years, it has supported more than 500 first-generation students in their journey to college.

They serve 2,000 meals to students every week on top of the thousands more they provide to families at home in California's 37th District. None of this would be possible without their founder, Debrah Constance, and CEO Norayma Cabot, who work tirelessly

with the board and staff every day to support my district's children and families.

I hope you will join me in celebrating this milestone for A Place Called Home, and I look forward to seeing all that they do in the next 30 years and beyond.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF MIKE WATANABE

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mike Watanabe. He passed away last month after 77 years full of life.

Mike began his service to the Los Angeles community when he joined the Asian American Drug Abuse Program as a counselor in 1975. He saw the impact that drug use had on his friends and community in the wake of the Vietnam war and wanted to find a way to advocate for recovery after earning his master's degree in social work. He became the executive director in 1982 before ascending to the role of president and CEO in 2004.

Through his decades of service with AADAP, he worked with community leaders to support substance abuse recovery. AADAP's efforts have served residents in California's 37th District for over 50 years.

Mike is remembered for his compassion, leadership, and unwavering belief in building a supportive community.

My friend Mike always kept it 100. He built a family at AADAP and throughout the Los Angeles area. Mike was a part of the Los Angeles County Narcotics and Dangerous Drugs Commission for 16 years, chairing the Asian and Pacific Islander Constituent Committee and supporting several other AAPI-focused organizations all aimed at substance abuse recovery.

His support of early Asian-American community organizations left a lasting impact on the success of today's nonprofits and Asian-American services. We are all the better for having been impacted by Mike's jovial spirit and passion for community service. He will be greatly missed.

Please take a moment to honor the life of Mike Watanabe. My heart is with his wife, Suzanne, and their family during this time.

GOP THREAT TO DEMOCRACY

Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today for a moment of truth. House Republicans pose a deep threat to our national security. It is dependent on what we do domestically and upon how we support our allies abroad, like Ukraine.

Ukraine will not be able to fend off Russia on its own, and Republicans will be responsible if they refuse to act to counter war criminal Putin's anti-West, anti-democracy assault.

I guess that makes sense, since the Republican Party has pledged fealty to Donald Trump, a master anarchist who is focused on government destruction, exploding democracy, and distracting and impoverishing the American people. He is someone who just 2 weeks

ago called people vermin. He is using white supremacist code words.

The global stage is watching us because they are all in for Ukraine and democracy, but Republican isolationism has hurt and will continue to destabilize our democracy, weaken our allies, and remove the United States from the global stage. When we leave, someone far more dangerous will take our place and hurt us more.

No more distractions, conflation, or profligations. Mr. Speaker, the time to get serious about this country is right now.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 59 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California) at noon.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, the Reverend Margaret Grun Kibben, offered the following prayer:

Open our eyes dear Lord. Give us sight in the overwhelming darkness that has blinded us to the light of Your will. The shadow of hatred for our brothers and sisters has blinded us to Your command to live and act in love.

Open our eyes and our hearts and purge the animosity from our world where weapons of war and arms of outright prejudice are set in motion by human hands and triggered by the hardness of our hearts.

Cleanse our hearts from every inking of hostility wherever it dares to take root within us and however it is displayed by us: in our disdain for a relative or neighbor who has slighted us, in our contempt for Jews or Muslims or another person or group that has fallen out of our favor, and even in the insults we too often toss across the political aisle.

Bring us out from the darkness we have created and call us back to our love for You by following Your command to love one another, that once again we would live in Your light.

Shed Your divine light in our lives such that it would cause us to set down our weapons, abandon our hatred, and walk without stumbling, in the way You have revealed to us. In the power of Your name, we pray that You would grant us Your mercy and illumine Your will for us this day.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair has examined the Journal of the

last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

Pursuant to clause 1 of rule I, the Journal stands approved.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. MURPHY led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair will entertain up to 15 requests for 1-minute speeches on each side of the aisle.

HONORING MAJOR JEFFREY HOERNEMANN

(Mr. EMMER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor U.S. Air Force Major Jeff Hoernemann of Andover, Minnesota. Jeff lost his life last week along with seven other airmen during a routine training mission off the coast of Japan. He was just 32 years old.

Throughout his life, Jeff had a competitive spirit and was uniquely disciplined. A graduate of Andover High School, Jeff broke school and conference records in the indoor 800 meters and the 4 x 800-meter relay.

As a teenager, he won a \$15,000 scholarship with an essay describing his careful budgeting to purchase a bike for triathlons.

After competing in cross country and earning a degree in mechanical engineering from North Dakota State University, Jeff entered the Air Force. In 2016, he became a pilot after completing Columbus Air Force Base's Specialized Undergraduate Pilot Training class.

Jeff dedicated his life to service and made the ultimate sacrifice. Today, across the city of Andover, the State of Minnesota, and this country, we honor his life and preserve his memory. Our prayers are with Jeff's wife, Jess; his parents, Thomas and Catherine; and his brother, Jared.

AID FOR ISRAEL AND UKRAINE

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we are fighting while freedom burns. We have 5 legislative days left to aid our allies, Israel and Ukraine.

Each hour we wait makes it harder for our allies to defend freedom and de-

mocracy against tyrants and terrorists.

OMB Director Shalanda Young made it clear this week that the past resources we secured for Ukraine have run out.

As Speaker JOHNSON said in Florida, Putin won't stop in Ukraine. He will continue to devour territory and undermine democracy until he is stopped.

My Republican colleagues ask what the plan is in Ukraine and Israel. The plan is to win. The plan is to defeat Putin. The plan is to vanquish terrorism generally and Hamas in particular.

Most Members agree on that plan—300 on Ukraine and 400 on Israel. I urge the Speaker to give us the opportunity to act on that consensus now. Freedom demands it.

HONORING GARY PETERSON

(Mr. NEWHOUSE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize Gary Peterson, a dedicated leader hailing from the Tri-Cities, who tragically lost his battle with cancer this past month.

It saddens me that rather than announcing his next greatest achievement, I am instead here to mourn his passing.

Gary was known throughout central Washington, the United States Capitol, and the Department of Energy as a fierce advocate for the interests of the Tri-Cities.

His leadership in our communities proved fruitful for decades, sparking both economic development and innovation for the citizens of central Washington.

His advocacy for the Hanford cleanup mission has been the cornerstone of the success of our region, and I am in awe of the impact he has made over the years.

His immense knowledge, wisdom, and understanding of our community's priorities was matched by so few, and I have no doubt his name will go down in history with the names of people like Sam Volpentest and Bob Ferguson.

Gary's legacy includes leading advocacy for the Pacific Northwest National Laboratory's campus, supporting the advancements of the Hanford cleanup mission, and advocating for the growing local economy at TRIDEC.

He will be known as a loving husband, father, grandfather, and personal friend. He will be missed, but his legacy will continue to live on.

MISS EASTERN NORTH CAROLINA TEEN ALYSON SHARP

(MR. DAVIS of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, there she is: Miss Eastern

North Carolina Teen, Ms. Alyson Sharp.

Alyson's platform promotes agriculture and, more specifically, the advancement of women in agriculture—girls farm, too.

Her love for agriculture has been inspired by one of eastern North Carolina's legendary farmers, Pender Sharp of Sharp Farms in Wilson, North Carolina. Pender is Alyson's grandfather. She refers to him as her "Big."

As Miss Eastern North Carolina Teen, Alyson remains dedicated to community service. She collected and donated food for a food drive to ensure homeless individuals had a good Thanksgiving Day meal.

Currently, she is working with the Wilson Police Department to make Christmas special and to fulfill the wishes of kids across the city. During her pastime, she enjoys hunting and fishing.

Miss Eastern North Carolina Teen is a crown most special to me as Alyson brings hope for a brighter future.

BEST COMMUNITIES FOR MUSIC EDUCATION

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize 10 school districts across the 15th District who are recognized as "Best Communities for Music Education" and received the SupportMusic Merit Award from the National Association of Music Manufacturers Foundation.

This recognition is given to schools who continue to provide all children with the opportunity to learn and to grow with music.

The award program acknowledges and celebrates innovative schools and districts that have developed a stronger presence for music education on campus and in the lives of the students.

Congratulations to St. Francis School in Clearfield County, Tidioute Community Charter School in Warren County, Bald Eagle Area School District in Centre County, Armstrong School District in Armstrong County, DuBois Area School District in Clearfield and Jefferson Counties, State College Area School District in Centre County, Bellefonte Area School District in Centre County, Clearfield Area School District in Clearfield County, Lewisburg Area School District in Union County, and Port Allegany School District in McKean and Potter Counties.

We congratulate these school districts on this recognition.

CELEBRATING GARTH FAGAN

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

Mr. MORELLE. Mr. Speaker, today I stand to honor Garth Fagan, a Rochester visionary who profoundly influenced the cultural fabric of not only our local community but the entire world.

As we pay tribute to this extraordinary artist, I acknowledge and celebrate the deep connection between Garth Fagan and the people and places enriched by his vision.

Committed to Rochester's artistic growth, he established the Bottom of the Bucket, But . . . Dance Theater in 1970, now known simply as Garth Fagan Dance.

Since then, Garth has inspired and nurtured a new generation of talented artists from around the globe. His innovative choreography has earned him accolades, including a Tony award for Broadway's "The Lion King," a production masterfully blending culture and creativity, which will remain forever a testament to his artistic brilliance.

Garth Fagan is truly a national treasure. As he transitions away from his leadership role in the dance company, his profound impact will undoubtedly continue to resonate—captivating audiences for generations to come.

IMPACTS OF INFLATION

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, the disastrous decisions by Biden hurts the pocketbooks of Americans and destroys jobs, made even more obvious as we enter the holiday season of Christmas and Hanukkah.

Bidenomics inflation has overcome hourly raises, reducing the spending power of Americans by \$11,434 annually in the two Biden years.

Under Biden, prices for the same Thanksgiving dinner were 25 percent higher in 2023 than in 2019. As Christmas approaches, Americans are challenged. In a WalletHub survey, more than one in three Americans are foregoing gifts this year due to Bidenflation.

Republicans, led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, will continue to fight to reduce inflation and create jobs. Speaker JOHNSON is correct that we must support the borders of Ukraine and America.

In conclusion, God bless our troops who successfully protected America for 20 years in the global war on terrorism as it continues moving from the safe haven of Afghanistan to America with Biden open borders for terrorists.

It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent, as finally admitted by the FBI.

RECOGNIZING LAURA PENROD

(Ms. LEE of Nevada asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an incredible educator in southern Nevada, Ms. Laura Penrod, who has been recognized as Nevada's Teacher of the Year for 2024.

Ms. Penrod currently teaches at Southwest Career and Technical Academy where she opened the special education department and began working and teaching English soon thereafter.

She brings 17 years of teaching experience to help her students not only in the classroom but also after school, advising several extracurricular activities and in her community as a fearless champion of public education.

Ms. Penrod exemplifies what makes our teachers so special—the drive to do good and always be there for our students.

I wish Ms. Penrod the best of luck as she moves on to the National Teacher of the Year competition, and I am deeply grateful for the impact she has on her students and our community.

RECOGNIZING DR. J. WILLIAM MCROBERTS

(Mr. MURPHY asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in special recognition of my dear friend, mentor, and former surgical chairman, Dr. J. William McRoberts, known affectionately as "Mac."

A native of Rochester, Minnesota, he graduated from Princeton University and attended Cornell University School of Medicine where he was elected class president.

After completing his surgical training at the Mayo Clinic, he was stationed as director of urology at the U.S. Naval Hospital in Bremerton, Washington. He continued to serve in the U.S. Navy as a captain in the Reserves for 20 years.

He began his academic career as an assistant professor at the University of Washington, excelling throughout the ranks and becoming chairman of urology in the division of surgery at the University of Kentucky.

As my chairman, Dr. McRoberts taught me a great deal about patient care, endurance, and professionalism. Despite long and oftentimes grueling hours, he kept a great wit and humor about him, challenging us all not only to be better physicians but better humans. He demonstrated that compassion and surgical skill are not mutually exclusive.

Once he retired from academic life in 2001, instead of just enjoying the fruits of his labor, he has served in underserved areas in Kentucky and for the last 3 years in rural eastern North Carolina.

Now, at the age of 90, I am releasing him of his medical obligation to enjoy his life with his wife, Marley; son, Porter; daughter, Jane; and their grandchildren.

My life has been a better one lived because of his professionalism, humor, and friendship.

□ 1215

IMMIGRANT COMMUNITIES IN LAHAINA

(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, Hawaii has a proud immigrant tradition, with many of us able to trace our roots across the globe.

Few places in Hawaii exemplify our diversity more than Lahaina, where nearly a third of the residents are foreign-born. They came from the Philippines, Mexico, El Salvador, Honduras, the Marshall Islands, Micronesia, and more. They are the backbone of Maui's economy, working in hotels, restaurants, retail shops, and golf courses. They clean homes and are caregivers for "keiki," "children," and "kupuna," "elders," alike.

On a day when fire did not discriminate what it took, Lahaina's immigrant community bore more than its fair share of loss. A quarter of the deceased had ties to the Philippines. Too many lost documents and lifesavings.

Now, immigrants in Lahaina face impossible decisions. They are too scared to seek out the help that they need, and they are afraid to travel or relocate due to their legal status.

They need our help, and we have to meet them where they are through trusted partners so they can focus on healing and rebuilding.

Four generations ago, my family immigrated to Hawaii with the same hopes and dreams many in our Lahaina "ohana," "family," have. We can't forget our roots, and we must meet this moment with the aloha that they would have wanted.

HONORING MICHAEL MORAN

(Ms. BOEBERT asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, sacrifice, and service of Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran, a true American hero who laid down his life in service to our great country and his community.

Sergeant Moran was fatally shot during a traffic stop on November 29, providing a tragic end to a life of dedication and service.

Sergeant Moran answered the call to serve our Nation as a marine for 9 years before joining the Cortez Police Department in 2012. His life was marked with selfless courage and love, always putting others before himself.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Moran was a shining example for all Americans. His passing is an immeasurable loss for us all, and he was the best that Colorado's Third District had to offer.

My prayers go out to his family, his loved ones, and the community of Cortez. I pray for God's wraparound presence to surround them, comfort them, and heal them in this time of mourning.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Sergeant Moran for his selfless service.

HIGHLIGHTING LACK OF MENTAL HEALTH SERVICES IN RURAL AMERICA

(Ms. SALINAS asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Ms. SALINAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the lack of mental health services in rural America.

As facilities close their doors and providers leave town, many people in our rural communities are forced to travel for miles to get care or forgo care altogether. That is harmful and unfair, which is why I introduced a bipartisan bill to expand access to telemental health services in rural areas.

This legislation will specifically help folks working in farming, fishing, and forestry. These industries are critical to our economy and way of life in my district. In fact, Oregon has the second-largest number of Triple-F workers per capita in the entire country. These jobs can also be very stressful, and few seek help due to stigma.

Improving telehealth access will take away that stigma, save folks time and resources, and get more Oregonians the help they need when they need it.

Congress has left rural America behind for far too long. It is time we change that.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to join me in supporting this very important bill.

CELEBRATING DONALD LEWIS

(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 to celebrate the achievements of the Federal Law Enforcement Training Center, FLETC, chief financial officer, Donald Lewis, who is retiring after 40 years of Federal service.

Mr. Lewis started his Federal career when he was just a student back in 1983 as an audit assistant for the Federal Junior Fellowship Program at Kings Bay Naval Base in Georgia. From there, he was able to move up into the procurement career field by taking on different positions with the Naval Facilities Engineering Command and the Strategic Weapons Facility.

In 2004, Donald joined FLETC and worked in different positions before becoming the current assistant director and chief financial officer. As assistant director and chief financial officer, he provides strategic direction and executive oversight of FLETC business activities, which include executing and overseeing an annual budget of over \$600 million.

Mr. Speaker, I congratulate Mr. Lewis on his remarkable achievements and on his upcoming retirement. His years of distinguished service are extremely admirable.

CONGRATULATING VIRGINIA STATE UNIVERSITY TROJAN EXPLOSION MARCHING BAND

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

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I have the privilege of representing Virginia State University, an esteemed historically Black college and university founded in Petersburg, Virginia, in 1882.

I rise today to congratulate the Virginia State Trojan Explosion Marching Band, which was recently recognized as the Nation's top Division II HBCU band in 2023. The band was judged on important components, including auxiliaries, drum majors, musicality, percussion, and marching maneuvers. They will now compete in ESPN's inaugural HBCU Band of the Year competition.

Throughout the year, the VSU Trojan Explosion was also invited to perform at the White House, NBC's "TODAY," and the National Battle of the Bands competition in Houston.

I commend Dr. Taylor Whitehead, VSU's director of marching and pep bands, and every member of the Trojan Explosion for their hard work and dedication. They are proof that greatness happens at Virginia State University. They have made their school, their community, and their Congresswoman proud. I will be cheering for them in their upcoming competition.

CHOICE IN AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES ACT OF 2023

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 906, I call up the bill (H.R. 4468) to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, 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 906, the bill is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4468

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 "Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. PROHIBITION AGAINST FINALIZING, IMPLEMENTING, OR ENFORCING A PROPOSED RULE WITH RESPECT TO EMISSIONS FROM VEHICLES.

The Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency may not finalize, implement, or enforce the proposed rule titled "Multi-Pollutant Emissions Standards for Model Years 2027 and Later Light-Duty and Medium-Duty Vehicles" published by the Environmental Protection Agency in the Federal Register on May 5, 2023 (88 Fed. Reg. 29184).

SEC. 3. ENSURING TAILPIPE REGULATIONS DO NOT LIMIT THE AVAILABILITY OF NEW MOTOR VEHICLES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 202(a)(2) of the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7521(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) by striking “(2) Any regulation” and inserting “(2)(A) Any regulation”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) Effective beginning on the date of enactment of this subparagraph, any regulation prescribed under paragraph (1) (and any revision thereof), including any such regulation or revision prescribed before the date of enactment of this subparagraph, shall not—

“(i) mandate the use of any specific technology; or

“(ii) result in limited availability of new motor vehicles based on the type of new motor vehicle engine in such new motor vehicles.”.

(b) NECESSARY REVISIONS TO REGULATIONS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall promulgate such revisions to regulations as may be necessary to conform such regulations to section 202(a)(2)(B) of the Clean Air Act, as added by subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The bill shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

After 1 hour of debate, it shall be in order to consider the amendment printed in part A of House Report 118–298, if offered by the Member designated in the report, which shall be considered read, shall be separately debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, and shall not be subject to a demand for a division of the question.

The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks on the legislation and to include extraneous material in the RECORD on H.R. 4468.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act, and I urge all Members to support its passage.

America's economy is at its best when innovation, free enterprise, and consumer choice rule the day. This formula once made America a world leader in the automotive sector. Unfortunately, some key decisionmakers have forgotten that. Elected officials, government regulators, and auto manufacturers eager to appease their liberal overlords, especially those in the Biden administration, need a reminder of that fact.

It is troubling that this administration, in a faltering economy, would try to replace reliable, available, functional, and affordable transportation for hardworking Americans with something far less reliable, far less available, far less functional, and far less affordable.

Under EPA's recent tailpipe proposal, two-thirds of all new cars being sold in America must be electric-powered vehicles by 2032. That is only 8 years from now.

The American people did not ask for this.

While the average price of an EV reportedly fell 22.4 percent in the last year in response to lack of demand and government subsidies, they are still far more expensive than a liquid fuel vehicle.

There are also hidden costs: \$500 extra annually for insurance; at least \$4,000 for battery replacement, and that is the bottom; \$1,200 to \$2,500 for home charging equipment. That is after you pay to rewire your home.

Range anxiety is still a real concern. EVs need more frequent and much longer stops for charges. The average EV gets about 234 miles per charge compared to 403 miles with a gas fill-up. Plus, cold weather, battery size, and towing weight can shrink battery range significantly.

Any way you look at it, working-class Americans who need reliable and affordable transportation would take a hit from a mandate eliminating their options.

This bill protects our constituents, allowing them to buy the automobile that makes the most sense for them.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support for H.R. 4468, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4468. Instead of working with us on legislation to lower costs for consumers, protect public health, drive innovation, and grow the economy, the Republican majority is once again bringing an anti-clean vehicle bill to the floor as part of their polluters over people agenda.

H.R. 4468 would block the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing its proposed light- and medium-duty vehicle rule. It would also block the Agency from finalizing any future standard to cut greenhouse gas pollution from vehicles. This bill would simply prevent the EPA from doing its job.

House Republicans are trying to legislate away years of innovation in cleaner transportation to put polluters over people.

The Clean Air Act is clear, Mr. Speaker. EPA has the authority and obligation to protect American communities from air pollution that would cause harm to public health and welfare. That includes pollution from the transportation sector, the single-largest contributor of greenhouse gas emissions and other dangerous air pollution in the United States.

This pollution affects more than 100 million Americans who live in counties with unhealthy air, and air pollution is associated with over 100,000 premature deaths each year.

The EPA's proposed emissions standards for manufacturers of cars and light-duty trucks is intended to tackle this pollution head-on. The result: The new rule is projected to deliver \$1 trillion in net public health benefits.

Cleaner cars are also a win for consumers who can expect to save an average of \$12,000 in fuel and maintenance costs over the lifetime of a light-duty vehicle once EPA standards are in effect.

I will stress that EPA's proposal is achievable. It will save consumers money and bolster jobs and our economy by promoting American manufacturing. It will reduce our dependence on fossil fuels.

With this bill, House Republicans are denying the American people all of these benefits.

The bill is also a direct assault on our domestic auto industry. Decades of innovation spurred by ambitious EPA standards have led to a growing fleet of cleaner, more affordable cars for all Americans.

I have to stress, Mr. Speaker, that the bill's reference to choice is a misnomer. EPA's proposed standards are key to expanding vehicle choice for American drivers. More than 100 electric vehicle models are now available in U.S. markets alongside many hybrid and gas-powered options, giving Americans unprecedented flexibility in where and how they choose to fuel. This incredible innovation is the main reason why the United States is a global leader in the transportation sector.

□ 1230

H.R. 4468 would stifle this innovation and cause detrimental uncertainty for American automakers. The bill includes vague language that will prevent the EPA from ever finalizing vehicle standards for any type of motor vehicle. The bill would lock auto manufacturers in today's technology in perpetuity, chilling potential advancements in new hybrids, flex fuel, fuel cell, and even internal combustion engines.

None of this makes any sense, Mr. Speaker. This extreme bill would hurt our ability to harness new technologies, which would only weaken our ability to compete with China.

With this legislation, Republicans are telling the American industry to stand down to China in a global challenge. That is just wrong. Rather than ceding that role to China, House Democrats delivered real solutions with the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act. These laws are investing in America's ability to beat our economic competitors, including China, ensuring the United States is the global leader on clean transportation.

H.R. 4468 would seriously hamper the EPA's ability to address the worsening

climate crisis and air pollution for vehicles. It would also limit consumer choice, stifle innovation, create uncertainty for American automakers, hurt American global leadership, weaken our ability to compete with China, and deny Americans the immense public health and environmental benefits of EPA's proposed standards.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, this bill does not prevent the EPA from finalizing a rule. It only tells the EPA that it cannot mandate a specific technology and prevents the EPA from issuing rules that limit a vehicle's availability based on engine type.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington (Mrs. RODGERS), the chair of the full committee.

Mrs. RODGERS of Washington. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4468, the CARS Act.

President Biden's rush-to-green agenda is failing. Just last week, nearly 4,000 auto dealers all across this country sent a letter to President Biden urging him to stop his EV mandates. They said demand isn't there and the EVs are just sitting on their lots.

The administration has allocated billions for EV charging, yet not a single charger has come online as a result. All of this failed central planning is shipping our auto future and jobs to China. This is not the future Americans want or deserve.

For more than a century, affordable transportation has helped drive America's economic success. Our cars have allowed people all across this Nation and around the world to increase our mobility and raise our standard of living.

H.R. 4468 ensures that we can keep building on this legacy of American leadership and prosperity. Let's stop President Biden. He wants us all driving EVs, 100 percent battery electric, not plug-in, not hybrid, not plug-in hybrid. We don't agree. Vote for the bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TONKO), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on the Environment, Manufacturing, and Critical Materials.

Mr. TONKO. Madam Speaker, when Americans get behind the wheel, when they want to drive their cars, they put it in "R" to go reverse and then they put it in "D" to go forward. Just as in the House here, the Rs want to take us backward, and the Ds want to drive us forward.

That is why I rise in strong opposition to H.R. 4468. This bill would block the EPA from finalizing its proposed medium- and light-duty vehicle rule to strengthen tailpipe standards for future model years.

As we know, the transportation sector is the largest source of greenhouse gas emissions in the United States, and it is also a major emitter of other harmful air pollution.

It should not surprise anyone that the EPA is working to fulfill its obligation to protect Americans from harmful air pollution.

This bill prejudices the outcome of that process and will stifle technological innovation, despite the fact that the proposal will save lives, save consumers money, and bolster American manufacturing.

More and more Americans are choosing to go electric. They realize that EVs are not only good for the environment but also provide major consumer savings over the life of the vehicle.

Thanks in large part to the incentives included in the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law and the Inflation Reduction Act, even more of these vehicles and their components will be made here in America.

The legislation before us will undermine the tens of billions of dollars of planned investments to develop and produce American-made clean vehicle technologies by injecting uncertainty into these standards.

For over 100 years, America has been the greatest auto manufacturing nation in the world. If we want to continue to retain that title, we need to embrace the changes that are occurring in the sector. That means supporting the regulatory policies and incentives that would drive us forward to a cleaner and healthier future.

Unfortunately, this bill will stifle America's next great industrial revolution before we even seriously get into the race with China and dozens of other foreign competitors.

For the sake of promoting American innovation and to address our pollution challenges and supporting our long-term national economic competitiveness, I urge Members to oppose this bill.

Put it in "D" to go forward.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. WALBERG), the author of the bill.

Mr. WALBERG. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of my bill, H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act, or the CARS Act.

In April, the Biden administration's EPA opposed a rule setting light- and medium-duty tailpipe emissions standards so stringently that the EPA expects the proposal would force two-thirds of new light- and medium-duty vehicles sold in 2032 to be electric.

There is no hiding that the proposed rule is an electric vehicle mandate. Not only does this EV mandate display breathtaking government overreach into the auto industry, but it is also unaffordable, unattainable, and unrealistic for American consumers.

EVs are \$13,000 more expensive than the average, gas-fueled vehicle. Repairs to an EV cost \$2,300 more on average, leading to higher insurance costs, over \$500 annually.

The proposed standards are also unattainable. Our grid cannot handle the power load that is required, plus most

of the country lacks the charging infrastructure needed for the mandate.

We also don't have access to all the critical minerals to produce the vehicles or the capacity to refine those minerals for use in batteries. China controls most critical mineral mines, processing, and manufacturing for EVs. China has 78 percent of the world's cell manufacturing capacity for EV batteries.

Have we already forgotten the disastrous realities of overreliance on China for our supply chain? I have yet to hear a constituent say we need our supply chains to be more reliant on China.

Opponents of the CARS Act argue that EVs are growing in popularity and prices are dropping. If that is the case, why is the mandate necessary? Just last week, nearly 4,000 car dealers sent a letter to the administration pleading with them to pump the brakes on the proposed rule, citing lack of demand.

The range of EVs is another concern. Currently, one charge couldn't even get me across my district. EVs have almost 80 percent more issues and are less reliable than other vehicles.

Let me be clear: I am not against EVs. I am against EV mandates. A single EV battery requires the mining of hundreds of thousands of pounds of minerals. Those minerals are then refined using energy from China's coal plants. Ironically, an EV mandate is not a silver bullet to reduce global emissions.

Sadly, the biggest loser for this mandate may be the American autoworker, since significantly less labor is required to assemble EVs. The future of those working at engine plants, like the one in my district, are now in peril, too. The administration should side with consumers and innovators, not pick winners and losers.

EVs will play a significant role in the future of the industry, but so should hybrids and other solutions as they become more functional, reliable, affordable, and chosen by the consumer.

Madam Speaker, let's allow consumers to have access to affordable and reliable cars, encourage American innovation, and set us up to prevail over China.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4468, a bill that would undermine the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to prohibit the EPA from implementing emissions regulations and their ability to protect our air quality and our climate.

I thank our ranking member, Mr. PALLONE, and, of course, my great colleague, Congresswoman DINGELL, from the State of Michigan.

The auto industry relies on the EPA and their emissions standards to successfully compete. When the GOP shut down the Federal Government in 2018, our automakers could not roll new automobiles off the line because they

needed the EPA to do the emissions testing.

This is dangerous legislation, particularly because the EPA serves as a critical partner to our automakers during this very transformative time.

No fear-mongering. People will have a choice. They will continue to have a choice, and they will work with their dealers. People do not have the choice of the air they breathe.

The United States is poised, through our manufacturing base, to lead the world in innovation, safety, and clean technology. Not only does H.R. 4468 jeopardize public health and the environment, it hurts our economy and global competitiveness.

Let us not cede technology to China. Let us create, develop and manufacture it here in the United States of America.

For this reason, at the appropriate time, I will offer a motion to recommit this bill back to committee. If the House rules permitted it, I would have offered the motion with an important amendment to this bill. My amendment would strike the language that blocks EPA regulations based on the limited availability of new motor vehicles. This amendment would restore the EPA's authority and responsibility to set science-based standards that protect our health and climate while supporting American innovation and leadership in the automotive and manufacturing sector.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. BICE). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, my amendment would ensure the EPA can continue to drive progress in reducing vehicle emissions and advancing clean transportation technology.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD immediately prior to the vote on the motion to recommit.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. STEVENS. Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on the motion to recommit.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), the co-lead for this bill.

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act, or CARS Act, that I proudly co-lead with Representative WALBERG.

This important legislation would prohibit the Biden administration's EPA from finalizing, implementing, administering, or enforcing its radical proposed rule that seeks to eliminate gas-powered vehicles. Additionally, the CARS Act would restrict the EPA's authority under the Clean Air Act to pro-

mulgate similar rules moving forward. Hallelujah.

In April, President Biden's EPA proposed this radical rule that would set emission standards so high for light- and medium-duty vehicles that auto manufacturers would be forced to produce a higher percentage of electric vehicles just to comply. This is a de facto electric vehicle mandate on the American people. With this rule's implementation, the EPA projects that EVs could account for as much as 67 percent of new light-duty vehicle sales by 2032, as compared to electric vehicle sales of only 6 percent last year.

From assaulting the American people's Second Amendment liberties to the online censoring of free speech, the Biden administration is routinely abusing its power in order to further control Americans' everyday lives. With this new EPA rule, it is very clear that President Biden is now coming for our combustion engine car keys in his war against our personal freedoms.

Restricting consumer choice in the name of the left's Green New Deal garbage agenda represents an illegitimate power grab that hardworking Americans simply cannot afford.

One thing is clear. The American people already burdened by soaring energy prices and record-high inflation cannot be further burdened by this disastrous EV mandate.

□ 1245

I urge my colleagues to support the CARS Act, our commonsense legislation that would help save the American energy sector. It would protect both American consumers and auto manufacturers, and it would stop Biden's authoritarian government overreach in its tracks.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. SCHAKOWSKY), the ranking member of our Commerce and Consumer Protection Subcommittee.

Ms. SCHAKOWSKY. Madam Speaker, it is known that the transportation sector is responsible for the single largest greenhouse gas emissions. I choose not to contribute to that. I am the proud owner of a Chevy Volt, which is a very affordable, all electric vehicle—not one of the expensive ones that the Republicans like to talk about. It has zero emissions from the pipe. It is a beautiful little car that most families could afford.

I would say that the legislation that has been proposed actually takes choice away from Americans because it says that the EPA will no longer have the authority to regulate the emissions that are allowed. This will save lives.

This legislation that has been proposed is absolutely dangerous. What we know is that if the EPA can conduct its mission, then we would see 7 billion tons of greenhouse gases that would not be in the air. Lives would be saved.

This legislation is so important. The legislation that Republicans have proposed would take away the right of

Americans to have a safe environment and health. We say that this legislation is going in absolutely the wrong direction. We want to be sure that no one will vote for it. We will protect the lives of Americans, the right of the mission of the Environmental Protection Agency, and that we will have a better world to live in. That should be the right that is given to Americans.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I have tremendous respect for my colleague that just spoke, but I have to say that this idea that electric vehicles are emission-free is totally unfounded.

In fact, it is totally false. All you have to do is look at where the raw materials come from. Look at how China produces those materials. There are lots of emissions. If the argument is legitimate that we are going to save lives here, we are going to cost lives over there because they are not concerned about the climate. They are not concerned with the environment, they are not concerned about the people that they use—slave labor in many cases—to try to harvest the materials that make these electric vehicles in the first place.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BUCSHON).

Mr. BUCSHON. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act. I support EVs, but this administration continues to push a rush-to-green agenda that prioritizes government mandates over the American people.

The American people have spoken through their shopping habits. EVs sit unsold on lots nearly twice as long as internal combustion engine vehicles due to a lack of charging infrastructure and high costs. On average, EVs cost \$16,000 more than internal combustion engine vehicles.

We all want to reduce emissions, but EVs are not the solution that the administration says they are. The amount of raw materials in one long-range battery EV could instead be used to make 90 hybrid electric vehicles. The overall carbon reduction of those 90 hybrids over their lifetimes is 37 times as much as a single battery EV.

Where are the raw materials developed?

Mostly in China.

Should we be dependent on them?

Preserving consumer choice is critical to maintaining competition in the automotive markets and ensuring access to reliable and affordable cars for all Americans.

You cannot force Americans to buy cars they do not want any more than you can force energy transitions that can't be accomplished.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CARDENAS).

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4468.

I am frustrated and disappointed but not surprised to see my Republican colleagues bring yet another bill to the floor that puts polluters over people.

Scientists continue to warn us that the world is on its way to getting warmer and warmer and increasing global warming temperatures. If we want to avoid the worst climate changes and the worst disasters, we must reduce our air pollution.

Why, when we know that the transportation sector is the largest contributor to greenhouse gas emissions, would we limit the Environmental Protection Agency's ability to carry out its authority to improve transportation emissions?

Yet, today's bill would kill our chance of getting on the right track and put us on the wrong track. Poor air quality and ever-worsening climate disasters are increasing. Our constituents are already facing these major problems all over our country.

More than 45 million Americans, including many of my constituents, live within 300 feet of major roadways or corridors that contribute directly to negative health effects like asthma, cardiovascular disease, and premature death.

That is right, air pollution is a matter of life and death. Our work here in Congress will determine how liveable our planet is, whether our neighborhoods will be liveable or not for generations to come.

Today, my Republican colleagues have chosen to abandon a healthy and prosperous future for Americans. Republicans choose Big Oil companies and their profits over people. This is reckless, and I urge a "no" vote on H.R. 4468.

Madam Speaker, I wasn't here when my Republican colleagues were against Social Security, against Medicare, and now they are against making sure that we have a liveable planet. Please vote "no" on H.R. 4468.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, we actually agree on some things with our Democrat colleagues. We agree that we ought to keep the environment clean: the air, water, and land. But throwing money at it, like my Democrat colleagues are trying to do, is not the answer to the problem.

This rule would result in lost middle-class jobs in the United States because we can't get new facilities and infrastructure even permitted to do these things under the current administration. Until that happens, America will be heavily reliant on China.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Arizona (Mrs. LESKO).

Mrs. LESKO. Madam Speaker, do we live in Communist China?

Really, do we live in Communist China?

I can't believe that the Biden administration first wants to ban gas stoves—we had to do legislation to prevent that. Now, they want to ban 67 percent of the manufacturing of regular gas-powered cars by 2032. That is insane.

President Biden and my Democratic colleagues claim they are for the mid-

dle class. They always say: We are for the middle class. Well, no, they are not because who can afford these electric cars?

It is the people with a bunch of money. That is who can afford it. Not the middle class. Not the lower class.

I am in strong support of this bill to prohibit and prevent this radical regulation against common Americans.

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Madam Speaker, I had to come down to the floor to speak out strongly against the Republican's pro-China bill.

The Republican Party wants to take us backwards. They want to raise costs on American families, and, in doing so, a lot of people ask why? Why would you attack American auto companies and American workers? Why would you work against the best interests of the American people, putting money back into their pockets?

It has become clear to me, serving here, especially this Congress this year, that my good friends on the GOP side are shills for polluters. It is to the detriment of the people that we represent back home.

American workers and automakers have made huge innovations in the cars and trucks that we drive. Now, electric vehicles being built in America, rather than China and other parts of the world, are more energy efficient, they are fun to drive, and that is why American demand for EVs has jumped 350 percent over the past 2 years alone.

U.S. electric vehicles have now zipped past a major milestone. There have been 1 million battery electric vehicles sold in a single year. This year's sales suggest that a rising number of consumers are making that jump. Why?

Because you don't have the maintenance costs and you don't have to stop at the gas station. We have a lot of work to do on electric vehicle charging.

It has been the Clean Air Act that has helped American innovators and automakers and workers make our cars more fuel efficient over time. Now, with the historic Inflation Reduction Act passed by a Democratic-led Congress, signed by President Biden, we are bringing those manufacturers and the batteries and the assembly here in America.

It has been announced there is \$150 billion in investments across nearly 400 new facilities in U.S. electric vehicle and battery manufacturing in Ohio, in South Carolina, mostly in these red districts. This is a Made in America moment, and we have to reject these kind of take-us-backward attempts offered by the grand oil party, the GOP. Why did they do this?

Because they are so tied to fossil fuels and gas and oil that they cannot see what lies ahead of us. That means

investing in America for a change. That means having these vehicles manufactured here in America and not being worried about China eating our lunch.

They are the ones that are trying to flood the EU market. Do you think our European allies want to buy Chinese-made vehicles?

No, they want to buy American-made vehicles because they are our allies. Please vote against this pro-China GOP bill. Vote for America and vote "no."

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, again, I agree, vote America. I urge my Democrat colleagues to remember that fossil fuels have raised more people around this planet across the globe out of poverty than any other fuel source on the planet, and America knows how to do that best.

Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. PENCE), my friend and colleague on the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my colleague's legislation, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act.

I thank my colleague, Congressman WALBERG, for leading on this important legislation. After 3 years, it has become abundantly clear that the administration's approach is bad for my Hoosiers and bad for the Nation.

You can't create demand by forcing supply. EVs continue to pile up on dealer lots across the country and in my district.

Almost daily, we hear of auto manufacturers that are tempering investor expectations because of underwhelming sales. The money is leaving.

Simply put, people are not buying EVs.

EPA's aggressive rule is a de facto mandate on Hoosiers to switch to EVs.

This legislation would curb EPA's electrification-or-nothing approach and allow consumers to choose the best type of vehicle that fits the needs of their family.

As I have repeatedly stated, this administration is fundamentally ignoring the reality of energy distribution.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Madam Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Indiana.

Mr. PENCE. EVs may make sense for densely populated areas, but the lack of range and insufficient towing capabilities do not meet the needs of rural Indiana's Sixth District.

The CARS Act will begin to bring sensible policy back to the forefront and allow American innovation to lead the way to the next generation of transportation.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the bill.

□ 1300

Mr. PALLONE. Madam Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. RUIZ), who is a member of our committee.

Mr. RUIZ. Madam Speaker, last week, the Department of Energy's Geothermal Technologies Office released the most comprehensive analysis to date, quantifying the domestic lithium resources in the Salton Sea region of Imperial Valley, also known as Lithium Valley in my district.

The analysis found that Lithium Valley's total resources could produce enough lithium to manufacture over 375 million total electric vehicle batteries. This is more than the total number of cars currently on the road in the United States today. That is a lot of lithium and a lot of electric vehicles, and that will lower the cost of electric vehicles for everyone in our Nation.

Lithium Valley is a great example of how domestic solutions exist for our domestic and global supply chains, and my Republican colleagues should be as excited about this analysis as I am. Given their critical mineral supply chain concerns, I would think this is welcome news. However, instead of focusing our efforts on how to best leverage this report to further our domestic lithium production, we are here debating a bill that will do the exact opposite and harm our domestic supply chain efforts.

H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act, would prohibit the EPA from finalizing their proposed rule on multipollutant emissions standards, drastically cutting into the development and production of domestic technological innovations, such as electric vehicles and battery manufacturing, that our Nation needs.

Madam Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill in its entirety. In addition to slowing down our country's ability to compete with China on electric vehicles in the global market, it is a direct attack on our Nation's ability to curb vehicle emissions and help rural and marginalized communities in their own districts suffering from the highest pollution.

My home State of California and, in particular, my district, California's 25th, have significant air pollution challenges.

As a physician, I have seen the public health impacts of air pollution firsthand. These consequences are serious and have very real bad effects on the lives of my constituents. From having to skip work to deal with air pollution-associated health challenges to spending money on unexpected healthcare costs, my constituents are experiencing the negative impacts of air pollution every day.

Recently, the American Thoracic Society released its latest "Health of the Air" report, which estimated that we can prevent over 21,000 deaths by cleaning up our air, and a major step in doing so is by reducing vehicle emissions, which this bill will not do.

What we should be doing is following California's lead by taking concrete steps to reduce dangerous air pollution from transportation modalities. In-

stead, this bill specifically punishes California for its efforts, and that is unacceptable.

California has chosen to make the health of Californians a priority. This bill should do the same for all Americans, and I urge my colleagues to oppose this environmentally unfriendly and disastrous polluter-over-people bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE).

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, once again, we are seeing President Biden put Green New Deal priorities ahead of Pennsylvania families. By proposing to eliminate gas-powered cars from our roads, the Biden administration is attempting to fundamentally change how Americans drive.

The proposed rule from the EPA assumes that battery electric vehicles will make up 60 percent of new cars in 2030 and almost two-thirds by 2032. The basic facts show us that this assumption is simply wrong and that attempting to ban the sale of internal combustion engine cars, internal combustion engine trucks, and internal combustion engine SUVs that families in Pennsylvania rely on is dangerous.

This legislation is a vital part of stopping the Biden administration's far-left, Green New Deal agenda from being implemented.

In tandem with my legislation, the Preserving Choice in Vehicle Purchases Act, the CARS Act would help to ensure that the Clean Air Act, which is a 51-year-old piece of legislation, is not manipulated to ban the sale of gas-powered vehicles.

In the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have heard testimony from experts across the political spectrum, including members of the Biden administration, who say that transitioning to EVs would be costly and ineffective. Just this month, we heard from more than 4,000 car dealers, including 70 from Pennsylvania, who say that transitioning to battery vehicles would be a disaster for drivers across our country.

More than 95 percent of Americans use gas-powered vehicles. Demanding that they transition to battery electric vehicles in the next decade would be disastrous for our economy, unsustainable for our electric grid, and devastating to American families.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this legislation and put a stop to President Biden's reckless use of agency rulemaking.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL), who is a member of our committee.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act. I love my colleagues on the other side, but it is just disappointing that,

yet again, another Republican messaging bill is coming to the floor intentionally to mislead and harm the American people.

Even the United Auto Workers, who my colleagues say they are helping, say that this bill seeks to inject American union-made vehicles as a wedge issue in the culture war.

I remind my colleagues, some of whom are young while some of us are seasoned, that it was years ago when gas prices went up and consumers wanted smaller cars. Japanese carmakers were prepared, and our domestic auto industry was flatfooted. We weren't ready to build small cars, and we took a beating.

We cannot make that mistake again. We need to be ready to innovate, build these electric vehicles now, and do so in a competitive way.

This bill is a blatant attack on the EPA and on our ability to, and how we will and must, compete in a global marketplace. It prevents the EPA from finalizing recently proposed new standards for light- and medium-duty vehicles, which will save consumers up to \$12,000 over the lifetime of their vehicles. It will also reduce fine particle pollution that not only harms our environment but leads to increased asthma attacks, heart attacks, strokes, lung cancer, and premature death.

To be really clear, EPA is not imposing an electric vehicle mandate. EPA's standards actually would expand vehicle choice by accelerating innovation in hybrid and fully electric vehicles and promote American manufacturing to keep us from relying on our adversaries. In total, EPA estimates that the net benefits of these standards would exceed \$1 trillion.

The bill we are debating will have widespread harmful effects on the future of our auto industry. What scares me the most is this is going to enable China even more to potentially lead the global EV transition.

I ask my colleagues, are we going to help China do anything? I am not. I will not cede American leadership to anyone. We cannot let future mobility be dictated to us by foreign competitors when we are the ones who put the world on wheels.

Mr. Speaker, we must continue to invest in our EV transition so we don't lose to China.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Michigan.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have talked to those dealers. The dealers aren't opposed to EV vehicles. There is a rulemaking, and the rulemaking needs to take their input into consideration.

I am a car girl. I was born one, raised one, worked in it, and my district depends on it.

Let's get serious. We need to get to work, and blocking our domestic auto

industry from innovating is no way to lead.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER).

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this crazy push to make EVs the only choice for U.S. car buyers without first building out our domestic supply chains for critical minerals is a recipe for dependence on China and, by extension, defaulting to China's filthy environmental practices.

Aren't we already too beholden to China? It really stinks, but, yes, we are.

Moreover, China's EV companies have announced significant investments to manufacture EVs in Mexico, presumably to gain access to the North American car market.

Why is the Biden White House hell-bent on shoving their EV mandates down Americans' throats?

China is not our friend, Mr. Speaker, and unlike China's treatment of their very own citizens, we should not be dictating to Americans what they can or cannot drive. In America, we let consumers choose the cars they drive. It is that simple. Even one of our speakers over there said that she chose to drive an EV.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. LEVIN).

Mr. LEVIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4468. This legislation is misguided and will take us backward in combating climate change and air pollution.

If I may offer some brief history from my home State, for much of the mid-20th century, California was plagued by smog. Thankfully, the Clean Air Act allowed California to establish stronger vehicle emission standards than those at the Federal level. Standards like those in my home State empowered the auto industry to produce better, cleaner cars, which expanded American manufacturing and reduced our reliance on foreign oil.

These standards were a win for consumers, for our domestic auto industry, and for meeting our air quality and climate goals. However, H.R. 4468 would erase the decades of progress we have made by blocking EPA from reducing air and climate pollution.

In fact, the only party that would benefit from rolling back EPA's efforts to slash air pollution is the fossil fuel industry.

This bill isn't based in science, and it fails to recognize the climate impacts our constituents are already feeling.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Mr. Georgia (Mr. ALLEN).

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act, or CARS Act.

The American people shouldn't be told by unelected bureaucrats which car best suits their needs and the needs of their families, but the Biden administration is seeking to do so through some backdoor policymaking aimed at taking gas-powered engines off the market.

Let me be clear: This is not about being anti-electric vehicle. This is about being pro-consumer choice. Demand should be driven by consumer preferences and budgets.

Let's look at the facts. According to a report from the Alliance for Automotive Innovation, gasoline-powered cars and trucks represented 93 percent of all new vehicle sales in 2022. According to Congressional Budget Office projections, electric vehicles will account for only 30 to 56 percent of new car sales by 2032.

Even with the outrageous incentives for electric vehicles that are being subsidized by taxpayers, which are included in Biden's so-called Inflation Reduction Act, this policy will fall well short of EPA's goal of two-thirds of new car sales being electric vehicles.

No matter how much the government floods the market with requirements that squeeze out internal combustion engines and require electric vehicles, if consumers don't want to buy the cars, then they should not be forced to do so.

The CARS Act will stop the EPA's current light- and medium-duty vehicle regulations and, instead, allow consumers and the market to determine the cars and engine technology needed and save billions in taxpayer subsidies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of the bill and consumer choice.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO).

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H.R. 4468, House Republican's latest attempt to undermine climate change action taken by the Biden administration and dismiss the high risks presented by air pollution for communities like mine.

My district falls within the South Coast Air Basin, which has the worst air pollution in the entire country. Inland Empire residents have higher levels of cardiovascular disease, childhood asthma, and other respiratory diseases compared to the national average as a result.

□ 1315

The EPA's proposed rule, which this bill would inhibit, reduces car emissions, drives innovation of clean technologies, and improves public health in my district and across the country.

My constituents deserve to breathe clean air and live healthy lives. We should all support EPA's efforts to address health disparities and combat climate change.

Mr. Speaker, I implore my colleagues to vote against this bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. BALDERSON), my friend, colleague, and neighbor.

Mr. BALDERSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4468, the CARS Act.

President Biden has made it clear since day one that he will use the full weight and power of his office to push a radical climate agenda at the expense of consumer choice and American energy security.

His rush-to-green agenda, drawn up and enforced by Washington bureaucrats, pushes for a one-size-fits-all approach to vehicle purchases.

The Biden administration's standards would mandate that two-thirds of all new vehicles sold by 2032 be electric. The standards strong-arm manufacturers into building cars that simply do not reflect market demand.

In fact, last month nearly 4,000 car dealers from all 50 States joined a letter to President Biden urging him to slow down the EPA's proposed rule.

Just last week, Consumer Reports released a survey showing that electric vehicles proved far less reliable than internal combustion engine counterparts.

The survey found that EV model years 2021 through 2023 encountered nearly 80 percent more problems compared to the conventional vehicles. It is no wonder Ford and GM recently announced they are cutting back investments in EV production and reassessing their EV production goals for the first half of 2024. The American people just aren't buying them.

Furthermore, the EPA's rule, if implemented, will increase the strain on our electric grid at a time when misguided State and Federal energy policies are already driving power plants to retirement.

With the passage of this legislation today, we can reaffirm our support of the free market and consumer choice.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote in support of the CARES Act today.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. DESAULNIER).

Mr. DESAULNIER. Mr. Speaker, as a former member of the California Air Resources Board having been a Republican appointee by Governor Pete Wilson and having served under two Republicans and one Democratic Governor, I have seen the modeling firsthand to know the importance of reducing our transportation omissions. It is through this lens that I strongly oppose H.R. 4468.

This bill would not only prevent the EPA from implementing its newest and strongest emission standards, but it would also block EPA from finalizing vehicle emission standards that indirectly result in the phasing out of any specific engine technology, which could deal a fatal blow to innovation and the deployment of alternative fuel energies, including electric vehicles.

EPA's proposed standards that this bill would eliminate, reduces 7.3 billion metric tons of carbon pollution and 15,000 tons of particulate matter pollution, which would provide between \$63 and \$280 billion in health benefits to Americans.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly oppose this bill and partisan efforts to thwart EV development and hinder emissions reductions.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of this bill because American consumers are directly impacted by the cost of vehicles.

Unfortunately, the EPA is trying to force Americans into only being able to pick from some of the most expensive vehicles on the market—electric vehicles.

The Energy and Commerce Committee received testimony in April that the average price of an EV is \$13,000 more than the average price of an internal combustion engine vehicle.

Detroit News Editorial Board reported last week that the new average EV list price was 28 percent higher than a gasoline vehicle last month, according to CarGurus.

In addition, insurance for an EV is also \$44 more expensive per month versus \$528 more expensive per year than insurance for gas-powered cars. EVs are 50 percent more expensive to fix in the case of an accident, according to Forbes.

The price of a vehicle is incredibly important to my constituents and those of my colleagues because access to a car is tied to improved economic outcomes for low-income households.

Mr. Speaker, I urge support of this bill to preserve affordable vehicle choices for Americans.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Virginia (Ms. MCCLELLAN).

Ms. MCCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ranking Member PALLONE for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to H.R. 4468. I have listened as the party that is actively trying to strip away America's personal freedoms and rights is disguising its antisense, anticlimatic legislation as protecting choice and personal freedom. That is rich.

House Republicans are putting polluters over people, yet again prioritizing special interests over the health and well-being of Americans.

This deeply harmful bill would undermine the EPA's authority to finalize proposed emission standards and prevent the agency from taking future action to protect the public from dangerous air pollution.

Their opposition to the rule has very real impacts for historically marginalized environmental justice communities, most often low-income communities of color, many of which I represent, who live near the roadways.

We know greenhouse gas emissions and other pollutants can cause a host of adverse public health impacts, including higher rates of cancer, respiratory illness, and preterm births, which is why we cannot stand by while House Republicans work to curtail EPA's authority.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to vote "no" on this irresponsible bill.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Idaho (Mr. FULCHER).

Mr. FULCHER. Mr. Speaker, the EPA is forcing electric vehicles upon Americans by using a tailpipe emissions rule designed to phase out vehicles with internal combustion engines. In so doing, the EPA imposes an unwise restrictive policy and eliminates consumer choice.

The Clean Air Act directs the EPA to reduce pollutant emissions from vehicles themselves; however, electric vehicles are entirely separate products. They are not emission-controlled devices like catalytic converters in combustion engine cars.

By setting emission standards at a stringent rate, the EPA is essentially mandating substitution of a different product to comply with tailpipe standards.

This goes beyond existing authority and tries to circumvent congressional powers, and that is illegal.

Instead of ripping away consumer choice, the EPA should do its job and stop enforcing irrelevant rules to meet political objectives. Those in favor of the EPA's rules here use the term "sound science." Well, cutting off vehicles that have shown tremendous improvements in efficiency with less emissions is denying scientific gains.

What would actually help Americans is driving lower fuel prices through domestic production with reliable base-load energy sources like nuclear, hydro, geothermal, natural gas, and clean burning coal.

We need to stop attempting to control what vehicle drivers can purchase and instead focus on what the people elected them to do.

Mr. Speaker, we need to protect people's rights and choices, and pass H.R. 4468, the CARS Act.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2½ minutes remaining. The gentleman from Ohio has 6½ minutes remaining.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER), my friend and outstanding member of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, if this was a "Jeopardy!" game, it would be called: Here we go again for a thousand.

Mr. Speaker, if we look at what the EPA has done to overreach, we are

talking hundreds of proposed rules that they have overreached on telling the American public what they can and can't do.

Mr. Speaker, if it were allowed under House rules, I would address the gallery and I would ask the gallery, raise your hand if you like the fact that the President of the United States is going to tell you what kind of vehicle you can and cannot drive.

It is not necessarily allowed under House rules, but I am guessing, because my district doesn't like it, that most Americans don't like it either.

Today, we are going to stop the EPA from outlawing gas-powered vehicles. The CARS Act places a critical stop sign on this failed path toward forcing all Americans to own electric vehicles. Not only does this legislation prohibit the EPA from enforcing a ban, but it also acknowledges the abuse that the EPA has done.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor, and I thank Mr. WALBERG for leading this legislation. The Energy and Commerce Committee is leading the way to energy dominance and allowing Americans to make their own choices that they very much need to be able to make.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from referencing the occupants in the gallery.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE).

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automotive Retail Sales Act.

A few months ago, the EPA proposed a new rule that would effectively require the vast majority of automobiles sold in the United States to be electric within just a few years.

Now, Mr. Speaker, I have nothing against electric vehicles, but I feel very strongly that American families should be empowered to choose the vehicle that best meets their needs rather than having their government make that decision for them.

Mr. Speaker, I represent over 100,000 people who commute from my rural California district back and forth into Los Angeles every single day. For those people, an electric vehicle is not only unaffordable, it is also impractical.

Preserving their ability to make their own choice on this issue also preserves the market forces that incentivize manufacturers to continue to lower the cost of electric vehicles and increase their quality.

Mr. Speaker, that is good not only for families, but also for the environment. That is why I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Minnesota (Mr. STAUBER).

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act.

The out-of-touch government dictated EV mandates pushed by this administration are an attack on our way of life in northern Minnesota and across this country.

Many of my constituents not only can't afford an EV, they don't want to purchase an EV because they are not compatible with our daily lives. How are we supposed to reliably drive an EV when its battery has the potential to lose 50 percent of its range in Minnesota's subzero temperatures?

Let's not forget that the critical minerals used to make these EVs are sourced from Chinese Communist Party-controlled mines in places like the Congo and Indonesia—mines that have zero environmental standards, mines that have zero labor standards, and mines that use child slave labor.

Thanks to this administration's refusal to support responsible, domestic mining, their EV mandate will only increase our reliance on the Chinese Communist Party for critical minerals.

Mr. Speaker, I will remind you and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle that the biggest copper nickel find is in northern Minnesota, the Duluth Complex—95 percent of our nickel reserve, over 88 percent of our cobalt, and a third of our copper and other platinum group metals that help make electric vehicles—and this administration just pulled the leases.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of H.R. 4468.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Ohio has 3 minutes remaining. The gentleman from New Jersey has 2½ minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS), an auto dealer.

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4468, and in full disclosure, I am a car dealer. I am, frankly, the expert in the room.

This legislation would stop the EPA from implementing a rule that is an attack on hardworking Americans and, if implemented, would decimate small businesses and wreak havoc on the pocketbooks of families.

As chairman of the House Committee on Small Business and owner and operator and expert in car dealerships in Texas for over 52 years, I have seen firsthand the impact that overregulation can have on small businesses. Competition drives my industry, not government innovations. By the way, no one wants to buy an EV vehicle.

We are a country of competition, of risk and reward, and the Federal Government should not be in the car business. We must allow individuals to choose the vehicle that best suits their

needs, not the government or Joe Biden.

The EPA's proposed rule would have heightened impact on hardworking American families with an estimated increase in costs from maintenance to interest costs to lack of equity. It is clear President Biden's EPA are out of touch with the American people by ignoring out-of-control inflation while pushing a green energy bailout.

The customer is getting hammered again and your local car dealer is getting hammered again. The proposed rule would also increase our dependency on China, something the administration seems determined to ensure happens.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to stand with the American people and Main Street America and vote for H.R. 4468.

□ 1330

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

The amazing thing to me is that today during the debate, I heard very few statements on the part of the Republicans about clean air.

This is all about the Clean Air Act and the fact that the EPA is trying to set standards that will eliminate pollution and make it easier for people to breathe and not be negatively impacted by pollution that is in the air. What the Republicans want to do is gut the Clean Air Act so those standards cannot be put in place.

Now, they also mentioned China constantly, over and over again. The fact of the matter is that with this bill, they would be putting China in charge. China is the country—Beijing—that imposes the mandates. What the EPA does is basically say in order to achieve cleaner air, we are saying to the car manufacturers, they have to do certain things, but they still have the choice of what kind of vehicles to produce, whether it be a hybrid, an electric, or a gasoline-combustion vehicle.

All those vehicles are still going to be available, are still going to be manufactured. It is just that they are going to have fewer or no emissions, and the air will be cleaner for Americans to breathe.

Now, the ultimate thing is when the Republicans talk about the workers and the jobs. The fact of the matter is, the United Auto Workers—which represents most of the car makers, or all of them as far as I know—are opposed to this bill. The reason for their opposition is because they want to continue to manufacture cars.

They don't want China to continue to innovate and essentially start to corner the world market on electric vehicles or even other vehicles. If that happens, the number of jobs here in the United States will be diminished. They are saying we oppose this bill because we want to create more cars and create more jobs, and we want the United States to continue to be the leader.

For all these reasons—for cleaner air, to keep American leadership above any

competition with China, to make sure there continue to be choices with the cars that you buy through your manufacturers—I urge my colleagues to strongly oppose this bill, which I think is going to take away the American leadership in car manufacturing and innovation and so many other things.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my friend and colleague, to close.

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, what it really boils down to is choice for Americans, affordable choices. Just because we want to be part of this green agenda here, constantly crying about climate change doesn't mean it is going to be good for Americans.

These mandates, for example, on trucks will add 16,000 pounds of weight that is no longer part of the cargo capacity for trucks. On automobiles, it is adding about \$13,000 to the price of a car.

Little credit has been given for how efficient and clean internal combustion engines run these days. This is all a big CO₂ scam. I remind you; CO₂ is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere.

Let's go back in the direction of allowing people to have choices of the best manufactured cars that come from right here in America instead of giving it over to China, which is what will happen on the mined products, the labor, so many other things.

Americans can figure out what they like. They certainly don't need California mandates that have already failed in the past and the Federal Government dictating to them what their choices are in driving.

H.R. 4468 is a good, righteous bill. Let's support that and help people continue to have the choices they want in this country and not be mandated by Congress or certainly California.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, that was my closing, and I yield back the balance of my time.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate on the bill has expired.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. JOHNSON OF OHIO

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part A of House Report 118-298.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise as the designee of the gentleman from Washington, and I have an amendment at the desk.

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, strike lines 1 through 6, and insert the following:

“(B) Any regulation proposed or prescribed, including any revision to a regulation, under paragraph (1) on or after January 1, 2021, shall not—

THE SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON) and a

Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, the purpose of the CARS Act is to permit Americans, not the executive branch of the Federal Government, to continue deciding what type of car makes the most sense for them.

The purpose is not to reopen decades-old requirements that Americans have become accustomed to with their cars, and which manufacturers consider to be standard—whether it is the catalytic converter or the onboard diagnostic system, especially because those regulations were not trying to do away with an engine type—but, rather, to just address the most harmful pollution coming from that car.

Rather than creating any confusion for EPA, automakers, or the public, or leading to unintended consequences or unnecessary litigation, this amendment sets a limit on how far back in time the provisions of H.R. 4468 apply.

Instead of applying to any regulation ever issued in the history of the authority provided under Clean Air Act section 202(a), the manager's amendment caps the retroactivity of the bill's provisions to section 202(a) regulations, including revisions, proposed or prescribed on or after January 1, 2021.

By adding this date, the legislation focuses on pushing back on regulations that would have the Federal Government, and not Americans, decide what kinds of cars they should be able to drive.

For over 100 years, Americans have been free to buy their own mode of transportation based upon what is available, reliable, affordable, and functional for their lives. Quite frankly, it was because of these criteria that electric vehicles never took off with American consumers, but the Model T did.

The Congressional Budget Office has concluded that adopting this amendment would have an insignificant net effect on the deficit.

I urge all Members to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, this amendment would revise the look-back portion of the bill that requires EPA to revise all previous regulations to conform with the bill's vague metrics on limiting availability of vehicles.

This amendment would shorten this period to only apply to rules finalized under the Biden administration, so please understand what they are doing here is saying that the only thing we are going to revoke, essentially, are the rules that were finalized under President Biden. I mean, nothing could be clearer that this amendment is

based on politics and not policy by limiting the revocation to the Biden administration.

This amendment does not improve the legislation in any way. It fails to address the fundamental problems with the underlying bill. The amendment is essentially trying to go back in time to the failed policies of the Trump EPA. We would literally be moving backwards in our efforts to address the climate crisis and decarbonize the transportation sector and trying to eliminate pollution that affects Americans.

The amendment doesn't address any of the concerns that my Republican colleagues claim to have about electric vehicles. This amendment simply doubles down on Republicans' attacks on EPA's authority, public health, and regulatory certainty.

It does absolutely nothing to support our domestic vehicle manufacturing industry, like boost American competitiveness, counter China, or strengthen our economy.

This is just blatantly political, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the amendment as well as the underlying bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's look at what we have heard today. If we want to help America's autoworkers, then let's keep them on the job. It takes a lot less labor to make electric vehicles than it does to make combustion engine vehicles.

If we want to protect the environment, then let's keep China from doing all the mining and refining of the rare earth minerals and critical materials, and supply chain that we actually need to make electric vehicles here in America.

If we want to stop supporting China, rather than buy Chinese cars, which is where this is ultimately going to go if we continue down this road, let's permit mining and refining of critical materials right here in America so when we do make electric vehicles, and we give the American people a choice about purchasing those vehicles, they are made with American materials mined and refined in America by American workers rather than putting money in the pockets of the Chinese Communist Party.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to think about what the future looks like. We need to rein in the EPA's egregious rule mandating electric vehicles.

Let me remind you, Republicans are not opposed to electric vehicles. I have a lot of friends who own electric vehicles. Not very many of them live in Appalachia, rural communities, where they are impractical and unaffordable, but if we want to empower the American people with choice, then we need to roll back this EV mandate because the day will come when the only choice that people will have is to buy a car

that is manufactured in China by China. That will be the only thing that is going to be available because we can't get permits here in America to do our mining and refining of those critical materials.

China has already sent signals that they are going to start and have already started withholding those critical materials that we need to make electric vehicles.

The Chinese are setting a trap. God forbid if we let the Biden administration force us to fall into that trap.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4468, the Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the previous question is ordered on the bill and on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOHNSON).

The amendment was agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of H.R. 4468 is postponed.

□ 1345

DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFARIOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 906 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5933.

The Chair appoints the gentleman from Guam (Mr. MOYLAN) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1346

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5933) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments, with Mr. MOYLAN in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time.

General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees.

The gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of the DETERRENT Act, H.R. 5933. The Republican transparency and accountability agenda is on the march, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce has set its sights on postsecondary education.

We delivered the Protection of Women and Girls in Sports Act, a bill to ensure Title IX funding doesn't go to athletic programs which disadvantage young women.

Just yesterday, we conducted oversight of anti-Semitism on campus during a contentious hearing with Ivy League presidents.

Now, we are considering the DETERRENT Act, a bill that restores transparency and accountability in foreign donations to American universities.

The DETERRENT Act strengthens section 117 of the Higher Education Act, which was intended to protect American universities from nefarious foreign donations.

Unfortunately, many schools failed to report these foreign gifts and funding, leaving foreign actors with a stranglehold on U.S. academic institutions.

A 2019 Senate report found that up to 70 percent of universities fail to comply with the law, and outside experts uncovered nearly \$13 billion in previously undisclosed foreign funds.

Of course, this is just the tip of the iceberg. Without transparency, we have no idea the true amount of foreign funds at our universities.

This legislation safeguards our national security in five key ways. First, this bill lowers the minimum foreign gift reporting threshold to \$50,000 from its current \$250,000. For countries of concern, every penny must be reported.

Second, the bill closes loopholes that allow foreign entities to hide the true origin or purpose of their gifts.

Every disclosure must include the intended purposes, dates, and person at the institution responsible for accepting the gift.

Third, the DETERRENT Act requires that research faculty at our largest research universities disclose foreign gifts and contracts publicly so the American people can see if academic work is compromised.

Fourth, it reveals foreign investments by the endowments of our largest private universities.

Finally, it sets real, meaningful penalties for universities that fail to comply. Foreign influence is not something our schools should take lightly.

I am proud of my Republican colleague, Representative MICHELLE STEEL, for introducing this fantastic piece of legislation, and the Committee on Education and the Workforce is proud to deliver yet another win for transparency, for accountability, and for the American people.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to H.R. 5933, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions, or DETERRENT Act, is before us today.

Historically, collaborations with global partners—and careful Federal investments in research—have enabled our colleges and universities to make bold, forward-thinking strides in health, science, and technology for people around the world.

Additionally, institutions have collaborated with the U.S. Government to enhance our research by attracting and retaining researchers and scholars from across the world.

These partnerships help drive intellectual and campus diversity, strengthen inner workings of our economy, and give us an undeniable competitive edge.

Institutions, however, must be transparent about the resources they receive from foreign entities, particularly as the Federal Government invests nearly \$30 billion annually in our higher education research and development efforts.

Some colleges and universities, unfortunately, have not complied with all of their responsibilities in those disclosures. Regrettably, H.R. 5933 does nothing to meaningfully protect research security at colleges and universities.

For example, colleges must report any gift from a representative of a "country of concern" no matter the value—even a cup of coffee.

The faculty's information is then shared in a publicly searchable database, regardless of whether the action was nefarious or not.

This is excessive and burdensome—to say nothing about the potential discriminatory effect—and would disincentivize universities from conducting critical research using collaborative partners from around the world.

It would force them to deviate from established compliance and reporting guidelines under section 117 of the Higher Education Act.

Schools are already grappling with recruiting and retaining students and scholars. If passed, H.R. 5933 will stall decades of innovative progress and jeopardize global research initiatives.

Students and faculties are already calling on Congress to improve our

higher education system and address discrimination on campus.

However, certain provisions of this bill would only exacerbate the ongoing culture wars that have consumed our colleagues in Congress.

For example, the legislation singles out partnerships with certain countries, targeting researchers based solely on their nationality.

As I have said before, we can achieve accountability and compliance without contributing to anti-Asian, anti-Semitic, or Islamophobic animosity.

I have offered a thoughtful alternative to improve section 117 compliance and support institutions as they evaluate and implement their research integrity and foreign influence policies, and that alternative will be offered during the amendment process.

This amendment builds on the Chips and Science Act and the Presidential Memorandum on government-supported research and development national security policy guidelines.

Specifically, it aligns reporting requirements with those of Federal agencies and requires the Secretary of Education to go through negotiated rule-making to address key implementation aspects of section 117.

We must take targeted and thoughtful steps to protect our research and development initiatives without jeopardizing our global partnerships that will benefit us all.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 6 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. STEEL).

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Chair, I thank the chairwoman, Dr. Foxx, for yielding time.

Actually, this has nothing to do with an anti-Asian bill. This is my bill, and we want to protect our children from this propaganda.

Yesterday, before the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the entire world, leaders of three of our Nation's most prestigious universities failed to demonstrate the most basic levels of humanity when discussing anti-Semitism on campus.

Make no mistake: Their lack of moral clarity shows exactly what happens when we permit hostile foreign actors like Qatar, Iran, and Communist China to buy influence on our college campuses.

When they give money without return, actually, there is no such thing as a free lunch. That is why today I am offering a legislative solution to crack down on this crisis in our higher education system. That is why I rise today to urge support and passage of the DETERRENT Act.

Justice Brandeis once said: Sunlight is the best disinfectant. As we saw yesterday, our college campuses are infected.

The DETERRENT Act brings desperately needed sunlight by strengthening transparency and disclosure requirements under section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965.

While the previous administration reinvigorated the use of this tool, the current administration has repeatedly downplayed the threat of foreign actors and failed to take meaningful steps to protect our students, research, and national security. If the President will not act, Congress must.

The DETERRENT Act has three pillars to strengthen section 117. The first pillar brings much-needed transparency.

Foreign adversaries look for any loophole to hide their intentions. This is especially true for states that pose the greatest threats to our Nation, like Russia, China, Iran, and North Korea.

The DETERRENT Act eliminates these loopholes by lowering the foreign gifts reporting threshold from \$250,000 to \$50,000 for all foreign donors and eliminating the threshold entirely for those from countries of concern.

The bill also requires the disclosures include detailed information about the foreign source, the intent of the gift, and the complete text of any contracts with the concerned entities.

The second pillar of my bill establishes accountability. For too long, schools have adopted a take the money first, ask questions later approach to billions of dollars of foreign funds.

As reporting and congressional oversight revealed in the case of UC Berkeley in my home State of California, these problematic relationships are often discovered years after the fact when the damage has already been done.

Requiring timely transparency for institutions receiving foreign funds means ensuring the penalties for non-reporting are more than a slap on the wrist.

□ 1400

The DETERRENT Act institutes a progressive fine schedule, culminating in the loss of title IV funding for non-compliant universities. The bill also sets up an institutional point of contact so institutions cannot use the faceless bureaucracy to claim ignorance of unreported foreign funds on their campuses.

The third and final pillar of the DETERRENT Act is clarity. The DETERRENT Act streamlines the bureaucratic reporting process and aligns section 117 with other laws. It shifts the reporting schedule from a biannual to an annual basis, using reporting thresholds from existing law to avoid confusion.

It improves communication between the Department of Education and institutions by mandating a point of contact on section 117 for institutions to utilize at the Department. It also requires periodic meetings between the Department and institutions to discuss improvements to online reporting.

Section 117 has not been updated in more than 30 years. These reforms are long overdue.

The DETERRENT Act is a common-sense bill that adds transparency, ac-

countability, and clarity to section 117. That is why it passed the Education and the Workforce Committee in a bipartisan vote.

Let's protect our students from this propaganda. Mr. Chair, I urge every Member of this body to vote "yes" on the DETERRENT Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I will quote from a letter we received from the Asian American Scholar Forum in terms of the effect this bill would have on Asian-American researchers. It is a long letter, but I will read one paragraph.

"The DETERRENT Act would further chill participation in research by signaling to researchers and institutions that scientific collaboration is discouraged and effectively deter economic institutions and scholars from engaging with Chinese-American and immigrant colleagues and peers out of fear of punishment or heightened scrutiny. The DETERRENT Act's definition of a 'foreign source' includes not just individuals overseas but those with lawful immigration status in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or nationals. As a practical matter, the DETERRENT Act would force scholars and researchers to scrutinize the immigration status of potential collaborators and would deter them from collaboration with individuals who may be perceived to be immigrants. Moreover, many scholars would not have access to private information, such as the immigration status of their peers, making this practically a difficult or impossible requirement for faculty, scholars, and researchers to meet. Additionally, the reporting requirement for contracts of no monetary value as it pertains to foreign entities and countries of concern as defined by the DETERRENT Act would significantly chill even normal, everyday communications, as it may be perceived as an agreement."

This would obviously have a chilling effect, and that is one of the reasons we are opposing the DETERRENT Act.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I support the DETERRENT Act, and I urge all Members to vote for this bill.

Education is a battleground for influence, and it seems that foreign countries understand this better than some Members of this Congress.

On our watch, the Federal Government doles out billions in taxpayer dollars to fund expensive degrees that empower an anti-American agenda while these woke universities secretly collect checks from hostile nations and watch their endowments grow and grow.

The DETERRENT Act would strengthen existing law, requiring colleges to publicly report gifts and con-

tracts with foreign countries. Under the DETERRENT Act, this information would be publicly available on a searchable database because taxpayers, parents, and students deserve to see who is buying the opportunity to influence the next generation of Americans.

The DETERRENT Act would further expose disturbing data that has recently come to light. At least 200 American colleges declined to report a total of \$13 billion in contributions from authoritarian countries like Qatar, China, and Saudi Arabia.

For some reason, the Biden administration has halted many of the existing investigations of reporting violations and has declined to enforce current law. Why would that be? Could it have something to do with the \$14 million donated to the Penn Biden Center from unnamed contributors in China?

The Biden administration minimizes it, and universities try to hide it, but the American people are suffering the effects of foreign influence.

Just yesterday, in the Education and the Workforce Committee, the presidents of Harvard, Penn, and MIT defended the influence Hamas has on our campuses and students across this country. The number one donor of these undisclosed funds, Qatar, is a country that says Israel alone is responsible for the attacks by Hamas and even houses an office for the Hamas leader in its capital city.

International partnerships can be beneficial for universities but should not come at the cost of our national security, intellectual property, academic freedom, or perpetuation of our American values.

Mr. Chair, I support passage of the DETERRENT Act to ensure greater transparency regarding who is funding our colleges and universities, and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent that the letter from the Asian American Scholars Forum from which I quoted be entered into the RECORD.

The CHAIR. The gentleman's request will be covered under general leave.

ASIAN AMERICAN SCHOLAR FORUM,
November 7, 2023.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,
Chairwoman, Committee on Education & the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

Hon. BOBBY SCOTT,
Ranking Member, Committee on Education & the Workforce, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: Asian American Scholar Forum (AASF) respectfully submits this letter to provide feedback on H.R. 5933, the Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT) Act. We write to express our concerns in opposition of the DETERRENT Act, which will have a chilling effect on Asian American and Asian immigrant researchers and all scholars from participating in U.S. scientific innovation, and will chill open science and innovation more broadly.

AASF is a national non-profit, non-partisan organization that works to promote

academic belonging, openness, freedom, and equality for all. AASF accomplishes this through education and research, advocacy, and building up leaders within the Asian American scientific and academic community. AASF is one of the leading Asian American national civil rights organizations on science and research security policy as it relates to the Asian American community including profiling concerns. Our membership includes the National Academy of Engineering, the National Academy of Medicine, the National Academy of Science, and the American Academy of Arts & Sciences members as well as past and current university presidents, provost, vice provosts, deans, associate deans, and past and current department chairs. AASF is a member of the National Council for Asian Pacific Americans (NCAPA). Founded in 1996, NCAPA is a coalition of 47 national Asian American, Native Hawaiian, and Pacific Islander (AANHPI) organizations serving to represent the interests of the greater AANHPI communities and to provide a national voice for Asian American and National Hawaiian Pacific Islander issues.

In January 2021, the Trump Administration issued NSPM-33, which directed federal agencies and academic institutions to protect U.S. government-supported research and development “[w]hile maintaining an open environment to foster research discoveries and innovation.” In January 2022, the Office of Science and Technology Policy (OSTP) issued guidance to implement NSPM-33. In addition to protecting “security and openness,” the guidance seeks “to be clear so that well-intentioned researchers can easily and properly comply” and “to clarify and simplify how researchers disclose information to the federal government.” The guidance cautioned that “if our policies to address [research security challenges] significantly diminish our superpower of attracting global scientific talent—or if they fuel xenophobia against Asian Americans—we will have done more damage to ourselves than any competitor or adversary could. So we need a thoughtful and effective approach.” Further, OSTP noted that “is important to avoid undue, vague, and implicit pressures on researchers, as this could create a chilling atmosphere that would only constrain and damage the U.S. scientific enterprise.” in light of the White House’s NSPM-33 and the current process within federal agencies and academic institutions to harmonize and create new requirements and policies, we are concerned with the addition of the DETERRENT Act in its entirety. Moreover, we have several key concerns with problematic sections that would result in significant negative impact to the Asian American and scholar community.

NEW REPORTING REQUIREMENTS UNDER THE DETERRENT ACT WILL HINDER THE IMPLEMENTATION OF NSPM-33, CREATING CONFUSING AND ADDITIONAL UNDUE BURDENS ON ACADEMIC INSTITUTIONS AND RESEARCHERS.

As indicated by the NSPM-33 guidance, transparency and clarity of any federal requirements with disclosure of information is critical not only for compliance, but also for safeguarding our national security. Currently, academic institutions and federal agencies are working to implement the reporting and disclosure requirements under NSPM-33. With this implementation process underway, any new reporting requirements will create confusion and additional burdens on academic institutions and researchers. Transparency and clarity of process will help everyone—from researchers, academic institutions, and the governments—and promote effective collection of information. Any new disclosure requirements at this time will be counterproductive to that process.

Additionally, it is critical to ensure that federal agencies and academic institutions follow the NSPM-33 mandatory anti-discriminatory provision, engage with the directly impacted Asian American and scholar community, and that due processes are in place both within federal agencies and academic institutions to protect the rights of Asian Americans, particularly those of Chinese descent who have been subjected to heightened scrutiny as U.S.-China tensions worsen.

THE DETERRENT ACT WILL CHILL ASIAN AMERICANS AND IMMIGRANTS FROM PARTICIPATING IN AMERICAN SOCIETY AND RESEARCH, THEREBY RESULTING IN CIVIL RIGHTS CONCERNS AND HARM U.S. LEADERSHIP IN SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY.

The DETERRENT Act will worsen the existing chilling effect on Asian American and immigrant communities, hurting their ability to participate in American society and contribute to our country through their leadership and research. The Asian American community has a long history of being targeted and scapegoated as national security threats based on our race, ethnicity, religion, or ancestry, such as the Chinese Exclusion Act of 1882 and the incarceration of Japanese Americans during World War II. More recently, federal agency programs such as the Justice Department’s now-defunct “China Initiative,” raised concerns about racial bias and profiling of Asian Americans, particularly scientists, researchers, and scholars of Chinese descent. While there are legitimate concerns about the activities of the People’s Republic of China (PRC) government, the increasing pressure on federal agencies to scrutinize scientists, researchers, and scholars, along with rising xenophobic and anti-China rhetoric from U.S. government officials, have further fueled anti-Asian sentiments at home and instigated a new wave of fear, profiling, and violent targeting of our communities.

The Asian American and immigrant community are currently living in a climate of fear. A survey conducted between December 2021 and March 2022 of 1300+ faculty members nationwide found that although an overwhelming majority of the survey respondents (89 percent) would like to contribute to the U.S. leadership in science and technology, many feel unsafe (72 percent) and fearful of conducting research (42 percent) in the U.S., especially engineering and computing science faculty, life science faculty, federal grant awardees, and senior faculty. Around 61 percent of the survey respondents feel pressure to leave the U.S., especially junior faculty and federal grant awardees. Moreover, nearly half of respondents (45 percent) intend to avoid federal grant applications, especially engineering and computing science faculty and senior faculty due to fear.

This chilling effect is especially felt among Chinese-origin American faculty in the U.S., who fear potential federal investigation and prosecution stemming from the China Initiative. This has been exemplified by the recent significant rise over the last few years of Chinese-origin scientists returning to China, despite an overwhelming majority of them wanting to contribute to U.S. leadership in science and technology. This is extremely concerning considering that U.S. leadership in science and technology and national defense have benefited significantly from immigrants by attracting the best and brightest scientists and engineers from around the world, yet U.S. policies and rhetoric push these researchers out of the country despite their desire to contribute. Around 46 percent of PhD students in science and technology fields in 2020 were from abroad. Chinese stu-

dents account for the largest of this group (37 percent), with 87 percent of them having stayed in the U.S., constituting a significant part of the American science and technology labor force.

These findings reveal the widespread fear of conducting routine research and academic activities, along with the significant risks of losing talent culminated in hesitancy to remain in the U.S. The DETERRENT Act and its potential for misguided heightened scrutiny towards Chinese Americans and immigrants will exacerbate these fears, ultimately harming research and hampering innovation in the U.S.

THE DETERRENT ACT RAISES ADDITIONAL IMPLEMENTATION CONCERNS AS IT IS NOT WORKABLE, RAISES PRIVACY AND SECURITY CONCERNS, AND IS UNREASONABLY PUNITIVE

The DETERRENT Act would further chill participation in research by signaling to researchers and institutions that scientific collaboration is discouraged, and effectively deter academic institutions and scholars from engaging with Chinese American and immigrant colleagues and peers out of fear of punishment or heightened scrutiny. The DETERRENT Act’s definition of a “foreign source” includes not just individuals overseas but those with lawful immigration status in the United States who are not U.S. citizens or nationals. As a practical matter, the DETERRENT Act would force scholars and researchers to scrutinize the immigration status of potential collaborators and would deter them from collaboration with individuals who may be perceived to be immigrants. Moreover, many scholars would not have access to private information such as the immigration status of their peers, making this practically a difficult or impossible requirement for faculty, scholars, and researchers to meet. Additionally, the reporting requirement for contracts of no monetary value as it pertains to foreign entities and countries of concern as defined by the DETERRENT Act would significantly chill even normal, everyday communications, as it may be perceived as an agreement.

Second, the public disclosure requirements in the DETERRENT Act raises serious concerns of privacy, especially as it pertains to Section 117b, which would require academic institutions to publicly post on its website the information researchers and faculty report under this provision, including their name. This will not only further chill scientific participation, but may also expose researchers to be targeted by foreign adversaries.

Moreover, the requirement under Section 117a for the Department of Education to share information reported with national security and intelligence agencies both pursuant to the DETERRENT Act and retroactively, raises serious concerns about how the shared information will be used and protected by the receiving agencies. The Chinese American and immigration communities have already experienced years of heightened scrutiny and concerns of racially biased surveillance and prosecution. We need further privacy and surveillance protections, rather than further encroachment into their rights and privacy.

Third, we are very concerned with how low the new threshold is for the reporting for gifts and contracts dropping from \$250,000 to \$50,000, as this would significantly increase academic institution’s reporting burden.

Furthermore, the harsh penalty provisions are punitive and would not only harm scientific research and innovation, but education and scholarship more broadly. Section 117d of the DETERRENT Act ties violations under the act to student aid funding, impacting students at the academic institution who

are not connected with any reporting requirement at issue. Section 117 as it stands today allows the Secretary of Education to investigate and bring a civil action to compel compliance with the reporting requirements, as well as to recover costs for enforcement. The DETERRENT Act's punitive and arbitrary penalties are unnecessary and call into question the purpose of this legislation.

We encourage the committee to consider our concerns raised above. Additionally, we encourage you to engage in further discussion with AASF to include the perspective of the Asian American scholar community and help foster a climate of trust with the Asian American and immigrant communities.

Sincerely,

GISELA PEREZ KUSAKAWA,
Executive Director,
Asian American Scholar Forum.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chairman, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BEAN).

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Chairman, I thank Chair FOXX for yielding.

Mr. Chairman, we have a problem. Today, America's education system is being purchased and manipulated by foreign nations. Since 2013, we know about \$12 billion has flooded in from foreign sources to U.S. colleges, and outside experts say billions more in foreign funds could have been underreported.

Foreign nations are pumping money into our higher education systems, and these nations are not our friends. This means our enemies are funding our colleges and universities.

Make no mistake, every dollar that flows into our classrooms comes with strings attached. By accepting these foreign funds, our colleges and universities are importing toxic hatred straight from the dogma of our Nation's enemies into our classrooms.

The results speak for themselves, as we saw in Chair FOXX's committee hearing yesterday: rampant anti-Semitism, censorship, and disdain for our U.S. Constitution, our Founding Fathers, and our American way of life.

This is what happens when our institutions of higher learning accept the Trojan horse of foreign funding. This blatant attempt to inject foreign ideologies into our schools undermines the fundamental purpose of American education.

It goes without saying that we should be teaching American values in American schools.

As a proud cosponsor of Representative STEEL's bill, H.R. 5933, the DETERRENT Act, I look forward today to supporting this timely legislation, which will provide much-needed transparency in foreign funding to schools and reporting requirements.

As we say in Florida, let the sunshine in. Mr. Chairman, let me be clear: America's institutions of higher learning are not for sale.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. OWENS).

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chair, I proudly rise today in support of Congresswoman STEEL's DETERRENT Act.

The world is on fire, and evil is spreading globally. We cannot permit American colleges and universities to be compromised. Our adversaries are determined to subvert our national interests, and today's modern battleground now includes American college campuses.

When American higher ed administrators accept financial incentives and gifts from adversarial regimes, it sends a clear message that influence on campus is for sale and that American universities are open for business.

Simply put, this is profit over patriotism. I will go a step further and call it anti-American.

It is important to understand that when our universities receive millions from countries that are antithetical to American values, there are strings attached.

Under section 117 of the Higher Education Act, colleges and universities must disclose any foreign funding to an institution exceeding \$250,000. Yet, in 2019, a Senate report found that 70 percent of colleges chose to evade, hide, and cheat to avoid compliance with this law. Only 30 percent of administrators overseeing our educational institutions deemed it important to follow the law put in place by Congress with oversight authority.

This is incredibly concerning, and it must come to an end.

I am proud that my bill, the Reporting on Investments in Foreign Adversaries Act, the RIFA Act, was included in Congresswoman STEEL's landmark legislation. This is the latest step to hold private industry accountable for their financial partnerships with foreign countries and entities hostile to the United States.

There is a disturbing lack of accountability for private institutions with endowments funded by foreign countries. Many of these countries seek nefarious influence within American universities, which undermines our national security.

By bribing American academic institutions with billions of dollars, our adversaries corrode the minds of American students with anti-American and pro-Marxist propaganda. This poses a threat to our national security, research and development efforts, intellectual property, and academic freedom as a whole.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Utah.

Mr. OWENS. Mr. Chair, the manipulation of our children on American soil paid for by the American taxpayer is unacceptable.

For the sake of our Republic and the millions of taxpaying Americans, we demand a higher standard, full transparency, and more accountability for college administrators who are

complicit. We cannot be satisfied with anything less.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on the DETERRENT Act.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, despite my colleagues' claims, the DETERRENT Act would only burden colleges and universities and jeopardize global partnerships while doing nothing to help them comply with existing compliance and reporting guidelines.

House Democrats tried several times to ensure that the legislation included attainable, commonsense provisions for these institutions. For example, in committee, I offered an amendment to build on the Chips and Science Act and the "Presidential Memorandum on United States Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Guidelines," aligning reporting requirements precisely to those Federal agencies that are already reporting with the Department of Education and requiring the Department of Education to go through negotiated rulemaking to conform those reporting requirements. Unfortunately, the Republican majority did not agree to it.

Mr. Chairman, Democrats are committed to helping institutions comply with the law, but we must always strike a balance between enforcing the law and fostering safe campuses for students, scholars, and faculty.

Regrettably, the legislation before us does nothing to achieve that goal. It would only drive deeper wedges into higher education systems at the expense of students, faculty, and our country's global innovative efforts.

Mr. Chair, as I indicated, in that letter from the Asian American Scholar Forum, they said: "As a practical matter, the DETERRENT Act would force scholars and researchers to scrutinize the immigration status of potential collaborators and would deter them from collaboration with individuals who may be perceived to be immigrants," and the zero limit on monetary value for gifts "would significantly chill even normal, everyday communications."

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to oppose H.R. 5933, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

As we all know, public confidence in American universities is in a free fall. According to Gallup, it has dropped almost 3 percentage points a year, on average, over the last 8 years.

The crisis of confidence is multifaceted: part tuition cost, sinking return on investment, and soaring debt. To each of the issues plaguing modern universities, the answer is restoring the principles of transparency and accountability.

Yes, passing this legislation would send a strong message to our foreign

adversaries, but more importantly, it will send a strong message to our constituents: We are good stewards of your votes.

While I know we cannot restore public trust in the university system overnight, requiring a basic level of transparency in foreign donations and accountability from universities is a great first step.

Mr. Chair, I urge a “yes” vote on the DETERRENT Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

The amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce, printed in the bill, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered read.

H.R. 5933

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 “Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions Act” or the “DETERRENT Act”.

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 117. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS.

“(a) DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—

“(1) AGGREGATE GIFTS AND CONTRACT DISCLOSURES.—An institution shall file a disclosure report in accordance with subsection (b)(1) with the Secretary on July 31 of the calendar year immediately following any calendar year in which—

“(A) the institution receives a gift from, or enters into a contract with, a foreign source (other than a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern)—

“(i) the value of which is \$50,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other gifts from, or contracts with, that foreign source within the calendar year; or

“(ii) the value of which is undetermined; or

“(B) the institution receives a gift from a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern, or, upon receiving a waiver under section 117A to enter into a contract with such a country or entity, enters into such contract, without regard to the value of such gift or contract.

“(2) FOREIGN SOURCE OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL DISCLOSURES.—In the case of an institution that is substantially controlled (as described in section 668.174(c)(3) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations) (or successor regulations) by a foreign source, the institution shall file a disclosure report in accordance with subsection (b)(2) with the Secretary on July 31 of each year.

“(3) TREATMENT OF AFFILIATED ENTITIES.—For purposes of this section, any gift to, or contract with, an affiliated entity of an institution shall be considered a gift to or contract with, respectively, such institution.

“(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—

“(1) GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.—Each report to the Secretary required under subsection (a)(1) shall contain the following:

“(A) With respect to a gift received from, or a contract entered into with, any foreign source—

“(i) the terms of such gift or contract, includ-

“(I) the name of the individual, department, or benefactor at the institution receiving the gift or carrying out the contract;

“(II) the intended purpose of such gift or contract, as provided to the institution by such foreign source, or if no such purpose is provided by such foreign source, the intended use of such gift or contract, as provided by the institution; and

“(III) in the case of a restricted or conditional gift or contract, a description of the restrictions or conditions of such gift or contract;

“(ii) with respect to a gift—

“(I) the total fair market dollar amount or dollar value of the gift, as of the date of submission of such report; and

“(II) the date on which the institution received such gift;

“(iii) with respect to a contract—

“(I) the date on which such contract commences;

“(II) as applicable, the date on which such contract terminates; and

“(III) an assurance that the institution will—

“(aa) maintain an unredacted copy of the contract until the latest of—

“(AA) the date that is 4 years after the date on which the contract commences;

“(BB) the date on which the contract terminates; or

“(CC) the last day of any period that applicable State law requires a copy of such contract to be maintained; and

“(bb) upon request of the Secretary during an investigation under subsection (f)(1), produce such an unredacted copy of the contract; and

“(iv) an assurance that in a case in which information is required to be disclosed under this section with respect to a gift or contract that is not in English, such information is translated into English in compliance with the requirements of subsection (c)(1).

“(B) With respect to a gift received from, or a contract entered into with, a foreign source that is a foreign government (other than the government of a foreign country of concern)—

“(i) the name of such foreign government;

“(ii) the department, agency, office, or division of such foreign government that approved such gift or contract, as applicable; and

“(iii) the physical mailing address of such department, agency, office, or division.

“(C) With respect to a gift received from, or contract entered into with, a foreign source (other than a foreign government subject to the requirements of subparagraph (B))—

“(i) the legal name of the foreign source, or, if such name is not available, a statement certified by the compliance officer in accordance with subsection (f)(2) that the institution has reasonably attempted to obtain such name;

“(ii) in the case of a foreign source that is a natural person, the country of citizenship of such person, or, if such country is not known, the principal country of residence of such person;

“(iii) in the case of a foreign source that is a legal entity, the country in which such entity is incorporated, or if such information is not available, the principal place of business of such entity; and

“(iv) the physical mailing address of such foreign source, or if such address is not available, a statement certified by the compliance officer in accordance with subsection (f)(2) that the institution has reasonably attempted to obtain such address.

“(D) With respect to a contract entered into with a foreign source that is a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern—

“(i) a complete and unredacted text of the original contract, and if such original contract is not in English, a translated copy of the text into English;

“(ii) a copy of the waiver received under section 117A for such contract; and

“(iii) the statement submitted by the institution for purposes of receiving such a waiver under section 117A(b)(1).

“(2) FOREIGN SOURCE OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL.—Each report to the Secretary required under subsection (a)(2) shall contain—

“(A) the legal name and address of the foreign source that owns or controls the institution;

“(B) the date on which the foreign source assumed ownership or control; and

“(C) any changes in program or structure resulting from the change in ownership or control.

“(c) TRANSLATION REQUIREMENTS.—Any information required to be disclosed under this section with respect to a gift or contract that is not in English shall be translated, for purposes of such disclosure, by a person that is not an affiliated entity or agent of the foreign source involved with such gift or contract.

“(d) PUBLIC INSPECTION.—

“(1) DATABASE REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 60 days before the July 31 immediately following the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act, the Secretary shall—

“(A) establish and maintain a searchable database on a website of the Department, under which all reports submitted under this section (including any report submitted under this section before the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act)—

“(i) are made publicly available (in electronic and downloadable format), including any information provided in such reports (other than the information prohibited from being publicly disclosed pursuant to paragraph (2));

“(ii) can be individually identified and compared; and

“(iii) are searchable and sortable by—

“(I) the date the institution filed such report;

“(II) the date on which the institution received the gift, or entered into the contract, which is the subject of the report;

“(III) the attributable country of such gift or contract; and

“(IV) the name of the foreign source (other than a foreign source that is a natural person);

“(B) not later than 30 days after receipt of a disclosure report under this section, include such report in such database;

“(C) indicate, as part of the public record of a report included in such database, whether the report is with respect to a gift received from, or a contract entered into with—

“(i) a foreign source that is a foreign government; or

“(ii) a foreign source that is not a foreign government; and

“(D) with respect to a disclosure report that does not include the name or address of a foreign source, indicate, as part of the public record of such report included in such database, that such report did not include such information.

“(2) NAME AND ADDRESS OF FOREIGN SOURCE.—The Secretary shall not disclose the name or address of a foreign source that is a natural person (other than the attributable country of such foreign source) included in a disclosure report—

“(A) as part of the public record of such disclosure report described in paragraph (1); or

“(B) in response to a request under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the ‘Freedom of Information Act’), pursuant to subsection (b)(3) of such section.

“(e) INTERAGENCY INFORMATION SHARING.—Not later than 30 days after receiving a disclosure report from an institution in compliance with this section, the Secretary shall transmit an unredacted copy of such report (that includes the name and address of a foreign source disclosed in such report) to the Director of the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the Director of National Intelligence, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency, the Secretary of State, the Secretary of Defense, the Attorney General, the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Homeland Security, the Secretary of Energy, the Director of the National Science Foundation, and the Director of the National Institutes of Health.

“(f) COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Any institution that is required to file a disclosure report under subsection (a) shall designate, before the filing deadline for such report, and maintain a compliance officer, who shall—

“(1) be a current employee or legally authorized agent of such institution; and

“(2) be responsible, on behalf of the institution, for personally certifying accurate compliance with the foreign gift reporting requirement under this section.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) AFFILIATED ENTITY.—The term ‘affiliated entity’, when used with respect to an institution, means an entity or organization that operates primarily for the benefit of, or under the auspices of, such institution, including a foundation of the institution or a related entity (such as any educational, cultural, or language entity).

“(2) ATTRIBUTABLE COUNTRY.—The term ‘attributable country’ means—

“(A) the country of citizenship of a foreign source who is a natural person, or, if such country is unknown, the principal residence (as applicable) of such foreign source; or

“(B) the country of incorporation of a foreign source that is a legal entity, or, if such country is unknown, the principal place of business (as applicable) of such foreign source.

“(3) CONTRACT.—The term ‘contract’—

“(A) means—

“(i) any agreement for the acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter of property or services by the foreign source;

“(ii) any affiliation, agreement, or similar transaction with a foreign source that involves the use or exchange of an institution’s name, likeness, time, services, or resources; and

“(iii) any agreement for the acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services from a foreign source (other than an arms-length agreement for such acquisition from a foreign source that is not a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern); and

“(B) does not include an agreement made between an institution and a foreign source regarding any payment of one or more elements of a student’s cost of attendance (as such term is defined in section 472), unless such an agreement is made for more than 15 students or is made under a restricted or conditional contract.

“(4) FOREIGN SOURCE.—The term ‘foreign source’ means—

“(A) a foreign government, including an agency of a foreign government;

“(B) a legal entity, governmental or otherwise, created under the laws of a foreign state or states;

“(C) a legal entity, governmental or otherwise, substantially controlled (as described in section 668.174(c)(3) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations) (or successor regulations) by a foreign source;

“(D) a natural person who is not a citizen or a national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof; and

“(E) an agent of a foreign source, including—

“(i) a subsidiary or affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source;

“(ii) a person that operates primarily for the benefit of, or under the auspices of, a foreign source, including a foundation or a related entity (such as any educational, cultural, or language entity); and

“(iii) a person who is an agent of a foreign principal (as such term is defined in section 1 of the Foreign Agents Registration Act of 1938 (22 U.S.C. 611)).

“(5) GIFT.—The term ‘gift’—

“(A) means any gift of money, property, resources, staff, or services; and

“(B) does not include—

“(i) any payment of one or more elements of a student’s cost of attendance (as such term is defined in section 472) to an institution by, or scholarship from, a foreign source who is a natural person, acting in their individual capacity

and not as an agent for, at the request or direction of, or on behalf of, any person or entity (except the student), made for not more than 15 students, and that is not made under a restricted or conditional contract with such foreign source; or

“(ii) assignment or license of registered industrial and intellectual property rights, such as patents, utility models, trademarks, or copyrights, or technical assistance, that are not identified as being associated with a national security risk or concern by the Federal Research Security Council as described under section 7902 of title 31, United States Code; or

“(iii) decorations (as such term is defined in section 7342(a) of title 5, United States Code).

“(6) RESTRICTED OR CONDITIONAL GIFT OR CONTRACT.—The term ‘restricted or conditional gift or contract’ means any endowment, gift, grant, contract, award, present, or property of any kind which includes provisions regarding—

“(A) the employment, assignment, or termination of faculty;

“(B) the establishment of departments, centers, institutes, instructional programs, research or lecture programs, or new faculty positions;

“(C) the selection, admission, or education of students;

“(D) the award of grants, loans, scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial aid restricted to students of a specified country, religion, sex, ethnic origin, or political opinion; or

“(E) any other restriction on the use of a gift or contract.”

(b) PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN ENTITIES AND COUNTRIES.—Part B of title I of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 117 the following:

“SEC. 117A. PROHIBITION ON CONTRACTS WITH CERTAIN FOREIGN ENTITIES AND COUNTRIES.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—An institution shall not enter into a contract with a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern.

“(b) WAIVERS.—

“(1) SUBMISSION.—

“(A) FIRST WAIVER REQUESTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An institution that desires to enter into a contract with a foreign entity of concern or a foreign country of concern may submit to the Secretary, not later than 120 days before the institution enters into such a contract, a request to waive the prohibition under subsection (a) with respect to such contract.

“(ii) CONTENTS OF WAIVER REQUEST.—A waiver request submitted by an institution under clause (i) shall include—

“(I) the complete and unredacted text of the proposed contract for which the waiver is being requested, and if such original contract is not in English, a translated copy of the text into English (in a manner that complies with section 117(c)); and

“(II) a statement that—

“(aa) is signed by the point of contact of the institution described in section 117(h); and

“(bb) includes information that demonstrates that such contract is for the benefit of the institution’s mission and students and will promote the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States.

“(B) RENEWAL WAIVER REQUESTS.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—An institution that has entered into a contract pursuant to a waiver issued under this section, the term of which is longer than the 1-year waiver period and the terms and conditions of which remain the same as the proposed contract submitted as part of the request for such waiver may submit, not later than 120 days before the expiration of such waiver period, a request for a renewal of such waiver for an additional 1-year period (which shall include any information requested by the Secretary).

“(ii) TERMINATION.—If the institution fails to submit a request under clause (i) or is not granted a renewal under such clause, such institution

shall terminate such contract on the last day of the original 1-year waiver period.

“(2) WAIVER ISSUANCE.—The Secretary—

“(A) not later than 60 days before an institution enters into a contract pursuant to a waiver request under paragraph (1)(A), or before a contract described in paragraph (1)(B)(i) is renewed pursuant to a renewal request under such paragraph, shall notify the institution—

“(i) if the waiver or renewal will be issued by the Secretary; and

“(ii) in a case in which the waiver or renewal will be issued, the date on which the 1-year waiver period starts; and

“(B) may only issue a waiver under this section to an institution if the Secretary determines, in consultation with the heads of each agency and department listed in section 117(e), that the contract for which the waiver is being requested is for the benefit of the institution’s mission and students and will promote the security, stability, and economic vitality of the United States.

“(3) DISCLOSURE.—Not less than 2 weeks prior to issuing a waiver under paragraph (2), the Secretary shall notify the—

“(A) the Committee on Education and the Workforce of the House of Representatives; and

“(B) the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions of the Senate, of the intent to issue the waiver, including a justification for the waiver.

“(4) APPLICATION OF WAIVERS.—A waiver issued under this section to an institution with respect to a contract shall only—

“(A) waive the prohibition under subsection (a) for a 1-year period; and

“(B) apply to the terms and conditions of the proposed contract submitted as part of the request for such waiver.

“(c) DESIGNATION DURING CONTRACT TERM.—

In the case of an institution that enters into a contract with a foreign source that is not a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern but which, during the term of such contract, is designated as a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern, such institution shall terminate such contract not later than 60 days after the Secretary notifies the institution of such designation.

“(d) CONTRACTS PRIOR TO DATE OF ENACTMENT.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the case of an institution that has entered into a contract with a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern prior to the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act—

“(A) the institution shall immediately submit to the Secretary a waiver request in accordance with subsection (b)(1)(A)(ii); and

“(B) the Secretary shall, upon receipt of the request submitted under paragraph (1), immediately issue a waiver to the institution for a period beginning on the date on which the waiver is issued and ending on the sooner of—

“(i) the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act; or

“(ii) the date on which the contract terminates.

“(2) RENEWAL.—An institution that has entered into a contract described in paragraph (1), the term of which is longer than the waiver period described in subparagraph (B) of such paragraph and the terms and conditions of which remain the same as the contract submitted as part of the request required under subparagraph (A) of such paragraph, may submit a request for renewal of the waiver issued under such paragraph in accordance with subsection (b)(1)(B).

“(e) CONTRACT DEFINED.—The term ‘contract’ has the meaning given such term in section 117(g).”

(c) INTERAGENCY INFORMATION SHARING.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall transmit to the heads of each agency and department listed in section 117(e) of the Higher Education Act of 1965, as amended by this Act—

(1) any report received by the Department of Education under section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f) prior to the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) any report, document, or other record generated by the Department of Education in the course of an investigation—

(A) of an institution with respect to the compliance of such institution with such section; and

(B) initiated prior to the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 3. POLICY REGARDING CONFLICTS OF INTEREST FROM FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 2 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 117A the following:

“SEC. 117B. INSTITUTIONAL POLICY REGARDING FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS TO FACULTY AND STAFF.

“(a) REQUIREMENT TO MAINTAIN POLICY AND DATABASE.—Beginning not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act, each institution described in subsection (b) shall maintain—

“(1) a policy requiring covered individuals employed at the institution to disclose in a report to such institution on July 31 of each calendar year that begins after the year in which such enactment date occurs—

“(A) any gift received from a foreign source in the previous calendar year, the value of which is greater than the minimal value (as such term is defined in section 7342(a) of title 5, United States Code) or is of undetermined value, and including the date on which the gift was received;

“(B) any contract entered into with a foreign source in the previous calendar year, the value of which is \$5,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other contracts with that foreign source within the calendar year, and including the date on which such contract commences and, as applicable, the date on which such contract terminates;

“(C) any contract with a foreign source in force during the previous calendar year that has an undetermined monetary value, and including the date on which such contract commences and, as applicable, the date on which such contract terminates; and

“(D) any contract entered into with a foreign country of concern or foreign entity of concern in the previous calendar year, the value of which is \$0 or more, and including the beginning and ending dates of such contract and the full text of such contract and any addenda;

“(2) a publicly available and searchable database (in electronic and downloadable format), on a website of the institution, of the information required to be disclosed under paragraph (1) that—

“(A) makes available the information disclosed under paragraph (1) beginning on the date that is 30 days after receipt of the report under such paragraph containing such information and until the latest of—

“(i) the date that is 4 years after the date on which—

“(I) a gift referred to in paragraph (1)(A) is received; or

“(II) a contract referred to in subparagraph (B), (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) begins; or

“(ii) the date on which a contract referred to in subparagraph (B), (C) or (D) of paragraph (1) terminates; and

“(B) is searchable and sortable by—

“(i) the date received (if a gift) or the date commenced (if a contract);

“(ii) the attributable country with respect to which information is being disclosed;

“(iii) name of the individual making the disclosure; and

“(iv) the name of the foreign source (other than a foreign source who is a natural person);

“(3) a plan effectively to identify and manage potential information gathering by foreign

sources through espionage targeting covered individuals that may arise from gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign source, including through the use of—

“(A) accurate communications;

“(B) periodic reporting under paragraph (2) of the information required to be disclosed under paragraph (1); and

“(C) enforcement of the policy described in paragraph (1).

“(b) INSTITUTIONS.—An institution shall be subject to the requirements of this section if such institution—

“(1) is an eligible institution for the purposes of any program authorized under title IV; and

“(2)(A) received more than \$50,000,000 in Federal funds in any of the previous five calendar years to support (in whole or in part) research and development (as determined by the institution and measured by the Higher Education Research and Development Survey of the National Center for Science and Engineering Statistics); or

“(B) receives funds under title VI.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the terms ‘foreign source’ and ‘gift’ have the meanings given such terms in section 117(g);

“(2) the term ‘contract’—

“(A) means any—

“(i) agreement for the acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services by a foreign source;

“(ii) affiliation, agreement, or similar transaction with a foreign source involving the use or exchange of the name, likeness, time, services, or resources of covered individuals employed at an institution described in subsection (b); or

“(iii) purchase, lease, or barter of property or services from a foreign source that is a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern; and

“(B) does not include any fair-market, arms-length agreement made by covered individuals for the acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter of property or services from a foreign source other than such a foreign source that is a foreign country of concern or a foreign entity of concern;

“(3) the term ‘covered individual’—

“(A) has the meaning given such term in section 223(d) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (42 U.S.C. 6605); and

“(B) shall be interpreted in accordance with the Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-supported Research and Development published by the Subcommittee on Research Security and the Joint Committee on the Research Environment in January 2022; and

“(4) the term ‘professional staff’ means professional employees, as defined in section 3 of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203).”

SEC. 4. INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE REPORT.

The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 117B the following:

“SEC. 117C. INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE REPORT.

“(a) INVESTMENT DISCLOSURE REPORT.—A specified institution shall file a disclosure report in accordance with subsection (b) with the Secretary on July 31 immediately following any calendar year in which the specified institution purchases, sells, or holds (directly or indirectly through any chain of ownership) one or more investments of concern.

“(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report to the Secretary required by subsection (a) with respect to any calendar year shall contain the following:

“(1) A list of the investments of concern purchased, sold, or held during such calendar year.

“(2) The aggregate fair market value of all investments of concern held as of the close of such calendar year.

“(3) The combined value of all investments of concern sold over the course of such calendar year, as measured by the fair market value of such investments at the time of the sale.

“(4) The combined value of all capital gains from such sales of investments of concern.

“(c) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN POOLED FUNDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An investment of concern acquired through a regulated investment company, exchange traded fund, or any other pooled investment shall be treated as acquired through a chain of ownership referred to in subsection (a), unless such pooled investment is certified by the Secretary as not holding any listed investments in accordance with subparagraph (B) of paragraph (2).

“(2) CERTIFICATIONS OF POOLED FUNDS.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish procedures under which certain regulated investment companies, exchange traded funds, and other pooled investments—

“(A) shall be reported in accordance with the requirements under subsection (b); and

“(B) may be certified by the Secretary as not holding any listed investments.

“(d) TREATMENT OF RELATED ORGANIZATIONS.—For purposes of this section, assets held by any related organization (as defined in section 4968(d)(2) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986) with respect to a specified institution shall be treated as held by such specified institution, except that—

“(1) such assets shall not be taken into account with respect to more than 1 specified institution; and

“(2) unless such organization is controlled by such institution or is described in section 509(a)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 with respect to such institution, assets which are not intended or available for the use or benefit of such specified institution shall not be taken into account.

“(e) VALUATION OF DEBT.—For purposes of this section, the fair market value of any debt shall be the principal amount of such debt.

“(f) REGULATIONS.—The Secretary, after consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, may issue such regulations or other guidance as may be necessary or appropriate to carry out the purposes of this section, including regulations or other guidance providing for the proper application of this section with respect to certain regulated investment companies, exchange traded funds, and pooled investments.

“(g) COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Any specified institution that is required to submit a report under subsection (a) shall designate, before the submission of such report, and maintain a compliance officer, who shall—

“(1) be a current employee or legally authorized agent of such institution;

“(2) be responsible, on behalf of the institution, for personally certifying accurate compliance with the reporting requirements under this section; and

“(3) certify the institution has, for purposes of filing such report under subsection (a), followed an established institutional policy and conducted good faith efforts and reasonable due diligence to determine the accuracy and valuations of the assets reported.

“(h) DATABASE REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 60 days before the July 31 immediately following the date of the enactment of the DETERRENT Act, the Secretary shall—

“(1) establish and maintain a searchable database on a website of the Department, under which all reports submitted under this section—

“(A) are made publicly available (in electronic and downloadable format), including any information provided in such reports;

“(B) can be individually identified and compared; and

“(C) are searchable and sortable; and

“(2) not later than 30 days after receipt of a disclosure report under this section, include such report in such database.

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INVESTMENT OF CONCERN.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘investment of concern’ means any specified interest with respect to any of the following:

“(i) A foreign country of concern.

“(ii) A foreign entity of concern.

“(B) SPECIFIED INTEREST.—The term ‘specified interest’ means, with respect to any entity—

“(i) stock or any other equity or profits interest of such entity;

“(ii) debt issued by such entity; and

“(iii) any contract or derivative with respect to any property described in clause (i) or (ii).

“(2) SPECIFIED INSTITUTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘specified institution’, as determined with respect to any calendar year, means an institution if—

“(i) such institution is not a public institution; and

“(ii) the aggregate fair market value of—

“(I) the assets held by such institution at the end of such calendar year (other than those assets which are used directly in carrying out the institution’s exempt purpose) is in excess of \$6,000,000,000; or

“(II) the investments of concern held by such institution at the end of such calendar year is in excess of \$250,000,000

“(B) REFERENCES TO CERTAIN TERMS.—For the purpose of applying the definition under subparagraph (A), the terms ‘aggregate fair market value’ and ‘assets which are used directly in carrying out the institution’s exempt purpose’ shall be applied in the same manner as such terms are applied for the purposes of section 4968(b)(1)(D) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.”

SEC. 5. ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GENERAL PROVISIONS.

(a) ENFORCEMENT AND OTHER GENERAL PROVISIONS.—The Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.), as amended by section 4 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after section 117C the following:

“SEC. 117D. ENFORCEMENT; SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT.

“(a) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) INVESTIGATION.—The Secretary (acting through the General Counsel of the Department) shall conduct investigations of possible violations of sections 117, 117A, 117B, and 117C by institutions.

“(2) CIVIL ACTION.—Whenever it appears that an institution has knowingly or willfully failed to comply with a requirement of any of the sections listed in paragraph (1) (including any rule or regulation promulgated under any such section) based on such an investigation, a civil action shall be brought by the Attorney General, at the request of the Secretary, in an appropriate district court of the United States, or the appropriate United States court of any territory or other place subject to the jurisdiction of the United States, to request such court to compel compliance with the requirement of the section that has been violated.

“(3) COSTS AND OTHER FINES.—An institution that is compelled to comply with a requirement of a section listed in paragraph (1) pursuant to paragraph (2) shall—

“(A) pay to the Treasury of the United States the full costs to the United States of obtaining compliance with the requirement of such section, including all associated costs of investigation and enforcement; and

“(B) be subject to the applicable fines described in paragraph (4).

“(4) FINES FOR VIOLATIONS.—The Secretary shall impose a fine on an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of a section listed in paragraph (1) as follows:

“(A) SECTION 117.—

“(i) FIRST-TIME VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117 with

respect to a calendar year, and that has not previously knowingly or willfully failed to comply with such a requirement, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution for such violation as follows:

“(I) In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a reporting requirement under subsection (a)(1) of section 117, such fine shall be in an amount that is—

“(aa) not less than \$50,000 but not more than the monetary value of the gift from, or contract with, the foreign source; or

“(bb) in the case of a gift or contract of no value or of indeterminable value, not less than 1 percent, and not more than 10 percent of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(II) In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with the reporting requirement under subsection (a)(2) of section 117, such fine shall be in an amount that is not less than 10 percent of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that has been fined pursuant to clause (i) with respect to a calendar year, and that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117 with respect to any additional calendar year, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution with respect to any such additional calendar year as follows:

“(I) In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a reporting requirement under subsection (a)(1) of section 117 with respect to an additional calendar year, such fine shall be in an amount that is—

“(aa) not less than \$100,000 but not more than twice the monetary value of the gift from, or contract with, the foreign source; or

“(bb) in the case of a gift or contract of no value or of indeterminable value, not less than 1 percent, but not more than 10 percent, of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(II) In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a reporting requirement under subsection (a)(2) of section 117 with respect to an additional calendar year, such fine shall be in an amount that is not less than 20 percent of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(B) SECTION 117A.—

“(i) FIRST-TIME VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117A for the first time, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution in an amount that is not less than 5 percent, but not more than 10 percent, of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that has been fined pursuant to clause (i), the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution for each subsequent time the institution knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117A in an amount that is not less than 20 percent of the total amount of Federal funds received by the institution under this Act for the most recent fiscal year.

“(C) SECTION 117B.—

“(i) FIRST-TIME VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117B with respect to a calendar year, and that has not previously knowingly or willfully failed to comply with such a requirement, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution of not less than \$250,000, but not more than the total amount of gifts or contracts reported by such institution in the database required under section 117B(a)(2).

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—In the case of an institution that has been fined pursuant to clause (i) with respect to a calendar year, and that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117B with respect to any additional calendar year, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution with respect to any such additional calendar year in an amount that is not less than \$500,000, but not more than twice the total amount of gifts or contracts reported by such institution in the database required under section 117B(a)(2).

“(D) SECTION 117C.—

“(i) FIRST-TIME VIOLATIONS.—In the case of a specified institution that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117C with respect to a calendar year, and that has not previously knowingly or willfully failed to comply with such a requirement, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution in an amount that is not less than 50 percent and not more than 100 percent of the sum of—

“(I) the aggregate fair market value of all investments of concern held by such institution as of the close of such calendar year; and

“(II) the combined value of all investments of concern sold over the course of such calendar year, as measured by the fair market value of such investments at the time of the sale.

“(ii) SUBSEQUENT VIOLATIONS.—In the case of a specified institution that has been fined pursuant to clause (i) with respect to a calendar year, and that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117C with respect to any additional calendar year, the Secretary shall impose a fine on the institution with respect to any such additional calendar year in an amount that is not less than 100 percent and not more than 200 percent of the sum of—

“(I) the aggregate fair market value of all investments of concern held by such institution as of the close of such additional calendar year; and

“(II) the combined value of all investments of concern sold over the course of such additional calendar year, as measured by the fair market value of such investments at the time of the sale.

“(b) SINGLE POINT-OF-CONTACT AT THE DEPARTMENT.—The Secretary shall maintain a single point-of-contact at the Department to—

“(I) receive and respond to inquiries and requests for technical assistance from institutions regarding compliance with the requirements of sections 117, 117A, 117B, and 117C;

“(2) coordinate and implement technical improvements to the database described in section 117(d)(1), including—

“(A) improving upload functionality by allowing for batch reporting, including by allowing institutions to upload one file with all required information into the database;

“(B) publishing and maintaining a database users guide annually, including information on how to edit an entry and how to report errors;

“(C) creating a standing user group (to which chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply) to discuss possible database improvements, which group shall—

“(i) include at least—

“(I) 3 members representing public institutions with high or very high levels of research activity (as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics);

“(II) 2 members representing private, non-profit institutions with high or very high levels of research activity (as so defined);

“(III) 2 members representing proprietary institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102(b)); and

“(IV) 2 members representing area career and technical education schools (as defined in subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)); and

“(ii) meet at least twice a year with officials from the Department to discuss possible database improvements;

“(D) publishing, on a publicly available website, recommended database improvements following each meeting described in subparagraph (C)(ii); and

“(E) responding, on a publicly available website, to each recommendation published under subparagraph (D) as to whether or not the Department will implement the recommendation, including the rationale for either approving or rejecting the recommendation;

“(3) provide, every 90 days after the date of enactment of the DETERRENT Act, status updates on any pending or completed investigations and civil actions under subsection (a)(1) to—

“(A) the authorizing committees; and

“(B) any institution that is the subject of such investigation or action;

“(4) maintain, on a publicly accessible website—

“(A) a full comprehensive list of all foreign countries of concern and foreign entities of concern; and

“(B) the date on which the last update was made to such list; and

“(5) not later than 7 days after making an update to the list maintained in paragraph (4)(A), notify each institution required to comply with the sections listed in paragraph (1) of such update.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of sections 117, 117A, 117B, 117C, and this section:

“(1) FOREIGN COUNTRY OF CONCERN.—The term ‘foreign country of concern’ includes the following:

“(A) A country that is a covered nation (as defined in section 4872(d) of title 10, United States Code).

“(B) Any country that the Secretary, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the Secretary of State, and the Director of National Intelligence, determines to be engaged in conduct that is detrimental to the national security or foreign policy of the United States.

“(2) FOREIGN ENTITY OF CONCERN.—The term ‘foreign entity of concern’ has the meaning given such term in section 10612(a) of the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (42 U.S.C. 19221(a)) and includes a foreign entity that is identified on the list published under section 1286(c)(8)(A) of the John S. McCain National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2019 (10 U.S.C. 22 4001 note; Public Law 115-232).

“(3) INSTITUTION.—The term ‘institution’ means an institution of higher education (as such term is defined in section 102, other than an institution described in subsection (a)(1)(c) of such section).”.

(b) PROGRAM PARTICIPATION AGREEMENT.—Section 487(a) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1094) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(30)(A) An institution will comply with the requirements of sections 117, 117A, 117B, and 117C.

“(B) An institution that, for 3 consecutive institutional fiscal years, violates any requirement of any of the sections listed in subparagraph (A), shall—

“(i) be ineligible to participate in the programs authorized by this title for a period of not less than 2 institutional fiscal years; and

“(ii) in order to regain eligibility to participate in such programs, demonstrate compliance with all requirements of each such section for not less than 2 institutional fiscal years after the institutional fiscal year in which such institution became ineligible.”.

(c) GAO STUDY.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States—

(1) shall conduct a study to identify ways to improve intergovernmental agency coordination regarding implementation and enforcement of sections 117, 117A, 117B, and 117C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f), as amended or added by this Act, including in-

creasing information sharing, increasing compliance rates, and establishing processes for enforcement; and

(2) shall submit to the Congress, and make public, a report containing the results of such study.

The CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part B of House Report 118-298. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MS. FOXX

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 7, line 4, strike “subsection (f)(1)” and insert “section 117D(a)(1)”.

Page 17, beginning on line 3, strike “identified as” and all that follows through “Code” on line 7, and insert “associated with a category listed in the Commerce Control List maintained by the Bureau of Industry and Security of the Department of Commerce and set forth in Supplement No. 1 to part 774 of title 15, Code of Federal Regulations”.

Page 19, beginning on line 12, strike “point of contact of the institution described in section 117(h)” and insert “compliance officer of the institution designated in accordance with section 117(f)”.

Page 27, line 10, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 27, line 11, strike “a plan effectively to identify” and insert “an effective plan to identify”.

Page 29, line 11, insert “and” after the semicolon.

Page 29, strike “; and” and insert a period.

Page 30, beginning on line 1, strike paragraph (4).

Page 36, line 8, before the period insert the following: “and, whenever it appears that an institution has knowingly or willfully failed to comply with a requirement of any of such sections (including any rule or regulation promulgated under any such section), shall request that the Attorney General bring a civil action in accordance with paragraph (2).”

Page 49, beginning on line 1, strike subsection (c) and insert the following:

(c) GAO STUDY AND REPORT.—

(1) STUDY.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall initiate a study to identify ways to improve intergovernmental agency coordination regarding implementation and enforcement of sections 117, 117A, 117B, and 117C of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f), as amended or added by this Act, including increasing information sharing, increasing compliance rates, and establishing processes for enforcement.

(2) REPORT.—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress, and make public, a report containing the results of the study described in paragraph (1).

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, my amendment makes technical edits to the underlying bill while also clarifying certain language on gifts, enforcement, and the timeline for the subsequent Government Accountability Office study.

The DETERRENT Act includes commonsense disclosure exemptions for industrial and intellectual property rights, except when they involve national security. My amendment clarifies the definition for intellectual property of national security concern by citing the existing Commerce Control List, which includes categories such as chemicals, avionics, and aerospace. If a transaction with foreign nations involves these sensitive industries, it should be disclosed.

Chronic noncompliance of section 117 is the central motivation for this bill, so my amendment also includes language to ensure the Secretary follows the law and brings civil action against noncompliant entities. This means even a recalcitrant administration, like the Biden administration, would have to treat noncompliance with the seriousness it deserves.

Lastly, my amendment adds language requested by the GAO to help it effectively measure the implementation and interagency coordination of provisions in the DETERRENT Act. Communication is key to combating malign foreign influence, and the GAO study will identify ways to improve that communication and coordination.

Mr. Chair, with this amendment’s simplistic nature, I hope for its easy passage, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, this appears to be technical and clarifying. That is always a good thing, and I hope that we will adopt the amendment.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I thank the gentleman for yielding and supporting this very technical amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. CAREY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 26, line 10, insert "(other than the name or any other personally identifiable information of a covered individual)" after "paragraph (1)".

Page 26, line 10, insert "(other than the name or any other personally identifiable information of a covered individual)" after "paragraph (1)".

Page 27, beginning line 6, strike "name of the individual making the disclosure" and insert "the narrowest of the department, school, or college of the institution, as applicable, for which the individual making the disclosure works".

Page 27, line 22, strike the period at the end and insert "; and".

Page 27, after line 22, insert the following: "(4) for purposes of investigations under section 117D(a)(1) or responses to requests under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the 'Freedom of Information Act'), the names of the individuals making disclosures under paragraph (1)."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Ohio.

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of my amendment and the underlying bill, the DETERRENT Act.

Foreign influence on our universities and colleges is a serious threat, and I am concerned foreign adversaries are targeting our Nation's students.

The DETERRENT Act ensures that we have transparency, accountability, and clarity in how foreign actors are involved with our universities and colleges.

My amendment will improve this important bill by revising a provision in the underlying legislation that creates a public, searchable database of staff or faculty who have disclosed gifts or contracts from foreign entities.

While I support transparency and accountability for our university faculty and staff to ensure foreign entities do not have undue influence over university research, policies, or instruction practices, it is important we balance that with the need to protect the privacy of an individual faculty or staff member at our institutions of higher education.

This commonsense amendment simply changes the underlying bill's public database by removing the personally identifiable information of faculty and staff who are listed in the database as a result of reporting gifts or contracts with foreign entities.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to it.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from Virginia?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in support of this amendment. I still have deep concerns about section 117 of the bill, because it places a target on the backs of researchers who work with foreign collaborators and would create a chilling effect for both international research and retention of international faculty and scholars, but this amendment would take the identifying information out and remove that target. I think that is a good direction.

Mr. Chair, I support the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CAREY. Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. CAREY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 44, after line 4, insert the following:

"(E) INELIGIBILITY FOR WAIVER.—In the case of an institution that has been fined pursuant to subparagraph (A)(i), (B)(i) (C)(i), or (D)(i) with respect to a calendar year, and that knowingly or willfully fails to comply with a requirement of section 117, 117A, 117B, or 117C with respect to any 2 additional calendar years, the Secretary shall prohibit the institution from obtaining a waiver, or a renewal of a waiver, under section 117A."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer an amendment to the DETERRENT Act, a bill that will work toward preventing foreign influence within America's institutions, colleges, and universities by strengthening section 117 of the Higher Education Act.

Section 117 requires colleges and universities to report contracts with and gifts from a foreign source that, alone or combined, are valued at \$250,000 or more for per calendar year.

My amendment will prohibit repeat-offending institutions from obtaining waivers that will allow them to accept donations or gifts from countries or entities of concern.

Some countries and entities, like China, pose a particular concern to the United States, and as such, institutions are required under this act to obtain special waivers if they wish to accept donations, gifts, or contracts from them.

My amendment simply adds that if an institution fails to comply with this act for 3 years, they are no longer eligible to receive these waivers. It is kind of a "three strikes and you are out" deal.

Foreign funds can come with strings attached, as we all know, strings that undermine our own national security. Foreign countries can use investment in America's colleges and institutions to disseminate propaganda, steal secrets and research, and, unfortunately, so much more.

This is why countries that raise more concern have more supervision over any of their donations or gifts, including waiver requirements.

This is really a commonsense amendment. We are not stripping away waivers after the first mistake. We are not even stripping away waivers after the second mistake. If it is the third time, if you neglect this act, this is obviously purposeful and that is when we say, as I mentioned before, three strikes and you are out. You have proven, if you do that, that you lack the transparency and the trust that are required to have these waivers permitted.

This amendment is not only about transparency and accountability, but it is also fundamentally about our national security.

I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of our national security by supporting this amendment. I hope this is bipartisan.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, while I certainly want to ensure that institutions remain compliant with section 117, many compliance problems can be minimal or unintentional. Colleges and universities will obviously be held accountable for those problems and subsequent violations can be punished more severely, but a permanent ban seems very excessive as a mandatory penalty in all cases.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I think I made my point clear. I urge my colleagues to vote in favor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. FALLON

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 6, line 17, strike "4" and insert "5".

Page 26, line 14, strike "4" and insert "5".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chair, I rise today to offer yet another amendment on the DETERRENT Act. It again deals with section 117, which requires colleges and universities to report contracts or gifts that total over \$250,000 in a given year. It is, I think, very important because of the nefarious influence that some foreign governments might exert on our youngest and most talented minds.

When Secretary DeVos, in 2019, initiated investigations into just 12 universities to ensure compliance with section 117, the Department found that \$6.5 billion of previously unreported foreign gifts and contracts were revealed. Despite this demonstrating a clear need for increased investigation and enforcement, the Biden administration's Department of Education refuses to open investigations under section 117 to ensure institutions aren't hiding foreign investments.

Think about that for a second: 12 institutions. \$6.5 billion of gifts revealed, when they were essentially audited. That is scary. It is unbelievably frightening.

The underlying bill does not require institutions to maintain certain information about foreign gifts and contracts, including unredacted versions, which would allow for future investigations, if needed.

□ 1430

However, my amendment would change the minimum length of time that they must maintain this information from 4 years to 5 years. It is a step in the right direction. It is really rather minor, 4 to 5 years. The yearlong extension, why this is relevant, is because if we had a potential change in the administrations—regardless that administrations last 4 years at a time—this would be protected with 5 years.

If we have a Department of Education that is uninterested or unwilling to investigate potential foreign influences in our institutions, this added extension of that 1 year could become very impactful.

This should be, I think, in my humble opinion, a completely bipartisan and noncontroversial amendment. It can go both ways. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have concerns about a future Republican administration, this just adds that extra year of protection.

This will also work toward restoring legislative branch relevance, as we see the executive branch continually year over year, regardless of what party is in power at the White House, eat away at our constitutional oversight, and, frankly, authority in powers.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment and in favor of the underlying bill.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to claim the time in opposition, although I am not opposed to it.

The CHAIR. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman?

There was no objection.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this is not an unreasonable requirement. To have the information that is stored for 4 years, an additional year is not unreasonable. Therefore, I do not oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chairman, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. CHU).

Ms. CHU. Mr. Chairman, as chair of the Congressional Asian Pacific American Caucus, I rise in strong opposition to the DETERRENT Act.

The DETERRENT Act would burden higher education institutions and Federal agencies by needlessly complicating existing research security measures. Further, the bill would impose unreasonably expansive reporting requirements on individual researchers. What is worse is that it would broadcast their personal information on public databases; therefore, casting a chilling effect disproportionately on the Asian-American academic community.

From the incarceration of Japanese Americans in World War II to racial profiling of Chinese-American scientists under the failed China Initiative, countless Asian Americans have had their lives destroyed because our government falsely accused them of being spies. Already, 72 percent of Asian-American academic researchers report feeling unsafe.

Safeguarding national security can be done through commonsense reforms that Democrats have offered that don't come at the expense of U.S. scientific innovation, global collaboration, and the Asian-American community. In fact, Congressman BOBBY SCOTT has submitted such an amendment that is a commonsense reform.

Meanwhile, this bill, the DETERRENT Act, is a bill that I urge all my colleagues to vote "no" on.

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Chairman, one of the other reasons why we should hopefully get overwhelming support for this amendment is this—let me give you a quick example.

In the final year of President Trump's administration, universities reported \$1.6 billion in foreign donations. In the entire first year of the Biden Presidency, that number magically plunged to \$4.3 million.

I doubt that the actual donations and gifts and such were reduced by 37,200 percent. I think it is merely a case of if section 117 isn't going to be essentially audited, then these universities and other institutions don't feel compelled to follow Federal law. That is another reason why I think extending this from 4 to 5 years is critical.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. FALLON).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 8, line 22, strike "and".

Page 9, line 3, strike the period and insert "; and".

Page 9, after line 3, insert the following new clause:

"(v) any affiliation of the foreign source to an organization that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189)."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, the DETERRENT Act is an important bill. It seeks to hold colleges, universities, and foreign actors accountable while providing the transparency necessary into any influence foreign countries are attempting to exert onto our Nation's students and academic institutions through new disclosure requirements. This bill could not be more timely.

My amendment will clarify that ties to a designated terrorist organizations, such as Hamas, must be disclosed when receiving funds from a foreign group or individual.

In light of the disgustingly callous and vile pro-Hamas demonstration seen on college campuses across the country, including, sadly, even in my own district, this amendment is more important than ever.

Mr. Chair, I will remark that after comments made by college and university presidents in my colleague, Dr. Foxx from North Carolina's, committee hearing, those comments were so horribly dishonest, disturbing, and, quite frankly, dangerous.

This amendment and the necessary exclamation point it sends is necessary.

The public deserves to know the source of foreign money being poured into our universities, especially if these sources have any ties to terrorist groups and organizations like Hamas.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to adopt the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, this is an amendment that we should be able to accept. The problem is that it is hard to imagine how the college could actually comply with it.

Any association with a terrorist organization obviously should be avoided. You are not dealing with the terrorist organization; you are dealing with an organization who then has an affiliation or some support from the organization. There is no way for the college to know.

I would hope that we would not force the college into complying with something they would have no way to comply with.

Mr. Chair, I oppose the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, there is adequate capacity for colleges and universities across this country to identify the source of funds such as this.

In fact, we know all too often that there are individuals even working within the Federal Government who have ties and have associated themselves with actions of Hamas. We have the technology to do so. And simply expecting that universities do their due diligence and then disclose to the American people, students, and supporters of those universities is certainly not a bar too great for them to meet.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time and have the right to close.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I will read the short amendment. It says: "Any affiliation of the foreign source to an organization that is designated as a foreign terrorist organization pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act."

It is hard to imagine how a college could always know exactly who has an affiliation with what.

Mr. Chair, for that reason, I oppose the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MOLINARO. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New York will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 3, line 22, strike "\$50,000" and insert "\$1".

Page 38, beginning on line 3, strike "not less than \$50,000 but".

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, my amendment is really rather simple. It is about transparency. It is about simply moving the reporting requirements. My amendment reduces the threshold for the value of gifts that must be reported from \$50,000 to \$1. It simply lowers the threshold. Mr. Chairman, this is about transparency.

The underlying bill, which represents a solid and sorely needed first step, advertises much-needed transparency. If we are going to stop America's foreign adversaries from targeting our Nation's educational institutions and students, we need transparency at every level.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this lowers the threshold to \$1. Any gift from any source, every gift or contract from any country—if you have some Canadian collaborators or somebody from Great Britain offering you coffee and donuts, you have to report it on a searchable database. I think that is an absurd amount of reporting that would have to be done.

This would create backlogs at the Department of Education and take time away from the scrutiny of the reports that really need to be looked at.

Mr. Chair, I hope we do not pass this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, the Trump administration discovered \$6.5 billion in previously unreported foreign money to universities from adversarial countries.

In response to the terrorist attack against Israel, I think it is important that we make it tougher. That we make it more clear who is trying to unduly influence our universities and our students—the future of America.

Qatar, an anti-Semitic country, earlier this week accused Israel of committing genocide, has contributed \$5 billion to U.S. universities. There are billions of dollars going unreported. Saudi Arabia has contributed \$3 billion. This can't be allowed.

We have foreign adversaries, adversaries of Israel, adversaries of the West, adversaries of America donating to universities, and we need to know. That is all we are asking.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The CHAIR. The gentleman has 4¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chairman, our universities across America have opened the doors to working-class Americans and impoverished Americans to be able to access a better life and education.

I speak to this amendment that indicates that any donation, as much as \$1, has to be under this particular act.

First of all, this is a blanket representation that our universities are taking moneys from terrorists. I am outraged to say that the University of Houston, University of Texas, Texas Southern University, and Prairie View A&M would be in the position of taking money from terrorists.

If you pass this amendment, you implode the innocent persons who are giving donations and the work of our universities attempting to provide dollars to educate more Americans—more impoverished Americans who simply have families that cannot afford for them to go to school. This is an outrage.

I want everybody to know that under this particular act, \$1 has to be reported. That \$1 may come from a grandmother or that \$1 may come from a hardworking parent.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

□ 1445

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Generous and kindhearted people from the faith institutions that many of our universities come under, Mr. Chair, you are going to ask them to vet or to determine whether terrorists are involved.

It is not the question of whether terrorists are involved. I want this Nation to be protected. We now realize that we are subject to a lot of terrorist potential because of the times we are in. I take it seriously. I am on the Homeland Security Committee.

Nevertheless, this \$1 is to make a mockery of the hard work of many folks at "working-class" universities and colleges, our community colleges, and 2-year colleges that themselves receive donations from people who are grateful that they allowed them to be a vocational nurse or welder and, because of that opportunity, they were able to make a living for themselves and their families.

We must have rational and reasonable thinking here. I am grateful for America's hierarchy of education because so many people come here to be educated.

Mr. Chair, let us vote this amendment down. Let us not do this and undermine the educational system of this Nation and the Constitution.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I think it is important to understand that we are in a new day. October 7 changed the world.

Qatar, for example, has praised Hamas. They have literally praised the systematic rape of women and the torture and rape of little girls. Surely, my colleagues understand why reporting donations is so paramount.

I can't stand by and pretend that this isn't going on. Qatar is trying to buy forgiveness—\$500 million to Hamas. How many rapes did that pay for, Mr. Chairman? How much is enough to absolve their sins?

I am appalled that anyone would be opposed to this. We need reporting. We need transparency. We are in a new day. The West is under attack.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I could go on about Al Jazeera, which is funded by Qatar, praising the torture. They were cutting off the genitals of men. They were cutting off the breasts of women. They were gang-raping women.

Foreign contributions need to be found out, discovered, and disclosed. The only way to make sure that nothing is slipping through the cracks is to lower the threshold.

There is no reason to oppose this amendment. If the universities are doing nothing wrong, then they have nothing to hide.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment. It is common sense, and it takes a stand against the atrocities that took place in Israel, the pay-fors, and the forgiveness that Qatar is trying to buy through our American universities.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chairman, the gentleman from Tennessee mentioned billions of dollars from countries, and he mentioned some countries of concern. Countries of concern already have to report zero-dollar and up gifts. This just adds all other countries.

There is no need for the bill to go from the present law of \$250,000 and up reports down to \$50,000 for countries that are not countries of concern down to \$1 to scrutinize billion-dollar gifts from countries of concern.

These reports are not free to comply with. The estimated costs of compliance are in the hundreds of thousands of dollars under the bill already.

Mr. Chairman, if you were to explode the number of reports that would have to be made if this amendment is adopted, there is no telling what the costs will be to the colleges and universities.

Mr. Chairman, I hope that we defeat the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. PERRY

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 15, line 18, strike "and".

Page 16, line 7, strike the period and insert "and".

Page 16, after line 7, insert the following subparagraph:

"(F) an international organization (as such term is defined in the International Organizations Immunities Act (22 U.S.C. 288))."

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chair, I would like to begin by thanking Chair Foxx for her hard work in an effort to try to right our country and the committee that she so artfully presides over.

This amendment, Mr. Chairman, simply adds international organizations to the bill's definition of foreign source, including them in the bill's reporting requirements. It uses the definition found in 22 U.S.C. 288, which reads, in part: "a public international organization in which the United States participates pursuant to any treaty or under the authority of any act of Congress authorizing such participation or making an appropriation for such participation."

Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, Americans are all too aware of the influence of international organizations such as the United Nations or the World Health Organization. As just one example, the World Health Organization was one of the so-called authorities trying to dismiss the lab leak theory, with the assistance of prominent academics and the Chinese Communist Party.

Many of our adversaries, such as China and Iran, are active participants in these organizations, much to my dismay and to the dismay of many Americans.

The fact that Iran was appointed to chair the United Nations's 2023 Social Forum, a conference focusing on human rights, would be laughable if not for Iran's own very grave human rights abuses, which are serious, to say the least.

I am concerned that should the excellent policies in this bill become law, our adversaries will instead attempt to funnel money to college campuses through international organizations. This amendment would address that possibility and shed even more light on these foreign gifts received by American colleges and universities.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentleman is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would add all international organizations as foreign sources that universities must report funding from under section 117. It would include the United Nations, UNESCO, the World Health Organization, and the World Trade Organization. These multinational organizations, many of which have significant participation by the United States, should not be deemed as necessarily national security threats.

This amendment would expand the burdensome section 117 compliance without giving any clear reason of how it would protect national security.

For that reason, I oppose the amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, my good friend and colleague talks about protecting national security and implies that somehow this amendment would imperil that. I don't understand how letting Americans know more about who is providing funds internationally to our universities in our country imperils our national security.

We should know who is trying to attempt to influence not only what is happening on campuses but the very minds on those campuses, whether it is Confucius Institutes or an organization antithetical, maybe anti-Semitic, from the Middle East that is sending endowments and funds to American universities to influence the minds of those who are participating in education at those universities. It is important not only for citizens to know but, quite honestly, for our Federal Government and the security agencies to know.

Mr. Chair, I remind my good friend on the other side of the aisle that I had a bill some time ago to require this reporting, which is already required in many aspects and many respects, but universities, even with the requirement, don't keep the information and don't report any of it at this time.

Isn't that a peril to national security?

If we actually want to strengthen security in our country for our citizens, then I urge adoption of this amendment.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Chairman, I thank my good friend, the gentleman on the other side of the aisle, but, again, transparency is key. Universities have become, unfortunately, as we have seen in our public media on this very day and on these very days, hotspots for international insurgent activity in our country, things that are antithetical to our country and our way of life, things that we have never seen before, anti-Semitic chants on American university grounds.

If those things are being stoked, inflamed, encouraged, and paid for by international organizations at all, then Americans ought to know that.

Mr. Chair, I ask my colleagues to vote in favor of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from the American Council on Education signed by 18 national higher education organizations.

The CHAIR. The gentleman's request will be covered under general leave.

AMERICAN COUNCIL ON
EDUCATION®,

Washington, DC, December 4, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,
Speaker of the House,
House of Representatives.

Hon. HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
House Minority Leader,
House of Representatives.

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON AND MINORITY LEADER JEFFRIES: On behalf of the American Council on Education and the undersigned higher education associations, I write in strong opposition to H.R. 5933, the "Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions (DETERRENT)" Act, which the House is scheduled to consider on the floor this week. While we understand the concern regarding foreign funding to U.S. institutions of higher education is bipartisan, we believe the DETERRENT Act is duplicative of existing interagency efforts, unnecessary, and puts in place a problematic expansion of the data collection by the U.S. Department of Education that will broadly curtail important needed international research collaboration and academic and cultural exchanges.

Institutions of higher education share a strong interest with the government in safeguarding the integrity of government-funded research and protecting academic freedom and free speech from foreign influence and/or interference. Our community takes the reporting requirements regarding foreign gifts and contracts under Section 117 of the Higher Education Act very seriously. Indeed, our community has worked tirelessly over the past several years to educate our members regarding these reporting obligations, as well as working with the national security agencies, research agencies, and the Department of Education to clarify and improve foreign gift and contract reporting. For example, our associations and our institutions continue to work with federal agencies to implement new reporting requirements under NSPM-33, which is targeted at improving research security and addressing concerns around federal funding. We are also engaged in implementing new requirements under the recently passed CHIPS and Science Act and ensuring compliance with statutory requirements enacted in previous National Defense Authorization Acts.

Since 2018, when issues with foreign gift reporting were raised by Congress and policy-

makers, there has been a substantial increase in Section 117 reporting. In response to questions before the House Education and the Workforce Committee earlier this year, Secretary Cardona stated that the Department has received over 34,000 filings in the past two years and is on track to receive the most Section 117 reports of any administration. Just this month, ED announced that the most recent reporting dataset shows nearly 5,000 additional foreign gifts and contracts with transactions valued at nearly \$4 billion since ED's last data release, as of October 2023. This increase in Section 117 reporting demonstrates that our institutions are committed to transparency and the efforts to bring more attention to the issue of foreign funding to our institutions.

However, the new Sections 117A, 117B, 117C, and 117D greatly expand Section 117 in a way that will be very problematic for colleges and universities seeking to engage in important and advantageous partnerships with foreign countries and entities. We would also note that the recently released 2023 annual report to Congress by the U.S.-China Economic and Security Review Commission made several recommendations regarding Section 117 but did not recommend these overly expansive and problematic new reporting requirements. Our concerns regarding each new provision are listed below:

Section 117A "Prohibition on Contracts with Certain Foreign Entities and Countries" would require institutions to receive a waiver from the Department of Education before beginning or continuing any contract with a country of concern (currently the People's Republic of China, Russia, North Korea, and Iran) or a foreign entity of concern. This provision is particularly concerning because the definition of a "contract" in the bill is incredibly broad and therefore will likely capture not only all research agreements, but also student exchange programs and other joint cultural and education programs with Chinese institutions.

Our institutions currently abide by the regulations and requirements maintained by the U.S. Department of Commerce and the U.S. Department of the Treasury regarding U.S. partnerships, exports, and purchases from foreign entities and foreign countries. In addition, federal research agencies, such as the U.S. Department of Defense, National Science Foundation, and National Institutes of Health all have recently strengthened research security and foreign partnership reporting requirements. There are no indications that expanded Department of Education reviews are necessary, and it is unlikely the Department of Education has the expertise to carry out the review of contracts, many of which will likely focus on scientific research. The Department lacks the technical expertise to assess risks associated with scientific research and critical and emerging technologies. Additionally, in light of the extremely broad definition of a contract in the legislation, this review will likely overwhelm the Department, and we are concerned that very few waiver requests would ultimately be granted. No other industry or government entities, including states, localities and other nonprofit organizations, must undertake this type of review of agreement before they can enter into a contract with a country or foreign entity.

Section 117B "Institutional Policy Regarding Foreign Gifts and Contracts to Faculty and Staff" would require institutions of higher education (those with more than \$50 million in federal research and development funding or any institution receiving Title VI international education funding) to develop a policy to compel research faculty and staff to report foreign gifts and contracts over

\$480, as well as creating and maintaining a searchable, public database with that information. This requirement is unnecessary given other existing federal statutory mandates that require researchers to disclose all sources of foreign, domestic, current, and pending support for their research to federal research agencies as they apply for research awards and contracts. To effectively implement this requirement, the Office of Management and Budget recently approved common disclosure forms to be used by all federal agencies.

This provision also raises serious privacy concerns for research faculty and staff, whose private financial transactions of relatively small amounts will have to be made public. Not only will this information be available to the U.S. public, but it will also provide our foreign adversaries with a roadmap for targeting our top-notch U.S. researchers.

Section 117B will result in the collection of an ocean of data, much of it trivial and inconsequential, and do little to address the fundamental concerns regarding research security and foreign influence. In addition, this could inadvertently undermine the U.S. economic competitiveness and national security objectives these bills are intended to enhance (i.e., faculty will be discouraged from working with foreign partners because their personal financial information will be made public).

Section 117C would create new "Investment Disclosure Reports" for certain institutions of higher education (private institutions with endowments over \$6 billion or with "investments of concern" above \$250 million). Those institutions would need to report those investments with a country of concern or a foreign entity of concern, on an annual basis, to the U.S. Department of Education. Those investments would then be made public on a searchable database. As written, this would likely capture a small number of private institutions of higher education and does not serve to achieve any significant national interests, especially given that all U.S. institutions of higher education already comply with Treasury rules regulating their investments, including the recent Executive Order 14105 regarding outbound investments in certain sensitive technologies in countries of concern. It is also unclear how this will address issues of national security beyond existing federal requirements.

Section 117D would establish new fines regarding compliance with Section 117 and the new subsections of Section 117. The legislation would put into statute the tie between Section 117 and an institution's Program Participation Agreement (PPA), which governs an institution's ability to access Title IV federal student aid. For the past several years, the Department of Education has tied PPAs to Section 117 compliance. However, this legislation goes further by creating additional fines for each new reporting requirement, and in some cases tying those fines to an institution's Title IV funding. As you know, those funds are awarded to the students who then choose to use that funding at institutions of higher education. By tying the new proposed fines to a school's Title IV funding, this would punish students for compliance issues at institutions, specifically compliance with foreign gift reporting, which is not likely impacting individual students. We do not believe these additional fines are necessary, given that Section 117 is already tied to an institution's PPA.

We appreciate that the DETERRENT Act would make Section 117 an annual report, rather than the current biannual requirements, in order to better align it with the new National Science Foundation foreign

gift reporting requirement. We also appreciate that the legislation would exempt tuition and certain outgoing contracts from our institutions used to purchase goods from foreign companies. Exempting tuition is especially important since the DETERRENT Act would lower the reporting threshold from \$250,000 to \$50,000 for some gifts and contracts but \$0 for certain countries of concern and foreign entities of concern.

Congress should examine the research security provisions in the CHIPS and Science Act, recent National Defense Authorization Acts, and NSPM-33 that are currently being implemented and not simply add duplicative and confusing regulations. A recent survey from the Council on Governmental Relations found that over the past four years, universities have spent considerable funds to comply with expanding federal requirements to address inappropriate foreign influence on research. The survey found: "The projected year one average total cost per institution for compliance with the Disclosure Requirements, regardless of institutional size, is significant and concerning. The figure ranges from an average of over \$100,000 for smaller institutions to over \$400,000 for mid-size and large institutions. Although some of these expenses are onetime costs, a sizeable portion will be annual recurring compliance costs. Overall, the cost impact to research institutions in year one is expected to exceed \$50 million. Further, all research institutions will experience significant cost burden and administrative stress, and smaller research institutions with less developed compliance infrastructure may be disproportionately affected." The DETERRENT Act would greatly increase these costs to our institutions, while also duplicating reporting requirements and provisions already being implemented.

We also urge Congress to examine the language included in the 2021 Senate-passed U.S. Innovation and Competition Act (USICA) (S. 1260) and 2022 House-passed America COMPETES Act (H.R. 4521), which proposed bipartisan fixes and improvements to Section 117. We urge Congress to reexamine that language, incorporated as an amendment in the nature of a substitute offered by Education and the Workforce Ranking Member Bobby Scott to the House Rules Committee, and work together in a bipartisan manner to improve Section 117 in a way that addresses national security concerns while also protecting the important work at our U.S. institutions of higher education.

We understand that Congress and policymakers are concerned with research security, as well as foreign malign influence, at our institutions. However, the DETERRENT Act is the wrong action to take to address these issues and we urge you to vote against the legislation.

Sincerely,

TED MITCHELL,
President.

On behalf of: American Association of Collegiate Registrars and Admissions Officers, American Association of Community Colleges, American Association of State Colleges and Universities, American Council on Education, APPA, "Leadership in Educational Facilities", Association of American Universities, Association of Catholic Colleges and Universities, Association of Governing Boards of Universities and Colleges, Association of Jesuit Colleges and Universities, Association of Public and Land-grant Universities, Association of Research Libraries, Council for Advancement and Support of Education, Council of Graduate Schools, EDUCAUSE, NAFSA: Association of International Educators, National Association of College and University Business Officers, National Association of Diversity Offi-

cers in Higher Education, National Association of Independent Colleges and Universities.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, part of the letter reads: "While we understand the concern regarding foreign funding to U.S. institutions in higher education is bipartisan, we believe the DETERRENT Act is duplicative of existing interagency efforts, unnecessary, and puts in place a problematic expansion of the data collection by the U.S. Department of Education that will broadly curtail important needed international research collaboration and academic and cultural exchanges."

Mr. Chairman, I think that applies to this amendment, too.

Mr. Chairman, I hope Members vote "no" on the amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 118-298.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I have an amendment at the desk.

The CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Strike section 1 and all that follows and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "DETERRENT Act of 2023".

SEC. 2. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.

Section 117 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1011f) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 117. DISCLOSURES OF FOREIGN GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.

"(a) DISCLOSURE REPORTS.—

"(1) AGGREGATE GIFT AND CONTRACT DISCLOSURES.—An institution shall file a disclosure report described in subsection (b) with the Secretary not later than July 31 of the calendar year immediately following any calendar year in which—

"(A) the institution receives a gift from, or enters into a contract with, a foreign source, the value of which is \$100,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other gifts from, or contracts with, that foreign source within the calendar year; or

"(B) the institution receives a gift from, or enters into a contract with, a foreign source, the value of which totals \$250,000 or more, considered alone or in combination with all other gifts from, or contracts with, that foreign source over the previous 3 calendar years.

"(2) FOREIGN SOURCE OWNERSHIP OR CONTROL DISCLOSURES.—In the case of an institution that is substantially owned or controlled (as described in section 668.174(c)(3) of title 34, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations)) by a foreign source, the institution shall file a disclosure report described in subsection (b) with the Secretary not later than July 31 of every year.

"(b) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—Each report to the Secretary required under subsection (a) shall contain the following:

"(1)(A) In the case of gifts or contracts described in subsection (a)(1)—

"(i) for gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign government, the

aggregate amount of such gifts and contracts received from or entered into with such foreign government;

"(ii) for gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign source other than a foreign government, the aggregate dollar amount of such gifts and contracts attributable to a particular country and the legal or formal name of the foreign source; and

"(iii) the intended purpose of such gift or contract, as provided to the institution by such foreign source, or if no such purpose is provided by such purpose is provided by such source, the intended use of such gift or contract, as provided by the institution.

"(B) For purposes of this paragraph, the country to which a gift is attributable is—

"(i) the country of citizenship or, if unknown, the principal residence, for a foreign source who is a natural person; or

"(ii) the country of incorporation or, if unknown, the principal place of business, for a foreign source that is a legal entity.

"(2) In the case of an institution required to file a report under subsection (a)(2)—

"(A) for gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign source, without regard to the value of such gift or contract, the information described in paragraph (1)(A);

"(B) the identity of the foreign source that owns or controls the institution;

"(C) the date on which the foreign source assumed ownership or control; and

"(D) any changes in program or structure resulting from such ownership or control.

"(3) An assurance that the institution will maintain a true copy of each gift or contract agreement subject to the disclosure requirements under this section, until the latest of—

"(A) the date that is 4 years after the date of the agreement;

"(B) the date on which the agreement terminates; or

"(C) the last day of any period of which applicable State public record law requires a true copy of such agreement to be maintained.

"(4) An assurance that the institution will—

"(A) produce true copies of gift and contract agreements subject to the disclosure requirements under this section upon request of the Secretary during a compliance audit or other institutional investigation; and

"(B) ensure that all contracts from the foreign source are translated into English, as applicable.

"(c) ADDITIONAL DISCLOSURES FOR RESTRICTED AND CONDITIONAL GIFTS AND CONTRACTS.—Notwithstanding subsection (b), whenever any institution receives a restricted or conditional gift or contract from a foreign source, the institution shall disclose the following to the Secretary, translated into English:

"(1) For such gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign source other than a foreign government, the amount, the date, and a description of such conditions or restrictions. The report shall also disclose the country of citizenship, or if unknown, the principal residence for a foreign source which is a natural person, and the country of incorporation, or if unknown, the principal place of business for a foreign source which is a legal entity.

"(2) For gifts received from, or contracts entered into with, a foreign government, the amount, the date, a description of such conditions or restrictions, and the name of the foreign government.

"(d) DATABASE REQUIREMENT.—Beginning not later than 30 days before the July 31 immediately following the date of enactment of

the DETERRENT Act of 2023, the Secretary shall—

“(1) establish and maintain a searchable database on a website of the Department, under which each report submitted under this section—

“(A) is, not later than 60 days after the date of the submission of such report, made publicly available (in electronic and downloadable format);

“(B) can be identified and compared to other such reports; and

“(C) is searchable and sortable by—

“(i) the date the institution filed such report;

“(ii) the date on which the institution received the gift, or entered into the contract, which is the subject of the report; and

“(iii) the attributable country of such gift or contract as described in subsection (b)(1)(B); and

“(2) indicate, as part of the public record of a report included in such database, whether the report was submitted by the institution with respect to a gift received from, or a contract entered into with—

“(A) a foreign source that is a foreign government; or

“(B) a foreign source that is not a foreign government.

“(e) RELATION TO OTHER REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) STATE REQUIREMENTS.—If an institution that is required to file a disclosure report under subsection (a) is in a State that has enacted requirements for public disclosure of gifts from, or contracts with, a foreign source that includes all information required under this section for the same or an equivalent time period, the institution may file with the Secretary a copy of the disclosure report filed with the State in lieu of the report required under such subsection. The State in which the institution is located shall provide the Secretary such assurances as the Secretary may require to establish that the institution has met the requirements for public disclosure under State law if the State report is filed.

“(2) USE OF OTHER FEDERAL REPORTS.—If an institution receives a gift from, or enters into a contract with, a foreign source, where any other department, agency, or bureau of the executive branch requires a report containing all the information required under this section for the same or an equivalent time period, a copy of the report may be filed with the Secretary in lieu of a report required under subsection (a).

“(f) MODIFICATION OF REPORTS.—The Secretary shall incorporate a process permitting institutions to revise and update previously filed disclosure reports under this section to ensure accuracy, compliance, and ability to cure.

“(g) SANCTIONS FOR NONCOMPLIANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—As a sanction for non-compliance with the requirements under this section, the Secretary may impose a fine on an institution that in any year knowingly or willfully violates this section, that is—

“(A) in the case of a failure to disclose a gift or contract with a foreign source as required under this section, or to comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(4) pursuant to the assurances made under such subsection, in an amount that is not less than \$250 but not more than 50 percent of the amount of the gift or contract with the foreign source; or

“(B) in the case of any violation of the requirements of subsection (a)(2), in an amount that is not more than 25 percent of the total amount of funding received by the institution under this Act (other than funds received under title IV of this Act).

“(2) REPEATED FAILURES.—

“(A) KNOWING AND WILLFUL FAILURES.—In addition to a fine for a violation in any year under paragraph (1), the Secretary may impose a fine on an institution that knowingly or willfully violates this section for 3 consecutive years, that is—

“(i) in the case of a failure to disclose a gift or contract with a foreign source as required under this section or to comply with the requirements of subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (b)(4) pursuant to the assurances made under such subsection, in an amount that is not less than \$100,000 but not more than the amount of the gift or contract with the foreign source; or

“(ii) in the case of any violation of the requirements of subsection (a)(2), in an amount that is not more than 25 percent of the total amount of funding received by the institution under this Act (other than funds received under title IV of this Act).

“(B) ADMINISTRATIVE FAILURES.—The Secretary may impose a fine on an institution that fails to comply with the requirements of this section due to administrative errors for 3 consecutive years, in an amount that is not less than \$250 but not more than 50 percent of the amount of the gift or contract with the foreign source.

“(C) COMPLIANCE PLAN REQUIREMENT.—If an institution fails to file a disclosure report for a receipt of a gift from or contract with a foreign source for 2 consecutive years, the Secretary may require the institution to submit a compliance plan.

“(h) COMPLIANCE OFFICER.—Any institution that is required to report a gift or contract under this section shall designate and maintain a compliance officer who—

“(1) shall be a current employee (including such an employee with another job title or duties other than the duties described in paragraph (2)) or legally authorized agent of such institution; and

“(2) shall be responsible, on behalf of the institution, for compliance with the foreign gift reporting requirement under this section.

“(i) SINGLE POINT OF CONTACT.—The Secretary shall appoint and maintain a single point of contact to—

“(1) receive and respond to inquiries and requests for technical assistance from institutions of higher education regarding compliance with the requirements of this section; and

“(2) coordinate and implement technical improvements to the database described in subsection (d), including—

“(A) improving upload functionality by allowing for batch reporting, including by allowing institutions to upload to the database one file with all required information;

“(B) publishing and maintaining, on an annual basis, a database user guide that includes information on how to edit an entry and how to report errors;

“(C) creating a user group (to which chapter 10 of title 5, United States Code, shall not apply) to discuss possible database improvements, which shall—

“(i) include at least—

“(I) 3 members representing public institutions with high or very high levels of research activity (as defined by the National Center for Education Statistics);

“(II) 2 members representing private, non-profit institutions with high or very high levels of research activity (as so defined);

“(III) 2 members representing proprietary institutions of higher education (as defined in section 102(b)); and

“(IV) 2 members representing area career and technical education schools (as defined in subparagraph (C) or (D) of section 3(3) of the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2302(3)); and

“(ii) meet at least twice a year with officials from the Department to discuss possible database improvements; and

“(D) publishing, on a publicly available website—

“(i) following each meeting described in subparagraph (C)(ii), recommended database improvements; and

“(ii) with respect to each recommended improvement described in clause (i)—

“(I) the decision of the Department as to whether such recommended improvement will be implemented; and

“(II) the rationale for such decision.

“(j) TREATMENT OF CERTAIN PAYMENTS AND GIFTS.—

“(1) EXCLUSIONS.—The following shall not be considered a gift from, or contract with, a foreign source under this section:

“(A) Any payment of one or more elements of a student's cost of attendance (as defined in section 472) to an institution by, or scholarship from, a foreign source who is a natural person, acting in their individual capacity and not as an agent for, at the request or direction of, or on behalf of, any person or entity (except the student), made on behalf of students that is not made under contract with such foreign source, except for the agreement between the institution and such student covering one or more elements of such student's cost of attendance.

“(B) Assignment or license of registered industrial and intellectual property rights, such as patents, utility models, trademarks, or copy-rights, or technical assistance, that are not identified as being associated with a national security risk or concern.

“(C) Any payment from a foreign source that is solely for the purpose of conducting one or more clinical trials.

“(2) INCLUSIONS.—Any gift to, or contract with, an entity or organization, such as a research foundation, that operates substantially for the benefit or under the auspices of an institution shall be considered a gift to, or contract with, such institution.

“(k) DEFINITIONS.—In this section—

“(1) the term ‘clinical trial’ means a research study in which one or more human subjects are prospectively assigned to one or more interventions to evaluate the effects of those interventions on health-related biomedical or behavioral outcomes;

“(2) the term ‘contract’—

“(A) means any—

“(i) agreement for the acquisition by purchase, lease, or barter of property or services by the foreign source, for the direct benefit or use of either of the parties, except as provided in subparagraph (B); or

“(ii) affiliation, agreement, or similar transaction with a foreign source that is based on the use or exchange of an institution's name, likeness, time, services, or resources, except as provided in subparagraph (B); and

“(B) does not include any agreement made by an institution located in the United States for the acquisition, by purchase, lease, or barter, of property or services from a foreign source;

“(3) the term ‘foreign source’ means—

“(A) a foreign government, including an agency of a foreign government;

“(B) a legal entity, governmental or otherwise, created under the laws of a foreign state or states;

“(C) an individual who is not a citizen or a national of the United States or a trust territory or protectorate thereof; and

“(D) an agent, including a subsidiary or affiliate of a foreign legal entity, acting on behalf of a foreign source;

“(4) the term ‘gift’—

“(A) means any gift of money, property, resources, staff, or services; and

“(B) does not include anything described in section 487(e)(2)(B)(ii);

“(5) the term ‘institution’ means an institution of higher education, as defined in section 102, or, if a multicampus institution, any single campus of such institution, in any State; and

“(6) the term ‘restricted or conditional gift or contract’ means any endowment, gift, grant, contract, award, present, or property of any kind that includes provisions regarding—

“(A) the employment, assignment, or termination of faculty;

“(B) the establishment of departments, centers, institutes, instructional programs, research or lecture programs, or faculty positions;

“(C) the selection or admission of students;

or

“(D) the award of grants, loans, scholarships, fellowships, or other forms of financial aid restricted to students of a specified country, religion, sex, ethnic origin, or political opinion.”.

SEC. 3. REGULATIONS.

(a) REGULATIONS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Education shall begin the negotiated rulemaking process under section 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098a) to carry out the amendment made by section 2.

(b) ISSUES.—Regulations issued pursuant to subsection (a) to carry out the amendment made by section 2 shall, at a minimum, address the following issues:

(1) Instructions on reporting structured gifts and contracts.

(2) The inclusion in institutional reports of gifts received from, and contracts entered into with, foreign sources by entities and organizations, such as research foundations, that operate substantially for the benefit or under the auspices of the institution.

(3) Procedures to protect confidential or proprietary information included in gifts and contracts.

(4) The alignment of such regulations with the reporting and disclosure of foreign gifts or contracts required by Federal agencies other than the Department of Education, including with respect to—

(A) the CHIPS Act of 2022 (Division A of Public Law 117-167; 15 U.S.C. 4651 note);

(B) the Research and Development, Competition, and Innovation Act (Division B of Public Law 117-167; 42 U.S.C. 18901 note); and

(C) any guidance released by the White House Office of Science and Technology Policy, including the Guidance for Implementing National Security Presidential Memorandum 33 (NSPM-33) on National Security Strategy for United States Government-supported Research and Development published by the Subcommittee on Research Security and the Joint Committee on the Research Environment in January 2022.

(5) The treatment of foreign gifts or contracts involving research or technologies identified as being associated with a national security risk or concern.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by section 2 shall take effect on the date on which the regulations issued under subsection (a) take effect.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 906, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, I am pleased to offer this Democratic amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 5933.

My Democratic colleagues and I remain committed to ensuring institutions have sufficient resources to safeguard their work from undue foreign influence. Nevertheless, while I appreciate the majority’s interest in addressing this important issue, I fear that their proposal is far too extreme and does not actually promote institutional compliance.

Specifically, with such harsh fines and limited opportunities for institutions to seek guidance, I am concerned that these changes to section 117 of the Higher Education Act will discourage institutions from collaborating with international entities that are essential in solving important global issues.

It is also very concerning to see language that targets individual faculty members for their collaboration with foreign entities. We have seen, in cases such as the wrongfully accused MIT faculty member, that this sort of targeting can easily lead to harmful consequences rooted in xenophobia for innocent scholars. We must always strive to strike a balance between enforcing the law and fostering safe campuses for students, scholars, and faculty.

Through its overlapping and overly burdensome requirements, harsh penalties, and duplicities to current foreign influence requirements across Federal agencies, the DETERRENT Act takes a sledgehammer to a problem that needs to be addressed with a scalpel.

The Democratic substitute makes a thoughtful approach to section 117 compliance to support institutions as they evaluate and implement their research integrity and foreign influence policies.

In addition to requiring the filing of annual reports for gifts and contracts from foreign entities, our bill would create a robust database at the Department of Education to hold these reports. It establishes commonsense sanctions for noncompliance that allow for room to help institutions that need support scaling up their compliance work. Moreover, it establishes a single point of contact at the Department to coordinate section 117 compliance.

It also builds on the work being done through the implementation of the Chips and Science Act and the “Presidential Memorandum on United States Government-Supported Research and Development National Security Guidelines” by aligning important requirements to those of other Federal agencies and requiring the Secretary of Education to go through negotiated rulemaking to address key implementation aspects of section 117.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support the Democratic substitute, rather than the underlying bill, to enhance institutions’ real ability to protect against foreign influence.

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

□ 1500

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The CHAIR. The gentlewoman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I rise to speak in opposition to the amendment in the nature of a substitute from Mr. SCOTT.

Instead of taking the threat of foreign influence seriously, this amendment is a mere slap on the wrist for campuses and includes gaping disclosure loopholes. This is insufficient to protect our students and institutions from our worst adversaries.

The amendment first makes it easier for foreign sources to be undetected, doubling the threshold for contracts to \$100,000 and allowing gifts under \$250,000 over a 3-year span to go unreported.

Bad actors will seek any possible way to avoid transparency about their attempts to harm America through their influence over American postsecondary education, and a strict threshold is essential to stop that from happening.

The annual thresholds in the DETERRENT Act are simple and align with other requirements in existing Federal law.

Shockingly, this amendment includes no differences for America’s biggest enemies: countries of concern and entities of concern. In my colleagues’ minds, gifts from Russia and Iran are the same as gifts from England.

I find it alarming that my colleagues are trying to make it easier for countries of concern to find ways to influence our universities.

The DETERRENT Act uses a tailored list of countries and individuals, pulled from existing law, that have a proven track record of being security threats and actively working against the United States.

The Democratic amendment in the nature of a substitute also has terrible carve-outs that provide gaping loopholes for cunning adversaries. The amendment prevents disclosure of the names of foreign sources and who at the institution is responsible for receiving the gift.

These loopholes will make it easier for foreign sources to conceal their relationships and schools to feign ignorance, rendering disclosures all but useless.

Finally, the Democrats provide no real incentive for schools to comply. Their fines for violations go as low as \$250. After three consecutive years of violations, the Democrats’ fine only goes up to the full amount of the gift.

This is a laughable drop in the bucket compared to the billions in foreign contributions. Money talks, and institutions need to know section 117 cannot be ignored. We have already seen institutions fail to disclose billions in the past, and this paltry fine has no real consequences.

Mr. Chair, it is time to take foreign influence seriously. I stand against this amendment, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chairman, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The CHAIR. The gentleman from Virginia has 2¼ minutes remaining.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, it should be made very clear that there is not one American, not one Member of Congress, not one Democratic Member of Congress, as well, joined with colleagues who reasonably understand our mutual commitment to the national security of this Nation, who wants any interference in the important research that is being done by universities across America.

They are the hope of the world. There are brilliant students who come with complete innocence here to the United States to create global research that will help not only this country but the world.

I want that to continue. I want the bad actors to be wiped out. Clearly, as my friends have now moved from China to the Mideast, I abhor Hamas. They are terrorists, but I am yet to find a dollar from them to any legitimate institution here in the United States.

What I will say is that we have a system in place. It builds on the Chips and Science Act and the Presidential memorandum on government-supported research.

The CHAIR. The time of the gentlewoman has expired.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Chair, we already have a process to weed out and stop it. I can't imagine stopping research at the Yales and Harvards and Princetons, but I also can't imagine stopping it from the ordinary universities across America.

Let us support the present legislation and the U.S. Department of Education and stop blaming our educational institutions and calling them terrorists.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Chair, in the committee chair's remarks, she mentioned that there is a difference between countries of concern and other countries. I remind her that we just passed an amendment that essentially eliminated that difference. A recorded vote was requested, and perhaps she could join me in trying to defeat that amendment to the bill.

This amendment in the nature of a substitute significantly increases the gifts and contracts that need to be reported compared to present law. It takes a more moderate approach to national security than the underlying bill, which I think is an extreme approach.

It will be very difficult for colleges to comply with. For that reason, I hope that we adopt the Democratic amendment in the nature of a substitute and, if not, defeat the underlying bill.

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, my friend from Virginia and I have been doing really

very well in working in a bipartisan manner recently, and I hate for things to come between us, but his amendment in the nature of a substitute really does do a lot of damage to the underlying bill.

There is no enforcement mechanism. There is no difference for malign actors. We have evidence to show that these foreign gifts are having an impact on the number of anti-Semitic demonstrations on the campuses. We know that foreigners are doing a lot to undermine our beliefs and values in this country.

We need to be aware of where money is coming from, from other countries and particularly from those countries that we know want to destroy us.

Mr. Chair, I have to very strongly oppose the amendment in the nature of a substitute, and I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on it.

The CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT).

The question was taken; and the Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Virginia will be postponed.

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. PERRY) having assumed the chair, Mr. MOYLAN, Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5933) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments, had come to no resolution thereon.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. FOXX. 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 H.R. 5933.

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

There was no objection.

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 3 o'clock and 10 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1630

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CRAWFORD) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANSPARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFARIOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 906 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5933.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1631

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5933) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments, with Mr. STEUBE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the committee of the Whole rose earlier today, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 8 printed in part B of House Report 118-298 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part B of House Report 118-298 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. MOLINARO of New York.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. SCOTT of Virginia.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. MOLINARO

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in part B of House Report 118-298 offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 372, noes 39, not voting 28, as follows:

[Roll No. 698]

AYES—372

Adams	DesJarlais	Joyce (PA)
Aderholt	Diaz-Balart	Kamlager-Dove
Aguiar	Dingell	Kaptur
Alford	Donalds	Kean (NJ)
Allen	Duarte	Keating
Allred	Duncan	Kelly (IL)
Amo	Dunn (FL)	Kelly (MS)
Amodei	Edwards	Kelly (PA)
Armstrong	Ellzey	Khanna
Arrington	Emmer	Kigglas (VA)
Babin	Eshoo	Kildee
Bacon	Espaillat	Kiley
Baird	Estes	Kilmer
Balderson	Ezell	Kim (CA)
Banks	Fallon	Kim (NJ)
Barr	Feenstra	Krishnamoorthi
Bean (FL)	Ferguson	Kuster
Beatty	Finstad	Kustoff
Bentz	Fischbach	LaHood
Bera	Fitzgerald	Lamborn
Bergman	Fitzpatrick	Landsman
Bice	Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)
Biggs	Flood	Larson (CT)
Bilirakis	Foster	Latta
Bishop (GA)	Fox	LaTurner
Bishop (NC)	Frankel, Lois	Lawler
Blunt Rochester	Franklin, Scott	Lee (FL)
Boebert	Fry	Lee (NV)
Bonamici	Fulcher	Leger Fernandez
Bost	Gaetz	Lesko
Boyle (PA)	Gallagher	Letlow
Brecheen	Gallego	Levin
Brown	Garamendi	Lieu
Brownley	Garbarino	Loudermilk
Buchanan	Garcia, Mike	Lucas
Buck	Garcia, Robert	Luetkemeyer
Bucshon	Gimenez	Luna
Budzinski	Golden (ME)	Luttrell
Burchett	Goldman (NY)	Lynch
Burgess	Gonzales, Tony	Mace
Burlison	Gonzalez,	Magaziner
Calvert	Vicente	Malliotakis
Caraveo	González-Colón	Maloy
Carbajal	Good (VA)	Mann
Cárdenas	Gooden (TX)	Manning
Carey	Gosar	Massie
Carl	Gottheimer	Mast
Carter (GA)	Granger	McBath
Carter (LA)	Graves (LA)	McClain
Carter (TX)	Graves (MO)	McClellan
Cartwright	Green (TN)	McClintock
Case	Green, Al (TX)	McCormick
Casten	Greene (GA)	McGarvey
Castor (FL)	Griffith	McGovern
Chavez-DeRemer	Grothman	Meeks
Cherfilus-	Guest	Menendez
McCormick	Guthrie	Meng
Ciscomani	Hageman	Meuser
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	Mfume
Cline	Harris	Miller (IL)
Cloud	Harshbarger	Miller-Meeks
Clyburn	Hayes	Mills
Clyde	Hern	Molinaro
Cohen	Higgins (LA)	Moolenaar
Cole	Higgins (NY)	Mooney
Collins	Hill	Moore (AL)
Comer	Hinson	Moore (UT)
Cannolly	Houchin	Moore (WI)
Correa	Houlahan	Moran
Costa	Hoyer	Morelle
Courtney	Hoyle (OR)	Moskowitz
Crane	Hudson	Moulton
Crawford	Huffman	Moylan
Crow	Huizenga	Mrvan
Cuellar	Hunt	Mullin
Curtis	Issa	Murphy
D'Esposito	Ivey	Nadler
David (KS)	Jackson (NC)	Napolitano
Davidson	Jackson (TX)	Neal
Davis (IL)	Jackson Lee	Neguse
Davis (NC)	Jacobs	Nehls
De La Cruz	James	Newhouse
Dean (PA)	Jeffries	Nickel
DeGette	Johnson (OH)	Norcross
DeLauro	Johnson (SD)	Norton
DelBene	Jordan	Nunn (IA)
Deluzio	Joyce (OH)	Obernolte

Ogles	Schakowsky	Thompson (CA)
Owens	Schiff	Thompson (MS)
Pallone	Schneider	Thompson (PA)
Palmer	Scholten	Tiffany
Panetta	Schrier	Timmons
Pappas	Schweikert	Tonko
Pascarell	Scott, Austin	Torres (CA)
Payne	Scott, David	Torres (NY)
Pelosi	Self	Trahan
Peltola	Sessions	Trone
Pence	Sewell	Turner
Perez	Sherman	Underwood
Perry	Sherrill	Valadao
Peters	Simpson	Van Drew
Pettersen	Slotkin	Van Duyne
Pfluger	Smith (MO)	Van Orden
Plaskett	Smith (NE)	Vargas
Posey	Smith (NJ)	Vasquez
Quigley	Smith (WA)	Veasey
Raskin	Smucker	Wagner
Reschenthaler	Sorensen	Walberg
Rodgers (WA)	Soto	Waltz
Rogers (AL)	Spanberger	Wasserman
Rogers (KY)	Spartz	Schultz
Rose	Stansbury	Weber (TX)
Rosendale	Stanton	Webster (FL)
Ross	Stauber	Wenstrup
Rouzer	Steel	Westerman
Roy	Stefanik	Wexton
Ruiz	Steil	Wild
Rutherford	Steupe	Williams (NY)
Ryan	Stevens	Williams (TX)
Sablan	Strickland	Wilson (FL)
Salazar	Strong	Wilson (SC)
Salinas	Swalwell	Wittman
Sánchez	Sykes	Womack
Sarbanes	Tenney	Yakym
Scanlon	Thanedar	Zinke

NOES—39

Auchincloss	Evans	Omar
Barragán	Foushee	Pingree
Beyer	Frost	Pocan
Blumenauer	Garcia (IL)	Presley
Bowman	Gomez	Ramirez
Bush	Grijalva	Scott (VA)
Carson	Himes	Takano
Casar	Jackson (IL)	Tlaib
Castro (TX)	Jayapal	Tokuda
Chu	Lee (CA)	Velazquez
Clarke (NY)	Lee (PA)	Waters
DeSaulnier	McCollum	Watson Coleman
Doggett	Ocasio-Cortez	Williams (GA)

NOT VOTING—28

Balint	Johnson (GA)	Miller (WV)
Cammack	LaLota	Norman
Cleaver	LaMalfa	Phillips
Craig	Langworthy	Porter
Crenshaw	Lofgren	Radewagen
Crockett	Matsui	Ruppersberger
Escobar	McCarthy	Scalise
Fletcher	McCauley	Titus
Garcia (TX)	McHenry	
Horsford	Miller (OH)	

□ 1701

Mr. CARSON and Ms. TOKUDA changed their vote from “aye” to “no.” Messrs. NEAL, VARGAS, Mses. SEWELL, ESHOO, SCANLON, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. WEXTON changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 698.

Ms. TITUS. Mr. Chair, due to the tragic shooting at UNLV, I have been working with law enforcement and the public to address the situation, and I was absent from the floor and the vote on the Molinaro Amendment No. 5 to H.R. 5933.

Had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 698, Agreeing to the Molinaro Amendment to H.R. 5933.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6, printed in

part B of House Report 118–298 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 94, noes 320, not voting 25, as follows:

[Roll No. 699]

AYES—94

Aderholt	Finstad	Miller (IL)
Allen	Fischbach	Mills
Arrington	Fitzgerald	Mooney
Babin	Franklin, Scott	Moore (AL)
Banks	Fry	Nehls
Bice	Good (VA)	Newhouse
Biggs	Gooden (TX)	Ogles
Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Palmer
Boebert	Granger	Perry
Bost	Green (TN)	Pfluger
Brecheen	Greene (GA)	Posey
Burchett	Guthrie	Reschenthaler
Burgess	Hageman	Rodgers (WA)
Burlison	Harris	Rose
Cammack	Harshbarger	Rosendale
Carl	Hern	Roy
Carter (GA)	Higgins (LA)	Salazar
Carter (TX)	Hunt	Schweikert
Cline	Jordan	Smith (MO)
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Stauber
Clyde	Kaptur	Steupe
Collins	Kustoff	Strong
Comer	LaMalfa	Tenney
Crane	Lamborn	Tiffany
Davidson	Loudermilk	Timmons
DesJarlais	Luna	Van Drew
Donalds	Luttrell	Van Duyne
Duncan	Mace	Van Orden
Emmer	Massie	Weber (TX)
Ezell	Mast	Williams (TX)
Fallon	McCormick	
Ferguson	McHenry	

NOES—320

Adams	Carson	Diaz-Balart
Aguiar	Carter (LA)	Dingell
Alford	Cartwright	Doggett
Allred	Casar	Duarte
Amo	Case	Dunn (FL)
Amodei	Casten	Edwards
Armstrong	Castor (FL)	Ellzey
Auchincloss	Castro (TX)	Eshoo
Bacon	Chavez-DeRemer	Espaillat
Baird	Cherfilus-	Estes
Balderson	McCormick	Evans
Barr	Chu	Feenstra
Barragán	Ciscomani	Fitzpatrick
Bean (FL)	Clark (MA)	Fleischmann
Beatty	Clarke (NY)	Flood
Bentz	Clyburn	Foster
Bera	Cohen	Foushee
Bergman	Cole	Fox
Beyer	Cannolly	Frankel, Lois
Bilirakis	Correa	Frost
Bishop (GA)	Costa	Fulcher
Blumenauer	Courtney	Gaetz
Blunt Rochester	Crawford	Gallagher
Bonamici	Crockett	Gallego
Bowman	Crow	Garamendi
Boyle (PA)	Cuellar	García (IL)
Brown	Curtis	García, Mike
Brownley	D'Esposito	García, Robert
Buchanan	David (KS)	Gimenez
Buck	Davis (IL)	Golden (ME)
Bucshon	Davis (NC)	Goldman (NY)
Budzinski	De La Cruz	Gomez
Bush	Dean (PA)	Gonzales, Tony
Calvert	DeGette	Gonzalez,
Caraveo	DeLauro	Vicente
Carbajal	DelBene	González-Colón
Cárdenas	Deluzio	Gottheimer
Carey	DeSaulnier	Graves (MO)

Green, Al (TX) Manning
 Griffith McBeth
 Grijalva McCaul
 Grothman McClain
 Guest McClellan
 Harder (CA) McClintock
 Hayes McCollum
 Higgins (NY) McGarvey
 Hill McGovern
 Himes Meeks
 Hinson Menendez
 Houchin Meng
 Houlahan Meuser
 Hoyer Mfume
 Hoyle (OR) Miller-Meeks
 Hudson Molinaro
 Huffman Moolenaar
 Huizenga Moore (UT)
 Issa Moore (WI)
 Ivey Moran
 Jackson (IL) Morelle
 Jackson (NC) Moskowitz
 Jackson Lee Moulton
 Jacobs Moylan
 James Mrvan
 Jayapal Mullin
 Jeffries Murphy
 Johnson (GA) Nadler
 Johnson (OH) Napolitano
 Johnson (SD) Neal
 Kamlager-Dove Neguse
 Kean (NJ) Nickel
 Keating Norcross
 Kelly (IL) Norton
 Kelly (MS) Nunn (IA)
 Kelly (PA) Obernolte
 Khanna Ocasio-Cortez
 Kiggans (VA) Omar
 Kildee Owens
 Kiley Pallone
 Kilmer Panetta
 Kim (CA) Pappas
 Kim (NJ) Pascrell
 Krishnamoorthi Payne
 Kuster Pelosi
 LaHood Peltola
 LaLota Pence
 Landsman Perez
 Langworthy Peters
 Larsen (WA) Petterson
 Larson (CT) Pingree
 Latta Plaskett
 LaTurner Pocan
 Lawler Pressley
 Lee (CA) Quigley
 Lee (FL) Ramirez
 Lee (NV) Raskin
 Lee (PA) Rogers (AL)
 Leger Fernandez Rogers (KY)
 Lesko Ross
 Letlow Rouzer
 Levin Ruiz
 Lieu Rutherford
 Lucas Ryan
 Luetkemeyer Sablan
 Lynch Salinas
 Magaziner Sanchez
 Malliotakis Sarbanes
 Maloy Scanlon
 Mann Schakowsky

NOT VOTING—25

Balint
 Cleaver
 Craig
 Crenshaw
 Escobar
 Fletcher
 Garbarino
 Garcia (TX)
 Graves (LA)

Horsford
 Jackson (TX)
 Joyce (OH)
 Lofgren
 Matsui
 McCarthy
 Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Norman

Phillips
 Porter
 Radewagen
 Ruppertsberger
 Scalise
 Waltz
 Westerman

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. SCOTT OF VIRGINIA

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 8, printed in part B of House Report 118–298 offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 202, noes 213, not voting 24, as follows:

[Roll No. 700]

AYES—202

Adams
 Aguilar
 Allred
 Amo
 Auchincloss
 Barragan
 Beatty
 Bera
 Beyer
 Bishop (GA)
 Blumenauer
 Blunt Rochester
 Bonamici
 Bowman
 Boyle (PA)
 Brown
 Brownley
 Budzinski
 Bush
 Caraveo
 Carabajal
 Cárdenas
 Carson
 Carter (LA)
 Cartwright
 Casar
 Keating
 Kelly (IL)
 Khanna
 Kildee
 Kilmer
 Kim (NJ)
 Krishnamoorthi
 Chu
 Clark (MA)
 Clarke (NY)
 Clyburn
 Cohen
 Connolly
 Correa
 Costa
 Courtney
 Crockett
 Crow
 Cuellar
 Davids (KS)
 Davis (IL)
 Davis (NC)
 Dean (PA)
 DeGette
 DeLauro
 DelBene
 Deluzio
 DeSaulnier
 Dingell
 Doggett
 Eshoo
 Espallat
 Evans
 Foster
 Foushee
 Frankel, Lois
 Frost
 Gallego
 Garamendi
 Garcia (IL)
 Garcia, Robert

Wasserman
 Schultz
 Waters
 Aderholt
 Alford
 Amodei
 Armstrong
 Arrington
 Babin
 Bacon
 Baird
 Balderson
 Banks
 Barr
 Bean (FL)
 Bentz
 Bergman
 Bice
 Biggs
 Bilirakis
 Bishop (NC)
 Boebert
 Bost
 Brecheen
 Buchanan
 Buck
 Bucshon
 Burchett
 Burgess
 Burlison
 Calvert
 Carey
 Carl
 Carter (GA)
 Carter (TX)
 Chavez-DeRemer
 Ciscomani
 Cline
 Cloud
 Clyde
 Cole
 Collins
 Comer
 Crane
 Crawford
 Crenshaw
 Curtis
 Ivey
 D'Esposito
 Davidson
 De La Cruz
 DesJarlais
 Diaz-Balart
 Donalds
 Duarte
 Duncan
 Dunn (FL)
 Edwards
 Ellzey
 Emmer
 Estes
 Ezell
 Fallon
 Feenstra
 Ferguson
 Finstad
 Fischbach
 Fitzgerald
 Fitzpatrick
 Fleischmann
 Flood
 Foy
 Franklin, Scott
 Fry
 Fulcher

NOES—213

Watson Coleman
 Wexton
 Wild
 Gaetz
 Gallagher
 Garcia, Mike
 Gimenez
 Golden (ME)
 Gonzales, Tony
 González-Colón
 Good (VA)
 Gooden (TX)
 Gosar
 Granger
 Graves (LA)
 Graves (MO)
 Green (TN)
 Greene (GA)
 Griffith
 Grothman
 Guest
 Guthrie
 Hageman
 Harris
 Harshbarger
 Hern
 Higgins (LA)
 Hill
 Hinson
 Houchin
 Hudson
 Huizenga
 Hunt
 Issa
 Jackson (TX)
 James
 Johnson (OH)
 Johnson (SD)
 Jordan
 Joyce (PA)
 Kean (NJ)
 Kelly (MS)
 Kelly (PA)
 Kiggans (VA)
 Kiley
 Kim (CA)
 Kustoff
 LaHood
 LaLota
 LaMalfa
 Lamborn
 Langworthy
 Latta
 LaTurner
 Lawler
 Lee (FL)
 Lesko
 Letlow
 Loudermilk
 Lucas
 Luetkemeyer
 Luna
 Luttrell
 Mace
 Malliotakis
 Maloy
 Mann
 Massie
 McCaul
 McClain
 McClintock
 McCormick
 McHenry
 Meuser
 Miller (IL)
 Miller-Meeks
 Mills
 Molinaro
 Moolenaar
 Mooney
 Moore (AL)
 Moore (UT)
 Moran
 Moylan
 Murphy
 Nehls
 Newhouse
 Nunn (IA)
 Obernolte
 Ogles
 Owens
 Palmer
 Pence
 Perry
 Pfluger
 Posey
 Reschenthaler
 Rodgers (WA)
 Rogers (AL)
 Rogers (KY)
 Rose
 Rosendale
 Rouzer
 Roy
 Rutherford
 Salazar
 Schweikert
 Scott, Austin
 Self
 Sessions
 Simpson
 Smith (MO)
 Smith (NE)
 Smith (NJ)
 Smucker
 Spartz
 Stauber
 Steel
 Stefanik
 Steil
 Steube
 Strong
 Tenney
 Thompson (PA)
 Tiffany
 Timmons
 Turner
 Valadao
 Van Drew
 Van Duyne
 Van Orden
 Wagner
 Walberg
 Waltz
 Weber (TX)
 Webster (FL)
 Wenstrup
 Westerman
 Williams (NY)
 Williams (TX)
 Wilson (SC)
 Wittman
 Womack
 Yakym
 Zinke

NOT VOTING—24

Allen
 Balint
 Cammack
 Cleaver
 Craig
 Escobar
 Fletcher
 Garbarino
 Garcia (TX)
 Horsford
 Joyce (OH)
 Landsman
 Lofgren
 Mast
 Matsui
 McCarthy
 Miller (OH)
 Miller (WV)
 Norman
 Phillips
 Porter
 Radewagen
 Ruppertsberger
 Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1709

Mr. CARSON changed his vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1705

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:
 Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana. Mr. Chair, I was detained on my way to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 699, Ogles Amendment No. 6 to H.R. 5933—DETERRENT Act.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 700.

Stated against:

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “no” on rollcall No. 700.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. CURTIS). There being no further amendment, under the rule, the Committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEUBE) having assumed the chair, Mr. CURTIS, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5933) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments, and, pursuant to House Resolution 906, he reported the bill back to the House with sundry amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. 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.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, this 5-minute vote on passage of the bill will be followed by 5-minute votes on the motion to recommit on H.R. 4468, if offered; and passage of H.R. 4468, if ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 246, nays 170, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 701]

YEAS—246

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Boyle (PA)
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Budzinski
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison

Calvert
Cammack
Caraveo
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cartwright
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cohen
Cole
Collins
Comer
Costa
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Cuellar
Curtis
D’Esposito
Davidson
Davis (NC)
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elizy
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Golden (ME)
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Gottheimer
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Guthrie
Hageman
Harder (CA)
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Higgins (LA)
Carl
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (NC)
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Keating
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Landsman
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lee (NV)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Manning
Massie
Mast
McCauley
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser
Miller (IL)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Moskowitz
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Nickel
Nunn (IA)

NAYS—170

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Amo
Auchincloss
Barragan
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bowman
Brown
Brownley
Bush
Carbajal
Cardenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Casar
Case
Casten
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Clyburn
Connolly
Correa
Courtney
Crockett
Crow
Davids (KS)
Davis (IL)
Dean (PA)
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Deluzio

Obernolte
Ogles
Owens
Pallone
Palmer
Pappas
Pence
Perez
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Ryan
Salazar
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Sherman
Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Spartz
Stanton
Staubert
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dуйne
Van Orden
Vasquez
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

Himes
Houlihan
Hoyer
Hoyle (OR)
Huffman
Ivey
Jackson (IL)
Jackson Lee
Jacobs
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Kamlager-Dove
Kaptur
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lee (CA)
Lee (PA)
Leger Fernandez
Levin
Lieu
Lynch
Magaziner
McBath
McClellan
McCollum
McGarvey
McGovern
Meeks
Menendez
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Mullin
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Norcross
Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Panetta
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Salinas
Sanchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff

Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherrill
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Raskin
Vearse
Velázquez
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—17

Balint
Cleaver
Craig
Escobar
Fletcher
Garcia (TX)
Horsford
Lofgren
Matsui
McCarthy
Miller (OH)
Miller (WV)
Norman
Phillips
Porter
Ruppersberger
Scalise

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE
The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1717

Ms. WATERS changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CHOICE IN AUTOMOBILE RETAIL SALES ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 1(c) of rule XIX, further consideration of the bill H.R. 4468 to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, and for other purposes, will now resume.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Ms. STEVENS. 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. Stevens of Michigan moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4468 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

The material previously referred to by Ms. STEVENS is as follows:

Ms. Stevens moves to recommit the bill H.R. 4468 to the Committee on Energy and Commerce with instructions to report the same back to the House forthwith, with the following amendment:

Page 4, beginning on line 9, strike clause (ii) (relating to limited availability of new motor vehicles based on engine type), and make such conforming changes as may be necessary.

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 noes appeared to have it.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 9 of rule XX, the Chair will reduce to 5 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote on the question of passage.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 201, nays 214, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 702]

YEAS—201

Adams	Foushee	Menendez
Aguilar	Frankel, Lois	Meng
Allred	Frost	Mfume
Amo	Gallego	Moore (WI)
Auchincloss	Garamendi	Morelle
Barragan	Garcia (IL)	Moskowitz
Beatty	Garcia, Robert	Moulton
Bera	Golden (ME)	Mrvan
Beyer	Goldman (NY)	Mullin
Bishop (GA)	Gomez	Nadler
Blumenauer	Gonzalez,	Napolitano
Blunt Rochester	Vicente	Neal
Bonamici	Gottheimer	Neguse
Bowman	Green, Al (TX)	Nickel
Boyle (PA)	Grijalva	Norcross
Brown	Harder (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Brownley	Hayes	Omar
Budzinski	Higgins (NY)	Pallone
Bush	Himes	Panetta
Caraveo	Houlihan	Pappas
Carbajal	Hoyer	Pascarell
Cardenas	Hoyle (OR)	Payne
Carson	Huffman	Pelosi
Carter (LA)	Ivey	Peltola
Cartwright	Jackson (IL)	Perez
Casar	Jackson (NC)	Peters
Case	Jackson Lee	Pettersen
Casten	Jacobs	Pingree
Castor (FL)	Jayapal	Pocan
Castro (TX)	Jeffries	Pressley
Cherfilus-	Johnson (GA)	Quigley
McCormick	Kamlager-Dove	Ramirez
Chu	Kaptur	Raskin
Clark (MA)	Keating	Ross
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)	Ruiz
Clyburn	Khanna	Ryan
Cohen	Kildee	Salinas
Connolly	Kilmer	Sanchez
Correa	Kim (NJ)	Sarbanes
Costa	Krishnamoorthi	Scanlon
Courtney	Kuster	Schakowsky
Crockett	Landsman	Schiff
Crow	Larsen (WA)	Schneider
Cuellar	Larson (CT)	Scholten
Davids (KS)	Lee (CA)	Schrier
Davis (IL)	Lee (NV)	Scott (VA)
Davis (NC)	Lee (PA)	Scott, David
Dean (PA)	Leger Fernandez	Sewell
DeGette	Levin	Sherman
DeLauro	Lieu	Sherrill
DelBene	Lynch	Slotkin
Deluzio	Magaziner	Smith (WA)
DeSaulnier	Manning	Sorensen
Dingell	McBath	Soto
Doggett	McClellan	Spanberger
Eshoo	McCollum	Stansbury
Espallat	McGarvey	Stanton
Evans	McGovern	Stevens
Foster	Meeks	Strickland

Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda

NAYS—214

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett
Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Cary
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D'Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Ellzey
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry

NOT VOTING—18

Balint
Cleaver
Craig
Escobar
Fletcher
Garcia (TX)

Higgins (LA)
Horsford
Lofgren
Matsui
McCarthy
Miller (OH)

Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez
Gonzales, Tony
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guest
Pence
Guthrie
Hageman
Harris
Harshbarger
Hern
Hill
Hinson
Houchin
Hudson
Huizenga
Hunt
Issa
Jackson (TX)
James
Johnson (OH)
Johnson (SD)
Jordan
Joyce (OH)
Joyce (PA)
Kean (NJ)
Kelly (MS)
Kelly (PA)
Kiggans (VA)
Kiley
Kim (CA)
Kustoff
LaHood
LaLota
LaMalfa
Lamborn
Langworthy
Latta
LaTurner
Lawler
Lee (FL)
Lesko
Letlow
Loudermilk
Lucas
Luetkemeyer
Luna
Luttrell
Mace
Malliotakis
Maloy
Mann
Massie
Mast
McCaul
McClain
McClintock
McCormick
McHenry
Meuser

Miller (IL)
Miller-Meeks
Mills
Molinaro
Moolenaar
Mooney
Moore (AL)
Moore (UT)
Moran
Gosar
Murphy
Nehls
Newhouse
Nunn (IA)
Oberholte
Ogles
Owens
Palmer
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Self
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Staubert
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Strong
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dwyne
Van Orden
Wagner
Walberg
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

□ 1724

So the motion to recommit was rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

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

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

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 221, nays 197, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 703]

YEAS—221

Aderholt	Franklin, Scott	McCaul
Alford	Fry	McClain
Allen	Fulcher	McClintock
Amodei	Gaetz	McCormick
Armstrong	Gallagher	McHenry
Arrington	Garbarino	Meuser
Babin	Garcia, Mike	Miller (IL)
Bacon	Gimenez	Miller-Meeks
Baird	Golden (ME)	Mills
Balderson	Gonzales, Tony	Molinaro
Banks	Gonzalez,	Moolenaar
Barr	Vicente	Mooney
Bean (FL)	Good (VA)	Moore (AL)
Bentz	Gooden (TX)	Moore (UT)
Bergman	Gosar	Moran
Bice	Granger	Murphy
Biggs	Graves (LA)	Nehls
Bilirakis	Graves (MO)	Newhouse
Bishop (NC)	Green (TN)	Nunn (IA)
Boebert	Greene (GA)	Oberholte
Bost	Griffith	Ogles
Brecheen	Grothman	Owens
Buchanan	Guest	Palmer
Buck	Guthrie	Peltola
Bucshon	Hageman	Pence
Burchett	Harris	Perry
Burgess	Harshbarger	Pfluger
Burlison	Hern	Posey
Calvert	Higgins (LA)	Reschenthaler
Cammack	Hill	Rodgers (WA)
Cary	Hinson	Rogers (AL)
Carl	Houchin	Rogers (KY)
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Rose
Carter (TX)	Huizenga	Rosendale
Chavez-DeRemer	Hunt	Rouzer
Ciscomani	Issa	Roy
Cline	Jackson (TX)	Rutherford
Cloud	James	Salazar
Clyde	Johnson (OH)	Scalise
Cole	Johnson (SD)	Schweikert
Collins	Jordan	Scott, Austin
Comer	Joyce (OH)	Self
Crane	Joyce (PA)	Sessions
Crawford	Kean (NJ)	Simpson
Crenshaw	Kelly (MS)	Smith (MO)
Cuellar	Kelly (PA)	Smith (NJ)
Curtis	Kiggans (VA)	Smucker
D'Esposito	Kiley	Spartz
Davidson	Kim (CA)	Staubert
Davis (NC)	Kustoff	Steel
De La Cruz	LaHood	Stefanik
DesJarlais	LaLota	Steil
Diaz-Balart	LaMalfa	Steube
Donalds	Lamborn	Strong
Duarte	Langworthy	Tenney
Duncan	Latta	Thompson (PA)
Dunn (FL)	LaTurner	Tiffany
Edwards	Lawler	Lee (FL)
Ellzey	Lee (FL)	Timmons
Emmer	Lesko	Turner
Estes	Letlow	Valadao
Ezell	Loudermilk	Van Drew
Fallon	Lucas	Van Dwyne
Feenstra	Luetkemeyer	Van Orden
Ferguson	Luna	Wagner
Finstad	Luttrell	Walberg
Fischbach	Mace	Waltz
Fitzgerald	Malliotakis	Weber (TX)
Fitzpatrick	Maloy	Webster (FL)
Fleischmann	Mann	Wenstrup
Flood	Massie	Westerman
Foxy	Mast	Williams (NY)

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

Williams (TX) Wittman
Wilson (SC) Womack

Yakym
Zinke

NAYS—197

Adams Gottheimer
Aguilar Green, Al (TX)
Allred Grijalva
Amo Harder (CA)
Auchincloss Hayes
Barragán Higgins (NY)
Beatty Himes
Bera Houlihan
Beyer Hoyer
Bishop (GA) Hoyle (OR)
Blumenauer Huffman
Blunt Rochester Ivey
Bonamici Jackson (IL)
Bowman Jackson (NC)
Boyle (PA) Jackson Lee
Brown Jacobs
Brownley Jayapal
Budzinski Jeffries
Bush Johnson (GA)
Caraveo Kamlager-Dove
Carbajal Kaptur
Cárdenas Keating
Carson Kelly (IL)
Carter (LA) Khanna
Cartwright Kildee
Casar Kilmer
Case Kim (NJ)
Casten Krishnamoorthi
Castor (FL) Kuster
Castro (TX) Landsman
Cherfilus-Larsen (WA)
McCormick Larson (CT)
Chu Lee (CA)
Clark (MA) Lee (NV)
Clarke (NY) Lee (PA)
Clyburn Leger Fernandez
Cohen Levin
Connolly Lieu
Correa Lynch
Costa Magaziner
Courtney Manning
Crockett McBath
Crow McClellan
Davids (KS) McCollum
Davis (IL) McGarvey
Dean (PA) McGovern
DeGette Meeks
DeLauro Menendez
DelBene Meng
Deluzio Mfume
DeSaulnier Moore (WI)
Dingell Morelle
Doggett Moskowitz
Eshoo Moulton
Espallat Mrvan
Evans Mullin
Foster Nadler
Foushee Napolitano
Frankel, Lois Neal
Frost Neguse
Gallego Nickel
Garamendi Norcross
Garcia (IL) Ocasio-Cortez
Garcia (TX) Omar
Garcia, Robert Pallone
Goldman (NY) Panetta
Gomez Pappas

NOT VOTING—15

Balint Horsford
Cleaver Lofgren
Craig Matsui
Escobar McCarthy
Fletcher Miller (OH)

Miller (WV)
Norman
Phillips
Porter
Ruppersberger

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1730

So the bill was passed.
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.
A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the

house and offer the resolution that was previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 914

Whereas on September 30, 2023, as the House of Representatives was considering legislation to avoid a lapse of appropriations for Federal agencies and departments which would result in a shutdown of those agencies and departments, Jamaal Bowman, the Representative from the 16th Congressional District of New York, pulled a fire alarm;

Whereas section 22-1319 of the District of Columbia Criminal Code makes knowingly causing a false alarm of fire a misdemeanor punishable by fine or imprisonment up to six months, or both;

Whereas section 22-1319 of the District of Columbia Criminal Code states “It shall be unlawful for any person or persons to willfully or knowingly give a false alarm of fire within the District of Columbia, and any person or persons violating the provisions of this subsection shall, upon conviction, be deemed guilty of a misdemeanor and be punished by a fine not more than the amount set forth in section 22-3571.01 [of this Code] or by imprisonment for not more than 6 months, or by both such fine and imprisonment”;

Whereas on October 26, 2023, Representative Bowman pled guilty to violating section 22-1319 of the District of Columbia Criminal Code and was required to pay a \$1,000 fine and write an apology letter to the United States Capitol Police and was placed on probation; and

Whereas the actions of Representative Bowman forced the evacuation of the Cannon House Office Building and disrupted the work of the Congress as a vote was underway on the floor of the House: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That—

(1) the House of Representatives censures Jamaal Bowman, Representative from the 16th Congressional District of New York;

(2) Representative Jamaal Bowman will forthwith present himself in the well of the House of Representatives for the pronouncement of censure; and

(3) Representative Jamaal Bowman will be censured with the public reading of this resolution by the Speaker.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

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

The Clerk read the motion as follows:

Ms. Clark of Massachusetts moves to lay the resolution on the table.

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

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

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 201, nays 216, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 704]
YEAS—201

Adams Goldman (NY)
Aguilar Gomez
Allred Gonzalez
Amo Vicente
Auchincloss Gottheimer
Barragán Green, Al (TX)
Beatty Grijalva
Bera Harder (CA)
Beyer Hayes
Bishop (GA) Higgins (NY)
Blumenauer Himes
Blunt Rochester Houlihan
Bonamici Hoyer
Bowman Hoyle (OR)
Boyle (PA) Huffman
Brown Ivey
Brownley Jackson (IL)
Budzinski Jackson (NC)
Bush Jackson Lee
Caraveo Jacobs
Carbajal Jayapal
Cárdenas Jeffries
Carson Johnson (GA)
Carter (LA) Kamlager-Dove
Cartwright Kaptur
Casar Keating
Case Kelly (IL)
Casten Khanna
Castor (FL) Kildee
Castro (TX) Kilmer
Cherfilus-Kim (NJ)
McCormick Krishnamoorthi
Chu Kuster
Clark (MA) Landsman
Clarke (NY) Larsen (WA)
Clyburn Larson (CT)
Cohen Lee (CA)
Connolly Lee (NV)
Correa Lee (PA)
Costa Leger Fernandez
Courtney Levin
Crockett Lieu
Crow Lynch
Cuellar Magaziner
Davids (KS) Manning
Davis (IL) McBath
Davis (NC) McClellan
Dean (PA) McCollum
DeGette McGarvey
DeLauro McGovern
DelBene Meeks
Deluzio Menendez
DeSaulnier Meng
Dingell Mfume
Doggett Moore (WI)
Eshoo Morelle
Espallat Moskowitz
Evans Moulton
Foster Mrvan
Foushee Mullin
Frankel, Lois Nadler
Frost Napolitano
Gallego Neal
Garamendi Neguse
Garcia (IL) Nickel
Garcia (TX) Norcross
Garcia, Robert Ocasio-Cortez
Golden (ME) Omar

Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Pelosi
Peltola
Perez
Peters
Pettersen
Pingree
Pocan
Pressley
Quigley
Ramirez
Raskin
Ross
Ruiz
Ryan
Salinas
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Scholten
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Swalwell
Sykes
Takano
Thanedar
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tokuda
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Waters
Watson Coleman
Wexton
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)

NAYS—216

Aderholt
Alford
Allen
Amodei
Armstrong
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bean (FL)
Bentz
Bergman
Bice
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brecheen
Buchanan
Buck
Bucshon
Burchett

Burgess
Burlison
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Chavez-DeRemer
Ciscomani
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Collins
Comer
Crane
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
D’Esposito
Davidson
De La Cruz
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds

Duarte
Duncan
Dunn (FL)
Edwards
Elizy
Emmer
Estes
Ezell
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Finstad
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Flood
Foxy
Franklin, Scott
Fry
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia, Mike
Gimenez

Gonzales, Tony	Lawler	Rose
Good (VA)	Lee (FL)	Rosendale
Gooden (TX)	Lesko	Rouzer
Gosar	Letlow	Roy
Granger	Loudermilk	Rutherford
Graves (LA)	Lucas	Salazar
Graves (MO)	Luetkemeyer	Scalise
Green (TN)	Luna	Schweikert
Greene (GA)	Luttrell	Scott, Austin
Griffith	Mace	Self
Grothman	Malliotakis	Sessions
Guest	Maloy	Simpson
Guthrie	Mann	Smith (MO)
Hageman	Massie	Smith (NE)
Harris	Mast	Smith (NJ)
Harshbarger	McCaul	Smucker
Hern	McClain	Spartz
Higgins (LA)	McClintock	Stauber
Hill	McCormick	Steel
Hinson	McHenry	Stefanik
Houchin	Meuser	Steil
Hudson	Miller (IL)	Steube
Huizenga	Miller-Meecks	Strong
Hunt	Mills	Tenney
Issa	Molinaro	Thompson (PA)
Jackson (TX)	Moolenaar	Tiffany
James	Mooney	Timmons
Johnson (LA)	Moore (AL)	Turner
Johnson (OH)	Moore (UT)	Valadao
Johnson (SD)	Moran	Van Drew
Jordan	Murphy	Van Dwyne
Joyce (OH)	Nehls	Van Orden
Joyce (PA)	Newhouse	Wagner
Kean (NJ)	Nunn (IA)	Walberg
Kelly (MS)	Obernolte	Waltz
Kelly (PA)	Ogles	Weber (TX)
Kiggans (VA)	Owens	Webster (FL)
Kiley	Palmer	Wenstrup
Kustoff	Pence	Westerman
LaHood	Perry	Williams (NY)
LaLota	Pfluger	Williams (TX)
LaMalfa	Posey	Wilson (SC)
Lamborn	Reschenthaler	Wittman
Langworthy	Rodgers (WA)	Womack
Latta	Rogers (AL)	Yakym
LaTurner	Rogers (KY)	Zinke

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Wild

NOT VOTING—16

Balint	Kim (CA)	Norman
Cleaver	Lofgren	Phillips
Craig	Matsui	Porter
Escobar	McCarthy	Ruppersberger
Fletcher	Miller (OH)	
Horsford	Miller (WV)	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1739

So the motion to table was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. MATSUI. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to be physically present for votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 698, "nay" on rollcall No. 699, "yea" on rollcall No. 700, "nay" on rollcall No. 701, "yea" on rollcall No. 702, "nay" on rollcall No. 703, and "yea" on rollcall No. 704.

□ 1745

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DESJARLAIS). Pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN) and the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

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

On September 30, as the House of Representatives met to consider legislation to avoid a government shut-

down, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN of New York knowingly pulled a fire alarm to cause chaos and stop the House from doing its business. This is a felony, plain and simple. It is not difficult to understand.

Capitol Police were forced to waste resources investigating rather than doing their job to keep the Capitol safe. USCP determined BOWMAN broke the law, and he was indicted by the Attorney General of the District of Columbia. Realizing no number of excuses could get him out of this, Mr. BOWMAN pled guilty.

As a former principal of the Cornerstone Academy for Social Action in New York City, Mr. BOWMAN should know the consequences of pulling a fire alarm to cause panic. In New York schools, the policy is clear. When a student commits a crime on campus, police are called, and that student is either suspended or expelled.

One would think Representative BOWMAN would be able to hold himself to the same standards as he held his students to. I don't think that is a lot to ask.

The Republican majority held our own former Member accountable after the House Ethics Committee found he engaged in criminal behavior. It would be hypocritical for the House Democrats to not join us in holding one of their own Members accountable who actually pled guilty to breaking the law.

I do not submit this resolution lightly, Mr. Speaker. Article I, Section 5 of our Constitution gives the House the solemn responsibility to discipline Members for disorderly behavior. As conviction demonstrates, Representative BOWMAN sought to cause panic to delay official proceedings of this House.

I urge my fellow Members to vote "yes" on my resolution and to hold our colleagues accountable when they break the law.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this is a profoundly stupid resolution. Under Republican control, this Chamber has become a place where trivial issues get debated passionately and important ones not at all. Republicans have focused more on censoring people in this Congress than passing bills that help people we represent or improving this country in any way. What a waste of time and money. They have turned this place into a joke.

They came into the majority talking a big game, but have delivered nothing, not a single, damn thing. They talk about passing this and passing that. All their hyperpartisan bills are going nowhere.

What we are now doing is distracting from the fact that the Republican agenda has been a total and complete failure, the least productive Congress in history, the most rules failed in a

single year. They dragged America to the brink of default twice, almost shut down the government, wasted weeks fighting about who should be Speaker, and hitting each other in the hallways.

We should be talking about important issues in this Chamber, Mr. Speaker. We should be addressing healthcare costs, helping Americans build economic security, competing with our adversaries abroad, and investing in our people at home.

We just had a shooting in Las Vegas. We should be talking about preventing gun violence in this country, and you have us here talking about how someone tried to go out the wrong door of the Cannon House Office Building.

Honestly, what the hell is wrong with you?

Congressman BOWMAN apologized. I want to read his statement so we can be clear about what we are talking about here today. "Today, as I was rushing to make a vote, I came to a door that is usually open for votes but today would not open. I am embarrassed to admit that I activated the fire alarm, mistakenly thinking it would open the door. I regret this and sincerely apologize for any confusion this caused."

He messed up. Like many of us do every day, he was rushing to get to votes. Guess what? No one was hurt. No one's life was put in danger. Votes went on like nothing happened. Anyone who works here knows that a fire alarm going off across the street wouldn't impact votes here in the Capitol.

I find it terribly ironic that we are talking about censoring Mr. BOWMAN, yet we never censured any of our colleagues who tried to overturn the election on January 6 or who failed to respond to a subpoena or who put our national security in danger by storming the SCIF with their phones.

In fact, to the contrary, MIKE JOHNSON, the new Speaker of the House, held a press conference yesterday about the January 6 video footage. Something he said stuck with me:

We have to blur some of the people's faces who participated in the events of that day because we don't want them to be retaliated against and charged by the DOJ.

Just to be clear, Republicans want to protect the insurrectionists, shield them from accountability, the people who beat officers, kicked in doors, smashed windows, desecrated this building, and tried to take down our democracy. Not our doors; America's doors, America's officers, America's windows. This is America's building that Trump's mob defiled.

Speaker JOHNSON wants to protect the mob but has us here debating this absurd censure. What a pathetic exercise in retaliation and revenge. What a petty thing it is to bring this garbage to the floor. Sadly, it is just a typical week for this disgraceful Republican majority.

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

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

To use that logic, then all those people should have just said “sorry,” and we would move on, right?

No, we don’t do that.

Let me tell you, I take a little bit of offense to “What the hell is wrong with you?” I will tell you, there is nothing wrong with me. I took an oath to defend the Constitution, and that is exactly what I am going to do. I am not going to apologize for it. I am going to hold the Constitution. It is very simple. We really shouldn’t even have this debate. If you break the law and you follow due process, there are consequences to your actions, even if you say “sorry.”

We can try all of the diversion tactics that we would like. It doesn’t change the fact that someone broke the law and that someone should be held accountable. It is disappointing, Mr. Speaker, that their own party can’t hold them accountable, that they have such hypocrisy.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to my friend from New York (Ms. MALLIOTAKIS).

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, we all remember that day, September 30, 2023, at 11:59 a.m. That was when the Democrats actually called for a motion to adjourn. It was a tactic to stop the vote from taking place when we were just 12 hours away from a government shutdown. It was also the day that the leader on the other side tried to give a speech to delay the vote even further.

Perhaps the most egregious thing we saw was when one of the Members—remember, we are Members of Congress—and a Member on the other side of the aisle pulled a fire alarm to disrupt proceedings. It was certainly an attempt to interfere with an official proceeding.

Now, the speaker who spoke on his behalf said, no, no, no, he was rushing for a vote. In fact, that is what the statement from Mr. BOWMAN was, that he was rushing for a vote. Then why, after pulling that alarm, did he show up to vote an hour later? If he was in such a rush to come to the Capitol to vote, why did it take him an hour to actually cast his vote?

That is the question that he should be answering, because nothing else truly makes sense. The bottom line here is that he was charged with a crime after an investigation by the police. He did break the law, he did plead guilty, and we need to hold that Member accountable. That is why we have brought this resolution today.

It is not pathetic. What is pathetic is somebody who is a grown adult pulling a fire alarm like they are in high school. As a high school principal, Mr. BOWMAN knows very well the old fire alarm trick, and there would be accountability for his students if they pulled the fire alarm.

That is why we are here today making sure there is accountability. That is all that this is about. It is not just accountability if Republicans do some-

thing. There is accountability if anyone in this Chamber does something, commits a crime, pleads guilty. That is what we are doing today.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. CLARK), the Democratic whip.

Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

As we speak here today, conflicts are raging around the globe, and the American people have told us exactly what they want us to do. Democracy is under siege. Putin is salivating at the prospect that Republicans might abandon Ukraine. Seventy thousand childcare centers are on the verge of shutting down because the GOP let vital funding expire. We don’t even have a budget, despite the fact that we voted for those top-line numbers back in June.

This ridiculous censure is how the Republicans are spending the time of this Chamber and the time of the American people. The MAGA majority should be embarrassed if they are still capable of shame. Republicans filed this censure the same day they decided to shield the identities of January 6 rioters.

I do have to hand it to the majority. They have managed to both push an extreme agenda and be a do-nothing majority. They have done nothing to make families freer, safer, or more confident in their future. Instead, they have voted against lowering the cost of insulin, affordable housing, and gun safety. They have done nothing to promote freedom, but they do not miss an opportunity to vote for abortion bans, book bans, and tax cheats.

Just last week, the majority’s leadership said no to holding George Santos accountable after a motion to expel was made by the Republican chairman of the Ethics Committee, but today they bring this to the floor? A censure isn’t a substitute for a policy agenda. It isn’t filler when you have nothing to offer the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on this sham resolution.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. BURLISON).

Mr. BURLISON. Mr. Speaker, it was said by our friends on the other side of the aisle that this censure motion is profoundly stupid. What is profoundly stupid is an adult man, who has been elected as a Member of Congress, held to a high esteem, pulling a fire alarm like a child, like throwing a tantrum. What is worse is that he violated the law. He broke the law when he did it.

□ 1800

It wasn’t just something to say, oh, I am sorry. He broke the law because he wanted to obstruct the meeting of this body, the vote of this body. The January 6 individuals have been talked about. If someone had done that on January 6, they would have been put in jail. The American people know it.

They see that there is a double standard. They see that this side of the aisle cleans up its House. The other side is going to let people who have committed crimes continue to sit in office.

The other side of the building is going to let someone who has taken bribes in the form of gold bars—apparently cash isn’t good enough under Biden inflation. For a Democratic Member of the Senate to take cash is not enough. You have to take gold.

We clean up, and we have a standard on this side of the aisle, and the American people know it. The standard on this side of the aisle is high. What is clear today is the standard on that side of the aisle is not.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I will say it again, this resolution is profoundly stupid.

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

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, it is painfully obvious to myself, my colleagues, and the American people that the Republican Party is deeply unserious and unable to legislate. Their censure resolution against me today continues to demonstrate their inability to govern and serve the American people.

Over the last 3 years, I have tirelessly fought for my district and my constituents by bringing over \$125 million to the district. I helped save members of my community over \$7 million and resolved over 6,500 constituent casework issues.

I have introduced over 50 bills, resolutions, and amendments, and I had two bills on STEM education passed in the historic Chips and Science Act.

Even today, as Republicans force a censure on me, I introduced a new bill, the College Athlete Right to Organize Act, to ensure college athletes get paid for their time and hard work. No matter the result of the censure vote tomorrow, my constituents know I will always continue to fight for them.

Fighting for my district includes working to prevent a government shutdown. Just over 2 months ago, I was rushing to the Capitol to vote and prevent a Republican shutdown. When I tried to exit a door that I usually go through, it didn’t open, and due to confusion and rush to go vote, I pulled the fire alarm.

I immediately took responsibility and accountability for my actions and pled guilty. Immediately. The legal process on this matter has played out. In no way did I obstruct official proceedings. The vote took place and Democrats were able to ensure we avoided a government shutdown.

Unfortunately, Republicans are here trying to rehash an already litigated matter. This is a matter in which the Republican-controlled House Committee on Ethics decided not to proceed with any further investigation.

This is an insult to the people I was elected to represent. Instead of passing meaningful legislation for the American people, some Republicans are

using this censure to waste our time and money. They are trying to make you forget about all of the rights they want to destroy.

They are trying to make you forget they want to take away your reproductive rights, your voting rights, your healthcare, your Social Security, and your Medicare.

House Democrats have been trying to focus on and address the issues the American people care about.

Can we please, please, please, please address the affordability crisis?

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. BOWMAN. Mr. Speaker, millions of Americans are struggling to put food on their tables, pay their rent, and keep the electricity on.

Can we address the issue of gun violence.

Just this week, we broke the record for the most mass shootings in a year and we have lost over 35,000 people due to gun violence.

Can we address our crumbling public school infrastructure?

Kids are learning in schools with asbestos, no air conditioning, and mold. It is hurting their ability to learn, grow, and thrive.

Can we put an end to our massive spending on weapons and war, and instead invest in our communities and our kids?

The number one thing I tried to do as a middle school principal and as an educator for 20 years was to teach my students when they made a mistake, they owned up to it, they took responsibility, and they held themselves accountable. That is exactly what I did. Yet, we are still here.

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

Mr. Speaker, although your district may appreciate all of those accomplishments, are we supposed to just forget about the crime that you committed?

Perhaps, in education, maybe we should have studied a little harder. If you commit a crime, there is a penalty to that crime. You don't get to say: I committed a crime, but I did all these good things. All these good things erase this crime over here. It doesn't work that way.

Again, I will say that it is not profoundly stupid to hold up the Constitution. The left may believe holding up the rights of the Constitution is profoundly stupid. I don't believe we do. I will again say that this hearing and this censure is not profoundly stupid. It is actually a hearing of where we followed the law.

Mr. Speaker, the other fact that I may want to correct—I will correct the truth with maybe the other half of the truth—is “immediately” means right away. So when you say, “I immediately” took action, “I immediately”—well, the incident occurred

on September 30. October 26 was when you pled guilty. I think that is a little bit longer than immediately. Again, maybe math wasn't my best subject either.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ).

Mr. GIMENEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this resolution.

On September 30, while the House considered crucial legislation to avoid a government shutdown, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN pulled a fire alarm to disrupt proceedings, a crime for which he pled guilty. Let me repeat that again. A crime for which he pled guilty.

As a career firefighter, who served for 25 years in the city of Miami, 9 years of which I served as its chief, I know just how serious this is. Every time a firefighter responds to an alarm, they are placing themselves and the public at risk.

While that is a risk that we are willing to take to protect life and property, we should never put our first responders and the public at risk by pulling a false alarm. In fact, in 2021, over 40 police and firefighters died and were killed while responding to an alarm.

While Representative BOWMAN initially claimed that he pulled the alarm thinking it would open a locked door, we know that that was a blatant lie.

After pulling the alarm, Representative BOWMAN can be clearly seen on camera ripping down the emergency exit signs and fleeing the scene. He had every opportunity to alert Capitol Police to his mistake but chose not to.

Had it been a simple mistake, I wouldn't be here. It wasn't a simple mistake.

It is disgraceful that a Member of Congress would go to such lengths to break the law and put first responders and the public at risk to prevent the House from voting to keep government open so our Federal workers can receive their paychecks.

For obstructing the House, putting first responders and the public at risk, and breaking D.C. laws, Representative BOWMAN should be censured before the House.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman talks about following the Constitution. Really? Coming from that side, it is laughable to hear that. There was silence about the crimes of Donald Trump; silence about what happened here on January 6. Silence.

Do you want to talk about opening a door?

The people who stormed this place broke down doors trying to kill people. Silence. I don't want to hear any lectures about upholding the Constitution. There is nothing but silence about the crimes of those who attacked this Capitol on January 6.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS).

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about my colleague, Mr. JAMAAL BOWMAN, who I have the privilege of serving on two committees within this very Congress: the Education and Labor Committee and the House Science, Space, and Technology Committee.

I have seen Mr. BOWMAN fight for disability rights, childcare, affordable prescription drugs, and affordable housing. He has stood up to racism. He has stood up to the attacks on public education, attacks on teachers, and cuts to school nutrition. There is a unique and vital perspective Mr. BOWMAN brings to education issues in this Congress.

In his freshman term, he served as a subcommittee chair for Energy. He was a Conference committee member on the Chips and Science Act, advocating for diversity, equity, and inclusion, so that the jobs and profits could go to everyday Americans.

This man does not deserve to be reprimanded. We should heed the leadership that he brings to education issues. He looks at AI and he asks: How can we solve the problems of tomorrow? If we could all do such a thing.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. ALFORD).

Mr. ALFORD. Mr. Speaker, I really don't take any joy in being here standing before you today to address this matter of grave concern.

Mr. Speaker, this is not trivial. This is not stupid. This is profoundly important; a solemn duty that I do not take lightly. This is not personal. This is not partisan. It is to protect this very body.

Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN was criminally charged and pleaded guilty to falsely pulling a fire alarm. While I applaud his confession, that doesn't mean this is without consequences. This act was not a mere lapse in judgment. It was not a mistake. It was not an accident.

It was an intentional, calculated attempt to disrupt the very democratic process by halting a critical vote on this very floor, voting for government funding. If you don't believe it, watch the video.

What should our response be as a House to this willful act of obstruction?

Mr. Speaker, to this point, nothing has been done.

This inaction sends a very dangerous message: that a Member of Congress can break the law and the norms of this institution to obstruct a vote without any consequences. We must rise above partisan politics and hold our own accountable.

The integrity of our democratic process, the safety of our community, the trust of the American people, and the function of this body demands nothing less.

We cannot allow the reckless, calculated actions of one individual to overshadow the critical work that this

body does. I am sure that Mr. BOWMAN is a fine Representative for the people of his district. This is not a joyous day for anyone here on this side of the aisle. This is a sad day for this body.

It is an even sadder day if we do nothing about this egregious act. I recommend that the entire body vote "yes" for the censure.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just respond to the gentleman by saying if this isn't political or partisan, I don't know what the hell is. This is a pathetic display that we are seeing here on the House floor today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. AGUILAR), the chairman of the Democratic Caucus.

Mr. AGUILAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the resolution because House Democrats want a functioning House of Representatives. We are in the midst of the least productive Congress since the Great Depression. This historic dysfunction is what happens when extreme MAGA Republicans dictate the agenda.

□ 1815

The majority is fixated on censures, expulsions, and impeachments. Meanwhile, the American public is worried about making ends meet.

Where is the Republican urgency around lowering costs? Where are their solutions for their constituents who are worried about rent, groceries, and utilities?

The truth is that they have no plan and no solutions. They are taking orders from the former President and being led by the most extreme members of their Conference.

However, when House Democrats held the majority, we passed the bipartisan infrastructure law, the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, the bipartisan Chips and Science Act, and the Inflation Reduction Act. These laws are creating good-paying jobs, lowering energy costs, and making schools safer in communities across this country.

A vote for this resolution will further divide this body at a time when we should be coming together to make the needs of the American public front and center.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to stand with my colleague from New York, Mr. BOWMAN, and I urge a "no" vote.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on each side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Michigan has 17 minutes remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 16½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, last week, I joined my colleague, ANTHONY D'ESPOSITO, in introducing a resolution to expel disgraced former Congressman George Santos. It was warranted. It

was warranted because he defrauded the voters and defrauded donors, and he is facing a 23-count indictment.

He did not belong in Congress. I was willing to take on a member of my own party and reduce our majority by one because he was unfit to serve.

Now, as a Congressman from the 17th District of New York, I share Westchester County with Mr. BOWMAN. I have gotten to know Mr. BOWMAN throughout the course of my tenure here in Congress. We have even flown home together to Westchester County Airport.

What happened on September 30 was wrong. I am sure he is embarrassed. He should be. As a former middle school principal, he understands the difference between a locked door and a fire alarm. To suggest that somehow he was confused is laughable.

As the video evidence shows, he did push the door, and being locked, it didn't open. Nonetheless, he then took down the signs. He threw one on the ground, carried one, walked over to the fire alarm on the wall, and pulled the fire alarm. It didn't say: Pull to exit. It didn't say: In case of a locked door, pull the fire alarm and the door will open.

No. It said: In case of emergency, pull fire alarm.

He then proceeded to throw the other sign on the ground, and he ran past seven—one, two, three, four, five, six, seven—Capitol Police officers and did not utter one word about accidentally and embarrassingly pulling a fire alarm.

In fact, when the BOLO went out and the Capitol Police came to question him about it, he lawyered up. He then went and met with LEADER JEFFRIES.

That is not taking accountability right away. That is not taking responsibility. In fact, a few days after it happened, he called me directly to ask me: Please don't get on a censure or an expulsion resolution.

I said to him: I will not do anything until I hear from the Capitol Police as to what happened.

He told me: Oh, I won't be charged. They are dismissing it. I didn't do anything.

They ended up referring it to prosecutors. He was charged, and he pled guilty.

I don't think he should be expelled. I think what he did was wrong. I don't think it was an accident. It was absolutely done to disrupt a proceeding as the Democrats were pulling all sorts of stunts that day, including walking single file in to vote by paper even though they all had their electronic voting cards. HAKEEM JEFFRIES was doing his magic minute. We all know what it was.

Let's be honest. Let's take accountability here.

If you are taking accountability, then you should actually tell your colleagues: Do you know what? I did wrong. I accept the censure.

Instead, you are sitting there smirking and laughing. I don't think your

constituents think it is funny. In fact, I know they don't think it is funny because of the number of times I get calls from your constituents.

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

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from New York.

Mr. LAWLER. The number of times I get calls from your constituents and the amount of time my office gets inundated with requests from your constituents, like when you shut your office down for 2 weeks in August—all the offices shut down. Do you know how many cases we had to take on? Calls came from Jewish constituents who don't feel that they can go to you for help.

They don't think it is funny. The people of Westchester County don't think it is funny.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to vote in favor of this censure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are, again, reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to my Republican colleagues: Are you listening to yourselves talk?

We are in the House Chamber. Heads of state address this body. We have debates about war and peace, and you are talking about a fire alarm? I mean, give me a break.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ).

Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. Mr. Speaker, I think the Republican side of the aisle made the case quite clearly today as to why we should not vote for censure. Right now, you can tell how weak their arguments are because they are grasping for straws, trying to do their best "My Cousin Vinny" impersonation as to breaking down what happened here with a fire alarm.

JAMAAL BOWMAN has more courage in his pinkie finger than the entire Republican Party put together and more integrity than the entire Republican Party put together. That is exactly why they are moving to censure him today.

Mr. Speaker, let me tell you what is actually going on. New York Republicans are so embarrassed that they propped up George Santos, got him elected to office, and then had to turn around and vote to expel him that they want to distract the entire world from their massive embarrassment.

New York Republicans are so embarrassed that they have not accomplished a damn thing for New Yorkers this entire year that they have to find a distraction, so they have decided to target one of the first Black men to ever represent Westchester County in the United States Congress for censure. That is what today is about.

Moreover, New York Republicans are so unfocused and so unable to make

people's lives better that they have decided to bully their colleague. That is what today is about.

They are wasting our time, and they are wasting the country's time over some petty—what rises to censure? I mean, truly, these arguments that are being made here, what is next? Jay-walking? Do you want to get us for jay-walking and for not crossing the street correctly? Is that what you are going to raise for censure next?

This is truly ridiculous. It is beneath the character of the House, and it is beneath the stature and the status of what rises to consideration before this body.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I agree. I wish we didn't have to be here. We should, as most sports teams do, clean up our own locker room. That would be the best-case scenario, as we actually did with a member of our Conference. We cleaned up our own locker room. It would be nice if the other side would clean up theirs.

So, I agree with you, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ. I loved your "My Cousin Vinny" analogy. That was funny, but this isn't a funny thing. It was good, but this isn't funny.

You committed a crime to try to disrupt a proceeding. This is serious. I think it is a little more serious than jaywalking when you try to disrupt the business of the House.

Again, I wish we weren't here because I wish you all would clean up your own locker room so we could really get on to the people's business. We can do both.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Ms. GREENE).

Ms. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on Saturday, September 30, 2023, the House of Representatives was considering a continuing resolution to avoid a government shutdown. Minutes after the Democratic whip made a motion to adjourn, JAMAAL BOWMAN decided to pull a fire alarm. He pulled that fire alarm intentionally and willfully, and he knew exactly what he was doing.

This happened in the Cannon House Office Building, where my office is located. I happened to have been in my office when he pulled the fire alarm. This caused the Cannon House Office Building to be evacuated, and my staff and I could not return to our office for several hours.

Once the fire alarm was pulled, the elevators shut down. It made it very difficult for everyone to leave the building, especially if they were handicapped. People had to go down the stairs in order to exit as the fire alarm was blaring. Not only that, all the staff had to leave. They were not allowed to reenter for a very long time.

Capitol Police were scrambling, trying to figure out what had happened, if there was a fire, and if there was a threat to our safety and security. They had to go into an investigation immediately in order to understand why the fire alarm was going.

JAMAAL BOWMAN did not tell the Capitol Police that he pulled the fire alarm even though he admitted himself that, when he makes a mistake, he would tell his own students: If you have made a mistake, own up to it and take accountability.

JAMAAL BOWMAN had plenty of opportunity to admit his mistake and take accountability for his own actions. He should have told Capitol Police immediately that he made a mistake, as he claimed.

It wasn't a mistake, Mr. Speaker. It was on purpose. It was intentional. It was all in part to play the games and the shenanigans that the Democrats were pulling that day as they were trying to block the continuing resolution that was being considered on the House floor.

Remember, Mr. Speaker, the fire alarm was pulled minutes after the Democratic whip made a motion to adjourn.

More importantly, he was intentionally playing his part to obstruct an official proceeding.

By the way, this is the same thing that has been used against January 6 defendants and is still being used to this day. They are being locked up, held in pretrial detention, and being prosecuted by the Department of Justice nearly 3 years later for obstructing an official proceeding, which is exactly what JAMAAL BOWMAN, a Member of Congress, did on September 30.

We have a two-tiered justice system in Washington, D.C. Regular people walked into the Capitol. By the way, many nonviolent offenders walked in open doors. Some of them who also were standing out on the lawn and never entered the Capitol are being charged for obstructing an official proceeding.

Yet, JAMAAL BOWMAN says that it was a mistake and that he should get a pass. His colleagues make excuses for him and call us unserious.

Do you know what is unserious, Mr. Speaker? Having a justice system that doesn't hold everyone accountable and doesn't treat people the same way.

This is an outrage, and this is a disgrace to this institution and this body.

For someone who is a former principal and who punished his own students for intentionally pulling fire alarms to make up petty excuses and think that his own constituents and the American people will buy his lie is a slap in the face to his voters, the people whom he represents, this entire country, and every single one of us who serves in this body.

□ 1830

I would also add that if anyone is going to be charged and forced to remain in jail, forced to be serving prison time for obstructing an official proceeding, then JAMAAL BOWMAN should face the exact same fate of every single January 6 defendant.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote for this censure resolu-

tion, and I thank Representative McCLAIN for introducing it.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, it is really rich to get a lecture from someone about civility who stood on this House floor and screamed and interrupted the President of the United States during his state of the Union, or somebody who continues to circle the wagons and cheer on the insurrectionists who attacked this Capitol violently on January 6.

I was the last person off the House floor on that day, and I saw what happened. Then for people to come down here and defend those actions, it is pathetic and disgusting.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, they are so desperate. You all are so desperate to distract from the fact that you all have nothing to improve the lives of the American people or end the ongoing genocide.

Now, you are trying to shift the focus by baselessly attacking Representative BOWMAN to score cheap political points, comparing him to the white supremacists on January 6 who were smashing windows in the Capitol and screaming: "Hang Mike Pence." Give me a break.

Your inability to govern is so obvious to the American people. You all can't even find enough Republicans to pass a budget or even keep a Speaker. This is yet another attempt to silence a person of color in this Chamber. We all see it.

This is all about the fact that Representative BOWMAN calls out your hypocrisy. The Republicans need to leave him alone and get a grip. The Republicans should do something that will actually improve the lives of the American people that you all represent. Vote "no" on this cheap political stunt.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I would just remind you that we talk about baseless claims. If I am not mistaken, Capitol Police did an investigation, referred it to the District of Columbia that did an investigation, and Representative BOWMAN pled guilty to a crime. I don't think that is baseless. In fact, I think that is basis for crime and that is basis for this censure. Because baseless means you have no cause, Mr. Speaker, and I think the mere fact that Mr. BOWMAN pled guilty isn't baseless. It is basis for a crime.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would, once again, remind all Members, on both sides of the aisle, to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to each other in the second person.

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to this fake, fraudulent, and fictitious censure resolution.

The proceedings here on the floor of the House of Representatives have been

a complete and total embarrassment. Extreme MAGA Republicans have stooped to a new low, and that is very difficult based on the events that have taken place under this Republican majority throughout this year.

JAMAAL BOWMAN has taken public responsibility for the fire alarm incident. He has apologized, explained the circumstances under which it occurred. He has been held publicly accountable by the D.C. Superior Court, paid a \$1,000 fine, and the Ethics Committee, under a Republican chair, on a bipartisan basis here in this Congress made clear that no further action was required.

It begs the question: Why is the author of this resolution and the extreme MAGA Republicans on the floor of the House wasting time and taxpayer resources trying to undermine the credibility of JAMAAL BOWMAN?

He is someone who is doing his best to serve his constituents, including in some of the poorest sections of the Bronx, and extreme MAGA Republicans have us on the floor with this sad and silly charade.

Now, the extreme MAGA Republicans have said, including the author of this resolution, that this is about law and order. Give us a break. All you have done is demonstrate throughout the years, including on January 6 and thereafter, that you are not the party of law and order. Extreme MAGA Republicans are the party of lawlessness and disorder.

As a matter of fact, the author of this resolution has endorsed Donald Trump, with multiple indictments. Someone who undertook a crime wave over and over and over again, proudly smirking now that she stands behind Donald Trump, and then wants to communicate to us that this is about law and order when you are the party of lawlessness and disorder.

In fact, the author of this resolution voted to overturn the will of the American people on January 6, and then came back, like the majority of her extreme MAGA Republican colleagues after the violent insurrection, after the Capitol was overrun by a violent mob, after more than 100 Capitol Police officers were seriously injured, and then voted still, not for law and order, not for accountability, and not for the Constitution. You voted with the insurrectionists.

Give us a break, lecturing us about the Constitution and law and order. Your own record suggests that is a phony argument. Nobody is buying it.

The American people aren't buying it. We will make sure the people of Michigan won't buy it.

It has been very interesting watching extreme MAGA Republicans in this debate acting like detectives on the House floor. Extreme MAGA Republicans pretending to be Perry Mason. Extreme MAGA Republicans pretending to be Matlock. Extreme MAGA Republicans pretending to be Cagney & Lacey, not even worthy of being held

to the standard of Inspector Gadget and Ace Ventura: Pet Detective. That is how embarrassing your display on the House floor has been.

This is a serious matter. Your behavior on the House floor is a serious matter, and I have the floor. I have the floor.

The behavior of the extreme MAGA Republicans censuring Member after Member after Member has brought disgrace to the institution, to the House of Representatives.

This behavior has brought disgrace; not the underlying censure. There has been accountability in the ways that we have all described. The effort to weaponize the censure—what happened, Mr. Speaker, to civility? What happened to trying to foster an environment where we can solve problems on behalf of the American people?

We don't take these arguments of civility seriously because the overwhelming majority of the extreme MAGA Republican Conference supports the violent insurrectionists and supports the insurrectionist-in-chief, twice impeached, under Federal indictment repeatedly for breaking the law and violating the Constitution.

Here we are on the House floor because extreme MAGA Republicans have no plan. Extreme MAGA Republicans have no policies. Extreme MAGA Republicans have made no progress for hardworking American taxpayers on any issue, and so you are here to try to distract.

We are not going to let it happen. We are not going to let extreme MAGA Republicans distract the people of Michigan, distract the people of New York, distract the people of America. We are on the House floor wasting time talking about fire alarms—not the economy, not inflation, not affordable housing, not lowering costs, not the gun violence epidemic that continues to claim the lives of our young people all across America. Extreme MAGA Republicans have us on the House floor talking about fire alarms. How silly is that under these circumstances?

Social Security is under assault. Medicare is under assault. Reproductive freedom is under assault. The Affordable Care Act is under assault. Democracy itself is under assault, and extreme MAGA Republicans are wasting time on the House floor talking about fire alarms under these circumstances. They are embarrassing themselves. It is petty, it is pathetic, and it is petulant.

Now, House Democrats have said from the very beginning of this Congress that we will find bipartisan common ground with our Republican colleagues on any issue whenever and wherever necessary in order to make life better for the American people on any issue, but we will push back against Republican extremism whenever necessary, and you have crossed a line once again.

We will call out MAGA extremism in the loudest, strongest, most direct way

possible. This extreme MAGA Republicans' do-nothing Republican Congress has done nothing to improve the lives of the American people all over the land. This do-nothing Republican Congress has failed to solve a single problem on behalf of hardworking American taxpayers. This do-nothing Republican Congress has failed to do a single thing to improve the quality of life of the American people.

If extreme MAGA Republicans are going to continue to try to weaponize the censure as is being done on this floor right now, going after Democrats repeatedly week after week after week because you have nothing better to do, then I volunteer. Censure me next. That is how worthless your censure effort is. It has no credibility, no integrity, and no legitimacy.

Republicans should censure me next. I will take that censure and I will wear it next week, next month, next year like a badge of honor. I will go home, sleep well, and say to myself, today was a good day.

□ 1845

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, therein lies the problem. I am one of the so-called MAGA Republicans which, again, I don't apologize for.

Under MAGA Republican leadership, I might remind everybody, crime was down—or excuse me, crime was up—crime was down under the last administration. Clearly, crime was down. The economy was up.

All of these problems that we are dealing with in this Congress today, Mr. Speaker, have been created by the Biden administration and created by my friends on the left. That is the truth. Those are the facts.

Under the MAGA Republicans, how many wars were we fighting overseas? Zero. What was the crime rate? Down. Again, we have some serious problems since the Democrats, this administration, took office, and therein lies the problem.

You want to talk about law and order. You want to talk about Cagney & Lacey and Ace Ventura, that is cute. That is cute.

Mr. Speaker, you want to talk about a disgrace to this body? Doing investigative work and actually following due process, that is what we are supposed to do. That is what I thought we did.

I will not apologize for following law and order, but under the Democrats' law and order, you shouldn't go through any investigation. You should just on a whim do some impeachment. That is what the other side of the aisle does.

We clean up our locker room, but when you commit a crime, it is unfortunate that we have to bring this to the table. As much as they want to compare us and call us names, they can continue to do that, but the facts speak for themselves. We waited until an investigation was completed before we brought this censure resolution. We

didn't do it on a whim. That is law and order. If that is Cagney & Lacey, following due process, perhaps, Mr. Speaker, my friends on the other side of the aisle could use a little investigative reporting and some detective work themselves.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Michigan has 1 minute remaining. The gentleman from Massachusetts has 1½ minutes remaining.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time for closing.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, oh, my goodness, I had trouble following the gentlewoman. I mean, was crime up or down in the last administration? The one thing I can say with certainty is that crime was way up in the White House in the last administration without a doubt.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. FROST).

Mr. FROST. Mr. Speaker, I grew up not understanding why people throughout the country didn't hold Congress in high regard, but I can just imagine the people turning on C-SPAN, turning on the news, hearing the arguments that we are hearing from the other side of the aisle, and then it just makes sense to me.

Let's recap what the American people have witnessed over the last few years: A Member who physically assaulted a colleague, a Republican Member who tried to bring a gun on the House floor, a Republican colleague who brought January 6 insurrectionists into the Capitol.

This is the least productive Congress that we have had since the Great Depression, and this entire party is pushing us toward a shutdown and economic collapse daily, but it is Congressman BOWMAN, who is a thoughtful former educator and staunch defender of democracy, who they want to censure. What a pathetic waste of time. No wonder half of this country doesn't vote when they turn on the TV and see their leaders wasting time like this.

We need more educators in Congress like Congressman BOWMAN, not fewer, and maybe if we had more educators here, they would be able to give my Republican colleagues a class on how to truly govern.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington State (Ms. JAYAPAL).

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, Congressman BOWMAN is a brilliant, committed, progressive Member who has dedicated his life to equity and opportunity for kids. He is a leader in economics, education, and racial justice. He is a leader of the Green New Deal for public schools, and legislation to pay artists what they are worth.

He made a mistake. He apologized. He paid the fine. The Ethics Committee declined to further investigate this matter. That should be the end of this.

However, what are we doing here? Republicans would rather waste time

with political stunts and demonizing a Black Member. They want people to forget that they want to strip healthcare from Americans. They want people to forget that they want to cut Social Security and Medicare, the two most important and trusted programs in the country. They want people to forget that they are denying election results on that side, your right to vote.

Right now they will do anything to distract from what they are really doing. There is nothing to show for the majority but chaos, infighting, and cruelty.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. I just have to end with this. Just a few weeks ago, Congressman CHIP ROY stood on the floor of this Chamber and called for his fellow Republican colleagues to "come explain to me one material, meaningful significant thing the Republican majority has done. . . ."

The answer is obvious. Nothing. Oppose this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR).

Ms. OMAR. Mr. Speaker, it is understandable why the author of this censure doesn't know what is up and what is down because obviously someone who wants to talk about crime supports a former President currently running for President that is facing 91 Federal and State indictments.

It is clear she doesn't know what is up or down because we sit on the Education and the Workforce Committee together talking about how she wants to help our kids, but all she wants to do is criminalize their ability to exist as individuals.

It makes sense that she doesn't know what is up or down because she keeps talking about accountability, and she doesn't understand that criminal charges are accountability. Pleading guilty is taking accountability. That is what the gentleman has done.

The only reason we are here is because she wants more time on camera. It is to make sure there is an ability to send a fundraiser asking for money.

This censure is not necessary because this gentleman has already been held accountable.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, we need to be accountable to this body.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to the censure of Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN. This is yet another predictable but no less wasteful action.

Congressman BOWMAN has taken accountability for his mistake, and even Republicans on the Ethics Committee agree that this is a waste of time.

We have got 99 problems, but a functional government of the Republican majority is not one of them.

Republicans are disconnected, dysfunctional, discriminating, and a disappointment to the American people. They can't pass a bill to fund our public schools, but they will bring this resolution to attack Congressman BOWMAN, a champion for students, a lifelong educator, a duly elected Member of Congress, and a strong Black man. He honors the legacy of the many brilliant Black men who came before him.

A quick history lesson: We are approaching the anniversary of when Joseph Rainey became the first Black Member of the U.S. House of Representatives in December of 1870. Just like JAMAAL BOWMAN, he fought for public education and civil rights, and he had to deal with double standards and racism in Congress.

This censure is just the latest in this Chamber's racist history of telling Black men that they don't belong in Congress.

To the Black men of this Nation, know that you belong everywhere.

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

Ms. PRESSLEY. JAMAAL BOWMAN is fighting for you, and I am fighting for you right alongside him.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on this resolution.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH).

Ms. BUSH. Mr. Speaker, St. Louis and I rise because we are tired of extreme Republican antics that seek to put politics over the needs of people.

Under Republican leadership, the House has successfully passed just 14 bills. Some of these were bills to punt an impending government shutdown, which we all know was only avoided thanks to the Democrats.

Let us not forget that their complete and utter inability to govern resulted in an entire Chamber of Congress being unable to perform its basic duties for 17 days, 17 failed Speaker votes, and multiple failed Speaker candidates. Their House is not in order.

Republicans haven't delivered on any top public priorities like strengthening Social Security, delivering environmental protections, or boosting our economy. Politically motivated censures like this one that target Black and Brown Members of Congress like this one are not only a waste of time, they are a distraction.

The people aren't falling for it. Republicans should actually legislate rather than play useless political games like this attempt to censure Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN.

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

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

I apologize to the American people. I apologize that Republicans are wasting

their hard-earned taxpayer money with yet another stupid and meaningless censure resolution instead of doing anything that will help the American people.

JAMAAL BOWMAN is a good man, a decent man, a kind man. He was rushing to exit a House Office Building so he could go vote, and he activated a fire alarm in the process of trying to open a door.

Did he destroy government property? No.

Did he obstruct an official proceeding? No.

Did he wield a deadly weapon? No.

Did he assault or injure anyone? No.

However, did he apologize and take responsibility for his actions? Yes, he did.

That is more than we can say for January 6, when this building was desecrated by an angry mob sent by Trump to overturn an election. Republican Members of this body still act like nothing happened. How disgusting. How offensive it is to the men and women who protect us that my friends on the other side of the aisle continue to act like nothing happened that day.

At the end of the day, this has nothing to do with Congressman BOWMAN, and my friends know that. It is about deflecting from how unhinged this majority is. They had to expel one of their own Members last week, for God's sake. They had the first Speaker in history to be ousted. They have nothing of any consequence to show for an entire year in the majority. Nothing. They have done nothing. They have wasted time on stupid measures like this. Nothing.

This whole exercise is just nuts. For Republicans, it is all about appeasing their orange overlord in Mar-a-Lago who can do no wrong.

They don't care about governing. They aren't fit to govern. They aren't concerned about the serious and complex issues facing this country, the world, or the people we represent. For them, being in power is all about retaliation and revenge, and the destruction of their perceived enemies. It is time for the Republican Party to grow up.

Mr. Speaker, I don't want to waste another second on this meaningless resolution. This is pathetic. The Republicans have turned this Chamber into a place where trivial issues get debated passionately and important ones not at all.

My friends have done nothing—not a damn thing—for the people that they say they represent. How can anybody on the other side of the aisle go home with a straight face and say that they are representing their constituents? They have produced nothing for them. They have turned this place into a joke.

It is sad that we are here today. Again, I will end as I began, by apologizing to the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on this pathetic, stupid resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, in case my colleagues on the other side of the aisle need clarification, I want to make it clear, the American people know that they are not better off than they were 4 years ago, and they know it is Democrats in this Congress and the White House that have put them in this anguish as we see today, just to clear things up.

All we have heard from congressional Democrats is excuse after excuse for Representative BOWMAN's criminal behavior. I daresay, Mr. Speaker, that if a Republican did what Mr. BOWMAN did, that every single Member on the Democratic side would be down here calling for censure, if not expulsion.

Mr. BOWMAN himself, despite pleading guilty, said it was an accident. How? Someone looks at a sign that says "Fire" and thinks, hmm, I wonder what this will do?

Mr. Chairman, I urge everyone to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The previous question is ordered on the resolution.

The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Mr. McGOVERN. 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 are postponed.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

SPEAKER JOHNSON: I am writing to inform you of my intent to leave my seat on the House Committee on Transportation & Infrastructure following my recent appointment to the Committee on Armed Services.

If anything, further is needed from me or my staff, please don't hesitate to contact my office at 202-225-3484 or email Jordan.Wood@mail.house.gov.

Sincerely,

LANCE GOODEN,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Following my appointment to the House Committee on Appropriations for the 118th Congress, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Oversight and Accountability effective today.

Sincerely,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

□ 1900

RESIGNATIONS AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE AND COMMITTEE ON THE BUDGET

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignations as a member of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the Budget:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

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

DEAR SPEAKER JOHNSON: Following my appointment to the House Committee on Appropriations for the 118th Congress, I hereby resign from the House Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the House Committee on the Budget for the 118th Congress, effective today.

Sincerely,

CHUCK EDWARDS,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignations are accepted.

There was no objection.

RESIGNATION AS MEMBER OF COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following resignation as a member of the Committee on Oversight and Accountability:

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: I respectfully inform the House Republican Conference that I resign my membership on the Committee on Oversight and Accountability for the remainder of the 118th Congress, effective immediately. It has been an honor and a privilege to serve on the Committee under the leadership of Chairman COMER. I am proud of the Committee's accomplishments and look forward to continuing this important work on behalf of the American people.

Sincerely,

KELLY ARMSTRONG,
Member of Congress.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the resignation is accepted.

There was no objection.

**ELECTING MEMBERS TO CERTAIN
STANDING COMMITTEES OF THE
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES**

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, by the direction of the House Republican Conference, I send to the desk a privileged resolution and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 913

Resolved, That the following Members be, and are hereby, elected to the following standing committees of the House of Representatives:

COMMITTEE ON APPROPRIATIONS: Mr. Edwards.

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES: Mr. Gooden of Texas.

COMMITTEE ON OVERSIGHT AND ACCOUNTABILITY: Mr. Cloud (to rank immediately after Mr. Grothman) and Mr. Waltz.

COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS: Ms. Maloy.
COMMITTEE ON TRANSPORTATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE: Ms. Maloy.

Mrs. McCLAIN (during the reading). Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to dispense with the reading.

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

There was no objection.

The resolution was agreed to.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

**AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO
MAKE TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS
IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5933,
DEFENDING EDUCATION TRANS-
PARENCY AND ENDING ROGUE
REGIMES ENGAGING IN NEFAR-
IOUS TRANSACTIONS ACT**

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5933, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

**COMMUNICATION FROM THE
DEMOCRATIC LEADER**

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable HAKEEM JEFFRIES, Democratic Leader:

DECEMBER 6, 2023.

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

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: Pursuant to clause 5(a)(4)(A) of rule X of the Rules of the House

of Representatives, I designate the following Members to be available to serve as Members of the Investigative Subcommittee established by the Committee on Ethics during the 118th Congress:

Hon. Nanette Barragán of California, Hon. Troy Carter of Louisiana, Hon. Ed Case of Hawaii, Hon. Madeleine Dean of Pennsylvania, Hon. Bill Foster of Illinois, Hon. Chrissy Houlahan of Pennsylvania, Hon. Ayanna Pressley of Massachusetts, Hon. Greg Stanton of Arizona.

Sincerely,

HAKEEM JEFFRIES,
Democratic Leader.

NATIONAL MINERS DAY

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

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, on this National Miners Day, I rise to recognize all miners across Montana who work tirelessly to keep our lights on and our country safe.

It is truly an honor and a privilege to represent the State of Montana in Congress—a State whose founding history lies in the hardworking hands of miners.

It is no coincidence that Montana is nicknamed the “Treasure State.” As seen on our State’s great seal and State flag: a pick, a shovel, and a plow along with the words “Oro y Plata,” “Gold and Silver,” in Spanish, are depicted front and center, symbolizing our State’s diverse natural resources and our rich history of farming and mining.

Earlier this year, I led an energy tour and brought several Members of Congress to Montana to visit the Stillwater Mine in Columbus and the Rosebud Mine in Colstrip so they could see firsthand the work our miners do and how critical they are to our national security and powering America.

On this day and every day, I thank Montana miners for their indispensable role in the production of domestic energy that keeps America safe, thriving, and powered.

HONORING GLEN SCHALLER

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

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I honor the life and highlight the memory of Glen Schaller—a teacher, organizer, labor leader, political and policy strategist, and a friend of many in California’s 19th Congressional District.

After high school, Glen traveled the country. He found his way to Santa Cruz, fell in love with that special place, and he felt it necessary to make it his home. He studied at Cabrillo College and UCSC and worked in early childhood education for 26 years.

Glen found that he loved helping vulnerable people as a teacher, as an activist, and as an ally for the LGBTQ community for which he was named

Ally of the Year and Grand Marshal of the annual Pride parade.

Glen also played a key role in the local Democratic Central Committee and was a political coordinator for the Central Coast Labor Council.

In that position, I can tell you he made sure that local public servants truly understood what it takes to fight for workers and working families.

Another admirable quality of Glen was that he just didn’t focus on politics, but also on policy. He was a director of a local workforce development board, and he fought to prevent closure of local public schools.

Mr. Speaker, I say to his son, Devon, please know that your father impacted so many people in so many ways. By finding Santa Cruz, Glen found his purpose in fighting for equality so that everybody has the same foundation for opportunity and success on the central coast of California.

HONORING ANTHONY WHITE

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

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I rise to express my sympathies to the family and friends of Anthony White for the tragic loss of their father, husband, friend, and coach.

My remarks will be particularly directed to Anthony Jr. and Olivia Grace.

I met their father 25 years ago this very week when I actually voted for him to be the next Wendy’s High School Heisman recipient, an award given to members of the community that excelled in athletics, academics, and citizenship.

He then later went on to play University of Utah football, and his crowning achievement was taking a school that hadn’t seen success for years and turn it into a championship team in Buena Park in southern California, most recently creating that same type of success for Santa Ana Junior College.

Anthony was an incredible human being that will leave a legacy that is beyond description. I hope they can always remember what he has done for not only them as his dad but every community and every person he has touched. We are all better for knowing Anthony. Losing him has been tragic.

We want San to know that her husband has touched so many of us, and we want to just share with her that we will be here for her after his passing.

We offer our prayers and condolences to his entire family.

KEY PIECES OF LEGISLATION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LALOTA). Under the Speaker’s announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I am grateful to be here tonight to talk about some of the key pieces of legislation House Republicans are championing this week, from fighting President Biden's unfair student loan program to protecting consumer choice in purchasing a vehicle to holding universities accountable for their influence from foreign adversaries. We are laser focused on putting Americans' interests first.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN).

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the vice chair, for hosting this Special Order with me here tonight.

I appreciate you and others standing here to highlight House Republicans' wins and to advocate for our conservative values.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to discuss the problems America is facing and what Congress must do to get this country back on track.

Our grandchildren deserve to live in a country that still stands for freedom, and I serve in Congress to work toward building that future.

Freedom tomorrow means upholding the constitutional rights of all Americans today. That is the lens through which I view my job in Congress and the measuring stick I use for every piece of legislation I consider.

I have highlighted the path forward in my four-part commitment to the big first and House Republicans' commitment to Americans.

Number one, Congress needs to create an economy that is strong. According to the congressional budget report, America is \$33.5 trillion in debt, and the Federal Government is deficit spending more than \$1 trillion every year.

Our energy independence has eroded, small businesses are laboring under burdensome regulations and taxes, and rampant inflation is a tax on everyone.

We need to end Washington's spending addiction by balancing the budget, growing the economy, curbing inflation, and decreasing Federal spending.

We need to cut red tape and burdensome regulations for agriculture producers, businessowners, and for all Americans. We also need to preserve the family-owned farms and small businesses throughout our country.

Earlier this year, the house passed The Limit, Save, Grow Act to reduce government spending, reclaim unspent COVID relief money, and promote pro-growth economic policies.

The House and Senate passed my resolution to prohibit the listing of the

lesser prairie-chicken as endangered or threatened.

The House and Senate also passed a joint resolution to prohibit President Biden's Waters of the U.S. rule from having the force of law.

A strong economy is good for everyone: the whole supply chain, businesses, parents, students, everyone. Ensuring a strong economy remains our commitment.

Number two, this Congress needs to create a Nation that is safe. Violent crime is on the rise, drug addiction is spiking, and many parts of our country are in chaos.

Meanwhile, we are still hearing calls from Washington Democrats to defund the police, and the Biden administration is failing to address our open southern border where fentanyl, criminals, and people caught up in human trafficking rings flood into our country.

We need to defend America's national security and food security. We need to support our troops and invest in an efficient, effective military. We need to secure the border, stop illegal immigration, end the fentanyl crisis, and support the police.

□ 1915

We also need to reauthorize strong agricultural trade legislation, negotiate new international trade agreements, support global food security legislation, promote U.S. goods, and stop wars before they start.

This year, the House passed the National Defense Authorization Act and the Department of Defense appropriations act to support our troops.

House Republicans passed the Secure the Border Act to finish construction of the wall at the southern border and the Schools Not Shelters Act to prohibit the use of public schools for housing illegal immigrants.

We passed the HALT Fentanyl Act and a resolution expressing support for local law enforcement officers and condemning efforts to defund and dismantle local law enforcement agencies.

We all want to live in a country where we can lay our heads on a pillow at night knowing we live in the safest, best country in the world.

Number three, Congress needs to create a future that is built on freedom. As I meet with Kansans, I hear concerns about Big Government, sweeping executive orders, and infringements on the basic rights enshrined in our Constitution.

We must preserve America's constitutional freedoms that protect the lives of unborn children and their mothers. We need to educate students in American history and civic engagement. We also need to improve access to rural healthcare, including access to telehealth services.

We must support those who fought to defend our freedoms by improving accountability and transparency at the Department of Veterans Affairs and working to reinvigorate civilian life after military service.

House Republicans passed the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act to penalize healthcare practitioners who fail to provide care for an infant that is born alive from an attempted abortion.

I sponsored three pieces of legislation that would modify the Biden administration's rulemaking to prohibit funds for abortions and abortion referrals.

The House passed the Parents Bill of Rights Act to ensure that rights of parents are honored and protected in America's public schools.

I sponsored the States Handling Access to Reciprocity for Employment Act, or SHARE Act, which would improve the current licensing process for healthcare providers and increase the number of licensed providers able to serve communities across State lines.

We passed the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act and the Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act, which would codify the Boots to Business program, a training course administered by the Small Business Administration through which veterans and their families learn the fundamentals of business management.

America is the strongest, most free nation in the world because our Founders declared that our freedoms do not flow from the government or a king but from God, who created us all with inalienable rights.

Number four, Congress needs to create a government that is accountable. Congress has the responsibility to conduct both rigorous oversight of the executive branch and investigation into possible corruption and criminal activity within the Federal Government.

We need to rein in the White House's abuse of power, hold Washington accountable, end the President's war on fossil fuels, and empower domestic producers to restore American energy independence.

The House passed the Reduce Exacerbated Inflation Negatively Impacting the Nation Act, or the REIN IN Act, which would require the President to provide an inflation impact estimate with respect to executive orders.

I also sponsored the More Accountability is Necessary Now Act, or the MANN Act, six pieces of legislation that I do every Congress which would require the President to report to Congress on executive orders.

The House passed the Lower Energy Costs Act, which would increase the production and export of American energy and reduce the regulatory burdens that make it harder to build American infrastructure and grow our economy.

Through the legislation we all support, I have worked to unleash American energy, cut taxes and red tape, secure the border, and investigate the scandal and corruption surrounding President Biden and Hunter Biden.

I will always stand for freedom in the face of government overreach because whether you are a parent, a child, born or unborn, a student, a farmer, or a

small business owner, you don't need the Federal Government trying to control your life.

Serving as the Representative for the Big First District in Kansas continues to be the honor of a lifetime. There is a lot of work left to do, but with prayer and hard work, I really believe that the greatest days in this Nation are yet to come.

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

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Kansas (Mr. MANN) is recognized for the remainder of the hour as the designee of the majority leader.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BABIN), who represents the 36th District of Texas. Congressman BABIN serves on the House Transportation and Infrastructure Committee with me. I am grateful for his presence here tonight and for his friendship.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate my good friend, the gentleman from Kansas, for yielding and for this Special Order.

Mr. Speaker, it is hard to imagine an administration that goes out of its way to increase our dependency on an adversarial nation hell-bent on our demise here in the United States of America. That is precisely what is happening—all because the left hates oil and gas and fossil fuels. I represent a district that is the epicenter of energy in east Texas in the greater Houston region.

Communist China wishes nothing more than to see America burn to the ground, and Joe Biden's reckless demand for electric vehicles continues to give Beijing an ever-increasing advantage in seeing this quest through.

Let's look at some of the facts.

Nearly 80 percent of the world's cell manufacturing capacity for EV batteries is controlled by none other than Beijing, the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, 75 percent of the world's lithium-ion battery megafactories are in the People's Republic of China.

Mr. Speaker, 90 percent of graphite, the single largest mineral component of EV batteries, electric vehicle batteries, is refined in the People's Republic of China.

Yet, if increased reliance on China isn't alarming enough, let's look at how electric vehicles are faring on the home front.

Just a few weeks ago, in my own office, I had a number of car dealers from my great State of Texas visit to share the latest on EV—electric vehicle—sales. Given how much the Biden administration talks about EVs, you would think that they are selling like hotcakes. Big surprise, or maybe not, they are actually selling like \$50,000 paperweights.

I recently saw a great line in *The Wall Street Journal*: "You can sub-

sidize a buyer into the auto showroom, but you can't make him buy."

The truth is that dealers can't get EVs off their lots.

Texans don't want vehicles that they can't rely on. While I am a huge supporter of innovation, fully electric vehicles aren't ready for prime time, and forcing them on the American people will not change that reality.

By unilaterally mandating unrealistic emission standards for vehicles in an effort to shift markets, this administration has dealt serious damage to the entire automotive sector.

Unfortunately, even with this information, the White House would still force Americans to buy electric vehicles.

Out of concerns for our manufacturers, dealers, national security, and, more importantly, American families, it is time for this administration to return to reality. Fossil fuels are the only reliable energy source that we have. If we stop producing and using them, we will soon be bowing the knee to the demands of Communist China.

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his very true remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ).

Mrs. SPARTZ. Mr. Speaker, I think we have had a lot of important discussions this Congress, but there is one important discussion that I truly believe we need to take very seriously. It is section 702 of the reauthorization of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act.

I want to remind us that our main job as Representatives of the people is to protect people's rights to life, liberty, and property. We will never have equal opportunities and will always want to have equal outcomes, but the equality of rights is the job of Congress and the legislature.

We know very well that the constitutional rights of Americans have been violated.

I am going to cite some excerpts from the report that the Privacy and Civil Liberties Oversight Board just issued recently. That board was created to oversee due processes, and the issue in line was the reauthorization. It is actually run by Democrats, and the chair is appointed by President Biden.

This is from the report: "The board finds that section 702 poses significant privacy and civil liberties risks, most notably from U.S. person queries and batch queries. Significant privacy and civil liberties risks also include the scope of permissible targeting."

It also talks about new types of procedures that have been recently authorized, in 2022, and we had challenges about collection that some thought Congress would put a stop to. However, it says that the new procedures that we just authorized were used in a widespread fashion. It could be extraordinarily intrusive.

It also says the board finding a risk of overboard government collection of

communications is very real and can cause harm with no individualized judicial review of targeting decisions. We had an almost 300 percent increase in surveillance since 2013, double in the last 5 years.

This search is very concerning since there is no specific review of that.

Also, it says that a lot of things that are collected could be political, religious, and social advocacy. There are significant concerns about this program overall.

The changes that the FBI has done, they say, have not been sufficient to protect privacy and civil liberties. It is also actually confirmed by the internal audit of a recent report—the most recent was in May 2023 when the internal audits of the FBI was talking pretty much about over 90 percent of queries not having any evidence of justification for these queries.

It is like the FBI is very good. They don't record and don't recall, so they want all the liability. It is a serious issue.

We had some discussions, and I think the Judiciary Committee bill is somewhat bad. At least it requires a warrant for queries of a U.S. person. Still, both the bills that the Intelligence Committee and the Judiciary Committee are proposing lack some very serious consideration.

There is no outside review of what data is collected, and this is something the board pretty much recognizes. As an agency, they collect information on Americans, but they cannot assess how much. At the least, there needs to be some sampling by a FISA court when they do certification to start figuring it out because, ultimately, there is a potential that our agencies have access to be able to collect without warrant and surveil many Americans. We don't know how many Americans they are surveilling and what the NSA is doing when they do filtering procedures.

There is no ability for us to even know what is going in the review of that. The board brings these concerns, but also there are concerns with documentation.

I think Congress should have for us—we do it in other areas, and in accounting, we do it, too—where, through evidence and documentation, we can have preventative controls in systems. When queries are run, there is evidence of review and evidence of approval and justification by the FBI as to why they are using this loophole in the law that potentially violates the rights of U.S. citizens and many Americans.

I think the magnitude of this problem is significant, and the magnitude of violations could be very material. I think Congress needs to be much more serious in its consideration before we reauthorize the section.

The other thing the board talks about is national security. It is an important section, but actually, the agency didn't prove that queries that they are doing actually give justification to what they are doing to provide them more expansion on that.

I think we need to put up more guardrails, and I hope we will have more discussions on this issue and this bill if they are going to move forward in the way they are because I want to remind us that if we are not willing to stand up for the rights of Americans here, then I don't know why we are even in Congress.

This Fourth Amendment right is a significant right, and it is a bipartisan issue. I hope we will take a more serious look at how we can improve this FISA reauthorization before it is reauthorized and have better legislation.

□ 1930

Mr. MANN. Mr. Speaker, I thank all the Members for participating tonight.

When government grows, freedom shrinks. As conservatives in Congress, we must not compromise on freedom. Our sworn duty is to uphold the constitutional rights of all Americans, and I encourage all of my colleagues to remember the solemn oath that we all took to do so and support legislation that will aid us in that effort.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Utah (Mr. MOORE), from the First Congressional District and the cohost of this Special Order, for his closing remarks.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, President Biden is once again circumventing the rule of law and leaving hardworking Americans who never went to college with a \$559 billion bill to cover unpaid student loans.

House Republicans will bring to the floor H.J. Res. 88 expressing our disapproval of President Biden's Saving on a Valuable Education, SAVE, plan which would drastically alter the Income-Driven Repayment program and make America's student loan program even more expensive for taxpayers. Let's be clear: This sets the precedent that Federal education loans do not need to be repaid.

Using American tax dollars to give a blanket subsidy to those who earn disproportionately more money than others is government at its worst. For those who never went to college, for those who are struggling with inflation and don't need more money flooding into a broken system, and for those who already paid off their loans, any effort to wipe the slate clean is completely unfair.

I, along with many other House Republicans, support universities focusing on a strong ROI to keep costs down. We support Federal student loan reforms. We do not support blanket student loan forgiveness for political pandering in an election year.

Even though the system has plenty of room to improve, it is my job to highlight ways the State of Utah is getting it right. Utah has the lowest average student loan debt per borrower in the country and the lowest percentage of graduates leaving campus with student debt. The University of Utah's medical school and nursing program at Weber State University work to hold

down student debt by designing instructional schedules to allow students to work while attending college.

I have had to apologize multiple times to constituents in the First District who built businesses after paying their way through school or other programming and paid their taxes, only to have their hard-earned dollars transferred to folks who have chosen a career and a different approach that required carrying some debt that they planned for.

Now, with the government saying they don't need to plan for it, we are teaching our children the exact wrong thing that made our country so great. I am deeply frustrated that I am going to have to continue to apologize.

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

CONCERN FOR OUR COUNTRY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous materials.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I am here tonight, concerned about our country, and I am concerned about our willingness as Members of Congress to meet the moment, to stand in the gap, to validate the hope placed in us as the Republican majority, to stand in the gap and to meet the moment to deal with the great crisis, the threats facing our country.

I will begin by mentioning our national debt. The days of spending without consequence are over. We have 40-year-high inflation as a result of unprecedented, excessive, reckless spending. We are on track this year for a \$2.5 trillion deficit. We are running a monthly deficit of about \$200 billion a month.

We are suffering the consequences with 40-year high inflation and grocery prices where Thanksgiving dinner costs 40 percent more than it did when this President was sworn in 3 years ago. Gas prices are up, utility prices are up, housing prices are up, rent prices are up, and then you have got interest rates.

The American people are suffering further under 20-year high interest rates, interest rates that have been increased by the Fed in a futile attempt to try to combat inflation. Historically, you raise interest rates because you have a hot economy and you are trying to ward off inflation. In this case, the inflation has been caused by the unprecedented levels of spending, and then we have further exacerbated

this, this administration, this Federal Reserve under this President, with interest rates that have put home prices out of reach for most Americans.

Now, we have got our credit being downgraded. Two credit rating agencies have downgraded our debt, which will further cause interest rates to go up and payments on our national debt to increase even more.

The snowball effect of \$34 trillion in debt, record interest rates, a \$200 billion monthly deficit, is taking its toll. With each passing day that we fail to deal with the greatest fiscal crisis in the history of the country, we deepen the pain and the suffering that is put upon the American people not only just today but in the future.

Meanwhile, how do we see Congress responding? Do we see a commitment here in this House to cut our spending, to deal with our discretionary spending, as we call it? Every dollar we spend in this House and in the Chamber next door, every dollar we spend for discretionary spending, everything that we vote on in spending, is borrowed. The total this year of discretionary spending is somewhere around \$1.7 trillion. Again, with a \$200 billion monthly deficit and \$2.5 trillion worth of deficit for the 12-month period, all of the discretionary spending is essentially borrowed.

Are we going to meet the moment? Are we going to rise to the occasion as a Republican majority?

If not now, when?

When will we take this seriously? When will we be willing to do what the American people elected us to do?

If not now, when? If not us, who?

I am pleased to have with me my good friend, the courageous fiscal warrior from Arizona, Mr. ANDY BIGGS, and I would like to hear his thoughts on this national debt subject.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) for the purpose of a colloquy.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. GOOD for engaging me in this colloquy.

I want to talk briefly about this number that has been put out there. He is asking the question: Will we rise to the occasion?

I am going to give the bad news first. This is like in "The Matrix," the first version, where they give you the red pill or the blue pill. The red pill is reality. The blue pill is you can continue on in your slumber.

I am going to propose a different pill, and it is a black pill. The black pill, I would suggest to you, means that reality is the awful truth. The awful truth here is we know that we are not going to rise to the moment.

Why do we know that? Because in the context of everything you just gave us, I want to talk about that supplemental that has been proposed by the Senate.

We have already passed out of this body a \$14.5 billion supplemental package for Israel. We found a way to pay for it. It goes to the Senate. They don't bother to take it up. They don't want

that. In fact, one of the Republican appropriators over there said: We don't do that; we don't pay for supplementals.

Wow. You know what? That individual was correct. It had never been done before. We did it, but they don't want to do that.

Instead, they want to leverage a controversial spend of \$61 billion for Ukraine funding by leveraging what Israel needs, our good friend in the Levant. That is what they want to leverage.

You know what they throw in there, as well? They throw in some money for Taiwan; they throw in some money for the border. I won't get into the border until you yield more time, but I will tell you this: That money they are talking about for the border is not to stop the 10,000 to 12,000 people per day coming into the country; it is to facilitate their entry and dispersion throughout the country.

If you think we are going to rise to the moment when we are dealing with a group of people across the way, the leadership over there, that have proposed that—and I am seeing, sadly, a momentum for that to happen right here on the floor of this Chamber—then I would tell you the black pill has been swallowed, and there is trouble and tough sledding ahead for the United States of America because the people who have been elected to fight that are acquiescing.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate his bringing up the supplemental, because I want to give Speaker Johnson credit for what he did with that House supplemental.

The supplemental, the \$106 billion package that was proposed by the President and the Senate majority leader of the Democrat-controlled Senate, represents everything that is wrong with Washington.

To the point, we are running a \$200 billion deficit, and yet we have a supplemental, which again, as he said, means we don't pay for it. We add it on; we tack it on; we borrow more; let's borrow \$106 billion. Virtually everyone in Congress, I think—certainly all Republicans and most Democrats—want to support one of our true allies on the global stage—one of our, I would submit, two or three allies at a minimum—Israel, through the brutal terrorist attack by Hamas. We want to come to the aid of our friend and our genuine ally Israel and give them the help that they need, but Israel doesn't have \$34 trillion in national debt. Israel is not running a \$200 billion deficit. Israel is fiscally solvent. We are not. Even for something so worthy as this cause, we have a responsibility to pay for it, if we can, and we can.

Therefore, Speaker Johnson met the moment and said let's pay for it by taking some of the \$80 billion that was allocated for the 87,000 IRS hirings in the inflation increase act last summer, let's cut \$14 billion from there to pay for the \$14 billion for Israel, and it

passed on a bipartisan basis in this Chamber. Twelve Democrats voted for it.

Honestly, I thought, you know what? We are plowing new ground in the House. We are separating the Israel aid. We are not doing again that which is represented by what we typically do here in Washington, which is all that is wrong with Washington. We say, we are going to hijack or hold hostage our desire to support Israel. We can't give them that \$14 billion unless you also give them the \$92 billion that has nothing to do with Israel: \$60 billion for Ukraine, as was said, humanitarian support for Hamas, and more money for Mayorkas to process illegals in the country more quickly and more deceptively, another ill-defined, disastrous humanitarian system. We are going to hold hostage \$14 billion for Israel with the \$92 billion we have got to choke down.

I thought when Speaker Johnson and this Republican majority rose to the occasion with the support of 12 Democrats, who courageously crossed the aisle and did the right thing, that the Senate would have to take it up, that they wouldn't hold up support for Israel on a bipartisan bill just because it was paid for and just because it was going to cut by \$14 billion the \$80 billion IRS expansion and just because it didn't include the \$92 billion that didn't have anything to do with Israel.

I know my colleague joined me in calling upon the Speaker and calling upon our Republican majority to stand with our Speaker. He needs to know we have his back and we stand with him. We have passed Israel support out of this House. We are requiring it to be paid for because that is the responsible thing for our kids and our grandkids and for the American people. We are not going to take up any other supplemental that has support for Israel, and every supplemental must be paid for.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS) to hear some additional thoughts.

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, first of all, when the gentleman starts talking about that, he raises a point that I have been arguing vociferously about for some time, and that is Republicans manage to snatch defeat from the jaws of victory over and over again. We negotiate against ourselves. That is what is happening on the supplemental. That is what is happening on the NDAA.

We passed out of the Judiciary Committee today a bill, hugely bipartisan, 35 people voted for it, 2 against it, including massive reforms, reforms that groups across the spectrum, from right to left, Republican and Democrat, have said these are the reforms we need to see.

□ 1945

The leverage goes away when you give an extension into April for FISA in its current form, which is what the Speaker is acquiescing to after telling us he wasn't going to go there. That is

negotiating against yourself. Why is that? What happens?

The leverage against the Senate on FISA then goes away. I was not surprised to know that Chairman TURNER said he will let the Judiciary bill come to the floor. Why wouldn't he?

Because he knows that the leverage is now gone and the Senate has no incentive to take up a meaningful reform bill. That is the problem. It goes back to the border.

The border is the same way. There were 12,000 people that came across yesterday. That was an all-time single-day record. There were 12,000 people encountered. That does not include the 10,000 people that got away.

You are looking at 300,000 plus for the month of December that we can project already. That will be a record. We say, oh, let's do H.R. 2. We did H.R. 2. That was a good, solid border security package.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. That you were responsible in helping to craft that bill—you and our friend CHIP ROY.

Mr. BIGGS. We got it through. It went through and is languishing in the Senate. We say things like: I will tell you what, let's put the H.R. 2 bill on the supplemental. We are not going to do anything with regard to the supplemental unless you actually give us border security. It isn't policy anymore because the policy doesn't work unless you have a lawful, rule of law type of government. We don't. We flat out don't.

This administration is lawless. They are not going to follow the law. They are not following the law now. They are not following the law on FISA, which is why we have to reform FISA. They are not following the law on the border policies and the border laws. This is why we have got to say we are going to stop funding a government that is lawless and surveils American citizens and allows us to be overrun.

Did you know that in Portland, Oregon, they had more than 300 fentanyl overdose deaths in the first 3 months of this fiscal year? They are on track for over 1,200.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Just in Portland?

Mr. BIGGS. Just in Portland. I am telling you that this is a regime that is okay with dismantling our country. It is time that we stand up and say no more. No more.

I am happy to talk about any other topic that you want.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I want to go back to what you were talking about in the supplemental, actually on the spending, as well as on the FISA reforms.

This is a town of power and persuasion of leverage. I'm not sure we effectively know how to use leverage when we have it. We are a town that does things—a body that only does things when we have to, when there is a deadline and when there is the pressure.

You talked about relieving the pressure on the FISA reforms because of

the approaching deadline, the expiration of the current authorization. Why would we be so fearful of that expiration to the extent that we are unwilling to force upon the Senate the reforms that we are trying to pass out of the Judiciary Committee? The Judiciary Committee voted 35-2 on an overwhelmingly bipartisan basis that would pass this body if we put it on the floor today.

The Senate apparently isn't so worried about the expiration that we think they will take up our bill and pass it. There we would relieve the pressure to reform FISA so it doesn't expire.

You can apply that to the debt situation. We did another continuing resolution where we extended the Biden, Pelosi, and Schumer policies and spending levels into mid-January and early February with the promise that we work on passing our remaining five bills.

I am sorry to say and disappointed to acknowledge, we have not had any demonstrated effort to bring those remaining five bills to the floor. We don't have the commitment to the top line total programmatic spending levels. Our commitment to cut spending, no matter how modest, to cut spending from a year ago. This is something Congress hasn't done—you know your history better than I do—in how many years, where they cut the spending year over year.

We relieve the pressure. And then instead of trying to work during the time that we have to pass these spending bills, we are not doing it as we approach January 19. I expect this body is going to go home next week and not report for nearly a month to work on the spending bills that, in theory, we are supposed to pass before January 19's expiration, this continuing resolution.

Where is our unified commitment?

We talk a lot about unity here. Unity requires a unified mission, a unified purpose, and a unified vision to accomplish what?

We could point to so many existential crises created by our friends on the other side, the Democratic majority when they had control, the Senate majority, and the White House. I think you might agree, the two most pressing are the two we mentioned tonight: the border and the spending.

What, in the words of one of my favorite movies, "The Untouchables," Sean Connery saying, "What are you prepared to do?"

What are we prepared to do to force a lawless administration to secure the border?

What are we prepared to do to deal with the unprecedented level of spending that is literally crushing us, creating the greatest fiscal crisis the country has every faced?

What are we prepared to do as a Republican majority to come together in a unified manner?

Why would we continue to fund our fiscal demise?

Why would we continue to fund an open border?

You know the border issue better than anybody. Some 8 million plus were helped across this border by this administration and this President's policies. Helped across.

There would be irreparable harm done if we secured the border today. There are some 2 million known got-aways. These are the ones who don't want all the free stuff and don't surrender to Border Patrol under the policies of this administration for free travel, free housing, free social services, free education, free—just about everything—benefits that the American people don't get as citizens.

These are the ones who don't surrender for that because they have criminal backgrounds and terrorist ties. We find 100 a year, the dumb terrorists who Border Patrol apprehends. There are 100 a year with terrorist ties. How many are among the 2 million?

If we sealed the border today, only time will tell on what scale the American people will suffer catastrophic harm because of this President's policies—far beyond what we have seen across the ocean with our friends in Israel. What are we prepared to do?

Mr. BIGGS. What I would tell you is that when you have—let's take Lukeville, Arizona, a small port of entry. There are people going from Phoenix and Tucson down to the Sea of Cortez and they are going to go down to Rocky Point, which is a lovely seaside village. It is a small town, and people love to go down there. It is closed now. Do you know why it is closed?

Because so many people, groups of 1,000 illegal aliens, are coming to that port of entry. There is no way to process them. There is no way to get them to Ajo or the Three Points Station or the Casa Grande station because that takes hours. They closed that down.

You can now see sitting there 1,000 individuals. If you look closely, you won't find a single woman or a child in that 1,000. They are all men ages 18 to 35 from multitudes of nations.

You say: What are we willing to do?

I am going to offer a humble suggestion.

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. I thought you might.

Mr. BIGGS. It is my suggestion and it is this: This administration is lawless and has no desire to enforce the laws already in place. What I would say is, how do you incentivize them?

Do you incentivize them by allowing them to keep the FRA spending?

Do you incentivize them when you say, okay, I will tell you what, we are going to keep your Green New Deal subsidies that you said would not cost more than \$350 billion, which will now cost more than \$2 trillion?

Will you do anything if we don't stop funding the things you desire?

The answer is no.

What I would say is, we know that Medicare, Medicaid, Social Security, and veterans' benefits will continue on. Why not then identify that we are

going to pay for ICE, CBP, the air traffic controllers, TSA, the military men and women, and then say that is it, Mr. Biden. That is all we are going to continue funding. That is the basic minimum to make sure that Americans are safe.

We refuse to do more spending. By the way, we are having to borrow significant portions of that. We refuse to keep borrowing money and go in debt so future generations will go bankrupt themselves until you secure the border with demonstrable and measurable metrics.

I will give you one example. Yuma, Arizona. Yuma has one hospital and there are about 80,000 people in Yuma. The emergency room on most days is completely filled with illegal aliens. The local people, people who are going to have babies. If there is a woman ready to deliver, do you know where she is going?

She is driving 3 hours up to Phoenix or 3½ hours over to San Diego. The people with heart conditions that need procedures on an emergency basis, same thing, they are getting Air Evac'd up to Phoenix or San Diego.

Here is the deal. Under the last full year of Donald Trump as the President, do you know what they had?

They had a total of 8,600 encounters. That is for a year. Do you know what they are doing in a week now?

About 8,000 a week. That is under this administration.

Do you think it is not a crisis?

Go down there and talk to the planters who have had to literally plow under fields because these people come across, they go walking through the fields. These are sensitive fields. Why is that important?

Because more than 90 percent of all green vegetables provided to this country during the winter months come out of Yuma, Arizona. It is a hazard to our food supply.

This administration doesn't care if it is a hazard to food supply. They don't care if you have got 1,200 people going to die of fentanyl overdose in Portland, Oregon. They just don't care. They are not going to actually follow the law, so we have got to incentivize them.

If we do not have the courage to incentivize them, then why the hell did we come to Congress?

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. You cannot overstate the harm being done and the damage to our country by this border invasion. It is a border invasion. As we have had hearings on this issue in the Budget Committee or in the Education and the Workforce Committee, my friends across the aisle don't like that I call it a border invasion.

Mind you, they don't care about the border invasion. They just don't like me to call it a border invasion. This is on purpose. This is intentional. Every resource and every effort directed to the border over these past 3 years from this administration has been with the intent to get as many illegals, as quickly as possible and as successfully as possible, into the country.

To your point, why would we continue to fund and give billions of dollars a month—hundreds of billions of dollars a month—to a lawless administration that is perpetrating this kind of harm on the country?

I would submit that never in the history of the country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States than what is happening with this border.

□ 2000

I will say it again. Never in the history of the country has our own President done more to intentionally harm the United States than what this President has done with the border. Give me an example of something that comes close.

The American people are counting on us. They gave us the majority a year ago because we ran on fiscal responsibility. We have not met that responsibility. We ran on securing the border, yet we continue to maintain the spending levels and policies with continuing resolutions and extensions that don't deliver for the American people.

They are trusting us, and they are putting their faith in us to stand in the gap to be that one barrier to the policies under which they are suffering and that are destroying the America that we know and love.

I am proud to serve with the gentleman from Arizona and many of my colleagues here in Congress who are ready to do what needs to be done, to make the tough choices, to cast the tough votes, and to honor the trust and faith that the American people placed in us.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to serve with the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. GOOD).

Let me say two things. I am more than willing to be here over the next 5 weeks if it means that we can work to get these things addressed.

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you one more reason why you should not be giving up on FISA and why you should not be extending it. It is because the authorities and warrants issued before April 10 will continue on into 2025. We will have lost, perhaps even forever, our ability to reform a program that has been weaponized against the United States of America and our beloved fellow citizens.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

ISSUES IGNORED BY THE MEDIA

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I am going to try to talk about some issues

that our press corps has not adequately covered. All of these issues will be brought to the fore sometime in the next 3 months, and well-informed citizens should have an opinion on them. That means that, to a degree, the press corps has to do a good job of educating the citizenry on these issues.

The first issue I am going to talk about one more time is immigration. There is some time in the next 8 weeks in which an agreement is going to have to be reached regarding the huge problems we have on the southern border. These problems have been largely ignored under the Biden administration, and it is time that something be done.

I want to recount right now that, in the most recent months, we are having about 240,000 people cross the southern border. Every month, we hit new records for that month. In October, we again exceeded where we were 12 months ago and 24 months ago.

In addition to the fact that we have about 240,000 people crossing the southern border, we have a situation in which about 9,000 unaccompanied minors, people under the age of 18, are coming here without either parent.

We also have a situation where of the about 240,000 people who are crossing the border, about 60,000 are what they call got-aways. In other words, they have had no contact at all with the officialdom of the United States Government. Of course, these people are particularly dangerous because they haven't even gone through the perfunctory check that other people go through when they show up at the southern border.

It should also be pointed out that the United States is not being pikers at all when it comes to allowing other people into this country. The American citizenry should know that, in the most recent year available, over 1 million people were sworn in as new citizens to the United States. This is the third highest on record at a time when we are following a year that was over 900,000. We are kind of in unprecedented territory for a 2-year period.

When I was a child in the 1960s, by comparison, about 100,000 people a year were sworn in in the United States. We worked that way up in the 1980s to be about 200,000.

So, when we say 1 million people a year are being sworn in as citizens of the United States, we are really changing things in this country. As a result, nobody can say or should be able to say that we are not doing our fair share in welcoming more people into the United States.

It should also be pointed out that the number of people who are being deported from this country is now a fraction of what it was a few years ago. In fiscal year 2019, about 270,000 people were deported. In the most recent year available, that number has fallen to 72,000.

On one level, we are multiplying the number of people coming across the border by a factor of 10, and then once

people come here and break the law or whatever, we are now kicking out or deporting about one-quarter of the number that we were 4 years ago.

The Biden administration has not cared about this at all. However, there are going to be multiple discussions with the Biden administration not only with regard to appropriations bills that are coming up but supplemental bills that are coming up.

This is the biggest crisis facing America today. We are permanently changing the United States by allowing this many people to come across the border.

I want to point out to the American public that John Adams said that our Constitution was fit for a moral and religious people and totally unfit for anybody else.

Insofar as we are allowing people in our country who do not have a love of freedom and who want to turn their lives over to the government, we are going to ruin our country. It will no longer be the wonderful country that we grew up in. When we invite this many inappropriately vetted people, that is a definite concern.

There is also a concern for the American Government. We are right now in a position where we are borrowing 22 percent of our budget. A significant number of people crossing the southern border are going to have to be taken care of by the Federal Government. They won't be able to find jobs. Not only will they not be able to find jobs, but they are coming here without complete families. Their children are going to be educated. President Biden promised during the 2020 election that he would provide free healthcare to people coming here illegally. We are doing that. That is also very expensive at a time when we don't have money for more.

As a result, I think it is a situation that has to be cleaned up and finished before we pass any more of what we call supplemental bills in this Chamber.

In particular, people are asking for tens of billions of dollars in aid to Ukraine. I think everybody would like to see them get that money, but at a time when we are having to flood money in to take care of people crossing the southern border, I don't think we have that money until that problem is cleaned up.

I hope the American citizen is paying attention to this.

Again, to summarize, 10 times as many people are crossing the border as there were 4 years ago. The number of people being kicked out, usually for breaking the law, being deported, is about one-quarter of what it was 4 years ago. The number of people who are being sworn in legally—when people say, oh, we ought to let some people here—there are over 1 million right now. We are near historical highs on that level.

I hope the American press corps reports these numbers. They should certainly be in the paper. It should certainly be in the paper when eventually we get new information on the number of people who have come into this country in November.

Mr. Speaker, all you have to do is look on television to see it is getting worse and worse. That is an issue that not much attention is being paid to.

The next thing I want to talk to the American public about is what we call appropriations bills. Here in Congress, if things are done right, we do not pass one budget at the end of the year. We pass 12 separate bills as we divide the government into 12 separate agencies.

There are disagreements between the House and the Senate regarding each one of those bills. However, one of the things that touches all of these bills is the degree to which the Federal Government is going to get involved with diversity regarding what we could call affirmative action—or an obsession with judging people by their race or judging people by their gender. This is a debate that is going to be had between the Republican-led House and the Democratic Senate right down the line.

We have had a situation where we have been identifying people by race since Lyndon Johnson really kicked this into gear in 1965. At that time, companies that had at least 50 employees and did over \$100,000 of business with regard to the Federal Government had to submit information annually to the government.

As a practical matter, it meant that businesses were advised to pay attention to race when they hired somebody, when they promoted somebody, and when they let somebody go.

It also meant that the Federal Government was paying attention to race and gender when government contracts were let, and we have a bureaucracy that is advising American big businesses that are doing it in-house.

Right now, President Biden's goal is to greatly increase these roles of bureaucrats when hiring decisions are made in Federal agencies so that when we do government contracting and government grant writing, we are paying increasing attention to where people come from or where their ancestors came from.

In another area, the Biden administration is currently trying to set up a new ethnic group to get preferences or special consideration, and that is the group called Middle Eastern and North-African people.

It is a little bit unusual, but the American citizenry should be aware of this. They should be aware that the government is currently in the process of adding this group to the number of people who are going to get preferences. Before they do that, there should be an open debate of whether this is necessary or not.

It is kind of interesting in that I read some information on this topic. His-

torically, I think the reason for this type of thing was the feeling that people had been taken advantage of or were not given a fair shake in the past. Right now, people who are considered Middle Eastern and North African actually make considerably more than the native-born American. American median household income across the board is slightly under \$100,000 a year. Middle Eastern and North Africans are making about \$115,000 a year.

Mr. Speaker, even if you buy into the idea that the American Government should be looking at people not on the basis of who they are today but on where their ancestors came from, we are really not in a position where we can say that these people have been put upon or not been treated very well.

When I go home and talk about these issues, I find that almost no people that I know are aware that we are about to add Middle Eastern and North Africans to the affirmative action mix, which means, of course, the American press corps is not doing its job. It is kind of a fundamental change in a given group if they apply for a government job, if they apply for a government grant, or if they are getting a government contract. If there are going to be preferences, then it is something that should be openly discussed on editorial pages, on talk radio, and what have you.

I think the American press corps has largely hidden this fundamental change in the way we do things, and it is time we have an open debate with regard to this.

It is a little bit interesting because other groups that are supposedly subject to discrimination or supposedly are different also do better than the average American. Right now, the wealthiest subgroup of Americans are Indian Americans. Also very wealthy are people from the Philippines, people from China, and people from Cuba. All of these people, in the mythology of the left, are people who are apparently being discriminated against, but actually, they are doing better than the average American right now.

I wonder why we would set up a bureaucracy to keep track of what these people are doing or making sure they somehow get preferences.

A debate is going to be had throughout putting together these appropriations bills, and in each one of the bills, that debate will, to a degree, focus on whether President Biden gets his new committees or commissions in every government agency doing all that he can to highlight differences between people and judge people by where their ancestors came from.

□ 2015

Before I move on from this topic, I should point out that these people self-identify. Insofar as you hear that diversity is important to have a well-running company or a well-running government agency, in order to buy into that, the government, in deter-

mining whether or not you are a member of a preferred group, allows you to be a member of that group if you are maybe only a quarter or a half of that ancestry, which seems a little bit unusual.

You can be, for example, a quarter Mexican and have yourself classified as a person bringing a diverse view to the world, even though you perhaps have never set foot in Mexico and grew up in an average American suburb and even if people didn't know that you had a different background.

I think in a desire to cause more importance for this occupation of these diversity bureaucrats, and in an effort to drive up the number of people who supposedly need help from the government, we allow people to self-identify. People who are one-half or one-quarter members of a group get preferences of that group.

We allow the fiction to come into play that even though you have never stepped foot in the country of your ancestors—somebody comes here from the Philippines, and their grandchildren never step foot in the Philippines. They know very little about the country, but for diversity's sake, we are supposed to make sure we have a given number of people who apparently have the Filipino-American viewpoint of the world.

I think that is something that ought to be discussed, as well, before we continue down this path and give the Biden administration any more victories in these appropriations bills by hiring new bureaucrats to enforce the new laws.

These bureaucrats, people with majors in diversity, are not all hired by the government. They have become increasingly common in large industry. I think they are afraid of lawsuits or whatnot, so big businesses hire these people and decisions as to who is going to be hired are increasingly made in big business to meet the targets that these diversity specialists give people.

Of course, it can result, first of all, in hard feelings as people are judged not by their skills but, to a certain extent, by their ancestry.

I have talked before about what happens in other countries where we have affirmative action. Hard feelings develop over time. Sometimes they result in civil wars, as they did in Sri Lanka.

In any event, I think the efforts that the Biden administration is making to bring in new groups and to increase the apparent number of people who are advising our government agencies as to who to hire, before this goes up, it ought to be subject to an open debate.

It is not being debated. I think it is not being debated because the mainstream media has not explained to the American public the huge role that these groups play or these occupations play in personnel decisions, both in private businesses and in the government.

The other thing that I want to bring up is kind of a leftover from President Biden and his last State of the Union Address.

President Biden has talked about his respect for members of the trans community, and he has done what he can to highlight them in a positive light.

I want to bring to the public's attention a book I have read, "When Harry Became Sally," in which a discussion is made as to how we should handle people who come out as transgendered, particularly when they are young.

I think it is of interest when our society is deciding how to deal with these people in school, to deal with them medically, what the compassionate thing to do is. I think one thing that is not brought up enough when we talk about the transgender situation is that, left to their own devices, over about 90 percent of the young people who identify as transgender work their way out of it.

I don't think it has been adequately reported in the news media that other countries that went through this transgender situation just like America—I am talking about Great Britain, Sweden, Norway—have all backed away from embracing transgenderism in young people, which can include not just puberty blockers but things up to and including physical surgeries, having body parts removed even while people are minors. I think even a lot of people who have this done when they are adults regret it.

Nevertheless, the mainstream media and our President have largely encouraged people down this path and say they are fighting for them, giving people, I think, still more attention.

Mr. Speaker, when you consider that over 90 percent of the people who begin down this path break their way out of it, you would have to say that positive attention is going to slow down the decision of so many young people to stop going down the transgender path.

I don't think this has adequately been talked about in the media. President Biden and his Department of Education are doing what they can to try to force acceptance of this lifestyle on school districts. By forcing it on people, they have to realize they are going to create a situation in which more young people wind up doing medical things, some of which are irrevocable, cannot be undone.

I hope that President Biden will change his mind on this. I wish he would stop highlighting this community in a positive light because when you do that, I believe, you are causing people who are going to change their minds to not change their minds. One has to look at the long-term effect these people are having, particularly when you consider that over 90 percent of the people will not continue down that path unless perhaps they are encouraged to do so by people like the President of the United States.

In any event, those are three issues that I think we read about in the paper. I think only one side of all these three issues is too often presented, but I leave you, Mr. Speaker, with statistics on the number of people crossing

the border and whether we can continue down this path. I also leave you with a little bit of information as to the increasing role these race specialists play in society and a little more information regarding the efforts by the President and his administration to, I would argue, encourage people to go down the transgender path.

Mr. Speaker, these are my comments for the week, things that I hope the press corps picks up on a little bit to educate the public.

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

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 8 o'clock and 23 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 2154

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MOORE of Utah) at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.

CONFERENCE REPORT ON H.R. 2670, NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2024

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama submitted the following conference report and statement on the bill (H.R. 2670) to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

(For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2023, published in Book II.)

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2485. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Agreements Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of the United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Is-

lands, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1921(f); Public Law 108-188, Sec. 101(f); (117 Stat. 2725) (H. Doc. No. 118-87); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

EC-2486. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting Agreements Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of the United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, pursuant to 48 U.S.C. 1921(f); Public Law 108-188, Sec. 101(f); (117 Stat. 2725) (H. Doc. No. 118-88); jointly to the Committees on Natural Resources and Foreign Affairs, and ordered to be printed.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. WESTERMAN: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 2839. A bill to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-300). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. ROGERS of Alabama: Committee on Conference. Conference report on H.R. 2670. A bill to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (Rept. 118-301). Ordered to be printed.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. ISSA (for himself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6610. A bill to provide for the modernization of the passport issuance process, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. TURNER (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 6611. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to make certain reforms to the authorities under such Act, to reauthorize title VII of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BABIN (for himself, Mr. HERN, Mr. ROY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. POSEY, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. CRANE, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. TIFFANY, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. HUNT, and Mr. OGLES):

H.R. 6612. A bill to amend section 301 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to clarify those classes of individuals born in the United States who are nationals and citizens

of the United States at birth; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. KILMER, Mr. JAMES, Mr. CORREA, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. HAYES):

H.R. 6613. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish Regional School Safety Development Centers to provide consultation for schools to develop or improve a school safety plan based on evidence-based best practices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas (for himself and Mr. MCCAUL):

H.R. 6614. A bill to amend the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 relating to licensing transparency; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. BANKS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. WALTZ, and Mrs. HOUCHIN):

H.R. 6615. A bill to establish the Office of the Special Inspector General for Unlawful Discrimination in Higher Education within the Department of Education; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BOWMAN (for himself, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. FROST, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Ms. OMAR, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania):

H.R. 6616. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes, establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 6617. A bill to require a report on payments provided to the Taliban and congressional review of agreements signed with the Taliban; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. TITUS, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. OMAR, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, and Mr. MAGAZINER):

H.R. 6618. A bill to require the transfer of regulatory control of certain munitions exports from the Department of Commerce to the Department of State, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. CLOUD (for himself, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. BABIN, Mr. BRECHEEN, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. COLLINS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. GOOD of Virginia, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. LAMALFA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. ROY, Ms. VAN DUYN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. McCLAIN, Ms. GREENE of Georgia, Mr. OGLES, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. FRY):

H.R. 6619. A bill to prohibit the Department of Justice from bringing a civil action against a State under section 9 or 10 of the Act of March 3, 1899, for certain border security measures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 6620. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being provided to institutions of higher

education with endowment funds equaling or exceeding \$5,000,000,000, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas):

H.R. 6621. A bill to provide technical assistance for geographically underserved and distressed areas, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Mr. BEYER, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 6622. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. FITZGERALD):

H.R. 6623. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to allow for the registration of venture exchanges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. AMODEI, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CARL, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. CARBAJAL, and Mr. PALLONE):

H.R. 6624. A bill to amend the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act to provide rules for payments to Havlish Settling Judgment Creditors; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FRY (for himself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. DUNCAN, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. ROSE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. BIGGS, and Mr. POSEY):

H.R. 6625. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to submit a report about the effects on national security of the surveillance conducted by the People's Republic of China via the high-altitude surveillance balloon shot down in the airspace of the United States in February 2023, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 6626. A bill to take certain actions with respect to Saudi Arabia in response to the shootings that occurred at Naval Air Station Pensacola in Florida on December 6, 2019; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, and Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6627. A bill to reinstate pilots fired or forced to resign because of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GROTHMAN (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. STEFANK, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. TRONE, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. CISCOMANI, and Ms. VAN DUYN):

H.R. 6628. A bill to provide direct hire authority to the Director of the Bureau of Prisons; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subse-

quently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. HAYES (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ):

H.R. 6629. A bill to reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina (for himself and Ms. ADAMS):

H.R. 6630. A bill to prohibit individuals and entities from owning more than 75 single-family residences, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. KILMER (for himself, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMERE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, and Ms. MANNING):

H.R. 6631. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to recognize digital skills and digital literacy as critical adult education and literacy objectives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Mr. PAYNE, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois):

H.R. 6632. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to require the Secretary of Agriculture to make timely decisions on applications of retail food stores to accept benefits from recipients of supplemental nutrition assistance through on-line transactions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mrs. LUNA (for herself, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. MAST, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. MILLS, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. DUNN of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. DONALDS, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. GAETZ, Ms. LEE of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. SOTO, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6633. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 9355 113th Street in Seminole, Florida, as the "Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss Memorial Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. MCGARVEY (for himself, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. CASAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. DELUZZO, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. FROST, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MANNING, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. POCAN, Ms. PORTER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 6634. A bill to increase the capacity of the Department of Labor and labor enforcement agencies of States to address labor violations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 6635. A bill to prohibit the Department of Health and Human Services from treating pregnancy as an illness for purposes of approving abortion drugs; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 6636. A bill to ensure that women seeking an abortion are notified, before giving informed consent to receive an abortion, of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure and the major developmental characteristics of the unborn child; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. LAMALFA, Ms. BOEBERT, Mr. SELF, and Mr. HARRIS):

H.R. 6637. A bill to prohibit regulations implementing the Pregnant Workers Fairness Act from applying to abortion or the coverage of abortion or abortion-related services; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6638. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, adjust the number of cadets to be nominated to the United States Military Academy, United States Naval Academy, and United States Airforce Academy and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MULLIN (for himself, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Mr. GOMEZ):

H.R. 6639. A bill to amend the Community Services Block Grant Act to update the Federal poverty line, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PANETTA (for himself and Ms. LOFGREN):

H.R. 6640. A bill to secure the rights and dignity of marriage for Disabled Adult Children, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PINGREE (for herself, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. KILMER, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. MOYLAN, and Ms. HOYLE of Oregon):

H.R. 6641. A bill to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to establish a working waterfronts Task Force and working waterfronts grant and loan programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 6642. A bill to require the disclosure of foreign support provided to a recipient after the award of a research and development award, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, and in addition to the Committee on Intel-

ligence (Permanent Select), for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. PRESSLEY (for herself, Ms. BUSH, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. FROST, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TONKO, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia):

H.R. 6643. A bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky (for himself and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia):

H.R. 6644. A bill to amend title IV of the Federal Mine Safety and Health Act of 1977 to provide for the timely payment of black lung benefits pending liability determinations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. ROY (for himself and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama):

H.R. 6645. A bill to terminate membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6646. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the order in which the business credits are taken into account by corporations; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6647. A bill to strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6648. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to ensure consideration of affordable housing in the reconnecting communities pilot program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6649. A bill to facilitate non-motorized border crossings across the Gordie Howe International Bridge, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6650. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a credit for investment in Community Development Financial Institutions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Financial Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TIFFANY (for himself, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. STEIL, Mr. POCAN, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mr. GROTHMAN):

H.R. 6651. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 603 West 3rd Street in Necedah, Wisconsin, as the "Sergeant Kenneth E. Murphy Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Mr. ALLRED, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CHU, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. EVANS, Mr. FOSTER, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. GRJALVA, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. MEEKS, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NICKEL, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. POCAN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. SYKES, Mr. TAKANO, Ms. TITUS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. VELAZQUEZ, and Ms. WILSON of Florida):

H.R. 6652. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQI-owned businesses; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. MCCLAIN:

H. Res. 913. A resolution electing Members to certain standing committees of the House of Representatives; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself and Mr. NORCROSS):

H. Res. 915. A resolution urging the Government of Ukraine to review and modify its decision to suspend adoption by foreign nationals with a view to resuming such adoptions, particularly in cases where the mutual concerns of the Governments of Ukraine and of the United States can be substantially addressed; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H. Res. 916. A resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 625) to regulate large capacity ammunition feeding devices; to the Committee on Rules.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. ISSA:

H.R. 6610.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The legislation modernizes the system by which the State Department processes passport applications.

By Mr. TURNER:

H.R. 6611.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 provides, in part, that "Congress shall have the power to . . . provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States" and "To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers and all other powers vested by this constitution in the government of the United States."

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to make certain reforms to

the authorities under such Act, to reauthorize title VII of such Act, and for other purposes.

By Mr. BABIN:

H.R. 6612.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, section 8, clause 18; Article I, Section 8, Clause 4.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To clarify who is eligible for birthright citizenship.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 6613.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Grants to create school safety resource centers.

By Mr. JACKSON of Texas:

H.R. 6614.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To improve transparency with regards to export controls.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 6615.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

The single subject of this legislation is:

College admissions

By Mr. BOWMAN:

H.R. 6616.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

College athletes' right to organize

By Mr. BUCK:

H.R. 6617.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require a report on payments provided to the Taliban and congressional review of agreements signed with the Taliban.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 6618.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congressman Joaquin Castro

Constitutional Authority—Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. I, Sec. 8, Clause 18)

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have power . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for

The single subject of this legislation is:

Resolution reaffirming the United States commitment to respecting the sovereignty of Mexico and condemning calls for military action in Mexico without Mexico's consent and congressional authorization.

By Mr. CLOUD:

H.R. 6619.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To prevent the Department of Justice from utilizing the Rivers and Harbors Act to sue

any state that implements border security measures.

By Mr. CRANE:

H.R. 6620.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 (Necessary and Proper)

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 6621.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3; to regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Commerce

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 6622.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Defending American industries and workers.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 6623.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill provides for the creation of venture exchanges.

By Mr. FITZPATRICK:

H.R. 6624.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

US Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism (VSST) Fund

By Mr. FRY:

H.R. 6625.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign Surveillance

By Mr. GAETZ:

H.R. 6626.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution—to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

the Saudi Arabia December 6, 2019, Anti-Terror and Accountability Act is a single subject bill that would impose the single-subject rule on federal legislation.

By Ms. GREENE of Georgia:

H.R. 6627.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reinstate pilots fired or forced to resign because of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

By Mr. GROTHMAN:

H.R. 6628.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Hiring at BOP

By Mrs. HAYES:

H.R. 6629.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18, "To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To increase the authorization of the YouthBuild program, and to improve program services and flexibility.

By Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina:

H.R. 6630.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxes

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 6631.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

workforce development.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 6632.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Nutrition

By Mrs. LUNA:

H.R. 6633.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Post office renaming for Army SSG Ryan Christian Knauss

By Mr. MCGARVEY:

H.R. 6634.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 6635.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 6636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:

H.R. 6637.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I

The single subject of this legislation is:

Labor

By Mr. MOYLAN:

H.R. 6638.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article one of the United States Constitution Congress has the power to enact this legislation.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To increase the number of applicants from Guam to military service academs

By Mr. MULLIN:

H.R. 6639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of section 8 of article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Poverty

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 6640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is: Married Disabled Adult Child eligibility for services

By Ms. PINGREE:

H.R. 6641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Working Waterfronts

By Mr. POSEY:

H.R. 6642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill requires the disclosure of any foreign support from a country of concern or an entity of concern provided to a recipient or covered individual after receiving a federal research and development award.

By Ms. PRESSLEY:

H.R. 6643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill ends felony disenfranchisement to ensure citizens have the right to vote.

By Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky:

H.R. 6644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To allow miners with black lung to receive benefits from the Black Lung Disability Trust Fund while the Department of Labor works to determine the responsible mine operator.

By Mr. ROY:

H.R. 6645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Defunds the United Nations.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 6646.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify the order in which the business credits are taken into account by corporations.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To strengthen the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Infrastructure and Jobs Act to ensure consideration of affordable housing in the reconnecting communities pilot program.

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill mandates the U.S. Customs and Border Protection to streamline and expedite non-motorized border crossings, includ-

ing bicycles and pedestrians, on the Gordie Howe International Bridge. It also requires a report from the Comptroller General within two years of the bridge's opening, evaluating the progress and suggesting improvements or incentives for such non-motorized traffic

By Mr. THANEDAR:

H.R. 6650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill allows investors a business-related tax credit for investment in a Community Development Financial Institution (CDFI). The applicable percentage of such credit is 3% for the first 10 years of investment in a CDFI with a 1% increase after the initial credit allowance date and for investments without a fixed term or duration.

By Mr. TIFFANY:

H.R. 6651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

postal bill

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 6652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Small business loan data collection

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 33: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 38: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 41: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 175: Mr. ROUZER.

H.R. 177: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 190: Mr. GALLAGHER.

H.R. 451: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 533: Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 537: Mrs. LESKO.

H.R. 563: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 620: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 661: Mr. DUNN of Florida and Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H.R. 700: Ms. BROWN and Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 727: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 770: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

H.R. 807: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 895: Mrs. MCCLAIN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. CORREA.

H.R. 898: Mr. GOODEN of Texas.

H.R. 902: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 953: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 974: Ms. ESHOO and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 984: Mr. GALLAGHER and Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 1006: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1087: Mr. POCAN, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1088: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1097: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 1321: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 1322: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 1359: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1407: Ms. TLAIB, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Ms. SCHOLTEN.

H.R. 1437: Mr. KUSTOFF.

H.R. 1478: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 1483: Mr. LEVIN.

H.R. 1624: Mr. LANDSMAN.

H.R. 1634: Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia.

H.R. 1680: Ms. SLOTKIN.

H.R. 1770: Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1796: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1818: Mr. ALLEN and Ms. DE LA CRUZ.

H.R. 1838: Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2365: Mr. LANGWORTHY.

H.R. 2367: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 2447: Mr. MCGARVEY.

H.R. 2665: Ms. CROCKETT.

H.R. 2703: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 2722: Mr. NICKEL and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 2781: Mr. CRANE.

H.R. 2789: Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 2821: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 2871: Mr. TURNER.

H.R. 2923: Ms. BROWN and Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2949: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

H.R. 3005: Mr. LANGWORTHY and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3018: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. PORTER, Mr. TONKO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, and Mr. FROST.

H.R. 3019: Mr. MOONEY and Mr. CARTER of Georgia.

H.R. 3087: Mr. THANEDAR.

H.R. 3090: Mr. IVEY.

H.R. 3137: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 3238: Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 3240: Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3312: Ms. PETTERSEN.

H.R. 3376: Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 3381: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. MILLER of Ohio.

H.R. 3433: Ms. BUDZINSKI and Mr. ADERHOLT.

H.R. 3470: Mr. TRONE and Mr. LARSEN of Washington.

H.R. 3475: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. NADLER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Mr. NICKEL, Mr. IVEY, and Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 3492: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 3519: Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 3541: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 3566: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 3625: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 3654: Mr. SCHIFF.

H.R. 3662: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3713: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3749: Ms. MALLIOTAKIS.

H.R. 3759: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 3854: Ms. OMAR and Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 3933: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 3949: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 3970: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 3985: Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 4138: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 4175: Mr. MOOLENAAR and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 4184: Ms. BROWN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, and Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 4193: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 4202: Mr. SMITH of Washington.

H.R. 4261: Mr. BERGMAN.

H.R. 4306: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 4323: Mr. STEUBE.

H.R. 4335: Mr. SIMPSON, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LIEU, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. WILD, and Ms. WEXTON.

H.R. 4422: Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK, Ms. ESHOO, and Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 4519: Ms. PORTER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 4569: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 4704: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 4708: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 4713: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.

H.R. 4844: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.

H.R. 4886: Ms. SPANBERGER.

H.R. 4897: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SHERRILL, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 4937: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.

H.R. 4942: Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 4988: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 5003: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

- H.R. 5010: Ms. TOKUDA.
H.R. 5012: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5027: Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5030: Ms. SCHRIER and Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 5035: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 5041: Mr. CORREA, Ms. LEE of Florida, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. MFUME, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, and Ms. CLARKE of New York.
H.R. 5048: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5077: Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 5131: Mr. PANETTA.
H.R. 5141: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 5155: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 5192: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5308: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.
H.R. 5361: Ms. CHU.
H.R. 5408: Mrs. WAGNER, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. GROTHMAN, and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
H.R. 5455: Mr. VEASEY.
H.R. 5530: Mr. MCGARVEY and Mr. NEHLS.
H.R. 5547: Mr. HUDSON.
H.R. 5555: Mr. ADERHOLT and Mr. NUNN of Iowa.
H.R. 5563: Ms. TOKUDA and Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 5568: Ms. ADAMS, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 5569: Ms. SHERRILL.
H.R. 5585: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 5601: Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. TAKANO, and Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.
H.R. 5606: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 5608: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 5610: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5685: Mr. MFUME, Mr. MULLIN, and Mr. GALLEGRO.
H.R. 5686: Mrs. KIM of California, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. MAGAZINER, and Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 5757: Mr. SCHIFF.
H.R. 5762: Mrs. STEEL and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H.R. 5778: Mr. WITTMAN.
H.R. 5796: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. NORMAN.
H.R. 5799: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H.R. 5810: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 5822: Mr. FROST.
H.R. 5856: Mr. HARDER of California and Ms. SLOTKIN.
H.R. 5863: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 5867: Ms. SALAZAR.
H.R. 5871: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.
H.R. 5928: Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 5955: Mr. CASAR.
H.R. 5976: Mr. CLEAVER.
H.R. 5988: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 6031: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 6049: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 6072: Mr. ESPAILLAT.
H.R. 6101: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 6102: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. NORTON, and Mrs. FOUSHEE.
H.R. 6147: Mr. BLUMENAUER.
H.R. 6154: Ms. KUSTER.
H.R. 6156: Mr. MCGARVEY.
H.R. 6159: Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LAWLER, and Mr. GARAMENDI.
H.R. 6161: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 6175: Mr. NEWHOUSE and Mr. LOUDERMILK.
H.R. 6205: Ms. BONAMICI and Ms. SALINAS.
H.R. 6220: Mr. SMUCKER.
H.R. 6283: Mrs. HARSHBARGER.
H.R. 6318: Ms. OMAR.
H.R. 6319: Mr. EVANS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. LYNCH, and Mr. KEATING.
H.R. 6349: Mr. ALLRED.
H.R. 6377: Mr. POCAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. DELUZZIO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. PETERSEN, and Ms. CRAIG.
H.R. 6394: Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.
H.R. 6415: Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. HARDER of California, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. MOYLAN.
H.R. 6443: Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 6445: Mr. MASSIE, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. RUTHERFORD, and Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6465: Mr. BUCSHON.
H.R. 6470: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. PETERS, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. BALINT.
H.R. 6490: Ms. MATSUI.
H.R. 6492: Ms. PETERSEN.
H.R. 6516: Mr. LANGWORTHY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. PERRY.
H.R. 6543: Mrs. LESKO.
H.R. 6545: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.
H.R. 6558: Mr. BAIRD.
H.R. 6563: Mr. TIFFANY.
H.R. 6570: Ms. NORTON, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. TIFFANY, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. MCCLEINTOCK, Mr. ROY, and Mr. DUNCAN.
H.R. 6573: Mr. FINSTAD and Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 6578: Mr. LANGWORTHY.
H.R. 6585: Mr. MILLER of Ohio and Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 6586: Mr. WALTZ and Mr. MCCAUL.
H.R. 6593: Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. ADAMS, and Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 6594: Ms. ADAMS.
H.R. 6596: Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
H.R. 6598: Mr. D'ESPOSITO.
H.R. 6605: Mr. LAWLER.
H.J. Res. 12: Mr. ESTES.
H.J. Res. 13: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. KILDEE.
H.J. Res. 83: Mr. HUDSON.
H. Con. Res. 26: Mr. GOSAR.
H. Con. Res. 46: Mr. PAPPAS.
H. Res. 195: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Ms. LOFGREN.
H. Res. 198: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
H. Res. 270: Mr. PANETTA.
H. Res. 427: Mr. VASQUEZ.
H. Res. 527: Mr. LANDSMAN.
H. Res. 561: Mrs. HAYES.
H. Res. 738: Mr. THANEDAR.
H. Res. 765: Mr. LAWLER.
H. Res. 806: Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania and Ms. LEE of Florida.
H. Res. 830: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.
H. Res. 872: Mr. AMO, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. COSTA, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. SWALWELL.
H. Res. 879: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.
H. Res. 883: Mr. VAN DREW, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. MOONEY, Mr. EDWARDS, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.
H. Res. 895: Mr. GRIJALVA.
H. Res. 905: Mr. JAMES and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana.
H. Res. 907: Mr. LANDSMAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. HOYLE of Oregon, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. THANEDAR, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. ESCOBAR, and Mr. DELUZZIO.

NOTICE

For conference report and statement, see proceedings of the House of December 6, 2023, Published in Book II.



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No. 201

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Gracious God, during this season when we celebrate peace on Earth and good will, we pause to thank You for the gifts of Your blessings. Thank You for the blessing of Your presence that brightens this day, restores our faith, and fills us with peace. Thank You for the blessing of friends who support, encourage, and sustain us. Lord, thank You for the blessing of families who nurture and forgive and undergird us with love.

Thank You for the Members of this body for their love of liberty, for their desire to make a positive impact on our world, and for their commitment to You. Lord, guide them today so that Your will may be done on Earth, even as it is done in Heaven.

We pray in Your sacred Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

I pledge allegiance to the Flag of the United States of America, and to the Republic for which it stands, one nation under God, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, December 6, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable PETER WELCH, a Senator from the State of Vermont, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. WELCH thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

REMOVING EXTRANEANOUS LOOP-HOLES INSURING EVERY VETERAN EMERGENCY ACT—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, later this morning, I will join my Democratic colleagues on the floor to ask

unanimous consent to pass the assault weapons ban, among other gun safety legislation. I will have more to say before the unanimous consent request, but right now the scourge of gun violence in America is a national crisis.

I hope my Republican colleagues stand with us to take action that Americans demand.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, now, on Senator TUBERVILLE, yesterday, 10 months of pain and uncertainty finally came to an end for hundreds—hundreds—of military nominees and their families. Senator TUBERVILLE, after months of obstruction, stubbornness, and reckless disregard for military readiness, withdrew his blanket holds on over 400 generals and flag officers, and, in the span of just a few minutes of floor time, the Senate unanimously confirmed nearly every single one of them to their posts. Thank God, these military officers finally got the promotions they so rightfully earned, but it should not have taken so long.

If there is one word that underscores why we prevailed on Senator TUBERVILLE, it is persistence. For months, I said it would be up to our Republican colleagues to talk some sense into Senator TUBERVILLE and get him to relent in his holds. Senators ERNST and SULLIVAN stepped up to the plate and deserve a lot of commendation for their courage, for their strength.

And, as I predicted, the frustration and pressure on the senior Senator from Alabama eventually won out. We were persistent and persistent and persistent and held the line that military nominees should never, never become pawns to push a partisan agenda.

So let this be a warning. No one—no one—should attempt blanket holds on our military ever again.

After all the damage he caused, Senator TUBERVILLE has nothing—absolutely nothing—to show for his obstruction, except for the harm done to our military and the pain caused to

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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military families. His reckless strategy did not succeed, and if, in the future, others try to hold up military appointments to get their way, they, too, will fail. Again, let this be a warning that no one should ever hold up military appointments again.

We cannot come to any single Member's views, no matter how strongly felt. I don't doubt that Senator TUBERVILLE feels the issue very strongly opposite of what I feel, but when our military families are at stake, we should not use these strong feelings to hold them hostage. What the senior Senator from Alabama did through his holds was bring the Senate to a new low, and, in the end, it was all for nothing.

I want to thank my colleagues, on both sides of the aisle, who spoke in defense of our military families. I want to thank particularly Senator REED, the chairman of the Armed Services Committee, and Senator KLOBUCHAR, the chair of the Rules Committee. I also want to thank Senator SINEMA, who was instrumental in creating bipartisan support for our resolution. On the Republican side, I want to, once again, thank Senators ERNST and SULLIVAN for their courage in helping to break the logjam after so, so many months. Because Senators on both sides persisted and held the line, this sad chapter in the Senate is finally over.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now, on the supplemental, the question before the Senate today is simple yet momentous: Will Senators agree to begin debate—just a debate—on legislation to defend America's national security on an issue so important it goes to the actual preservation of Western and democratic values in the world. Are we willing to hold a discussion, here on the floor, about steps necessary to safeguard democracy, stand up to autocratic brutes, and respond to our adversaries with strength, or will Senators prevent us from moving forward over extremist border policies? Because, this afternoon, the Senate will hold a vote on whether or not to move forward on a national security supplemental.

At stake is America's safety, the safety of democracy, and the future of the war in Ukraine. As we have done throughout our history, the Senate should rush to the defense of democracy and stand up to autocratic brutes.

And I have promised my Republican colleagues that if they agree to move forward, I will give them a vote for a border package entirely of their choosing—no conditions. This is a golden opportunity for Republicans to present whatever border policy they want, and our side will not interfere with the construction of that amendment in any way.

It has been reported that Senate Republicans will make another attempt to craft a border proposal and share it with Democrats, because the last proposal was so far away from what any-

one could accept on our side. Well, I have a suggestion for my Republican colleagues: Vote with us to begin debate, and then bring that proposal to the floor as an amendment. We can debate it right here, right here on the Senate floor.

If Republicans vote no today and reject the opportunity to offer a border amendment, then what the heck is going on? Republicans said they want border. It is they who have injected border into the Ukraine issue, even though the two are unrelated. And now they are getting a golden opportunity to offer border at 60 votes. If that is not good enough for them, then what are they doing?

Let's not forget, Mr. President, that it was the Republican leader and others on the Republican side in the House and Senate, mainly from the hard right, who demanded that border and Ukraine be tied together. Well, we are willing to give them an amendment—that is what they have asked for—and now they are spurning that offer. Why hold up Ukraine aid if they can't even present a border package that can pass the Senate?

We are asking ourselves this question: Has border been nothing more than an excuse for the hard right to kill funding for Ukraine and too many other Republican Senators, who are not part of the hard right, are going along? I hope that is not true.

I hope Republicans vote yes and take up our offer on a border amendment at 60 votes because we don't have much time to keep negotiating off the floor if all we will do is go around in circles, which is what has happened over the last 3 weeks, despite the good will of negotiators. Democrats have spent 3 weeks in negotiation in good faith, trying to get somewhere on the border, to no avail.

We believe we should do something on border. In fact, the President's proposal, which is the base bill—which I am making the base bill—has very significant border provisions in it, particularly those talking about stopping the flow of fentanyl into this country by providing much more help at the ports of entry. We want to reach a middle ground with Republicans on border. It is important. But we cannot waste time on something like H.R. 2, which every single Democrat voted against, which could never pass the House, while the clock is ticking to get Ukraine the help it so desperately needs.

Now, I understand that this is frustrating for some of our Republican colleagues. I appreciate that the hard right may feel boxed in and be feeling the pressure that they can't come up with a package that can get only 11 Democrats if all of them vote for it. But the only way anything on border gets done is with votes from both sides of the aisle. That is how the Senate works.

So, again, I hope our Republican colleagues do the right thing for our coun-

try and vote in favor of debating the supplemental. I hope they take this free opportunity, this golden opportunity, to make a real, serious proposal on the border—though, in reality, they can propose whatever they want—and see if it can get the 60 votes that is always required in this type of legislation in the Senate.

If they make a serious offer on the border and it gets 60 votes, then the Senate will have spoken. If they cannot get 60 votes on a border proposal, then that should not prevent us from giving Ukraine the aid they so desperately need.

Let me repeat that again. If Republicans, who injected border into this whole debate, now can't come up with an amendment that can pass the Senate, they should not prevent us from giving Ukraine the aid it so desperately needs.

The world is watching. The world is watching what the Senate does today. You can bet, my colleagues, Vladimir Putin is watching. Hamas is certainly watching. Iran, President Xi, North Korea—all of our adversaries are closely watching. Let us do the right thing and move forward today.

AI INSIGHT FORUMS

Mr. President, now, today, on our AI Insight Forums, we will continue our work with our eighth and ninth bipartisan AI forums. The morning's Insight Forum will begin at 10:30 a.m. and focus on long-term risks associated with AI and how we can guard against AI doomsday scenarios.

This afternoon's Insight Forum will begin at 3 p.m. and focus on one of the most critical and urgent areas of AI national security. We will discuss the opportunities AI presents to bolster our national security and the risks if we fall behind the Chinese Government. It is in the Kennedy Caucus Room.

FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION

Mr. President, finally, on the FTC investigation of Exxon, last month, I wrote a letter, along with 20 other of my colleagues, urging the FTC to investigate Exxon's \$60 billion blockbuster merger with Pioneer, one of the largest mergers in the energy industry in two decades. Having the largest oil company merge with the largest oil producer in the Permian Basin is only going to do one thing: raise prices for the average consumer.

Well, I have good news. The FTC heeded our warning and announced yesterday that the FTC will closely review Exxon's proposed acquisition of Pioneer. It is welcome news for the American people because if the merger were to proceed, it would result in higher gas prices for families across the country. Profits for these big oil companies would soar, fueling stock buybacks, while everyday Americans struggle to fill up their tanks.

So this merger between Exxon and Pioneer has all the hallmarks of harmful anti-competitive effects, and I am glad the FTC is moving forward.

I yield the floor.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

NATIONAL SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, later today, Senate Republicans are going to deny cloture on a bill that fails to address America's top national security priorities in a serious way. As we have said for weeks, legislation that doesn't include policy changes to secure our borders will not pass the Senate.

The situation unfolding at our southern border on President Biden's watch is a crisis of historic proportions. It is glaring, it is acute, and it is undermining America's national security.

President Obama's DHS Secretary used to say that 1,000 border crossings a day "overwhelms the system." Today, they are reporting encountering over—listen to this—10,000 people a day down at the border—a large town's worth of illegal aliens each day. Thanks to a broken asylum and parole system, the vast majority of them are admitted into the country before their legal status is even determined.

Mr. President, 10,000 arrivals a day would mean a population the size of a middle-sized town in Kentucky every month—every month. The sheer volume has forced officials in the Tucson, AZ, sector, which has recently accounted for nearly 3,000 of those daily arrivals by itself, to shut down one port of entry altogether.

This is the crisis undermining America's national security right here at home, and today, some of our Democratic colleagues are showing just how little they want to do anything about it.

Senate Republicans know this isn't an either-or proposition. We know that national security begins with border security.

I have spent months highlighting the undeniable links between the threats we face in Europe, in the Middle East, and in the Indo-Pacific, but Democratic leadership appears to be telling us today that they are willing to risk each of these urgent priorities to avoid—avoid—fixing our own borders right here at home. Apparently, some of our colleagues would rather let Russia trample a sovereign nation in Europe than do what it takes to enforce America's own sovereign borders.

Now, it wasn't always like this. Democrats didn't always have such a hard time following the logic that national security begins right here at home.

I am reminded of the commission President Reagan set up in the mid-1980s to assess the importance of peace and security in the Western Hemisphere. It was a bipartisan exercise that included everyone from Henry Kissinger to the former chair of the DNC and the president of the AFL-CIO. The commission concluded that America's security in the world "depends on

the inherent security of its land borders" and that our adversaries would reap "a major strategic coup to impose on the United States the burden of defending our southern approaches."

"[A] major strategic coup" for our adversaries. A past generation of Democrats understood the logic implicitly when it pertained to the threat of Soviet influence. Well, that logic applies even more today to the instability, cartel violence, terror, and drugs pouring over our southern border.

But in today's Democratic Party, some of our colleagues appear to be so terrified of their radical base that they are convinced open borders are worth jeopardizing U.S. security around the world, that securing America's borders is less urgent than helping our partners defend theirs.

The Democratic leader has insisted repeatedly that border security is an important issue, but whatever our colleagues want to call the issue, their actions suggest they are not at all interested in actually solving it.

Demanding serious border policy changes isn't injecting an unrelated issue into the conversation. President Biden's own request wanted us to throw billions of dollars at this exact problem. Fixing a badly broken asylum and parole system isn't hijacking the supplemental; it is strengthening it. Securing our southern border isn't extraneous to our national security; it is essential.

I know some of our Democratic colleagues understand this. I know not all of them are beholden to the same radical base that demands open borders at home and supports an intifada abroad. I invite them to work with Republicans on meaningful, lasting border security.

But if today's vote is what it takes for the Democratic leader to recognize that Senate Republicans mean what we say, then let's vote, and then let's finally start meeting America's national security priorities, including right here at home.

COAL

Mr. President, now on another matter, for millions of Americans, expensive heating bills and rolling blackouts are becoming the hallmark of the holiday season under President Biden. So it came as no small surprise when the Biden administration's climate czar, John Kerry, proclaimed this week that no coal plants should be "permitted anywhere in the world"—"anywhere in the world." Goodness. Our former colleague may have bought himself applause from the jet-set crowd assembled at the conference, but his ban on coal would make energy even less reliable and affordable here at home.

As my colleague from West Virginia, Senator CAPITO, pointed out yesterday, many States in Middle America still rely on coal to keep their lights on. Kentucky, West Virginia, Wyoming, Missouri, Utah, North Dakota, Indiana, and Nebraska all use coal to generate over 50 percent of their electricity.

President Biden's handling of the economy is turning in dismal marks from working Americans. But the climate activists in his administration continue to wage war on the most affordable forms of American energy they rely on.

Unfortunately, Middle America is used to footing the bill for Washington's radical climate agenda. For 8 years under President Obama, Kentuckians watched the War on Coal kill jobs and cripple communities across Appalachia. These same communities continue to pay dearly under President Biden. Kentucky coal miner employment has never—never—recovered from the Obama-era coal purge. Hasty plans to phase out fossil fuels only force more miners into early retirement in Kentucky and threaten the livelihood of Middle America.

The sort of power grid failures we have seen in California, Texas, and Kentucky will become even more common if Democrats' full-speed-ahead climate strategy continues. Meanwhile, our top strategic adversary is scaling up coal production. Despite the Biden administration's pleading, China continues to forge ahead with new coal projects and resurrect retired plants. Time and again, the President's climate czar has happily accepted empty climate pledges from our adversaries at the expense of American jobs and job creators.

So Democrats can repeat their tired green energy talking points until the cows come home, but the reality for Americans is all the same: less reliable and more expensive energy this winter.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, 36 years ago, President Ronald Reagan stood at the Brandenburg Gate that separated East from West Berlin. He said to the General Secretary of the Communist Party of the Soviet Union:

Mr. Gorbachev, tear down this wall.

Only a few years after his historic speech, the Soviet Union collapsed,

bringing in decades—decades—of freedom and prosperity in Eastern Europe and a welcome end to the Cold War.

Now there comes a man named “Vladimir Putin” who is clumsily and dangerously trying to regain that dystopian Soviet glory with a bloody war in Ukraine.

So I can only wonder what President Reagan would be thinking now, with so many of his Republican Party Members refusing to support critical military assistance to keep Ukraine from falling to Russian tyranny.

Yes, we have other legislative needs in Congress, but refusing to support the forces of freedom in Ukraine in a war against a resurgent evil empire in the name of partisanship is nothing short of reckless.

It is not hard to understand how we got here. Putin gambled and lost a botched attempt to quickly overthrow Ukraine. Now he has to juggle a formidable Ukrainian resistance, huge losses of Russian conscript, isolation on the global stage, a struggling economy, domestic opposition, and an upcoming election in Russia that he needs to rig again to stay in power. Meanwhile, he has been branded a war criminal and has to carefully choose the nations that he visits so he isn't arrested on the spot.

So, given his tenuous position, what is one of his greatest opportunities for clinging to power? It is hope that the partisan chaos in the U.S. Congress will stall or end support for Ukraine. And make no mistake—the President of Ukraine told us point-blank when he visited here several months ago, in a private meeting in the Old Senate Chamber, that if the United States cuts off military assistance to Ukraine, his country will lose the war with Vladimir Putin.

That is what is at stake. The White House was clear. We know that Putin is watching this activity by Congress; so is China and so is Iran.

The White House was clear in warning that the United States is “out of money to support Ukraine in this fight.”

And President Zelenskyy told us the obvious: Ukraine will lose without American support.

So this is not an abstract political theater; what we do has consequences—global and historic consequences. As such, I implore my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, think long and hard about what President Reagan would say today about showing weakness to Vladimir Putin. Let's not flinch when it comes to standing up to such obvious threats to freedom.

It is time to pass President Biden's national security supplemental request. It is hard to imagine that we would actually let history record that we walked away from Ukraine at this moment. And it isn't over a debate of the merits of his defense of his country; it is over an unrelated issue: our border security.

It is obvious that we need to do something on our border. The number

of people presenting themselves for refugee status is at a record high. The system that was designed 60 years ago to deal with refugees never envisioned the volume of demands that we are facing on the border every single day, week, and month.

This is not unique to the United States. Refugees all around the world are mushrooming in size for a variety of reasons: conflicts, the war in the Middle East, the war in Ukraine, environmental changes. All of these have the world in flux. And many people are looking for safety, safety in countries like the United States.

I support the refugee system. I think it was designed at a time when we realized that turning away Jewish people in World War II was a stain on our reputation. We decided after World War II to enter into a pact with other countries around the world to accept refugees under certain circumstances, and we have lived by that ever since through Presidents—Republican and Democratic.

Now, we are being tested. We can meet that test. We can adjust our refugee system to the reality of today, and we can stop the abuse of the system that is taking place on the border. But we don't want to walk away from the very fundamental values of our country. It is trying to find that delicate balance between those values and the disorder that we face on the border that leads us to the point we are today.

I have been involved in immigration issues for as long as I have served in this Chamber, and I know how hard they are to negotiate. And to put this stark choice before the Senate of either finding a solution to a decades-old problem in a matter of days and hours or cutting off aid to Ukraine is a terrible choice.

It is a deadly choice for the people of Ukraine, and, sadly, it is a deadly choice for the dominance of the United States and shaping world opinion. I hope we find our senses and do it soon.

FOOD AND DRUG ADMINISTRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I have come to the floor many times to voice my frustration with the timid, ineffective job by the Food and Drug Administration in protecting American children and consumers from Big Tobacco. With new threats like vaping, the FDA has failed—utterly failed—to use its authority under the law to clear the market in the United States of unauthorized e-cigarettes. These addictive products are targeting children with sweet and fruity flavors. Yet the Food and Drug Administration has largely neglected its public health responsibility to regulate these products.

But, today, I want to discuss an area where the FDA can make progress that has the potential to save hundreds of thousands of lives. Last month, the FDA submitted a regulation to the White House for final review. This proposed regulation would ban the sale of menthol cigarettes and prohibit the use of flavorings in cigars.

Scientists have known for years that flavors play a powerful role in addicting people to tobacco by masking the harsh taste of their product, but when Congress banned the use of most flavors of tobacco in 2009, Big Tobacco secured a loophole for menthol. Why? Addiction is profitable.

For decades, menthol cigarettes, in particular, have been marketed aggressively to the African-American community in the United States, through free samples, sponsorship of cultural events, and heavy advertising. As a result, today—today—85 percent of Black smokers use menthol cigarettes, compared to 30 percent of White smokers.

It is part of the reason why Black adults are 30 percent more likely to die from heart disease and 50 percent more likely to die from stroke, compared to White Americans.

Right before Thanksgiving, I met in my office with Marsha Hike, who lives in Chicago. She was in Washington because November is Lung Cancer Awareness Month. She shared the fact that lung cancer is the No. 1 cause of cancer death in America. The No. 1 cause of cancer death in America: lung cancer, killing more Americans than breast cancer, prostate cancer, and colorectal cancer combined.

She met with me because six of her dearest family members have died from lung cancer due to smoking. I am glad there is greater attention today on topics like health disparities, equity, and the underlying factors for why Black people live sicker and die younger in America.

FDA's proposal would eliminate the racial disparity among cancer deaths between Black and White Americans, saving 650,000 lives.

I take this issue very personally. When I was a sophomore in high school, my father died of lung cancer. He was 53 years old. He spent 90 days—almost 100 days—in the hospital before he died, and I was by his bedside regularly. It made a profound impact on me as a high school kid, and little did I know that I would be able to follow up on this issue when I came to the House of Representatives by passing legislation to ban smoking on airplanes and taking Big Tobacco on ever since. The battle continues.

I know what the reaction is that the decision to ban menthol in cigarettes would be unpopular among the African-American population and may be reflected in the next vote. I think that is greatly exaggerated.

The majority of the Members of the Black caucus in Congress support this ban on menthol. And I want to make it clear, they are peddling stories—Big Tobacco is—that we are going to go out and arrest African Americans if they use menthol cigarettes, but that is not the case at all. The FDA proposal would take all of the action against the producers of the cigarettes, not the consumers. The consumers are not drawn into this in terms of any legal liability nor should they be.

The question is, do we care enough about these African Americans, their families, and their future to make an unpopular—to some—decision to move forward to make America a healthier, safer place to live? I hope we do.

I don't want any more families to experience the suffering that I went through and families do every day.

The Biden administration has an incredible track record of taking on big challenges and delivering. It has launched the Cancer Moonshot, created a new Federal research Agency, ARPA-H, to accelerate cures for patients. President Biden has taken on the gun lobby and Big Pharma and secured important victories with the passage last year of the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act and the Inflation Reduction Act.

Now is the time to do the same against Big Tobacco, which is responsible for nearly half a million deaths per year. I urge the Biden administration to look carefully at the proposal from the FDA and swiftly finalize its rules on menthol and flavored cigars, which will save lives and reduce suffering, especially for communities of color.

This is an issue that is personal to many Americans. We didn't choose it. Addiction led our family members to face illness and sometimes death. Are we going to do something for the next generation of African Americans who are being harassed in the advertising and marketing of this product to the detriment of their future?

I hope that President Biden will do that.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican whip.

BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, later today, the Senate will take a vote on whether or not to move to consideration of the national security supplemental bill. And make no mistake, this vote will fail. Not because Republicans oppose supporting our national security interests overseas but because Democrats are refusing to take seriously the national security crisis here at home.

From the beginning, Republicans have made it clear that any national security supplemental would have to address one of the biggest threats to our national security, the out-of-control illegal immigration at our southern border.

And when I say "out of control," just look at the numbers. Yesterday, 12,000 people were apprehended at our southern border trying to come into our country illegally—not including the "got-aways," not including the unknowns—over 12,000 people, which, I think, is an alltime, one-day high. Most ever. In history.

And think about that annualized. We are now talking about on the order of 4 million people annually coming across our southern border, being released into the country, coming across illegally.

When is this a crisis? This is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis. It has been that for a long time. But now—now it is a national security crisis because among those 12,000 people are some pretty unsavory characters.

There are people who are coming here for a better life, but there are a lot of people who are being apprehended now at our southern border. Some of whom are on the Terrorist Watchlist.

This is a crisis that needs to be dealt with, and it seems to be falling on deaf ears at the White House and among my colleagues here, Democratic colleagues in the U.S. Senate.

We have put forward meaningful ideas and solutions about how to deal with this, and yet crickets. Nobody seems to want to confront what is a major, major debacle at our southern border.

That is 12,000, one day—a new American record of people trying to come into this country illegally. Why? Because this administration doesn't seem to care or want to do anything about stopping or reducing that flow across our southern border.

It is a staggering number. And just to put it in perspective, Jeh Johnson, who was the Department of Homeland Security Secretary to President Obama, once said that a thousand a day would overwhelm the system—a thousand a day. He went on to say: I can't even comprehend what 4,000 a day would look like.

Yesterday was 12,000. Now, if you sustain that rate, annualize that rate, as I said, you are talking about 4 million people annually being released into this country.

And you have heard from countless now, not just Members on my side of the aisle or overcrowded communities on the southern border or members of the Customs and Border Patrol who are underwhelmed and underresourced and undermanned down there to deal with this crisis.

But you are hearing from cities in the interior of this country—large cities—who are complaining about not being able to deliver basic services to their constituents now because they are having to deal with a migrant inflow into their communities—New York City being one notable example. The mayor of New York City says he would have to freeze hiring police officers, he would have to close libraries, and cut education funding to keep up with this massive, massive inflow of people who are coming into this country who need to be cared for.

So let me just say, this is not an extraneous issue, which is what the Democrat leader suggested last week. Border security is a national security issue, and anyone who thinks that our Nation can be secure while we have hundreds of thousands of illegal immigrants pouring over our southern border each month needs to think again.

The month of October, 240,988 individuals were encountered at our south-

ern border. That was the highest October number ever recorded. But on top of that, the month of October saw an average of 1,000 "got-aways" per day, individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. That is 30,000 unidentified individuals entering our country in just 1 month—30,000.

And there is no telling how many unknown "got-aways"—these are known "got-aways"—how many unknown "got-aways" there were during that same period. And there is no question that some of those "got-aways" were dangerous individuals who should not be entering the country.

During fiscal year 2023, there were 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist who were apprehended attempting to illegally cross our southern border. That was fiscal year 2023, which ended September 30, 169 in 1 year.

Well, if the numbers continue to ramp up—and you look at the daily numbers we are encountering now, you know that number is going to go up significantly as well. Because why? People have figured out, you want to get into the United States, come across our southern border.

And thousands of what are known as—what we call special interest aliens, those individuals who may pose a threat to the United States, have been apprehended trying to illegally cross our southern border over the past 2 years.

Then there have been the criminals who are trying to make their way into the United States, and those range from drug traffickers to child predators. One border reporter noted last month:

Border Patrol's Del Rio Sector has arrested at least 21 child sex predators crossing illegally since the new fiscal year began on October 1.

Twenty-one child sex predators in a single sector of our southern border.

And, again, all of these numbers I am mentioning only refer to individuals who have actually been apprehended. With 30,000 unknown individuals entering the United States in October alone, there is no telling how many terrorists, how many criminals, how many other dangerous individuals have made their way into our country without our knowledge.

So I think it is fair to say that the issue of border security is not "extraneous" but is, in fact, fundamental to our national security and something that the Democrat leader ought to realize.

Indeed the fact that New York City, as I mentioned, is currently facing across-the-board cuts to its city services, including a staggering 13.5-percent cut to its police force—to its police force—as a result of the migrant crisis should be all the information the majority leader needs to realize that our current situation is not sustainable, even without the national security risk imposed by unchecked illegal immigration.

Now, I support aid to Israel, Taiwan, and Ukraine, and I believe it is in our

national security interest to support these allies. So I want to see us take up this national security supplemental, but national security begins at home. And we can't pass a bill to advance American interests abroad while ignoring the national security crisis at our own border. We owe the American people better than that.

And the Democrat leader needs to understand the Republicans are serious. We have said all along that this national security supplemental must address the national security crisis at our border, and we will continue to hold that principle.

And while we recognize that in a negotiation, neither side will get everything it wants, the final border security component in this supplemental must have real teeth. Cosmetic measures are not acceptable. We can't afford anything less than real solutions to our Nation's border crisis.

Ten thousand-plus individuals were encountered at our southern border on Sunday, another 10,000 on Monday. It went up to 11,000. And as I said yesterday, now 12,000 in a single day. Things are getting worse, not better. We have an obligation to do everything we can to get this crisis under control—this administration, as I said, something they have had no interest in doing.

So I will vote against moving the supplemental while it lacks serious border security policy changes, and I hope that today's failed vote will clearly demonstrate to our Democratic colleagues that there will be no national security supplemental without the kind of border security measures that we need to keep our Nation secure.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 25

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Judiciary Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 25 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there objection?

The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, Americans have a constitutional right to own a firearm. Every day people across Wyoming responsibly use their Second Amendment rights to keep and to bear arms. Today is about defending those rights against those on the other side of the aisle who wish to take them away from us.

Democrats are demanding that the American people give up their liberty. The Democrat legislation takes away a right, and it does not provide Americans security. Democrats want Washington to ban rifles and pistols because of the way they look. To do this, they describe semiautomatic rifles as assault rifles. They aren't. Any farmer, rancher, or outdoorsman in Wyoming can tell you. These rifles work the same way as popular shotguns and other rifles used for hunting and for personal protection. Instead of facing these facts, Democrats stick to demonizing rifles and disrespecting gun owners.

Democrat's ban on assault weapons is an assault on lawful gun owners. There is a contradiction at the center of the gun control debate. Democrats want to enact new laws on law-abiding citizens. At the same time, they ignore the lawbreakers. Almost every single page of the bill that is in front of us today adds new restrictions and new burdens on people who follow the law. It tells what you can buy, what you can't buy. It bans more than 205 rifles, shotguns, and pistols by name.

Republicans reject these unjustified and unconstitutional restrictions. Democrat's bumper-sticker solution to ban guns is not about safety; it is about restricting lawful gun ownership. It is about trying to label responsible gun owners as criminals. Democrats are the party of defunding the police and disarming the American people.

None of this makes our streets safer. None of this slows the crimewave in America. None of this solves the mental health crisis in our country. The focus should be on mental health, on school safety, and stricter enforcement of current laws. We want Americans to be safe in their communities, their homes, and their schools.

The legislation that the majority leader is proposing that is before us today goes way beyond that. I oppose any policies that jeopardize the Second Amendment rights of the people of Wyoming and people across this country. The Second Amendment is freedom's essential safeguard. Without it, there can be no liberty, and there can be no security.

So, Mr. President, I object.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. I know that the Senator from Alabama wants to speak. Could I ask the Senator from Alabama how long he wants to speak for?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Ten minutes.

Mr. SCHUMER. Well, we want to all speak seriatim, and I thought I was going to speak before this.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Would the Senator yield also to Senator DURBIN after me; is that all right?

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I yield.

Mr. SCHUMER. Thank you.

Mr. President, I just heard, unfortunately, our Senator from Wyoming object. Here are the facts: The scourge of

gun violence in America is a national crisis. The American people are sick and tired of enduring one mass shooting after another. They are sick and tired of vigils and moments of silence for family, friends, classmates, coworkers.

Today, Democrats move to pass the assault weapons ban to help rid our streets of these deadly weapons. I want to thank my colleagues who support this measure, particularly Senator DURBIN, chairman of the Judiciary Committee, as well as Senators MURPHY and BLUMENTHAL and WARNOCK, who organized today's efforts with me.

We already have a decade's worth of proof that a ban on military-style assault works and saves lives, plain and simple. After I led the passage of the assault weapons ban—I carried the bill in the House as a Congressman, alongside our late colleague Senator Feinstein, who carried it in the Senate. What happened? America saw a significant decrease in mass shootings and in gun deaths—a decrease.

Unsurprisingly, when that ban lapsed, there was a sudden and dramatic spike in mass shootings and deaths from those shootings. We must change that. We still feel the unquenchable suffering of the families of Sandy Hook, where 11 years ago next week 26 innocent lives were cut short by an automatic weapon. I still see the pictures of those little children, and I still remember—because I speak to them fairly recently—the parents who have a hole in their hearts forever because some madman with an assault weapon was able to kill 26 of them, one after the other.

We still feel the agony of places like Buffalo, where a year-and-a-half ago a gunman murdered 10 people in cold blood at a Tops grocery store. I was at that grocery store a few days later. I still feel their pain. We feel the pain of Uvalde, Las Vegas, El Paso. The list sadly goes on and on and on.

And we also take action today because of tragedies like the Long Island Rail Road massacre that happened 30 years ago tomorrow in my own backyard, the innocent people who lost their lives at the Maryland train station. It was the 533 train filled with commuters heading home from work—so many injured, six killed. My heart still sinks. And I will never forget hearing that news, the river of blood in the aisles of the commuter railroad train, just horrible.

By passing the assault weapons ban today, we can help save lives, get these weapons off our streets, and prevent future tragedies. So today Republicans face a choice, as they do every day. We want to say to our Republican friends: Stand with families fearing for their lives or stand with the gun lobby and block this assault weapons ban.

Just look at what happened the last time both sides worked together on commonsense gun safety measures. We did something many believed to be impossible. Under the leadership of Senator MURPHY, Senator DURBIN, Senator

BLUMENTHAL, and so many others, we passed the first major gun safety bill in three decades. While this bill was a long-overdue step in the right direction, we have to do a lot more.

Today, we have an opportunity to come together and pass another life-saving measure.

I yield to the Senator from Illinois, Mr. DURBIN, the chair of the Judiciary Committee.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SCHUMER for his remarks.

Imagine, if you will a family event that you look forward to each year. That was the Fourth of July parade in Highland Park, IL.

Highland Park, a leafy suburb of Chicago, is a wonderful community, truly a community. And every year on the Fourth of July, families ask their sons and daughters to put on that patriotic T-shirt, carry the little flag, stand out and enjoy this commemoration of the birth of the United States of America.

Well, a little over a year ago, that Fourth of July parade became a terrible day for so many families.

Last year, in Highland Park, IL, a shooter on a rooftop, with an assault rifle, was able to fire 83 rounds in 60 seconds—83 rounds in 60 seconds—killing 7 and wounding dozens before law enforcement could even identify where he was. One of those was a little 8-year-old boy, a twin, who will be unfortunately disabled for the rest of his life because of the injuries that he sustained.

This mass shooting in my home State of Illinois was one of hundreds across America last year. Since 2020, the United States has suffered from over 600 mass shootings every year, almost 2 a day.

I ask those who are listening to my remarks to reflect on one fact: There is no other country on Earth not engaged in active war where this type of killing occurs on a daily basis.

In Highland Park and in communities across America, shooters have used military-style assault weapons to cause irreversible harm in just a matter of minutes.

I listened to my friend from Wyoming object to the effort to bring this legislation to the floor and cite the fact that we were being disrespectful to gun owners. He made reference to ranchers and farmers in his State and how it is important for them to have firearms. I don't quarrel with that, but I do have to ask, in all seriousness: 83 rounds in 60 seconds? That is what a farmer needs? That is what a rancher needs? I think not. This is a military weapon designed to kill people. That is it. It is designed to kill massive numbers of people. I don't think that is part of farming or ranching in modern America.

Already this year, there have been 627 mass shootings, including the October 25 attack in Lewiston, ME, where a gunman opened fire and killed 18 people. Literally, the entire State of Maine was on alert, wondering if this shooter would have another victim.

Americans are rightfully afraid when they see their friends and neighbors killed in schools, in places of worship, in bowling alleys, at work, at the mall, at grocery stores. People are asking: What is safe? Mothers and fathers are asking: Is it safe to send our children to school?

Is it safe to send their children to school?

What can we do to stop this madness? It is madness. Firearms are now the leading cause of death of children in the United States. Firearms—the leading cause of death of children in the United States of America.

Mass shootings with assault weapons are a uniquely American phenomenon. Continuing to allow firearms meant for war to be used on the streets is disgraceful.

Last year, Congress took critical steps on gun safety reform with the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, but we must do more. When a shooter is armed with an assault weapon, the number of deaths in a mass shooting is, on average, twice as high. If we can prevent that many deaths when these tragedies strike by passing an assault weapons ban, what are we waiting for?

Finally, I would like to take a moment to talk about my former colleague and true trailblazer, the late Senator Dianne Feinstein, whose voice and leadership in this fight is an inspiration to us all.

Senator Feinstein experienced the devastation of gun violence firsthand the day that George Moscone and Supervisor Harvey Milk were gunned down in the San Francisco City Hall. That was carved into her memory and inspired her response.

In 1994, an assault weapons ban was passed and considered a major step forward. Senator Feinstein's work in the Senate and then Congressman CHUCK SCHUMER's work in the House made it a reality. Congress failed to reauthorize this critical legislation—a big mistake.

Today, we can honor Senator Feinstein's legacy with the lives we will save by bringing forward this bill. After Highland Park, I said that I hope, for our children's sake, we don't run away from the problem. That community and so many others are counting on us to stand up and face this issue head on. I urge my colleagues to unite and do what is right for the safety of the American people. Let's pass the assault weapons ban.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Alabama.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, I come to the floor today to talk about the military's new illegal abortion policy.

Last November, I got word from the Pentagon that it was planning on replacing a 40-year law that was passed in this building, about abortion in our military, that has worked perfectly for 40 years—no complaints. But our Presi-

dent, in his wisdom, decided to change that abortion policy with a memo.

So, because of that, I warned the Pentagon: Don't do this. Send this new policy through the Senate, and let's vote on it. Let's represent our colleagues. Let's represent the people back home who sent us up here. They elect us to do that, to make decisions for them, to represent them.

I said in writing that, if they imposed this new policy, I would put a hold on senior nominations in the military. That is the only power that we have in the minority to get the attention of the majority here in the Senate.

I hated to do it. These people needed promotions, but somebody needs to wake up in the White House and the Pentagon that they cannot dictate policy here in the U.S. Senate.

Send it over. Let's vote on it.

So I put a hold, 11 months ago, on admirals and generals and civil nominees. A few months went by—a few months being 11—and we have had that hold ever since they put this policy in place.

But somebody had to stand up to what was going on. So I did it. I stood up, knowing that I am 100 percent military. My dad was in the military. I was a military brat. I believe in our military. It is the No. 1 institution in this country because, if we don't have peace and security for the American citizens, we are in trouble.

Secretary Austin knew that I would hold these nominations. He knew it, but he decided to go ahead and do it anyway. It was his choice. The current leadership in the Pentagon seems to think that taxpayer-funded abortion is more important than military nominations.

Now, let's get this straight. This was in a policy that we had for 40 years that was about rape, incest, and harm to the mom. It had worked for 40 years, but they decided to change that because they thought they could without the consent of the Senate.

Since then, there has been absolutely no negotiation from my Democratic colleagues or the Biden administration. I have had a brief phone call a couple of times with the Secretary of Defense, but no negotiations at all. You would think, if they were really concerned about our military in a trying time in which we have all of the world which they have created, that they would have called me: Let's talk about this. Let's work it out. We need promotions.

Zero. Zero communications. I have been willing to negotiate the entire time.

So, instead, the Democrats have spent 11 months attacking me for trying to get them to do the right thing and to stand up for our military. No, they didn't want any of that. They wanted it their way or the highway.

Unfortunately, last month, even some of my Republican colleagues attacked me—and attacked me personally—here on this floor. I could see how this thing was going. They call themselves, you know, military—people

that support the military. There is nobody, again, who supports the military any more than me. But they are currently in the military, and they were standing up for their colleagues, which is fine. But I can stand and we all can stand for the life of the unborn and for our military. You can do both.

Unfortunately, the Democrats don't want to do that. They do not like the unborn, and they don't care anything about the military, or they would have done something about this. They were saying these guys and women need promotions. Well, these young unborn will never have a chance for a promotion because they want to kill them before they are born, which is absolutely amazing to me.

I have been asking the Pentagon to support evidence of changing this policy, again, for almost a year. They said it is because of recruiting: We need to be able to recruit more people, more women, because we need a better abortion policy.

Again, there was zero evidence that this was going to help in recruiting. And, folks, recruiting in the military has been an absolute, total disaster—the worst in the history of this country. We don't have anybody—hardly anybody—who wants to join a volunteer military. It has only gotten worse since this policy went into effect, which they started in February.

I have asked the Pentagon how many people have used this policy since it has gone into place. They refused to answer. They have given me no information at all.

I have also explained on this floor many times that this policy is illegal. Now, if it was sent over here and we voted on it and it passed, it is what it is. But that didn't happen. It wasn't going to happen because they didn't have the votes. They didn't have the votes to pass it. So we have an immoral, illegal policy that has no basis in facts.

The world is a much more dangerous place today because of some of the things that have happened, such as this abortion policy being put in by Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER himself. It has become much more dangerous, even since we put this policy in place last year.

Over the last 3 years, we have seen some of the worst humiliations in the history of our military. President Biden waved the white flag of surrender in Afghanistan: We are leaving; we want out. That is without even helping people who are Americans and who have helped Americans for 20 years. We abandoned them.

Just 2 months later, Vladimir Putin began massing forces on his border with Ukraine. I went to Ukraine right before the war started in Ukraine and talked to President Zelenskyy himself, who said: We need help. We need people at the border. If you will send materials, they won't come in.

This administration wouldn't listen. We got out of the way and let them

come in. Since then, by the way, we spent 100 billion of the taxpayer dollars. Now we want to spend \$100 billion more. Joe Biden failed to deter President Putin.

Joe Biden failed to deter Hamas because of his support of Iran—his appeasement of Iran for the last 3 years, giving them money. Iran is flush with cash now. Hamas is one of their proxies. Joe Biden has been softer on Iran than any President in American history. There is no question that America is less safe today than it was before Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER took control of Washington, DC. There is no question. The facts speak for themselves.

We have weakened our military, and Democrats in Congress have been more than happy to go along with all of these policies. There are no complaints from my Democratic colleagues.

I will just mention a few examples.

Joe Biden drove out 8,000—just think about this. We drove out 8,000 people in the military because they would not take a vaccine—8,000 people who love this country. Democrats in the Senate refused to reinstate them and give them backpay when we voted on it about a year ago. Now the Pentagon and my colleagues are begging them to please come back. We can't get anybody to take a job in the military. Please come back. It is no surprise that most of these heroes whom we ran out because of the vaccine will not come back.

Now, I heard that Senator DURBIN now wants illegal immigrants to serve in the military because we can't find enough Americans.

Did I just not hear on the floor that Senator DURBIN and Senator SCHUMER are against assault weapons?

I heard that. Everybody has got their opinion. But they want to turn around and give an assault weapon to a Chinese or a Russian or Iranian who is coming into this country illegally to protect the American citizens in the United States of America. Have we lost our minds? We have absolutely lost it when it comes to protecting the citizens of this country.

Is anybody in the White House asking why we can't recruit anymore? It is absolutely amazing to me.

Here is another example. Our Navy is not building enough ships that are required by law—that we passed. We are not building them. We are worried more about climate change and EV cars.

Folks, we had better start protecting our borders and our country or we are not going to have a country. I have never seen anything like it. The Pentagon has become more distracted from its core mission by things like diversity, equity, and inclusion. Hmm. The Pentagon just asked for \$114 million.

Now, I have been told during these last 11 months when I have been attacked by the Democrats—and I have been attacked every day by the Democrats: Oh, this is not a “woke” mili-

tary. Wait a minute. We are not teaching social justice programs in the military, but we want \$114 million more to give for diversity, equity, and inclusion. We don't even know how much the abortion travel memo has cost.

More and more veterans are telling their kids: Don't join this woke military. I hear it every time I go out on the road and talk to groups of Democrats, Republicans, and Independents. I mean, it is not about party. It is about an institution that has been sacred to all of us in this country for 247 years, but now it is under attack. It is under attack by the politicians. This list goes on and on about the problems in the military. It is an absolute disaster.

Then, last week, Senator SCHUMER stooped to a new low. The House and the Senate, every year, pass a budget independently. Then we bring it together, and we vote on the discrepancies to build one bill together with the House—voted on by people on each side. I was involved in that, but it was a sham. The conference is supposed to report it out as a single bill after we put it together, but we had no vote. We had no vote. The conference committee was just brought in for pictures. All of the confirmations were done by the leadership, and Senator SCHUMER got the No. 1 vote. The abortion policy was on the House side. It got kicked out. We were supposed to vote on it. I had the votes to get it done, but he knew that; so now we have an illegal abortion policy. This bill was written in the back rooms, which is like a lot of things that are done here, not by many but by a few.

I came here to represent the people of Alabama. If you are not given a vote, why even send people up here? I didn't come here to outsource my job to the Pentagon or the White House or, frankly, to the leadership of either side—it doesn't make any difference—Democrat or Republican.

This issue of taxpayer-funded abortion could have been resolved through the NDAA, and whatever the outcome, I am fine; but bring it to the floor, and let's vote on it. That is our job. But that doesn't happen. It is not happening because Senator SCHUMER knew that he couldn't get it passed. That is how DC works. Abortion is so important to Senator SCHUMER that he is not letting us vote on this. Therefore, there no longer appears to be any short-term path to ending the Pentagon's illegal abortion policy. Some other policy will take time for me to work through the process, but that doesn't happen overnight.

So, yesterday, I announced that I would change my tactics and let the promotions go through—promotions that they needed, that our military needed. But, again, Senator SCHUMER and his colleagues could care less. They held their feet to the fire—no negotiation. But I am going to continue to hold the four-star generals.

People say: Why would you insist on holding the four stars? We have got 11 of them.

Today, we have 44 four-stars in the military. In World War II, we had 7—44 to 7. We had 12 million with 7 four-stars. Today, we have 44 four-stars with 2 million. It doesn't make sense—too many chiefs. So we are going to hold those four stars. We can bring them up one at a time, but they need to be vetted. We need to know who is running our military. These jobs are too important to rubberstamp.

We need to keep fighting to make our military stronger and stronger. The fight for the integrity of our military leadership will continue as long as I am here. The fight to keep politics out of the most sacred institution will continue. The fight to protect Senate and executive branch overreach will continue. Senator SCHUMER can rig it all he wants, but this fight is not over. We will continue to take it to the American people because elections have consequences; and don't think next year's is not very, very important.

I am not going to stop fighting for these things, and I am not going to stop fighting for the American people. That is the reason we are here. A lot of people forget that.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I sit here as I have listened to Senator TUBERVILLE say that the world is a more dangerous place. He has spoken about how we have weakened our military. Senator TUBERVILLE is right on that, and one of the principal reasons is because of Senator TUBERVILLE's own actions. He has held up hundreds of military nominations, hundreds of our military leaders, who have not made it to the posts they were assigned to.

It is clear that it was a grave mistake for one Senator to hold our military promotion system hostage over his personal disagreement with a Department of Defense policy. We need our commanders in the Pacific to deter China and our service vice chiefs to lead the military. I am relieved that he has released most of his holds, but he continues to weaken our military readiness and to undermine both recruiting and retention.

The Senate should not go home for the holidays until we confirm the remaining nominees. This Senator has held up nominations for nearly a year. It undermines our national defense, and it is unfair to our military and to our military families. He insults our military, and then he turns around and tries to blame President Biden for his own actions. The hypocrisy of this Senator is truly breathtaking. We have got to stay, and we have got to get these military leaders confirmed.

ASSAULT WEAPONS BAN

Right now, Mr. President, we are seeing one of the deadliest years of gun violence in recent history. There have been more than 600 mass shootings since the beginning of this year alone. That is nearly two mass shootings a

day. And assault weapons have become the firearm of choice in more and more mass shootings over the decades. Assault weapons kill with deadly efficiency. When an assault weapon is used in a shooting, more than double the number of people on average are shot and more than 50 percent are killed.

Let me be clear: These military-style assault weapons are weapons of war, and they have no place in our communities. Our kids are growing up seeing military rifles in civilian hands on the streets and in their classrooms. Since 2011, the rate of children dying from firearms has skyrocketed by nearly 90 percent.

Enough is enough. It has never been more obvious that Congress needs to ban assault weapons. This isn't some farfetched idea. We have tried it. Senator Dianne Feinstein championed an assault weapons ban, and she got it passed into law. It was in place for a full decade—from 1994 to 2004—and it worked. Researchers from Quinnipiac University, from the NYU School of Medicine, and more have found that, while the ban was in place, there was a meaningful reduction in the number of mass shootings. But the law sunsetted in 2004; and in the following two decades, there have been more and more and more mass shootings.

Today, we must act to reinstate a national ban on assault weapons. It is hard to overstate the urgency of this issue. From Sandy Hook to Parkland and from Orlando to Uvalde, these horrific mass shootings all involved an assault weapon. This fall shooting in Lewiston, ME, also involved a powerful assault rifle and was the deadliest shooting of this year.

After each of these tragedies, Americans ask: What will it take for Congress to act? How many more communities and how many more families will lose loved ones before the laws are changed?

We mourn the individuals lost to gun violence. We mourn the families left behind when a beloved son or daughter or mom or dad is cut down by gun violence, and we mourn the communities torn apart by gun violence. But they don't need our thoughts and prayers nearly as much as they need Congress to do its job and take action.

We have shown we can act in moments of crisis. Last year, after 21 children and teachers were killed in Uvalde, we passed the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act. That was the most sweeping gun violence prevention legislation in nearly 30 years, but it didn't go far enough. This is another moment of crisis. Today, we have another chance, with this vote, to make it easier for Americans to move through their daily lives without fear of being gunned down by weapons of war.

I urge Congress to reinstate the assault weapons ban that Senator Feinstein secured 30 years ago and that would help save lives today.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, I also am here to talk about gun violence, but before I get to that, I want to address some of the comments we heard from Senator TUBERVILLE.

I think the people of this country and the people who are visiting our Chamber today need to understand that, for 10 months, Senator TUBERVILLE has been playing politics. He has literally held the entire—entire—military chain of command hostage. He was offered a vote on his policy; he turned it down. He was the subject of a rules exception passed through my committee on a 9–7 vote that would have put all of the nominations together. Even then, he kept standing his ground.

Finally, when he realized that a number of his Republican colleagues who came to the floor repeatedly were going to vote for that change, he finally relented. But it was the words of the military families and the veterans' families that made the biggest difference—the spouses who had put their own jobs on hold, who had left their jobs teaching school because they thought they were going to move, and the people who didn't even know where to put their parents in assisted living because they didn't know. These are military families who are serving our country.

And national security? He held up numerous key personnel at a time when there are conflicts all over the world.

Still, it is important to note, which he admitted on the floor today, he is holding up 11 four-star officers, including the head of CYBERCOM, at a time when Vladimir Putin and other tyrants see that cyber as a weapon of war. He is holding up the commander—the commander—of the Pacific Air command. So he continues his hold.

And, yes, we will not go home for Christmas until we finish our work and get through these 11 additional officers being held.

Let me just end this moment by quoting him from the hallways yesterday from a reporter. He was asked about this.

He said:

I have loved to have five downs in football instead of four, but you can't do it. It's got to be fair for everybody.

He was asked if he had regrets.

It was pretty much a draw. I mean, they didn't get what they wanted.

Really? Who is "they"? I guess the "they" are the military members, the servicemembers, who serve our country.

And my last message on this front is that this is not a game, Senator TUBERVILLE. This is not a game. This is not a football game. These are real people's lives and the security of our country, and I am pleased that we have gotten through these 425 nominees, but there are clearly more to go.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 494

Mr. President, on the subject of gun violence, it seems we know as Americans that, every week, there is another

tragedy, whether it is in Maine, whether it is a bowling alley, whether it is a Fourth of July parade in Highland Park or at a school in Nashville.

Earlier this year, by chance, I was in Nashville in a bookstore only a week after that school shooting. A mother came up to me in the middle of the aisle, and she was sobbing. She explained that her daughter was the best friend of one of the kids who was killed. She took her phone out and showed me, in real time, that morning, the text chains of the moms who were planning a jazz fundraiser at the school and for the school when the news came out.

You could see the texts of these 20 or so moms, saying: Well, that must not be true. It is just something on social media.

Well, no. I hear the sirens right now. Well, no. I hear it is true. I see the police cars going by.

One of the moms: I am going over there right now. The text chain goes on and on and on, and then you start seeing the text “Haley is OK. Hallelujah, she’s fine”; the names of the kids, as they found out hours later if they were OK. The last text is “We lost Evie.”

That, for me, was the real moment that so many parents across this country experience when their kids are just going to school.

This week, we passed a grim milestone. We have now had more gun-related mass killings this year than any year since 2006. Nearly 40,000 Americans have lost their lives to gun violence this year alone.

So we call on our colleagues today to say enough is enough. We know what the solutions are. We know there is not just one solution for each kind of gun violence incident.

I come from a State with a time-honored tradition of hunting and fishing, so when I look at these gun proposals, I always ask myself, would this proposal hurt my Uncle Dick and his deer stand? No. He doesn’t need an AK-47 to go deer hunting.

That is why nearly two-thirds of Americans, including many Republicans, support reinstating an assault weapons ban. That is why over 80 percent of Americans support expanding background checks and closing dangerous loopholes, as we did with Senator MURPHY and many other Senators, leadership—my provision to keep guns away from domestic abusers. We must pass the Background Check Expansion Act, led by Senator MURPHY, which would close the dangerous gun show loophole, which allows unlicensed gun dealers, such as those at gun shows, to sell a firearm without conducting a background check. These are commonsense bills.

Americans are with us, and we simply cannot sit back and do nothing while gun violence shatters families and neighborhoods across the country.

We had a moment last year, and we passed a bipartisan bill. We thank our Republican colleagues who joined us on

this bill. But now we know there is more to do—just ask that mom in Nashville.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PADILLA). The Senator from Georgia.

Mr. WARNOCK. Mr. President, I rise today because we are living in a nation besieged by gun violence.

So far this year, our Nation has experienced 630 mass shootings. This is day No. 340 in the year 2023, so 340 days, 630 mass shootings. That is nearly twice as many mass shootings as we have seen days. Our precious children are afraid to go to school. They are worried that their classroom may be the next Robb Elementary, Marjory Stoneman Douglas, or Sandy Hook, as we remember that somber anniversary.

I heard one of my colleagues, the Senator from Wyoming, earlier today say: They are trying to take our freedoms away. We have heard that a lot from folks on the other side: They are trying to take our freedoms away. It is a strange freedom that regularly sends our children into lockdown. What kind of freedom is that?

According to the Gun Violence Archive, we have lost over 1,500 children to gun violence this year. I think that there is a kind of unspoken assumption, as we have been pushing for commonsense gun safety and have gotten very little movement in Congress—I think the unspoken assumption is that this will not visit me; it will not happen to my family. But when you consider that there have been 630 mass shootings already this year, sadly, the chances are quite good that this could visit any one of us.

We ought to do our work here in the Congress as if we are protecting our own families because when we look out for other people’s families, when we look out for other people’s children, we look out for our own, and it could visit any one of us.

We act as if this is normal, business as usual. What legislative action has the Senate passed to address this epidemic of gun violence? The Senate actually voted to give less information—less information—to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Keep in mind that according to a 2023 FOX News poll, 87 percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks. Listen. Let me say that again. According to a FOX News poll, 87 percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks. So they present this as if it is an argument between Democrats and Republicans. Really, it is an argument between Washington and craven politicians and ordinary people every day who are just trying to live their lives in safety.

There is a broadening gap between what Americans want and what they can get from their government. So, at root, this is a democracy problem. The question is, Who owns our democracy and at what cost to our children and to

our families? So we have a moral obligation not to turn away.

Across the country, outside of Washington, there is widespread agreement that Congress needs to enact commonsense—commonsense—gun safety solutions. Eighty-seven percent of Americans believe that we ought to have universal background checks.

Every day, I hear from Georgians who are sick and tired of losing people they love to gun violence. As a pastor, I presided over the funerals. And it begs me to ask, how is it that we can’t keep our own people alive? What kind of Nation tells its children that the only thing we can do in the wake of this crisis is to teach you how to hide?

Last year, for the first time in 30 years, we were able to pass modest but meaningful gun safety legislation, but it is not nearly enough, and it took 30 years just to do that.

We are all set to go home later this month to spend a few weeks—safely, I hope—with our loved ones. I encourage all of my colleagues to reflect on this question: Are we going to let other people’s loved ones continue to die by the tens of thousands and let our babies get killed in their classrooms for another 30 years before we choose to act?

The time is always right to do what is right, Dr. King taught us, and that time is now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. President, I would like to thank Senator WARNOCK and others for coming to the floor today to raise this truly existential crisis, put it in front of our colleagues.

I have lost count of the number of times I have come down to the floor of the Senate to talk about this immoral anomaly in which you are subject to the risk of death by gunshot wound in the United States at a rate 10 times higher than any other high-income nation.

I wish there were a truly complicated set of factors that play into the reason why we have so much more gun violence here than in other nations, but it probably isn’t that complicated. We don’t have more mental illness in this country. We don’t spend less money on law enforcement. We don’t have angrier people. We just have a lot more guns, and we are much more permissive in this country about allowing felons, dangerous people, and the mentally ill to get their hands on guns, and we are much more permissive around the question of which kinds of guns get in the hands of private citizens, especially guns that are designed to kill as many human beings as quickly as possible.

As you can imagine, because I have a pretty high profile on this issue, when I am back in my State, I get confronted a lot by supporters of the Second Amendment, NRA members, who want to have a conversation with me about why I believe what I believe. That conversation normally starts with the assumption that I want to

take guns away or ammunition away from law-abiding gun owners.

Almost without exception, when I get confronted by somebody who wants to talk about guns with me, who comes from that gun-rights side of the debate, as quickly as I can get the debate to background checks is when we start agreeing. I have found very few of those conversations in Connecticut where, even in the most heated of arguments, we don't find quick agreement on the simple idea that before you buy a gun, you should have to prove that you are not a criminal or you are not seriously mentally ill. Why? Because law-abiding gun owners have gone through background checks. They know that in 90 percent of the cases, those background checks are processed instantaneously, while you are in the store. For most of the people who are talking to me who aren't mentally ill and who don't have criminal histories, that is their only experience, is that a background check is not a barrier to purchasing a gun.

So it is just not surprising to me to hear the data that Senator WARNOCK is talking about—90 percent of Americans supporting universal background checks, checks on every gun sale; 89 percent of Republicans, 89 percent of gun owners, 70 percent of NRA members—because even the gun owners, even the people who feel so fired up about this issue that they want to come talk to me in the middle of a county fair, were not disagreeing about that simple policy—just make sure that people who shouldn't have guns don't get their hands on them.

Some people will say: Well, it is a hassle. It is an unreasonable barrier.

Well, I just told you that in 90 percent of the cases, they are resolved instantaneously. In the 10 percent of cases where it takes more than 5 minutes, that is normally because there is something on that person's record that we need to find out. What we know is that there have been millions of gun purchases that have been denied because felons or seriously mentally ill individuals did try to buy those guns.

But we also know that 99 percent of Americans live within 10 miles of a gun store. There are 60,000 licensed gun dealers across this country who can perform background checks. That is four times the number of McDonald's restaurants in America. It is just not true that it is an unreasonable restriction of your liberty to just make sure you get a background check before you buy a gun.

Now, what are we talking about? We are talking about guns that are largely sold online and through gun shows, because the law today, the Federal law that I think we still all agree on—I mean, I don't hear a lot of my Republican colleagues proposing legislation to repeal the requirement that you should get a background check if you go into a gun store. All we are talking about is extending that requirement to the place where a lot of guns are now

sold in a way they weren't when we passed the national instant criminal background check law in the early 1990s. Today, a lot more guns are sold in gun stores, and a lot more guns are sold online.

The studies that have been done about gun sales online are really troubling. One study showed that there were 1.2 million online ads offering firearms for sale that would not require a background check to be done. That same study showed that one in nine prospective buyers of guns online would not pass a background check. That is a rate seven times higher than the denial rate at gun stores. And the reason is the criminals are going online and going to the gun shows because they know they will fail the background check if they go to a brick-and-mortar store.

That is what Seth Ator did. He failed the background check when he tried to purchase a gun in 2014. But he went to a private seller online, he bought a gun, and then he used it to kill 7 people and wound 25 others in a mass shooting in Odessa.

This is not theoretical. This happens. How do you think all these guns get into our cities? It is because the criminal traffickers who have serious criminal records, who can't buy guns at a brick-and-mortar store, go to a State that doesn't have universal checks. The criminals, the traffickers, buy the guns online or at a gun show, and then they drive them up to Hartford, CT, and they sell them on the black market.

The data just tells us that people believe in background checks; they want us to pass universal background checks. And the data also tells us that it works. The numbers vary, but even the least generous studies tell us that in States that have universal background checks, like Connecticut, 10 percent fewer people are dying from gun homicides.

And, of course, my law can't fully protect the people in my State because those guns get trafficked into Connecticut from States that don't have universal background checks. And so the numbers would be even bigger if we didn't have all these loopholes.

So I agree with Senator WARNOCK. This just feels like a test of democracy. It really does. How does democracy survive if 90 percent of Americans—90 percent of Republicans, 90 percent of Democrats—want something and we can't deliver?

Do you want to know why people are flirting with autocracy and dictatorship? It is because, even when they agree at a 90-percent rate, they can't get what they want from their government.

I have got to tell you, something does seem pretty wrong if democracy can't deliver on a 90-percent consensus, and not a 90-percent consensus about whether your road gets paved—a 90-percent consensus on whether kids live or die, a 90-percent consensus on an existential question of survival.

So, Mr. President, as in legislative session, I am going to ask that we pass a bill that will require universal background checks in this country. I am going to ask my colleagues to respect the wishes of 90 percent of Americans and do something that we know works.

So I am going to ask, as in legislative session, for unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 494 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration. I further ask consent that the bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Is there objection? The Senator from Utah.

Mr. LEE. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I want to note, at the outset, that we are not asked to vote in this Chamber on polling questions. We vote on legislation. While people, when responding to a poll, may respond overwhelmingly in response to certain questions, it doesn't mean that, when they come to understand fully what the law at issue would actually do, they wouldn't feel differently.

The truth is that the legislation that we are being asked to pass by unanimous consent today, without additional debate, discussion, opportunity for amendment, opportunity for input by the public—that is the bill S. 494, the Background Check Expansion Act—has some real problems with it, problems that I think make it a bill that stands to transform, in some circumstances, ordinary law-abiding citizens into criminals.

We always have to consider this when evaluating any law, particularly any law with criminal implications, particularly any law with criminal implications that touches on a constitutionally protected right enumerated in a constitutional amendment.

This is not solely about transactions involving guns at gun stores. This is about the father who wishes to pass down a hunting rifle to his son or the friend who wants to lend a shotgun to his neighbor who is in need of protection at the time.

Universal background checks, as this bill conceives them, don't just regulate; they criminalize these quintessential moments of American life and, under this legislation, would render unlawful what in countless circumstances would be lawful and even constitutionally protected behavior.

Now, most would not think twice about lending a firearm to a family member for sporting or personal protection purposes, and yet this bill threatens to do that by narrowing the definition of family to such an extent that passing a gun to a daughter-in-law or to a great-grandson could lead to criminal charges. This bill fails to distinguish between a criminal act and a gesture of trust and safety.

Participating in a hunting trip often involves using firearms. Of course, it is

important to be aware that under this proposal, under this bill, if you hand over your firearm to a partner during such a trip, even for a short period of time, you could potentially be held criminally liable if that individual doesn't hold the proper hunting license. It is an absurd overreach that would penalize the innocent traditions that bind our communities together.

The only conceivable way to enforce such a law is through the creation of an expansive, Orwellian national gun registry—yes, a national gun registry. Now, it is here that we arrive at the true purpose or, at least, the true inevitable outcome of this legislation were it to become law.

Universal background checks only work when you have a national gun registry. This bill would require a registry, even though and notwithstanding the legitimate policy concerns embraced by Congress when Congress prohibited the creation of such a registry in the Firearm Owners' Protection Act.

However, the ATF has already compiled a database with over 920 million records, a direct challenge to both the letter and the spirit of the Firearm Owners' Protection Act and Public Law 112-55. Let's not compound the problem created by the ATF's illegal and constitutionally problematic registry by enacting a law that cannot be enforced without the creation of a national gun registry.

Registries lead, inevitably, to gun confiscation. If you don't believe me, if you don't want to take my word for it on that, just look to the public statements made by some of my colleagues in the Senate and our counterparts in the House. They told us confiscation is the goal.

As our friends at Gun Owners of America have reminded us, without this invasive registry, enforcement of S. 494 is unfeasible. We are staring down the barrel of a system that would monitor the most personal and responsible uses of firearms among citizens.

Now, the Senator asked us to pass this major legislation without any debate, without any meaningful opportunity for amendment or further discussion. This isn't how Congress works. This certainly isn't how the U.S. Senate should work, certainly not on a matter so significant and so directly tied to an enumerated constitutional right as this one.

This bill should, of course, go through the Senate Judiciary Committee, a body on which I serve and a body where Members routinely can and do debate, offer amendments, and raise these and other policy and constitutional concerns.

I also want to speak for a moment to what was referenced as the gun show loophole. It is not, in fact, a loophole. There is no such loophole. The effect of the law is that, if you are a federally licensed firearms dealer, you have to perform these functions before you sell it, with or without you being in the presence of a gun show. If an FFL

shows up at a gun show and sells guns, the FFL has to conduct the background check. It isn't a loophole.

Moreover, we are talking about a tiny, minuscule percentage of people who even do these things. We are looking at the overwhelming percentage. According to the Department of Justice bureau that collects crime statistics, a tiny percentage of people who even buy them at gun shows go on to commit crimes with them—like less than 1 percent. Very few of them even buy them in any retail establishment, opting instead to buy them on a clandestine market in an illegal way.

So, at the end of the day, we have to evaluate this law just like we would any law—but this law in particular, given that it touches on a constitutionally protected, enumerated right. We have to look at both the law's impact on criminal behavior, which is negligible, and on the law's tendency to punish the law-abiding.

It is not the law-abiding who typically will go to illegal sources to buy a gun. It is not the law-abiding who refuse to dot the i's and cross the t's. It is typically the law-abiding who are willing to go through that process. We shouldn't be adding more redtape that is going to affect mostly the law-abiding, touching on very few of those actually bent on violent criminal activity.

This bill would do precisely that. It would punish the law-abiding citizens for the actions of criminals. It is time to accept this fact, and it is time for us, really, to choose between the various tensions that we feel pulling on us. I am confident that, at the end of the day, we should choose common sense over fear. We should choose liberty over control. We should choose the rights of the law-abiding many over the criminally minded few.

On this basis, Mr. President, and for these reasons, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Connecticut.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—S. 173

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, as I listen to the objection of my colleague from Utah, I am really struck by the absurdity and exaggeration involved in opposition to these common-sense measures that would simply save lives. The idea that we haven't debated background checks—what could be more untethered to reality? We have debated background checks for as long as I have been in the U.S. Senate and before then, when I was attorney general seeking to champion universal background checks. We have debated them in the Judiciary Committee ad nauseam. And we have shown, through the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, that we can break the hold of the gun lobby that is the source of those absurd and ridiculous arguments.

Background checks take no guns away from any law-abiding citizen. They simply assure that people who are dangerous to themselves or others

don't have them. That is the purpose of red flag laws, which I have also championed, and many of the other measures that we seek to pass—the repeal of PLCAA, which guarantees unbridled immunity to gun manufacturers; ghost guns, which we seek to ban because law enforcement finds them so dangerous; and numerous other commonsense measures.

I am here on behalf of a bill, Ethan's Law, S. 173, which ought to be common ground for everyone. It simply requires safe storage. And we know that 500 Americans every year, including more than 100 children, die from unintentional firearm injuries, many of them involving weapons that are unsafely stored.

There are loaded and unlocked guns in the homes of 4.6 million American children, and many of them perish because their parents or their neighbors' parents fail to safely store those weapons.

Nobody knows it better than Kristin Song. Her son died as a result of an unsafely stored weapon just after his 15th birthday. He was with a friend, and a firearm stored in a Tupperware box was used in play by these two young boys. Ethan Song died, and Ethan's Law, which I am seeking to pass by unanimous consent today, is in his memory. It was passed by the State house of representatives in Connecticut and our State senate. And 26 States—red, blue, purple—already have some form of safe storage and child access prevention laws on the books.

We know from the record of these laws in Connecticut that they work; they save lives. And we know also that gun owners believe that safe storage ought to be the law, ought to be required, ought to be mandated so that lives are saved.

In fact, even the firearms industry—including the National Rifle Association and the National Shooting Sports Foundation—agree that safe storage is a critical part of responsible gun ownership.

The NRA tells gun owners that “[s]trong boxes and security cases . . . are inexpensive and give . . . quick access to . . . firearms in a defensive situation.”

The NSSF tells gun owners to “[a]lways make absolutely sure that firearms in your home are securely stored out of the reach of children and . . . unauthorized persons.”

Ninety percent of the guns used in unintentional shooting deaths by children were left unlocked and loaded. The numbers are outrageous and depressing, but we can do something, and we should do something. And that is why I am here today to urge that we pass a bill that ought to be common ground—bipartisan common ground—and show that, in fact, democracy can work. We can pass measures that save lives that should be bipartisan. There ought to be no Republican versus Democratic debate on this floor or anywhere else. It ought to be a matter of

common sense and common agreement across the aisle.

Mr. President, so as in legislative session, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 173 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration; I further ask that this bill be considered read a third time and passed and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

No single gun owner will lose a gun—none—as a result of this measure.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I oppose S. 173 for a simple reason. It is unconstitutional in a number of ways.

First, the bill infringes on the Second Amendment rights of law-abiding citizens by placing burdens on a citizens' right to keep and bear arms within a home.

Second, this bill thrusts the Federal Government into an area that is reserved to the States, thus violating the principle of federalism.

The laws in Connecticut and the laws in North Carolina should reflect the values and behaviors of those respective States. Simply put, a one-size-fits-all approach doesn't fit the needs of our constituents.

Thirdly, Congress does not have the power under the commerce clause of the Constitution to pass the bill.

A law-abiding gun owner with a firearm in their home doesn't qualify as interstate commerce, and the Federal Government has no right to infringe upon it.

Fourth, this bill duplicates existing laws and practices that are in place at the State level.

My colleague mentioned some of those. He mentioned State laws. For example, in North Carolina, we have criminal penalties for adults who improperly store a firearm in a way that allows a minor to obtain it and commit a crime.

Finally, this bill would make it harder for law-abiding gun owners to defend themselves and their loved ones.

At a time when our cities and our towns are plagued by waves of crime—often made worse by the soft-on-crime policies of Democrat politicians—it makes no sense for the Federal Government to make it illegal for homeowners to quickly defend themselves inside their own home.

Just this year in North Carolina, in my own State alone, there have been at least 13 documented instances of defensive gun use in the home—defensive gun use. In these instances, North Carolina residents have used guns to defend themselves against home invasion, assaults, domestic violence, and residential burglars.

No matter what somebody believes about the Second Amendment, we share the desire to protect our kids and to keep them safe. We all want our kids

to be safe. That is why gun rights groups across the country have safety courses, online materials, and in-person training to teach citizens—both young and old—how to safely own, operate, and enjoy firearms.

Now is not the time for more unconstitutional proposals that will not ultimately keep people safe. Therefore, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The objection is heard.

The Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, 10 years I have been in this incredible institution, the U.S. Senate, and I am stunned that we are still having this debate.

We know, if you read our Constitution, that we formed our form of government with lots of high callings, but the first is to provide for the national defense.

It is astonishing to me that the No. 1 killer—the No. 1 threat—the No. 1 issue facing our children in America is death by gun violence. This is a purview of the Federal Government as is written by our Constitution.

And the Second Amendment, like the First Amendment, is not absolute. You can't yell "fire" in a crowded movie theater. There are limitations on our fundamental rights.

Don't take my word for it; take the Supreme Court of the United States. A conservative Court in the Heller decision made it very clear that government can take steps—reasonable steps—to protect our Nation.

So what does it mean in a country when the top killer of our children is gun violence, and we cannot take commonsense steps like the ones spelled out in the law that was just objected to? Safe storage of weapons, this is not an infringement of someone's right to own a gun. Safe storage of weapons, this is not taking away someone's gun. Safe storage of weapons, this is not a violation of someone's fundamental rights.

What it is, is a reasonable step to protect children because 90 percent of the kids in our country who are dying by suicide or unintentional shootings are in homes where a loaded gun is easily accessible to children—children as young as 3 years old getting their hands on these weapons.

Over 40,000 Americans die in a year to gun violence, and the response of this body is to do nothing. Forty-thousand Americans, the No. 1 killer of our children, and instead of seeing this as a crisis, as far as having special hearings and gatherings to put our minds together in a bipartisan way, how do we stop our children from dying, how do we stop our children from being slaughtered—instead of this being something that is concerning us to do something, we do nothing.

And I am sorry, inaction is complicity in this violence. If you object to this, what is your idea to protect our children? If you object to this, what is your idea to stop so many kids, so many Americans from dying? Tell me

what it is because Martin Luther King said it plain, in another point in American history, in another crisis. He said: What we will have to repent for as a nation is not just the vitriolic words and violent actions of the bad people but the appalling silence and inaction of the good people.

And so I know this body. I know the good, hard-working, dedicated Americans who serve here. But the inaction is appalling. The inaction is complicity. The strongest Nation on the planet Earth gives the implicit messages to our children and their parents: We can't protect you. So you know what we are going to do? We are going to teach you how to hide because we are now in a nation where there are more active shooter drills than there are fire drills.

What message is this to our children and our families that we are saying we are going to do nothing? Another year will pass, another 40,000 Americans are going to die, and we do nothing to protect you.

That is unacceptable to me. We are better than this. We are stronger than this. The very ideal of liberty should be that our people should not live in fear. But by our inaction, we have a nation where people all over our country are now chained to fear, shackled by grief, communities ripped apart, families in mourning. And a simple step in America, a simple Federal law like seatbelt laws, a simple Federal law like the safety of our airplanes, a simple Federal law to address the No. 1 cause of killing of our children, that if you have a loaded firearm at home, you should lock it up and keep it away from a child, we can't do that.

Well, Merry Christmas, America. The most urgent and basic thing this body should do is to protect children. And the No. 1 cause of child death in America, what have we done this year? Nothing—nothing.

This is a time we should act. This is a time we should join together. I call on my Republican colleagues to put forth one idea that will save a child from gun violence, to show that your allegiance is to safety and security.

No other country deals with this. We are an aberration when it comes to deaths by gun violence. No other nation allows their children to be slaughtered—Canada, New Zealand. I can tell you the nations that have taken action and, as a result, have seen a dramatic drop in the numbers of deaths.

We are an exceptional country, but in this case, being the exception is horrific to too many. And so I am disappointed to sit here and witness an objection, but I am relentless. We must be undeterred because change is not always easy. But in this case, we, as a country, with thousands of our children dying every year, must stay determined to make the change necessary for us to protect the people of this great Republic.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nevada.

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be permitted to speak for up to 10 minutes prior to the scheduled vote.

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

ISRAEL

Ms. ROSEN. Mr. President, on October 7, Hamas launched the deadliest terror attack in Israel's history. Hamas's vicious and unprovoked slaughter targeted innocent Israeli civilians and killed 1,200 men, women, children—from babies to Holocaust survivors.

Not since the Holocaust has there been a deadlier day for the Jewish people. Yet some extreme individuals and organizations are trying to minimize, distort, and outright deny what happened that day.

We cannot let that happen. That is why Senator RUBIO and I hosted a screening last week for our colleagues to show them exactly what Hamas did on October 7.

The videos, many taken by the terrorists themselves, are disturbing. They are graphic. The images and sounds in those videos, I will never forget. I encourage all Members to see for themselves what Israel is fighting against—pure terror; pure, pure evil.

On October 7, Hamas violated a long-standing cease-fire when they chose—they chose—to start this war. Hamas took deliberate and preemptive actions against innocent civilians, including dismemberment, torture, and mass rape, in what only can be described as barbaric terrorism. As any other nation would, Israel has responded to this unprovoked attack by acting to defend its own population, as they have the absolute right to do.

At the same time, Hamas has stated over and over and over again that they will not stop until there are a thousand more October 7s, until they destroy Israel and all of the people living there, and it is time that the world listens. This is why it is not surprising that at the end of last week, Hamas broke the agreement that was put in place to temporarily pause the fighting, to bring more humanitarian aid into Gaza, and to rescue the hostages brutally taken by Hamas.

Let me be clear. There is no equivalency, no equivalency—zero, none—between the terrorist actions of Hamas and the efforts of Israel to stop them from doing this again or, God forbid, committing a worse attack, as they have repeatedly promised to do. We must all remember this, especially now, as we work to deliver aid to Israel.

It has been nearly 2 months since October 7, and rockets continue to rain down on Israeli cities. More than 130 hostages remain in Gaza. We continue to learn more and more about the violent acts of rape, of torture, of murder committed by Hamas. It is all ongoing. Yet Congress hasn't passed the supplemental security assistance that Israel desperately needs to defend itself.

The security assistance includes support for Israel's lifesaving Iron Dome missile defense system—it protects them from Hamas and Hezbollah, from the rockets that rain down on them night after night after night—as well as other key defense resources and tools. It also replenishes our own defense stocks that have been drawn down to support Israel in this time of need.

To my knowledge, Congress has never used conditions on security assistance in order to strong-arm Israel, and now is not the time to start. Conditions would undermine Israel's ability to defend itself and would send a signal to the world that America's support for our ally is weakening, which is exactly what Iran and its terrorist proxies—it is what they all want. Our aid could make the difference between whether or not there is another October 7.

Now I turn to Members of my own party. Here we are. We all want the same thing. We all want peace in the region for both Palestinians and Israelis, a two-state solution with a secure State of Israel living side by side with a peaceful Palestinian state.

But let me be clear. Hamas—Hamas—is the one currently preventing this goal. Hamas launched the attack on Israel. Hamas targeted, Hamas murdered, Hamas raped and kidnapped innocent people. Hamas is threatening to do this over and over and over again. Hamas is a terrorist organization. They are terrorists. They must be stopped permanently. It is the only way we will get closer to peace and stability in the region.

I also understand and I share your concerns about the need to minimize civilian casualties and the suffering in Gaza. Every innocent civilian death is a tragedy. To truly end the suffering of both Israelis and Palestinians, Hamas must no longer control Gaza.

For nearly two decades, Hamas has stolen resources from the Palestinian people. They have used these resources for terrorist purposes. Instead of building infrastructure to improve Gaza's economy, Hamas built terrorist tunnels. Instead of launching programs to combat poverty, Hamas launches rockets to combat Israel. Instead of shielding their own people and lifting them up, Hamas uses their own people as human shields.

Israel must dismantle Hamas for both Israelis and innocent Palestinians. And while we help Israel, we can and we must continue to work with the Israeli Government to make sure that they are doing everything—everything—in their power to prevent the loss of innocent life.

As we partner with Israel and other nations in the region to deliver humanitarian aid in Gaza—food, water, medicine, emergency shelter, sanitation—we must make sure that this aid actually reaches civilians in Gaza. This aid and these resources will save Palestinian lives if they are allowed to reach them.

So, my colleagues, to all of my colleagues, we all agree on these goals. They are reasonable, and we are utilizing existing channels with Israel to make sure they are taking these steps—all without conditioning aid to Israel.

Let's be clear. Providing Israel with aid is not a blank check. As all of my colleagues in this Chamber know—every one of them knows this—all foreign aid is bound by a set of rules. This has been consistent for decades and has not changed. These are different from conditions specifically targeting Israel.

Now is the time to stand with Israel as they work to dismantle Hamas, stop its ability to cause more harm to Israelis and Palestinians, and free all the remaining hostages—all of them.

Conditioning aid to Israel after the worst terrorist attack in history would only embolden Israel's enemies, signal to them the limits of America's support, and open the door to more violence.

This is why I am calling on my colleagues, Republicans and Democrats, to pass this aid without conditions. If we are serious about preventing another October 7; if we are serious, really serious, about preventing more gruesome images like the ones my colleagues saw last week—torture, kidnapping, rape, murder, beheading; if we are serious about preventing all of this and serious about a future where the people of Gaza are not ruled by a brutal and barbaric terrorist organization, then we should not delay.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 317, Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tammy Duckworth, Tammy Baldwin, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Mark R. Warner, Peter Welch, Jack Reed, Christopher Murphy, Jeanne Shaheen, Tina Smith, Mazie Hirono, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Croatia, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 330 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

(Mr. LUJÁN assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. HICKENLOOPER assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. KELLY assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 47.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from West Virginia.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, as this body continues to discuss the need for a national security supplemental, I rise today to discuss the important elements that need to be included in this supplemental and to, once again, emphasize the growing demands for increased border security in our country.

For a nation as powerful and as impactful as ours, there are obligations that we inherently have to meet, both to ourselves and our allies. At the center of these obligations rests defending our homeland. This security is imperative to the sovereignty of our Nation, with our other obligation being to support our allies abroad as they face hostilities. We must realize that these two priorities are deeply woven together. We cannot achieve national security as a whole without securing our own borders. In fact, President Biden's own national defense strategy reflects this very sentiment, citing protection of the homeland as the No. 1 defense priority.

It is essential that border security remains one of our four pillars that need to be included in any national security supplemental that is approved by this Congress. In order to properly secure and defend our allies, we must

properly secure and defend our own Nation at the same time.

As I have said on the floor many times, Madam President, with you presiding—I have said many times that there is no doubt that we currently live in a time of heightened national security concern. Not only is this concern felt around the globe but in almost every State and community in our own country because of this crisis at the border.

Because of this crisis at the border, we see chaos. We see it on our news channels every evening. We see the monthly records of illegal crossings—as a matter of fact, I think several days ago, the highest daily number. We see how those who are truly seeking asylum are being disadvantaged by the cartels and smugglers who are playing the system.

It is obvious that the policies which have led to this crisis need to be addressed, and they need to be changed and reformed.

I often talk about American leadership and our historic ability to respond with strength in times of crisis. Well, this is a time of crisis, and our porous southern border is something we desperately need to act upon.

It is not lost on me or on my Republican colleagues, the urgency to address the four central national security emergencies of our time. Ukraine is facing an unjust and unprovoked ground war perpetrated by Russia. Our ally and friend Israel is under attack by terrorists who are holding women and children hostage. The recounting that we have heard of the sexual violence against the women in Israel on October 7 is appalling. Our allies in the Indo-Pacific face heightened concern as rival nations increase their aggression. Right here in the United States, we are facing the worst border crisis in our Nation's history.

These four areas are directly tied together. Ukraine's ability to defend itself and stave off Russian aggression relates directly to the security of Taiwan and the increased posture of China. The terrorist attacks perpetrated on Israel have led to attacks on our own U.S. military bases and ships, as well as the alarming rise—alarming rise—of anti-Semitism that we are seeing in our own country.

Nations directly opposed to the United States—they are opposed to our values, our way of life—are building an uneasy level of camaraderie between one another. You can guarantee that these nations are watching our self-created security crisis at our border and waiting to see when we will finally wake up and react. Our country must take notice of this.

The supplemental text before us does not make any policy changes but instead just throws more money—more money—at a broken system. That is not a solution. It doesn't address the actual policies that are fueling this situation.

The changes in border policy that my party seeks are not "partisan and ex-

treme measures," as the Democrat leader would lead you to assume, but, rather, they are substantive solutions that address the national security threats that we are now facing.

We encountered a sixfold increase of individuals on our Terror Watchlist just in the past year coming to the southern border. Half of the illegal encounters now on our border are not from Mexico or the Northern Triangle of Central America. Drugs that are made on the other side of the world are smuggled into our country daily, with the goal of sowing destruction and sorrow. Unfortunately, that is having success. We do not know who or what is entering our borders, and that cannot be a risk we are willing to take.

The truth of the matter is, this doesn't need to be a partisan issue, and I know we have colleagues on both sides of the aisle who are trying to work through this. We are not just talking about funding but, rather, changes that ensure that those who enter our country are coming through legal channels and that they are properly vetted. It sounds pretty simple to me—both things that we should all agree are necessary aspects of a working immigration system. But, instead, this administration, the Biden administration, has incentivized abuses of our asylum laws that have led to the greatest border crisis in our Nation's history. It is an open border. It is catch-and-release. This, in turn, has put our national security at risk.

This is not an issue that the Republicans have brought up in the eleventh hour of a negotiation but, rather, something that we have continued to highlight the entire time President Biden has been in the White House.

Members of Congress cannot continue to ignore the deep ties between the sovereignty of the United States and the sovereignty of our allies abroad. The supplemental we have been discussing for weeks is about helping our allies, but also, why is that important? Because we have to advance our own interests at the same time, and the border is a big part of our own interests. This is not a time to play games; instead, it is time to meet the challenges of the moment. While others refuse to accept the reality of the landscape we face, Republicans remain at the table.

For too long—for too long—we have been on the floor voting on radical nominations to advance the Biden administration's agenda instead of on legislation needed to help solve many of the problems I have described, including border security and our weakened defense industrial base and, I would add as a member of the Appropriations Committee, our appropriations bills, which have been teed up since July, and the leader has refused to put them on the floor. All that serves to do is waste time we simply do not have.

We must seek agreements that address our concerns, that provide necessary relief, that strengthen our security, and that will move the interests of the United States forward. I ask my colleagues in this Chamber to recognize that.

The time to invest in the national security of the United States and our allies abroad is now.

With that, I yield the floor.

I see my fellow Senator from Nebraska here to talk about similar subjects.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, earlier this year, I visited our Nation's southern border. My colleagues and I joined several patrols to see the problems firsthand, and at each of our stops, what we saw was very, very alarming. Dozens of people sat on the ground at midnight at the border, waiting to go to a crowded processing center for illegal immigrants. As we patrolled the Rio Grande Valley, we passed trail after trail used by illegal migrants to traffic drugs and people into our country. Meanwhile, we walked past an open, unfinished border wall. We toured a raided stash house, where a weapon was found, an illegal immigrant was detained, and a human smuggler was arrested.

These experiences—they just scratch the surface of the chaos overwhelming our southern border. Our border is a frenzy—a frenzy—of illegal activity, and because of neglect and inaction from this administration, this disaster is out of control.

There is a humanitarian crisis at our southern border. There is a deadly drug crisis at our southern border. Perhaps most critically, there is a national security crisis at our southern border.

Since President Biden took office, over 8 million migrants have illegally crossed our southern border. Border Patrol agents have seized over 51,000 pounds of fentanyl. We have seen an uptick in encounters with illegal migrants from adversaries like China. That is not even to mention the 295—294; I don't want to exaggerate because we don't need to exaggerate on numbers like this—the 294 known terrorists who have been identified at our border. Hundreds of people on the Terror Watchlist are flooding our border. To put those numbers in perspective, Border Patrol agents encountered a grand total of 11 people—11 people—on that list during the 4 years of the last administration.

My Democratic colleagues support security for Taiwan, they support security for Ukraine, and they support security for Israel, but what they won't support is basic border security for the United States of America. Yesterday's classified briefing on the supplemental underscored how ridiculous this is. The United States is the leader of the free world. We are supporting the security of our partners and allies around the globe. Yet we are told by the Biden ad-

ministration and my Democratic colleagues that we can't support the security at our own border? We are told that our own border security is not related to this national security supplemental? That is absurd, and the American people know that it is absurd.

Many of my Republican colleagues and I have been willing to compromise, but we have had it. We have had it with the evasive answers and the total neglect of our own border.

Border security is not a fringe issue. According to an NBC poll, 53 percent of voters support more military funding for Taiwan, 55 percent support more funding for Ukraine, and 55 percent support more funding for Israel, but 74 percent of voters support more funding for our border security. That is 20 percent more than anything else that voters support in this supplemental.

My Republican colleagues and I are siding with the American people on this funding request. Yes, we should address the conflicts raging around our world. We must stand by our allies and our partners. But we cannot forget the catastrophic issues that we are seeing on our own doorstep. We must secure our own Nation before anything else. If this supplemental funding bill truly aims to protect our national security, it must address our security from all sides, and the side that is in the most dire need of support is our battered and chaotic border.

But money alone is not going to repair the border. We must make commonsense policy changes to address this crisis. Let's tighten our asylum standards. Let's limit the use of parole to the required, case-by-case basis. Let's close the catch-and-release loophole.

I urge the rest of my colleagues and our President to look at this border crisis seriously and to respond with urgency—the urgency that this requires. The security supplemental is the right opportunity to do so.

Side with the American voters. Side with common sense, and let us protect our border.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, the forces of evil and instability are on the march around the globe. In the Middle East, Hamas massacred more than 1,200 Israelis and 33 Americans. Iran, the world's leading state sponsor of terrorism, continues to finance, provide training for, and authorize attacks against U.S. forces in the region. In Europe, Russia continues its brutality against Ukraine and is fomenting conflict in the Balkans, further threatening peace and stability in Europe. Meanwhile, China is rapidly expanding its military, threatening our allies and partners, and stealing billions in Americans' intellectual property.

All this chaos is the result of weakness from the Biden administration. Starting in Afghanistan, continuing to this day, this administration has put

American weakness on full display. As we confront a dangerous global situation, we cannot ignore the fact that for America to be a strong nation, we must first be strong at home. Before we can help countries protect their borders thousands of miles away, we must first protect our own borders.

The biggest threat to our national security right now is the wide-open southern border. For 3 years, the border has been in a state of crisis. We have grown familiar with these numbers, sadly, but they remain historic and staggering. Under President Biden, over 8 million illegal immigrants have crossed the border. Under President Biden, 279—I just heard my colleague speak, and she gave an even higher number, an accurate number perhaps, an even higher number than 279—folks on the Terrorist Watchlist have illegally entered our Nation.

Under President Biden, nearly 50,000 pounds of fentanyl have been seized at the southern border. That is nearly enough to kill every man, woman, and child in the United States. Given the fact that we are only able to interdict 5 to 10 percent of the illegal drugs that cross, our country is being overwhelmed with drugs that can kill with just a 2-milligram dose.

Under President Biden, there have been 1.8 million known—known—"got-aways," and that is not counting all of the unknown "got-aways," including terrorists, human traffickers, and other bad actors.

This crisis has got to be dealt with, and we have got to deal with it now. That is why Senate Republicans have offered the Biden White House a deal. Here it is: Include proven border policies in the House-passed H.R. 2 in the national security spending package, and you will have our support.

It is a clear pathway, but, so far, this White House is more interested in playing politics and continuing to ignore the border crisis altogether.

But you know who can't ignore it? The Border Patrol agents, who are under siege right now.

In the times that I have been down there—multiple times—they have told me that, yes, we need a wall. We need border enforcement. We need funding. But what we really need—in their own words—is policy, policy changes that would empower them to stop the illegal flow of people, crime, drugs.

You know who can't ignore this crisis? The sheriffs from all 100 North Carolina counties. Many of them have come up to me saying the same thing: Every single county in North Carolina is now a border county because of Joe Biden's policies.

The bottom line here is that, in order to be a strong nation, we have to have strong borders, and, right now, we don't have that. So I am going to call on President Biden to change course, to work with us so that we can solve this crisis together. We know what to do. All we need is a President who takes this seriously and fulfills his

oath to protect and defend this country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MORAN. Madam President, I am of the view that one of the most consequential votes that any Senator will make in their time in the U.S. Senate is one that we are facing now: the national security supplemental. I am here to encourage its passage—a national security supplemental to address the crisis at our southern border, to support Israel's right to exist, and to counter Russian, Chinese, and Iranian aggression.

Addressing these issues serves our national interests, and it is within the capacity of the Senate to mitigate these crises, to reduce the consequences of these crises with strong legislation, and to do it before the end of the year.

National security starts with border security, and I applaud my Republican colleagues for working to find a consensus on an emergency supplemental for addressing the President's failed policies at our southern border.

It is time for Senate Democrats and the White House and Republicans to continue their work, to get back to work, and to negotiate a bill that can pass the U.S. Senate. We must and we should show the American people that the Senate can be an institution that can come together in a responsible way to meet the most pressing challenges our Nation faces.

I saw a headline in the Wall Street Journal here recently: Does Congress even work these days? It is a call, a responsibility, that reminds us that we have serious and significant work to do together. Those pressing needs, those challenges we face, are support for Israel to defend itself against terrorism, resources for Ukraine, and policy changes to secure our southern border.

First, it is in our Nation's best interest to stand with our oldest ally in the Middle East, Israel. Hamas has stated its intent to wipe Israel off the map, even saying the terrorist attacks of October 7 were just the beginning. Now is not the time to waver in our support for Israel. We must provide Israel with the means to defend itself and destroy the terrorists.

The United States must also work to prevent escalation from Iran and other adversaries who may use this opportunity to escalate the war against Israel. Hezbollah, entrenched in Lebanon, to the north of Israel's border, will find no safe harbor if it attempts to intervene. Iran's leaders must know that the fury of the United States awaits if they become directly involved. We will stand against terrorism and its enablers and supporters.

Second, the success of Ukraine's defense against ongoing Russian invasion is vital to the national interests of the United States. The success of Ukraine is vital to the interests of our own

country. Should Russia fully conquer Ukraine, which remains Putin's goal, more Russian forces would be spread across NATO's border, requiring more resources from the West—America and our allies in Europe—to be committed to defending those allies against further Russian aggression. I don't think we can make the mistake. Russia's failure in Ukraine will make America safer and will make our allies safer.

Congress has a critical role in providing the resources necessary not just to end the war but ending the war on terms favorable to Ukraine and our European allies. To date, a majority of the funding provided to Ukraine has been directly injected back into the U.S. economy through the development, production, and purchase of U.S.-made weapons to replenish U.S. stockpiles.

Following the leadership of the United States, European nations are helping shoulder the burden to support Ukraine's military and have made serious commitments to match those of the United States.

Supporting our partners and allies abroad cannot come at the price of ignoring the security interests faced here at home. The administration's failure to control the border has created not just a humanitarian crisis but a national security crisis. The crushing influx of illegal border crossings has included an increase in the number of encounters between U.S. Border Patrol agents and individuals the FBI has on its Terrorist Watchlist.

Our border is a humanitarian problem, but it is a problem for the well-being of the United States and its national security interests as well. As of September 15, border agents have encountered more than 150 individuals on the Terrorist Screening Database at the southern border. These levels of encounters are astonishing, considering there were only 11 such encounters with these dangerous individuals from 2017 to 2020.

I have been on the border, I think, at least three times in the last year or so, and from conversations with, certainly, our Border Patrol agents but also our law enforcement agents as well, the number of illegal and foreigners coming into the United States who have the potential of providing terrorist threats and acting on terrorist behavior in the United States is only growing.

Our lack of operational control over the border has exacerbated the drug crisis, as we know, in our communities as well. The border is the single most important line of defense in disrupting these drug trafficking and distribution networks, and it is no overstatement to say American lives depend on a regulated border.

Madam President, I stand ready with my Republican colleagues, as they do, to find substantive proposals to mitigate this crisis. During an Appropriations hearing last month, I was dismayed that Secretary Mayorkas chose

not to engage on the issues and, instead, fell back on the argument for comprehensive immigration reform.

I agree that major changes to our immigration code are in order and have agreed to that belief since my earliest days in Congress. However, since I have been in Congress, we keep waiting for comprehensive reform, and, as a result, we do nothing—nothing to make our country safer, nothing to mitigate the humanitarian crisis unfolding on our soil, nothing to increase our national security.

Support for Ukraine and defending our southern border are not mutually exclusive. We can and must do both. It is time to come together and resolve our differences on these urgent national security issues. The most sustainable and responsible route to a safer and more secure United States requires the Senate to take seriously our borders and ensure that our partners and allies are prepared and equipped to defend themselves against our enemies.

To my constituents in Kansas and across the country, this is a dangerous world we live in, and the decisions that we make in the next few days and few weeks—certainly, in the next month—have a consequence on the safety and security of Americans today and Americans in the future.

This ought not be a U.S. Senate that doesn't do its work. We ought to continue the efforts until we get a result, and I hope that occurs quickly.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Madam President, I rise today to talk about America's wide-open southern border. I want to add my voice to that of the senior Senator from Kansas who just made eloquent remarks right here on the floor of the Senate about the disaster—the Democratic disaster—at the southern border.

As he pointed out—and as I will add my voice to his—it is a clear and present danger to our national security what is happening at the southern border. And national security starts with border security.

The senior Senator from Kansas and I were just meeting with other Republican Members of the Senate to review yesterday's numbers at the southern border—the number of illegal immigrants coming into this country—an all-time record high of over 12,000 illegal immigrants coming into this country from all over the world.

That is the crisis that people all across the country who tune in to their TV see is happening in our Nation and to our Nation.

So here we are on the floor of the Senate, and Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, wants to vote on \$100 billion in national security assistance—and he wants to do it today, and we are going to do it today.

That request lacks serious and significant changes that are needed to secure the southern border. Without serious and significant changes, this bill

will not pass. Mark my words, Republicans will vote against it.

Republicans and Democrats have very opposing views of what is needed at the border. Republicans want to stop the flow—and it is actually a flood—of illegal immigrants coming across the border. Democrats want to just wave them on through.

Republicans want border enforcement, border security, real policy changes to keep people out and to keep communities safe. We don't have that today in Democratic and Joe Biden's-run America from the standpoint of the White House and the Democrats in this body.

What do Democrats want to do? Oh, they want lots of money for sanctuary cities, big slush funds. Give it to the mayor of Chicago. Give to it the mayor of New York. And, of course, they want guaranteed benefits for illegal immigrants. That is what they are asking for. They are not going to get a Republican vote for that at all, not a single one.

Republicans know that border security must be a key element of any bill that we talk about on this floor that deals with national security.

For my colleagues on the other side of the aisle who may ask why, let me clarify.

Our southern border is now the most dangerous border crossing in the world—in the world. Under President Biden, our border has become a magnet for criminals, for drug dealers, for terror suspects.

The Department of Homeland Security and the FBI are warning all of us. Democrats may want to cover their ears and not want to hear any of these warnings, but we are being warned by the Department of Homeland Security and the FBI. And the FBI Director said it yesterday in the Senate: Cartels are smuggling fentanyl in from Mexico. It is killing hundreds of Americans every day.

The number coming on the Terrorist Watchlist continues to increase. I think it was the head of the FBI yesterday who said: Since October 7, all lights are flashing red for a terrorist attack in America.

Joe Biden's border policies are the deadliest, the most destructive, and the most disastrous in American history. The cost of this crisis is too large to bear for families, for communities, and even for law enforcement.

That is why Republicans are so focused when there was a bill on the floor—and we had a secure briefing yesterday on national security. That is why Republicans are so focused on border security.

Democrats have not put a single bill on the floor of the U.S. Senate this year that would stop the flood of illegal immigrants. Democrats seem to welcome this national security crisis at the southern border. It is wrong. It must change.

The Biden administration hides behind terms, terms such as "asylum"

and "parole." And they use those to release millions and millions of people onto our streets, into our communities, into our neighborhoods. And they are bringing with them drugs and crime. And they are killing Americans. The Biden administration wants to turn the other way.

Every single American feels the harmful impacts of these policies. Here is what is happening thousands of times each and every day on our southern border—and yesterday it was 12,000, the highest in the history of the country, coming in across the southern border. And they are coming from all over the world.

The night I was there on border patrol about 3 or 4 weeks ago, who did we see? People from all around the world, including a group from Moldova. Do you know how many countries they had to go through before they could get to Mexico to come to the United States and pay the cartels to bring them in? That is what we are seeing every day at the southern border.

Democrats don't go down there. Oh, no, they are not interested in actually seeing firsthand what is happening on the Rio Grande River at night and during the day. Not interested.

Border Patrol agents say, Democrats never show up. Not one time.

So individuals enter the U.S. illegally. And they immediately turn themselves into Border Patrol. These are the ones who aren't trying to get away. There is over a million of those too. And what they do when they give themselves up, they claim they are in danger at home.

And then what happens? Well, they are released into the streets of the United States. OK. Oh, you may be in danger. Oh, you got the magic words. OK. Here you go. Come right on in. Ten thousand times a day. Twelve thousand times yesterday. And Joe Biden allows it to happen. And the Democrats encourage him.

Some Democrats have finally started to admit Biden's policies are actually harming our country. So President Obama's Homeland Security Secretary Jeh Johnson told fellow Democrats that the manipulation of our asylum laws—because that is what Biden is doing, it is a manipulation of our asylum laws—is one of the root causes of illegal immigration.

At one time, Jeh Johnson said a thousand a day would be overwhelming. Well, it was 12,000 yesterday. Why aren't the Democrats waking up?

Senator SCHUMER, who sits at that desk right there, stands at that podium, and will later today—his hometown mayor—hometown mayor—New York City, Eric Adams said: The flood of illegal immigrants is destroying New York City. Destruction of New York City, and Democrats stand by.

Now, they do want to give a lot of money there, but they sure don't want to enforce the law at the border.

Chicago is another one of these cities that—Democrats are fearful of having

next summer's Democratic National Convention in Chicago. I wonder how many Members of this body are actually going to go, because Democrats across the country are afraid of doing it because Chicago is being overrun right now with illegal immigrants—overrun and overwhelmed.

We want to make our country safer, and Republicans do. I am not so sure about Democrats at this point from the way they are behaving with regard to the border. We want to make our country safer. We need to pass serious border security policy changes. Republicans know that we must end the incentives that are fueling the Biden border crisis.

And more money to these sanctuary cities and more government benefits to illegal immigrants is not solving the problem. It is inviting more illegal immigrants to come.

This is a deadly serious situation. I am not so sure the Democrats who were at the secure briefing yesterday all understood that. I am not sure the Senate majority leader understands that.

Real border security is a top national security need. Republicans have solutions to make our communities and our countries safer. These measures must be included in any national security bill, anything that goes to the President's desk, because without them, there will not be a national security bill.

The Republicans are ready to vote against what CHUCK SCHUMER is bringing to the floor because it fails to defend our borders and to keep our Nation secure.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

Mr. GRAHAM. Madam President, I will just pick up where my colleague left off.

There are four parts to the supplemental appropriations sent over by President Biden. One deals with Ukraine. And count me in for Ukraine. Robust aid to Ukraine really helps us here at home. Helping Israel—no-brainer—count me in. Beefing up Taiwan makes perfect sense. There was money in the supplemental for border security, but it really didn't address the problem we have.

And here is what I want the body to understand. Here is what happened yesterday. The FBI Director testified before the Senate Judiciary Committee about the level of threats we face as a nation. And he said:

[W]hile there may have been times over the years where individual threats could have been higher here or there than where they might be right now, I've never seen a time where all the threats or so many of the threats are all elevated, all at exactly the same time.

This was yesterday.

What did he say?

Post October 7—

The horrible attack on our friends in Israel—

[Y]ou've seen a veritable rogues' gallery of terrorist organizations calling for attacks against us.

He said that yesterday.

[T]he threat level has gone to a whole other level since October 7.

This was what the FBI Director said yesterday. Are any of us listening?

I see blinking lights everywhere I turn.

I asked him about blinking lights regarding 9/11. Apparently, they were blinking, and we missed them.

Do you see any blinking lights?

And he said:

I see blinking lights everywhere I turn.

He said that yesterday. Now, why are Republicans, apparently, more than anybody else, insisting that the supplemental package not only help Ukraine, not only help Israel and Taiwan but actually help us? We have got to change the policy because what we have got is not working.

Yesterday—yesterday—12,000 encounters at the border. The highest ever, yesterday. Two days before, 10,000 were marching in the wrong direction.

As these numbers go to new levels and historic levels, the FBI Director yesterday told us he has never seen more threats against our homeland than he does today.

And since October 7, every terrorist group in the world is calling for an attack on America.

I asked him about the border. He is very concerned about the status of the border.

So we are on track, if this continues, to have 3.6 million illegal encounters that we know of at the border. That is like beyond unsustainable. All-time highs every day.

From 2023 to 2020, the encounters at the border are up 368 percent. Why? Because the policies of the Biden administration make people believe that if they get to our border, they stay in America and never leave. And if you don't change that, you are never going to fix the problem.

Six million people have already come to our border in the first 3 years of the Biden administration. We are on track to do 3.6 million in fiscal year '24.

The day that people think Trump is going to be the nominee and could win the White House, you are going to see a run on the border like you have never seen because people want to get the last good deal under the Biden administration. Because when Trump wins, if he does, all this is going to change.

There are two problems that have to be fixed. You make an asylum claim in America at the border; you pass the initial credible fear standard, which needs to be elevated; you are released into the country to go to your hearing regarding your asylum claim 3 to 5 years later—that makes people believe they are released, and they will never show up. Once you are here, you are never going to leave. We have to change that.

While you are waiting for your hearing that may be 3 to 5 years away, you

need to wait outside the country. That would stop a lot of the illegal immigrant flow because when people realize you can't wait in America, you are home free once you make your asylum claim, they will be less likely to pay \$10,000 or more to wait in Mexico or some other country for 4 or 5 years.

The second thing is that this administration is abusing the law. The Secretary of DHS has the ability on a case-by-case basis to allow urgent humanitarian parole for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. This is meant to be an individual case-by-case analysis. They are using this concept—the Biden administration—to have blanket humanitarian parole for 240,000 people from four different countries. That is an abuse of the law. This law is being used to just flow people through, and that needs to change.

So if you put a cap on how many people could come into the country through humanitarian parole, getting back to the original intent of the law, and you told people if you apply for asylum, you have to wait outside the country before your hearing is held, then you will have a dramatic reduction in illegal immigration. I know that works. That doesn't fix a broken immigration system, but it does give us control over an out-of-control border at a time of elevated threats.

To my Democratic colleagues, I have been negotiating with you for 20 years on how to fix an immigration system that is broken. You need more legal immigration. You need border security. You have to have a pathway to citizenship for those who are deserving. I get all that. This is not all about an immigration reform negotiation; this is about securing the border at a time of heightened threat to our country.

One hundred seventy-two people on the Terrorist Watchlist we know of have been caught. Only God knows how many we missed. This run on the border is locking the Border Patrol down just processing people, fentanyl poisoning of Americans is at an alltime high, 100,000 people have died because fentanyl is coming through a broken border. So to my Democratic colleagues, this is not about immigration; it is about national security. There are ways to fix this problem if you choose to do it. I want to help Ukraine. I want to help Taiwan. I want to help Israel. But we have got to help ourselves.

There will never be a bill I will vote for to help other countries that are very deserving until we control our own border that is completely broken. You need to understand that, and the public is with us. Most Americans would like to have their border more controlled, not less, and what you are doing is not working.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Oklahoma.

Mr. LANKFORD. Madam President, 12,080, it is not just a random number; it is the highest number of crossings ever in a single day across our southwest border. That is the record, 12,080. We have never had a day more than 12,080 crossing our southwest border.

You might ask: What day did we set the record for the most number of crossings across our southern border? And my answer would be yesterday. Yesterday was the highest number of illegal crossings in the history of the country. September was the highest September ever in the history of the country for illegal crossings.

October was the highest October ever in the United States in the history of illegal crossings. November was the highest November ever in the country in the history of our Nation for illegal crossings. And there is the highest number ever in the history of the country—yesterday.

What is really happening? The numbers continue to be able to skyrocket. If we look at what is actually occurring with the number of illegal crossings, they continue to accelerate day after day, month after month, unchecked.

We face very real threats in our Nation, and it is not just me saying that. People may recognize the FBI Director, Christopher Wray, who just this week in a hearing was asked about the threats that we are facing in the United States after October 7. He was asking what he saw with that, and his answer was, "I see blinking red lights everywhere."

"The threat level has gone to a whole other level since October 7," in the United States.

Yesterday, of those 12,080 people who illegally crossed the border, the vast majority of them were released into the country today. They had no criminal background check. They didn't have to prove their ID of what country they were from because right now the soft-sided facilities that are housing migrants all along our southern border are currently running at 400 percent occupancy.

So the goal is, get them through and into the country, hand them a piece of paper, and—literally—ask them to promise to turn themselves in, in the future at some point, just go because we need your space because there are more people coming.

At the same time the FBI Director is saying, "I see blinking red lights everywhere," we are literally releasing thousands of people, day after day, no criminal background check, no evaluation of their history—many of them we don't even know what country they are from—and releasing them into the country.

In the last 2 years, this White House has designated on our southwest border

70,000 people they designated as what they call “special interest aliens.” These are individuals who are coming from areas known for terrorism, but we had no background information on these individuals.

What happened to those 70,000 individuals? They were released into our country with a piece of paper saying: Please turn yourself in, in the days ahead, because we have no room to be able to house you here. That is what is happening.

Am I the only one who noticed this? Well, let’s see, the mayor of El Paso has said that “the city of El Paso only has so many resources and we have come to . . . a breaking point right now.”

The mayor of New York City is talking about this, and he said that “this issue will destroy New York City,” as they are over capacity in every spot that they have got.

The mayor of Chicago has called this an “international crisis” that he is actually experiencing in Chicago to try to be able to manage this.

As the stories come out on this over and over again, this is a New York Times story that came out:

Migrant-smuggling is now a \$13 billion business. Mangled limbs. Raped women. Congressional inaction is a boon to bad actors.

From the New York Times.

So my question is, What are we going to do about this? Currently, it has been nothing.

So what are we going to do about this? About 6 weeks ago, the White House sent over a request for supplemental funding. They labeled it a national security supplemental. They asked for funding for Israel, for Ukraine, for the Indo-Pacific, and for border security. In fact, what is interesting is the second highest request they put in the entire piece was actually for border security. And then literally within days, the administration put out an op-ed that said the funding request for border security is a tour-niquet. What we really need is a change in policy.

That same day, Ali Mayorkas from Homeland Security, President Biden’s Homeland Security Director, was in front of a hearing that I was in. I asked him some very specific questions during that:

What are the things that need to be able to change [in our system]?

He said:

Senator, we need . . . the ability to remove individuals who do not qualify [for asylum] with efficiency and [with] speed.

Secretary Mayorkas went on to say:

The asylum system needs to be reformed from top to bottom.

I asked him again:

[Are] policy changes needed?

Secretary Mayorkas said:

Yes, policy changes are needed.

The issue is not is the need there. The issue is not is there a problem in our immigration system. The issue is not is this a crisis at our border. Ev-

eryone knows that it is a crisis that literally the people working on our border have no tools in their hands to be able to stop this issue.

This needs a solution from Congress, and it requires all of us having the determination to say: 12,080 people that crossed our border yesterday is not sustainable.

So what is the request? It is pretty straightforward. It is what anyone would look at and, quite frankly, what DHS has talked about for years—not just this DHS; the Trump DHS, the Obama DHS have all asked for these issues.

They are looking for some very basic things. They want to know how to be able to manage the asylum requests. That accelerated and took off during the late half of the Obama administration.

If I can take us back in history to ancient history, in 2010, there were 21,000 people who asked for asylum a year on our southern border—21,000 people a year in 2010. That is now every 2 days of what we are facing now.

What the request was, at the end of the second term of the Obama administration, was that we have got to reform our asylum system. We have got to be able to process people at the border. We have got to be able to not change the rules of what asylum means but change when we actually do the screening—do it right there, to be able to manage those issues, so that people who qualify for asylum under our law are able to come into our country lawfully and people who do not qualify for asylum cannot come into our country unlawfully.

We all know it is happening. Every administration has identified it. So far, this body has been unwilling to be able to act on it.

We also know that, every day, the cartels actually run our southern border. They are a ruthless criminal organization that we have experienced firsthand in my State. There is drug smuggling. There is human trafficking and what they have done to literally millions of people whom they have trafficked from around the world. We need to take control of our border, not give control to the cartels.

I would challenge anyone in this body to be able to go to our southwest border and ask any Border Patrol agent: Do we have control of our border?

Most every one of them will respond the same way, because I have heard it over and over. There is situational control of our border. It is just on the south side, not on the north side, because the cartels are managing who is actually coming in, in what order, and how it is actually done. And they are paid, as the New York Times article detailed, billions of dollars to be able to traffic people into our country. They are the ones who are managing it.

So the simple, straightforward issue is, As the United States of America, are we going to manage our border or

are the cartels going to manage our border? Are we going to be able to have a system where we allow people who qualify for asylum to actually get a hearing on a timely basis or are we going to take people and push them into the country? And then real, legitimate asylum seekers don’t get a hearing for years, and people who don’t qualify for asylum—and we all know it—disappear into the country and live underground.

This is the decision that we have got to come to. President Biden asked for a national security supplemental and included into that border funding and then a request for policy changes. It is time to be able to address this issue.

And I will tell you what I will vote later on today. Republicans are going to speak clearly to say: We will not move to a national security bill that does security for other nations and ignores our own. We will not do it.

And we believe the American people, regardless of party—I don’t find many people who want chaos on our southern border. They want an orderly process. I also don’t find people who are opposed to immigration. They are just opposed to illegal activity on our border, unchecked activity on our border.

So let’s get back to an orderly process. Let’s have a system that actually works for everybody in the process, and let’s not put the national security for other nations ahead of the national security of Americans. Let’s do it together.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Madam President, I first want to say that, as we proceed on the initial vote today—and I support the President’s package, including the work on border security—I do appreciate the Senator from Oklahoma’s work in trying to reach an agreement. So many of us want to see an agreement on border security.

I rise today to highlight another part of that agreement that is very important, and that is the importance of the critical humanitarian aid in the supplemental funding request, and to urge my colleagues to include it in a final bill.

Throughout history, the United States has been a leader. When Hitler sought to conquer Europe, American’s Lend-Lease Program ensured democracy triumphed over fascism, and it was our Marshall Plan that gave our European partners the resources they needed to rebuild after the war. When the Iron Curtain fell, American aid kept communism at bay. And, to this day, Agencies like USAID give nations across the globe the support they need to alleviate poverty, become stronger trading partners with our country, and recover from disasters.

We know that humanitarian aid, yes, saves lives in such a big way, but it is also important for our own country. It is our own security that we make friends. It actually helps us to spend

less on military when we spend more on humanitarian aid.

Today, armed conflict is tearing apart families and neighborhoods in the Middle East, and the largest land war in Europe since World War II rages on. Ripples from these conflicts are felt around the world. We are at a pivotal moment in not just American history but the history of humanity.

Israelis, innocent Palestinians, and Ukrainians are looking to us for support, and the whole world is watching. It is during moments like these that leaders are called to step up. So the question before us today that so many of those who came before us in this Chamber—Democrats and Republicans—have grappled with is, Will we step up? Will America step up? My answer: We must, just as we have time and time again throughout history.

That, of course, includes providing swift humanitarian aid to people across the world, including innocent civilians in Gaza.

Like so many in this Chamber, including the Presiding Officer, I strongly condemned Hamas's terrorist attack immediately, in the strongest terms. It was a massacre of innocent Israelis, and I am heartbroken by the devastation and the loss of life. But we must remember that the violence of this terrorist group Hamas does not represent the will of all of the people of Gaza, not by any means.

That is why I joined my colleagues in calling for a short-term cessation of hostilities in order to allow for the Hamas-held hostages to be released and to ensure that humanitarian assistance could reach innocent civilians in Gaza. I welcomed, as so many did, the announcement almost 2 weeks ago that Israel and Hamas had agreed to release more than 100 hostages during the cessation that would also allow, of course, for increased aid for food and the like into Gaza. Tragically, late last week, a continued agreement could not be reached, and the hostages, including, as we now know, so many young women—with very troubling and concerning reports coming out on their conditions—are still being held hostage by the terrorists. The fighting has begun again.

The United States has provided significant aid to both Israel and the Palestinian people, now and in years past, but we know we cannot shirk from our duties. We cannot turn our backs on what is happening.

In discussing the need for foreign aid, we must not forget the continued importance, as we will discuss later today, of standing with Ukraine as Ukrainians fight back against Vladimir Putin's inhuman barbarism. For almost 2 years, in bright blue and yellow, the Ukrainians have shown the world what it truly means to fight for freedom, and America has been with them, as have so many of our allies. Beyond critical military aid, the United States has continued to support Ukraine through humanitarian assistance for

both internally displaced Ukrainians and those who have been forced to flee their home country.

And we know that while we have taken in some of these refugees, including in my home State of Minnesota, which has a major Ukrainian population, many of whom are now working—I was just with a number of them who work in our Ukrainian restaurant that we are so proud of, Kramarczuk's in Minneapolis. We also have European countries taking in these refugees in unprecedented numbers—millions and millions of people.

When I visited Poland with a group of our colleagues on a bipartisan basis, just weeks after Vladimir Putin launched his brutal invasion, there were more than 2 million Ukrainian refugees. Today, that number is more than 6 million. I will never forget talking to those refugees—women, children, seniors, kids with nothing but a backpack on their back with a stuffed animal in it. We heard their horror stories about homes lost, families ripped apart, and lives destroyed.

We know that Polish people don't have to imagine what it is like to live through a full-scale invasion. Their history is marked by invasions by Prussia, the Hapsburgs, the Nazi, and, yes, Russia. As our Ambassador to Poland, Mark Brzezinski told us, the Poles are achieving the dreams their grandparents never could realize.

Poland is able to say to their Ukrainian neighbors: We value freedom and respect your democracy. We value you so much that we will take you into our homes and into our hearts. We will open our doors and not shut you out.

Just as our Polish allies and those small countries that I met with yesterday—the Baltic nations of Estonia, Latvia, and Lithuania—they are there for Ukraine on the ground and taking in their people and being on the front-line and putting in an extraordinary percentage of their own resources, of their spending, into defense, into NATO. America must be there for Ukraine by providing, yes, topnotch military assistance, as we have to enable Ukraine to retake half of the territory that Vladimir Putin took in his initial invasion, but we also must be there for them with critical humanitarian aid. Our Ukrainian friends continue to persevere against all odds, against one of the largest armies in the world, and this aid is critical to that effort.

As we all know, the consequences of Putin's unprovoked, unlawful, unjustifiable war extend beyond Ukraine's border. Ukraine is one of the world's top suppliers of grain, and Russia's illegal blockade of Ukrainian ports has put millions of people across the globe, in places like Africa, at risk of starvation. By providing critical support for the State Department's refugee aid program, including food assistance, the administration funding request will support displaced people around the world.

Our Nation has earned its reputation as the leader of the free world due to its unwavering commitment to democracy and helping nations when they need it—knowing they come out of it; knowing they become major trading partners and friends of ours on the security front, on the democracy front, and on the economic front. So now it is on us to decide if we want to keep that reputation, if we want to keep that leadership.

As we negotiate this bill, the supplemental, I am reminded of what President Zelenskyy said just hours after Vladimir Putin launched his barbaric invasion. Everyone counted him out. Everyone thought he was going to run. Instead, he stood on the streets of Kyiv, with just a few people, and looked straight into the camera and delivered a simple message that was, all at once, a rallying cry to his people, but a statement of defiance in the face of evil and a call to action for democracies across the globe. Three words: We are here.

So that is our decision over the next 2 weeks. Are we going to be here for democracy? Are we going to be here for our ally in the Mideast and our allies around the world? Are we going to continue to feed the world? Are we going to continue to stand up against terrorism and barbarism and help innocent people, like those in Gaza, those in Ukraine, and those around the world who depend on us?

Moms, dads, grandmas, grandpas, kids, and grandkids are depending on us. We must be there. We must say: We are here.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Madam President, nearly 2 months after Hamas launched brutal terrorist attacks on Israel, we continue to grieve for those who were killed, and we also pray for the return of loved ones taken hostage. And for those who have been injured, for rape victims, and for those who survived by hiding themselves among dead and dying friends, we offer love and support.

October 7 was the deadliest day for Jewish people since the Holocaust. I have seen video of Hamas's attack and their terrorists' contempt for Israeli lives. As I have said before, Israel has both a right to defend its citizens from Hamas's terrorist attacks and an obligation under the laws of war to protect innocent Palestinian civilians in Gaza. Palestinians are not Hamas, and they should not be punished for Hamas's terrorism.

I want to be clear about how I see the war that Israel is currently waging in Gaza. Prime Minister Netanyahu and his rightwing war cabinet have created a humanitarian catastrophe, killing thousands of Palestinian civilians and risking a wider conflict in the Middle East.

The Gaza Health Ministry estimates that more than 15,000 people in Gaza

have been killed and more than 40,000 injured. The vast majority of those killed and injured have been Palestinian civilians, many of them women and children. This level of civilian harm is a moral failure. It is why for weeks I have called on Israel to stop bombing Gaza.

A 7-day cease-fire between Israel and Hamas gave hope that more hostages would return to their loved ones, gave hope that a massive amount of humanitarian aid would reach innocent Palestinians in need of food and water, and gave hope that negotiations would continue as the parties worked toward an enduring end to this fighting.

I applauded this cease-fire and urged its extension so that the parties could secure a lasting peace.

When the cease-fire lapsed, I urged the parties to get back to the negotiating table and build on the prior agreement so that the cease-fire could resume, but, instead, the fighting ramped up.

So I will say it again. Hamas must release the hostages and stop firing rockets at civilians in Israel. The Israeli Government must stop the bombing in Gaza and deliver humanitarian aid. All of us must do everything possible to resume the cease-fire and extend it for as long as possible.

The long-term goal must be peace—two states for two peoples.

Today, the Senate will vote on legislation to provide military funding to Ukraine, Israel, and Taiwan. I will support this legislation because Ukraine is on the frontlines, fighting back a brutal Russian invasion that would destroy its existence as an independent nation.

A few months ago, I visited Ukraine and saw firsthand the courage of the Ukrainian people, who are literally putting their lives on the line to keep democracy alive.

This legislation also contains \$10 billion in humanitarian aid for families around the globe, including in Gaza. It also provides emergency shelter funds for migrants who are newly arrived in the United States. It includes money for mosques and synagogues that are dealing with threats here at home.

I strongly support those provisions. In fact, I fought hard for those provisions. But I want to be clear that when it comes to U.S. military aid to Israel, American support cannot be a blank check to a rightwing government that has demonstrated a gross disregard for the lives of Palestinian civilians. U.S. military aid always includes conditions, and there is no exception even for our allies.

The United States regularly conditions military aid on compliance with U.S. law and international humanitarian law. In the case of Israel, I have long argued that the United States should use all of the tools at its disposal, including placing conditions on U.S. military assistance, to move the parties closer to permanent peace and a two-state solution.

Prime Minister Netanyahu's actions are not moving closer to a two-state solution. Instead, his actions set conditions for endless violence.

Since October 7, extremist settlers in the West Bank have deliberately hunted down and killed Palestinians and, according to the United Nations, displaced more than 1,000 people.

In Gaza, Israeli forces have struck hospitals and refugee camps, killing scores of civilians in pursuit of its military targets.

Israel has ordered Palestinians to evacuate for safety and then bombed the safe zones.

The videos from Gaza of dead children and wailing parents are shattering. They document the current Israeli Government's continued moral and humanitarian failures.

It now appears that Israel is prepared to impose in southern Gaza the same staggering level of civilian death that it carried out in the north. That is wrong.

I lay these actions at the feet of Prime Minister Netanyahu. If the Prime Minister insists on conducting military operations with little regard for civilian life and in a manner that moves the region deeper into perpetual war, then he does not deserve America's blanket financial support.

I understand the desire to help Israel and the people of Israel, but given the actions of the Prime Minister, Congress should condition any military funding on an agreement that civilian lives will be protected, that Palestinians will receive the humanitarian aid they need, and that international law will be fully respected.

Over the past 2 months, I have had many conversations with people across Massachusetts about the path forward. This conflict is horrific, and it is deeply personal. I have talked to Israelis who have lost beloved friends and family. I have held parents who have had children violently taken as hostages. I have talked to Palestinians who have had family members killed. I have held hands with people conducting a desperate, long-distance search for missing loved ones. I have joined the sometimes-frantic efforts to help Palestinians who are desperately trying to get out of Gaza but can't. The pain runs deep for all of them.

This conflict has also sparked a wave of hate here in the United States. The Council on American-Islamic Relations in Massachusetts has received a record number of calls reporting vandalism, violence, and retaliation against Palestinians. A man in Boston was arrested for attacking the Holocaust Memorial, and synagogues in Attleboro are receiving bomb threats.

I have had Muslim and Palestinian constituents talk to me about being pulled over for extra screening at the airport while their White travel companions sailed right on through. I have heard stories of how hard it can be to land a small business loan or get a credit card application approved even when they meet all the criteria.

Anti-Palestinian hate is endangering our neighbors. Three college students in Burlington were shot on their way to dinner. I have had moms tell me they are now afraid to say that they are Palestinian, and they are now afraid for their children to leave the house.

Anti-Semitism is endangering our neighbors. Hillel leaders tell me they are afraid to walk alone on campus or speak up in classes. Mothers say they worry about bringing their toddlers to activities at their synagogue because it could be the target of an attack.

In these moments, each of us has an obligation to speak out clearly and loudly against hate. Each of us has an obligation to actively oppose hate in all of its forms. Anti-Semitism must be rejected. Islamophobia and anti-Palestinianism must be cast off. We should make our intentions clear. We should work toward those goals until they are finally true. No one should be afraid. No one should feel unsafe. And it is on our shoulders to build an America where there is no place for hate.

But there is more for us to do. We cannot give up on peace. Hamas leaders make their goals clear: perpetual war and death. But, as I said earlier, Hamas is not the Palestinian people, and the Palestinian people are not Hamas.

In the midst of the chaos and pain of this terrible war, I hold fast to the possibility that people of good will, both Palestinians and Israelis, can build a lasting peace.

I have long believed that a two-state solution is the best path, is the only path for Israel's long-term security and the only way to ensure that Palestinians have the rights, the freedom, and the self-determination they need to build a secure future for themselves and their children.

In the short term, the needed work is obvious: Resume the cease-fire, accelerate humanitarian aid, protect innocent civilians, and release the hostages. In the long term, the hard labor—the labor that ensures that we won't be here again and again and again to mourn the deaths of the people we love and have lost to an endless cycle of war—the hard labor is to drive toward a just and lasting peace for both Israelis and Palestinians.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, I am going to say something that I don't think ought to be controversial—that Hamas should receive no U.S. taxpayer dollars. But apparently some people think that is controversial.

On October 7, Hamas, a terrorist organization dedicated to the destruction of Israel and to killing Jews, broke the cease-fire and attacked Israel.

Now, this was not a military attack; these were terrorists who came across the border to kill civilians. They killed 1,200 Israelis and 33 Americans.

Last week, along with my Senate colleagues, I watched an uncensored video

taken from Hamas body cameras, cell phones, on surveillance television, intercepts of radio and telephone conversations. It was horrific. This atrocity was perpetrated by barbaric savages. We witnessed them shoot unarmed civilians. We saw the evidence of young girls raped. We saw the dead bodies of children, some burned beyond recognition. We watched as a Hamas terrorist decapitated an Israeli soldier. It was truly horrifying.

Hamas started the war. They are responsible for every person who died on that day and every person who has died in Gaza since. They are a terrorist organization dedicated to destroying Israel. In fact, we heard some of the phone conversations from Hamas terrorists who called back their parents, bragging about how many Jews they had killed. It is absolutely horrific.

We must stand with Israel until Hamas is destroyed utterly. Humanity will have been done a favor by the State of Israel when Hamas is destroyed. We also must examine the Biden policies that are supporting Hamas. I know—yes, I said that. It is crazy, but it is true. The Biden administration has already given \$730 million and wants to add another \$260 million to it.

You see, there is this organization called the United Nations Relief and Works Agency for Palestine Refugees in the Near East, and it has long been documented that they have been infiltrated by Hamas.

This organization, also known as UNRWA, has hired Hamas agents. Their teachers have been preaching about killing Jews. Their textbooks glorify martyrdom. They demonize Israelis and sow anti-Semitism. UNRWA schools have stored weapons facilities for Hamas. There is a U.N. report that shows UNRWA schools have launched attacks against Israel. On October 7, UNRWA employees applauded the attack, including 14 UNRWA teachers. Now we have a report that an UNRWA teacher held one of the hostages in that teacher's attic, barely feeding the hostage.

This is an organization that has been described as essentially a branch of Hamas. The Trump administration knew this, and so they cut off funds, with President Trump saying the organization UNRWA was irredeemable. Inexplicably, the Biden administration resumed funding and wants to continue resumed funding.

We must not let our tax dollars go to support Hamas, and that is why I have introduced the Stop Support for Hamas Act.

This act would make sure no economic development dollars go to Gaza or to the West Bank until Israel verifies that Hamas has been dismantled. It would ensure that the Palestinian Authority is not hiring Hamas or their affiliates. It would strengthen the Taylor Force Act to make sure the Palestinian Authority does away with this horrific pay-to-slay policy, and it

would ensure that any other NGO that is working would not hire Hamas or Hamas affiliates.

What we saw on October 7 was inhumane; it was barbaric; it was horrifying; it was an atrocity—an atrocity committed by Hamas. We must stand with Israel until Hamas is utterly destroyed.

We must ensure that no more funding from American taxpayers goes to Hamas through UNRWA as 118 of the terrorists who attacked Israel on October 7 were educated in UNRWA schools. These schools are part of the problem, and the Trump administration knew it. I ask all of my colleagues to support my bill that will end this terrible policy.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, following Senator MENENDEZ, I be recognized for up to 20 minutes prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

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

The senior Senator from New Jersey.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Madam President, as our allies and democracies around the world face compounding life-and-death geopolitical challenges, the world is watching what we do or fail to do here in the U.S. Senate, and the stakes could not be any higher.

Ukraine is rapidly running out of arms to defend itself against Russia's illegal invasion and the many war crimes it has been perpetrating against the Ukrainian people. Israel is in the midst of an existential war against Hamas—a barbaric terrorist organization funded and propped up by Iran's brutal regime with one singular mission: to wipe out Israel and every Jew on the face of the Earth.

Moreover, our allies in the Indo-Pacific, like Taiwan, remain on high alert as China aggressively flexes its military and economic might there and around the globe while, at the same time, taking careful notes on how democracies around the world respond when one nation violates the sovereignty of another by attempting to take its territory by force.

Now is the time for the U.S. Senate to come together in defense of America's allies in their hour of need. We have a strategic security, economic, and moral imperative to meet the moment, and that is exactly what Democrats in the Senate are ready to do.

Right now, Democrats are prepared to take up and pass the National Security and Border Act of 2024, a comprehensive package that provides aid to Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and Taiwan as well as addresses ongoing challenges at our southern border, including the flow of migration andentanyl into the United States.

Democrats are willing to put politics aside and defend our allies and our values with real dollars, real military aid, and real solutions. We are ready to se-

cure our southern border against the most dire threats we face, especially the relentless flow of deadlyentanyl fueling our Nation's opioid epidemic.

Now, to be crystal clear, some aspects of this supplemental package, which closely mirrors the supplemental request President Biden sent to Congress, raise serious concerns for me and for others.

For example, I am worried about funding to add another 1,300 Border Patrol agents to work at the border. The U.S. Border Patrol is already the largest Federal law enforcement Agency, and its alarming track record of the abuse and mistreatment of migrants gives me pause about expanding its force further.

I also have serious hesitations about funding to expand our detention capacity by over 45,000 beds. Detaining migrants en masse, including entire families, is never the most humane or effective solution to managing our border.

Supporting a supplemental package that includes these items would not be an easy vote for me and several of my colleagues. It would be quite difficult because these funds come with concerning policy consequences. However, in the name of getting a reasonable, thoughtful package across the finish line for our allies in need, without gutting our asylum and humanitarian parole laws, I certainly am willing to consider it.

But where are Republicans? Americans might ask. Where are our colleagues across the aisle who, for so many years, have posited themselves as the champions of defending democracy and freedom around the world? Where is the party of Reagan—the party of self-proclaimed defense hawks who supposedly never bat an eye when it comes to supporting our allies?

In an incomprehensible turn of events, Republicans have decided they are going to hold hostage vital aid to our closest allies in a life-and-death struggle over completely unrelated, hyperpartisan demands on immigration and border policy, and they are insisting on these changes without any actual, deliberative process or willingness to compromise.

No, you didn't hear that incorrectly.

Senate Republicans have declared they are ready to tank this national security package—one that would help our allies defend themselves so that we don't have to send America's sons and daughters into harm's way and take the battle themselves when the next set of NATO countries is invaded by countries like Russia. I would rather have the Ukrainians fight for their freedom and provide them the resources to do so instead of sending America's sons and daughters abroad.

Now, why are they doing this? Because they are using the immigration issue, in my view, to hide behind the embarrassing fact that a significant number of Republicans in both Chambers doesn't want to vote for aid to Ukraine and because Democrats refuse

to accede to far-right and far-reaching immigration policy demands that have absolutely nothing to do with the existential crises threatening our allies.

It is the height of irresponsibility and partisan politics for Republicans to claim that the price for assisting our international allies is to gut our asylum and humanitarian parole laws, which, I would add, as someone who has been on this issue for almost a quarter of a century, will do nothing to mitigate the flow of migration and deadly drugs into our country.

Think about the dangerous signal that sends: The United States cannot temporarily put aside its domestic political disputes to confront the collective challenges facing democracies and freedom around the world. Such a signal would be crippling to those who look to the United States for our leadership when confronted with the evils of tyranny and terrorism. Such a signal would amount to a shameful retreat from America's singular place on the world stage and would leave us with fewer allies willing to stand with us. Who is going to stand with you if you are going to cut and run?

What makes this all so much worse is that Republicans are willing to gamble our national security interests—indeed, our ability to conduct foreign policy—over half-baked, failed ideas that do nothing to solve the problems they claim to solve.

Let's just take a look at a few of the demands the Republicans are making on immigration and asylum policies.

I heard one of our colleagues speak before that we only just want to have the asylum crisis be dealt with quicker. Well, that is not the case. Republicans say, for example, that they want to heighten the initial "credible fear" standard asylum seekers must pass and have been passing for decades in order to make it to the next stage of the asylum process.

Well, news flash: No matter how much the "credible fear" standard is heightened, it will do nothing to address the root problems causing asylum seekers to flee their home countries in the first place. If I am in one of these countries and my choice is to stay or die or see my daughter raped by a gang or be forcibly put into a gang, I am going to flee. That is why we have 20 million people in the Southern Hemisphere who are refugees and asylees displaced presently in other countries in the Western Hemisphere.

Unless we deal with that root cause challenge and help those countries assimilate those people, those are 20 million feet that are going to come knocking. Worse yet, constricting access to asylum would only encourage more illegal attempts to make it into the United States through other avenues that will, ultimately, enrich human smuggling networks.

Our asylum system encourages order. In fiscal year 2023, 99.5 percent of asylum seekers appeared—appeared—99.5 percent of asylum seekers appeared for

their hearings before an immigration judge. So only about five-tenths of a percent were in absentia. The vast majority of those asylum claims was, ultimately, denied. Then, at that point, they no longer have a right to be present.

Pushing migrants outside of the asylum system is not in the interest of anyone who wants an orderly immigration system or who professes to care about reducing the numbers of migrants that are encountered throughout the border.

Republicans say, for example, they want to dramatically limit the President's statutory authority to grant individuals humanitarian parole into the United States in response to major crises such as wars and invasions.

Well, here is another news flash: Dramatically shrinking humanitarian parole risks dramatically increasing irregular flows of migration to our borders.

Think about what would have happened in the wake of America's withdrawal from Afghanistan or in the wake of Russia's invasion of Ukraine if the United States did not have a robust humanitarian parole system screening tens of thousands of Afghans and Ukrainians for refuge through an orderly process. It would have been utter chaos with unknown numbers of unscreened, unvetted individuals from these countries potentially seeking entry at our borders.

Humanitarian parole allows the United States to be in the driver's view to determine which individuals can obtain protection in the United States and which cannot.

It also serves our national security interests by sending a clear message: If you stand with us, if you fight for freedom and there comes a life-and-death moment, we will provide you with refuge.

So this shouldn't be about sticking it to President Biden and the Democrats. The reality is that there will one day be another Democratic or Republican administration that will need to rely on our humanitarian parole laws to respond to moments of crisis like in Afghanistan and Ukraine. By fundamentally eroding these laws, Republicans would only hamper the ability of any future administration to respond to such crises. Gutting humanitarian parole only invites the very chaos at our borders that Republicans claim they want to mitigate.

What these and other demands reflect is the now-dominant and dangerous strain of Republican thinking that believes that our asylum, humanitarian parole, and refugee systems are largely fraudulent, allowing undeserving individuals to enter into our country.

Years of anti-immigrant fearmongering by former President Trump appear to have clouded the Republicans' ability to talk about our immigration system based on the facts—the type of conversations we had when

we passed comprehensive immigration reform in this Chamber with a gang of Senators—Republicans and Democrats—of which I was a part, with an overwhelming vote. That was a level-headed discussion. As a result, their policy ideas now are driven more by Stephen Miller's demagoguery than by any deliberative assessment of reality.

Here are some facts worth reminding my Republican friends about: Immigrants wield nearly \$1.3 trillion—trillion—in spending power in the United States, and they contribute tens of billions of dollars in taxes every year. A recent study found that a 25-percent reduction in the number of asylum seekers in the United States would cause an economic loss of over \$20 billion over 5 years.

Immigrants disproportionately make up our essential workforce by taking care of our sick, putting food on our tables, and taking care of our workplaces. They were the ones, when we were all home, sheltering, who were out taking the risks of their lives in order that the rest of us could be sheltered.

Immigrants are 80 percent more likely to become entrepreneurs than native-born Americans. Indeed, nearly 45 percent of Fortune 500 companies—45 percent of Fortune 500 companies—which employ tens of millions of Americans, were founded by immigrants or their children.

These migrants, asylum seekers, and refugees have not just enriched our economy, they have changed and shaped our Nation and the world more broadly.

Ever hear of Albert Einstein, a refugee who changed our understanding of science forever; Sergey Brin, the co-founder of Google, a refugee who changed technology forever; Gloria Estefan, a refugee who fled the Cuban revolution with her family and helped shape our musical landscape; or how about former U.S. Secretary of State Madeleine Albright—does that name ring a bell?—a refugee from Czechoslovakia who helped shape the modern world as the first woman to ever serve as U.S. Secretary of State. The list goes on and on and on.

The hard, undeniable reality is this: Our Nation's prosperity, power, and greatness are inextricably intertwined with our identity as a nation of striving, hard-working immigrants. So it is no wonder that our asylum, refugee, and humanitarian parole systems have received overwhelming bipartisan support over the decades. They are an essential source of our strength.

And let's be perfectly clear about something else. Welcoming asylum seekers, parolees, and refugees into the country is far from just an act of compassion. These systems directly support our national security and strategic economic interest at home and abroad.

Imagine a world where the United States and other countries did not have systems to provide refuge to dissidents,

journalists, lawyers, and others taking on tyrants and defending liberties in their countries. Would they have the same level of courage to enact change in their countries if they did not think they could protect themselves and their families if they faced life-and-death persecution?

So to my Republican friends, I say this: It is time to free yourselves from the Trumpian demagoguery that informs your current worldview on immigration. Join us in good faith to deliver inclusive, humane, and orderly immigration reform that will secure our borders, provide relief to the undocumented community, and strengthen our strategic posture in the world.

However, attempting to force this conversation here and now, when our allies have their backs against the wall, when they are fighting on the frontlines to protect U.S. interests, and when innocent people's lives hang in the balance is the height of recklessness and irresponsibility.

We can continue serving as the world's last, best defender of freedom and democracy without sacrificing one of our greatest strengths: our identity as a nation of immigrants.

We are the United States of America. Let's start acting like it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, we have a lot of work to get done before January 19, the next deadline to pass our funding and avoid a shutdown.

The American people are looking for serious leadership and results, and I come to the floor today to be clear about what the standard for success is here.

We need to pass regular, full-year funding, based on the bipartisan spending agreement from earlier this year, that actually responds to the challenges before us. Anything less means missing critical opportunities and worse.

A "date-change, full-year CR," as proposed by House Speaker JOHNSON, would be unprecedented and reckless.

Why is that? Well, because the Speaker's proposal would lock in outdated spending plans and devastating across-the-board cuts while locking all of us out of any kind of thoughtful decision-making process for our Nation's future, all of which should be absolutely unacceptable to everyone here.

It is one thing to have a short-term CR so we have additional time to negotiate in good faith and finish passing bills, full-year bills that strengthen our Nation, but it is another thing entirely to do a yearlong CR because we have no intention of doing our job.

We cannot just throw up our hands, act like nothing in the world has changed in the past 12 months, abdicate our responsibility to our constituents, and box in our Nation's future by putting the government on autopilot.

When you put the government on autopilot, without direction or any

consideration of changing needs, you are functionally causing year-over-year funding cuts without any rhyme, reason, or recalibration for new and changing priorities, causing huge uncertainties and inefficiencies across our Federal Government and seriously impairing every single one of our Agencies' ability to fulfill their mission and move our country forward. And that, by the way, is all before taking into account the incredibly steep across-the-board cuts that would come into play under this scenario under our Fiscal Responsibility Act.

This runs way deeper than numbers, at best, stagnating on a page and Agencies cutting hard-working staff and crucial services. We are talking about missing opportunities on issues where the clock is ticking, pulling the rug out from our families who are struggling, and undermining our national defense and security in front of the whole world.

I think we all understand now is a dangerous time to signal America's global leadership is faltering, but that is exactly the message a yearlong CR would send: a year of America's military falling behind and a year of our diplomatic and humanitarian efforts falling behind.

When we put our government on autopilot, we are telling the world Congress is asleep at the wheel and incapable of responding to the growing threats of an ever more dangerous world.

In practical terms for defense, as my colleague—the senior Senator from Maine and vice chair of the committee—said here on this floor recently, it means the Pentagon freezing 330 new programs or production increases. It means falling behind in building our ships and our subs and much more and doing so, by the way, at a time when China already has a larger navy.

It means essentially no new progress in our efforts to strengthen our military and diplomatic footprint in the Indo-Pacific so we can forge strong partnerships and deter aggression from the Chinese Government. This is something we devoted significant thought and resources to across our bipartisan spending bills, with new funding for our Indo-Pacific strategy and the Countering PRC Influence Fund, not to mention other global leadership investments like the new Economic Resilience Initiative that will help strengthen our supply chains for critical resources and weaken the financial pressure our competitors can exert on key U.S. partners.

But all that goes out the window with a full-year CR, particularly under the construct that has been proposed by the Speaker of the House, where he would simply change a date and quit—change a date and quit.

Can you imagine a leader, one of the highest ranking officials in this country, if not the world, seriously proposing that as an answer right now?

Under the yearlong CR, we would not have critical funding increases to support our servicemembers, to support their families, from troop readiness essentials like recruitment and training to family support like childcare and barracks, to other projects like the Shipyard Infrastructure Optimization Plan.

I also want to remind our colleagues, a full-year CR would not just hurt our national security, it would be devastating for our families and our communities across the country and our country's future.

When it comes to keeping our economy strong, there are simply too many missed opportunities to even list.

We would lose out increases in bolstering trade and U.S. business competitiveness. We would lose out on strengthening our supply chain and building innovation hubs. We would lose out on research funding for manufacturing; AI; agriculture; clean energy; cures and treatments for cancer, Alzheimer's, and other terrible diseases and a lot more.

We would lose ground in our plans to send Americans back to the Moon, while the Chinese Government is going full speed ahead.

And when it comes to fighting the opioid epidemic, resigning our Nation to a yearlong CR means the increased investments that we did include in our Senate bills to keep fentanyl out of our country by stopping drug cartels and getting help to patients and families won't happen.

Instead, stagnant funding means furloughs at our border and thousands of pounds of illicit drugs reaching our communities.

A CR also will not include any funding to reform cosmetics safety or retirement security or the organ donation and transplant system.

And let's talk about WIC. WIC is the lifeline for moms who need formula, nutritious food, and other essentials to feed their babies. It is at risk of being severely underfunded by a CR.

I grew up in a family who knew what it meant to fall on hard times and have a government that had our backs. I will not let our country pull out the rug from folks in their time of need. But if we put spending on autopilot for the next year, we will be kicking struggling families off benefits and onto wait-lists.

It is not just WIC that is going to see these painful shortfalls that will ultimately hurt families, it is programs that keep families warm in the winter or cool in the summer and safe from extreme temperatures like LIHEAP. It is programs that give people healthcare, like community health centers and the new suicide prevention lifeline. It is programs that make sure families have a roof over their head, rental assistance, affordable housing, homelessness prevention—programs that already can't meet the needs in their communities.

It is the Social Security Administration, for crying out loud. A CR would

force them to reduce hours and lay off staff. You want to call up and sign up for new benefits or see how you can fix a problem? There will be no one to answer you—long wait times.

And let's not forget, it is programs for folks who are trying to improve their situation, get a better job, and further their own career. A CR means no increases for apprenticeship funding, workforce training, or the maximum Pell amount.

What else do parents need if they are going to go to work? I have said it many times, childcare. We are in a childcare crisis, and with a full-year CR, this is only going to go from bad to worse because we will be resigned to across-the-board cuts to our Nation's childcare programs.

And our public schools also will face tight budgets. Kids are still recovering from this pandemic, and we can't afford to provide our schools less funding when our students deserve and need more support. It is that simple.

Look, I have been going on for a while. But the truth is, I have barely scratched the surface on what we will lose with a full-year CR: Increases throughout our bills to support Tribal communities, gone; over a billion dollars for FAA modernization efforts, gone; housing for wildland firefighters, improvements in our rail system, next-generation weather satellites, gone, gone, and gone.

And here is the kicker: I have only been talking so far about half the equation because the Fiscal Responsibility Act would force absolutely devastating across-the-board cuts on virtually all domestic programs that could be as much as nearly 10 percent.

Let's be clear about the damage here. Immediate hiring freezes and furloughs at just about every Agency. Millions of women and kids would lose WIC benefits; wait times at ports of entry would quadruple; wait times for new business permits from the Alcohol and Tobacco Tax and Trade Bureau would increase fivefold; nearly 1,000 fewer full-time food safety inspectors; 2,500 fewer national park employees and less staff and equipment for our Federal firefighters; 5,000 scientists, students, and technical staff no longer receiving research support at our national labs and universities; 130,000 fewer small businesses getting training and counseling from the Small Business Association; nearly 700,000 households losing Federal housing assistance and being pushed toward homelessness; 2½ million patients across Indian Country hurt by a \$235 million cut to the Indian Health Service hospitals and clinics.

And that is the tip of the iceberg. We are talking tens of billions of dollars slashed to programs that keep our country competitive and our economy strong and our families safe and sound. So this is really no run-of-the-mill CR outcome, which would be bad enough as it is.

The bottom line here is this: We have a job to do. We have a job to do. Our

constituents expect us to come to work, to listen to them, respond to the challenges in their life, write the bills, solve our problems, and deliver results. At a minimum, they expect us to try—not threaten, as the Speaker is doing, to change a few words and give up.

A long-term CR wouldn't just shut out their voices, it would cede ground to our adversaries, let America fall behind, and cut off vital resources families count on each and every day.

If we want to make sure that America continues to lead; if we want a strong, competitive economy; if we want a safer world; and if we want a real future for our families, we cannot just throw our hands up and hope for the best. We have to come together, do the hard work of governing, hammer out bipartisan spending bills that actually reflect what we think our Nation needs, get back to the bipartisan spending agreement that the House Republicans wanted—actually, getting back to that, they demanded it—and agree that extreme partisan riders have no place in our spending bills.

In the full Senate here, as the Presiding Officer knows, we wrote 12 bipartisan spending bills that follow the full terms of the bipartisan spending agreement, but now we need House Republicans to hold up their end of the bargain. That means sticking to the entire agreement and using the full resources it provides for defense and domestic programs.

We cannot move forward if House Republicans are busy trying to go back on their word, especially for a deal that they pushed for and negotiated in the first place. Let's all remember that House Republicans were the ones who chose to hold the debt limit hostage until they secured this agreement. Let's also remember it was their leader who negotiated this deal directly with the President. They cut this deal. When you negotiate a deal, you don't then bargain over how much of your word you are going to keep. Deals are built on common ground and mutual trust, not shifting sand.

So, Madam President, I will be clear. I am not calling on Republicans to do anything extreme here or anything I wouldn't do myself. I get that no one ever gets everything they want, especially in a divided government. In fact, as I have said many times, I believe the cuts that were enacted by the Fiscal Responsibility Act set us back. But that was the deal. That was the deal we voted on. So, here in the Senate, we did write 12 bipartisan bills to those terms. That is the job. That is what legislating looks like in a divided government.

If we are going to avoid an unnecessary shutdown or an absolutely unacceptable, inflexible, yearlong CR—for the first time ever—we need everyone to get real about just what is at stake if we give up on writing serious, full-year funding bills. And that is just what it is going to take to get that done. So I call on everybody: Let's do our job.

SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Now, Madam President, I also want to take a few minutes to talk about the supplemental funding package we are going to move to vote on shortly.

The clock is ticking, and the eyes of the world are watching to see how quickly and how completely the United States responds to urgent challenges across the world. We cannot afford delays that tell our adversaries they can just wait us out. We cannot afford half-steps that tell our allies we will only stand by some of them, some of the time. We cannot accept the notion that there is a "price" that must be paid in order to stand by our allies. That is why we are voting today to move forward on a bill that would respond to the pressing security challenges. It is past time for Senators to show they appreciate the urgency of this moment.

Now, I have heard some Republicans criticize this package for what is not in it—the extreme, partisan policy changes to our Nation's immigration laws that they have been pushing. Well, here is how I see this: When you have a bill like this one, with funding that is urgently needed for issues that have really broad, bipartisan support, and you face a moment like this, where civilians are suffering, our allies are under attack, our adversaries are watching for signs of weakness, and American leadership and our country's long-term security are on the line, you don't vote down the bill because you weren't able to attach your partisan wish list to it. And you don't tie aid for allies you believe is vital—vital to their safety and security—to passing partisan nonstarters; you work to find consensus and get that aid across the finish line.

Now let's talk about that aid and the funding that is in this bill and why it is so crucial to pass it without delay.

First, this package extends essential support for our allies in Ukraine—something we have been discussing even longer than aid to Israel and have already been forced to delay too many times.

Ukraine has fought bravely to push back Putin's bloody invasion, and our support for their efforts has been indispensable, but it is now—right now—at a critical juncture. We are about to leave the tank empty while Putin continues his attacks. If you are stopping us from getting this done, you are choosing to leave Ukraine with fewer resources and put Russia in a stronger position. Those are just the plain facts of the matter. This is not hyperbole; that is the military reality on the ground.

Ukraine's success on the battlefield depends on its air defenses, and those defenses depend on U.S.-made interceptor missiles, which they will not get without this package. So if we don't get this done quickly, we will, as just one example, give Russia an opening to potentially destroy Ukrainian air defenses and achieve air superiority.

That would mark a catastrophic turning point in the war, in the region, and in the balance of power between the free world and brutal dictatorships—a U.S. ally weakened, if not beaten, not due to lack of courage on their part but a lack of commitment on ours. That would send a dangerous and disgraceful message to our adversaries and our allies alike about just how serious to take America’s commitments.

We cannot let this get pushed off again. We have to send a clear message to dictators: You cannot wait the United States out and trample democracies. We stand firm by our allies. And that is what this package does with aid to Ukraine.

It also includes security assistance for Israel in the aftermath of the horrific Hamas attacks.

The latest activity from Houthi rebels against U.S. forces underscores the importance of supporting our allies and promoting stability in the region.

Critically, this package provides humanitarian aid for Gaza and elsewhere to get the civilians the food, water, medical care, and other essentials they desperately need. This is not just the absolute right thing to do, but it is a key part of combating hopelessness and the extremism that it can breed.

This bill also includes much needed investments in the Indo-Pacific so we can strengthen our allies and bolster our presence in the region and deter our adversaries.

Let’s be clear. This bill also does include resources for the border and to stop the flow of fentanyl. If you truly, honestly believe we need to do more on the border, I don’t know how you decide to do nothing and think it is better than something substantial.

So let’s cut to the chase here. This bill is made up of basic bipartisan priorities—supporting Ukraine, supporting Israel, getting humanitarian assistance to civilians, stopping fentanyl, making commonsense investments to humanely manage our border—and they all have broad support here in the Senate.

So let’s take this opportunity, with this vote today, to get things moving, to get onto this bill so we can do the hard work of legislating and debating and considering amendments to it instead of pitting allies and crises against each other as political bargaining chips.

I urge all of my colleagues to vote yes and show they are serious about responding to all the crises before us, and then let’s get right back to work in a bipartisan way on our annual spending bills, like I just talked about, and other urgent issues like childcare, because—let’s be clear—this is another crisis that is growing worse every day.

I yield the floor.

VOTE ON RAYES NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Rayes nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.
The assistant bill clerk called the roll.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 331 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Warner
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Fetterman	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—47

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeven	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schmitt
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sullivan
Cotton	Lee	Thune
Cramer	Lummis	Tillis
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Vance
Daines	Moran	Wicker
Ernst	Mullin	Young
Fischer	Paul	

The nomination was confirmed.
The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The majority leader.
Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the question before us is simple: Will Senators rise to defend Western democracy, protect our fundamental values, and support our friends abroad fighting for their lives? Are we willing to stand up to autocratic brutes and respond to our adversaries with strength, not weakness? Will we help the people of Ukraine fight against Vladimir Putin like we promised?

This is a moment in history. This is a moment history will record. The answer to all these questions should be an emphatic yes. At stake is America’s safety, the survival of democracy, and the future of the war in Ukraine. As we have always done in our history, the Senate should rush to the defense of democracy and stand up to autocratic brutes.

You can be sure Vladimir Putin is watching closely to see if the Senate will approve more aid to Ukraine. Whether or not we approve an aid package will likely sway the outcome of the war. We must act.

To show our Republican colleagues that we care about this issue deeply

and are serious about moving forward in a bipartisan way, we are willing to give them an amendment here on the floor on any border proposal of their choice at 60 votes. We will not interfere with whatever policy they want to present. It is vital we move forward and to show that we are willing to work with our Republican colleagues to be reasonable.

This, again, is a moment of truth for the Senate, for the country, for the fight for democracy and Western values. Again, history will record this moment. We must rise to the occasion. We must stand with Ukraine. We should all vote yes.

I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Jeanne Shaheen, Debbie Stabenow, Tim Kaine, Benjamin L. Cardin, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Christopher Murphy, Mark R. Warner, Richard J. Durbin, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons, Jack Reed, Richard Blumenthal, Tammy Baldwin, Margaret Wood Hassan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the motion to proceed to H.R. 815, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.
The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 49, nays 51, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 332 Ex.]

YEAS—49

Baldwin	Coons	Kaine
Bennet	Cortez Masto	Kelly
Blumenthal	Duckworth	King
Booker	Durbin	Klobuchar
Brown	Fetterman	Lujan
Butler	Gillibrand	Manchin
Cantwell	Hassan	Markey
Cardin	Heinrich	Menendez
Carper	Hickenlooper	Merkley
Casey	Hirono	Murphy

Murray	Shaheen	Warnock
Ossoff	Sinema	Warren
Padilla	Smith	Welch
Peters	Stabenow	Whitehouse
Reed	Tester	Wyden
Rosen	Van Hollen	
Schatz	Warner	

NAYS—51

Barrasso	Graham	Ricketts
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Boozman	Hagerty	Romney
Braun	Hawley	Rounds
Britt	Hoeben	Rubio
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Kennedy	Schumer
Collins	Lankford	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lee	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lummis	Sullivan
Cramer	Marshall	Thune
Crapo	McConnell	Tillis
Cruz	Moran	Tuberville
Daines	Mullin	Vance
Ernst	Murkowski	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO). On this vote, the yeas are 49, the nays are 51.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn not having voted in the affirmative, the motion is not agreed to.

The motion was rejected.

MOTION TO RECONSIDER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I enter a motion to reconsider.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The motion is entered.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, tonight is a sad night in the history of the Senate and in our country. Republicans just blocked a very much needed proposal to send funding for Ukraine, funding for Israel, humanitarian aid for innocent civilians in Gaza, and funding for the Indo-Pacific.

If there is a word for what we most need now, it is to be "serious." If Republicans in the Senate do not get serious very soon about a national security package, Vladimir Putin is going to walk right through Ukraine and right through Europe.

This is a historic moment for the Senate. Are we going to do something about the threats to democracy happening around the world? Are we going to hold the line against autocrats and dictators and the enemies of our way of life?

We had before the Senate a proposal not only for national security but one that included significant funding for border security that President Biden requested.

We also made our Republican colleagues an offer to get something done on border by allowing them to vote on an amendment on any border package they wanted—any one they wanted, and all they would need is 11 Democratic votes.

Unfortunately, Republicans refused to move forward, even with the offer to vote on a border amendment that would have required only 11 Democratic votes. They couldn't come up with a solution.

Nevertheless, Democrats remain committed to working very hard to find a solution to this impasse. I understand that Republican negotiators are

preparing another package of border policies very soon, and I hope they come up with something serious instead of the extreme policies they presented thus far.

Democrats have always supported commonsense, realistic solutions to the border. We wished Republicans would have taken us up on our offer to have a debate on the floor. Our offer to the Republicans of an amendment still stands, and we hope we can break this impasse soon.

This is a serious moment that will have lasting consequences for the 21st century. If Ukraine falls, Putin will not stop there. He will be emboldened. President Xi will be emboldened. Our adversaries will keep undermining us at every turn. Western democracy will begin to enter an age of decline if we aren't willing to defend it.

This Senate, this Republican Party, must get serious.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, the clock is ticking. Aid for our allies in Ukraine has run dry, and the whole world is now watching to see if the United States is still capable of standing by all of its allies in times of need.

There is a lot at stake here. Now is the time for choosing whether the United States will continue being a leader in the world and a champion for democracy. So I hope Senate Republicans think carefully about whether they truly want to abandon our allies in Ukraine over draconian, far-right immigration policies that will never become law or if they will work with us to stop conditioning this aid on partisan nonstarters and get this vital funding over the line.

If we can put forward a commonsense bipartisan proposal regarding the border, we will consider that. They had a real opportunity today to do just that and debate those policies here on the Senate floor.

But let's be clear: We do not have time to give up and call it a day. We have too much at stake to settle for half steps that tell the world the United States no longer knows how to stand with its allies or stand up to dictators.

Votes matter. Blocking consideration of today's supplemental sends a real and dangerous signal to the entire world—to our allies and our adversaries alike. But it is not too late for us to come together and send a different message, a message that says "America is united" when it comes to leading on the world stage and keeping our country and our friends safe.

Let's talk to one another. Let's understand that compromise has to happen. And let's act quickly and completely to deliver the national security resources that are so badly needed. I am ready to get to work with my colleagues and do just that.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mrs. MURRAY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The Senator from Kansas.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—H.R. 6126

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, twice before, Republicans have come to this floor to attempt to pass by unanimous consent the House-passed stand-alone aid package to Israel that would provide our ally with \$14 billion in military assistance for their fight to destroy the Hamas terrorists and send a loud message to Iran and its proxies.

I would like to yield the floor to the Senator from Florida.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Florida.

Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Madam President, I want to thank the Senator from Kansas for his continued effort to make sure we get Israel aid.

The United States must always stand with our great ally Israel and with the Jewish people. Israel is fighting against Iran-backed terrorists for its very existence.

Iran-backed Hamas terrorists have murdered thousands with the intention of destroying Israel and the Jewish people. Hamas terrorists have beheaded babies, burned them alive, raped and murdered young women.

We have seen the news reports of the sexual assaults committed by Hamas terrorists—all too graphic to speak of here, but here are some of the headlines.

ABC News: "New signs emerge of 'widespread' sexual crimes by Hamas, as Netanyahu alleges global indifference."

The Washington Post: "Israel investigates an elusive, horrific enemy: Rape as a weapon of war."

The Jewish Chronicle: "Hamas terror attack: Girls 'raped next to their dead friends' at rave massacre."

We cannot turn a blind eye to these barbaric acts. The world must know what these animals did to innocent Jewish women and girls.

Just yesterday in the U.S. House of Representatives, the presidents of Harvard, MIT, and the University of Pennsylvania were asked, under oath, if calling for the genocide of Jews violates their university's code of conduct or rules regarding bullying and harassment.

A simple yes-or-no question. Their response? They could not even answer yes.

We have to really let that sink in. They couldn't say yes. The president of three Ivy League schools could not answer yes to that simple question.

It is clear that we need to use this moment to stand with Israel and the Jewish people.

The House took decisive action by passing this bill. They moved quickly, and the measure is fully paid for. This bill was blocked by the Democrats

once, but today the Senate can change that error and pass this bill right now. And I am proud to colead the companion bill in the Senate with the Senator from Kansas.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I would like to yield the floor to the senior Senator from Tennessee.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee is recognized.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I appreciate the opportunity to be on the floor this afternoon with my colleague from Kansas.

It is 2 months ago tomorrow that Hamas carried out these horrific attacks in Israel. Now, bear in mind that the Jewish State—and this is the world's only Jewish State—is in a fight for their very survival because Hamas has decided that they are going to continue this. They said October 7 was basically the beginning. And they continued to do this over and over and over.

Now, this is why we have said let's deal with the aid to Israel and do it separately from Ukraine and from Taiwan. And let's also talk about our border. So there is a reason for what we are doing.

Now, I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do not want to have a pay-for. House Republicans have chosen to have the pay-for. And yes, indeed, this Chamber needs to be working with the House to fund a resolution to this issue. And I appreciate that my colleague from Washington brought up the fact that we need to work through this issue. Indeed, we do. So let's work through these issues separately.

When it comes to Israel aid, there are some urgent needs that are there. There is \$4 billion to replenish the Iron Dome. This is a wonderful technology that we have worked with Israel in creating. It is incredibly effective. They need \$4 billion for replenishment.

Bear in mind—I said Hamas has told us—they did it once; they are going to do this again.

They need \$1 billion for munitions. They need \$50 million for help to evacuate Americans, \$150 million to help secure our Embassy in Jerusalem.

And using the money that was set aside for additional IRS agents but has not been used—that makes sense to Tennesseans, that we would do that.

I tell you where Tennesseans do have a problem. They look at our national debt, \$34 trillion. That is about \$100,000 for every man, woman, and child.

I have a grandbaby who will be 4 months old tomorrow—his debt share, \$100,000.

Think about what we are doing. Think about what effect this will have 18, 19, 20 years from now, when that child draws their first paycheck, and how it is going to limit their opportunity.

Another thing that doesn't seem to make sense, while we all agree that Israel needs to receive their funding, Tennesseans don't want this to come

attached with billions of dollars for other programs, like \$10 billion for global humanitarian assistance and more than \$2 billion for assistance to resettle refugees.

This is something that separately needs our attention. If we want to talk about securing borders, let's secure our border first. When we talk about aid to Israel, let's do it, and let's pay for it.

I appreciate my colleague from Kansas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I would like to yield some time to the senior Senator from Alabama.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I join my colleagues to support our ally Israel.

On October 7, Israel was suddenly and deliberately attacked by Hamas terrorists. The terrorists targeted innocent people, not military targets. That is very important. They killed thousands of civilians, including dozens of Americans. They filmed their own atrocities and put videos on the internet. They were very proud of what they were doing. It is absolutely disgraceful.

The United States has supported Israel from the very beginning. The first leader in the world to recognize Israel was Harry Truman. Administrations from both parties have strongly supported Israel, but now the Biden administration is trying to ride the fence.

Joe Biden knows that his voting base does not like it. The left dislikes Israel. In their woke ideology, they say Palestinians are oppressed by Israel. It is just not true.

Since the war broke out in October, liberals in Congress and around the country have expressed sympathy for Hamas. It has been especially bad on college campuses. I am not even going to repeat some of the things that have been said by Democrat Members of Congress.

Joe Biden has also continued to practice appeasement of Iran. When Joe Biden took office, Iran was dead broke. They had access to just a few billion dollars in foreign currencies. Today, they have 10 times that much money. This is because of loosened sanctions and because of oil sales by Iran.

Iran is the No. 1 sponsor of terrorism in the world. Iran provides funding for Hamas and for Hezbollah. Joe Biden is helping Iran to get rich. There is no question that sanctions relief for Iran will end up in the hands of terrorists. Joe Biden wants to ride the fence, but we can't ride the fence on this one, not for our ally.

This is a battle between good and evil. This is about an ally of the United States of America fighting terrorists who killed innocent women and children. And let's remember, the terrorists killed Americans too. Hamas would love to kill more Americans, and they will kill more Americans if they

get the chance. So Israel needs to wage a war of extermination against Hamas.

I am supporting this legislation to provide \$14 billion in aid to Israel. Unlike the Democrats' request for foreign aid, this is paid for. We pay for it by cancelling out the Democrats' plan to supersize the IRS.

Are they more important than Israel?

Last year, the Democrats cut the IRS a check for \$80 billion. Their plan is to hire 80,000 new IRS agents. They want to double the size of the IRS. They want to shake down the American people for every last dime.

The wealthy will be just fine. The wealthy have tax lawyers and accountants. It is families and small businesses that will pay this price. A report from the Joint Tax Committee said that the Democrats' bill last year raised taxes on almost every tax bracket.

So, last month, every Senator voted on record on this bill to support Israel. Every Republican voted for it. Every Democrat voted against it.

Now, it is clear for all the American people to see who supports Israel. It is pretty simple. Who has other priorities? If the Democrats block this bill today, they are just doubling down.

Democrats care a lot more about the IRS—bureaucrats shaking down small businesses—than they do about supporting our ally Israel in their fight against terrorism. It is time for Democrats to stop riding the fence. Stop trying to play both sides, and let's support our ally, Israel and ensure that the terrorists are defeated.

I yield back to my colleague.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Next, I would like to yield the floor to my good friend, a staunch supporter of the people of Israel, the senior Senator from Texas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, I am here on the floor to join my colleagues in support of Israel, and we are willing to do more than just speak those words. We are willing to do something about it—something that, miraculously, the majority leader has been unwilling to do since November 2, when the House passed a \$14.3 billion bill to provide aid to Israel.

And, for some reason, the only person who has the authority to bring a bill like that to the floor to vote has refused to do so. It makes me wonder why. Why in the world would the majority leader, who I know supports Israel, refuse to bring a bill to the floor to provide that aid? So far, it is almost 5 weeks since the House passed an appropriations bill to do exactly that.

Well, it could be that he doesn't like the pay-for, that he doesn't want us to quit adding to our national debt. But if that is the case, he could suggest another offset or pay-for. He could have tried to bring the bill to the floor and eliminate the pay-for that the House provided.

Frankly, I think it makes plenty of sense to keep the House pay-for in the bill so we don't add to our national debt, which is now about 100 percent of our economy. This last year alone, the United States Government paid over \$600 billion in interest to our bondholders who own our national debt. And, apparently, the majority leader and our Democratic colleagues want to add to that and not stop this march toward bankruptcy or insolvency.

So here we had a vote. The majority leader brings a bill to the floor to deal with Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and to provide more money to pay for the current broken border policies by the Biden administration.

You might wonder: Why would he bring that bill to the floor with those four pieces, those four components, but yet refuse to bring a bill to the floor to fund Israel?

You would think, well, at least it is a step in the direction he apparently wants to go. But the truth is that he is holding this Israel aid hostage to his desire to pass this other \$106 billion appropriations bill, this supplemental.

Now, don't get me wrong. Many of us support aid to Ukraine, but we also are going to insist on policy solutions to help prevent and stop and reverse what we see happening at our border, which is historically catastrophic.

So this is really a very strange way of doing business. Here we are, almost 5 weeks after the House passed an Israel aid bill. You would think, well, the majority leader would say: Let's pass that and send it to the President, and then we can focus on the rest of the bill that was on the floor this afternoon—Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, and the border. But, apparently, he wants to use the support for the Israel aid to build the vote for the larger bill, understanding that, while support for Israel is virtually universal among both parties and in both Houses, there are some divisions on the Ukraine aid or the terms under which that aid is provided.

So it is clear to me that he is holding up aid for Israel in order to achieve other objectives. That is his prerogative as majority leader, but I have to ask to our pro-Israel supporters around the country whether they think this is a legitimate leverage that could be used in order to achieve a larger objective, or whether it would make more sense, if you truly are a supporter of Israel, to go ahead and get this to the President and to get that aid to Israel and then come back and do the rest of what I know the majority leader wants to do.

So the other part of this—which is amazing to me—is we know the Speaker passed the Israel aid because he knows he has concerns, and he doesn't know if he has the votes in the House to pass the larger package. So why would you not take up and pass the Israel aid as opposed to send the House this larger \$106 billion package when it is unlikely that the Speaker is going to be able to pass that, at least based on

his experience. Doesn't that also delay aid to Israel even more by packaging it with other items?

Frankly, it is mysterious to me why all this time—2 months after Israel was attacked by Hamas, 5 weeks after the House has passed an Israel aid bill—that, finally, here we are coming to the floor, offering to take up and pass the Israel aid, and we are going to get an objection from the Democratic side.

It is really mysterious to me. It is very puzzling. Why in the world would our Democratic colleagues, if they truly support Israel, if they truly want to fight—give Israel the tools they need to fight Hamas, a terrorist organization, bought and paid for by Tehran—why in the world would they object to it?

Well, Washington, DC, in many ways, is a parallel universe that is very much unlike any of the rest of the country. What makes sense here, inside the beltway, makes no sense to our constituents back home, and this is just another example of that.

So I applaud my colleague from Kansas for taking the initiative here and calling us together, and not just saying we support Israel but actually being willing to do something about it.

That is another phenomenon here in Washington, DC. There are a lot of people who say the right words, but, when it comes to actions, they are missing in action.

So I thank my colleague from Kansas.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I sure appreciate the Senator from Texas speaking up and the wise words he shared. It reminds me of an old saying, that a bird in the hand is worth two in the bush, that funding Israel today is worth two of these other issues that seemingly just never can come together as we try to solve this four-headed riddle.

As I said earlier, this is now my third time to the floor to try to pass with unanimous consent the House-passed, stand-alone aid package to Israel that would provide our ally with \$14 billion in military assistance.

Now, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stood on the Senate floor and debated with us and lectured us on why this bipartisan, House-passed legislation that maintains the exact spending levels requested by President Biden is somehow unreasonable. But I would like to share with you what I think is unreasonable. I think it is the Democrats' unwillingness to help our ally and separate this package to get it to the President's desk today. Unreasonable is my colleagues across the aisle using the crisis in Israel to secure more money for Ukraine. But what is unfathomable is what this body just admitted—that we are nowhere closer to getting this aid package passed than we were on October 7 when the war broke out.

In case nobody is paying attention, tomorrow will be 2 months to the day

that Hamas brutally and savagely attacked the people of Israel.

I think we need to be honest with the American people. Negotiations aren't just stalled; they never started. Meaningful negotiations never started. We have a better chance of finding an ocean in Kansas than this \$106 billion package seeing the light of day.

Today, every single Republican sent a unanimous message to the Democrat leadership and 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue: We will not be bullied into voting on massive spending packages that use Israel as leverage to fund Democrat priorities, and we will not vote for any legislation that secures foreign nations' borders but not our own.

So here we are once again offering an olive branch to separate this package out and address each of these issues one at a time. The House made this easy for us. They passed a bipartisan bill that would grant aid to Israel and allow us to break this logjam and focus on the more pressing matter to our national security: the border. The border. The border. The border.

Now, the Democrats showed their hands 2 weeks ago when they voted unanimously against our bipartisan, stand-alone Israel aid bill that would have fast-tracked this package straight to the President's desk before Thanksgiving. But, sadly, this city loves to make the perfect the enemy of the good.

The sensible thing for this body to do now is pass this bipartisan, stand-alone aid bill for Israel. This legislation passed the House over a month ago and could be delivered to President Biden's desk tonight. We should pass aid to Israel and then continue debating a potential broader package.

Now, I have never heard of an American asking for more IRS agents. And if you are concerned about the pay-fors we presented, as I said time and time again, show us another pay-for.

It is time to end the political talking points that we have heard on this floor.

And please don't insult our intelligence. Don't insult the intelligence of Americans with the fake border security that is in this bigger, broader package that will only accelerate asylum, leading to more people crossing our border illegally.

If you plan to object to this stand-alone bill's passage on the ground that military aid to Israel should include conditions, I want to note for the record that senior officials from the White House have said they are not pursuing such conditions.

So, indeed, let's come together. Let's all come to the table. We tried it your way, and it failed. This is a huge opportunity to secure a bipartisan win and get to work on the most immediate threat to our national security—our wide-open southern border.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of H.R. 6126, which was received from the House. I further ask that the bill be considered

read a third time and passed and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Is there objection?

The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I have been clear about why we must deliver support for Ukraine, Israel, and humanitarian assistance together, as have many of my colleagues. That is actually why we just attempted to move forward on one package that meets all of these needs—a package that Republicans blocked.

I spoke about this before the vote, but let me just reiterate how dire the situation is right now.

Our support for Ukraine has been essential, but it has also now been exhausted. Our allies are waiting for aid, and Putin is just waiting for us to send a sign that it is not coming. But Putin is not the only one watching right now. The world is watching this debate. Our allies want to know, when they are facing a crisis, can they count on America to stand with them or will we give up on them when it gets tough or when we get distracted with other crises? They are all watching and wondering, can America still lead or are we overwhelmed? Will America pick and choose which promises it keeps?

Let's not forget, it is not just big-name allies and adversaries we are talking about here; there are many smaller but no less important countries that are watching. Some are in critical regions, facing historic decisions about the paths and partnerships they will pursue in the years ahead, and they are wondering, is the United States a reliable partner? We have to put those concerns to rest with a strong package that shows that our commitment to our allies and to standing up to dictators is ironclad.

That is what is at stake here—not just our allies in Ukraine, who are at a key moment in their battle to protect their sovereignty, not just our deterrence to adversaries like Putin and other dictators who would trample democracy if given the chance, but our very credibility on the world stage.

We have to respond to all these crises or we are telling the world: Don't count on America. We are at capacity.

That is an incredibly dangerous message to send, especially at such a critical moment. It should be unthinkable.

I appreciate my colleague's urgency to get aid to Israel, but this is a deeply flawed way to deliver it. This bill would not provide a single dollar in desperately needed humanitarian assistance to civilians in Gaza and elsewhere, and it would not address the urgent need to extend funding for Ukraine.

There are civilians in Ukraine right now who are suffering and have been for months. There is also an enemy in Ukraine who is on the march and is just waiting for an opening to gain the upper hand.

We have been discussing the aid for our allies in Ukraine for much longer than aid for Israel, which is also urgently needed, and we have already been delayed here for too long. To force Ukraine to wait or to withhold future aid is to abandon an ally, surrender to a dictator, and invite more chaos around the world.

We cannot leave Ukraine behind, nor can we fail to deliver humanitarian assistance before the humanitarian crisis in Gaza devolves further into hopelessness that can worsen the threats we are already facing.

At this critical moment, it is not just the right thing to do, it is essential to our national security interests to help promote stability and security. That same logic applies to other investments as well, like supporting our allies in the Indo-Pacific. Invest in stability so we avoid paying for chaos.

We have to move quickly to respond to these challenges, yes, but we also have to move completely to respond to them because, as I have said before, they are all connected.

If we let the Israel-Hamas war weaken our resolve elsewhere, we are telling dictators across the world: The best way to get America off your back is for it to be distracted by a crisis somewhere else.

We are essentially giving Hamas and other extremists a new sales pitch to make when seeking support from bad actors: Give us support, and we will keep America busy. They can't deal with you if they are focused on us.

That is a profoundly dangerous message to send.

Putin is watching closely to see if this is his opportunity to make our resolve waiver in Ukraine. As it plots its next move, the Chinese Government is watching closely to see if we will stand up to aggressors. If we falter, other adversaries will take note as well. That is why doing half the job here is just not going to cut it. We have to do the whole job. Anything less is telling our allies that America cannot be trusted and telling dictators that they have free rein because America is too busy to lead right now.

We must not invite chaos. We must not abandon any of our allies. We have to show that U.S. leadership is strong and capable of meeting all the challenges before us.

So I urge Republicans to get serious about the situation before us so we can pass a package like the one we just voted on that shows the world that America takes its commitments seriously and doesn't just stand by some of its allies some of the time.

With that, I yield to Senator REED.

Mr. REED. Thank you, Senator MURRAY.

Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Does the Senator reserve the right to object?

Mr. REED. I would like to be recognized and reserve the right to object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, just a few minutes ago, my Republican colleagues voted down the National Security and Border Act. In doing so, they essentially said no to supporting Israel, no to supporting Ukraine, no to supporting Taiwan, no to humanitarian assistance, which is absolutely critical, no to rebuilding our defense industrial base, no to border security funding, and no to combating fentanyl.

These items are not the partisan demands of any one party; they are bipartisan priorities and necessities. They are the fulfillment of our commitments to our allies and to our national security.

I believe the majority of our Republican colleagues do believe this, but some may see this as leverage—as one of my colleagues put it in a discussion, leverage for extreme immigration legislation that they don't at the moment have the votes to pass.

In delaying the much needed assistance that I indicated, my Republican colleagues are indirectly, directly, or however you want to put it, giving too many opportunities or at least ideas to people like Putin and Chinese communists and others who are engaged in trying to undermine democracy throughout the world.

Speaking for myself, I hope that what we can do is begin a serious debate now—not on the one issue that I listed but on all those issues—and come to a serious, principled compromise so that we can move forward together.

It seems that my colleagues on the other side simply want us to accept their version of immigration reform, and then everything else will be OK. It is not that at all. In fact, one of the aspects of the legislation that was just voted down was a significant infusion of resources into the border area—1,300 additional Border Patrol agents, 1,000 law enforcement personnel and investigative capabilities to prevent cartels from moving fentanyl into the country, 1,600 additional asylum officers, funding to conduct robust child labor investigations and enforcement to protect vulnerable migrant children entering the United States through the southern border, and the bipartisan FEND Off Fentanyl Act, led by our colleague, Senator TIM SCOTT of South Carolina.

My colleagues just voted against a series of important ways to fix our problems at the border. We need them desperately, and we could have gotten them if we had moved forward procedurally.

I have been here for a couple of years, and I have seen several occasions where we have been together on a bipartisan basis. I know in 2013, led by Senator McCain and others, we passed comprehensive immigration reform, only to see it set aside by the Republican House of Representatives at the time.

So we, I think, have to do much more, and we can, but it will be on a bipartisan, cooperative basis. We have to do much more to help not just Israel—

it is critical—but also Ukraine. It has been a long time since we have had their funding request—August of this year. They made a serious request for additional resources, anticipating the attrition they would suffer over the intervening months, long before the October 7 tragedy.

It has been more than 2 months since President Zelenskyy was here in person asking us all personally for the help he needed to lead his country forward. It was at that time that Senator MCCONNELL correctly and sincerely indicated, in his words, “American support for Ukraine is not charity. It is in our own direct interests, not least because degrading Russia helps to deter China.” But the foot-dragging has continued since then.

Ukraine cannot wait. The OMB Director wrote earlier this week:

[W]ithout congressional action, by the end of the year we will run out of resources to produce more weapons and equipment for Ukraine and to provide equipment from U.S. military stocks.

There is no magical pot of funding available to meet this moment. We are out of money—and nearly out of time.

So without our help, the Ukrainian people will be in a very desperate situation. We need to help them. We need to help our allies in Israel. We need to help those in Taiwan, and we need to help the innocent victims of conflict throughout the world.

So this one-shot deal doesn't cut it. We have to come together, work together, and deliver assistance to Ukraine, to Israel, to Taiwan, humanitarian aid, and aid for our borders.

With that, I will yield to Senator KLOBUCHAR.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Minnesota.

Ms. KLOBUCHAR. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I rise today alongside my colleagues, Senators MURRAY, REED, SHAHEEN, SCHATZ, and HEINRICH to discuss the need to pass this supplemental funding package.

I spoke earlier today about the importance of humanitarian aid—humanitarian aid for the innocent civilians, Palestinian civilians in Gaza; humanitarian aid for people throughout the world. It is one major way that America has led through World War II and after, through the Cold War. Yes, we have led with our military strength, but we have also led by making friends and making sure people have what they need so they don't starve. And so many of those countries have gone on to do great things, to be great countries, to be democracies, to work with us to be trading partners.

But, today, I am here to focus on Ukraine. We are at a pivotal point not just in American history but in the history of humanity. It is during moments like these that nations across the globe look to America for leadership. They expect our leadership.

Yes, our friends in Ukraine are counting on us, but so are so many other allies as they look to see what we

will do. This has never been America alone helping Ukraine. It has been all-in for many countries.

Early in the conflict, I traveled to Poland with a number of Senators—Democrats and Republicans—and it was right when one of the first major loss of life had occurred in Ukraine at a military training facility. And we happened to be at the entry point where families were fleeing—people in wheelchairs, little kids with backpacks with nothing but their stuffed animal in it. That is what I remember.

I remember the Polish people who had been invaded over the years by the Hapsburgs, by the Nazis, by the Russians, opening their arms to these Ukrainians, which they are still doing today—millions of refugees.

We have played a very important role in this conflict. We have surprised the world, and I am certain we surprised Russia. And the Ukrainians have surprised them with their incredible courage when everyone had counted them out. This scrappy force who had been at the frontline for years already in Donbas and other regions in Ukraine who, once again, went to the frontline.

We trained them. It is our equipment that has been so superior, as well as those from our allies in this fight. And what has happened? Well, since Vladimir Putin's unprovoked and unlawful, unjustifiable invasion last February, our Ukrainian friends have reclaimed half of the territory that is rightfully theirs. Vladimir Putin tried to capture Kyiv, but he failed.

Senator PORTMAN and I, in the middle of the war, went and saw that airfield where the Russians had come down in parachutes thinking that the Ukrainians would just fold. They didn't fold. They held their ground and they kept Kyiv.

Vladimir Putin tried to wipe Ukraine off the map, but he failed.

He tried to break the Ukrainian spirit, but he has made it stronger.

He tried to take them down in the middle of winter last winter by cutting off their electricity. He threatened the biggest nuclear plant, not only in Ukraine but in all of Europe. There is no limit to what they will do. He has shown his true colors: capturing cities, slaughtering innocents, abducting Ukrainian children. But the Ukrainian people have shown theirs: defending their democracy against all odds in brilliant blue and yellow; cellists playing their song and their national anthem on burned-out steps; ballerinas going to the frontline in camo; a videographer delivering medical supplies to Ukrainian troops; the DJ at the national call center using her platform to find missing loved ones. It is not just the troops on the frontline; it is the entire country. And they are watching to see what they are doing.

I met with the Ukrainian Ambassador today along with the Speaker of their House, along with their Defense Minister; and they are watching. The Russians are using everything that is

said in this Chamber, everything that is done, because they are trying to use it against the Ukrainians. They are trying to break their spirit, break their backbone, break the morale of their troops. Well, it is not working. But they are watching.

This is our moment. I think Leader MCCONNELL put it best when he said—and I say this to our Republican colleagues when you think about the Iranian drones that were used by the Russians, when you think about the massacre in Israel and the fact that Hamas then went to Russia—a representative of this terrorist group went to Russia and met with leaders there:

Think of it as an axis of evil: China, Russia and Iran. So this is not just a test for Ukraine. It is a test for the United States and for the free world. And the path toward greater security for all of us is simple: Help Ukraine win the war.

Let us not forget what President Zelenskyy did in the hours immediately after the initial invasion, when everyone in the world—all those pundits that were at the Munich Security Conference that Senator SHAHEEN and I attended—people were counting him out. He did one incredibly brave thing followed by thousands of brave acts. He went to the street corner with just a few of his top advisors, and he stood there and looked at the camera and in the face of evil, in a statement of defiance, in a call to action to democracies everywhere, he said three simple words: “We are here.”

America heeded that call. Ukrainians heeded that call. And democracies all over the world united in every corner of the world, and we said: “We are here, too.”

The Ukrainian people have defended its nation against a tyrant, against one of the largest armies in the world. It is our moral obligation to stand by them. And talking to those leaders in the Baltic countries yesterday—Lithuania and Latvia and Estonia—they have been through this before. They have stood tall, but they know what the stakes are.

If we let this happen and we let Putin just march right in next month because we refused to help, he is not going to stop marching in their eyes because they have seen it before. We must ensure that democracy triumphs over autocracy; that humanity prevails over brutality; and that the spirit of Ukraine carries the day.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Mexico.

Mr. HEINRICH. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, I just want to make a point that we need a complete security package. All of these things are related, and all of them reinforce not only our allies and innocent civilians but also our own security and the future of the direction of the free world.

We are not going to turn our back on Ukraine. How many meetings did we

have via Zoom or actually in person with Zelenskyy where so many of our colleagues said we would always stand with Ukraine after all that Ukraine has been through. And I remember being in briefings where people were predicting that Ukraine would crumble in a matter of days. And they stood up to the Russian aggression and they continue to stand up to Russian aggression and they have actually pushed Russia back. That isn't just in Ukraine's interest. That is in the interest of the free world.

We need a security package that supports our allies in Israel, that supports the innocent civilians in Gaza that are also the victims of what Hamas has done. And we need a security package that stands with our allies in Ukraine.

Mr. President, I would offer the rest of my time to my colleague from Hawaii.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, reserving the right to object. We are in a global fight against fascism and authoritarianism. We are seeing it in Putin's war in Ukraine, and we are seeing it with Hamas and the unspeakable horrors it committed on and since October 7. And we are seeing it with Xi Jinping's explicit desire to take Taiwan by force.

These people do not hide their true intentions. They telegraph them to the whole world; and, worse, they are willing to do whatever it takes. Nothing is off limits to them. And that is the seriousness of the global threat of an increasingly coordinated fascist movement. And so to address one of these problems but not the other, to somehow judge one threat to be greater than the other, to say we are going to fund Israel but not Ukraine, is wrong. It is wrong morally because evil is evil, no matter where it occurs. And it is wrong strategically because we have a direct national security interest wherever fascism rears its ugly head.

Take off your Ukraine lapel pins. Take back everything you said to President Zelenskyy.

We were in the House when he addressed us. Everyone was anxious to shake his hand and express support. We put it into our Twitter bios. We put on the little lapel pin. We had him in the Old Senate Chamber on a bipartisan basis.

Everybody is for Ukraine—unless it is hard. Everybody is for Ukraine—unless I can't get something unrelated on domestic policy.

Everybody is for Ukraine when it is popular, when it is the thing that just happened. But the moment Donald J. Trump wants to defund this war, a lot of people go: Oh, my God, maybe I am not so enthusiastic about this.

If you are for something, vote for the thing. There are a million other jobs out there where you can be for something and never be put to the test. I have an opinion. I am a guy at a bar. I am a person at a bus stop. It is Sunday

night dinner. I have an opinion. But in this job, the way to determine whether or not you are for something is not what you said before the vote, but it is how you voted. And if you are for Ukraine, you have to vote to help Ukraine to defend itself in a land war in Europe.

There is a land war in Europe. Vladimir Putin is trying to take Ukraine by force, and he might just do it if we abandon them. So, if you are for Ukraine, vote for Ukraine.

I would now like to yield to the senior Senator from New Hampshire, Senator SHAHEEN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from New Hampshire.

Mrs. SHAHEEN. Mr. President, in reserving the right to object, I am pleased to be able to join my colleagues again on the floor of the Senate to support a supplemental funding request that recognizes the breadth of our national security interests in this country. That is a supplemental funding request that must include Ukraine, Israel, humanitarian needs, and the emerging challenges in the Indo-Pacific.

The horrific events of October 7—2 months ago tomorrow—was the worst terrorist attack that Israel has faced. We know that over 1,000 innocent Israelis were killed. It was barbaric. Now, both Ukraine and Israel face a similar threat against adversaries that seek to destroy them. A holistic national security supplemental bill is critical to protecting our interests—America's interests. We must pass an appropriations bill that supports our allies in Israel and Ukraine and that fully funds the other critical efforts that provide for our national security.

My colleagues have been very eloquent tonight, but I want to add to their explanations about why continued support for Ukraine is critical.

We should be proud that with strong bipartisan support, our country has stood with Ukraine since before the beginning of Russia's unprovoked invasion almost 2 years ago. We have done so with our NATO allies and our international partners, including South Korea and Japan, that recognize what is at stake even though they are a half a world away. Our allies and partners have contributed a total of \$94.1 billion to support Ukraine's war and recovery effort. That is more than the United States has contributed.

We had a chance earlier this afternoon in the Foreign Relations Committee to meet with the new Foreign Secretary, the former Prime Minister of Great Britain, David Cameron.

I asked him: How will Europe—how will our allies in Europe—view a decision by the U.S. Senate not to provide funding to help Ukraine wage this courageous war?

He said that it would have a dramatic impact in Europe, where we are seeing NATO stronger than he said he could remember in his lifetime because of coming together to support Ukraine

and to oppose Putin. He said it would send a message about future support for Ukraine that would have a huge impact as we think about the international order and our ability to keep dictators like Vladimir Putin and President Xi of China, like the Ayatollah in Iran, like North Korea—those dictatorships—from thinking they can invade any country they want to if they happen to be stronger.

Alongside our international partners, we recognize that the Ukrainian people are not only defending their land and freedom, they are fighting for the preservation of liberal democracies around the world.

What Senator MARSHALL is proposing strips out the essential funding that we need to address the threat posed by the Chinese Communist Party in the Indo-Pacific. It neglects the urgent and growing humanitarian needs for both Ukraine and the people in Gaza who are affected by this war. Failing to pass a national security package would embolden Putin, Iran, and the Chinese Communist Party. It would show our adversaries around the world that America is not up to the task of defending democracy and that we are not capable of standing by our friends for the long run.

I remember the outcry in this body when the United States pulled out of Afghanistan, and I have to say I opposed that effort. But what do we think the pulling of our support for Ukraine is going to say to the rest of the world?

We must be clear in sending an unequivocal message: America stands with our allies in the face of this kind of devastating attack that Vladimir Putin and Russia has made on Ukraine. To do that, we must pass a holistic funding package to underscore that America is not going to pick and choose when the United States stands on the side of freedom and democracy.

Our adversaries want the United States to fall short in standing up for its allies; they want us to be divided. We need to show them that we are not divided but that we are united.

When I am back in New Hampshire, my constituents continue to tell me that they support continuing to provide funding and help for Ukraine. We have a great humanitarian effort in New Hampshire called the Common Man for Ukraine that is headed up by a number of businesspeople. They provide supplies and support for the Ukrainian people and for kids. It is important that we fund a holistic response to address all of the issues that we are facing—Israel, Ukraine, the Indo-Pacific, humanitarian, and our southern border. And, yes, we should be able to come to a compromise on addressing border security.

The Democrats stand ready to work with our colleagues in the Senate. We can come up with a compromise. We can do this in a way that is in the United States' national security interests.

With that, I would like to turn the time over to Senator DURBIN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I thank Senator SHAHEEN.

In reserving the right to object, in 1978, before I was elected to Congress, I had the opportunity to take a trip to the Soviet Union and spend 3 weeks there. I saw a lot. In addition to the visits to Russia and Moscow, we visited countries like Lithuania, where my mother was born, and I witnessed firsthand the vision of Vladimir Putin and the Soviet Union.

Make no mistake, his goal is to restore the Soviet Union, to take vulnerable countries and to subsume them with his own ego and his own view of the world. To visit Lithuania and see what they had done to the freedoms that we just take for granted in America was an eye opener to me: to see the cathedral in Vilnius, with its beautiful frescos whitewashed by the Soviets because they didn't want people to practice religion; to realize that they controlled everything—radio stations, newspapers—and to realize that they dictated who would win an election. There was no freedom in that country.

That is the communist view. That is the Soviet view. That is the Vladimir Putin view. Are we in favor of that, Senator? I don't think so. I know you aren't personally, and you don't want to see that lifestyle imposed on people around the world any more than I do.

In Ukraine, they had the courage to stand up and say to Putin: We will fight you to the death to stop this from happening.

They have surprised a lot of people. I remember the briefing—the Senator from Kansas might have attended it—where we asked the intelligence experts: How long can Ukraine hold out when the Russian military machine comes marching in?

They said: A matter of days—days—maybe weeks, but not much more.

They were wrong. And do you know why they were wrong? Because they underestimated the Ukrainian people and what they were willing to do to protect their country.

I have a special, as they say, selfish interest in this because I know that if Putin is successful in Ukraine, if this war criminal has his way and takes over the Ukrainian country for his Soviet Union—his new Soviet Union—the next country on the list is probably Lithuania and the Baltics: Poland, Latvia, Estonia. They are obvious targets because they are small and vulnerable, but they do have the NATO alliance standing behind them.

So not only do I support the Ukrainian effort because of the courage of the people and their success and how much I abhor Vladimir Putin and his agenda, I also realize it is in America's best interest that Ukrainians prevail. It is in our best interest to stop Putin in Ukraine so that we don't have to use the NATO alliance to stop him in a country where we would be sending American troops to fight the battle. We

should stand foursquare behind Ukraine because it is the right thing to do, and it is the right thing for America.

Today, the Speaker of the Ukrainian Parliament came to my office, Mr. Stefanchuk, and he had a very simple message for me and the Senators who had gathered there: Without U.S. assistance, Ukraine will struggle and probably lose this war.

Oh, he reminded us that they would fight to the death, and I am sure they will if it comes down to that dire situation. It also reminded me that this is not just another political debate. What we are talking about is assistance to a country where people today are fighting and dying for their freedom, a country for which we promised support for over 2 years, a country we need to stand by.

Now you have asked us to support Israel. I will tell you this as well. Last week, many of us, on a bipartisan basis, watched videos from the October 7 invasion of the Hamas terrorists into Israel. It was horrifying. It was a terrible 40 minutes. I had to avert my eyes several times because I couldn't stand to look at the scenes of systemic rape, of attacks, murder. I will never forget those two little boys whose parents had just been killed outside the living room, sitting in their living room, saying: Are we going to die? It was these two little boys, and it was on tape. That was the reality of the atrocity of October 7.

Israel has the right to exist. Israel has the right to defend itself, and I stand behind Israel as most Americans do. I want to see their support. But please don't give us this "Sophie's Choice" of picking our favorite child to die. I don't want either Israel or Ukraine to die. I want them to have bright futures, and to have that, they need the United States now more than ever. Don't separate our loyalty. Our loyalty should be common and unified for both countries, Ukraine and Israel.

There are things we can say about humanitarian issues in the Gaza territories and what is happening there, but I am going to spare that for another day.

I will just say this: I stand behind Ukraine. I stand behind Israel. Don't separate them. Let's stand behind both of them because they are both consistent with the values of the United States.

I yield to the Senator from Washington.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Washington.

Mrs. MURRAY. Mr. President, on behalf of all the Senators who spoke so eloquently and forcefully tonight, I object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard.

The Senator from Kansas.

Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, what we have brought forward tonight is a House-passed, stand-alone package of aid for Israel. We didn't bring for-

ward the entire security package, which already failed. We have tried that. It didn't work.

So many of my colleagues across the aisle, indeed, spoke eloquently in support of Ukraine as well as Israel. I think back to what my college track coach said.

He said:

Don't tell me. Show me.

So I am going to quote some words from the Democratic Party, and I want you to think about the words lining up with the actions. When people vote against the stand-alone aid for Israel, is that consistent with their own words?

This is Secretary Blinken on October 13:

No country can tolerate having a terrorist group come in, slaughter its people in the most unconscionable ways and live like that. What Israel is doing is not retaliation, it is defending the lives of its people.

Next is Secretary Austin on October 20:

So, make no mistake: The United States will make sure that Israel has what it needs to defend itself.

Next, President Biden on October 10:

So, in this moment, we must be crystal clear: We stand with Israel.

He says it again.

We stand with Israel, and we will make sure Israel has what it needs to take care of its citizens, defend itself, and respond to this attack.

Again, President Biden on 20 October:

In Israel, we must make sure that they have what they need to protect their people today and always.

Finally, the majority leader, the senior Senator from New York, on 15 November:

We will not rest until you get the assistance you need.

Folks, this is the opportunity. This is the time. This is the time to stand up for Israel, to make good on those pledges. I meticulously listened to my friends across the aisle and their arguments. What we are talking about today—what the bill is about today—is aid to Israel.

As I listened carefully to their objections, their objection with this particular bill was with the pay-fors, and I respect that. The second objection was that they wanted more humanitarian assistance to Hamas and the people of Gaza as well, and I respect that as well.

So bring us that bill—that stand-alone bill—that includes what you think is appropriate for a pay-for and what type of humanitarian assistance you want to make sure Hamas gets as well.

But the real argument—the real argument made tonight—was to use Israel as a tool, to use it as a lever to fund Ukraine. And, again, I listened carefully. I tried to count how many times my friends across the aisle said "Ukraine" or "Putin," and I stopped when I got to over 50. Israel was mentioned less than 10 times. They talked

about their national security package—their supplemental package—and they really should call it the “lovefest for Ukraine” package.

I respect where they are coming from. I think it is how and how much and when do we give the people of Ukraine right now in a situation that has been a stalemate for a year—really, no progress made for a year.

Two hundred thousand people have died in that war and 500,000 casualties. There is no end in sight. This looks to me like a 7- or 10-year war. It looks like it is Vietnam all over again.

I remember the early days of Vietnam, when there were a few people saying: Slow down. Let's stop. There are too many people who are dying in this situation right now.

Let's have that debate. Let's pull Ukraine out, and let's have that debate.

I honestly believe, if we would have passed this Israel package a month ago and then worked on a Ukraine package starting then, we would have a Ukraine package done.

What I wish is that my friends across the aisle were as passionate, though, about the security of our own southern border as about the lines of another country—the property lines of another country, their boundaries.

I think I heard my friends across the aisle talk about the border maybe four or five times. The No. 1 national security threat—the most immediate national security threat to Americans—is our open southern border. Do we have to repeat the numbers? Ten million people have crossed the border illegally in the past 3 years, 1.7 million “got-aways,” 70,000 aliens of interest, hundreds of known terrorists.

All the lights are blinking red right now. All the lights are blinking red. That is what Director Wray said, yesterday, up here on the Hill, that on terrorist threats, all the lights are blinking red. And why wouldn't they, with these 1.7 million “got-aways” throughout the country doing who knows what?

If my friends across the aisle are serious about a national security supplemental package, it starts with meaningful security at the southern border—meaningful security, not a process that actually promotes more people crossing the border.

It has to include something that impacts asylum and parole. It has to literally secure the border, I think, even to begin this next debate. America needs to get its own house in order before we can help fix other people's houses.

I understand the needs across this world are many. And my compassion, my heart, whether it is for the people of Ukraine, the people of Israel—I share those same compassions, but we just can't keep throwing good money after bad money. We have to have people with accountability. We have to make sure that there is a goal—that there is a goal that we can win.

So, at the end of the day, the most prudent thing for this body to do would be to pass this standalone aid for Israel. Take it off the chess board. Let's get that one done. But, instead, my friends across the aisle want to use it as a political tool, a tool to leverage their funding for Ukraine. Let's have that discussion separately.

I think it is time that this body do what we say we want to do. Let's not rest until we get this assistance to Israel.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, a couple of hours ago, Republicans voted down the motion to even begin debating the national security supplemental appropriations bill. They claim to support Israel and Ukraine, but, when it came time to act, they voted no.

But let's be clear about one thing: Every part of this bill is essential for America's national security.

We have two wars raging and a number of other threats brewing around the world, and this funding for our allies and our partners could not be more urgent. It is the difference between having the weapons to fight terrorists and authoritarians or not, having food and water for civilians caught in conflicts or not, having the defense systems to deter China from meddling in Taiwan or not.

Our friends are counting on us to help them, and our adversaries are counting on us being too divided to do even the most basic task.

America remains the indispensable Nation. It is the leader of the free world. It is the Nation that other countries, big and small, look to in good times and in bad, and it is a responsibility that we have never shirked away from. And now is not the time to start. Now is not the time to turn our backs on Israel, on innocent Palestinians in Gaza, on Ukraine, on Taiwan, or on any of our other allies and partners around the world.

We are fighting an increasingly linked global fascist movement, and it is directly tied to our security interests. So we ought to act like it and pass this supplemental to keep our adversaries and competitors from redrawing the world as they wish, at the point of a gun.

So let's start with Israel. There has been a lot of talk on both sides of the aisle about the merits of conditioning aid, as if it is a novel or unusual concept, except that it is not. The idea that funding requirements under Federal law for any Federal appropriations, that that is somehow amounting to abandoning our ally or a break from the norms is belied by history.

Whenever we approve Federal spending, whether it is for HUD for public housing or the Federal Highway Administration for repairs or the Department of the Interior for parks, we require detailed plans on exactly how the money will be used, and we expect to

receive some sort of reporting on it afterward. It is also standard practice for our own Defense Department and aid to other allies, which we routinely scrutinize.

So it should be no different for Israel and the IDF or Ukraine—and in a hot war, no less. There are millions of innocent lives caught in the crossfire, and we have every reason to make sure that Israel is using the weapons that we provide, funded by our own taxpayer dollars, in a manner that is consistent with international humanitarian laws and American values. That is taking every step possible to minimize civilian casualties.

In many ways, the debate around conditioning aid is emblematic of the wider one around Israel and Palestine, which has become so hostile and so binary that people aren't even open to hearing the other side. It is near impossible to have a dialogue when all people are interested in is throwing rhetorical barbs and attacking the other side.

If you condemn Hamas's unspeakable brutality on October 7 and hold it accountable for the death and bloodshed on that day and in the days since, then you are supposedly excusing the conditions under the blockade or you are accused of turning a blind eye to settler violence before and since October 7.

If you question the manner in which Israel is waging war and the carnage and suffering the war has wrought on innocent lives, including children and babies, you are suddenly not sufficiently pro-Israel.

If you call out the fact that anti-Semitism is on the rise here in the United States and around the world, that it is one of the oldest sicknesses and a scourge that must be addressed, then somehow you are indifferent to Islamophobia or the suffering of Palestinians.

No, I know anti-Muslim and anti-Arab hatred are alive and well, too, and believe that they must be rooted out with equal force. And my heart breaks for the countless innocent lives being lost in Gaza daily.

All of these things are true at the same time. They are in tension with each other, yes, but not in contradiction. There is an awfully messy and deeply, deeply contested history underpinning this conflict. So to strip away all that context and flatten all these complexities into a 15-second TikTok is a disservice to the Palestinian and Israeli causes alike.

There are no simple and straightforward paths to peace here, but if we can't engage without first holding purity tests, if we can't acknowledge two things to be true at the same time, if we can't recognize each other's humanity, then we are not going to be able to build a just and lasting peace in the region.

Almost everybody believes Hamas is terrible and should be eliminated. They want the hostages who were cruelly abducted and have spent 2 agonizing

months in captivity to be immediately released. They are appalled by reports of Hamas's sexual violence against women and the drugging of hostages. And they believe Israel has a legitimate right and responsibility to go after the bad guys. The question is how.

People are increasingly and understandably alarmed at the scale of human suffering and the high rate of civilian casualties in Gaza. It is our job, as Israel's closest ally, to convey that truth and to make clear that mass suffering actively undermines the possibility of a future peace. A whole new generation will be radicalized watching scores of loved ones die and entire neighborhoods leveled. That is in no one's interest.

So our responsibility in the current moment is twofold: to provide Israel with military aid, which I have consistently supported and I will continue to support, but it is equally important to provide moral clarity and strategic counsel when actions cross a line.

We do both of these things because we care. We also have an obligation to look at the future because, whether it is 10 months from now or 10 years from now, these two peoples need a way to live in relative peace and stability side by side—if not as friends, then as neighbors.

Palestinians, like Israelis, deserve a legitimate, representative, and democratically elected government, and the only viable path to achieving that is through a two-state solution. It is the only way to guarantee a safe home for the Jewish people in Israel, and it is the only way to ensure Palestinians have a secure state of their own. A solution that does not recognize the humanity of both Israelis and Palestinians is not just, and a solution that does not give both peoples the condition to prosper without fear of violence will not last.

Let's talk about the other part of this supplemental—Ukraine, which is, unfortunately, also all too familiar with battles over sovereignty and coexistence.

Ukrainians have spent almost 2 years fighting against Putin for their very survival. And, make no mistake, Russia's failure to capture Ukraine so far is in no small part due to America's support and our leading role in rallying the world to stand up to Putin's aggression. We know that President Zelenskyy knows that and, crucially, Putin knows that. In fact, not long ago, he crowed that Ukraine wouldn't last a week—wouldn't last a week—without help from the West.

So the consequences of failure to support Ukraine are not theoretical. They are dire, and they are dangerous. Ukraine, as we speak, is running out of bullets and other munitions. Already, our shipments have been diminishing in scope and frequency, as existing aid runs low, and it will be completely exhausted in a matter of weeks or months. Heading into the winter, the

lack of additional assistance is likely to prove catastrophic.

But some of my Republican colleagues here are willing to undermine the free world. I don't say this lightly. I like a lot of them. But they are willing to undermine the free world and let Putin win because they want hard-line immigration and border policy.

Democrats have demonstrated a willingness to stretch here. Democrats—and I was texting some of the Republican colleagues with whom I work very closely, and I said: Look, we are already two-thirds of the way. We can't go all the way to your position. We cannot enact a bipartisan bill if it is a partisan bill. But the idea that, if we don't concede on a wholly unrelated matter, then Putin wins in a land war in Europe? Are we really doing this?

And I want to just say one thing to my friends in the media—and God bless them. God bless the fourth estate for all they do, but I am also entitled to offer a constructive criticism: Stop pretending this is normal.

(Ms. HASSAN assumed the Chair.)

Stop pretending it is acceptable to take a major foreign policy issue—this is a land war in Europe. Vladimir Putin just decided to try to take a country by force. And what they say is: Well, we don't support that. We support Ukraine, but we see that we have leverage.

By the way, this is not a rhetorical flourish of mine. Senator CORNYN said this 2 days ago. This is not a negotiation, is what he said. This is the price you have to pay. This is the price you Democrats have to pay.

What are we doing here? This is a foreign policy supplemental. We are supposed to be for these things.

I could have woken up one morning and said: You know what, if we don't enact my climate policies—which I feel urgently passionate about—then I am a “no” on Ukraine because I know I have leverage and they need every vote.

The reason I won't do that is I am not bananas. I am a responsible legislator, and I know that is not the way you do things.

The idea—I have never seen this before. I have only been here 11 years. I am sure there is some historical precedent for it, but not recently have we tied a foreign policy objective to an unrelated domestic policy objective.

What they will say is: Look, it is all security.

Oh, come on. I understand the passion there is on the border. I understand the problem there is on the border. But it is not a foreign policy question, and the idea that we are going to let Ukraine get taken—Kyiv will be in Russian control because we couldn't make a border deal? We haven't been able to make a border deal for—well, since I have been here for sure and then 5 years prior to that. That stuff is hard. You don't take literally the most difficult issue that I can think of in the Congress to forge a bipartisan consensus and say: If we don't get it, then, I am sorry, Kyiv is just going to fall.

That is no way to run a railroad. That is no way to be the indispensable Nation.

You walk into any global convening—and I remember—I am looking at the Presiding Officer. I am sure the Presiding Officer has had this experience. You are a Governor, and everybody wants to know what you think, but when you are a Senator, you are not sure if people are going to be as interested in what you think.

When you travel abroad, even when I was an appointed freshman Senator, people are hanging on your every word—not as a head of state but just as a representative of the U.S. Government. We remain the indispensable Nation. Everyone wants to know what we are going to do. Everyone wants to know what we think. They want to know what we are funding. They want to know what our priorities are. So we cannot forfeit that global leadership because we are fighting about something else.

Now, again, Democrats have demonstrated by their negotiations, by all of our public pronouncement, that we are willing to stretch a little bit on this because it is that important. But it would be a hell of a thing for us to allow Vladimir Putin to win because we are too busy in a partisan battle about something totally unrelated.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Hawaii.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session and the Senate Committee on Foreign Relations be discharged from further consideration of PN802, Jamie Fly to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board, and the Senate proceed to the consideration of the following nominations: PN802 and Calendar Nos. 159, 160, 161, 162, 163, and 164, and vote without intervening action or debate, en bloc; that, if confirmed, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the nominations en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the en bloc nominations of Jamie Fly, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Kathleen Cunningham Matthews, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Jeffrey Gedmin, of the District

of Columbia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025, (New Position); Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be Chair of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board, (New Position); Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position); Luis Manuel Botello, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025, (New Position); and Michelle Mai Selesky Giuda, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027, (New Position)?

The nominations were confirmed en bloc.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 206, Dante Quintin Allen, of California, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action; and that the Senate resume legislative session.

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

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Dante Quintin Allen, of California, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Allen nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

PROVIDING REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of S. 3250 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3250) to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988

Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Cornyn amendment at the desk be considered and agreed to; that the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The amendment (No. 1372) was agreed to, as follows:

(Purpose: To improve the bill)

On page 3, lines 11 and 12, strike "that remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case be made available" and inserting "that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available".

The bill (S. 3250), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 3250

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

SECTION 1. REMOTE ACCESS TO COURT PROCEEDINGS FOR VICTIMS OF THE 1988 BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103 OVER LOCKERBIE, SCOTLAND.

(a) DEFINITION OF VICTIM OF CRIMES ASSOCIATED WITH THE BOMBING OF PAN AM FLIGHT 103.—In this section:

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraph (2), the term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" means any individual—

(A) who suffered direct or proximate harm as a result of the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 that occurred over Lockerbie, Scotland, on December 21, 1988, and was present at or near the scene of the bombing when it occurred, or immediately thereafter; or

(B) who is the spouse, legal guardian, parent, child, brother, sister, next of kin, or other relative of, or who is determined by the applicable district court of the United States to be an individual who possesses a relationship of similar significance to, an individual described in subparagraph (A) or an individual otherwise described in this subsection.

(2) LIMITATION.—The term "victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103" does not include an individual who participated or conspired in the crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(b) AUTHORIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—On and after the date of enactment of this Act, and notwithstanding any provision of the Federal Rules of Criminal Procedure or other law or rule to the contrary, in order to permit victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 to access court proceedings in the criminal case against Abu Agila Mohammed Mas'ud Kheir Al-Marimi and against any co-conspirator subsequently charged and prosecuted in a court of the United States for crimes related to the 1988 bombing of Pan Am Flight 103, the district court of the United States in such a case shall order that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available to victims of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(2) NO LIMIT ON LOCATION.—Remote video and telephonic access to proceedings shall be made available under paragraph (1) to a victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 without regard to the location of the victim of crimes associated with the bombing of Pan Am Flight 103.

(c) DISTRICT COURT DISCRETION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to eliminate or limit the discretion of a district court of the United States to control the manner, circumstances, or availability of remote video or telephonic transmissions where necessary to control the courtroom or protect the integrity of court proceedings or the safety of parties, witnesses, or other participants in the proceedings.

RECOGNIZING THE IMPORTANCE OF THE ECONOMIC RELATIONSHIP BETWEEN THE UNITED STATES AND ISRAEL

COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

RECOGNIZING JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES

NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY

REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA

Mr. SCHATZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Finance be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 445 and the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions: S. Res. 445, S. Res. 487, S. Res. 488, S. Res. 489, and S. Res. 490.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHATZ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon table, all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 445) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 2, 2023, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolutions (S. Res. 487, S. Res. 488, S. Res. 489, and S. Res. 490) were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116-156, on behalf of the Majority Leader, reappoints the following individual to serve as a Member

of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton of New York.

MORNING BUSINESS

TRIBUTE TO MAJOR ALLEN "SIG" BLACK

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, I would like to take a few moments to recognize Maj. Allen "Sig" Black who has worked in my Senate office this year as a defense fellow. Major Black is a patriot who has served our country nobly and made it a safer and better place. It has been a pleasure to have him in my office.

Major Black joined the Air Force in 2011 as a distinguished graduate of the ROTC program at Pennsylvania State University. He began flying the F-22 fighter aircraft soon after completing the Euro-NATO Joint Jet Pilot Training in Texas and has since become a masterful Air Force pilot and knowledgeable authority on virtually every detail of the Raptor. In total, Major Black served as an operational F-22 pilot for 5 years, deploying for combat operations in Operation Inherent Resolve and executing numerous homeland and Presidential protection missions.

Prior to moving to Washington, D.C., Major Black spent 3 years at Edwards Air Force Base in California. There, where he attended the U.S. Air Force Pilot Test School and left as a distinguished graduate and the Liethen-Tittle Award winner as the top test pilot graduate in class 19A. While still serving at Edwards, Major Black also distinguished himself as F-22 command chief pilot and assistant director of operations of the 411th Flight Test Squadron, 412th Operations Group.

In 2021, Major Black led the F-22 Combined Test Force through 26 F-22 and 20 F-16 developmental test missions and several first-time events. Twelve of his missions were supporting elevated risk F-22 envelope expansion tests. For one such mission, Major Black planned and led the first F-22 high angle of attack test in 17 years while carrying a new externally podded capability. His success in executing 12 additional missions evaluating new F-22 software led to the fielding of the first F-22 Rapid Agile Capability Release operational flight program.

Major Black is a skilled military leader. He directed the No. 1 DOD weapon program, developed new F-22 open software pathways, and has helped lead numerous working groups. According to Air Force Materiel Command, "The distinctive accomplishments of Major Black reflect great credit upon himself and the United States Air Force." For these achievements, Major Black was awarded the Lieutenant General Bobby Bond Memorial Aviator Award, which is the award for the best test pilot of the year in the entire Air Force.

I could not have been assigned a more talented pilot to join my office in January 2023, representing the Air Force in Congress as a Defense Fellow.

During his time in my office, he staffed over 25 high-level engagements and at least 10 hearings, along with helping draft dozens of pieces of legislation to strengthen our Nation's defense. He has also provided meticulous and incisive research that has guided my office on important public policy questions. His colleagues have been consistently grateful for his attention to detail, willingness to diligently analyze problems, and ability to translate complex military concepts into digestible language. His passion and dedication to making this great Nation safer was evident each and every day working in the Senate.

Finally, I cannot honor Major Black without also thanking his family: his wife Kelsey, his daughter Sloane, and his son Nicholas. I am grateful to his family for sharing him with my team.

Major Black has had a remarkable career and he has a promising future ahead. He is exactly the kind of man and leader that our military needs. For these reasons and many more, I was honored to have Major Black in my office this year.

Sig, thank you for your service to Arkansas and to the United States of America.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

TRIBUTE TO HAROLD HEPPER

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota resident who is turning 100 years old on December 15. Harold Hepper was a longtime resident of McClusky and most recently has lived in Bismarck, where he will celebrate this landmark birthday.

Harold embodies the very best of the Greatest Generation. A year after graduating from McClusky High School in 1942, he and five buddies were drafted into the Army and traveled to Fort Snelling, MN. Initially rejected because of his poor eyesight, Harold returned home and begged the Selective Service Board for another chance to serve. After obtaining plastic glasses, he was able to train at Camp Barkeley, TX, to be an Army medical aidman.

He shipped out from New Jersey for England and was on the frontlines in France the summer of 1944, where he was wounded in the shoulder during the Battle of Brest. Following his participation in the Battle of Hurtgen Forest, that December found him in the Battle of the Bulge. There, thousands of Americans died in what was the largest and bloodiest U.S. battle of World War II. The first day of the battle on December 16 brought heavy casualties on both sides. Harold and other medics worked on the front lines for 10 days, providing nonstop medical aid before they were relieved.

Harold was awarded the Purple Heart, Bronze Star, and other campaign medals. Honorably discharged in November 1945, he has remained active in veterans organizations the rest of his life. This includes 76 years as a member of the McClusky American Legion. Returning home, Harold worked as an insurance agent at the First National Bank of McClusky for 44 years before retiring in 1987. He joined the McClusky Fire Department in 1954 and served there for 33 years, including one year as fire chief. Harold and his wife, Laura, who died in 2015, raised two daughters, Debra and Gail. They will join five grandchildren, three great-grandchildren and other family, friends, and veterans groups in honoring Harold on his 100th birthday.

North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we consider them among our most treasured residents. Their pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought them through many challenges and personal achievements. On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Harold Hepper for his service to our country and wish him a happy 100th birthday. I hope you enjoy continued good health and vitality.●

TRIBUTE TO DR. CARL HEILMAN

• Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to thank Dr. Carl Heilman for his many years of service to the free State of Kansas and Barton County Community College, as well as honor him for all that he accomplished during his career.

A lifelong educator committed to service, Carl began his journey at the University of Northern Iowa as a student, where he graduated with a bachelor of arts degree in social sciences. After graduating, Carl would continue his education at Northern Iowa, obtaining a master of arts in counseling, later pairing that with a master of arts in public administration from Minnesota State University. Carl completed his formal education with a doctor of philosophy in higher education administration from Iowa State University.

With this knowledge in hand, Carl served in administrative positions at several colleges across the U.S. Beginning at Iowa Lakes Community College in Iowa, Carl was both a chairperson and faculty member. While at Northland Pioneer College in Arizona, Carl served as vice president for student services, and at Lincoln Trail College-Illinois Eastern Community College District, Carl was campus president.

But Carl's service to the State of Kansas began in 2006 when he became the fifth president of Barton County Community College. Carl hit the ground running, quickly building rapport with the board of trustees, faculty and staff, local community constituents, and the student body. With this support, Carl set attainable goals for the future of Barton, establishing it as a dynamic institution able to weather

limited access to resources, fluctuating economic conditions, and shifting State demographics. Under Carl's guidance, Barton has expanded its online learning options, generated diverse workforce training opportunities, and expanded services to Kansas military communities. In fact, Carl was integral in keeping the 1st Infantry Division stationed in Kansas, as his testimony to the Kansas Governor Military Council on behalf of Kansas higher education for The Big Red One proved persuasive to the 2015 Base Realignment and Closure Commission.

With these accomplishments, it is unsurprising that Carl received exceptional recognition from the State of Kansas. He served an unprecedented 3 years as chairperson for the system council of Kansas Community College Presidents, where he oversaw the statewide implementation of a public higher education course articulation process, the introduction of a public higher education reverse transfer model, and the development of reverse transfer for both community colleges and the private college system. Thanks to Carl, these actions have eased administrative processes for Kansas students and administrators, making life simpler for everyone.

Carl officially retired from Barton County Community College on June 30, 2024, after over 17 years of service to the people of Kansas. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the distinguished career of Dr. Carl Heilman, as well as thank him for all his work on behalf of the state of Kansas and Carton County Community College.●

RECOGNIZING MID KANSAS COOPERATIVE

● Mr. MARSHALL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the Mid Kansas Cooperative and honor them for their reception of the esteemed Retailer of the Year Award, presented by the Agricultural Retailers Associations, ARA.

I am extremely proud that the Mid Kansas Cooperative, a pillar of prosperity in central Kansas since 1965, has received ARA's extremely prestigious award this year. Known locally as MKC, the co-op is headquartered in Moundridge and offers a complete line of products, programs, and services citizens throughout the State of Kansas. With more than 600 employees, 11,000 members, and 8,000 customers through a wholly-owned subsidiary, MKC specializes in grain, agronomy, energy, feed, and risk management. The farm communities that Mid Kansas Co-op serves have a long history of fostering innovations in grain production, and MKC continues that tradition by utilizing technology like drones and autonomous robots for precision agriculture management tactics.

White pickup trucks bearing the MKC logo dot the plains from planting to harvest, and their specialists aid Kansas producers in making agronomic

decisions all year long. While many co-ops provide goods and services as a complement to agriculture producers, MKC goes above and beyond through a robust college internship program and investments back into the very communities that their branches inhabit through scholarships and sponsorships.

In combining the two facets of a productive workforce and expert knowledge, MKC maintains its position as an innovative steward of Kansas farmland, an exceptional provider of customer service, and a leader in local communities across a great portion of the State of Kansas. This commitment to excellence and innovation in the agricultural sector made MKC a more than worthy winner of the Retailer of the Year Award. They truly embody their motto of "Shared growth. Shared success."●

I now ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating MKC president and CEO Brad Stedman, along with all other MKC member-owners and employees, for being named the Agricultural Retailers Association's 2023 Retailer of the Year.●

RECOGNIZING THE MISSOURI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL CHAMPIONS

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor a group of Missouri's finest high school football teams. Last week, there was a lot of memorable football that was played for State trophies. From Lamar High School's dramatic comeback to Marionville High School's dominant display and Archie Whirlwind's victory, each game encapsulated the spirit of determination and excellence. These championships not only showcased remarkable individual and team performances but also underscored the deep-rooted passion for football in Missouri. The stories of these teams—their struggles, their strategies, and their victories—are a testament to the celebrated history of high school football in the State.

On December 2, 2023, the Lamar High School football team achieved a remarkable 35–28 overtime victory against Valle Catholic (12–2) in the Class 2 Show-Me Bowl. The Lamar Tigers, with a season record of 13–1, overcame a challenging 21–0 first-quarter deficit to clinch their ninth State championship. Quarterback Alex Wilkerson, alongside a formidable defense that conceded only one touchdown after the first quarter, played pivotal roles. Wilkerson's 25-yard touchdown kickstarted the overtime, and the Tigers' defense sealed the win by preventing Valle Catholic from gaining any first downs in OT.

On December 1, 2023, Marionville High School's football team won the class 1 state championship, defeating North Platte (12–2) with a decisive 29–0 score. The team's fast, physical playing style was evident right from the start. Their opening drive was 14 plays that led to a touchdown by Hugh Eaton.

Head coach Padden Grubbs commended his team's tough, physical approach and their resilience against challenging weather conditions. For the seniors, this victory marked the culmination of an impressive undefeated 14–0 record this season.

On November 30, 2023, the Archie High School Whirlwinds (14–0), in the eight-man State title game, won 40–26 over the Worth County High School Tigers (12–2). Archie Whirlwinds' quarterback, Briar McIntire, scored an impressive five rushing touchdowns. This strong performance by the team's quarterback was coupled with a dominant offensive and defensive line. Despite Worth County's brief resurgence, Archie maintained control, which was led by McIntire. The game ended with Worth County scoring 12 unanswered points to make it a two-score game; however, their attempt at comeback was thwarted by the Whirlwind's strong defense.

In closing, the Missouri high school football championships of 2023 were an impressive combination of talent, teamwork, and tenacity. Each team, regardless of victory, demonstrated a remarkable blend of skill, strategy, and sportsmanship. These teams have etched their names in the annals of Missouri's sports history. Congratulations to all the teams that competed in these games, and a special congratulations to Lamar, Marionville, and Archie for their outstanding accomplishments in the 2023 State championships.●

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 12:20 p.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. 542. An act to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve certain programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs for home- and community-based services for veterans, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, 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. 1547. An act to direct the Secretary of Transportation to conduct a study on the costs and benefits of commuter rail passenger transportation involving transfers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

H.R. 3848. An act to make certain improvements in the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs relating to homelessness, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

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-3001. A communication from the Chief Privacy Officer, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Social Security Number Fraud Prevention Act Final to Congress"; to the Committees on Finance; and Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3002. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary, Department of Treasury received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3003. A communication from the Senior Regulatory and Policy Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Medicare and Medicaid Program; Disclosures of Ownership and Additional Disclosable Parties Information for Skilled Nursing Facilities; Medicare Providers' and Suppliers' Disclosure of Private Equity Companies and Real Estate Investment Trusts" (RIN0938-AU90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 17, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3004. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Updated Lists of Jurisdiction Under Deposit Interest Rules" (Rev. Proc. 2023-36) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3005. A communication from the Branch Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Notice: Revised Timeline Regarding Implementation of Amended Section 6050W(e)" (Notice 2023-74) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 29, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3006. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3007. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3008. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, the President's Pay Agent, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the extension of locality based comparability payments; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3009. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense,

transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2023-019, New Designated Country-North Macedonia" (RIN9000-AO67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3010. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Introduction" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3011. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Technical Amendments" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3012. A communication from the Director of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, Department of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (FAC 2024-01) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 27, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3013. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Retirement: Members of Congress and Congressional Employees" (RIN3206-AO42) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3014. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "FEDVIP: Extension of Eligibility to Certain Employees on Temporary Appointments and Certain Employees on Seasonal and Intermittent Schedules; Enrollment Clarifications and Exceptions for Changes in Enrollment" (RIN3206-AN91) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3015. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fair Chance to Compete for Jobs" (RIN3206-AO00) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3016. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Noncompetitive Appointment of Certain Military Spouses" (RIN3206-AO57) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3017. A communication from the Acting Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3018. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource

Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2023 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3019. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3020. A communication from the Chair, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3021. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3022. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3023. A communication from the Chair of the Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting, a report of the recommendations adopted by the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 79th Plenary Session; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3024. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3025. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3026. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3027. A communication from the Director of Financial Management, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3028. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2023 through September 30, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF
COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission for a term expiring April 13, 2028.

*Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development.

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

*Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board for the term of seven years expiring March 1, 2030.

*Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

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

By Mr. WARNER (for himself and Mr. KAINE):

S. 3412. A bill to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the "Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3413. A bill to reinstate pilots fired or forced to resign because of a COVID-19 vaccine mandate; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KAINE (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 3414. A bill to support United States investment opportunities, strengthen bilateral collaboration in addressing criminal elements operating in the Brazilian Amazon, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3415. A bill to establish collective bargaining rights for college athletes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3416. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 3417. A bill to prohibit the importation of seafood and aquaculture products from the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. CORTEZ MASTO (for herself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 3418. A bill to amend the Water Resources Development Act of 2000 to modify the authorization of appropriations for the Las Vegas Wash program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself and Mr. CASEY):

S. 3419. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 1765 Camp Hill Bypass in Camp Hill, Pennsylvania, as the "John Charles Traub Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 3420. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to provide for a set-aside for socially disadvantaged farmers and ranchers for grants to support urban agriculture and innovative production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 3421. A bill to amend the Equal Credit Opportunity Act to require the collection of small business loan data related to LGBTQI-owned businesses; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. SCHATZ, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3422. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to create a carbon border adjustment based on carbon intensity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself, Mr. SANDERS, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3423. A bill to guarantee the right to vote for all citizens regardless of conviction of a criminal offense, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LUJÁN (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. KAINE, Mr. DURBIN, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. 3424. A bill to reauthorize the program for strengthening communities of recovery for individuals with substance use disorders; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself and Mr. CASSIDY):

S. 3425. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Resilient Communities Program to provide communities impacted by trade with grants for economic development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself, Mr. COONS, and Mrs. GILLIBRAND):

S. 3426. A bill to reauthorize the YouthBuild program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRAHAM (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. COONS):

S. 3427. A bill to extend the authority to provide employees of the United States Secret Service with overtime pay beyond other statutory limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3428. A bill to terminate the membership by the United States in the United Nations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3429. A bill to provide for just compensation in the event that eminent domain is exercised, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S.J. Res. 52. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Environmental Protection Agency entitled "Finding That Lead Emissions From Aircraft Engines That Operate on Leaded Fuel Cause or Contribute to Air Pollution That May Reasonably Be Anticipated To Endanger Public Health and Welfare"; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER):

S. Res. 487. A resolution commemorating the centennial of the American Battle Monuments Commission; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 488. A resolution recognizing Jobs for America's Graduates for helping young people of truly great promise in the United States succeed in school, on the job, and in postsecondary education, leading to generations of productive and rewarding careers; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. Res. 489. A resolution designating December 16, 2023, as "National Wreaths Across America Day"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. Res. 490. A resolution remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 342

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 342, a bill to clarify the rights of certain persons who are held or detained at a port of entry or at any facility overseen by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

S. 497

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 497, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to exclude a basic allowance for housing from income for purposes of eligibility for the supplemental nutrition assistance program.

S. 656

At the request of Mrs. FISCHER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 656, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to revise the rules for approval by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs of commercial driver education programs for purposes of veterans educational assistance, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the names of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 815, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the female telephone operators of the Army Signal Corps, known as the "Hello Girls".

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CRUZ, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms.

SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1300, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in recognition of the late Prime Minister Golda Meir and the 75th anniversary of the United States-Israel relationship.

S. 1384

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1384, a bill to promote and protect from discrimination living organ donors.

S. 1467

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1467, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow a refundable tax credit against income tax for the purchase of qualified access technology for the blind.

S. 1606

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1606, a bill to end preventable maternal mortality, severe maternal morbidity, and maternal health disparities in the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 1829

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1829, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in the import of petroleum from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 1851

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1851, a bill to address maternity care shortages and promote optimal maternity outcomes by expanding educational opportunities for midwives, and for other purposes.

S. 1885

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1885, a bill to eliminate employment-based visa caps on abused, abandoned, and neglected children eligible for humanitarian status, and for other purposes.

S. 2039

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2039, a bill to amend the Employee Retirement Income Security Act of 1974 to require a group health plan (or health insurance coverage offered in connection with such a plan) to provide for cost-sharing for oral anticancer drugs on terms no less favorable than the cost-sharing provided for anticancer medications administered by a health care provider.

S. 2085

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. WELCH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2085, a bill to amend title XVIII of

the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2442

At the request of Mr. BUDD, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2442, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to extend Federal Pell Grant eligibility to certain short-term workforce programs.

S. 2496

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2496, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to include information regarding VA home loans in the Informed Consumer Choice Disclosure required to be provided to prospective FHA borrowers.

S. 2606

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2606, a bill to amend section 249 of the Immigration and Nationality Act to render available to certain long-term residents of the United States the benefit under that section.

S. 2669

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the names of the Senator from California (Ms. BUTLER) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2669, a bill to require the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network to issue guidance on digital assets, and for other purposes.

S. 2767

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) were added as cosponsors of S. 2767, a bill to amend title XVI of the Social Security Act to update the resource limit for supplemental security income eligibility.

S. 2861

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2861, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Billie Jean King, an American icon, in recognition of a remarkable life devoted to championing equal rights for all, in sports and in society.

S. 2916

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2916, a bill to provide for digital communication of prescribing information for drugs (including biological products), and for other purposes.

S. 2932

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2932, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to provide guidance to State Medicaid agencies,

public housing agencies, Continuums of Care, and housing finance agencies on connecting Medicaid beneficiaries with housing-related services and supports under Medicaid and other housing resources, and for other purposes.

S. 3008

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3008, a bill to provide back pay to Federal contractors, and for other purposes.

S. 3085

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN), the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) were added as cosponsors of S. 3085, a bill to establish a program for purposes of carrying out programs to prevent adverse childhood experiences and promoting positive childhood experiences, and to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct studies, evaluations, and research to address adverse childhood experiences, including through the promotion of positive childhood experiences.

S. 3220

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3220, a bill to expand the tropical disease product priority review voucher program to encourage prevention and treatment of coccidioidomycosis.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3235, a bill to require a strategy to counter the role of the People's Republic of China in evasion of sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 3311

At the request of Ms. SMITH, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3311, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a demonstration program to test providing preferential treatment under the Medicare, Medicaid, and CHIP programs for certain drugs and biologicals manufactured in the United States.

S. 3323

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3323, a bill to establish the Office of the Ombudsperson for Immigrant Children in Immigration Custody, and for other purposes.

S. 3364

At the request of Mr. LUJÁN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 3364, a bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN:

S. 3416. A bill to establish the Climate Change Advisory Commission to develop recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for projects to respond to the impacts of climate change, to issue Federal obligations, the proceeds of which shall be used to fund projects that aid in adaptation to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 3416

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund for America Act of 2023”.

(b) **TABLE OF CONTENTS.**—

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

Sec. 2. Definitions.

**TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY
COMMISSION**

Sec. 101. Establishment of Climate Change Advisory Commission.

Sec. 102. Duties.

Sec. 103. Commission personnel matters.

Sec. 104. Funding.

Sec. 105. Termination.

**TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY
FUND**

Sec. 201. Climate Change Resiliency Fund.

Sec. 202. Compliance with Davis-Bacon Act.

Sec. 203. Funding.

TITLE III—REVENUE

Sec. 301. Climate Change Obligations.

Sec. 302. Promotion.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **COMMISSION.**—The term “Commission” means the Climate Change Advisory Commission established by section 101(a).

(2) **COMMUNITY OF COLOR.**—The term “community of color” means a geographically distinct area in which the population of any of the following categories of individuals is higher than the average populations of that category for the State in which the community is located:

- (A) Black.
- (B) African American.
- (C) Asian.
- (D) Pacific Islander.
- (E) Other non-White race.
- (F) Hispanic.
- (G) Latino.
- (H) Linguistically isolated.

(3) **ELIGIBLE ENTITY.**—The term “eligible entity” includes—

- (A) a Federal agency;
- (B) a State or group of States;
- (C) a unit of local government or a group of local governments;
- (D) a utility district;
- (E) a Tribal government or a consortium of Tribal governments;
- (F) a State or regional transit agency or a group of State or regional transit agencies;
- (G) a nonprofit organization;
- (H) a special purpose district or public authority, including a port authority; and
- (I) any other entity, as determined by the Secretary.

(4) **ENVIRONMENTAL JUSTICE COMMUNITY.**—The term “environmental justice community” means a community with significant representation of communities of color, low-income communities, or Tribal and indigenous communities that experiences, or is at risk of experiencing, higher or more adverse human health or environmental effects.

(5) **FRONTLINE COMMUNITY.**—The term “frontline community” means a low-income community, a community of color, or a Tribal community that is disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change, including such a community that was or is at risk of being disproportionately impacted or burdened by climate change or a phenomenon associated with climate change earlier than other such communities.

(6) **FUND.**—The term “Fund” means the Climate Change Resiliency Fund established by section 201(a)(1).

(7) **LOW-INCOME COMMUNITY.**—The term “low-income community” means any census block group in which 30 percent or more of the population are individuals with an annual household income equal to, or less than, the greater of—

(A) an amount equal to 80 percent of the median household income of the area in which the household is located, as reported by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

(B) 200 percent of the Federal poverty line.

(8) **PROJECT.**—The term “project” means a project for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose performed by an eligible entity under section 201(b).

(9) **QUALIFIED CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PURPOSE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” means an objective with a demonstrated intent to reduce the economic, social, and environmental impact of the adverse effects of climate change.

(B) **INCLUSIONS.**—The term “qualified climate change adaptation purpose” includes infrastructure resiliency and mitigation, improved disaster response, and ecosystem protection, which may be accomplished through activities or projects with objectives such as—

- (i) reducing risks or enhancing resilience to sea level rise, extreme weather events, fires, drought, flooding, heat island impacts, or worsened indoor or outdoor air quality;
- (ii) protecting farms and the food supply from climate impacts;
- (iii) reducing risks of food insecurity that would otherwise result from climate change;
- (iv) ensuring that disaster and public health plans account for more severe weather;
- (v) reducing risks from geographical change to disease vectors, pathogens, invasive species, and the distribution of pests; and
- (vi) other projects or activities, as determined to be appropriate by the Commission.

(10) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Commerce.

(11) **STATE.**—The term “State” means a State, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any other territory or possession of the United States.

**TITLE I—CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORY
COMMISSION****SEC. 101. ESTABLISHMENT OF CLIMATE CHANGE
ADVISORY COMMISSION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established a commission to be known as the “Climate Change Advisory Commission”.

(b) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Commission shall be composed of 11 members—

(1) who shall be selected from the public and private sectors and institutions of higher education; and

(2) of whom—

(A) 3 shall be appointed by the President, in consultation with the National Climate Task Force;

(B) 2 shall be appointed by the Speaker of the House of Representatives;

(C) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the House of Representatives;

(D) 2 shall be appointed by the majority leader of the Senate; and

(E) 2 shall be appointed by the minority leader of the Senate.

(c) **TERMS.**—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed for the life of the Commission.

(d) **INITIAL APPOINTMENTS.**—Each member of the Commission shall be appointed not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(e) **VACANCIES.**—A vacancy on the Commission—

(1) shall not affect the powers of the Commission; and

(2) shall be filled in the manner in which the original appointment was made.

(f) **INITIAL MEETING.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which all members of the Commission have been appointed, the Commission shall hold the initial meeting of the Commission.

(g) **MEETINGS.**—The Commission shall meet at the call of the Chairperson.

(h) **QUORUM.**—A majority of the members of the Commission shall constitute a quorum, but a lesser number of members may hold hearings.

(i) **CHAIRPERSON AND VICE CHAIRPERSON.**—The Commission shall select a Chairperson and Vice Chairperson from among the members of the Commission.

SEC. 102. DUTIES.

The Commission shall—

(1) establish recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines for a Federal investment program funded by revenue from climate change obligations issued under section 301 for eligible entities that—

(A) improve and adapt energy, transportation, water, and general infrastructure impacted or expected to be impacted due to climate variability; and

(B) integrate best available science, data, standards, models, and trends that improve the resiliency of infrastructure systems described in subparagraph (A); and

(2) in consultation with the Council on Environmental Quality and the White House Environmental Justice Interagency Council, identify categories of the most cost-effective investments and projects that emphasize multiple benefits to human health, commerce, and ecosystems while ensuring that the Commission engages in early and meaningful community stakeholder involvement opportunities during the development of the recommendations, frameworks, and guidelines established under paragraph (1).

SEC. 103. COMMISSION PERSONNEL MATTERS.

(a) **COMPENSATION OF MEMBERS.**—

(1) **NON-FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is not an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall be compensated at a rate equal to the daily equivalent of the annual rate of basic pay prescribed for level IV of the Executive Schedule under section 5315 of title 5, United States Code, for each day (including travel time) during which the member is engaged in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(2) **FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.**—A member of the Commission who is an officer or employee of the Federal Government shall serve without compensation in addition to the compensation received for the services of the member as an officer or employee of the Federal Government.

(b) TRAVEL EXPENSES.—A member of the Commission shall be allowed travel expenses, including per diem in lieu of subsistence, at rates authorized for an employee of an agency under subchapter I of chapter 57 of title 5, United States Code, while away from the home or regular place of business of the member in the performance of the duties of the Commission.

(c) STAFF.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chairperson of the Commission may, without regard to the civil service laws (including regulations), appoint and terminate such personnel as are necessary to enable the Commission to perform the duties of the Commission.

(2) COMPENSATION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Chairperson of the Commission may fix the compensation of personnel without regard to the provisions of chapter 51 and subchapter III of chapter 53 of title 5, United States Code, relating to classification of positions and General Schedule pay rates.

(B) MAXIMUM RATE OF PAY.—The rate of pay for personnel shall not exceed the rate payable for level V of the Executive Schedule under section 5316 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 104. FUNDING.

The Commission shall use amounts in the Fund to pay for all administrative expenses of the Commission.

SEC. 105. TERMINATION.

The Commission shall terminate on such date as the Commission determines after the Commission carries out the duties of the Commission under section 102.

TITLE II—CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND

SEC. 201. CLIMATE CHANGE RESILIENCY FUND.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established in the Treasury of the United States the “Climate Change Resiliency Fund”.

(2) USE OF AMOUNTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall use not less than 40 percent of the amounts in the Fund to fund projects that benefit communities that experience disproportionate impacts from climate change, including environmental justice communities, frontline communities, and low-income communities.

(B) MAINTENANCE OF EFFORT.—All amounts deposited in the Fund in accordance with section 301(a) shall only be used—

(i) to fund new projects in accordance with this section; and

(ii) for administrative expenses of the Commission authorized under section 104.

(3) RESPONSIBILITY OF SECRETARY.—The Secretary shall take such action as the Secretary determines necessary to assist in implementing the Fund in accordance with this section.

(b) CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION PROJECTS.—The Secretary, in consultation with the Commission, shall carry out a program to provide funds to eligible entities to carry out projects for a qualified climate change adaptation purpose.

(c) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An eligible entity desiring funds under subsection (b) shall, with respect to a project, submit to the Secretary an application at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(2) CONTENTS.—An application submitted by an eligible entity under this subsection shall include data relating to any benefits the eligible entity expects the project to provide to the community in which the applicable project is performed, such as—

(A) an economic impact; or

(B) improvements to public health.

(3) TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.—The Secretary shall offer technical assistance to eligible entities preparing applications under this subsection.

(d) SELECTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall select eligible entities to receive funds to carry out projects under this section based on criteria and guidelines determined and published by the Commission under section 102.

(2) PRIORITY.—In selecting eligible entities under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall give priority to eligible entities planning to perform projects that will serve areas with the greatest need.

(e) NON-FEDERAL FUNDING REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Subject to paragraphs (2) and (3), in order to receive funds under this section, an eligible entity shall provide funds for a project in an amount that is equal to not less than 25 percent of the amount of funds provided under this section.

(2) WAIVER.—The Secretary may waive all or part of the matching requirement under paragraph (1) for an eligible entity, especially an eligible entity performing a project benefitting a low-income community or an environmental justice community, if the Secretary determines that—

(A) there are no reasonable means available through which the eligible entity can meet the matching requirement; or

(B) the probable benefit of the project outweighs the public interest of the matching requirement.

(3) NO-MATCH PROJECTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall award not less than 10 percent and not more than 40 percent of the total funds awarded under this section to eligible entities to which the matching requirement under paragraph (1) shall not apply.

(B) PRIORITY.—The Secretary shall give priority for funding under subparagraph (A) to an eligible entity performing a project in a community experiencing a disproportionate impact of climate change, including—

(i) an environmental justice community;

(ii) a low-income community; or

(iii) a community of color.

(f) APPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL LAW.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to waive the requirements of any Federal law or regulation that would otherwise apply to a project that receives funds under this section.

SEC. 202. COMPLIANCE WITH DAVIS-BACON ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—All laborers and mechanics employed by contractors and subcontractors on projects funded directly by, or assisted in whole or in part by and through, the Fund shall be paid wages at rates not less than those prevailing on projects of a character similar in the locality as determined by the Secretary of Labor in accordance with subchapter IV of chapter 31 of part A of title 40, United States Code.

(b) LABOR STANDARDS.—With respect to the labor standards described in this section, the Secretary of Labor shall have the authority and functions set forth in Reorganization Plan Numbered 14 of 1950 (64 Stat. 1267; 5 U.S.C. App.) and section 3145 of title 40, United States Code.

SEC. 203. FUNDING.

To carry out the program under section 201(b), the Secretary, in addition to amounts in the Fund, may use amounts that have been made available to the Secretary and are not otherwise obligated.

TITLE III—REVENUE

SEC. 301. CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury or the Secretary’s delegate (referred to in this title as

the “Secretary”) shall issue obligations under chapter 31 of title 31, United States Code (referred to in this title as “climate change obligations”), the proceeds from which shall be deposited in the Fund.

(b) FULL FAITH AND CREDIT.—Payment of interest and principal with respect to any climate change obligation issued under this section shall be made from the general fund of the Treasury of the United States and shall be backed by the full faith and credit of the United States.

(c) EXEMPTION FROM LOCAL TAXATION.—All climate change obligations issued by the Secretary, and the interest on or credits with respect to such obligations, shall not be subject to taxation by any State, county, municipality, or local taxing authority.

(d) AMOUNT OF CLIMATE CHANGE OBLIGATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the aggregate face amount of the climate change obligations issued annually under this section shall be \$200,000,000.

(2) ADDITIONAL OBLIGATIONS.—For any calendar year in which all of the obligations issued pursuant to paragraph (1) have been purchased, the Secretary may issue additional climate change obligations during such calendar year, provided that the aggregate face amount of such additional obligations does not exceed \$800,000,000.

(e) FUNDING.—The Secretary shall use funds made available to the Secretary and not otherwise obligated to carry out the purposes of this section.

SEC. 302. PROMOTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall promote the purchase of climate change obligations through such means as are determined appropriate by the Secretary, with the amount expended for such promotion not to exceed \$10,000,000 for any fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028.

(b) DONATED ADVERTISING.—In addition to any advertising paid for with funds made available under subsection (c), the Secretary shall solicit and may accept the donation of advertising relating to the sale of climate change obligations.

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—For each fiscal year during the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2028, there is authorized to be appropriated \$10,000,000 to carry out the purposes of this section.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 487—COMMEMORATING THE CENTENNIAL OF THE AMERICAN BATTLE MONUMENTS COMMISSION

Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. TESTER) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 487

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission, also known as the “ABMC”, was founded by Congress on March 4, 1923, to commemorate the service and sacrifice of the United States Armed Forces through perpetually maintained cemeteries and memorials;

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission, for 100 years, has maintained the vision of General of the Armies John J. Pershing that “time will not dim the glory of their deeds”;

Whereas, in 1927, then-Major Dwight D. Eisenhower, of Abilene, Kansas, was assigned to the American Battle Monuments Commission and helped compose “A Guide to the

American Battle Fields in Europe”, which he later helped to revise and expand to “American Armies and Battlefields in Europe: A History, Guide, and Reference Book”, a guidebook for Americans traveling overseas to visit battle sites, cemeteries, and memorials of World War I;

Whereas, in 1928 and 1929, during the revision and expansion of that guidebook in Paris, France, then-Major Eisenhower gained critical geographic and cultural knowledge of Europe that would prove crucial during World War II;

Whereas, in 1944, during World War II, the temporary American St. Laurent Cemetery was established as the first American cemetery on European soil, eventually becoming the Normandy American Cemetery, which is the most visited cemetery maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission;

Whereas, in 2023, the American Battle Monuments Commission celebrates 100 years of service to members of our Armed Forces and their families;

Whereas the workforce of the American Battle Monuments Commission is comprised of dedicated civil service professionals and locally engaged staff in countries around the globe;

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission administers, operates, and maintains 26 permanent American military cemeteries and 32 Federal memorials, monuments, and markers, which are located in 17 foreign countries and territories, primarily commemorating the American war dead from World War I and World War II;

Whereas approximately 124,000 American war dead are buried in cemeteries operated by the American Battle Monuments Commission, and more than 94,000 Americans who were lost, missing in action, or buried at sea during World War I, World War II, the Korean War, and the Vietnam War are remembered by name on stone tablets at cemeteries and memorials maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission; and

Whereas the American Battle Monuments Commission seeks to educate the public on the history and sacrifices of members of the Armed Forces of the United States honored at cemeteries and memorials around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the century of service by the American Battle Monuments Commission and their personnel who have worked to honor the service and sacrifices of our fallen warriors and those who fought at their side;

(2) commends the work done by the American Battle Monuments Commission to oversee and execute commemorative events at cemeteries and memorials, especially for the benefit of veterans and families who return to those sacred grounds on milestone anniversaries or dates of personal significance;

(3) supports the efforts of the American Battle Monuments Commission to educate the coming generations, young Americans, and young people from around the world on the sacrifices made by those American soldiers, sailors, aviators, Marines, and members of the Coast Guard who died during military service and are buried or memorialized on the sacred grounds they steward;

(4) encourages all people of the United States to visit and pay their respects to those interred in cemeteries maintained by the American Battle Monuments Commission overseas who died fighting against tyranny;

(5) lauds the continued mission carried out with excellence by the American Battle Monuments Commission; and

(6) wishes the American Battle Monuments Commission continued success for another 100 years and beyond.

SENATE RESOLUTION 488—RECOGNIZING JOBS FOR AMERICA'S GRADUATES FOR HELPING YOUNG PEOPLE OF TRULY GREAT PROMISE IN THE UNITED STATES SUCCEED IN SCHOOL, ON THE JOB, AND IN POSTSECONDARY EDUCATION, LEADING TO GENERATIONS OF PRODUCTIVE AND REWARDING CAREERS

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 488

Whereas Jobs for America's Graduates (referred to in this preamble as “JAG”) is a State-based national nonprofit organization dedicated to serving youth who face significant challenges and helping them reach economic and academic success;

Whereas Jobs for Delaware Graduates was founded and tested in 1979 in the State of Delaware with the bipartisan leadership of Governor Pete du Pont and members of the General Assembly of the State of Delaware, and became the model for the creation of JAG;

Whereas JAG has served over 1,600,000 young people since its inception in 1980;

Whereas JAG has affiliates across 39 States and territories, including Alabama, Alaska, Arizona, Arkansas, California, Delaware, Florida, Georgia, Indiana, Iowa, Kansas, Kentucky, Louisiana, Missouri, Michigan, Minnesota, Mississippi, New Jersey, Montana, Nebraska, New Hampshire, North Carolina, New Mexico, Nevada, New York, Ohio, Pennsylvania, South Carolina, South Dakota, Tennessee, Virginia, the United States Virgin Islands, West Virginia, and Wisconsin;

Whereas the Board of Directors of JAG is made up of leading Governors, executives of Fortune 500 companies, and national community leaders;

Whereas the JAG model consists of a comprehensive set of services designed to keep young people in school through graduation and improves their success rates in education and career by—

- (1) providing classroom instruction;
- (2) delivering competency-based instruction that seeks to equip students with not less than 37 JAG Employability Skills competencies;
- (3) providing project-based learning;
- (4) using trauma-informed care;
- (5) advising students as they make significant career and life decisions during the school year and beyond;
- (6) exposing students to job opportunities and career pathways in their own communities;
- (7) developing student civic engagement, public service, leadership development, career preparation, and social awareness;
- (8) helping graduates identify job opportunities and post-secondary education; and
- (9) helping to ensure that young people achieve success at work and in postsecondary education during the year following graduation;

Whereas JAG participants have regularly achieved higher than 90 percent graduation rates since the establishment of JAG, and a 95 percent graduation rate since 2019;

Whereas, every year, JAG meets the goals of employers in having well-prepared young people enter the workforce; and

Whereas the JAG National Student Leadership Academy will take place from November 30, 2023, to December 2, 2023, with more than 250 elected student officers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) acknowledges the significant accomplishments of the members, volunteers, alumni, and community partners of Jobs for America's Graduates in helping at-risk youth reach economic and academic success; and

(2) congratulates the young people enrolled in 2023 across 39 States in Jobs for America's Graduates.

SENATE RESOLUTION 489—DESIGNATING DECEMBER 16, 2023, AS “NATIONAL WREATHS ACROSS AMERICA DAY”

Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Mr. KING) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 489

Whereas 32 years before the date of adoption, the Wreaths Across America project began with an annual tradition that occurs in December of donating, transporting, and placing 5,000 Maine balsam fir veterans' remembrance wreaths on the graves of the fallen heroes buried at Arlington National Cemetery;

Whereas, in the past 32 years, more than 17,100,000 wreaths have been sent to various locations, including national cemeteries and veterans' memorials in every State and overseas;

Whereas the mission of the Wreaths Across America project, to “Remember, Honor, and Teach”, is carried out in part by coordinating wreath-laying ceremonies in all 50 States and overseas, including at—

- (1) Arlington National Cemetery;
- (2) veterans' cemeteries; and
- (3) other memorial locations;

Whereas the Wreaths Across America project carries out a week-long veterans' parade between Maine and Virginia, stopping along the way to spread a message about the importance of—

- (1) remembering the fallen heroes of the United States;
- (2) honoring those who serve; and
- (3) teaching the next generation of children about the service and sacrifices made by our veterans and their families to preserve freedoms enjoyed by all in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, approximately 2,700,000 veterans' remembrance wreaths were delivered to over 3,700 locations across the United States;

Whereas, in December 2023, the tradition of escorting tractor-trailers filled with donated wreaths from Harrington, Maine, to Arlington National Cemetery, will be continued by—

- (1) the Patriot Guard Riders; and
- (2) other patriotic escort units, including—
 - (A) motorcycle units;
 - (B) law enforcement units; and
 - (C) first responder units;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of individuals volunteer each December to help lay veterans' wreaths;

Whereas the trucking industry in the United States will continue to support the Wreaths Across America project by providing drivers, equipment, and related services to assist in the transportation of wreaths across the United States to more than 4,000 locations;

Whereas the Senate designated December 17, 2022, as “Wreaths Across America Day”; and

Whereas, on December 16, 2023, the Wreaths Across America project will continue the proud legacy of bringing veterans' wreaths to Arlington National Cemetery: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates December 16, 2023, as “National Wreaths Across America Day”;

(2) honors—

(A) the Wreaths Across America project;

(B) patriotic escort units, including—

(i) motorcycle units;

(ii) law enforcement units; and

(iii) first responder units;

(C) the trucking industry in the United States; and

(D) the millions of volunteers and donors involved in this worthy tradition; and

(3) recognizes—

(A) the service of veterans and members of the Armed Forces; and

(B) the sacrifices that veterans, their family members, and members of the Armed Forces have made, and continue to make, for this great Nation.

SENATE RESOLUTION 490—REMEMBERING THE DECEMBER 6, 2019, TERRORIST ATTACK AT NAVAL AIR STATION PENSACOLA AND COMMEMORATING THOSE WHO LOST THEIR LIVES, AND THOSE WHO WERE INJURED, IN THE LINE OF DUTY

Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. OSSOFF, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mrs. BRITT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 490

Whereas December 6, 2023, the 4-year anniversary of the terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this preamble as the “terrorist attack”), is a day of commemoration for those who lost their lives, and those who were injured, during the terrorist attack, including—

(1) Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson of Enterprise, Alabama;

(2) Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham of St. Petersburg, Florida; and

(3) Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters of Richmond Hill, Georgia;

Whereas the 3 servicemembers who died in the terrorist attack were posthumously awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal and the Purple Heart;

Whereas the terrorist who committed the terrorist attack was a Saudi Arabian foreign military student who had been radicalized and established contacts with Al Qaeda operatives prior to attending flight training at Naval Air Station Pensacola;

Whereas Naval Air Station Pensacola security forces and Escambia County, Florida, law enforcement officers took decisive action to end the terrorist attack and have rightly earned the praises and awards bestowed upon them;

Whereas 2 civilians were awarded the Department of the Navy Superior Civilian Medal for Valor for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 individuals were awarded the Purple Heart, or the law enforcement equivalent, for injuries sustained during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 9 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 military personnel were awarded the Navy and Marine Corps Commendation Medal for their heroic actions during the terrorist attack;

Whereas 8 law enforcement officers were awarded the Medal of Valor for their actions taken during the terrorist attack; and

Whereas December 6, 2023, marks 4 years since the lives of 3 military personnel were

tragically cut short by the egregious act of terrorism at Naval Air Station Pensacola: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) condemns the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola (referred to in this resolution as the “terrorist attack”);

(2) commemorates in sorrow the servicemembers and civilians who lost their lives, or who were injured, and the harm caused to the surrounding community, as a result of the terrorist attack;

(3) remembers Ensign Joshua Kaleb Watson, Petty Officer Third Class Mohammed Sameh Haitham, and Petty Officer Third Class Cameron Scott Walters, who were killed in the terrorist attack;

(4) expresses gratitude for the heroic actions that the civilians, uniformed personnel, and law enforcement performed during and in the aftermath of the terrorist attack;

(5) lauds the decision to give medals and awards to the law enforcement officers, uniformed servicemembers, and civilians who responded heroically on the morning of December 6, 2019; and

(6) commends the efforts undertaken by the Department of Defense to enhance security at military installations to ensure that the tragedy represented by the terrorist attack is never repeated.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1371. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1372. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1371. Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. SCHUMER) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by her to the bill H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “National Security and Border Act, 2024”.

SEC. 2. TABLE OF CONTENTS.

The table of contents of this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short Title.

Sec. 2. Table of Contents.

Sec. 3. References.

DIVISION A—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

DIVISION B—BORDER SECURITY AND COMBATTING FENTANYL SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

Title I—Amending Compacts of Free Associations

Title II—FEND Off Fentanyl Act

Title III—Budgetary Effects

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—NATIONAL SECURITY SUPPLEMENTAL APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

MILITARY PERSONNEL

MILITARY PERSONNEL, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Army”, \$207,158,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Marine Corps”, \$3,538,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Air Force”, \$23,302,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

MILITARY PERSONNEL, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Military Personnel, Space Force”, \$4,192,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Army”, \$5,191,468,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Navy”, \$1,610,244,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to

respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,052,486,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$557,758,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Marine Corps”, \$69,045,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Air Force”, \$898,149,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, SPACE FORCE

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Space Force”, \$8,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE, DEFENSE-WIDE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “Operation and Maintenance, Defense-Wide”, \$32,058,320,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,500,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, shall be for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative: *Provided further*, That such funds for the Ukraine Security Assistance Initiative shall be available to the Secretary of Defense under the same terms and conditions as are provided for under this heading in the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328), and shall be available notwithstanding section 8135 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023 (division C of Public Law 117–328) or any similar provision in any other Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, up to \$4,400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense

and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the government of Israel or to foreign countries that have provided support to Israel at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That up to \$13,414,432,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, may be transferred to accounts under the headings “Operation and Maintenance”, “Procurement”, and “Revolving and Management Funds” for replacement, through new procurement or repair of existing unserviceable equipment, of defense articles from the stocks of the Department of Defense, and for reimbursement for defense services of the Department of Defense and military education and training, provided to or identified for provision to the government of Ukraine or to foreign countries that have provided support to Ukraine at the request of the United States: *Provided further*, That funds transferred pursuant to the preceding two provisos shall be merged with and available for the same purposes and for the same time period as the appropriations to which the funds are transferred: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Defense shall notify the congressional defense committees of the details of such transfers not less than 15 days before any such transfer: *Provided further*, That upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred from this appropriation are not necessary for the purposes provided herein, such amounts may be transferred back and merged with this appropriation: *Provided further*, That any transfer authority provided herein is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law: *Provided further*, 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.

PROCUREMENT

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Army”, \$2,742,757,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

PROCUREMENT OF AMMUNITION, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Procurement of Ammunition, Army”, \$6,414,300,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$801,400,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$5,612,900,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, ARMY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Army”, \$308,991,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

WEAPONS PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Weapons Procurement, Navy”, \$706,976,000, to remain

available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

SHIPBUILDING AND CONVERSION, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Shipbuilding and Conversion, Navy”, \$2,155,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base for the Columbia Class submarine and for related expenses: *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.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, NAVY

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Navy”, \$319,570,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$26,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$293,570,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

PROCUREMENT, MARINE CORPS

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Marine Corps”, \$212,443,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

MISSILE PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Missile Procurement, Air Force”, \$366,001,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

OTHER PROCUREMENT, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for “Other Procurement, Air Force”, \$2,648,678,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for other expenses: *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.

PROCUREMENT, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for “Procurement, Defense-Wide”, \$4,046,780,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$4,000,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the government of Israel for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David’s Sling defense systems to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding proviso shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters and are in addition to funds provided pursuant to the U.S.-Israel

Iron Dome Procurement Agreement, as amended: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the procurement of the Iron Dome and David's Sling defense systems: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$46,780,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

DEFENSE PRODUCTION ACT PURCHASES

For an additional amount for "Defense Production Act Purchases", \$198,600,000, to remain available until expended, for activities by the Department of Defense pursuant to sections 108, 301, 302, and 303 of the Defense Production Act of 1950 (50 U.S.C. 4518, 4531, 4532, and 4533): *Provided*, That such amounts shall be obligated and expended by the Secretary of Defense as if delegated the necessary authorities conferred by the Defense Production Act of 1950: *Provided further*, 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.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, ARMY

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Army", \$18,594,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, NAVY

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Navy", \$20,825,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine, to support improvements to the submarine industrial base, and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$13,825,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$7,000,000 shall be to support improvements to the submarine industrial base and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, AIR FORCE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Air Force", \$406,834,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TEST AND EVALUATION, DEFENSE-WIDE

For an additional amount for "Research, Development, Test and Evaluation, Defense-Wide", \$1,394,125,000, to remain available

until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,200,000,000 shall be for the Secretary of Defense to provide to the government of Israel for the development of the Iron Beam defense system to counter short-range rocket threats: *Provided further*, That funds in the preceding proviso shall be transferred pursuant to an exchange of letters: *Provided further*, That nothing under this heading in this Act shall be construed to apply to amounts made available in prior appropriations Acts for the development of the Iron Beam defense system: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$194,125,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided further*, 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.

OTHER DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS

OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for "Office of the Inspector General", \$8,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, which shall be for operation and maintenance, to carry out reviews of the activities of the Department of Defense to execute funds appropriated in this Act, including assistance provided to Ukraine: *Provided*, That the Inspector General of the Department of Defense shall provide to the congressional defense committees a briefing not later than 90 days after the date of enactment of this Act: *Provided further*, 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.

RELATED AGENCIES

INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY MANAGEMENT ACCOUNT

For an additional amount for "Intelligence Community Management Account", \$2,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE (INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 101. (a) Upon the determination of the Secretary of Defense that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Secretary may, with the approval of the Office of Management and Budget, transfer up to \$1,000,000,000 of the funds made available in this title to the Department of Defense to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *Provided*, That the Secretary shall notify the Congress promptly of each transfer made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8005 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

(b) Upon the determination by the Director of National Intelligence that such action is necessary in the national interest, the Director may, with the approval of the Office of

Management and Budget, transfer up to \$250,000,000 of the funds made available in this title for the National Intelligence Program: *Provided*, That the Director of National Intelligence shall notify the Congress promptly of all transfers made pursuant to the authority in this subsection: *Provided further*, That such authority is in addition to any transfer authority otherwise provided by law and is subject to the same terms and conditions as the authority provided in section 8093 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023, or any similar provision in any subsequent Act making appropriations for the Department of Defense for Fiscal Year 2024, except for monetary limitations concerning the amount of authority available.

SEC. 102. Not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall submit a report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate on measures being taken to account for United States defense articles designated for Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, particularly measures with regard to such articles that require enhanced end-use monitoring; measures to ensure that such articles reach their intended recipients and are used for their intended purposes; and any other measures to promote accountability for the use of such articles: *Provided*, That such report shall include a description of any occurrences of articles not reaching their intended recipients or used for their intended purposes and a description of any remedies taken: *Provided further*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

SEC. 103. Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and every 30 days thereafter through fiscal year 2025, the Secretary of Defense, in coordination with the Secretary of State, shall provide a written report to the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committees on Appropriations, Armed Services, and Foreign Relations of the Senate describing United States security assistance provided to Ukraine since the February 24, 2022, Russian invasion of Ukraine, including a comprehensive list of the defense articles and services provided to Ukraine and the associated authority and funding used to provide such articles and services: *Provided*, That such report shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may be accompanied by a classified annex.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY ENERGY PROGRAMS SCIENCE

For an additional amount for "Science", \$98,000,000, to remain available until expended, for acquisition, distribution, and equipment for development and production of medical, stable, and radioactive isotopes: *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.

ATOMIC ENERGY DEFENSE ACTIVITIES NATIONAL NUCLEAR SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

DEFENSE NUCLEAR NONPROLIFERATION

For an additional amount for "Defense Nuclear Nonproliferation", \$143,915,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to

respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

FEDERAL SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Federal Salaries and Expenses”, \$5,540,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for related expenses: *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.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

SEC. 201. (a) Of the unobligated balances from amounts previously appropriated under the heading “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—Nuclear Energy” in division J of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act (Public Law 117–58) that were made available for fiscal years 2022, 2023, and 2024, up to \$2,720,000,000 shall be available, in addition to amounts otherwise made available, for expenses necessary for at least two competitive awards for the acquisition and distribution of low-enriched uranium (LEU) and high-assay low-enriched uranium (HALEU) and other related activities pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2011 et seq.), and section 2001 of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281) to reduce the reliance of the United States and friendly foreign countries on nuclear fuels from the Russian Federation and other insecure sources of LEU and HALEU: *Provided*, That such amounts may be transferred to “Department of Energy—Energy Programs—American Energy Independence Fund”: *Provided further*, That section 3112 of the USEC Privatization Act (42 U.S.C. 2297h–10) shall not apply to the transfer or sale of LEU and HALEU in connection with activities funded in this section: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section to enter into and perform such contracts, leases, cooperative agreements, or other similar transactions with public agencies and private organizations and persons, as authorized by section 646(a) of the Department of Energy Organization Act (42 U.S.C. 7256(a)), for such periods of time and subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary deems appropriate, without regard to section 161(u) of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2201(u)): *Provided further*, That notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from the sale or transfer of LEU and HALEU or from any other transaction in connection with the amounts repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section shall be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund”, as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That receipts may hereafter be collected from transactions entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(iii) of the Energy Act of 2020 (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(iii)) and, notwithstanding 31 U.S.C. 3302, receipts from any transaction entered into pursuant to section 2001(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii) of such Act (42 U.S.C. 16281(a)(2)(F)(ii) and (iii)) shall hereafter be credited to the “American Energy Independence Fund”, as discretionary offsetting collections and shall be available, for

the same purposes as funds repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section, to the extent and in the amounts provided in advance in appropriations Acts: *Provided further*, That the Secretary of Energy may use funds repurposed, transferred, or otherwise made available pursuant to this section for a commitment only if the full extent of the anticipated costs stemming from that commitment is recorded as an obligation at the time that the commitment is made and only to the extent that up-front obligation is recorded in full at that time: *Provided further*, That amounts repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section that were previously designated by the Congress as an emergency requirement pursuant to a concurrent resolution on the Budget are designated as an emergency requirement pursuant to section 4001(a)(1) of S. Con. Res. 14 (117th Congress), the concurrent resolution on the budget for fiscal year 2022, and to legislation establishing fiscal year 2024 budget enforcement in the House of Representatives.

(b) Amounts may not be repurposed or transferred pursuant to this section until a law is enacted or administrative action is taken to prohibit or limit importation of LEU and HALEU from the Russian Federation or by a Russian entity into the United States.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY PROTECTION, PREPAREDNESS, RESPONSE, AND RECOVERY

FEDERAL EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT AGENCY OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Operations and Support”, \$20,000,000, to remain available until expended, for necessary expenses related to the administration of nonprofit security grants: *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.

FEDERAL ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance”, \$980,000,000, of which \$200,000,000 shall remain available until September 30, 2024, and \$780,000,000 shall remain available until expended, for Nonprofit Security Grant Program under section 2009 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 609a) for eligible nonprofit organizations to prevent, prepare for, protect against, and respond to acts of terrorism or other threats: *Provided*, That the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency shall make programmatic adjustments as necessary to expedite the disbursement of, and provide flexibility in the use of, amounts made available under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That notwithstanding any provision of 6 U.S.C. 609a, and in addition to amounts available under 6 U.S.C. 609a(c)(2), the Administrator of the Federal Emergency Management Agency may permit a State to use up to two percent of a grant awarded under this heading in this Act to provide outreach and technical assistance to eligible nonprofit organizations to assist them with applying for Nonprofit Security Grant Program awards under this heading in this Act: *Provided further*, That such outreach and technical assistance should prioritize underserved communities and nonprofit organizations that are traditionally underrepresented in the Program: *Provided further*, 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.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES

ADMINISTRATION FOR CHILDREN AND FAMILIES REFUGEE AND ENTRANT ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Refugee and Entrant Assistance”, \$2,334,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for refugee and entrant assistance activities authorized by section 414 of the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 501 of the Refugee Education Assistance Act of 1980: *Provided*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used for grants or contracts with qualified organizations, including nonprofit entities, to provide culturally and linguistically appropriate services, including wraparound services, housing assistance, medical assistance, legal assistance, and case management assistance: *Provided further*, That amounts made available under this heading in this Act may be used by the Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement (Director) to issue awards or supplement awards previously made by the Director: *Provided further*, That the Director, in carrying out section 412(c)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1552(c)(1)(A)) with amounts made available under this heading in this Act, may allocate such amounts among the States in a manner that accounts for the most current data available: *Provided further*, 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.

GENERAL PROVISION—THIS TITLE

SEC. 401. Section 401(a)(1)(A) of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (Public Law 117–128) is amended by striking “September 30, 2023” and inserting “September 30, 2024”: *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.

TITLE V

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$210,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$100,000,000, to remain available until expended, shall be for Worldwide Security Protection, including to respond to the situation in Israel and areas impacted by the situation in Israel: *Provided further*, 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.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$5,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *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.

EMERGENCIES IN THE DIPLOMATIC AND
CONSULAR SERVICE

For an additional amount for “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until expended, to meet unforeseen emergencies arising in the Diplomatic and Consular Service: *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.

UNITED STATES AGENCY FOR
INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
OPERATING EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Operating Expenses”, \$39,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to respond to the situations in Israel and Ukraine and areas and countries impacted by the situations in Israel and Ukraine: *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.

OFFICE OF INSPECTOR GENERAL

For an additional amount for “Office of Inspector General”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *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.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE
FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT
INTERNATIONAL DISASTER ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “International Disaster Assistance”, \$5,655,000,000, to remain available until expended: *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.

TRANSITION INITIATIVES

For an additional amount for “Transition Initiatives”, \$25,000,000, to remain available until expended, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *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.

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$11,850,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$11,775,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine, which may include budget support: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$50,000,000 shall be to prevent and respond to food insecurity: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$25,000,000 shall be for reconciliation programs in the Middle East, including between Israelis and Palestinians: *Provided further*, That funds made available under this heading in this Act may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, 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.

ASSISTANCE FOR EUROPE, EURASIA AND
CENTRAL ASIA

For an additional amount for “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, \$2,228,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance and related programs for Ukraine and other countries identified in section 3 of the FREEDOM Support Act (22 U.S.C. 5801) and section 3(c) of the Support for East European Democracy (SEED) Act of 1989 (22 U.S.C. 5402(c)): *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, 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.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

MIGRATION AND REFUGEE ASSISTANCE

For an additional amount for “Migration and Refugee Assistance”, \$4,345,000,000, to remain available until expended: *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.

INTERNATIONAL SECURITY ASSISTANCE

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

INTERNATIONAL NARCOTICS CONTROL AND LAW
ENFORCEMENT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, \$435,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$360,000,000 shall be for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso may be made available to support the State Border Guard Service of Ukraine and National Police of Ukraine, including units supporting or under the command of the Armed Forces of Ukraine: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$75,000,000 shall be for assistance for countries in the Middle East, including for assistance for Jordan and Lebanon, including to enhance partner capacity related to border security and the security of United States diplomatic facilities, of which \$10,000,000 shall be for programs to be administered by the Office of the United States Security Coordinator for Israel and the Palestinian Authority (USSC), following consultation with the Committees on Appropriations: *Provided further*, That funds made available in the preceding proviso for programs administered by the USSC shall be the responsibility of the Chief of Mission, in consultation with the USSC: *Provided further*, 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.

NONPROLIFERATION, ANTI-TERRORISM,
DEMING AND RELATED PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Nonproliferation, Anti-terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, \$100,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for assistance for Ukraine and countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine: *Provided*, That not later than 60 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall consult with the Committees on Appropriations on the prioritization of demining efforts and how such efforts will be coordi-

nated with the conduct of development activities: *Provided further*, 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.

PEACEKEEPING OPERATIONS

For an additional amount for “Peacekeeping Operations”, \$10,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for a United States contribution to the Multinational Force and Observers mission in the Sinai to enhance force protection capabilities: *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.

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

FOREIGN MILITARY FINANCING PROGRAM

For an additional amount for “Foreign Military Financing Program”, \$7,200,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$3,500,000,000 shall be for assistance for Israel and for related expenses: *Provided further*, That to the extent that the government of Israel requests that funds be used for such purposes, grants made available for Israel under this heading in this Act shall, as agreed by the United States and Israel, be available for advanced weapons systems, of which up to \$3,500,000,000 may be available for the procurement in Israel of defense articles and defense services: *Provided further*, That any congressional notification requirement applicable to funds made available under this heading in this Act for Israel may be waived if the Secretary of State determines that to do so is in the national security interest of the United States: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$1,700,000,000 shall be to respond to the situation in Ukraine and for countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine and related expenses: *Provided further*, That amounts made available in the preceding proviso and unobligated balances of amounts made available in Acts making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs for fiscal year 2024 and prior fiscal years shall be available for the cost of loans and loan guarantees as authorized by section 2606 of the Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2022 (division N of Public Law 117-103), subject to the terms and conditions provided in such section, or as otherwise authorized by law: *Provided further*, That loan guarantees made using amounts described in the preceding proviso for loans financed by the Federal Financing Bank may be provided notwithstanding any provision of law limiting the percentage of loan principal that may be guaranteed: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$2,000,000,000 shall be for assistance for the Indo-Pacific region: *Provided further*, That up to \$5,000,000 of any funds made available under this heading in this Act, in addition to funds otherwise available for such purposes, may be used by the Department of State for necessary expenses for the general costs of administering military assistance and sales, including management and oversight of such programs and activities: *Provided further*, 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.

INTERNATIONAL ASSISTANCE
PROGRAMS

MULTILATERAL ASSISTANCE

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL BANK
FOR RECONSTRUCTION AND DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for “Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development”, \$1,250,000,000, to remain available until expended: *Provided*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$494,375,000 shall be available for the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974, of loan guarantees to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, in addition to amounts otherwise available for such purposes: *Provided further*, That of the total amount provided under this heading in this Act, \$755,625,000 shall be for a contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development’s Multidonor Trust Fund for Innovative Global Public Goods Solutions: *Provided further*, 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.

CONTRIBUTION TO THE INTERNATIONAL
DEVELOPMENT ASSOCIATION

For an additional amount for “Contribution to the International Development Association”, \$750,000,000, to remain available until expended, which shall be made available for a contribution to the International Development Association Special Program to Enhance Crisis Response Window: *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.

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS TITLE

(INCLUDING TRANSFERS OF FUNDS)

SEC. 501. During fiscal year 2024, up to \$250,000,000 of funds deposited in the Consular and Border Security Programs account in any fiscal year that are available for obligation may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by any Act making appropriations for the Department of State, foreign operations, and related programs under the headings “Diplomatic Programs” (including for Worldwide Security Protection) and “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service” for emergency evacuations or to prevent or respond to security situations and requirements: *Provided*, That such transfer authority is in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and any such transfers are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

SEC. 502. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(1)) shall be applied by substituting “\$7,800,000,000” for “\$100,000,000”.

SEC. 503. During fiscal year 2024, section 506(a)(2)(B) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2318(a)(2)(B)) shall be applied by substituting “\$400,000,000” for “\$200,000,000” in the matter preceding clause (i), and by substituting “\$150,000,000” for “\$75,000,000” in clause (i).

SEC. 504. During fiscal year 2024, section 552(c)(2) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2348a(c)(2)) shall be applied by substituting “\$50,000,000” for “\$25,000,000”.

SEC. 505. Section 12001 of the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2005 (Public Law 108–287), as amended by Public Law 115–141, is amended as follows:

(1) In paragraph (2) of subsection (a), by striking “armor” and all that follows through the end of the paragraph and insert-

ing “defense articles that are in the inventory of the Department of Defense as of the date of transfer, are intended for use as reserve stocks for Israel, and are located in a stockpile for Israel as of the date of transfer”.

(2) In subsection (b), by striking “at least equal to the fair market value of the items transferred” and inserting “in an amount to be determined by the Secretary of Defense”.

(3) In subsection (c), by inserting before the comma in the first sentence the following: “, or as far in advance of such transfer as is practicable as determined by the President on a case-by-case basis during extraordinary circumstances impacting the national security of the United States”.

SEC. 506. For fiscal year 2024, section 514(b) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2321h(b)) shall not apply to defense articles to be set aside, earmarked, reserved, or intended for use as reserve stocks in stockpiles in the State of Israel.

SEC. 507. Unobligated balances from amounts appropriated in prior Acts under the heading “Multilateral Assistance—International Financial Institutions—Contributions to the International Monetary Fund Facilities and Trust Funds” shall be available to cover the cost, as defined in section 502 of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974 (2 U.S.C. 661a), of loans made by the Secretary of the Treasury to the Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust or to the Resilience and Sustainability Trust of the IMF: *Provided*, That such funds shall be available to subsidize gross obligations for the principal amount of direct loans not to exceed \$21,000,000,000 in the aggregate, and the Secretary of the Treasury is authorized to make such loans.

SEC. 508. Section 17(a)(6) of the Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 286e–2(a)(6)) is amended by striking “December 31, 2025” and inserting “December 31, 2030”.

SEC. 509. (a) Funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “International Disaster Assistance” and “Migration and Refugee Assistance” may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under such headings.

(b) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Economic Support Fund” and under the heading “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia” to respond to the situation in Ukraine and in countries impacted by the situation in Ukraine may be transferred to, and merged with, funds made available under the headings “United States International Development Finance Corporation—Corporate Capital Account”, “United States International Development Finance Corporation—Program Account”, “Export-Import Bank of the United States—Program Account”, and “Trade and Development Agency” for such purpose.

(c) Funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement” for assistance for countries in the Middle East to enhance partner capacity may be transferred to, and merged with, funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Peacekeeping Operations” for such purpose.

(d) The transfer authorities provided by this section are in addition to any other transfer authority provided by law, and are subject to prior consultation with, and the regular notification procedures of, the Committees on Appropriations.

(e) Upon a determination that all or part of the funds transferred pursuant to the authorities provided by this section are not necessary for such purposes, such amounts may be transferred back to such appropriations.

SEC. 510. Section 1705 of the Additional Ukraine Supplemental Appropriations Act,

2023 (division M of Public Law 117–328) shall apply to funds appropriated by this Act under the heading “Economic Support Fund” for assistance for Ukraine.

SEC. 511. Prior to the initial obligation of funds made available in this title in this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the USAID Administrator and heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall submit to the Committees on Appropriations:

(1) spend plans, as defined in section 7034(s)(4) of the Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2023 (division K of Public Law 117–328), at the country, account, and activity level, for funds appropriated by this Act under the headings “Economic Support Fund”, “Transition Initiatives”, “Assistance for Europe, Eurasia and Central Asia”, “International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement”, “Nonproliferation, Anti-Terrorism, Demining and Related Programs”, “Peacekeeping Operations”, “Foreign Military Financing Program”, “Contribution to the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development”, and “Contribution to the International Development Association”: *Provided*, That such plans submitted pursuant to this section shall include for each program notified—(A) total funding made available for such program, by account and fiscal year; (B) funding that remains unobligated for such program from prior year base or supplemental appropriations; (C) funding that is obligated but unexpended for such program; and (D) funding committed, but not yet notified for such program; and

(2) operating plans, as defined in section 7062 of division K of Public Law 117–328, for funds appropriated by this title under the headings “Diplomatic Programs”, “Emergencies in the Diplomatic and Consular Service”, and “Operating Expenses”.

TITLE VI

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 601. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 602. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 603. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 604. Each amount designated in this Act 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 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 605. Any amount appropriated by this Act, 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, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This Act may be cited as the “National Security Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION B—BORDER SECURITY AND
COMBATING FENTANYL SUPPLEMENTAL
APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2024

The following sums are appropriated, out of any money in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2024, and for other purposes, namely:

TITLE I

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

EXECUTIVE OFFICE FOR IMMIGRATION REVIEW

For an additional amount for “Executive Office for Immigration Review”, \$1,420,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026: *Provided*, That of the amounts made available under this heading in this Act, \$1,300,000,000 shall be for new Immigration Judge Teams, including appropriate attorneys, law clerks, paralegals, court administrators, and other support staff; \$20,000,000 shall be for information technology improvements and modernization and other efficiencies, including digitizing records and providing remote capabilities for proceedings; and \$100,000,000 shall be for grants to provide direct legal representation for certain individuals and families in immigration court proceedings: *Provided further*, 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.

LEGAL ACTIVITIES

SALARIES AND EXPENSES, GENERAL LEGAL ACTIVITIES

For an additional amount for “Salaries and Expenses, General Legal Activities”, \$11,800,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for necessary expenses of the Criminal Division associated with the Joint Task Force Alpha’s efforts in counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl, and to combat human trafficking and smuggling in the Western Hemisphere: *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.

FEDERAL BUREAU OF INVESTIGATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Federal Bureau of Investigation—Salaries and Expenses”, \$204,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for expenses related to the analysis of DNA samples, including those samples collected from migrants detained by the United States Border Patrol: *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.

DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Drug Enforcement Administration—Salaries and Expenses”, \$23,200,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, to enhance laboratory analysis of illicit fentanyl samples to trace illicit fentanyl supplies back to manufacturers, to support Operation Overdrive, and to bolster criminal drug network targeting efforts through data system improvements: *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.

TITLE II

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY
DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT, INTELLIGENCE, SITUATIONAL AWARENESS, AND OVERSIGHT

MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “Management Directorate—Operations and Support”, \$61,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, for necessary expenses relat-

ing to biometric technology services: *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.

SECURITY, ENFORCEMENT, AND INVESTIGATIONS

U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

(INCLUDING TRANSFER OF FUNDS)

For an additional amount for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Operations and Support”, \$4,469,372,000, to remain available until September 30, 2024, of which \$1,909,722,000 shall be for operational requirements relating to migration surges along the southwest border, including for soft-sided facilities, consumables, medical care, transportation, overtime and temporary duty costs, and contract support; \$921,000,000 shall be for expanding border security operational capacity; \$238,650,000 shall be for counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl; and \$1,400,000,000 shall be transferred to “Federal Emergency Management Agency—Federal Assistance” to support sheltering and related activities provided by non-Federal entities in support of relieving overcrowding in short-term holding facilities of U.S. Customs and Border Protection: *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.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for “U.S. Customs and Border Protection—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements”, \$849,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, for acquisition and deployment of non-intrusive inspection technology: *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.

U.S. IMMIGRATION AND CUSTOMS ENFORCEMENT

OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Operations and Support”, \$2,320,282,000, to remain available until September 30, 2026, of which \$921,000,000 shall be for the necessary expenses of responding to migration surges along the southwest border and related activities; \$78,000,000 shall be for counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl; and \$1,321,282,000 shall be for expanding border security and enforcement operational capacity: *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.

PROCUREMENT, CONSTRUCTION, AND IMPROVEMENTS

For an additional amount for “U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement—Procurement, Construction, and Improvements”, \$32,500,000, to remain available until September 30, 2028, for the necessary expenses of construction and facility improvements related to existing owned and leased facilities: *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.

RESEARCH, DEVELOPMENT, TRAINING, AND SERVICES

U.S. CITIZENSHIP AND IMMIGRATION SERVICES OPERATIONS AND SUPPORT

For an additional amount for “U.S. Citizenship and Immigration Services—Operations and Support”, \$755,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the necessary expenses of backlog reduction and support of the asylum and work authorization programs: *Provided*, That such amounts shall be in addition to any other amounts made available for such purposes, and shall not be construed to require any reduction of any fee describe in section 286(m) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1356(m)); *Provided further*, 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.

SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY DIRECTORATE

RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT

For an additional amount for “Science and Technology Directorate—Research and Development”, \$13,846,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, for the necessary expenses of activities related to counter-drug activities, including combatting fentanyl: *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.

TITLE III

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

WAGE AND HOUR DIVISION

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Wage and Hour Division—Salaries and Expenses”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *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.

DEPARTMENTAL MANAGEMENT

SALARIES AND EXPENSES

For an additional amount for “Departmental Management—Salaries and Expenses”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025: *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.

TITLE IV

DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND RELATED AGENCY

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ADMINISTRATION OF FOREIGN AFFAIRS

DIPLOMATIC PROGRAMS

For an additional amount for “Diplomatic Programs”, \$50,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to address irregular migration within the Western Hemisphere and related expenses: *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.

BILATERAL ECONOMIC ASSISTANCE

FUNDS APPROPRIATED TO THE PRESIDENT

ECONOMIC SUPPORT FUND

For an additional amount for “Economic Support Fund”, \$400,000,000, to remain available until September 30, 2025, to address irregular migration within the Western Hemisphere: *Provided*, That funds appropriated under this heading in this Act may be made

available notwithstanding any other provision of law that restricts assistance to foreign countries and may be made available as contributions: *Provided further*, 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.

TITLE V

GENERAL PROVISIONS—THIS ACT

SEC. 501. Each amount appropriated or made available by this Act is in addition to amounts otherwise appropriated for the fiscal year involved.

SEC. 502. No part of any appropriation contained in this Act shall remain available for obligation beyond the current fiscal year unless expressly so provided herein.

SEC. 503. Unless otherwise provided for by this Act, the additional amounts appropriated by this Act to appropriations accounts shall be available under the authorities and conditions applicable to such appropriations accounts for fiscal year 2024.

SEC. 504. Each amount designated in this Act 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 shall be available (or repurposed or rescinded, if applicable) only if the President subsequently so designates all such amounts and transmits such designations to the Congress.

SEC. 505. Any amount appropriated by this Act, 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, and subsequently so designated by the President, and transferred pursuant to transfer authorities provided by this Act shall retain such designation.

This Act may be cited as the “Border Security and Combatting Fentanyl Supplemental Appropriations Act, 2024”.

DIVISION C—OTHER MATTERS

TITLE I—AMENDING COMPACTS OF FREE ASSOCIATION

SEC. 2001. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023”.

SEC. 2002. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) The United States (in accordance with the Trusteeship Agreement for the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands, the United Nations Charter, and the objectives of the international trusteeship system of the United Nations) fulfilled its obligations to promote the development of the people of the Trust Territory toward self-government or independence, as appropriate, to the particular circumstances of the Trust Territory and the people of the Trust Territory and the freely expressed wishes of the people concerned.

(2) The United States, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of the Marshall Islands entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99-239) and the United States and the Republic of Palau entered into the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note) to create and maintain a close and mutually beneficial relationship.

(3) The “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia”, the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of

the Republic of the Marshall Islands”, and related agreements were signed by the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and approved, as applicable, by section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(4) The “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”, was signed by the Government of the United States and the Government of the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010, and amended on September 19, 2018.

(5) On May 22, 2023, the United States signed the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review”.

(6) On May 23, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement and on September 28, 2023, the United States signed a Federal Programs and Services agreement related to the U.S.-FSM Compact of Free Association.

(7) On October 16, 2023, the United States signed 3 agreements relating to the U.S.-RMI Compact of Free Association, including an Agreement to Amend the Compact, as amended, a new fiscal procedures agreement, and a new trust fund agreement.

SEC. 2003. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) 1986 COMPACT.—The term “1986 Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Marshall Islands and the Federated States of Micronesia set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 note; Public Law 99-239).

(2) 2003 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled the “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia” set forth in section 201(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(3) 2003 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Compact of Free Association amending the 1986 Compact entitled “Compact of Free Association, as amended, between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands” set forth in section 201(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 note; Public Law 108-188).

(4) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia to Amend the Compact of Free Association, as Amended, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(5) 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to Amend the Compact of Free Association,

as Amended, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(6) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-FSM COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact.

(7) 2023 AMENDED U.S.-RMI COMPACT.—The term “2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact” means the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, as amended by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(8) 2023 U.S.-FSM FEDERAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement” means the 2023 Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Washington September 28, 2023.

(9) 2023 U.S.-FSM FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance provided in the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(10) 2023 U.S.-FSM TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Palikir May 23, 2023.

(11) 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Resulting From the 2023 Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review, done at Port Moresby May 22, 2023.

(12) 2023 U.S.-RMI FISCAL PROCEDURES AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement” means the Agreement Concerning Procedures for the Implementation of United States Economic Assistance Provided in the 2023 Amended Compact Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(13) 2023 U.S.-RMI TRUST FUND AGREEMENT.—The term “2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement” means the Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands Regarding the Compact Trust Fund, done at Honolulu October 16, 2023.

(14) APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.—The term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(A) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(15) FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.—The term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia;

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(C) the Republic of Palau.

(16) SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENT.—The term “subsidiary agreement” means any of the following:

(A) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(B) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(C) The 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement.

(D) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(E) The 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement.

(F) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(G) Any Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of Palau.

(H) Any other agreement that the United States may from time-to-time enter into with the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of Palau, or the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, in accordance with—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(iii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(17) U.S.-PALAU COMPACT.—The term “U.S.-Palau Compact” means the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

SEC. 2004. APPROVAL OF 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-FSM COMPACT, 2023 AGREEMENT TO AMEND THE U.S.-RMI COMPACT, 2023 U.S.-PALAU COMPACT REVIEW AGREEMENT, AND SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.

(a) FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to—

(A) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023; and

(B) the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(b) REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact and the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement, as submitted to Congress on October 17, 2023, are approved and incorporated by reference.

(2) CONSENT OF CONGRESS.—Congress consents to the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, as submitted to Congress on October 17, 2023.

(3) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—Notwithstanding section 101(f) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921(f)), the President is authorized to bring into force and implement the agreements described in paragraphs (1) and (2).

(c) REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) APPROVAL.—The 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, as submitted to Congress on June 15, 2023, is approved.

(2) AUTHORITY OF PRESIDENT.—The President is authorized to bring into force and implement the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) AMENDMENTS, CHANGES, OR TERMINATION TO COMPACTS AND CERTAIN AGREEMENTS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Any amendment to, change to, or termination of all or any part of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or the U.S.-Palau Compact, by mutual agreement or unilateral action of the Government of the United States, shall not enter into force

until the date on which Congress has incorporated the applicable amendment, change, or termination into an Act of Congress.

(2) ADDITIONAL ACTIONS AND AGREEMENTS.—In addition to the Compacts described in paragraph (1), the requirements of that paragraph shall apply to—

(A) any action of the Government of the United States under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact, including an action taken pursuant to section 431, 441, or 442 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or U.S.-Palau Compact;

(B) any amendment to, change to, or termination of—

(i) the agreement described in section 462(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) the agreement described in section 462(a)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(iv) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 265 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(v) an agreement concluded pursuant to section 177 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(vi) Articles III and IV of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(vii) Articles III, IV, and X of the agreement described in section 462(b)(6) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(viii) the agreement described in section 462(h) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(ix) Articles VI, XV, and XVII of the agreement described in section 462(b)(7) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and section 462(i) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(e) ENTRY INTO FORCE OF FUTURE AMENDMENTS TO SUBSIDIARY AGREEMENTS.—An agreement between the United States and the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau that would amend, change, or terminate any subsidiary agreement or portion of a subsidiary agreement (other than an amendment to, change to, or termination of an agreement described in subsection (d)) shall not enter into force until the date that is 90 days after the date on which the President has transmitted to the President of the Senate and the Speaker of the House of Representatives—

(1) the agreement to amend, change, or terminate the subsidiary agreement;

(2) an explanation of the amendment, change, or termination;

(3) a description of the reasons for the amendment, change, or termination; and

(4) in the case of an agreement that would amend, change, or terminate any agreement described in section 462(b)(3) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, a statement by the Secretary of Labor that describes—

(A) the necessity of the amendment, change, or termination; and

(B) any impacts of the amendment, change, or termination.

SEC. 2005. AGREEMENTS WITH FEDERATED STATES OF MICRONESIA.

(a) LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the

Government of the Federated States of Micronesia—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Federated States of Micronesia; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 2009(j)) may be used in accordance with section 102(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(a)).

(b) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management Committee established under section 213 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section 2008(d)(1).

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 United States members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member of the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement prepared by the Secretary of the Interior attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Interagency Group on Freely Associated States established under section

2008(d)(1) on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(c) **UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) **TERM; APPOINTMENT.**—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) **NOTICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States member to the Committee under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) **REQUIREMENT.**—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the

member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 2006. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF THE MARSHALL ISLANDS.

(a) **LAW ENFORCEMENT ASSISTANCE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Pursuant to sections 222 and 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, the United States shall provide nonreimbursable technical and training assistance, as appropriate, including training and equipment for postal inspection of illicit drugs and other contraband, to enable the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands—

(A) to develop and adequately enforce laws of the Marshall Islands; and

(B) to cooperate with the United States in the enforcement of criminal laws of the United States.

(2) **USE OF APPROPRIATED FUNDS.**—Funds appropriated pursuant to subsection (j) of section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) (as amended by section 2009(j)) may be used in accordance with section 103(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(a)).

(b) **ESPOUSAL PROVISIONS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(g)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(1)) and section 103(e)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(e)(1)) provided that “It is the intention of the Congress of the United States that the provisions of section 177 of the Compact of Free Association and the Agreement between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) constitute a full and final settlement of all claims described in Articles X and XI of the Section 177 Agreement, and that any such claims be terminated and barred except insofar as provided for in the Section 177 Agreement.”; and

(B) section 103(g)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(g)(2)) and section 103(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(e)(2)) provided that “In furtherance of the intention of Congress as stated in paragraph (1) of this subsection, the Section 177 Agreement is hereby ratified and approved. It is the explicit understanding and intent of Congress that the jurisdictional limitations set forth in Article XII of such Agreement are enacted solely and exclusively to accomplish the objective of Article X of such Agreement and only as a clarification of the effect of Article X, and are not to

be construed or implemented separately from Article X.”.

(2) **EFFECT.**—Nothing in the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact affects the application of the provisions of law reaffirmed by paragraph (1).

(c) **CERTAIN SECTION 177 AGREEMENT PROVISIONS.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) Article IX of the Agreement Between the Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact of Free Association, done at Majuro June 25, 1983, provided that “If loss or damage to property and person of the citizens of the Marshall Islands, resulting from the Nuclear Testing Program, arises or is discovered after the effective date of this Agreement, and such injuries were not and could not reasonably have been identified as of the effective date of this Agreement, and if such injuries render the provisions of this Agreement manifestly inadequate, the Government of the Marshall Islands may request that the Government of the United States provide for such injuries by submitting such a request to the Congress of the United States for its consideration. It is understood that this Article does not commit the Congress of the United States to authorize and appropriate funds.”; and

(2) section 3(a) of Article XIII of the agreement described in paragraph (1) provided that “The Government of the United States and the Government of the Marshall Islands shall consult at the request of either of them on matters relating to the provisions of this Agreement.”.

(d) **UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO JOINT ECONOMIC MANAGEMENT AND FINANCIAL ACCOUNTABILITY COMMITTEE.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The 2 United States appointees (which are composed of the United States chair and 1 other member from the Government of the United States) to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee established under section 214 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall—

(A) be voting members of the Committee; and

(B) continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) **TERM; APPOINTMENT.**—The 2 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term of 2 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) **REAPPOINTMENT.**—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—At least 1 United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be an individual who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possesses not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) **NOTICE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United

States member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the qualifications of the member described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A), in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(e) UNITED STATES APPOINTEES TO TRUST FUND COMMITTEE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The 3 United States voting members (which are composed of the United States chair and 2 other members from the Government of the United States) to the Trust Fund Committee established pursuant to the agreement described in section 462(b)(5) of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (referred to in this subsection as the “Committee”) shall continue to be officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(2) TERM; APPOINTMENT.—The 3 United States members of the Committee described in paragraph (1) shall be appointed for a term not more than 5 years as follows:

(A) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of State.

(B) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Interior.

(C) 1 member shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(3) REAPPOINTMENT.—A United States member of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) may be reappointed for not more than 2 additional 2-year terms.

(4) QUALIFICATIONS.—Not fewer than 2 members of the Committee appointed under paragraph (2) shall be individuals who—

(A) by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, are especially qualified in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics; and

(B) possess not less than 5 years of full-time experience in accounting, auditing, budget analysis, compliance, financial investment, grant administration, program management, or international economics.

(5) NOTICE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 90 days after the date of appointment of a United States Member under paragraph (2), the Secretary of the Interior shall notify the appropriate committees of Congress that an individual has been appointed as a voting member of the Committee under that paragraph, including a statement attesting to the quali-

fications of the appointee described in paragraph (4), subject to subparagraph (B).

(B) REQUIREMENT.—For purposes of a statement required under subparagraph (A)—

(i) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(A), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of State on request of the Secretary of the Interior; and

(ii) in the case of a member appointed under paragraph (2)(C), the Secretary of the Interior shall compile information on the member provided to the Secretary of the Interior by the Secretary of the Treasury on request of the Secretary of the Interior.

(6) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Committee receives or completes any report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(7) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands submits to the Committee a report required under the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

(f) FOUR ATOLL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) section 103(j)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(1)) and section 103(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(1)) provided that services “provided by the United States Public Health Service or any other United States agency pursuant to section 1(a) of Article II of the Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact (hereafter in this subsection referred to as the ‘Section 177 Agreement’) shall be only for services to the people of the Atolls of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik who were affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program, pursuant to the program described in Public Law 95-134 and Public Law 96-205 and their descendants (and any other persons identified as having been so affected if such identification occurs in the manner described in such public laws). Nothing in this subsection shall be construed as prejudicial to the views or policies of the Government of the Marshall Islands as to the persons affected by the consequences of the United States nuclear testing program.”;

(2) section 103(j)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(2)) and section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(2)) provided that “at the end of the first year after the effective date of the Compact and at the end of each year thereafter, the providing agency or agencies shall return to the Government of the Marshall Islands any unexpended funds to be returned to the Fund Manager (as described in Article I of the Section 177 Agreement) to be covered into the Fund to be available for future use.”; and

(3) section 103(j)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(j)(3)) and section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(h)(3)) provided that “the Fund Manager shall retain the funds returned by the Government of the Marshall Islands pursuant to paragraph (2) of this subsection,

shall invest and manage such funds, and at the end of 15 years after the effective date of the Compact, shall make from the total amount so retained and the proceeds thereof annual disbursements sufficient to continue to make payments for the provision of health services as specified in paragraph (1) of this subsection to such extent as may be provided in contracts between the Government of the Marshall Islands and appropriate United States providers of such health services.”.

(g) RADIOLOGICAL HEALTH CARE PROGRAM.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on the request of the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the President (through an appropriate department or agency of the United States) shall continue to provide special medical care and logistical support for the remaining members of the population of Rongelap and Utrik who were exposed to radiation resulting from the 1954 United States thermonuclear “Bravo” test, pursuant to Public Law 95-134 (91 Stat. 1159) and Public Law 96-205 (94 Stat. 84).

(h) AGRICULTURAL AND FOOD PROGRAMS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Congress reaffirms that—

(A) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2)) and section 103(f)(2)(A) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(A)) provided that notwithstanding “any other provision of law, upon the request of the Government of the Marshall Islands, for the first fifteen years after the effective date of the Compact, the President (either through an appropriate department or agency of the United States or by contract with a United States firm or by a grant to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands which may further contract only with a United States firm or a Republic of the Marshall Islands firm, the owners, officers and majority of the employees of which are citizens of the United States or the Republic of the Marshall Islands) shall provide technical and other assistance without reimbursement, to continue the planting and agricultural maintenance program on Enewetak; without reimbursement, to continue the food programs of the Bikini, Rongelap, Utrik, and Enewetak people described in section 1(d) of Article II of the Subsidiary Agreement for the Implementation of Section 177 of the Compact and for continued waterborne transportation of agricultural products to Enewetak including operations and maintenance of the vessel used for such purposes.”;

(B) section 103(h)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(2)) and section 103(f)(2)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(2)(B)) provided that “The President shall ensure the assistance provided under these programs reflects the changes in the population since the inception of such programs.”; and

(C) section 103(h)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1903(h)(3)) and section 103(f)(3) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(f)(3)) provided that “payments under this subsection shall be provided to such extent or in such amounts as are necessary for services and other assistance provided pursuant to this subsection. It is the sense of Congress that after the periods of time specified in paragraphs (1) and (2) of this subsection, consideration will be given to such additional funding for these programs as may be necessary.”.

(2) PLANTING AND AGRICULTURAL MAINTENANCE PROGRAM.—The Secretary of the Interior may provide grants to the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands to

carry out a planting and agricultural maintenance program on Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik.

(3) **FOOD PROGRAMS.**—The Secretary of Agriculture may provide, without reimbursement, food programs to the people of the Republic of the Marshall Islands.

SEC. 2007. AGREEMENTS WITH AND OTHER PROVISIONS RELATED TO THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.

(a) **BILATERAL ECONOMIC CONSULTATIONS.**—United States participation in the annual economic consultations referred to in Article 8 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement shall be by officers or employees of the Federal Government.

(b) **ECONOMIC ADVISORY GROUP.**—

(1) **QUALIFICATIONS.**—A member of the Economic Advisory Group described in Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement (referred to in this subsection as the “Advisory Group”) who is appointed by the Secretary of the Interior shall be an individual who, by reason of knowledge, experience, or training, is especially qualified in private sector business development, economic development, or national development.

(2) **FUNDS.**—With respect to the Advisory Group, the Secretary of the Interior may use available funds for—

(A) the costs of the 2 members of the Advisory Group designated by the United States in accordance with Article 7 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(B) 50 percent of the costs of the 5th member of the Advisory Group designated by the Secretary of the Interior in accordance with the Article described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) the costs of—

(i) technical and administrative assistance for the Advisory Group; and

(ii) other support necessary for the Advisory Group to accomplish the purpose of the Advisory Group.

(3) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Advisory Group receives or completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau completes any report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit the report to the appropriate committees of Congress.

(2) **NOTICE TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 90 days after the date on which the Government of the Republic of Palau submits a report required under the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, or any related subsidiary agreement, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress—

(A) if the report is submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice attesting that the report is complete and accurate; or

(B) if the report is not submitted by the applicable deadline, written notice that the report has not been timely submitted.

SEC. 2008. OVERSIGHT PROVISIONS.

(a) **AUTHORITIES AND DUTIES OF THE COMPTROLLER GENERAL OF THE UNITED STATES.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Comptroller General of the United States (including any duly authorized representative of the Comptroller General of the United States) shall have the authorities necessary to carry out the responsibilities of the Comptroller General of the United States under—

(A) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 102(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921a(b));

(B) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and related subsidiary agreements, including the authorities and privileges described in section 103(k) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921b(k)); and

(C) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, related subsidiary agreements, and the authorities described in appendix D of the “Agreement between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of Palau Following the Compact of Free Association Section 432 Review” signed by the United States and the Republic of Palau on September 3, 2010.

(2) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 4 years thereafter, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report with respect to the Freely Associated States, including addressing—

(A) the topics described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) of section 104(h)(1) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(h)(1)), except that for purposes of a report submitted under this paragraph, the report shall address those topics with respect to each of the Freely Associated States; and

(B) the effectiveness of administrative oversight by the United States of the Freely Associated States.

(b) **SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary of the Interior shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior by section 2011(a) to carry out—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(4) subsidiary agreements.

(c) **POSTMASTER GENERAL OVERSIGHT AUTHORITY.**—The Postmaster General shall have the authority necessary to fulfill the responsibilities for monitoring and managing the funds appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) of section 2011(b) and deposited in the Postal Service Fund under paragraph (2)(A) of that section to carry out—

(1) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact; and

(4) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(d) **INTERAGENCY GROUP ON FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—The President, in consultation with the Secretary of State, the Secretary of the Interior, and the Secretary of Defense, shall establish an Interagency Group on Freely Associated States (referred to in this subsection as the “Interagency Group”).

(2) **PURPOSE.**—The purposes of the Interagency Group are—

(A) to coordinate development and implementation of executive branch policies, programs, services, and other activities in or relating to the Freely Associated States; and

(B) to provide policy guidance, recommendations, and oversight to Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities with respect to the implementation of—

(i) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact; (ii) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(iii) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(3) **MEMBERSHIP.**—The Interagency Group shall consist of—

(A) the Secretary of State, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(B) the Secretary of the Interior, who shall serve as co-chair of the Interagency Group;

(C) the Secretary of Defense;

(D) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(E) the heads of relevant Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out obligations under—

(i) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(ii) sections 131 and 132 of the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 and section 261 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(iii) sections 131 and 132 and subsections (a) and (b) of section 221 of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(iv) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement;

(v) any applicable subsidiary agreement; and

(vi) section 2009; and

(F) the head of any other Federal agency, department, or instrumentality that the Secretary of State or the Secretary of the Interior may designate.

(4) **DUTIES OF SECRETARY OF STATE AND SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.**—The Secretary of State (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of State) and the Secretary of the Interior (or a senior official designee of the Secretary of the Interior) shall—

(A) co-lead and preside at a meeting of the Interagency Group not less frequently than annually;

(B) determine, in consultation with the Secretary of Defense, the agenda for meetings of the Interagency Group; and

(C) facilitate and coordinate the work of the Interagency Group.

(5) **DUTIES OF THE INTERAGENCY GROUP.**—The Interagency Group shall—

(A) provide advice on the establishment or implementation of policies relating to the Freely Associated States to the President, acting through the Office of Intergovernmental Affairs, in the form of a written report not less frequently than annually;

(B) obtain information and advice relating to the Freely Associated States from the Presidents, other elected officials, and members of civil society of the Freely Associated States, including through the members of the Interagency Group (including senior official designees of the members) meeting not less frequently than annually with any Presidents of the Freely Associated States who elect to participate;

(C) at the request of the head of any Federal agency (or a senior official designee of the head of a Federal agency) who is a member of the Interagency Group, promptly review and provide advice on a policy or policy implementation action affecting 1 or more of the Freely Associated States proposed by the Federal agency, department, or instrumentality; and

(D) facilitate coordination of relevant policies, programs, initiatives, and activities involving 1 or more of the Freely Associated States, including ensuring coherence and avoiding duplication between programs, initiatives, and activities conducted pursuant to a Compact with a Freely Associated State and non-Compact programs, initiatives, and activities.

(6) **REPORTS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act and

each year thereafter in which a Compact of Free Association with a Freely Associated State is in effect, the President shall submit to the majority leader and minority leader of the Senate, the Speaker and minority leader of the House of Representatives, and the appropriate committees of Congress a report that describes the activities and recommendations of the Interagency Group during the applicable year.

(e) **FEDERAL AGENCY COORDINATION.**—The head of any Federal agency providing programs and services to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau shall coordinate with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State regarding the provision of the programs and services.

(f) **FOREIGN LOANS OR DEBT.**—Congress reaffirms that—

(1) the foreign loans or debt of the Government of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Government of the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Government of the Republic of Palau shall not constitute an obligation of the United States; and

(2) the full faith and credit of the United States Government shall not be pledged for the payment and performance of any foreign loan or debt referred to in paragraph (1) without specific further authorization.

(g) **COMPACT COMPILATION.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Interior shall submit a report to the appropriate committees of Congress that includes a compilation of the Compact of Free Association with the Federated State of Micronesia, the Compact of Free Association with the Republic of Palau, and the Compact of Free Association with Republic of the Marshall Islands.

(h) **PUBLICATION; REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.**—

(1) **PUBLICATION.**—In publishing this title in slip form and in the United States Statutes at Large pursuant to section 112 of title 1, United States Code, the Archivist of the United States shall include after the date of approval at the end an appendix setting forth the text of—

(A) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

(2) **REVISION BY OFFICE OF THE LAW REVISION COUNSEL.**—The Office of the Law Revision Counsel is directed to revise—

(A) the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-FSM Compact; and

(B) the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact set forth in the note following section 1921 of title 48, United States Code, to reflect the amendments to the 2003 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact made by the 2023 Agreement to Amend the U.S.-RMI Compact.

SEC. 2009. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION FOR VETERANS' SERVICES.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—In this subsection, the term “Freely Associated States” means—

(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).

(2) **HOSPITAL CARE, MEDICAL SERVICES, AND NURSING HOME CARE ABROAD.**—Section 1724 of title 38, United States Code, is amended—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “subsections (b) and (c)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c), and (f)”;

(B) by adding at the end the following: “(f)(1) The Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services in the Freely Associated States to a veteran who is otherwise eligible to receive hospital care and medical services.

“(2) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services through—

“(A) contracts or other agreements;

“(B) reimbursement; or

“(C) the direct provision of care by health care personnel of the Department.

“(3) In furnishing hospital care and medical services under paragraph (1), the Secretary may furnish hospital care and medical services for any condition regardless of whether the condition is connected to the service of the veteran in the Armed Forces.

“(4)(A) A veteran who has received hospital care or medical services in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible, to the extent determined advisable and practicable by the Secretary, for hospital care or medical services in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(B) If the Secretary determines it is no longer advisable or practicable to allow veterans described in subparagraph (A) to remain eligible for hospital care or medical services pursuant to such subparagraph, the Secretary shall—

“(i) provide direct notice of that determination to such veterans; and

“(ii) publish that determination and the reasons for that determination in the Federal Register.

“(5) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”

(3) **BENEFICIARY TRAVEL.**—Section 111 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h)(1) Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary may make payments to or for any person traveling in, to, or from the Freely Associated States for receipt of care or services authorized under section 1724(f) of this title.

“(2) A person who has received payment for travel in a country pursuant to this subsection shall remain eligible for payment for such travel in that country regardless of whether the country continues to qualify as a Freely Associated State for purposes of this subsection.

“(3) The Secretary shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(4) In this subsection, the term ‘Freely Associated States’ means—

“(A) the Federated States of Micronesia, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note);

“(B) the Republic of the Marshall Islands, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association set forth in section 201 of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (Public Law 99-239; 48 U.S.C. 1901 note); and

“(C) the Republic of Palau, during such time as it is a party to the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the Government of Palau set forth in section 201 of Joint Resolution entitled “Joint Resolution to approve the ‘Compact of Free Association’ between the United States and the Government of Palau, and for other purposes” (Public Law 99-658; 48 U.S.C. 1931 note).”

(4) **LEGAL ISSUES.**—

(A) **HEALTH SERVICES.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall work with the governments of the Freely Associated States to facilitate the furnishing of health services, including telehealth, under the laws administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, to veterans in the Freely Associated States, such as by addressing—

(i) licensure, certification, registration, and tort issues relating to health care personnel; and

(ii) matters relating to delivery of pharmaceutical products and medical surgical products, including delivery of such products through the Consolidated Mail Outpatient Pharmacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs, to the Freely Associated States.

(B) **LICENSURE OF HEALTH CARE PROFESSIONALS PROVIDING TREATMENT VIA TELEMEDICINE IN THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—Section 1730C(a) of title 38, United States Code, is amended by striking “any State” and inserting “any State or any of the Freely Associated States (as defined in section 1724(f) of this title)”.

(C) **PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.**—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may pay tort claims, in the manner authorized in the first paragraph of section 2672 of title 28, United States Code, when such claims arise in the Freely Associated States in connection with furnishing hospital care or medical services or providing medical consultation or medical advice to a veteran under the laws administered by the Secretary, including through a remote or telehealth program.

(5) **OUTREACH AND ASSESSMENT OF OPTIONS.**—During the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall, subject to the availability of appropriations—

(A) conduct robust outreach to, and engage with, each government of the Freely Associated States;

(B) assess options for the delivery of care through the use of authorities provided pursuant to the amendments made by this subsection; and

(C) increase staffing as necessary to conduct outreach under subparagraph (A).

(b) **AUTHORIZATION OF EDUCATION PROGRAMS.**—

(1) ELIGIBILITY.—For fiscal year 2024 and each fiscal year thereafter, the Government of the United States shall—

(A) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, grants for services to individuals eligible for such services under part B of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411 et seq.) to the extent that those services continue to be available to individuals in the United States;

(B) continue to make available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and make available to the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.), the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.), and part D of the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1450 et seq.), to the extent that those grants continue to be available to State and local governments in the United States;

(C) continue to make grants available to the Republic of Palau under part A of title I of the Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6311 et seq.), the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act (29 U.S.C. 3271 et seq.), and the Carl D. Perkins Career and Technical Education Act of 2006 (20 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.);

(D) continue to make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Republic of Palau and make available to eligible institutions of higher education in the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands and to students enrolled in those institutions of higher education, and to students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau and enrolled in institutions of higher education in the United States and territories of the United States, grants under—

(i) subpart 1 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070a et seq.);

(ii) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); and

(iii) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.);

(E) require, as a condition of eligibility for a public institution of higher education in any State (as defined in section 103 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1003)) that is not a Freely Associated State to participate in or receive funds under any program under title IV of such Act (20 U.S.C. 1070 et seq.), that the institution charge students who are citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau tuition for attendance at a rate that is not greater than the rate charged for residents of the State in which such public institution of higher education is located; and

(F) continue to make available, to eligible institutions of higher education, secondary schools, and nonprofit organizations in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, competitive grants under the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.).

(2) OTHER FORMULA GRANTS.—Except as provided in paragraph (1), the Secretary of Education shall not make a grant under any formula grant program administered by the Department of Education to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, or the Republic of Palau.

(3) GRANTS TO THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES UNDER PART B OF THE INDIVIDUALS WITH DISABILITIES EDUCATION ACT.—Section 611(b)(1) of the Individuals with Disabilities

Education Act (20 U.S.C. 1411(b)(1)) is amended by striking subparagraph (A) and inserting the following:

“(A) FUNDS RESERVED.—From the amount appropriated for any fiscal year under subsection (i), the Secretary shall reserve not more than 1 percent, which shall be used as follows:

“(i) To provide assistance to the outlying areas in accordance with their respective populations of individuals aged 3 through 21.

“(ii)(I) To provide each freely associated State a grant so that no freely associated State receives a lesser share of the total funds reserved for the freely associated State than the freely associated State received of those funds for fiscal year 2023.

“(II) Each freely associated State shall establish its eligibility under this subparagraph consistent with the requirements for a State under section 612.

“(III) The funds provided to each freely associated State under this part may be used to provide, to each infant or toddler with a disability (as defined in section 632), either a free appropriate public education, consistent with section 612, or early intervention services consistent with part C, notwithstanding the application and eligibility requirements of sections 634(2), 635, and 637.”

(4) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS TO THE ELEMENTARY AND SECONDARY EDUCATION ACT OF 1965.—The Elementary and Secondary Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 6301 et seq.) is amended—

(A) by striking subparagraph (A) of section 1121(b)(1) (20 U.S.C. 6331(b)(1)(A)) and inserting the following:

“(A) first reserve \$1,000,000 for the Republic of Palau, subject to such terms and conditions as the Secretary may establish, except that Public Law 95–134, permitting the consolidation of grants, shall not apply; and”;

and

(B) in section 8101 (20 U.S.C. 7801), by amending paragraph (36) to read as follows:

“(36) OUTLYING AREA.—The term ‘outlying area’—

“(A) means American Samoa, the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, Guam, and the United States Virgin Islands; and

“(B) for the purpose of any discretionary grant program under this Act, includes the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Federated States of Micronesia, and the Republic of Palau, to the extent that any such grant program continues to be available to State and local governments in the United States.”

(5) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT TO THE COMPACT OF FREE ASSOCIATION AMENDMENTS ACT OF 2003.—Section 105(f)(1)(B) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(f)(1)(B)) is amended by striking clause (ix).

(6) HEAD START PROGRAMS.—

(A) DEFINITIONS.—Section 637 of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9832) is amended, in the paragraph defining the term “State”, by striking the second sentence and inserting “The term ‘State’ includes the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”

(B) ALLOTMENT OF FUNDS.—Section 640(a)(2)(B) of the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9835(a)(2)(B)) is amended—

(i) in clause (iv), by inserting “the Republic of Palau,” before “and the Virgin Islands”; and

(ii) by amending clause (v) to read as follows:

“(v) if a base grant has been established through appropriations for the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands, to provide an amount for that jurisdiction (for Head Start agencies

(including Early Head Start agencies) in the jurisdiction) that is equal to the amount provided for base grants for such jurisdiction under this subchapter for the prior fiscal year, by allotting to each agency described in this clause an amount equal to that agency’s base grant for the prior fiscal year; and”.

(7) COORDINATION REQUIRED.—The Secretary of the Interior, in coordination with the Secretary of Education and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, as applicable, shall, to the maximum extent practicable, coordinate with the 3 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management Committee described in section 2005(b)(1) and the 2 United States appointees to the Joint Economic Management and Financial Accountability Committee described in section 2006(d)(1) to avoid duplication of economic assistance for education provided under section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact or section 261(a)(1) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact of activities or services provided under—

(A) the Head Start Act (42 U.S.C. 9831 et seq.);

(B) subpart 3 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070b et seq.); or

(C) part C of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087–51 et seq.).

(c) AUTHORIZATION OF DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE PROGRAMS.—

(1) DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE MEDICAL FACILITIES.—The Secretary of Defense shall make available, on a space available and reimbursable basis, the medical facilities of the Department of Defense for use by citizens of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, who are properly referred to the facilities by government authorities responsible for provision of medical services in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, the Republic of Palau, and the affected jurisdictions (as defined in section 104(e)(2) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)(2))).

(2) PARTICIPATION BY SECONDARY SCHOOLS IN THE ARMED SERVICES VOCATIONAL APTITUDE BATTERY STUDENT TESTING PROGRAM.—It is the sense of Congress that the Department of Defense may extend the Armed Services Vocational Aptitude Battery (ASVAB) Student Testing Program and the ASVAB Career Exploration Program to selected secondary schools in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the extent such programs are available to Department of Defense dependent secondary schools established under section 2164 of title 10, United States Code, and located outside the United States.

(d) JUDICIAL TRAINING.—In addition to amounts provided under section 261(a)(4) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact and under subsections (a) and (b) of Article 1 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, the Secretary of the Interior shall use the amounts made available to the Secretary of the Interior under section 2011(c) to train judges and officials of the judiciary in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau, in cooperation with the Pacific Islands Committee of the judicial council of the ninth judicial circuit of the United States.

(e) ELIGIBILITY FOR THE REPUBLIC OF PALAU.—

(1) NATIONAL HEALTH SERVICE CORPS.—The Secretary of Health and Human Services shall make the services of the National

Health Service Corps available to the residents of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau to the same extent, and for the same duration, as services are authorized to be provided to persons residing in any other areas within or outside the United States.

(2) **ADDITIONAL PROGRAMS AND SERVICES.**—The Republic of Palau shall be eligible for the programs and services made available to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands under section 108(a) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921g(a)).

(3) **PROGRAMS AND SERVICES OF CERTAIN AGENCIES.**—In addition to the programs and services set forth in the operative Federal Programs and Services Agreement between the United States and the Republic of Palau, the programs and services of the following agencies shall be made available to the Republic of Palau:

- (A) The Legal Services Corporation.
- (B) The Public Health Service.
- (C) The Rural Housing Service.
- (f) **COMPACT IMPACT FAIRNESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 402 of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1612) is amended—

(A) in subsection (a)(2), by adding at the end the following:

“(N) **EXCEPTION FOR CITIZENS OF FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES.**—With respect to eligibility for benefits for any specified Federal program, paragraph (1) shall not apply to any individual who lawfully resides in the United States in accordance with section 141 of the Compacts of Free Association between the Government of the United States and the Governments of the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.”; and

(B) in subsection (b)(2)(G)—

(i) in the subparagraph heading, by striking “MEDICAID EXCEPTION FOR” and inserting “EXCEPTION FOR”; and

(ii) by striking “the designated Federal program defined in paragraph (3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)” and inserting “any designated Federal program”.

(2) **EXCEPTION TO 5-YEAR WAIT REQUIREMENT.**—Section 403(b)(3) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1613(b)(3)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C)”.

(3) **DEFINITION OF QUALIFIED ALIEN.**—Section 431(b)(8) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1641(b)(8)) is amended by striking “, but only with respect to the designated Federal program defined in section 402(b)(3)(C) (relating to the Medicaid program)”.

(g) **CONSULTATION WITH INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in coordination with the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of State, shall consult with appropriate officials of the Asian Development Bank and relevant international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c))), as appropriate, with respect to overall economic conditions in, and the activities of other providers of assistance to, the Freely Associated States.

(h) **CHIEF OF MISSION.**—Section 105(b) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(b)) is amended by striking paragraph (5) and inserting the following:

“(5) Pursuant to section 207 of the Foreign Service Act of 1980 (22 U.S.C. 3927), all United

States Government executive branch employees in the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau fall under the authority of the respective applicable chief of mission, except for employees identified as excepted from the authority under Federal law or by Presidential directive.”.

(i) **ESTABLISHMENT OF A UNIT FOR THE FREELY ASSOCIATED STATES IN THE BUREAU OF EAST ASIAN AND PACIFIC AFFAIRS OF THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE AND INCREASING PERSONNEL FOCUSED ON OCEANIA.**—

(1) **DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) assign additional full-time equivalent personnel to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State, including to the unit established under subparagraph (B), as the Secretary of State determines to be appropriate, in accordance with paragraph (4)(A); and

(B) establish a unit in the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs of the Department of State to carry out the functions described in paragraph (3).

(3) **FUNCTIONS OF UNIT.**—The unit established under paragraph (2)(B) shall be responsible for the following:

(A) Managing the bilateral and regional relations with the Freely Associated States.

(B) Supporting the Secretary of State in leading negotiations relating to the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(C) Coordinating, in consultation with the Department of the Interior, the Department of Defense, and other interagency partners as appropriate, implementation of the Compacts of Free Association with the Freely Associated States.

(4) **FULL-TIME EQUIVALENT EMPLOYEES.**—The Secretary of State shall—

(A) not later than 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, assign to the Office of Australia, New Zealand, and Pacific Island Affairs of the Bureau of East Asian and Pacific Affairs, including to the unit established under paragraph (2)(B), not less than 4 additional full-time equivalent staff, who shall not be dual-hatted, including by considering—

(i) the use of existing flexible hiring authorities, including Domestic Employees Teleworking Overseas (DETOs); and

(ii) the realignment of existing personnel, including from the United States Mission in Australia, as appropriate;

(B) reduce the number of vacant foreign service positions in the Pacific Island region by establishing an incentive program within the Foreign Service for overseas positions related to the Pacific Island region; and

(C) report to the appropriate congressional committees on progress toward objectives outlined in this subsection beginning 1 year from the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for 5 years.

(j) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 105 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d) is amended by striking subsection (j) and inserting the following:

“(j) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Technical assistance may be provided pursuant to section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, section 224 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, or section 222 of the U.S.-Palau Com-

pact (as those terms are defined in section 2003 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2023) by Federal agencies and institutions of the Government of the United States to the extent the assistance shall be provided to States, territories, or units of local government.

“(2) **HISTORIC PRESERVATION.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Any technical assistance authorized under paragraph (1) that is provided by the Forest Service, the Natural Resources Conservation Service, the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, the National Marine Fisheries Service, the United States Coast Guard, the Advisory Council on Historic Preservation, the Department of the Interior, or any other Federal agency providing assistance under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, may be provided on a nonreimbursable basis.

“(B) **GRANTS.**—During the period in which the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact (as so defined) and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact (as so defined) are in force, the grant programs under division A of subtitle III of title 54, United States Code, shall continue to apply to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands in the same manner and to the same extent as those programs applied prior to the approval of the U.S.-FSM Compact and U.S.-RMI Compact.

“(3) **ADDITIONAL FUNDS.**—Any funds provided pursuant to this subsection, subsections (c), (g), (h), (i), (k), (l), and (m), section 102(a), and subsections (a), (b), (f), (g), (h), and (j) of section 103 shall be in addition to, and not charged against, any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia or the Republic of the Marshall Islands pursuant to—

“(A) the U.S.-FSM Compact;

“(B) the U.S.-RMI Compact; or

“(C) any related subsidiary agreement.”.

(k) **CONTINUING TRUST TERRITORY AUTHORIZATION.**—The authorization provided by the Act of June 30, 1954 (68 Stat. 330, chapter 423), shall remain available after the effective date of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact with respect to the Federated States of Micronesia and the Republic of the Marshall Islands for transition purposes, including—

(1) completion of projects and fulfillment of commitments or obligations;

(2) termination of the Trust Territory Government and termination of the High Court;

(3) health and education as a result of exceptional circumstances;

(4) ex gratia contributions for the populations of Bikini, Enewetak, Rongelap, and Utrik; and

(5) technical assistance and training in financial management, program administration, and maintenance of infrastructure.

(l) **TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.**—

(1) **PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT DEFINITION.**—Section 2(f) of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 201(f)) is amended by striking “and the Trust Territory of the Pacific Islands” and inserting “the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau”.

(2) **COMPACT IMPACT AMENDMENTS.**—Section 104(e) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921c(e)) is amended—

(A) in paragraph (4)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “beginning in fiscal year 2003” and inserting “during the period of fiscal years 2003 through 2023”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by striking “after fiscal year 2003” and inserting “for the period of fiscal years 2004 through 2023”;

(B) by striking paragraph (5); and

(C) by redesignating paragraphs (6) through (10) as paragraphs (5) through (9), respectively.

SEC. 2010. ADDITIONAL AUTHORITIES.

(a) AGENCIES, DEPARTMENTS, AND INSTRUMENTALITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Appropriations to carry out the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2) shall be made directly to the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities carrying out the obligations, services and programs.

(2) OBLIGATIONS, SERVICES, AND PROGRAMS DESCRIBED.—The obligations, services, and programs referred to in paragraphs (1) and (3) are the obligations, services, and programs under—

(A) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(B) sections 131 and 132, paragraphs (1) and (3) through (6) of section 221(a), and section 221(b) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(C) sections 131 and 132 and paragraphs (1), (3), and (4) of section 221(a) of the U.S.-Palau Compact;

(D) Article 6 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; and

(E) section 8.

(3) AUTHORITY.—The heads of the Federal agencies, departments, and instrumentalities to which appropriations are made available under paragraph (1) as well as the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall—

(A) have the authority to carry out any activities that are necessary to fulfill the obligations, services, and programs described in paragraph (2); and

(B) use available funds to carry out the activities under subparagraph (A).

(b) ADDITIONAL ASSISTANCE.—Any assistance provided pursuant to section 105(j) of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921d(j)) (as amended by section 2009(j)) and sections 2005(a), 2006(a), 2007(b), and 2009 shall be in addition to and not charged against any amounts to be paid to the Federated States of Micronesia, the Republic of the Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau pursuant to—

(1) the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact;

(3) the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement; or

(4) any related subsidiary agreement.

(c) REMAINING BALANCES.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, including section 109 of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 212(b), 215, and 217 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article IX of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement; and

(2) remaining balances appropriated to carry out sections 211, 213(b), 216, and 218 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact, shall be programmed pursuant to Article XI of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement.

(d) GRANTS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law—

(1) contributions under the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact may be provided as grants for purposes of implementation of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact, the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement, and the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact under the laws of the United States; and

(2) funds appropriated pursuant to section 2011 may be deposited in interest-bearing ac-

counts and any interest earned may be retained in and form part of those accounts for use consistent with the purpose of the deposit.

(e) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Except as specifically provided, nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title amends the following:

(1) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Act of 1985 (48 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.).

(2) Title I of Public Law 99-658 (48 U.S.C. 1931 et seq.).

(3) Title I of the Compact of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921 et seq.).

(4) Section 1259C of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2018 (48 U.S.C. 1931 note; Public Law 115-91).

(5) The Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2018 (Public Law 115-141; 132 Stat. 635).

(f) CLARIFICATION RELATING TO APPROPRIATED FUNDS.—Notwithstanding section 109 of the Compacts of Free Association Amendments Act of 2003 (48 U.S.C. 1921h)—

(1) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the RMI Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Trust Fund Agreement;

(2) funds appropriated by that section and deposited into the FSM Compact Trust Fund shall be governed by the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Trust Fund Agreement;

(3) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 211(b) of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement;

(4) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-RMI Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-RMI Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the Federal Programs and Services Agreement in force between the United States and the Republic of the Marshall Islands; and

(5) funds appropriated by that section and made available for fiscal year 2024 or any fiscal year thereafter as grants to carry out the purposes of section 221 of the 2003 U.S.-FSM Amended Compact shall be subject to the provisions of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement on entry into force of the 2023 U.S.-FSM Fiscal Procedures Agreement, except as modified in the 2023 U.S.-FSM Federal Programs and Services Agreement.

SEC. 2011. COMPACT APPROPRIATIONS.

(a) FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR.—For the period of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, there are appropriated to the Compact of Free Association account of the Department of the Interior, out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, to remain available until expended, the amounts described in and to carry out the purposes of—

(1) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact;

(2) sections 261, 265, and 266 of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact; and

(3) Articles 1, 2, and 3 of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(b) FUNDING FOR ACTIVITIES OF THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE.—

(1) APPROPRIATION.—There is appropriated to the United States Postal Service, out of

any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, \$31,700,000, to remain available until expended, to carry out the costs of the following provisions that are not otherwise funded:

(A) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-FSM Compact.

(B) Section 221(a)(2) of the 2023 Amended U.S.-RMI Compact.

(C) Section 221(a)(2) of the U.S.-Palau Compact.

(D) Article 6(a) of the 2023 U.S.-Palau Compact Review Agreement.

(2) DEPOSIT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The amounts appropriated to the United States Postal Service under paragraph (1) shall be deposited into the Postal Service Fund established under section 2003 of title 39, United States Code, to carry out the provisions described in that paragraph.

(B) REQUIREMENT.—Any amounts deposited into the Postal Service Fund under subparagraph (A) shall be the fiduciary, fiscal, and audit responsibility of the Postal Service.

(c) FUNDING FOR JUDICIAL TRAINING.—There is appropriated to the Secretary of the Interior to carry out section 2009(d) out of any funds in the Treasury not otherwise appropriated, \$550,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2043, to remain available until expended.

TITLE II—FEND OFF FENTANYL ACT

SEC. 2101. SHORT TITLES.

This title may be cited as the “Fentanyl Eradication and Narcotics Deterrence Off Fentanyl Act” or the “FEND Off Fentanyl Act”.

SEC. 2102. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the proliferation of fentanyl is causing an unprecedented surge in overdose deaths in the United States, fracturing families and communities, and necessitating a comprehensive policy response to combat its lethal flow and to mitigate the drug’s devastating consequences;

(2) the trafficking of fentanyl into the United States is a national security threat that has killed hundreds of thousands of United States citizens;

(3) transnational criminal organizations, including cartels primarily based in Mexico, are the main purveyors of fentanyl into the United States and must be held accountable;

(4) precursor chemicals sourced from the People’s Republic of China are—

(A) shipped from the People’s Republic of China by legitimate and illegitimate means;

(B) transformed through various synthetic processes to produce different forms of fentanyl; and

(C) crucial to the production of illicit fentanyl by transnational criminal organizations, contributing to the ongoing opioid crisis;

(5) the United States Government must remain vigilant to address all new forms of fentanyl precursors and drugs used in combination with fentanyl, such as Xylazine, which attribute to overdose deaths of people in the United States;

(6) to increase the cost of fentanyl trafficking, the United States Government should work collaboratively across agencies and should surge analytic capability to impose sanctions and other remedies with respect to transnational criminal organizations (including cartels), including foreign nationals who facilitate the trade in illicit fentanyl and its precursors from the People’s Republic of China; and

(7) the Department of the Treasury should focus on fentanyl trafficking and its facilitators as one of the top national security priorities for the Department.

SEC. 2103. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives.

(2) **FOREIGN PERSON.**—The term “foreign person”—

(A) means—

(i) any citizen or national of a foreign country; or

(ii) any entity not organized under the laws of the United States or a jurisdiction within the United States; and

(B) does not include the government of a foreign country.

(3) **KNOWINGLY.**—The term “knowingly”, with respect to conduct, a circumstance, or a result, means that a person has actual knowledge, or should have known, of the conduct, the circumstance, or the result.

(4) **TRAFFICKING.**—The term “trafficking”, with respect to fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, has the meaning given the term “opioid trafficking” in section 7203 of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2302).

(5) **TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATION.**—The term “transnational criminal organization” includes—

(A) any organization designated as a significant transnational criminal organization under part 590 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations;

(B) any of the organizations known as—

(i) the Sinaloa Cartel;

(ii) the Jalisco New Generation Cartel;

(iii) the Gulf Cartel;

(iv) the Los Zetas Cartel;

(v) the Juarez Cartel;

(vi) the Tijuana Cartel;

(vii) the Beltran-Leyva Cartel; or

(viii) La Familia Michoacana; or

(C) any successor organization to an organization described in subparagraph (B) or as otherwise determined by the President.

(6) **UNITED STATES PERSON.**—The term “United States person” means—

(A) a United States citizen or an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence to the United States;

(B) an entity organized under the laws of the United States or of any jurisdiction within the United States, including a foreign branch of such an entity; or

(C) any person in the United States.

Subtitle A—Sanctions Matters**PART I—SANCTIONS IN RESPONSE TO NATIONAL EMERGENCY RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING****SEC. 2111. FINDING; POLICY.**

(a) **FINDING.**—Congress finds that international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids constitutes an unusual and extraordinary threat to the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States, and is a national emergency.

(b) **POLICY.**—It shall be the policy of the United States to apply economic and other financial sanctions to those who engage in the international trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids to protect the national security, foreign policy, and economy of the United States.

SEC. 2112. USE OF NATIONAL EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES; REPORTING.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President may exercise all authorities provided under sections 203 and 205 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1702 and 1704) to carry out this part.

(b) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch pursuant to this part and any national emergency declared with respect to the trafficking of fentanyl and trade in other illicit drugs, including—

(A) the issuance of any new or revised regulations, policies, or guidance;

(B) the imposition of sanctions;

(C) the collection of relevant information from outside parties;

(D) the issuance or closure of general licenses, specific licenses, and statements of licensing policy by the Office of Foreign Assets Control;

(E) a description of any pending enforcement cases; or

(F) the implementation of mitigation procedures.

(2) **FORM OF REPORT.**—Each report required by paragraph (1) shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may include the matters required by subparagraphs (C), (D), (E), and (F) of that paragraph in a classified annex.

SEC. 2113. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING BY TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President shall impose the sanctions described in subsection (b) with respect to any foreign person the President determines—

(1) is knowingly involved in the significant trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids, including such trafficking by a transnational criminal organization; or

(2) otherwise is knowingly involved in significant activities of a transnational criminal organization relating to the trafficking of fentanyl, fentanyl precursors, or other related opioids.

(b) **SANCTIONS DESCRIBED.**—The President may, pursuant to the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.), block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign person described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(c) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on actions taken by the executive branch with respect to the foreign persons identified under subsection (a).

SEC. 2114. PENALTIES; WAIVERS; EXCEPTIONS.

(a) **PENALTIES.**—A person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this part or any regulation, license, or order issued to carry out this part shall be subject to the penalties set forth in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) to the same extent as a person that commits an unlawful act described in subsection (a) of that section.

(b) **NATIONAL SECURITY WAIVER.**—The President may waive the application of sanctions under this part with respect to a foreign person if the President determines that the waiver is in the national security interest of the United States.

(c) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

(1) **EXCEPTION FOR INTELLIGENCE ACTIVITIES.**—This part shall not apply with respect to activities subject to the reporting requirements under title V of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3091 et seq.) or any au-

thorized intelligence activities of the United States.

(2) **EXCEPTION FOR COMPLIANCE WITH INTERNATIONAL OBLIGATIONS AND LAW ENFORCEMENT ACTIVITIES.**—Sanctions under this part shall not apply with respect to an alien if admitting or paroling the alien into the United States is necessary—

(A) to permit the United States to comply with the Agreement regarding the Headquarters of the United Nations, signed at Lake Success on June 26, 1947, and entered into force November 21, 1947, between the United Nations and the United States, or other applicable international obligations of the United States; or

(B) to carry out or assist law enforcement activity of the United States.

(3) **HUMANITARIAN EXEMPTION.**—The President may not impose sanctions under this part with respect to any person for conducting or facilitating a transaction for the sale of agricultural commodities, food, medicine, or medical devices or for the provision of humanitarian assistance.

SEC. 2115. TREATMENT OF FORFEITED PROPERTY OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.

(a) **TRANSFER OF FORFEITED PROPERTY TO FORFEITURE FUNDS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Any covered forfeited property shall be deposited into the Department of the Treasury Forfeiture Fund established under section 9705 of title 31, United States Code, or the Department of Justice Assets Forfeiture Fund established under section 524(c) of title 28, United States Code.

(2) **REPORT REQUIRED.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 180 days thereafter, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on any deposits made under paragraph (1) during the 180-day period preceding submission of the report.

(3) **COVERED FORFEITED PROPERTY DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “covered forfeited property” means property—

(A) forfeited to the United States under chapter 46 or section 1963 of title 18, United States Code; and

(B) that belonged to or was possessed by an individual affiliated with or connected to a transnational criminal organization subject to sanctions under—

(i) this part;

(ii) the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2301 et seq.); or

(iii) Executive Order 14059 (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); relating to imposing sanctions on foreign persons involved in the global illicit drug trade).

(b) **BLOCKED ASSETS UNDER TERRORISM RISK INSURANCE ACT OF 2002.**—Nothing in this part affects the treatment of blocked assets of a terrorist party described in subsection (a) of section 201 of the Terrorism Risk Insurance Act of 2002 (28 U.S.C. 1610 note).

PART II—OTHER MATTERS**SEC. 2121. TEN-YEAR STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS FOR VIOLATIONS OF SANCTIONS.**

(a) **INTERNATIONAL EMERGENCY ECONOMIC POWERS ACT.**—Section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) **STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.**—

“(1) **TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) **COMMENCEMENT.**—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action,

suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (c) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”

(b) TRADING WITH THE ENEMY ACT.—Section 16 of the Trading with the Enemy Act (50 U.S.C. 4315) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(d) STATUTE OF LIMITATIONS.—

“(1) TIME FOR COMMENCING PROCEEDINGS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—An action, suit, or proceeding for the enforcement of any civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture, pecuniary or otherwise, under this section shall not be entertained unless commenced within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the civil fine, penalty, or forfeiture is based.

“(B) COMMENCEMENT.—For purposes of this paragraph, the commencement of an action, suit, or proceeding includes the issuance of a pre-penalty notice or finding of violation.

“(2) TIME FOR INDICTMENT.—No person shall be prosecuted, tried, or punished for any offense under subsection (a) unless the indictment is found or the information is instituted within ten years after the latest date of the violation upon which the indictment or information is based.”

SEC. 2122. CLASSIFIED REPORT AND BRIEFING ON STAFFING OF OFFICE OF FOREIGN ASSETS CONTROL.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Foreign Assets Control shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on the staffing of the Office of Foreign Assets Control, disaggregated by staffing dedicated to each sanctions program and each country or issue.

SEC. 2123. REPORT ON DRUG TRANSPORTATION ROUTES AND USE OF VESSELS WITH MISLABELED CARGO.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on efforts to target drug transportation routes and modalities, including an assessment of the prevalence of false cargo labeling and shipment of precursor chemicals without accurate tracking of the customers purchasing the chemicals.

SEC. 2124. REPORT ON ACTIONS OF PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA WITH RESPECT TO PERSONS INVOLVED IN FENTANYL SUPPLY CHAIN.

Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury, in conjunction with the heads of other relevant Federal agencies, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees a classified report and briefing on actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China with respect to persons involved in the shipment of fentanyl, fentanyl analogues, fentanyl precursors, precursors for fentanyl analogues, and equipment for the manufacturing of fentanyl and fentanyl-laced counterfeit pills.

Subtitle B—Anti-Money Laundering Matters

SEC. 2131. DESIGNATION OF ILLICIT FENTANYL TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

Subtitle A of the Fentanyl Sanctions Act (21 U.S.C. 2311 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 7213 the following:

“SEC. 7213A. DESIGNATION OF TRANSACTIONS OF SANCTIONED PERSONS AS OF PRIMARY MONEY LAUNDERING CONCERN.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of the Treasury determines that reasonable grounds exist for concluding that one or more financial institutions operating outside of the United States, 1 or more classes of transactions within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, or 1 or more types of accounts within, or involving, a jurisdiction outside of the United States, is of primary money laundering concern in connection with illicit opioid trafficking, the Secretary of the Treasury may, by order, regulation, or otherwise as permitted by law—

“(1) require domestic financial institutions and domestic financial agencies to take 1 or more of the special measures provided for in section 9714(a)(1) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note); or

“(2) prohibit, or impose conditions upon, certain transmittals of funds (to be defined by the Secretary) by any domestic financial institution or domestic financial agency, if such transmittal of funds involves any such institution, class of transaction, or type of accounts.

“(b) CLASSIFIED INFORMATION.—In any judicial review of a finding of the existence of a primary money laundering concern, or of the requirement for 1 or more special measures with respect to a primary money laundering concern made under this section, if the designation or imposition, or both, were based on classified information (as defined in section 1(a) of the Classified Information Procedures Act (18 U.S.C. App.)), such information may be submitted by the Secretary to the reviewing court ex parte and in camera. This subsection does not confer or imply any right to judicial review of any finding made or any requirement imposed under this section.

“(c) AVAILABILITY OF INFORMATION.—The exemptions from, and prohibitions on, search and disclosure referred to in section 9714(c) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to any report or record of report filed pursuant to a requirement imposed under subsection (a). For purposes of section 552 of title 5, United States Code, this subsection shall be considered a statute described in subsection (b)(3)(B) of that section.

“(d) PENALTIES.—The penalties referred to in section 9714(d) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note) shall apply to violations of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a), in the same manner and to the same extent as described in such section 9714(d).

“(e) INJUNCTIONS.—The Secretary of the Treasury may bring a civil action to enjoin a violation of any order, regulation, special measure, or other requirement imposed under subsection (a) in the same manner and to the same extent as described in section 9714(e) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 31 U.S.C. 5318A note).”

SEC. 2132. TREATMENT OF TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS IN SUSPICIOUS TRANSACTIONS REPORTS OF THE FINANCIAL CRIMES ENFORCEMENT NETWORK.

(a) FILING INSTRUCTIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network shall issue guidance or instructions to United States financial institutions for filing reports on sus-

picious transactions required by section 1010.320 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations, related to suspected fentanyl trafficking by transnational criminal organizations.

(b) PRIORITIZATION OF REPORTS RELATING TO FENTANYL TRAFFICKING OR TRANSNATIONAL CRIMINAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The Director shall prioritize research into reports described in subsection (a) that indicate a connection to trafficking of fentanyl or related synthetic opioids or financing of suspected transnational criminal organizations.

SEC. 2133. REPORT ON TRADE-BASED MONEY LAUNDERING IN TRADE WITH MEXICO, THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA, AND BURMA.

(a) IN GENERAL.—In the first update to the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance submitted to Congress after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall include a report on trade-based money laundering originating in Mexico or the People's Republic of China and involving Burma.

(b) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance” means the national strategy for combating the financing of terrorism and related forms of illicit finance required by section 261 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act (Public Law 115-44; 131 Stat. 934), as amended by section 6506 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022 (Public Law 117-81; 135 Stat. 2428).

Subtitle C—Exception Relating to Importation of Goods

SEC. 2141. EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The authority or a requirement to block and prohibit all transactions in all property and interests in property under this title shall not include the authority or a requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(b) GOOD DEFINED.—In this section, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

TITLE III—BUDGETARY EFFECTS

SEC. 2201. BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

(a) STATUTORY PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on either PAYGO scorecard maintained pursuant to section 4(d) of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010.

(b) SENATE PAYGO SCORECARDS.—The budgetary effects of this division shall not be entered on any PAYGO scorecard maintained for purposes of section 4106 of H. Con. Res. 71 (115th Congress).

(c) CLASSIFICATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.—Notwithstanding Rule 3 of the Budget Scorekeeping Guidelines set forth in the joint explanatory statement of the committee of conference accompanying Conference Report 105-217 and section 250(c)(8) of the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985, the budgetary effects of this division shall not be estimated—

(1) for purposes of section 251 of such Act;

(2) for purposes of an allocation to the Committee on Appropriations pursuant to section 302(a) of the Congressional Budget Act of 1974; and

(3) for purposes of paragraph (4)(C) of section 3 of the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 as being included in an appropriation Act.

SA 1372. Mr. SCHATZ (for Mr. CORNYN) proposed an amendment to the

bill S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland; as follows:

On page 3, lines 11 and 12, strike “that remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case be made available” and inserting “that reasonable efforts be made to make remote video and telephonic access to proceedings in the case available”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I have eight requests for committees to meet during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 12:30 p.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 11 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON INDIAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Indian Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 6, 2023, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 7; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of the motion to proceed to Calendar No. 30, H.R. 815; further, that if Senator PAUL makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 51 from the Committee on Foreign Relations, that the Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; further, that the cloture motion filed during yesterday’s session ripen at 1:45 p.m.

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

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHATZ. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:07 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 7, 2023, at 10 a.m.

DISCHARGED NOMINATION

The Senate Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration of the following nomination by unanimous consent and the nomination was confirmed:

JAMIE FLY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate December 6, 2023:

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

KATHLEEN CUNNINGHAM MATTHEWS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

JEFFREY GEDMIN, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025.

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE CHAIR OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD.

KENNETH M. JARIN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

LUIS MANUEL BOTELLO, OF MARYLAND, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2025.

MICHELLE MAI SELESKY GIUDA, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION

DANTE QUINTIN ALLEN, OF CALIFORNIA, TO BE COMMISSIONER OF THE REHABILITATION SERVICES ADMINISTRATION, DEPARTMENT OF EDUCATION.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

NATHALIE RAYES, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CROATIA.

INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD

JAMIE FLY, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE INTERNATIONAL BROADCASTING ADVISORY BOARD FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 1, 2027.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CONGRATULATING MAJOR ART MILLER ON HIS MILITARY RETIREMENT

HON. TOM COLE

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. COLE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today out of extreme gratitude for my previous Defense Fellow, Major Arthur Miller, or Art as he is well known, and want to congratulate him on his retirement from the United States Army. Major Miller, a commissioned field artillery officer, served as my Defense Fellow during the second session of the 117th Congress. He consistently demonstrated exceptional and effective leadership, dedicated service, and commitment to the legislative relationship between our branches of government.

As a Defense Fellow, Major Miller positively and directly influenced the Army, Department of Defense policy, program recommendations, and the Fourth District of Oklahoma. His carefully communicated advice reflected the depth and breadth of his considerable experience and affected future programs appropriations and policies that will carry the Army through the end of the decade. Selected for this assignment from hundreds of applicants, Major Miller represented the Army and Department of Defense with distinction. His professional conduct with Members of Congress, and senior government leaders while assigned to Capitol Hill is to be commended.

Major Miller is no stranger to a history of honorable service. As a field artillery officer, he served proudly in the 18th Field Artillery Brigade at Fort Liberty, NC, where he performed duties above his grade multiple times, including as the acting Brigade S4 during multiple brigade-level exercises and several functions in garrison, and as a Battalion S3 during 3–27th Field Artillery Regiments Cumulative Training Exercise for deployment to Operation Spartan Shield in 2019. As a Captain, Major Miller planned, synchronized, and executed over 20 training fire plans in the brigade's first externally evaluated Large Scale Combat Operations Exercise in support of FOCUSED READINESS.

Major Miller commanded Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 3–27th Field Artillery Regiment while deployed to Operation Spartan Shield and Headquarters and Headquarters Battery, 18th Field Artillery Brigade. Major Miller commanded the battery through COVID–19, meanwhile, his battery was recognized by GEN Michael Garrett, the commander of Army Forces Command, for having the best tactically emplaced area of operations of all units at the rotation.

As a junior officer, Major Miller excelled at every level in the 1st Armored Brigade Combat Team, 2d Infantry Division from 2012 to 2015. Major Miller served with distinction as an executive officer in two formations and was then selected above all lieutenants in the brigade to serve as the adjutant for the 210th

Field Artillery Brigade before being selected to attend the Maneuver Captains Career Course, a unique and noteworthy honor given to only the most talented of young officers in our Army.

Major Miller is a proud member of the Military Officers Association of America, the Association of the United States Army, the United States Army Field Artillery Association, and is a recipient of the Honorary Order of Saint Barbara. His continued commitment to our Soldiers and their families will never go unnoticed and signifies the important degree of character in which he holds.

Mr. Speaker, in recognition of his distinguished service to our country, I wish him, his wife Cassie, children Emma and Arthur, and their shell-protected friends, Donatella and Leonardo, all the best in his retirement. It is well deserved, and our country owes him a wealth of gratitude for his service. God bless my good friend.

REMEMBERING THE LIFE OF THE LATE HONORABLE TAMMY MARIE STEWART

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the Late Honorable Tammy Marie Stewart, the most senior judge on the Orleans Parish Juvenile Court bench. She passed away after a brief illness at the tender age of 53.

As a judge, Stewart won over attorneys on both sides of the aisle. The Old Testament scripture teaches us that the office of judgeship in the tribal confederacy of the Israelites was centered in a covenant relationship with Yahweh and that judges arose as Yahweh saw fit to lead erring and repentant people to restoration. Knowing the work He would have our beloved do, God endued this beautiful soul with charisma, a spiritual power enabling her to judge and influence those she would encounter. He ordained her to be born to her earthly parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr., and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart, on Thursday, February 26, 1997, in New Orleans, Louisiana. This judge in training enjoyed a blessed and contented life with siblings Tracy and Benjamin III, where her life qualities and love of law were nurtured in her heart by her mother's service as an administrator in Traffic Court.

Her formative education began at Phillips Elementary. And as a student at Phillips Junior High, she was honored to carry the title "Miss Phillips Junior High." After graduating from John F. Kennedy Senior High School, she received her Bachelor of Arts degree in Political Science from Southern University at New Orleans, where her grace, beauty, and intellectual prowess gave rise to her being elected Miss SUNO. Never one to stand on

her laurels, she pursued her goal and was granted her Juris Doctor from The Ohio State University College of Law, Columbus, Ohio.

"You shall do no injustice in court. You shall not be partial to the poor or defer to the great, but in righteousness shall you judge your neighbor." Leviticus 19:15 ESV

Returning to her beloved New Orleans, she began her legal experience serving at the New Orleans Legal Assistance, Family Law Unit as a Summer Law Clerk, an Assistant District Attorney in the Orleans Parish District Attorney's Office under Harry Connick, Juvenile, Magistrate, and Trial Divisions; an Associate Attorney at Hailey, McNamara, Hall, Larmann and Papale, L.L.P.; a Trial Attorney at Casler, Bordelon, and McGinty; and a Senior Associate at Spears and Spears.

Her judicial experience began in 2002 when the Louisiana Supreme Court appointed her; she served the First City Court of New Orleans as Judge Pro-Tempore until 2007. The Honorable Tammy Stewart served as an Orleans Parish Juvenile Court Judge since 2009, wherein she presided over juvenile cases involving delinquency, Families in Need of Services (FINS), and adoptions.

"Open your mouth, judge righteously, and defend the rights of the poor and needy." Proverbs 31:9 ESV

The Nationwide Registry of Who's Who in Executives and Businesses recognized Judge Stewart as an Honored Professional. Well-rounded and socially conscious, she was a former board member of Innocence Project New Orleans and a former adjunct professor of Criminal Justice at Southern University in New Orleans. Judge Stewart volunteered with the Louisiana SPCA, the Humane Society, and the Louisiana State Bar Association's Secret Santa Project, where she worked as a liaison with organizations such as Boys Hope Girls Hope and Head Start. Judge Stewart was also a member of the Advisory Committee to the Supreme Court for the Revision of the Code of Judicial Conduct and served as Judge Pro Tempore in First City Court (2003 through 2007); and was a member of the Franklin Avenue Baptist Church.

Professionally, she held memberships and affiliations in the Louisiana State Bar Association, Louisiana Judicial Council, National Bar Association, American Bar Association, New Orleans Bar Association, Fourth and Fifth Circuit Judges Association, Louisiana Council of Juvenile and Family Court Judges, Louisiana District Judges Association, Fourth Circuit Judges Association, Alpha Kappa Alpha Sorority, Inc., Metropolitan Area Committee, Leadership Forum Graduate Municipal Yach Harbor Corporation, former Board Member Association for Women Attorneys, Most Senior Judge of Juvenile Court of New Orleans National Association of Women Judges, National Bar Association, National Association of Women Judges, National Judicial College Project One: One-Family, One-Judge Louis A. Martinet Legal Society, Inc., and the Black Law Student Association.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.

Matter set in this typeface indicates words inserted or appended, rather than spoken, by a Member of the House on the floor.

On Monday, July 24, 2023, at half past two in the morning, our Lord and Savior dispatched His angel to carry this beautiful soul home. She was preceded in death by her grandparents, Eddie LeBlanc Sr., Florence LeBlanc, Benjamin Stewart, Sr., and Martha Stewart; her aunt Jenette LeBlanc, Uncle Larry O. LeBlanc, and her beloved dog Mocha.

Judge Stewart's memory will be forever cherished by her beloved son, Dylan Jackson, whom she shared with Calvin Jackson; her parents, Benjamin Armond Stewart, Jr. (Regina) and Dianne Mary LeBlanc-Stewart (Harry Albert); sister Tracy Stewart Hill (Gregory); brother Benjamin Armond Stewart, III (Rachel); Stepbrothers David Gillard, Daniel Gillard (Chanitra), and Dominick Gillard; Godchildren Tyler Phillip McMahon and Karina Angelique Brown; a host of aunts, uncles, nephews, nieces, other relatives; good friends Glenn Jones, Andrea Foster, and Tina Haines; civic and judicial associates, and the legion of youth she represented.

Her life, legacy, and impact on our community will forever be remembered.

ITZEL CHAVEZ-SANDOVAL

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Itzel Chavez-Sandoval for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Itzel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Itzel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Itzel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Itzel Chavez-Sandoval on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR COLONEL EDWARD MESCHKO

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Colonel Edward Thomas "Tom" Meschko of Whitesboro, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Colonel Meschko honorably served in the United States Air Force during the Vietnam War.

In 1961, Colonel Meschko applied to the newly built Air Force Academy and was selected to join their seventh class. He trained as a fighter pilot and was stationed at the Wright Patterson Air Force Base and Bien Hoa Air Base in Vietnam. During his Air Force career, Colonel Meschko participated in 216 combat missions against North Vietnamese

forces in the F-100 Super Sabre jet fighter. Furthermore, he was a flight instructor and test pilot for over 36 models of the most advanced aircraft prototypes at the time, including the F-16 fighter aircraft.

Using test data gained through Colonel Meschko's experimental flights, the United States was able to transform the F-16 into a modern air superiority fighter that is currently in use by 25 countries. Through his extensive qualifications and expertise, Colonel Meschko became the Deputy Commander of Operations for F-16s located in U.S. bases throughout Europe. His efforts help bolster and strengthen our NATO allies' capabilities to defend against Soviet-led aggression. For his outstanding service, Colonel Meschko received numerous awards, including the Legion of Merit and Distinguished Flying Cross.

After returning to civilian life, Colonel Meschko worked as a senior engineer for Lockheed Martin and sought to be a test pilot on the prototype F-22 Raptor. As he experienced health complications that affected his ability to fly the F-22, he retired from Lockheed Martin after 10 years and later became the President and CEO of Fightertown Aviation, Inc., and a senior consultant for military contracts. In 2018, Colonel Meschko retired after decades of important contributions to the Air Force and aviation industry. I commend him for his selfless service and sacrifices to defend our great nation.

I am honored to represent Colonel Meschko in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING THE LOSS OF A GREAT MUSICIAN AND OUTSTANDING LIFE OF DAVID RUSSELL BATISTE, JR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman, legendary drummer, and New Orleans musical prodigy David Russell Batiste, Jr. Born on December 12, 1965, Mr. Batiste was known for providing the backbeat in groups such as The Funky Meters, Papa Grows Funk, Vida Blue and other well-known Crescent City bands. After years of musical achievement, Batiste passed away on Sunday, October 1, 2023, at the tender age of 57.

Raised in a musical household, Mr. Batiste started behind the drum kit at the young age of 4. Additionally, he learned to play the keyboard, saxophone, guitar, and bass, officially taking a slot in the family band when he was only 7 years old. He and his brother, Damon, joined the Batiste Brothers Band when they were still in grade school. To avoid being confused with his father, David Jr. used his middle name, Russell.

At St. Augustine High School, Russell drummed for the school's Marching 100 marching band. After graduating in 1983, he attended Southern University, where he studied under the late jazz saxophonist, Edward "Kidd" Jordan. After 2 years, he left Southern to become the drummer for singer Charmaine Neville.

The brothers made their New Orleans Jazz & Heritage Festival debut in 1978 under the band name Young Gifted & Black. They returned the following year with the Batiste Brothers Band, launching a career that eventually landed them a spot with the Funky Meters, the reincarnation of the original New Orleans funk band, The Meters, featuring talents such as George Porter Jr., Brian Stolz, and Art Neville. Mr. Batiste was also a member of the all-star trio, Vida Blue, featuring Phish keyboardist, Page McConnell, and Allman Brothers Band and Dead & Company bassist, Oteil Burbridge.

As a solo artist, Batiste Jr. and the Orchestra from 'Da Hood released two full-length albums, including the 2000 self-titled set and 2003's The Clinic. In time, the musician climbed the musical ranks, receiving praise from iconic musicians such as Rolling Stones' front man, Mick Jagger.

Mr. Batiste frequently joined organ player, Joe Krown, and guitarist, Walter "Wolfman" Washington, to perform as the "Krown Washington Batiste Trio." The trio ultimately produced a live album titled, Live at the Maple Leaf, in 2008. Batiste carved out a legacy performing alongside Papa Grows Funk, Harry Connick, Jr., Maceo Parker, Champion Jack Dupree, and the late Robbie Robertson among other celebrated groups.

Until the musician's passing, he participated in weekly gigs every Sunday at Le Bon Temps Roule. Just last week, Batiste returned to his former high school to watch the football game, alongside other members of the class of 1983. Prior to the tragic news, Batiste was scheduled to perform three sets at NOLA Funk Fest with his band, the Gladiators, and Leo Nocentelli.

"He never was interested in accolades and money," stated his brother, Damon Batiste. "He wanted to make the music right. Russell loved New Orleans more than anything. He just wanted to be at the Maple Leaf Bar and Le Bon Temps Roule."

Following the artist's passing, family, friends, collaborators, and others shared memories of admiration for Batiste. Included was the musician's brother, Damon Batiste, who wrote, "It's a very sad day, I lost a brother, a friend, and a bandmate for life. We will share all details but remember fame and fortune mean nothing without having the ones that mean the most to share in your success."

Oteil Burbridge shared, "If you knew Russell Batiste, then you know there are no words to describe his talents or his insanely funny personality. Some people live with their knobs turned to 11. I'm pretty sure that I never laughed any harder than when we shared these times." The sentimental message also included thanks to Phish's McConnell for bringing them together in a jam session.

Legendary musician, Cyril Neville, chimed in via Facebook, writin: "Russell Batiste is a New Orleans root culture originator from one of the most prolific music families New Orleans ever produced. The only way to possibly be funkier than Russell is to be born a Skunk! One of a kind!"

Jon Batiste shared a heartfelt message. "He spoke his mind with conviction and didn't ever hold his tongue but somehow, in equal parts, with swagger and compassion. He could be both demanding and magnetic all at once, leaving an impression wherever he was. I've never had stories of a family member relayed

to me by strangers more than about Russ. He could always see the best in people and brought the best out in them, especially in other musicians. Every musician I've ever seen him on a stage with was in awe of him. It was The Russell Batiste University and class was always in session. I didn't fully realize it until later on in my life, but he was a flat-out genius. It's only because as a kid I just saw him as family. Also, you don't assume that you'll ever be up close to that kind of genius, let alone within your own family."

Musicians across the world are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and leadership of Russell Batiste. He will forever be remembered for all his contributions to advancing music in New Orleans.

RECOGNIZING PAT O'BANNON

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Supervisor Pat O'Bannon. A dedicated leader, Pat's career has taken her from high school English teacher to journalist to Certified Planning Commissioner, and these public service perspectives enabled her to serve on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors for 28 trailblazing years.

Pat's composed and congenial leadership style, coupled with her attentive listening, have defined her as an outstanding public servant who genuinely cares about the community's needs. Since 1995, she has been a steadfast advocate for the people of Henrico, weathering elections and securing re-election six times, while making history as the first female member of the Henrico County Board of Supervisors.

Her commitment to public safety and support for those who protect and serve showcases her unwavering dedication. Initiatives like Tuckahoe Town Hall Meetings, which have been newly live streamed since 2020, highlight her innovative approach to transparency and engaging residents in vital discussions in every way possible. Pat's single-minded focus on every community concern, from reducing citizens' tax burdens, to significant public waste and water infrastructure improvements, to multi-phase investments in the county's beloved Tuckahoe Creek Park, reflects her dedication to enhancing the county's amenities and making it such a wonderful place to live. Furthermore, her work with VACO's Telecommunications and Technology Committee showcased her proactive approach to addressing the impact of technology on rural neighborhoods like those in Henrico County, an issue close to my heart.

In 2023, the Tuckahoe Creek Boardwalk was fittingly named "O'Bannon Way," forever commemorating her work for the community in preserving the beautiful Tuckahoe Creek Park. Pat's tireless service has left an indelible mark on Henrico County.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you join me in honoring Supervisor Pat O'Bannon for her 28 years of dedicated service and commitment to her dedication to her constituents and for keeping the spirit of community alive in her county and in my District. I wish her the best in her well-deserved retirement.

JESSICA MENENDEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jessica Menendez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Jessica has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Jessica, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Jessica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Jessica Menendez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE THIRTIETH PASTORAL ANNIVERSARY OF BISHOP DARRYL SYLVESTER BRISTER

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate three decades of faithful, phenomenal leadership from an outstanding New Orleans Minister, Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister.

Bishop Darryl Sylvester Brister is the Second Presiding Bishop in the Full Gospel Baptist Church Fellowship International and was born in New Orleans, Louisiana on September 26, 1966. He received his license to preach in 1989 and was ordained on May 1, 1992, under the administration of Bishop Paul S. Morton, Sr.

On January 26, 1996, at the age of 29; he was consecrated to the highest position in the church, the office of a Bishop. He is the Apostle/Overseer of Beacon Light International Ministries and Senior Pastor and Teacher of Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans since 1993, where the membership exceeded 7,000 active members before Hurricane Katrina.

During Hurricane Katrina, church buildings in New Orleans were destroyed and most of the members of the Beacon Light Family were dispersed across the United States. Bishop Brister served tirelessly after the storm and worked to rebuild the Cathedral, which reopened coincidentally on August 29, 2014, exactly nine years after Hurricane Katrina. Beacon Light International Baptist Cathedral New Orleans is once again a thriving ministry in the city of New Orleans that continues rebuilding one day at a time.

Bishop Brister has ministered the Word of God in several countries and continents, such as Japan, Holland, Panama, Korea, Iceland, Africa, Trinidad, Tortola, and Europe. Bishop Brister attended Louisiana State University and later joined and received an honorable discharge from the United States Army. He received a Bachelor of Theology Degree from

McKinley Theological Seminary, a Master of Arts in Biblical Studies, a Doctor of Ministry, and a Doctor of Philosophy in Religious Studies from Friends International Christian University.

Understanding that ministry extends beyond the confines of the church building, Bishop Brister is a man on a mission to reach lost souls. As President & CEO of DSB International Ministries, a non-profit organization, Bishop Brister, reaches those incarcerated by providing them with spiritual reading materials and daily devotionals. The Darryl S. Brister Scholarship Fund supports graduating seniors entering college and assists high school students with the purchase of school uniforms.

Bishop Brister has received numerous awards, and his leadership ability has been recognized throughout the world. In April 2010, he was inducted into the Morehouse College Martin Luther King, Jr. Board of Preachers. He was featured in the 1995 November edition of Ebony Magazine as one of the Top 50 Leaders of Tomorrow, the January 2000 issue of Upscale Magazine's Millennium Tribute to America's Most Outstanding Pastors, the September/October 2002 & 2005 issue of Gospel Today as one of The World's Most Loved Pastors, and the 2004 New Orleans City Business Success Guide. Most recently, Bishop Brister has been featured in the Who's Who of Houston, TX, and was featured on the cover of an edition of Epitome Magazine in 2013.

Bishop Brister has authored nine books that have ministered to thousands entitled, Exposing the Enemy, The Monster Within, Recovering from Ruptured Relationships, Don't Fight the Process, Talk To Me Afterwards, Look To the Hills, Living the Dream, Doing Right In A Wrong World and most recently Against All Odds: Turning Obstacles into Opportunities.

In March of 1999, Bishop Brister and the Beacon Light Mass Choir released their first CD entitled, It's All About Him. He serves as President and Founder of the Darryl S. Brister Bible College and Theological Seminary, which was established in August 1999, and is the Founder of the Beacon Light Christian Academy, which was established in August 2002. He is the Apostle/Overseer of the Beacon Light Baptist Church of Houma, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Hammond, LA, Beacon Light Baptist Church of Baton Rouge, LA, Beacon Light of Haiti at New Orleans, and Beacon Light Community Church of Panama City, FL. Bishop Brister birthed Beacon Light International Cathedral of Houston, TX after Hurricane Katrina, which is currently in an inactive status.

Bishop Darryl S. Brister is married to Dionne Flot Brister and is the father of five children. He is a man of vision whose life embraces destiny and purpose. He is committed to serving God, dedicated to following wherever God may lead, and excited as God continues to do new things within his life and ministry.

The Greater New Orleans Community is blessed to have him as a spiritual leader to so many. I am proud to say I can call him a dear friend and prayer warrior throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support he gives to me. I am forever grateful for his friendship, love, and guidance, and will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. I congratulate him on thirty years of spiritual leadership and may he see many more years serving individuals across the country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF MR. JAMES PURCELL

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a constituent and dedicated public servant from my district, James "Jim" Purcell. Mr Purcell passed away on November 28, 2023, at the age of 70.

Born in Philadelphia, PA, Jim graduated in 1971 from Archbishop Wood High School in Warminster, PA. After, he completed his electrician apprenticeship in 1975 and obtained a degree in energy efficiency. He would later go on to become an electrician for the International Brotherhood of Electrical Workers (IBEW) Local No. 98 for over 40 years.

Jim, a revered member of the Perkasio community, will forever be recognized for his exemplary commitment and public service to his community. Jim joined the water authority when he was 25 years old, and he had 41 years of service, including 23 years on the authority and 15 years on council where he served as Vice President of the Perkasio Borough Council for many years. During this period, Jim was instrumental in the development of Perkasio's public power policies and was recognized as providing outstanding public service throughout his life.

Jim will always be remembered as a loving Husband, Father and Grandfather and we are all incredibly grateful for the positive impact he has had on our community. Let us continue his legacy of public service each and every day.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COM-
MENDATION FOR CHIEF WAR-
RANT OFFICER HERBERT RICH

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief Warrant Officer 3 Herbert James "Jim" Rich of Sulphur Springs, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. CW3 Rich honorably served in the United States Army during the Gulf War.

From a young age, CW3 Rich sought to serve and represent our great nation on the global stage. He began his Army career as a truck driver and finance clerk before successfully completing flight training as a helicopter pilot. Initially, he served as a utility helicopter pilot and operations officer during Operation Desert Shield and Desert Storm to help stop Iraqi aggression against Kuwait.

CW3 Rich later served as a commander of a helicopter company for the National Training Center before becoming a medical evacuation pilot in Alaska. In 1994, he also participated in Joint Indo-Pacific military exercises in Thailand. Without a doubt, his actions helped save many lives. For his meritorious service, CW3 Rich was awarded the Air Medal, Senior Aviator Badge, and several other awards.

After returning to civilian life, CW3 Rich has continued to make an impact in our community and dedicated himself to public service.

He currently volunteers as a fireman and assistant chief in his community. CW3 is also a member of the East Texas Marine Corps League Detachment 1357, in which he works to uplift and support fellow veterans while raising awareness for veterans' issues. I commend CW3 Rich for his selfless service and devotion to assisting those in need.

I am honored to represent CW3 Rich in Texas' 4th Congressional district. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
UNITED STATES NAVY COM-
MANDER LEONARD MERRIMAN
III

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding New Orleans Serviceman, United States Navy Commander Leonard Merriman III. Commander Merriman was born on September 27, 1953, in New Orleans, LA, and was the only child of Mr. Leonard Merriman, Jr. and Mrs. Alberta Slocum Merriman.

Leonard attended Mary D. Coghill Elementary School and went on to attend the prestigious St. Augustine High School ("St. Aug.") in New Orleans, Louisiana, where he excelled and became a member of the football and track & field teams. Leonard quickly gained a reputation at school for his various competitive endeavors as a tough, "never-give-up", and fearless guy. This was never more on display than when Leonard would speed off to school at St. Aug on his motorcycle at 16 years old. Leonard would go on to graduate from St. Aug as a member of the class of 1971 and later that same year, he joined the United States Navy.

The Navy gave Leonard the adventure he craved and the structure that he needed. For Leonard, the Navy allowed him the opportunity to attend the United States Naval Academy in Annapolis, Maryland as a "Mid-Shipman." While at the Academy, Leonard also played football and became a world-class boxer in his weight class. He then attended the University of North Carolina Central where he earned his undergraduate degree.

Leonard also always had a dream of flying. While still in high school Leonard learned to fly planes by becoming friends with a Black Pilot who worked at Lakefront Airport near Pontchartrain Park. Armed with this knowledge when Leonard joined the Navy, he was presented with a golden opportunity, the choice to attend Navy Flight School at NAS Pensacola.

With that choice in hand, Leonard decided to attend flight school and became a Naval Aviator. He was then assigned for duty aboard the USS *Coral Sea* aircraft carrier. While in the Navy Leonard piloted the A-7 Corsair and the F-18 Hornet aircraft. During his service, he would achieve the rank of Commander and serve as the Commanding Officer of the Naval Air Station Joint Reserve Base Mobile Maintenance Facility 0582. In his civilian career, Leonard decided to continue to fly for commercial airlines as a pilot for TWA, MESA,

U.S. Airways, and American, just to name a few.

Leonard was involved in many activities and organizations. Some of these included, being a member of Progress Lodge No 16, Prince Hall Affiliate, the National Black Pilot Association, Son of a Saint, The St. Augustine High School Alumni Association, The Silverback Society, the National Rifle Association (NRA), and Director of the Future Airline Pilots of New Orleans.

On October 19, 2023, Leonard went to be with his Heavenly Father. He was predeceased in death by his parents Mr. and Mrs. Leonard Merriman, Jr. He leaves behind three children: his eldest son, Leonard "Lenny" Merriman IV, and his wife Jeanine Young Merriman, daughter Lucretia Merriman, and his youngest son Leonard "Leo" Merriman IV. He is also survived by his grandchildren, Charlotte Merriman, and Myles Leonard Merriman, who were the absolute apples of his eye, and a host of other relatives and friends too countless to mention.

His legacy will live on through the bonds of friendship he made over the years and all those whose lives he touched. He will be remembered as a man who would defend you, was never too busy to help others, would strike up a conversation with almost anyone, and a Naval circumnavigator twice over.

At a young age, his family moved to a new home in Pontchartrain Park, and the Merriman family joined Bethany United Methodist Church located in Pontchartrain Park, which remained his home church throughout the remainder of his life. A celebration of life is being held today at Bethany United Methodist Church.

I was honored to have Leonard serving in the Louisiana Second Congressional District Military Academy Nomination Committee. His commitment to the Service Academy program assured key nominations of candidates for appointment to four of the five U.S service academies: U.S. Military Academy (USMA), West Point, NY, the U.S. Naval Academy (USNA), Annapolis, MD, the U.S. Air Force Academy (USFA), Colorado Springs, CO, and the U.S. Merchant Marine Academy (USMMA), Kings Point, NY. The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am proud to say I was able to connect with him during my tenure as Congressman. I truly respect the guidance and support he gave. I am forever grateful for his commitment to our youth, and guidance to our program. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02. May he forever rest in peace.

KATHERINE NOLASCO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Katherine Nolasco for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Katherine has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Katherine, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will

guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Katherine's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Katherine Nolasco on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. BETTY McCOLLUM

OF MINNESOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. McCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise to share my deep concern with H. Res. 894 and the way it fails to address the rise in hate speech and threats occurring in our country and around the world. Over the last several weeks, the House has rightly made efforts to condemn antisemitism and show support for the Jewish people. However, this resolution does not seriously address the rise in antisemitism in any tangible way, and the actions of the Majority to treat this issue as an opportunity to confuse and sow division is redundant, devoid of meaning, and ultimately harmful to the cause of rebuking hate in all its forms.

Congress must take meaningful steps to fight against antisemitism. We can do this by stepping away from political games and fully implementing the Biden Administration's National Antisemitism Strategy, a whole-of-government approach to fighting antisemitism in the United States.

I also want to underscore the importance of prioritizing the safety of Jewish, Palestinian, and Muslim communities. The resolution before us today is silent on the concurrent rise of anti-Arab hate and Islamophobia happening in America, and by failing to include all instances of bigotry stemming from the conflict, we are missing an opportunity to condemn hate in all its forms.

In Congress we must be open to discussing and disagreeing about challenging topics, including about Israel and Gaza. I remain committed to condemning hate speech and the violence it inspires and believe that any actions considered in the House must also do so. For these reasons, I must vote present on this resolution.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF PHILIP M. BAPTISTE, JR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a native of my Congressional District, often referred to as "The Leader in Firsts", Mr. Philip M. Baptiste, Jr.

Philip M. Baptiste was born and raised in New Orleans, LA and dedicated himself to serving and bettering New Orleans' urban

community. Baptiste attended two Historically Black Universities, Dillard University of New Orleans, and Atlanta University School of Social Work.

Baptiste lived a lifetime of firsts; in 1967 he was appointed by Mayor Victor Schiro as the city's first black mayor aide. In a 1996 interview with Data Newsweekly, Baptiste said "I was the only Black in City Hall at that time." That position would open the doors for other black Louisianians to follow. Baptiste was also the first Black man to serve the Orleans Parish Grand Jury in New Orleans. As President and Owner of Philip M. Baptiste Insurance Agency, Inc. which handled all lines of general insurance, i.e. Life, Fire, Casualty, and Hospitalization, Baptiste became one of the first Black citizens to hold such a license in the State of Louisiana.

Baptiste was recruited by the U S. Army on February 6, 1950, and honorably discharged on May 25, 1950 after completing the 14 week basic training program.

Conceivably, Baptiste's greatest passion was his love for the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure Club. A member for 40 plus years, Baptiste once served as the organization's Recording Secretary and obtained the status of "Honorary Lifetime Member" and a Zulu Hall of Fame Member. In the 1980s, Baptiste organized the 1st Motor Patrol group of riders and became a welcoming presence every Mardi Gras Day on his scooter. As the official narrator for the annual Zulu Coronation Ball, in typical Baptiste fashion, he created a unique toast for coronation and other official Zulu events; "All Hail Sip, All Hail Sip, All Hail Swallow!" Anyone present at his toast will never forget how Baptiste went deep in the Merriam-Webster dictionary to describe King Zulu 1994 as "being in all his splendorousness."

Zulu's official historian noted that Baptiste is responsible for design changes to the organization's official medallion from a dull bronze to a bright gold color, as well as for securing Fischer's Jewelry as the maker of the official King's ring. Baptiste is also credited with leading and supporting many of Zulu's fundraising activities for its charitable activities.

During the time Hurricane Katrina hit New Orleans in 2005, Baptiste had served as Executive Director of Opportunities Industrialization Center of Greater New Orleans (OIC of GNO) for approximately 35 years. Founded in 1971, the entity's mission is to train and place the unemployed and under-employed individuals into unsubsidized jobs in New Orleans by helping them to overcome barriers to economic opportunity and social justice Baptiste assumed the leadership helm in February of 1972, taking the Manpower program from the threat of termination to one of the more successful programs under the OIC of America umbrella.

Under Baptiste's leadership, he guided the entity through important initiatives including CETA City of New Orleans Home Energy Rehabilitation, Office of Community Affairs LIHEAP, DOE/PVE Home Weatherization, Housing and Community Development Home Weatherization and Minor Repairs, JTPA City of New Orleans Carpentry, Department of Social Services DOE/PVE, LIHEAP, State of Louisiana Governor's Special Grant, and a Re-entry and Work Release programs in partnership with the Orleans Parish Criminal Sheriffs Office which provides training in construc-

tion trades in the areas of carpentry, electrical work and plumbing for prison inmates preparing to return to society. He was one of the first to introduce the GED program to participants of OIC, thus helping hundreds to complete that high school education.

A close friend of New Orleans' first Black mayor, the late Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Baptiste, along with Leah and Dooky Chase, were the first financial contributors to Dutch's campaign fund during his run for mayor. A 1950 graduate of McDonogh 35 High School, Baptiste had known Dutch Morial since their days together at the school where Morial was a quarterback and Baptiste was a water boy on the football team Baptiste was also an early supporter of the elder Morial's son, Marc Morial who served as Mayor of New Orleans from 1994 through 2002. As a member of the Louisiana Federation of Electors (LIFE), one of the most powerful Black political organizations in New Orleans, Baptiste remained politically active for decades Countless other African American elected officials would come to learn that they could count on Baptiste's support as well.

Baptiste's social and civic affiliations support his theory of reaching out to the community. Baptiste was a member of the Board of Directors, Southwestern Providence, KAPPA ALPHA PSI Fraternity (pledged in 1954, Beta Gamma; Polemarch from 1969 through 1970) and member of the New Orleans Alumni Chapter, Solicitor to Muscular Dystrophy Campaign, and eventually Honorary Deputy, Parish of Orleans for contributing and participating in the Orleans Parish Grand July. Baptiste was the founder and First Vice-President of Frontiers International, Past President of Toastmasters International, Dryades Street YMCA, the Urban League of New Orleans, and the NAACP among others.

Always a believer in self-improvement, Baptiste continued to receive training to help improve his management skills; including courses such as Management Skills Development Course sponsored by General Electric Management Development Institute, Executive Directors Management Training Course I, II, III and IV (OAMT) Opportunities Academy of Management Training OIC/America, Management Certificate in Non-Profit Organizations, IBM Community Executive Program and IBM Management Development Staff Program and others.

Baptiste's work has earned him many honored awards and certificates: Individual Achievement Award Kappa Alpha Psi Fraternity 1975, Street YWCA Century Club 1976-1978, National Consumer Information Center Award 1974-1975, Honorary Citizen Certificates (Baton Rouge, LA, Albuquerque, New Mexico and Saginaw, Michigan), State of Texas House of Representative Congratulation Certificate 1977 and Certificates of Merit City of New Orleans 1972-73, 1977, the 1996 Joseph "Scoop" Jones Trailblazer for the month of December, 2001 Mayor's Division of Housing & Neighborhood Development Golden Hammer Award are just a few awards of recognition collected in his repertoire.

Baptiste died June 21 in Atlanta after a lengthy illness. He was 91. He and his wife Nell, who died in 2021, relocated to Atlanta after Hurricane Katrina Prior to that, he spent his entire life in his hometown of New Orleans Baptiste once said that he would like to be remembered by these words, "I came, learned,

served, and passed on to others." Most who know Baptiste would agree that he has accomplished his goal.

The Greater New Orleans Community has lost a gem. I credit much of my political successes to him because of his guidance and support. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the constituents of LA02. May he forever rest in peace.

HONORING CYNTHIA MURRAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the outstanding tenure of Cynthia Murray as President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council (NBLC).

Born in New York, Cynthia grew up in New Jersey where she earned a BA in History from Rutgers University. After relocating to Marin County, California in 1978, Cynthia began her substantial and impactful career in public service, community advocacy, and professional leadership in the North Bay.

Over a span of 15 years, Cynthia honorably served the people of Marin County as Novato City Council Member, including one term as mayor, and Marin County Supervisor. Known for her passion and fortitude, Cynthia played a pivotal role in creating greater transparency and accessibility to local government, advancing public health services, and bolstering countrywide emergency response initiatives.

As President and CEO of North Bay Leadership Council, Cynthia successfully shaped NBLC into an influential advocacy organization to address the issues impacting employers and their employees in the North Bay. Under her direction, NBLC became an effective champion for public policy issues including comprehensive quality education from preschool to higher education, workforce development, public transportation, affordable housing, and workforce retention. Known for her ability to foster collaboration and promote equity, Cynthia successfully brought together stakeholders from the public, non-profit, education, and private sector to address and solve challenges in the North Bay. Her leadership has been vital to the region's advancements in economic development and prosperity, as well as environmental sustainability.

Outside of her many professional accomplishments, Cynthia's volunteer work is far-reaching, and she never shies away from thorny issues. She serves on many boards including the Bay Area Council Economic Institute, First 5 Sonoma County Commission, Sonoma County Health Action Council, Marin Schools to Careers Partnership, and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission's Policy Advisory Council. She also is chair of the Marin County Housing Crisis Action Group.

Cynthia has demonstrated an exemplary commitment to education and mentorship to future generation of leaders by serving as an adjunct professor at Dominican University and Sonoma State University. As a fearless advocate for labor and education, Cynthia has been awarded numerous accolades in recognition of her achievements, including the 2010 Women in Business award by the North

Bay Business Journal, and the 2017 Champion for Children award by the North Bay Children's Center, among others.

Mr. Speaker, the indelible positive contributions of Cynthia Murray cannot be overstated. With an outstanding record of public service spanning over three decades, Cynthia has consistently demonstrated an unwavering commitment to enhancing the lives of the residents and employees of the North Bay. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her legacy of accomplishments which will benefit the region for generations to come.

KAYRA RODAS

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kayra Rodas for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kayra has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kayra, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kayra's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kayra Rodas on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRESSIONAL VETERAN COMMENDATION FOR SPECIALIST KELVIN HICKS

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Specialist Kelvin Hicks of Lamar, Texas, and award him a Congressional Veteran Commendation. Specialist Hicks honorably served in the United States Army in the Iraq War and the Global War on Terrorism.

Since he was a young man, Specialist Hicks knew he wanted to serve his country and contribute to a greater cause. In 2000, Specialist Hicks joined the Army and served as an Automated Logistical Specialist at Fort Sill, Oklahoma. He was deployed to Iraq and Kuwait, where he was tasked with the management of military equipment and timely deliveries of crucial supplies for our troops.

After returning to civilian service, Specialist Hicks has continued to make an impact on his community in many ways. He worked as the Safety and Security Director for Marriott Hotels & Resorts and as a Child Welfare Specialist for the Oklahoma Department of Human Services. Here, Specialist Hicks devoted much of his time and efforts to supporting a teenager that was placed under his care. Even when faced with overwhelming odds, including homelessness, Specialist Hicks made numerous sacrifices to ensure that his ward's needs are being met. His willingness to put the

needs of others above his own is an extraordinary display of courage and selfless service.

Specialist Hicks currently serves as the Upward Bound College Prep Program Coordinator at Paris Junior College where he helps students from low-income families pursue postsecondary education. In addition, he is an inspirational speaker and takes opportunities to mentor and advocate for our youth so that they will be successful. Specialist Hicks is a devoted man of faith, and he serves as the Chaplain and Associate Minister at the St. Paul Baptist Church in Paris. I commend Specialist Hicks for his devotion to uplifting and empowering our students.

I am honored to represent Specialist Hicks in Texas' 4th Congressional District. It is a pleasure to award him the Congressional Veteran Commendation for his service to our Nation and to the people of North Texas.

RECOGNIZING A GREAT HUMANITARIAN AND OUTSTANDING PHILANTHROPIC EFFORTS OF MR. RAYMOND M. "RAY" FRITZ

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and blessing to the Greater New Orleans Community, Mr. Raymond M. "Ray" Fritz. He was born on November 30, 1945, in New Orleans, Louisiana to the late Rosemary Favre. He grew up in the 7th Ward of New Orleans, attending Corpus Christi Elementary School.

Mr. Fritz's mother and grandparents, Mr. Joseph Favre and Mrs. Cecilia Milanes Favre, supported him and helped shape him into the honorable man he is today. His mother worked three jobs to provide him with the opportunity to attend St. Augustine High School. Allowing him this opportunity was important to her because she wanted Mr. Fritz to attend a school that was designated for the education of young men from African American families of New Orleans who embrace a willingness to grow in wisdom, knowledge, and grace. In addition to his mother and grandparents, his uncle, Dr. Anthony Favre played an instrumental role in his life.

Upon completion of his secondary education in 1963, an instructor at the high school, Father Phillip Berrigan, SSJ saw something special in him and urged him to go to St. Benedict's College in Atchison, Kansas. Father Berrigan even helped him acquire financial support. Taking advantage of this opportunity, Mr. Fritz completed a degree in Finance, and later completed double master's degrees in finance and taxation. He put his Finance degree to use and has worked for many well-known corporations like Shell Oil, Xerox, Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc., to name a few. He was even involved in taking both Clarify, Inc. and Terayon, Inc. public.

Mr. Fritz has travelled the world and has seen extreme poverty firsthand. In his heart, he wanted to make a difference in the lives of those less fortunate, and he chose to focus his efforts on his hometown. He vowed not to allow mothers and their sons to be subjected to the hardships he and his family faced when

he was young. He created a 4-year scholarship fund at his beloved Alma Mater, St. Augustine High School. To date, he has gifted over \$1 million in advancing the education of African American males attending St. Augustine High School since the year 2000. To further benefit his beloved High School, Mr. Fritz has donated \$500 thousand to renovate the school library.

Mr. Fritz's generosity did not stop there. He decided to address the increasing homelessness by working with the Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish Society of Saint Vincent de Paul in New Orleans. The mission of the Society of St. Vincent de Paul is "a network of friends, inspired by Gospel values, growing in holiness and building a more just world through personal relationships with and service to people in need." Their service provides aid in the form of intervention, consultation, or through direct financial or in-kind service. His generosity has provided over \$200 thousand to date to this organization and continues.

In the wake of Hurricane Katrina, Corpus Christi—Epiphany Parish built a Community Resource Center to provide a facility that serves the needs of the Greater New Orleans Community. This center recently became the home of the New Orleans Public Library REACH Center, as an extension of their current African American Resource Collection (AARC). The REACH Center is a new initiative from the library that will feature a community event and resource center, free coworking space, and a public art gallery. This initiative is guided by a strong focus on equity, diversity, and inclusion and aims to be a thriving community center that empowers individuals and businesses to reach their full potential. The Community is blessed to have Mr. Fritz as a major donor revitalizing a multipurpose property to serve the City of New Orleans.

Mr. Fritz is a gracious life partner to Cheryl Feldman, proud father to his two sons—Derek Fritz and Dorjan Fritz, loving grandfather of five, and doting great-grandfather of two.

The Religious Order of the Josephite Fathers and Brothers, alumni and students at St. Augustine High School and parishioners of Corpus Christi—Epiphany Catholic Church are eternally grateful for the vision, guidance, and philanthropic generosity of Mr. Raymond M. Fritz. He will be forever remembered for all his contributions to improving the lives of those in the community and advancing the student's education.

CELEBRATING MR. JOHN ROBERT
McGRATH'S 100TH BIRTHDAY

HON. RICHARD McCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Mr. John Robert McGrath Sr.'s 100th birthday and honor his service in the U.S. Navy during World War II. Born and raised in a small town outside of Pittsburgh, Mr. McGrath made the decision to join the U.S. Navy in 1942 to fight for his country. Following the end of the war, Mr. McGrath earned a degree from the University of Pennsylvania before beginning his career as a mortgage banker.

Although his service to his country came to a close, his service and generosity to his com-

munity continued throughout his life, as he was known to make soup for the elderly and care for the sick. Mr. McGrath has always been a dedicated husband and father and is beloved by his large family, with ten grandchildren and ten great-grandchildren. He currently lives in Roswell, Georgia.

It is an honor to celebrate Mr. McGrath on this incredible milestone, and I am proud to be his Representative. I wish him and his family many more happy years to come.

KOI ANNINO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Koi Annino for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Koi has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Koi, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Koi's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Koi Annino on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF CONSTANCE "CONNIE" MARRIOTT SELICO

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding businesswoman, former Civil Rights Movement Activist as a Freedom Rider, and Algiers Matriarch, located in my Congressional District and often referred to as a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mrs. Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico.

Constance "Connie" Marriott Selico went home to be with the Lord on Thursday, July 20, 2023, at the age of 90. At the time of her passing, she was the Chief Executive Officer of Murray Henderson Funeral Home and a retired educator of the Jefferson Parish School System. Connie, as she was fondly known, was born in Brooklyn, New York, to Lillie Winnfield and Charles Marriott. At six months, Connie was brought to New Orleans, Louisiana, by her mother and was reared by her Godmothers, Lillian Henderson Dunn and Erma Henderson Gibbs. In 1948 she was united in holy matrimony to Leo Selico of Gretna, Louisiana. To this union, five children were born: Leo, Jr., Lee Andre, Alex, Christopher, and Shelita. Leo and Connie enjoyed life to the fullest, honoring their wedding vows until he died in 1992.

Connie was baptized at an early age by her Godfather, the late Reverend G.B. Franklin, at the family church, First Free Mission of Al-

giers, where she was a member for many years. While there, she worked on numerous committees. In 1995, she moved her membership to Morning Star Missionary Baptist Church of Marrero under the leadership of Reverend Dr. Thomas J. Brown, Jr. During her tenure at Morning Star, and she worked as Chairman of the Pastor Anniversary Committee and a member of The Senior Stars. Her love of both churches and her faith provided her with a caring and fulfilled life. Connie attended McDonogh No. 32 Elementary School, L.B. Landry Jr./Sr. High School and was a proud graduate of Gilbert Academy. She furthered her education by attending Southern University in Baton Rouge, Louisiana, earning a Bachelor of Arts in Elementary Education. She later attended Southern University in New Orleans and earned certification in Special Education. Never one to sit back and take it easy, Constance was adequately known as a trailblazer and a doer, as was witnessed by her many activities and achievements.

While working on her certification, she actively participated in the Civil Rights Movement as a Freedom Rider, helping organize protest marches and voter registration drives. She was a part of the first group of Black teachers hired in the Jefferson Parish Public School System, where she taught for 33 years. Constance also holds the honor of being among the 100 Black and the oldest funeral director in New Orleans. From the age of 90 years until her demise, she served as Owner/Chief Executive Officer of the Murray Henderson Funeral Home. Connie spent all her adolescent years and most of her adult life at the family funeral home founded by her great Uncle Murray Henderson in 1909.

On August 29, 1978, after completing an apprenticeship under her Godmother Erma, she received her Funeral Directors license from the Louisiana State Board of Embalmers and Funeral Directors. Connie was a member of the Gilbert Academy Alumni Association, Crescent City Funeral Directors Association, National Funeral Directors and Morticians Association, 100 Black Women of Funeral Services, Jefferson Federation of Teachers, and Louisiana Teachers Retirement System. Connie was preceded in death by her husband, Leo Selico, Sr., two sons, Leo Selico, Jr., and Lee Andre Selico, Sr., her mother, Lillie Winnfield Thompson, her Godmothers Lillian H. Dunn and Erma H. Gibbs, a sister Faye Anderson, a son-in-law James Forges, Jr., a daughter-in-law, Carolyn Joseph Selico Dunn, and her grandmother Ernestine Henderson Winnfield.

Connie leaves to cherish her memories two sons Alex Selico Dunn, Sr. (Janet), Christopher Selico (Sharon)—a daughter Shelita Selico Forges, a foster son Harold Anderson, and a daughter-in-law Edwina Selico, 13 grandchildren Ryan, Leo III (Jill), Lee Andre, Jr., Christen, Fabian and Brandon Selico, Felician S. Robinson (Corey), Alexis Buffington (Jeremy), Alex Selico Dunn, Jr., (Kristen), Alexandra Selico Dunn, James III, Jonathan, and Constance Forges, a cousin/sister Valenca L. Williams, a sister-in-law Melanie Johnson.

She is also survived by 19 great-grandchildren, 18 great, great-grandchildren and a host of nieces, nephews, cousins, and other relatives and friends.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am

proud to say I was able to connect with her throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support she gave. I will forever carry her direction as I serve the Constituents of LA02. May she forever rest in peace.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF BILLY
SOLLIE

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the twenty-eight years of service to Lauderdale County, Mississippi, from Sheriff William D. 'Billy' Sollie. Born and raised in Meridian, Mississippi, Billy graduated from Meridian High School in 1973. After his graduation, he entered law enforcement in June of 1974. On March 28, 1975, Billy graduated from the Mississippi Law Enforcement Officers' Training Academy and started his duties serving in and around Meridian, Mississippi.

His service to the community was recognized in 1982 when he was promoted to Patrolman II in January of that year and then in June to Detective. His work extended to the schools in the community when he was assigned and trained as the first D.A.R.E. Officer in the City of Meridian.

Through the years, Billy was promoted to Lieutenant, Assistant Chief and Deputy Chief, and he retired in 1994 as the Chief of Police. Upon his retirement from the police force, Billy served as the Security Coordinator for Meridian Public School system. In 1995, Billy won the race for Sheriff of Lauderdale County.

After becoming Sheriff, Billy served as the Second Vice President, First Vice President, and President of the Mississippi Sheriffs' Association and is currently commissioned by Governor Tate Reeves as a member of the State Jail Standards and Training Board.

Billy has been a fixture of the Lauderdale County community serving in various capacities, on boards, and in volunteer roles throughout his time as Sheriff. I am proud to recognize Billy's career of service and dedication to the Meridian and Lauderdale County community, and I wish him the best in retirement.

STRONGLY CONDEMNING AND DENOUNCING THE DRASTIC RISE OF ANTISEMITISM IN THE UNITED STATES AND AROUND THE WORLD

SPEECH OF

HON. VAL T. HOYLE

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, December 4, 2023

Ms. HOYLE of Oregon. Mr. Speaker, I will vote Present on H. Res. 894, a resolution that aims to condemn antisemitism throughout the world. Several of my Jewish colleagues voted Present as well.

I strongly agree that Congress must condemn all forms of antisemitism. The House of Representatives has voted in favor of several resolutions condemning antisemitism since

Hamas's horrific October 7th attacks on Israel, multiple of which I've supported and cosponsored. However, this latest resolution, H. Res. 894, contains overly broad language that weaponizes the real scourge of antisemitism and uses Jewish people as pawns to play partisan political games. For this reason, I could not support the resolution.

For example, H. Res. 894 suggests that "anti-Zionism is antisemitism." While some forms of anti-Zionism are antisemitic, there are many members of the Jewish community that identify as anti-Zionist. Lumping together factions of the Jewish community as "antisemitic" is clearly problematic.

Some language in H. Res. 894 also appears to be a veiled attempt to police the free speech of Americans who have demonstrated in favor of human rights for Palestinians. Again, while some demonstrators have disturbingly engaged in antisemitic actions that should rightfully be condemned, H. Res. 894 is too broad.

H. Res. 894 also fails to condemn antisemitic acts from those on the far right, including white nationalists who have increasingly promoted antisemitic conspiracy theories and have threatened the lives and livelihoods of Jewish Americans.

Let me be clear: I unequivocally condemn all forms of antisemitism, and I am appalled by the significant rise in antisemitism we've seen in recent years and especially after Hamas's October 7th terrorist attacks on Israel. If the House Republican majority were serious about tackling antisemitism, they would support President Biden's National Strategy to Counter Antisemitism, would quit trying to defund the Office of Civil Rights for Title VI enforcement which protects Jewish students and would increase funding for the High-Risk Nonprofit Grant Program to secure Jewish institutions as a start.

That's why I've cosponsored H. Res. 907, introduced by Representatives NADLER, RASKIN, and GOLDMAN. H. Res. 907 thoughtfully and powerfully condemns the rise of antisemitism in the United States—including on college campuses—and calls on Congress to support the above substantive actions to tackle antisemitism, which congressional Republicans have so far refused to do. Had H. Res. 894 been written as carefully as H. Res. 907, I would vote in support.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF
CLAUDE AUNDRAY STEWARD, SR.

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a native of my Congressional District, often referred to as a mastermind of all things New Orleans, Mr. Claude Aundray Steward, Sr.

Claude Aundray Steward was born to Freddie Stewart and Elfreda Arnold Stewart on a beautiful Wednesday, February 12, 1941. He took pride in being a son of Uptown New Orleans and was able to receive his education in his hometown. Claude graduated from the historic Walter L. Cohen High School in 1959 and went on to earn a Bachelor of Science Degree in Business Administration from

Southern University. He then went on to serve in the United States Army until he was honorably discharged. Claude was a Life Member of the Zulu Social Aid and Pleasure club, which is known for its famous Mardi Gras parade, as well as for its members' commitment to giving back to the Greater New Orleans community and positively impacting the lives of those in need.

Mr. Stewart began his career in government at the United States Post Office, eventually transitioning into a variety of different positions in the field. In the evenings he would spend his time immersed in politics, and through God's favor, he became a political mastermind. Claude spent time working as an Accounting Analyst for the City of New Orleans's HUD Program at the New Orleans City Hall under the auspices of Mayor Moon Landrieu, Mayor Ernest "Dutch" Morial, Mayor Sidney Barthelemy, and Mayor Marc Morial. After his illustrious career at City Hall, Mr. Stewart took on the position of Administrator for the Small Business Incubator at Southern University at New Orleans, where he worked until Hurricane Katrina ravaged the region.

The period after Hurricane Katrina was a trying time, but Mr. Stewart remained optimistic, rebuilt his home, and was eventually able to return to his hometown which he loved so dearly: New Orleans, Louisiana. Claude continued working in government, as he accepted a senior position with the then Orleans Parish Clerk of Court, Kimberly Williamson Butler.

After so many years working for the government, no one would have expected Mr. Stewart to change careers. However, God said, "I have a wonderful new chapter for you." Claude retired from a nearly 50-year successful career in politics, and took on what was supposed to be a "temporary", six month position as Director at the New Orleans Council on Aging Lower 9th Ward Senior Center. He had been appointed by Senator Jon Johnson "just to get the program off its feet", however six months at the Lower 9th ward Senior Center quickly became eleven years. Under his guidance, the center won several awards, and was celebrated in the city of New Orleans as the best Senior Center, with record-breaking attendance. Change-makers from all across the state visited his center participants in order to present their legislative plans. Among these were his favorite visitors—his "adopted son," Senator Wesley Bishop, and his "adopted nephew," (then State Senator) Congressman TROY CARTER.

On Monday, June 26, 2023, Claude Aundray Steward, Sr. was surrounded by his family as he peacefully transitioned from this Earthly life. He left a host of treasured family to mourn: his wife of 57 years, Elaine Warrick Steward; his sons, Claude Jr. and Clinton Sr.; his two daughters-in-law, Ora and Kayron, his five beloved grandchildren, Clinton Jr., Ciara, Braelynn, Katherine and Chennai, as well as Coda, his soon-to-be-born sixth grandchild; his dearest cousins Darrel Ann Stewart, Gerbera Smith, and Rufus Arnold; and his dear godchildren, Tiffany Howard Finister, Winfred Warrick, and Shonna Smith.

Mr. Stewart was preceded in death by his parents, Freddie and Elfreda Stewart; his great-grandmother, Harriet Jones; his dear grandmothers, Victoria Variste and Clara Houston Arnold; his siblings, Freddie Stewart, Harold Stewart; and Caroline Stewart, and

his in-laws, Alberta Baxter, David and Ruby Brown, Arthur and Ida Farria, and Jerald and Martha Warrick.

Claude was a member of True Vine Missionary Baptist Church, where he was baptized in 1990 by Rev. Donald Jeanjacques, and where he held various leadership positions. Claude was also a recent recipient of various awards throughout his professional career, including Congressman TROY CARTER's Lifetime Achievement Award. Claude will be deeply missed by his co-workers, friends, and family. He has touched many lives, both near and far.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of a great gem. I credit much of my political successes to his guidance and support. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the constituents of LA02. May he forever rest in peace.

ALAYNA McCALL

HON. BRITTANY PETTERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETTERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Alayna McCall for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Alayna has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Alayna, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Alayna's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Alayna McCall on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING DOUG HOUSE FOR HIS INDUCTION INTO THE QUAD CITIES AFL-CIO HALL OF FAME

HON. ERIC SORENSEN

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Doug House of Rock Island, Illinois on his induction into the Quad Cities AFL-CIO Hall of Fame.

Doug has spent many years dedicated to a life of service. Whether that was showing support on the picket line to working people, joining the National Guard, or now as he's come out of retirement to be a member of my very own staff, Doug has shown what it means to be an exemplary member of our community. Doug spent time as a member of UAW Local 281, International Union of Operating Engineers Local 537 & 150, and he is a 35-year member of Laborers Local 309.

While dedicating his life to service, Doug has made it a priority to find balance with the things that matter most to him. Family always came first, but he found a way to balance his love of his work, political activism, and enjoying a home life filled with family and friends.

He has many interests including hot rods, collecting John F. Kennedy and other political memorabilia, hunting, and fishing. It is an honor to have him in as a member of my staff and community. Doug deserves all the accolades and honor from this induction into the AFL-CIO Hall of Fame.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to congratulate Doug House again formally on the honor of being inducted into the Quad Cities AFL-CIO Hall of Fame, and I join the rest of the community in thanking him for all he has done for the residents of the Illinois 17th District and beyond.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF MRS. MAUREEN ROSARY O'DONNELL SCHEUERMANN

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding New Orleans Matriarch, Mrs. Maureen Rosary O'Donnell Scheuermann. Born in New Orleans on October 7, 1933, to the late Francis and Eunice Ohlmeyer O'Donnell, Mrs. Maureen is often referred to as a mastermind of all things in New Orleans.

Maureen was a devout and faithful Catholic and lifelong parishioner of St. Francis of Assisi Roman Catholic Church, located in Uptown, New Orleans. At the time of her death, Maureen was the parish's longest-tenured parishioner. Mrs. Scheuermann passed away peacefully at Touro Infirmary on Friday, October 6, 2023, the eve of her 90th birthday. Born on the Feast of the Holy Rosary, she celebrated the Feast of St. Francis only two days before gracefully transitioning.

Maureen began her career as a secretary at Loyola University where she met the love of her life, "Rags" Scheuermann, the University's Baseball coach at the time. A charming prelude to their story unfolded as she gifted him a four-leaf clover before a baseball game. The pair later married on June 20, 1959. In 1974, Rags co-founded the Delgado Community College athletic department where Maureen became the Dolphins' first fan. In the following 50 years, she would serve as a devoted mother and grandmother to three generations of Dolphins, as well as a leader in Rags' New Orleans Boosters Summer Baseball League.

Maureen's dedication to the team resulted in decades of trips to the All-American Amateur Baseball Association (AAABA) National Tournament in Johnstown, Pennsylvania, where she was named an honorary citizen. Her baseball bonds created lifelong memories and cherished friendships. Maureen's constant supporting presence at Kirsch-Rooney Stadium earned her the nickname "the First Lady of New Orleans Baseball." Maureen and Rags used the game of baseball to bestow indispensable values upon three generations of Scheuermanns.

Maureen worked as an employee of the City of New Orleans for more than thirty years where she held several titles at City Hall until her retirement in 1991. Most notably, Mrs. Scheuermann served as secretary to four Mayors: Victor H. Schiro, Maurice "Moon" Landrieu, Ernest N. "Dutch" Morial, and Sidney J. Barthelemy.

Maureen was the loving mother of Maureen, Emma, Joe (Shelly), and Ed (Stephanie) and devoted grandmother of Tyler, Nataly, Parker, and Peyton. She is also survived by her brother, Francis O'Donnell, Jr., nieces Kathy Barbazon (Clem) and Karen Meyer (Gordon), and grandnephew Brett Barbazon. Maureen was preceded in death by her beloved husband of 38 years, Louis "Rags" Scheuermann, who passed away in 1997, as well as her loving mother, her sister, Claire O'Donnell, her brother John O'Donnell, and her grandniece, Katherine Hickham.

Maureen was eternally grateful to Velma Smith, Glenda Ingram, and Wendy Cordova for their dedicated caregiving over the past nine years, as well as the physicians and staff of Touro Infirmary.

Maureen will be remembered as a light to all who knew her throughout the many seasons of her. Her motherly "MawMaw" wisdom, faith, hope, and joy touched the lives of everyone who met her. Her Funeral Mass was celebrated by New Orleans Archbishop Gregory M. Aymond, retired Archbishop Alfred C. Hughes, and nine other priests, on Friday, October 13, 2023, at St. Francis of Assisi Catholic Church, in New Orleans.

On a personal note, Maureen was everyone's mother, grandmother, and best friend. When I arrived at New Orleans City Hall as a very young man, working for then, Dr. Alfred "Al" Stokes, Executive Assistant to then Mayor, Honorable Sidney J. Barthelemy, I found the most loving, caring, walking encyclopedia of everything New Orleans.

The Greater New Orleans Community has suffered the loss of an incredible gem. I am proud to say I was able to connect with her throughout my entire political career, respecting the guidance and support she gave. I am forever grateful for her friendship, love and guidance, and will forever carry her direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02. May she forever rest in peace.

PERSECUTION OF THE BAHÁ'Í OF IRAN

HON. CHRISTOPHER H. SMITH

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I rise to call attention to the government of Iran's long, ongoing, and brutal campaign of terror against the Bahá'í continues unabated.

Of course, the government of Iran is one of the most brutal, cruel, and repressive in the world, truly one of the "worst of the worst." The victims of its terrorism abroad include entire countries threatened by the wars, proxy wars, and terrorism it directs, including in most Middle Eastern countries.

Within Iran, the regime terrorizes its own citizens—here we will remember the savage persecution of Christians, and the women blinded by the Iranian Revolutionary Guard Corps in the protests that followed the death of Mahsa Amini. To some degree everyone living in Iran is a victim of this government. Yet we must also specifically remember the Bahá'í.

Mr. Speaker, the Bahá'í religion initially developed in Persia. Iran is home to about 300,000 Bahá'í—which makes it the largest

Bahá'í community in any country in the world. The Bahá'í International Community at the United Nations Office in Geneva published *The Bahá'í of Iran—A Persecuted Community*, which revealed that since the current regime took power in 1981, over 200 Bahá'ís have been executed, and more than 10,000 have been dismissed from government and university jobs on account of their religion.

In the last year, the persecution has intensified, resulting in grave human right violations. The number of arrests of Bahá'ís has only increased, and even included that of a 90-year-old man who had previously served 10 years in prison. The Bahá'í's center of faith is in the city of Haifa, Israel, which the Iranian government uses as a pretext to classify Bahá'ís as Israeli spies and execute them for committing the spurious crimes of conspiring with the "Zionist regime".

Although the Iranian government persecutes all who are not Shi'a Muslims, since Bahá'í are accused of heresy and group apostasy, they are singled out for particularly savage repression. The Iranian government has denied them access to universities and even in some cases, prohibited them from graduating high school, while also consistently denying Bahá'ís the opportunity to open and own businesses.

In 1982, the Iranian government seized the Bahá'ís cemeteries and holy places—and only over ten years later did it allocate them a 20,000-square-meter plot of land in which to bury their dead. As time has passed, that small parcel of land no longer suffices—and finding a place to bury loved ones has become a daunting task. Reportedly, government agents are stationed at the entrance of the cemetery to prevent visitation, and the government has taken control of the buildings used for burial ceremony activities.

In September 2023, the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom (USCIRF) reported that "Iranian authorities have arrested scores of Bahá'ís across Iran, taken them to locations that were initially undisclosed, and sentenced them to excessive jail terms as the government has attempted to restrict internal dissent in response to protests."

Mr. Speaker, it is sad to say that neither in respect of human rights of the Bahá'í or in any other respect has the government of Iran reformed or even improved its human rights record. But Congress has remained firm in their support of the Bahá'í. Since 1982 Congress has repeatedly passed resolutions expressing support for the religious freedom rights of the Bahá'ís in Iran.

The Iranian government must stop the arbitrary arrests of members of the Bahá'í community. We must continue to speak out and hold the government accountable for the destruction of life and property belonging to people of Bahá'í faith.

ALI ALCALA

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ali Alcala for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Ali has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Ali, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Ali's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Ali Alcala on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING CORTEZ POLICE
SERGEANT MICHAEL MORAN

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. BOEBERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life, sacrifice, and service of Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran, a true American hero who laid down his life in service to our great country and to his community. Sergeant Moran was fatally shot during a traffic stop on November 29, providing a tragic end to a life of great dedication and service.

Sergeant Moran answered the call to serve our nation as a Marine for nine years, including two tours in Iraq, before joining the Cortez Police Department in 2012. His life was marked with selflessness, courage, and love, always putting others before himself. He was a man of honor, and his presence was a source of hope and encouragement to all. His smile lit up even on the toughest days. He was known for his integrity and his mentorship of the officers who looked up to him, instilling in each of them the value of trust. Those close to him say they will remember him for his humor and dedication to serving his community. Sergeant Moran was a respected leader and a true friend, always ready to lend an ear or offer words of encouragement. While Sergeant Moran's passion was law enforcement, his top priority was always his family, and his passing tragically leaves behind two daughters and countless friends and family.

Mr. Speaker, Sergeant Moran was an incredible gift to this world and a shining example for all Americans. He touched countless lives and was a blessing to everyone who had the honor of knowing him. His career was marked with an unwavering willingness to put everything on the line in service to our nation and the safety of his community. I urge all Americans to join me in honoring Cortez Police Sergeant Michael Moran for his selfless sacrifice and service to his fellow Americans. Sergeant Moran dedicated his life to serving others. His passing is an immeasurable loss for us all, and he was the best that Colorado's Third Congressional District had to offer.

RECOGNIZING THE JACKSONVILLE
INTERNATIONAL AIRPORT MILITARY LOUNGE

HON. AARON BEAN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, when I'm traveling to and from my home in Florida, it al-

ways lifts my heart to see men and women in uniform at the airport. We have all seen those incredible videos . . . the moment when a deployed service member comes home to the loving embrace of a child or a spouse. Mr. Speaker, tell me you don't get choked up when you see one of those videos. Our Nation's armed forces are full of heroes who go where duty calls, and so, whether headed to deployment, or making their way home, you are know they are defending our great freedoms.

That's why today, I stand before you to recognize the new Jacksonville International Airport Military Lounge. This is a place where service men and women can feel at home, even when they are headed for a long road ahead.

This home away from home for active-duty military includes all the amenities of home, and a very special display of the flags of all branches of the military, and the POW/MIA flag, to remember those who may never come home again.

This Military Lounge is a reality due to the dedication of the North Jacksonville Rotary Club, the Veterans Council of Duval County, the NE Florida Green Beret Chapter 88 of the U.S. Army Special Forces Association. Several other veterans-civic-governmental organizations assisted in recruiting volunteers to staff the lounge.

Mr. Speaker, it is my privilege to honor the Jacksonville International Airport on the grand opening of their new Military Lounge and thank them for their ongoing efforts to help our veterans, active-duty military, and their families.

ANGEL NOEMI RODRIGUEZ

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angel Noemi Rodriguez for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angel Noemi Rodriguez on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING MAYOR FRANK
KUNTZ

HON. KIM SCHRIER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the public service and accomplishments of Mayor Frank Kuntz, who for the past 12 years has served as the Mayor of Wenatchee, Washington.

Upon entering office, Mayor Kuntz inherited an incredibly difficult situation, as the city faced dire financial challenges. Thankfully, Mayor Kuntz, an accountant by trade, put his professional expertise to good use and worked with Republicans, Democrats, and Independents to restore Wenatchee's financial standing. Moreover, Mayor Kuntz's effective, thoughtful leadership has allowed the city to expand and invest in several development projects that have helped the local infrastructure and economy.

It has been a true pleasure to work with Mayor Kuntz over the past 5 years. His North Star has always been how best to serve the people of Wenatchee. We have shared this goal and worked together in a bipartisan manner to finally make the Apple Capital Loop a reality. Mayor Kuntz and I have also worked together to address crime and the fentanyl epidemic, prevent catastrophic wildfires, and support agriculture, rural economies, and local healthcare. I will miss serving alongside Mayor Frank Kuntz but will continue to cherish our friendship. I wish him all the best in his future endeavors.

HONORING DR. DOCK J. AND
CARRIE THOMAS JORDAN

HON. VALERIE P. FOUSHEE

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mrs. FOUSHEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of two civil rights leaders and educators, Dr. Dock J. Jordan, and Carrie Thomas Jordan, who helped shape the education system in Durham and Alamance counties, leading the way for future generations in North Carolina.

Dr. Jordan, the son of a former slave, persevered in a deeply segregated environment in rural Georgia. Despite attending just three months of school yearly, Dr. Jordan graduated high school, and later from Allen University in 1892. During his time at Allen University, Dr. Jordan would go on to receive his law degree, eventually passing the bar in South Carolina in 1892 and in Georgia in 1904.

Following stints as the Professor of Literature at Morris Brown College, Dr. Jordan co-authored, "An Appeal for the Colored Schools in the State of Georgia" with W.E.B. Dubois in 1901 to appeal to the white Georgia legislators and defeat a bill that would close one-half to two-thirds of Black public schools in the state. This was an important step towards highlighting gaps in education, as only 15 percent of public-school property was owned by Black schools, despite 48 percent of the school population being represented by Black children.

In 1917, Dr. Jordan was placed on the United States watchlist when the Raleigh Independent published his letter criticizing President Woodrow Wilson's administration. The letter explained the brutal treatment of African Americans during the 1917 East St. Louis Riots and accused President Wilson of disregarding the feelings and rights of African Americans and not valuing them as humans. This letter would resonate deeply within the African-American community and placed a further spotlight on the mistreatment of Black Americans at the time.

Dr. Jordan's academic career would continue until 1939, serving as the President of Kittrell College in North Carolina from 1902 to 1912. From 1912 to 1920, he served as the director of the Teaching Training Department at North Carolina Agricultural and Technical College in Greensboro. And from 1918 to 1939 Dr. Jordan was a professor and the chair of the history department at State Normal School in Durham, now known as North Carolina Central University.

Dr. Jordan's wife, Carrie Thomas Jordan, was as equally dedicated towards advancing African-American education. Growing up in a family with deep ties to educators, Carrie Jordan uniquely emphasized spelling, geography, and nature study during her time as a school administrator. Mrs. Jordan served as the superintendent of colored public schools in Durham and is credited with the construction of twelve new schools, as well as hosting the first commencement exercises in Durham County for African American students.

Mrs. Jordan's new commencement tradition for Durham County's African-American schools became a key pillar for the local community. The county commencements were a time that the Black community could gather and celebrate their achievements, academic or otherwise. Carrie Jordan would later note that these academic achievements were proof to both the Black and White communities of the strength, potential, and resilience of the Black community.

The accomplishments, progress achieved, and contributions to African American students by Dr. Dock J. Jordan and Carrie Thomas Jordan should not go unnoticed. The Jordans were educational powerhouses, contributing immensely to the advancement of African American education in Durham County, Alamance County, and what is now North Carolina's 4th District, as a whole.

BELEN ANGUIANO

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Belen Anguiano for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Belen has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Belen, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Belen's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Belen Anguiano on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING THE OUTSTANDING
LEGISLATIVE CAREER OF
RANDAL L. GAINES

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate an outstanding gentleman and dear friend, Randal L. Gaines. He is a product of St. James Parish, a parish I serve in Congress. Gaines has distinguished himself as an attorney, public servant, and military leader. He formerly served as a tax attorney for the Internal Revenue Service, Assistant City Attorney for the City of New Orleans, and Associate Director of the Criminal Justice Department at Southern University Baton Rouge. He has played key leadership roles in some of the most significant military actions and crises in this nation's history. While serving as a captain with the 159th MASH, one of the first military units to enter Iraq during Operation Desert Storm, Gaines coordinated the evacuation of over 300 wounded American soldiers from the combat zone. Lt. Colonel Gaines was also awarded the Louisiana Cross of Merit for leadership and bravery in coordinating the rescue and evacuation efforts of over 30,000 evacuees from the Louisiana Superdome during Hurricane Katrina. In the aftermath of Hurricane Katrina, Gaines served as Military Advisor and Medical Support Coordinator for Task Force Orleans. Gaines also served on the Southern University Board of Supervisors. He serves as Vice Chairman for Elected Officials for the Louisiana Democratic Party.

In November 2012, Gaines was elected as Louisiana State Representative, District 57. During that term, Gaines was elected with the highest winning percentage of all the State Representative and Senate races in Louisiana. He recently served on a significant Black Entrepreneurship Panel member during the City of Birmingham's Empowerment Week, honoring the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 16th Street Baptist Church Bombing.

During the Southern Christian Leadership Conference (SCLC)'s celebration of the 50th Anniversary of the 1963 March on Washington, Gaines was awarded SCLC's National Chairman's Award for his leadership and dedicated service to the organization and for being a primary factor in why the organization continues to effectively advance the cause of civil rights and social justice. SCLC was founded and led by Dr. Martin Luther King, with membership that included Jessie Jackson, Ambassador Andrew Young, Dr. Ralph David Abernathy, Joseph Lowery, and many other notable civil rights leaders. He was recently appointed to the position of Vice Chairman of SCLC's National Board. Randal has three children who are his life, Randal Jr., Ariel, and Brienna Gaines.

Louisiana and the Democratic Party were blessed to have this incredible gem in Baton Rouge fighting to make our State a better place. I am proud to say I was able to work alongside him through many challenges throughout my political career in state government, respecting the guidance and support he continues to give. I will forever carry his direction as I serve the Constituents of LA-02.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF
DANIEL CROSS

HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Daniel Cross, a resident of Rankin County and a dedicated public servant of the State of Mississippi for over 30 years. Beginning as a volunteer firefighter while still in high school, Daniel has dedicated his entire life to the service and protection of others. His valuable leadership, academic, and personal skills obtained as a graduate of Northwest Rankin High School, the University of Memphis, and the National Fire Academy not only launched him into a career as a professional firefighter with the Reservoir Fire Department, but also propelled him in advancement within the fire service to senior fire instructor, instructor chief, and deputy director of the Mississippi Fire Academy.

Concurrent with Daniel's distinguished fire service career, he also trained and served as a reserve deputy for the Rankin County Sheriff's Department and was elected to the Rankin County Board of Supervisors, ably serving Rankin County for 8 years. Some examples of Daniel's contributions to the fine service include his long tenure on the Mississippi Minimum Fire Standards and Certification Board, his leadership on the Mississippi state response team during Hurricane Katrina, his design and development of the curriculum for the Mississippi Executive Fire Officer Program, and his role as chief architect of the Mississippi Fire Academy Emergency Medical Technician Training Program.

Daniel is a member of Pinelake Baptist Church and devotes all his spare time to little league coaching and to his beloved wife, Julie, and their two sons, Layne and Clayton. I thank God for public servants like Daniel Cross and am honored to recognize him upon his retirement after thirty years of unselfish and immensely meaningful public service to others. I wish him much success in his future endeavors.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 692; YEA on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; YEA on Roll Call No. 696; and YEA on Roll Call No. 697.

ERICA REED

HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Erica Reed for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Erica has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Erica, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Erica's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Erica Reed on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CELEBRATING FIRST RESPONDERS
IN GWINNETT COUNTY, GEORGIA

HON. RICHARD MCCORMICK

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. MCCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my gratitude to the Red, Blue and You initiative that celebrates and honors the first responders of Gwinnett County, Georgia. The community event, organized by local business owners, held its 8th annual celebration on November 16, 2023. The brave men and women first responders honored at the event are the first line of defense for people in distress, and often do not receive the recognition and support they deserve. I want to thank these dedicated public safety heroes for serving their communities every single day. Their work makes a difference and impacts all those in our community. God bless each and every one of them. Semper Fidelis.

HONORING FRANK THORNTON ON
HIS RETIREMENT

HON. JENNIFER L. McCLELLAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. McCLELLAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize my constituent Frank J. Thornton for his 28 years of service on the Henrico County Board of Supervisors representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. Frank is a history maker, becoming the first African American elected to the Henrico Board of Supervisors in 1995 representing the Fairfield Magisterial District. He was elected as the Board's chairman for the sixth time in January 2023 and will complete his tenure with his retirement at the end of this year.

A native of Richmond, Mr. Thornton co-founded and served as president of the Henrico Civic League. His academic accomplishments include a bachelor's degree from Virginia Union University and a master's degree from American University. Mr. Thornton retired in 2014 after a distinguished 40-year career as a professor of French at Virginia Union, where he earned accolades such as the Teacher of the Year award. Mr. Thornton left an indelible mark on his students, community members, and our Commonwealth.

In 1987, Mr. Thornton initially sought election to represent the Fairfield District, and though unsuccessful, he played a pivotal role in a successful federal lawsuit alongside the Henrico Civic League and the American Civil

Liberties Union. This lawsuit challenged and overturned Henrico's magisterial district lines, with the court ruling against county officials who had ensured that Black residents were the minority in every district.

As Henrico County Supervisor, Mr. Thornton demonstrated unwavering commitment to the residents of the Fairfield District. Under his leadership, initiatives were implemented to expand the Greater Richmond Transportation Company (GRTC) bus service to Short Pump, construct several libraries and recreation centers in the county, and expand access to public health services.

Beyond his local responsibilities, Mr. Thornton extended his public service to various organizations, including the Richmond Regional Transportation Planning Organization, the Capital Region Collaborative Organizing Council, and the Maymont Foundation Board of Directors, among others.

Virginia's Fourth Congressional District has been privileged to benefit from the passionate and devoted advocacy of Mr. Thornton for civil rights and social change. Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. Thornton for his outstanding leadership and extend my best wishes for a fulfilling retirement from the Henrico County Board of Supervisors. His legacy, marked by tireless dedication, will undoubtedly endure.

HONORING THE LATE CLAUDE
MORSE OF COFFEE COUNTY,
TENNESSEE

HON. SCOTT DesJARLAIS

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SCOTT DesJARLAIS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Claude Morse, who sadly passed away November 12, 2023. Tennessee has long been known as The Volunteer State for a reason, and no one I have met personified the spirit of that motto more than Claude Morse.

Claude was a selfless example of volunteerism, and not the kind of symbolic of volunteerism that simply amounts to adding his name to a group. When a need and a project arose, Claude was never just a worker; he was a planner, an organizer, a manager, and a participant.

Morse was actively involved with several nonprofit organizations throughout Coffee County. Honor Flight, Project Appleseed and the Arnold Community Council are just a few of the organizations to which Morse devoted his time and efforts.

As President of Honor Flight Middle Tennessee, Claude worked tirelessly to take eligible World War II, Korean War and Vietnam veterans on a free trip to see war memorials in Washington, DC. It remains my great honor to personally welcome as many of these heroes as I can when they come, and it was always a special treat to get to spend time with Claude as well.

Over the past several years, Claude has sponsored hundreds of hero veterans and hundreds of hours of work to see it accomplished. Yet to him, it was simply time well spent to recognize those who deserved it.

In addition, Claude also was a long-time member and President of the Arnold Community Council, a group that promotes, protects,

and preserves the Arnold Engineering Development Complex (AEDC) in Tullahoma, Tennessee and to facilitate interaction and cooperation between the complex and surrounding communities. Claude and many of his colleagues would spend time every year visiting the Tennessee Congressional delegation, other key members of Congress, members of the Tennessee General Assembly, and officials with the Department of Defense to advocate for and advance the mission of the facility. His group would also sponsor awards for AEDC personnel, the annual AEDC veteran's picnic, the ACC job fair, the Honor Flights and the AEDC children's Christmas party.

Claude was also a committee member for Wreaths Across America, an organization that places wreaths on fallen veterans' graves during Christmas.

He was also a natural candidate for public service and was selected as a Commissioner for the Coffee County Government. He was a recipient of the Governor's Volunteer Star Award for all his efforts and selected as an AEDC lifetime achievement fellow.

I am proud to represent a community that has the utmost respect for all the men and women who have served our country with valor and honor as members of our armed forces. Claude never took a day off in making sure that we always prioritized that commitment to all of those who have served, are serving, and will serve. I will miss Claude and his hard work, and most importantly, his friendship and support. I ask all Members of Congress to join me in paying respect to Claude Morris for a lifetime of service to country and community, and I ask this institution to join me in sending the deepest sympathies to all his family and friends.

CELEBRATING THE 50TH WEDDING
ANNIVERSARY OF JIMMY AND
HAVA McCLINTOCK

HON. PAT FALLON

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FALLON. Mr Speaker, I rise today to celebrate 50 years of marriage between Jimmy and Hava McClintock of Heath, Texas. They have made significant contributions to our community and are longtime advocates for the U.S.-Israel alliance.

Jimmy is a native Texan, while Hava was born in a small town outside of Tel Aviv. They first met each other in Israel, where they married in 1973. For seven years, they lived in Israel. In 1983, Jimmy and Hava moved to Rockwall, Texas, before settling in Heath.

During their many years together, Jimmy and Hava have made it their life's mission to advocate for our shared Judeo-Christian values. Since 1976, they have organized private and congregational tours to Israel. These tours have strengthened the friendship between communities and highlighted Israel's important struggle for peace and security.

Furthermore, Jimmy and Hava are board members of their local chapter of the Friends of the Israeli Defense Forces (IDF), where they provide material support to the IDF and support Israel's right to defend itself. They also serve on the boards of God's Grace International and Netivyah, where they coordinate

humanitarian assistance for Holocaust survivors in Israel and those in need. I commend Jimmy and Hava for working diligently to aid those facing difficult circumstances so that they will not be overlooked.

I have requested the United States flag to be flown over our Nation's Capitol in recognition of Jimmy and Hava McClintock's impressive milestone. It is truly wonderful to commemorate their five decades of happiness and joy, and here's to many more. May God Bless them.

HONORING ANN DUBAY

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUFFMAN. Mr Speaker, I rise today along with my colleague, Congressman MIKE THOMPSON, to recognize the enduring work of Ann DuBay on the occasion of her retirement from Sonoma Water.

Ann began her long-standing career in public service in 1981 as a seasonal firefighter at the California Department of Forestry. She then pursued the California State Fellowship Program and subsequently assumed the role of policy consultant at the California State Senate's Office of Research. Returning to her roots in Sonoma County, Ann became the Vice-President and Government Affairs Coordinator at the Santa Rosa Chamber of Commerce, before transitioning to a distinguished career in journalism as an editorial writer and columnist for nearly a decade at the Press Democrat.

Ann was hired by Sonoma Water in 2008 as Public Information Officer, and she became the Community and Government Affairs Manager there in 2018. In these roles Ann demonstrated an exemplary commitment to the community and sustainability at Sonoma Water. Ann's good deeds extend to the greater region through her work as the administrator for the Sonoma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, and Petaluma Valley Groundwater Sustainability Agency, while also spearheading outreach and communication for all Sonoma County Groundwater Sustainability Agencies.

In addition to her professional commitments, Ann has played a pivotal role in several community organizations. She served as Board member for the Ceres Community Project. And she is currently on the board of directors for the Congregation Shomrei Torah in Santa Rosa, where she was president from 2020 to 2022. In addition, she volunteers with Riebli-North Firewise Community as well as the California Groundwater Coalition where she helps guide water suppliers throughout the state meet the water supply needs of California residents.

Notably, Ann is more than a public servant; she is a mentor and inspiration to many. When she and her sister simultaneously faced breast cancer, Ann exhibited exemplary strength and determination. Ann is also known for her love of reading, biking with her husband Jeremy Olsan, and spending time with her son Jake.

Mr. Speaker, it's clear that Ann DuBay has been an extraordinary public servant making meaningful contributions to the community

through both her professional and volunteer work. Therefore, it is fitting that we honor her legacy of accomplishments which will benefit Sonoma County and the region for years to come.

RECOGNIZING THE ACHIEVEMENTS
OF MS. LANAE CARRINGTON

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an outstanding constituent from my district, Lanae Angel Lynn Carrington. Ms. Carrington is guided by a sense to better her community and has always demonstrated her ability to overcome complex challenges and situations.

Lanae was born in Baltimore, Maryland and moved to Pennsylvania with her mother and siblings in 2013. An AAU Student Athlete of the Year, Lanae was also named Suburban One Female Athlete of the Week and SOL Student Athlete of the Week. Lanae has consistently made All Team for Track and Field each year of her high school career while simultaneously maintaining a 4.0 GPA.

Lanae will be continuing with Track and Field at the collegiate level and has been fortunate enough to be awarded with the opportunity to attend Lehigh University where she will be competing at the Division One level.

We are all incredibly proud for the positive impact Lanae has on our community and wish her the best of luck in her bright future ahead.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY
LIFE OF SERVICE OF KATHLEEN
M. WILBUR

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr Speaker, today I pay tribute to a remarkable woman who dedicated her professional career to making the state of Michigan, its government, its institutions, and its character stronger and better. Kathy Wilbur was a fierce advocate and a devoted public servant in both government and higher education, and brought her two passions together in the role she held for the past five years at her alma mater, Michigan State University. I was fortunate enough to call her my friend, and as her sudden passing leaves a deep hole of grief for so many, it is fitting that we pause to reflect on all she gave to our state.

Kathy began her career in the Michigan Legislature, where she served as chief of staff to former Senator Bill Sederburg. From the start, she was known for her prowess in communications and policy issues, and she went on to serve in the administration of former Michigan Governor John Engler, heading up three different departments during her tenure—the only woman in Michigan history to do so. In the early 2000s, she began the next chapter of her career with our state's public universities, first at Central Michigan University where she served as interim president, vice president of advancement and external relations, and vice president for government relations.

But of the many titles Kathy held over her decades-long career, one the closest to her heart was Spartan. Kathy was a super-alumna, holding not one, not two, but three degrees from MSU: a bachelor's degree in Journalism, a master's degree in higher education administration, and a Ph.D in the same, and even served one term on the university's Board of Trustees. In 2018, she joined Michigan State University's staff, where she served as senior vice president for government relations. Under her tenure, the university secured funding and support for landmark projects, including the Engineering and Digital Innovation Center, the MSU greenhouses, and the MSU Apple Academy. Her steady hand helped guide the university through good times and bad, driven by an unshakable faith in the power of higher education, clothed in green and white.

Over the years, Kathy was a mentor to so many, and I personally benefited from her knowledge and her wisdom. Her door was always open, her invitation to coffee sincere, her cup of kindness bottomless. She graciously shared her experience with all, and was truly invested in seeing others succeed. From Kathy, I learned what it means to advocate, and the power of active listening. Her life was a testament to the power of getting things done, and the role one person can play to make positive change. I send my deepest condolences to all who knew and loved Kathy, particularly her husband, Tom, their four sons, Tom, Will, Sam, and Ray; her granddaughter, Mary; and the entire Michigan State University family. Kathy Wilbur's accomplishments, her passion, and her compassion will live on in our hearts and on the banks of the Red Cedar in East Lansing.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF BESSIE RODRIGUEZ

HON. MARC A. VEASEY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to honor the life and legacy of Bessie Rodriguez of Dallas. Bessie was a loving mother who used a tragic experience to effect meaningful change in the name of Justice here in North Texas.

On July 24, 1973, Bessie's life changed forever, when her 12-year-old son, Santos, was fatally shot by Dallas law enforcement. Santos meant everything to Bessie. However, she turned tragedy into action. She used the death of her son to start a movement to boost accountability and transparency in the police and community relations here that is still being felt in North Texas today. Just this year, Dallas commemorated the 50th anniversary of Santos' murder by holding multiple events to push for justice. The commemoration of this solemn anniversary would not have been possible without Bessie's work.

I once again rise today to commemorate Bessie's legacy. I am praying for her extended family during this time.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY
OF LT. HOPE KIRKENDALL

HON. SCOTT FRANKLIN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to mourn the loss and honor the legacy of a World War II heroine from Lakeland, FL, Lt. Hope Kirkendall. She passed away at the age of 103, carrying her spiritedness, heart of service and witty sense of humor until her final days.

During World War II, Lt. Kirkendall was a nurse in the U.S. Army and was one of the first women to land in Normandy shortly after the Allied Forces' D-Day invasion. She arrived one month after the initial invasion and achieved the rank of first lieutenant, working around the clock with her surgical team to care for soldiers who made the ultimate sacrifices in the Battle for Brest and the Battle of the Bulge.

Decades after her service, Lt. Kirkendall recounted getting involved in military life because she was young and wanted to see everything. She certainly achieved that goal. Among her adventures, Kirkendall traveled in an ambulance convoy, using a gas can for a seat. She moved with field hospitals, taking in the wounded near the front lines. And amongst the chaos and the tragedy, she said she found a home.

In 2017, Lt. Kirkendall received the French Knight in the Legion of Honor award for her expertise and bravery during bombings and in the line of fire. Lt. Kirkendall went on to raise five children after the war and continued her duties off the battlefield caring for patients who needed psychiatric assessments. She is survived by two siblings, five children, nine grandchildren and four great-grandchildren.

Sadly, we are losing more of the greatest generation each day. May Hope rest in peace. She is truly an American hero.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ZOE LOFGREN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Ms. LOFGREN. Mr. Speaker, on Tuesday, December 5, 2023, I missed votes due to testing positive for COVID-19. Had I been present, I would have voted on NAY on Roll Call No. 692; NAY on Roll Call No. 693; YEA on Roll Call No. 694; YEA on Roll Call No. 695; and PRES on Roll Call No. 697.

RECOGNIZING WILLIAM "BILLY"
COOKE

HON. ROBERT J. WITTMAN

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. WITTMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of William "Billy" Cooke, who passed away peacefully in his home in Tappahannock, Virginia on November 26, 2023.

Billy was born in Tappahannock, and attended Tappahannock High School, where he played centerfield on the baseball team. He served two years in the U.S. Army before returning to baseball at Randolph-Macon College. He earned a bachelor's degree in economics in 1959 before returning to Essex County, where he became a prominent member of his community. Throughout more than 30 years, he served as a deacon, clerk, and Adult Sunday School teacher at Howard's Baptist Church, helped found the Tappahannock Little League, and served four terms on the Essex County Board of Supervisors, among countless other achievements.

Billy was a kind and easygoing man who enjoyed watching PGA tournaments and Atlanta Braves games with his family. He was often found in his office at the Essex Concrete Main Office, where he worked, or at the Hobbs Hole Golf Course. He never missed an opportunity to catch up with family and friends, or to dance with his wife whenever they found an open floor with music.

Billy is preceded in death by his brother, Frank and dear friends Willie Cleaton, Alec Dillard, and James Moore. He is survived by his loving wife of 66 years, Betty Cooke; his brother, Gene Cooke; his sons, William Cooke and Stephen Cooke; several nieces and nephews, and his devoted caregivers from Riverside Hospice.

Mr. Speaker, I ask that you rise with me in honoring the life of Billy Cooke and his service to the people of Essex County.

HONORING CW5 SCOTT GRONOWSKI
FOR HIS DEDICATED SERVICE IN
DEFENSE OF THE UNITED
STATES OF AMERICA

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 6, 2023

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Chief Warrant Officer (CW5) Scott Gronowski on his retirement and to honor him for his many years of dedicated service in the defense of our Nation.

Scott enlisted in the Army as an infantryman in 1989 and undertook one of the most remarkable and decorated military careers I have seen. While serving as an infantryman, Scott attended Airborne School and Ranger School at Fort Benning, Georgia. He eventually went on to serve in the 2nd Battalion of the prestigious 75th Ranger Regiment. In 1997, he completed the Special Forces Qualification Course, earning him the coveted Green Beret. Scott went on to become a Warrant Officer in 2002 and served in numerous leadership and educational roles within the Army. His remarkable career culminated with his appointment as the Command Chief Warrant Officer for 1st Special Forces Command, where he served from April 2021 until June of 2023.

Throughout his career, Scott deployed on numerous occasions in support of U.S. operations in Bosnia-Herzegovina, Kuwait, Iraq, and Afghanistan. As a result of his bravery, Scott received many medals and distinctions including the Bronze Star, Purple Heart, Air Assault Badge, Special Forces Tab, Ranger Tab, among many others.

All of these accomplishments merely scratch the surface of Scott's illustrious military career. CW5 Scott Gronowski's dedication to the U.S. Army and the United States is both commendable and inspiring. I know I speak for the whole of our community when I wish Scott the very best as he begins this next chapter of his life. I thank Scott for his courage and sacrifice.

Mr Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Scott Gronowski on his retirement and thanking him for his decades of dedicated service to our military and Nation.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 7, 2023 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

- 10 a.m.
 - Committee on Appropriations
 - Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies
 - To hold hearings to examine communities in crisis, focusing on what happens when disaster recovery funds are delayed. SD-192
 - Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions
 - Business meeting to consider S. 1840, to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2024 through 2028, S. 3392, to reauthorize the Education Sciences Reform Act of 2002, the Educational Technical Assistance Act of 2002, and the National Assessment of Educational Progress Authorization Act, S. 3393, to reauthorize the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act, S. 644, to expand the take-home prescribing of methadone through pharmacies, and other pending calendar business. SD-430
 - Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs
 - Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations
 - To hold hearings to examine Coast Guard Academy whistleblowers, focusing on stories of sexual assault and harassment. SD-562
 - Committee on the Judiciary
 - To hold hearings to examine cleaning up the C-Suite, focusing on ensuring accountability for corporate criminals. SH-216
 - 2:30 p.m.
 - Committee on Energy and Natural Resources
 - Subcommittee on Public Lands, Forests, and Mining
 - To hold hearings to examine S. 1281, to amend the Omnibus Budget Reconcili-

ation Act of 1993 to provide for security of tenure for use of mining claims for ancillary activities, and S. 1742, to modify the requirements applicable to locatable minerals on public domain land. SD-366

- Committee on Foreign Relations
 - To receive a closed briefing on Iran and its proxy threat to U.S. policy and personnel post-October 7. SVC-217
- Select Committee on Intelligence
 - To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 3 p.m.
 - Committee on Rules and Administration
 - To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Government Publishing Office. SR-301

DECEMBER 13

- 10 a.m.
 - Committee on the Judiciary
 - To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.
 - Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
 - Subcommittee on Space and Science
 - To hold hearings to examine government promotion of safety and innovation in the new space economy. SR-253
 - Select Committee on Intelligence
 - To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters. SH-219
- 3 p.m.
 - Committee on the Judiciary
 - Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights
 - To hold hearings to examine the impact of algorithms on competition and consumer rights. SD-226

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5767–S5830

Measures Introduced: Eighteen bills and five resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3412–3429, S.J. Res. 52, and S. Res. 487–490. **Page S5807**

Measures Passed:

1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103: Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. 3250, to provide remote access to court proceedings for victims of the 1988 Bombing of Pan Am Flight 103 over Lockerbie, Scotland, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S5803**

Schatz (for Cornyn) Amendment No. 1372, relating to remote video and telephone access. **Page S5803**

United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement: Committee on Finance was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 445, recognizing the importance of the economic relationship between the United States and Israel and affirming that trade facilitated by the United States-Israel Free Trade Agreement is a tool to support the economy of Israel during the conflict with Hamas, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S5803**

American Battle Monuments Commission Centennial: Senate agreed to S. Res. 487, commemorating the centennial of the American Battle Monuments Commission. **Page S5803**

Jobs for America's Graduates: Senate agreed to S. Res. 488, recognizing Jobs for America's Graduates for helping young people of truly great promise in the United States succeed in school, on the job, and in postsecondary education, leading to generations of productive and rewarding careers. **Page S5803**

National Wreaths Across America Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 489, designating December 16, 2023, as "National Wreaths Across America Day". **Page S5803**

Naval Air Station Pensacola Terrorist Attack: Senate agreed to S. Res. 490, remembering the December 6, 2019, terrorist attack at Naval Air Station Pensacola and commemorating those who lost their

lives, and those who were injured, in the line of duty. **Page S5803**

Measures Considered:

RELIEVE Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements relating to the eligibility of veterans to receive reimbursement for emergency treatment furnished through the Veterans Community Care program. **Pages S5767–69, S5793–94**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 49 yeas to 51 nays (Vote No. EX. 332), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, not having voted in the affirmative, Senate rejected the motion to close further debate on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Pages S5793–94**

Senator Schumer entered a motion to reconsider the vote by which cloture was not invoked on the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill. **Page S5794**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, December 7, 2023; that if Senator Paul makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 51, directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in Syria that have not been authorized by Congress, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.; and that the motion to invoke cloture filed during the session of Tuesday, December 5, 2023 ripen at 1:45 p.m. **Page S5830**

Appointments:

Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: The Chair, pursuant to the provisions of Public Law 116–156, on behalf of the Majority Leader, reappointed the following individual to serve as a Member of the Commission on the Social Status of Black Men and Boys: Rev. Alfred C. Sharpton of New York. **Pages S5803–04**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 331), Nathalie Rayes, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Croatia. **Pages S5769–93**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. EX. 330), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Page S5781**

Kathleen Cunningham Matthews, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027.

Jeffrey Gedmin, of the District of Columbia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025.

Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be Chair of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board.

Kenneth M. Jarin, of Pennsylvania, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027.

Luis Manuel Botello, of Maryland, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2025.

Michelle Mai Selesky Giuda, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027.

Dante Quintin Allen, of California, to be Commissioner of the Rehabilitation Services Administration, Department of Education.

Jamie Fly, of Virginia, to be a Member of the International Broadcasting Advisory Board for a term expiring January 1, 2027. (Prior to this action, Committee on Foreign Relations was discharged from further consideration.) **Pages S5802–03**

Messages from the House: **Page S5805**

Measures Referred: **Page S5805**

Executive Communications: **Page S5806**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S5806–07**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5807–08**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5809–12**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5804–05**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S5812–30**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5830**

Record Votes: Three record votes were taken today. (Total—332) **Pages S5781, S5793–94**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:07 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, December 7, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5830.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, and Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

DOD RECRUITING EFFORTS

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Personnel concluded a hearing to examine the status of Department of Defense recruiting efforts and plans for fiscal year 2024, after receiving testimony from Major General Johnny Davis, USA, Commanding General, Army Recruiting Command, Rear Admiral (Lower Half) Alexis T. Walker, USN, Commander, Navy Recruiting Command, Major General William J. Bowers, USMC, Commanding General, Marine Corps Recruiting Command, and Brigadier General Christopher R. Amrhein, USAF, Commander, Air Force Recruiting Service, all of the Department of Defense.

WALL STREET FIRMS OVERSIGHT

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine Wall Street firms, including S. 2860, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to State-sanctioned marijuana businesses and service providers for such businesses, and S. 2190, to amend the Federal Deposit Insurance Act to increase bank executive accountability and to improve financial stability, after receiving testimony from Charles W. Scharf, Wells Fargo and Company, San Francisco, California; Brian Moynihan, Bank of America, Charlotte, North Carolina; Jamie Dimon, JPMorgan Chase and Co., Jane Fraser, Citi, Robin Vince, The Bank of New York Mellon Corporation, David M. Solomon, Goldman Sachs, and James P. Gorman, Morgan Stanley, all of New York, New York; and Ronald P. O'Hanley, State Street Corporation, Boston, Massachusetts.

IJA INVESTMENTS

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act investments in habitat and

ecosystem restoration, pollinators, and wildlife crossings, after receiving testimony from Martha Williams, Director, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; and Brian Fouch, Associate Administrator, Office of Federal Lands Highway, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation.

TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee concluded a hearing to examine transnational repression, focusing on authoritarians targeting dissenters abroad, after receiving testimony from Christo Grozev, Bellingcat Productions, New York, New York; Michael J. Abramowitz, Freedom House, Washington, D.C.; and Caoilfhionn Gallagher, Doughty Street Chambers, London, England.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special

Counsel, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

FENTANYL IN NATIVE COMMUNITIES

Committee on Indian Affairs: Committee concluded an oversight hearing to examine fentanyl in Native communities, focusing on Federal perspectives on the growing crisis, after receiving testimony from Adam W. Cohen, Deputy Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; Roselyn Tso, Director, Indian Health Service, Department of Health and Human Services; Vanessa R. Waldref, United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington, Department of Justice; and R. Glen Melville, Deputy Bureau Director, Office of Justice Services, Bureau of Indian Affairs, Department of the Interior.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 43 public bills, H.R. 6610–6652; and 4 resolutions, H. Res. 913–916, were introduced. **Pages H6206–08**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H6210–11**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows: H.R. 2839, to amend the Siletz Reservation Act to address the hunting, fishing, trapping, and animal gathering rights of the Confederated Tribes of Siletz Indians, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–300); and

Conference report on H.R. 2670, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2024 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 118–301). **Page H6206**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Franklin to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H6147**

Recess: The House recessed at 10:59 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H6155**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:10 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H6184**

Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Trans-actions Act: The House passed H.R. 5933, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to require additional information in disclosures of foreign gifts and contracts from foreign sources, restrict contracts with certain foreign entities and foreign countries of concern, require certain staff and faculty to report foreign gifts and contracts, and require disclosure of certain foreign investments within endowments, by a year-and-a-day of 246 days to 170 days, Roll No. 701. **Pages H6166–84, H6184–87**

Pursuant to the Rule, the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Education and the Workforce now printed in the bill shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole. **Pages H6171–75**

Agreed to:

Foxx amendment (No. 1 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that makes technical edits to fix citations and adjust punctuation; clarifies language on gifts, enforcement, and the mandated GAO study; **Page H6175**

Carey amendment (No. 2 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that revises the public, searchable

database under Sec. 117b (2) to remove the personally identifiable information of staff or faculty required to disclose gifts and contracts in the bill;

Pages H6175–76

Fallon amendment (No. 3 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that prohibits institutions that commit three violations under this Act from obtaining a waiver or a renewal of a waiver;

Page H6176

Fallon amendment (No. 4 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that strikes 4 years on page 6, line 17 and replaces it with 5 years; strikes 4 years on page 26, line 14, and replaces it with 5 years;

Pages H6176–77

Perry amendment (No. 7 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that adds international organizations to the definition of foreign sources for the purposes of Section 117, Disclosures of Foreign Gifts;

Pages H6179–81

Molinaro amendment (No. 5 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that includes a requirement that foreign entities disclose any ties to designated foreign terrorist organizations, which includes Hamas (by a recorded vote of 372 ayes to 39 noes, Roll No. 698);

Pages H6177–78, H6184–85

Rejected:

Ogles amendment (No. 6 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that sought to reduce the threshold value at which gifts must be reported from \$50,000 to \$1 (by a recorded vote of 94 ayes to 320 noes, Roll No. 699); and

Pages H6178–79, H6185–86

Scott (VA) amendment (No. 8 printed in part B of H. Rept. 118–298) that sought to strike and replace bill language with a Democratic Amendment in the Nature of a Substitute (by a recorded vote of 202 ayes to 213 noes, Roll No. 700).

Pages H6181–84, H6186–87

H. Res. 906, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4468) and (H.R. 5933) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) was agreed to yesterday, December 5th.

Choice in Automobile Retail Sales Act of 2023: The House passed H.R. 4468, to prohibit the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency from finalizing, implementing, or enforcing a proposed rule with respect to emissions from vehicles, by a yea-and-nay vote of 221 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 703.

Pages H6157–66, 6187–89

Rejected the Stevens motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Energy and Commerce by a yea-and-nay vote of 201 yeas to 214 nays, Roll No. 702.

Pages H6187–88

Agreed to:

Johnson (OH) amendment (No. 1 printed in part A of H. Rept. 118–298) that clarifies the time-frame in which the bill's requirements apply.

Pages H6165–66

H. Res. 906, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 4468) and (H.R. 5933) and the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 88) was agreed to yesterday, December 5th.

Censuring Representative Jamaal Bowman: The House considered H. Res. 914, censuring Representative Jamaal Bowman. Earlier, the House rejected the Clark (MA) motion to table the resolution by a yea-and-nay vote of 201 yeas to 216 nays with one answering "present", Roll No. 704. **Pages H6189–97**

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Gooden wherein he resigned from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

Page H6197

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Edwards wherein he resigned from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

Page H6197

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Edwards wherein he resigned from the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure and the Committee on the Budget.

Page H6197

Committee Resignation: Read a letter from Representative Armstrong wherein she resigned from the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

Page H6197

Committee Elections: The House agreed to H. Res. 913, electing Members to a certain standing committees of the House of Representatives. **Page H6198**

Clerk to Correct: Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5933, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

Page H6198

Meeting Hour: Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, December 7th.

Page H6198

Investigative Subcommittee established by the Committee on Ethics—Appointment: Read a letter from Representative Jeffries, Minority Leader, in which he appointed the following Members to the Investigative Subcommittee established by the Committee on Ethics: Representatives Barragán, Carter (LA), Case, Dean (PA), Foster, Houlihan, Pressley and Stanton.

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Recess: The House recessed at 8:23 p.m. and reconvened at 9:54 p.m.

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Quorum Calls—Votes: Four yea-and-nay votes and three recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6185,

H6185–86, H6186, H6187, H6188, H6188–89, and H6189–90.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Chairman Westerman, Chairman Williams of Texas, and Representatives Newhouse, Fischbach, González-Colón, Moylan, Smucker, Allen, Casten, Fitzpatrick, Beyer, Ciscomani, Hinson, Escobar, McClellan, Kilmer, Blumenauer, Rosendale, and Spartz.

BACK TO THE FUTURE

Committee on Armed Services: Subcommittee on Cyber, Information Technologies, and Innovation held a hearing entitled “Back to the Future”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on the Budget: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Gimenez, Rouzer, Schweikert, Timmons, Cammack, Nunn of Iowa, Mast, Spartz, Kelly of Pennsylvania, Rosendale, and Good of Virginia.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 5677, the “5G Spectrum Authority Licensing Enforcement Act”; H.R. 5718, the “Nuclear Fuel Security Act of 2023”; H.R. 4167, the “Protecting America’s Distribution Transformer Supply Chain Act”; H.R. 6185, the “Guaranteeing Reliable Infrastructure Development Act”; H.R. 6421, the “Affordable HOMES Act”; H.R. 5390, the “Critical Infrastructure Manufacturing Feasibility Act”; H.R. 5398, the “Advancing Tech Startups Act”; H.R. 6543, the “No Hidden Fees on Extra Expenses for Stays Act”; H.R. 6132, the “Awning Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 4310, the “Youth Poisoning Protection Act”; H.R. 5393, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to ensure fair assessment of pharmacy performance and quality under Medicare part D, and for other purposes; H.R. 6571, the “Deploying American Blockchains Act”; H.R. 5146, the “Advancing Gig Economy Act”; H.R. 3950, the “TICKET Act”; H.R. 6125, the “Online Dating Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 5202, the “Virginia Graeme Baker Pool and Spa Safety Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 6544, the “Atomic Energy Advancement Act”; H.R. 6192, the

“Hands Off Our Home Appliances Act”; H.R. 4045, the “Hydropower Clean Energy Future Act”; H.R. 6572, the “Deploying American Blockchains Act”; H.R. 2365, the “National Plan to End Parkinson’s Act”; H.R. 5555, the “DMEPOS Relief Act of 2023”; H.R. 6545, the “Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act”; H.R. 6364, the “Medicare Telehealth Privacy Act of 2023”; H.R. 1352, the “Increasing Access to Biosimilars Act of 2023”; H.R. 5380, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to increase data transparency for supplemental benefits under Medicare Advantage”; H.R. 3842, the “Expanding Access to Diabetes Self-Management Training Act of 2023”; H.R. 5397, the “Joe Fiandra Access to Home Infusion Act of 2023”; H.R. 2964, the “WIPPES Act”; H.R. 1797, the “Setting Consumer Standards for Lithium-Ion Batteries Act”; H.R. 4814, the “Consumer Safety Technology Act”; H.R. 5372, the “Expanding Seniors’ Access to Lower Cost Medicines Act of 2023”; H.R. 2880, the “Protecting Patients Against PBM Abuses Act”; H.R. 5385, the “Medicare PBM Accountability Act”; H.R. 5386, the “Cutting Copays Act”; H.R. 4881, to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to limit cost sharing for drugs under the Medicare program; H.R. 5389, the “National Coverage Determination Transparency Act”; H.R. 133, the “MERIT Act”; H.R. 5396, the “Coverage Determination Clarity Act of 2023”; H.R. 5371, the “Choices for Increased Mobility Act of 2023”; and H.R. 5388, the “Supporting Innovation for Seniors Act”. H.R. 5677, H.R. 5718, H.R. 4167, H.R. 6185, H.R. 6421, H.R. 5390, H.R. 5398, H.R. 6543, H.R. 6132, H.R. 4310, and H.R. 5393 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 6571, H.R. 5146, H.R. 3950, H.R. 6125, H.R. 5202, H.R. 6544, H.R. 6192, H.R. 4045, H.R. 6572, H.R. 2365, H.R. 5555, H.R. 6545, H.R. 6364, H.R. 1352, H.R. 5380, H.R. 3842, H.R. 5397, H.R. 2964, H.R. 1797, H.R. 4814, H.R. 5372, H.R. 2880, H.R. 5385, H.R. 5386, H.R. 4881, H.R. 5389, H.R. 133, H.R. 5396, H.R. 5371, and H.R. 5388 were ordered reported, as amended.

HOUSING AFFORDABILITY: GOVERNMENTAL BARRIERS AND MARKET-BASED SOLUTIONS

Committee on Financial Services: Subcommittee on Housing and Insurance held a hearing entitled “Housing Affordability: Governmental Barriers and Market-Based Solutions”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MEMBER DAY

Committee on Homeland Security: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Hern, Bice, Vasquez,

Burchett, Ciscomani, Ogles, Van Duyne, Kim of California, Fallon, Donalds, and Moylan.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6570, the “Protect Liberty and End Warrantless Surveillance Act”. H.R. 6570 was ordered reported, as amended.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1449, the “CLEAN Act”; H.R. 3250, the “National Museum of Play Recognition Act”; H.R. 6233, the “Community Reclamation Partnerships Act”; H.R. 3396, the “Fire Department Repayment Act of 2023”; H.R. 5490, the “BEACH Act”; H.R. 6009, the “Restoring American Energy Dominance Act”; H.R. 6011, the “ROWATA Act”; and H.R. 6285, the “Alaska’s Right to Produce Act of 2023”. H.R. 1449, H.R. 3250, and H.R. 6233 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 3396, H.R. 5490, H.R. 6009, H.R. 6011, and H.R. 6285 were ordered reported, as amended.

WHITE HOUSE POLICY ON AI

Committee on Oversight and Accountability: Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “White House Policy on AI”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 6494, the “Promoting Innovation in Pipeline Efficiency and Safety Act of 2023”; H.R. 6276, the “Utilizing Space Efficiently and Improving Technologies Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6278, the “Maximizing Office Value and Efficiency Act of 2023”. H.R. 6494 and H.R. 6276 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6278 was ordered reported, without amendment.

BACKGROUND CHECKS: ARE VA HR FAILURES RISKING DRUG ABUSE AND VETERAN HARM?

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs: Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Background Checks: Are VA HR Failures Risking Drug Abuse and Veteran Harm?”. Testimony was heard from Daniel Galik, Executive Director for Identity Credential and Access Management, Office of Human Resources and Administration/Operations, Security and Preparedness, Department of Veterans Affairs; Shawn Steele, Director of the Healthcare Infrastructure Division, Office of Inspector General, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Seto Bagdoyan, Director for Audit Services, Forensic Audits and In-

vestigative Service, Government Accountability Office.

HIDDEN COST: THE TRUE PRICE OF FEDERAL DEBT TO AMERICAN TAXPAYERS

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Oversight held a hearing entitled “Hidden Cost: The True Price of Federal Debt to American Taxpayers”. Testimony was heard from Grant Driessen, Specialist in Public Finance, Congressional Research Service, Library of Congress; and public witnesses.

TAX POLICIES TO EXPAND ECONOMIC GROWTH AND INCREASE PROSPERITY FOR AMERICAN FAMILIES

Committee on Ways and Means: Subcommittee on Tax held a hearing entitled “Tax Policies to Expand Economic Growth and Increase Prosperity for American Families”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

Joint Meetings

SOVEREIGN ASSET CONFISCATION

Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe: Commission concluded a hearing to examine sovereign asset confiscation for Ukrainian victory, after receiving testimony from Andriy Kostin, Prosecutor General of Ukraine; Daniel Fried, Atlantic Council; Paul Reichler, 11KBW; Ruslan Stefanchuk, Verkhovna Rada of Ukraine; and Yuliya M. Ziskina, Razom for Ukraine.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 7, 2023

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: business meeting to consider the nomination of J. Todd Inman, of Kentucky, to be a Member of the National Transportation Safety Board, and routine lists in the Coast Guard, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Kurt Campbell, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Secretary of State, and other pending nominations, 11 a.m., SD–419.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sara E. Hill, and John David Russell, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Oklahoma, and Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, 10 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Armed Services, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled “Regional Missile Defense As-

sets—Assessing COCOM and Allied Demand for Capabilities”, 9 a.m., 2212 Rayburn.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, Full Committee, markup on legislation on the FISA Reform and Reauthorization Act of 2023, 9 a.m., HVC–210.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, December 7

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Thursday, December 7

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of the motion to proceed to consideration of H.R. 815, RELIEVE Act (the legislative vehicle for Supplemental Appropriations).

If Senator Paul makes a motion to discharge S.J. Res. 51, directing the removal of United States Armed Forces from hostilities in Syria that have not been authorized by Congress, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, Senate will vote on the motion at 11:30 a.m.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Richard E.N. Federico, of Kansas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Tenth Circuit.

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.J. Res. 88—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Education relating to Improving Income Driven Repayment for the William D. Ford Federal Direct Loan Program and the Federal Family Education Loan (FFEL) Program.

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