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# Congressional Record

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No. 9

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
January 17, 2024.

I hereby appoint the Honorable RON ESTES 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, 2024, 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.

### RECOGNIZING 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF SOUTHEAST IOWA REGIONAL PLANNING COMMISSION

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 50th anniversary of the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission. Since 1973, the commission has transformed from merely a planning agency to a dynamic force in grant writing and program management.

Through these initiatives, they have facilitated the investment of over \$300

million in outside funds into our southeastern Iowa communities, influencing infrastructure, tourism, redevelopment, and housing initiatives.

I congratulate the Southeast Iowa Regional Planning Commission's chair, Brent Schleisman, and executive director, Mike Norris, on their continuous work to adapt the organization's original priorities to today's challenges.

I congratulate you on your work, and I wish you 50 more years of success for southeast Iowa.

### CONGRATULATING THE CLINTON MUNICIPAL AIRPORT

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Clinton Municipal Airport on their Distinguished General Aviation Award by the FAA. This prestigious award is quite significant, and this year marks the first time that this award has been given to an airport without commercial airline service.

The FAA Central Region selected Clinton Municipal Airport for its active community involvement, successful project submissions, and contributions to the local economy.

Jim Johnson, the FAA Central Region Director, also commended the airport's active local role, safety achievements, and modernized facilities.

I congratulate the entire team at the Clinton Municipal Airport for receiving this award and for their dedication to excellence and community service.

### CONGRATULATING HNI CORPORATION

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate HNI Corporation for being recognized among America's Most Responsible Companies.

Under the leadership of CEO Jeff Lorenger, HNI's commitment to corporate social responsibility shines through, securing its place on Newsweek's list for its fifth consecutive year.

The company's focus on environmental sustainability and corporate

governance is showcased by its impressive achievements, including a 64 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions and zero waste to landfills at multiple facilities.

I congratulate them on this achievement and thank them for their dedication to creating a more sustainable future.

### CONGRATULATING PHIL PARKER

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the University of Iowa's defensive coordinator, Phil Parker, who has been awarded the coveted Broyles Award. This accolade is presented each year to the top assistant coach in college football, and it recognizes Parker's 25 years of dedication and leadership on the Hawkeye's coaching staff.

This season, the team had an impressive defensive record, ranking fifth nationally in total defense, and they played 27 consecutive games where they allowed 400 yards or less. Coach Parker has been instrumental in their success, which is reflected in their lowest defensive average since 2008.

As the third Iowa assistant coach to receive this award, I congratulate Coach Parker and the rest of the coaching staff on this impressive testament to the excellence of the University of Iowa.

Go Hawkeyes.

### UNLV STUDENTS AND FACULTY RETURN TO CAMPUS

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

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Speaker, this is the first week of the University of Nevada, Las Vegas' spring semester, a time when students should be excited to see their friends after winter break and faculty begin to review the syllabus with an eager class.

Sadly, this won't be a typical week back for the students of UNLV. That is

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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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H149

because this week is the first week that students will be returning to in-person classes since last month's horrifying shooting in which a gunman took the lives of three professors and critically wounded a fourth.

Thousands of students and faculty members were forced to huddle in classrooms behind locked and barricaded doors, waiting for hours to find out whether their campus was safe or not.

Immediately after the shooting, I, and many of my colleagues, demanded once again that Congress do something, just anything, to curb our Nation's gun violence epidemic.

Since then, our country has witnessed another 70 school shootings. That is in just 6 weeks. How many pieces of legislation to address gun violence have been brought to the floor in that time? Zero. It is shameful.

Instead, our far right has played partisan games to score cheap political points, threatening a government shutdown, and completely dismissing the very real fear that students and educators at UNLV and across the country feel each and every day.

That fear should not be normal. Nevadans are tired of it and so am I. I want my colleagues to work together to end this sick cycle of gun violence. Let's honor these victims with action.

#### HONORING PETER RICHARD SGRO

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

Mr. MOYLAN. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take this time to honor the life and legacy of the late Peter Richard Sgro, who sadly left this world on January 9. Peter was iconic on so many levels that his outside-the-box vision and drive to effectuate change will be deeply missed.

As an attorney, Peter always believed in seeking justice for his clients. He never walked away from a fight if he knew that virtue needed to prevail, and in his case, virtue certainly always prevailed.

As the chairman of the board of the Guam Chamber of Commerce, Peter evidenced that he was an advocate for small businesses, particularly the little guy. He stood with them to challenge policies that would raise the cost of doing business, and his relentlessness ensured that he wouldn't sit down until compromises were made.

As a businessman, Peter was a visionary, and this was clear when he worked aggressively to bring a private hospital to open its doors in Guam. Peter understood the necessities to improve and expand healthcare for families, and whenever we drive by the Guam Regional Medical City in the northern part of Guam, we can evidently see Peter's legacy on display.

For all the roles Peter embraced to help Guam prosper over the decades, there was none that he enjoyed more than being a father to Christopher,

Matthew, Katarina, and Maria, and a grandfather to Ricardo, Natalia, and Mila. They were his foundation, his purpose, and his pride. My heart and my deepest condolences go out to them in this trying time.

In 2022, as a Guam senator, I had the honor of recognizing Peter and his legacy as his company, International Group, Inc., was celebrating an anniversary. I am saddened that in such a short period of less than 2 years, I am recognizing him under a different set of circumstances.

Mr. Speaker, of behalf of a thankful Nation and an appreciative island of Guam, I honor the life and legacy of Peter Richard Sgro and thank him for his many contributions to our island community. He will be dearly missed. Adios to my friend, until we meet again.

#### A CALL FOR HUMANE TREATMENT OF MIGRANTS

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the proud daughter of Guatemalan immigrants, the wife of a Dreamer, and the Representative of Illinois 3, a district proud of the contributions of the migrants who call it home, and a member of the Humboldt Park United Methodist Church, a church that is formed by immigrants, a church that has been serving the community for decades, and a church that built me and taught me to put my faith into action and to advocate for our shared humanity.

As a Methodist, I would like to share a call for prayer and action from "Metodistas Asociados Representando la Causa Hispano Americana," "Methodists Associated Representing the Cause of Hispanic/Latinx American," the National Plan for Hispanic/Latino Ministry of the United Methodist Church, and the General Board of Church and Society of the United Methodist Church.

As we just celebrated the season of Epiphany, we are reminded again of the story of those three wise travelers who journeyed through many lands and over borders in search of a newborn king.

We are reminded that after they found the infant Jesus, his mother, and Joseph, the true peril of their mission began.

Herod's anxiety and paranoia led to one of the worst infant massacres recorded in the Gospel text, and their earnest pilgrims' story transformed the Holy Family's existence into a family like so many today seeking asylum in other lands and, in particular, at our southern border.

Therefore, we join in a call for the humane and sacred treatment of migrants, refugees, and those who seek asylum at our borders as a recognition that the same Jesus who traveled with his family on that fateful night, can

still be found in the faces of all of the families we see on our TV screens and our social media spaces.

Along with this, we stand in opposition to the State of Texas SB 4 law, signed by Governor Greg Abbott, which allows police officials to arrest and charge migrants with misdemeanors or more serious offenses if they do not agree to leave by order of a State judge.

This law incentivizes racial profiling and further limits the rights of due process for migrants fleeing unthinkable violence, poverty, and death.

Furthermore, we oppose the inhumane treatment of migrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers by Governor Abbott in transporting migrants to other States without their knowledge or consent, only to abandon them on cold streets without concern about the extreme cold weather and safety issues they would face.

We call on this administration to honor the principles of so many of the world religions that call us to mercy, to compassion, and to welcome and hold sacred lives of immigrants, refugees, and asylum-seekers when engaging in budget negotiations and stricter border security measures.

We urge the administration to consider prayerfully those measures that will lead to a safe and just resolution with a path toward effective immigration solutions, funding to be able to process asylum and refugee claims faster and more effectively, and intentional steps to work with countries of origin to understand and combat the reasons for this mass migration.

We call on our colleagues, Members of the House and Senate, to negotiate in good faith with this administration, not in the hopes of gaining political points, as we have seen, but in the spirit of their shared citizenship in the world and with a deep conviction of what it means to be a beloved community.

The Gospel of Matthew tells us that Herod tempted the wise men to carry out his evil intentions toward the Christ child and his family. However, in a dream, an angel warns them not to return to Herod. Instead, they chose to return by another route.

Their courage and conviction should inspire all of us to choose another route, one filled with compassion, with justice, with mercy, and the belief that we are all made in the image of our creator and endowed with certain inalienable rights, that among these are life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We call on all Methodists and all humans everywhere to join us in the call of action for prayer.

May we lead differently. May we recognize our shared humanity. May our faith lead us to action. May we be reminded that we, in fact, have a shared humanity and a responsibility to act justly and mercifully.

□ 1015

## MAYOR JOSH MOENNING RETIRING

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my sincere gratitude to my hometown mayor, Josh Moenning, of Norfolk, Nebraska. After almost 12 years as mayor, he has decided to retire at the end of his term.

During his tenure, Mayor Moenning saw Norfolk through dozens of projects that made our city a more desirable place for families and young people. Mayor Moenning said his time as mayor centered around three things: enhanced quality of life, improved infrastructure and city services, and economic growth.

He accomplished those three objectives and more by renovating Johnson Park, revitalizing a wide variety of businesses and housing developments, and expanding infrastructure. Mayor Moenning took the city's ideas and needs, and he put them into action.

Because of his service to our community, Norfolk is an even better place to live, work, and raise a family than it was 12 years ago.

On behalf of the city of Norfolk in the First Congressional District, I extend our appreciation to Mayor Moenning for his leadership over the past 12 years.

## IN HONOR OF ANGIE MUHLEISEN

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Angie Muhleisen.

For the better part of three decades, Angie has led Union Bank & Trust of Lincoln. She has recently announced she is stepping down as CEO.

When Angie started at Union Bank, it was a \$50 million financial institution. Through the years, she has helped grow it into an \$8 billion organization with over 1,000 teammates.

From Lincoln's Inspire Woman of the Year to the Chamber's Burnham Yates Citizenship Award, Angie's leadership has earned significant recognition from community organizations.

Even as she steps away from her role as CEO, her heart for service isn't slowing down. She recently became the board chair for the University of Nebraska Foundation. She also serves on the board of Assurity and is involved in numerous other organizations.

Angie's greatest legacy is her family. Her son Jason is stepping into the role as CEO and will do an outstanding job building on her work.

Best wishes to Angie on this next chapter.

## SCHOOL CHOICE WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight National School Choice Week.

School choice allows parents and children to choose the school that best fits their needs. Whether it is a public school, a private school, a home school, or a hybrid of these options, parents have a right to direct the upbringing and education of their kids.

Last year, Nebraska passed its first school choice law, helping more families and kids to pick a school that best

fits their needs, but there is still more we can do.

Here at the Federal level, I am a proud cosponsor of Congressman ADRIAN SMITH's Educational Choice for Children Act, which would bolster school choice across the Nation. This legislation would help more kids from low-income households access the education of their choice. I urge my colleagues to pass this.

Back home in Nebraska, our legislature has been working to fund students, not systems. I am excited to see how they build on their school choice success. Keep up the great work.

## HOUSING WEEK

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight housing week, as declared by me, in Nebraska.

A recent survey by Lending Tree found that 94 percent of Americans identified owning a house as part of the American Dream, but just over half of those "... who don't own a home say they're worried they never will."

Next week, I will address a Workforce Housing Summit hosted by the Columbus Area Chamber of Commerce. If we want to keep the American Dream alive, we must address the high cost of housing, help more Americans save for a downpayment, and break through other barriers. We must also take care of the housing stock in our communities.

Later next week, I will be hosting a housing improvement meeting in Clarkson. This meeting will help brief community members about programs that can help weatherize and improve existing homes. Next week will be full of small, but important, steps toward addressing this shortage. While there is no silver bullet, through the work of local, State, and Federal partners, we can help more Americans find the home of their dreams.

## 100-PLUS DAYS OF ISRAEL-HAMAS WAR

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, it has been more than 100 days since Hamas launched a vicious war against Israel, committing inhumane acts of violence.

Since October 7, Israel has worked to eliminate Hamas in response to their horrific killing and torture of over 1,000 innocent people. Right now, there are still more than 100 hostages being held by Hamas, including as many as six Americans.

Over the last few months, we have witnessed numerous protests across the country sympathizing with Hamas, which is nothing short of shocking. The messages of these protesters is often at odds with supporting the only democracy in the Middle East, and they do not reflect our Nation's values.

Let me be clear. America does not negotiate with terrorists, and we support the right of Israel to exist. America will continue to stand with Israel as they work to end Hamas and free every single hostage. We will not back down.

May God bless the continued friendship between Israel and America.

## MATER DEI HIGH SCHOOL FOOTBALL TEAM

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate Mater Dei High School's football team for earning their fourth California State championship. The Monarchs secured their final win of the season over an undefeated team with an impressive 35-0 victory.

Their success is a shining example of the dedication, hard work, and perseverance of the young players, the coaches, and the community.

Also with this win, the Monarchs claimed a top three position in national rankings and the number one spot in the media composite on the national level.

I congratulate the students, parents, coaches, and teachers that form the Monarch football team. You have made us proud. I am looking forward to next year.

## NORTH ORANGE CONTINUING EDUCATION'S 50TH ANNIVERSARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the North Orange County Continuing Education Program.

For half a century, North Orange County Continuing Education has offered programs that transform lives in Orange County.

Established in 1973, NOCE has grown to serve more than 29,000 students each and every year and offers over a thousand courses each semester to those of all ages.

The curriculum includes vocational, business, financial, and other skills that individuals need throughout their life. Also, beyond the classroom, NOCE has shown the real impact that they have on our community. In fact, they support over 3,000 jobs directly and indirectly and offer services to help everyday individuals succeed.

As we celebrate NOCE's 50th anniversary, we reflect back on their work and look forward to their future and their success in our community.

## ANAHEIM PUBLIC LIBRARY

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Anaheim Public Library's award-winning Foster Youth Initiative that has gained recognition for making resources available to kids in need.

The library's Foster Youth Initiative offers library cards to youth who are in the foster care system, who are homeless, or those that have been emancipated. This card is special. It removes address requirements and penalties and makes sure that those young people have access to our community's public library system.

Also, the initiative has been recognized by the Orange County Business Council's Public-Private Partnership and has received such an award. It is a testament to the hundreds of library cards that have been made available to

those students, those young individuals that would not otherwise receive a library card.

I congratulate the Anaheim Public Library for their commitment to support our youth in need.

#### CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF HOBART MANLY, JR.

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Hobart Manly, Jr., a veteran of the National Guard and an avid golfer.

Hobart was raised in Savannah and excelled in multiple sports in high school before going on to attend the University of Georgia. He is perhaps best known for his career as an amateur golfer. He competed in three British amateurs, two French amateurs, and the Canadian Open. Hobart has also won the North-South Championship located in Pinehurst, North Carolina.

In 1969, Hobart was inducted into the Savannah Athletic Hall of Fame, and 22 years later, he was inducted into the Georgia Golf Hall of Fame.

Hobart lived on Isle of Hope outside of Savannah with his wife, Marilyn, of 67 years. Hobart's competitive spirit and love for sport is something I find incredibly admirable and strive to implement in my own life every day.

My thoughts and prayers go out to the entire Manly family during this difficult time.

#### RECOGNITION OF EMT ROSEMARY MITTS

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the achievements of Savannah EMT Rosemary Mitts.

Rosemary was raised in a military family, leading her to learn the importance of having a strong work ethic from a young age. She modeled her choice to work in healthcare after her grandfather, as he was a medic in the U.S. Army during the Vietnam war.

Rosemary began her work as an EMT at Chatham Emergency Services. She also earned her medic license through her time at paramedic school and soon after went on to teach others to become EMTs like herself.

Rosemary consistently strives to better herself and others in her work environment. She is always looking for ways to provide the best care possible for the people in her community.

Rosemary was recently chosen to be a member of the American Ambulance Association's 2023 Stars of Life Class, a program that celebrates the distributions of ambulance professionals who have gone above and beyond the call of duty in service to others.

We congratulate Rosemary. We can't think of anyone more deserving.

#### CONGRATULATING MAMIE BACON

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Mamie Bacon, who recently celebrated a historic anniversary.

Last October, she was recognized for 50 years of work for King and Prince Seafood in Brunswick, Georgia. Mamie started working for King and Prince Seafood in 1973 and has not looked back since.

She originally planned to retire 7 years ago but chose to continue working her job in quality assurance. She is quoted in the Brunswick News saying: "I love my job and I love the people."

For her service to King and Prince, the company plans on building a new pavilion and dedicating it in her honor. Mamie is simply one of the many examples of the First District of Georgia's rich and selfless sense of community. We wish Mamie the best of luck.

#### SAVANNAH AIRPORT

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Savannah/Hilton Head International Airport for being nominated as one of the Best Airports in the U.S. by Conde Nast Traveler.

The Savannah Airport has been voted the number one airport in the Nation for the fourth consecutive year by the Conde Nast Traveler 2023 Readers' Choice Awards. This achievement is the result of several key factors, such as the airport's beautiful town square-inspired layout and great amenities. The charming visitor center has a historic southern street style that makes visitors feel right at home.

The airport also features great food and great shops to keep travelers fed and entertained. This Georgia airport was also once named "the happiest airport in the country."

We congratulate, again, Savannah's airport for continuing to hold its first-place designation and congratulate the staff that made that happen.

#### HONORING EDDIE HARMS

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

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Nebraska Third District pilot, farmer, soil conservationist, and now centenarian, Eddie Harms.

An extraordinary pillar of consistency in his southeast Nebraska community, Eddie turned 100 years of age on December 22, 2023.

□ 1030

Eddie and his wife, Millie, raised two children. He worked as a farmer and soil conservationist for more than 80 years, only recently selling his long-used Caterpillar bulldozer. He is known by neighbors for his dogged Nebraska work ethic, willingness to lend a hand, and deep sense of personal responsibility.

Growing up with his 12 siblings on the family farm near Adams, Nebraska, Eddie said from an early age: "We learned what we needed to do."

Demonstrating love for family, community, and the land throughout his life, Eddie exemplifies Nebraska values

of stewardship, neighborliness, and conservation.

Today, he lives in Syracuse, Nebraska, and continues to visit family and friends around the community. His daughter, Tanya, attests that he loves taking care of the land and being busy doing things.

Eddie's character and contributions to his community are outstanding and highlight all that is great about small towns all across America.

#### RECOGNIZING NEBRASKA AGRICULTURE ACADEMY AND FFA

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the efforts of Third District agriculture educators and the record-breaking number of FFA members in Nebraska and across the Nation.

As the sixth State chartered by the National FFA Organization upon its founding in 1928, Nebraska FFA provides outstanding career growth opportunities, which build character and develop competence in our next generation of ag industry leaders who will feed and fuel the world.

In public, private, and homeschooling settings, student interest and participation in FFA is at an all-time high. According to the Nebraska FFA Foundation, there were 10,454 student FFA members in Nebraska during the 2021–2022 school year.

Despite a shortage of agriculture educators, the Nebraska Agriculture Academy is providing opportunities to students who are homeschooled and in remote communities where an FFA chapter may not be operating. Through supervised agricultural experience projects, these students are gaining hands-on experience to help our communities thrive, such as raising their own cattle herds.

Through career connections and preparation to excel, FFA continues to be an outstanding opportunity for students. With 945,988 student members nationally, which is an increase of 11 percent from last year, the number of FFA student members and chapters across the United States continues to grow.

The future of American agriculture is bright because our future farmers, ranchers, food scientists, veterinarians, product merchandisers, ag teachers, and others are eager to learn and grow.

#### 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 32 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. CRAWFORD) at noon.

## PRAYER

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

You, O Lord, have been our God forever, and have delivered us from peril and menace time and again. We acknowledge no other God but You. Not our power or might, but only You can uphold us. We confess no other savior but You—neither our wit, nor our own wisdom, but Yours alone can redeem us.

For You have cared for us in our wilderness. You have provided shelter for us in the scorching heat of anxiety and the raging storms that threaten our well-being.

Deliver, then, Your people from the relentless power of devastation and desolation. After almost 2 years of fighting for their country and its citizens, redeem the people of Ukraine. As we mark the 100th day of ostensibly intractable conflict in Israel and Gaza, bring Your peace and justice to this region.

May those who are persecuted be rescued from death's sting. May those who have sacrificed so much be spared from the grave's victory. Do not hide Your compassion from them, but speak into the chaos and confusion of this horrific strife and once again grant Your deliverance and then govern us with Your peace.

In the light of Your love, we pray in the strength of Your name.

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, rule I, the Journal stands approved.

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to clause 1, rule I, I demand a vote on agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the Speaker's approval of the Journal.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

## PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina 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.

## U.S.-U.K. SOLIDARITY FOR PEACE

(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, I was grateful to participate this weekend in the legislative exchange program of the Association of Marshall Scholars to Oxford and London, led by co-chairs, MARK GREEN and JIM HIMES; with emeritus co-chairs, LINDA SANCHEZ and MIKE TURNER.

It was historic as the alliance was fulfilled as real with actions.

Prime Minister Rishi Sunak met in Kyiv on Friday with President Volodymyr Zelenskyy to announce billions more aid for Ukraine. We observed Parliament on Monday where he provided details warmly welcomed by all political parties.

Simultaneously, Britain and America launched air strikes in self-defense against Tehran regime Houthi puppets.

Yesterday, at Chatham House in London, we met with Defence Secretary Grant Shapps, who warned Iran: "We see you, we see through what you're doing."

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who successfully protected America for 20 years as the global war on terrorism continues moving from the Afghanistan safe haven to America with Biden open borders for terrorists. It is sadly clear there will be more 9/11 attacks across America imminent, as warned by the FBI.

## IN HONOR OF LIAM LYNCH

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor 10-year-old Liam Lynch of western New York.

Liam was first diagnosed with lymphoma in 2019 and, thanks to the expert care through Roswell Park/Oishei Children's Hospital partnership, he went into remission.

Unfortunately, Liam relapsed, but he is a tough, determined kid, and we support his efforts to succeed.

With the support of Liam's family and his community, he has donated more than 2,300 pairs of pajamas to other patients at the hospital where he is seeking care.

Liam's enduring positivity through chemotherapy, radiation, and months

in the hospital has been recognized by the Buffalo Bills, including its star quarterback Josh Allen, along with the many people across the western New York community.

Liam Lynch truly embodies the spirit of the City of Good Neighbors.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Liam Lynch and his family as he bravely continues his battle to beat lymphoma for good.

## HONORING THE SEVEN FAMILIES OF VICTIMS OF PERRY HIGH SCHOOL ATTACK

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

Mr. NUNN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the families who are grieving following an attack on Perry High School in Iowa.

On January 4, 11-year-old Ahmir Jolliff, a sixth grader in our community, died during an attack on his school. Ahmir's wonderful mother, Erica, said her son, known as Smiley because of the dimples that always lit up his face with a grin, believed in making every day count, and we should all take this burden on seriously as we march forward.

During this attack, Principal Dan Marburger heroically put himself in harm's way to create an opportunity for students to run to safety, and, in those few moments while he tried to talk down an active shooter, he undoubtedly saved the lives of many in our community. However, for his selfless actions, standing in harm's way, this week it is sad to report that he has passed away.

As his daughter Claire said: Dad taught us and inspired us to be better people every day. He passed many lessons and things on to us as kids.

Undoubtedly, there are families in Perry who are still living the life lessons that Dan Marburger taught. There is no doubt this impact will live on in heavy, but also inspiring, ways as a mentor and an educator in our community.

Mr. Speaker, our prayers are with the Marburger family and the people of Perry.

## THREAT OF NUCLEAR WEAPONS

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, the world has not been in such an unstable nuclear situation since the 1962 Cuban Missile Crisis.

The web of nuclear arms control agreements is being dismantled and weakened. Russia and North Korea constantly threaten to use nuclear weapons. Iran is increasing its capacity to build a nuclear weapon, and the nuclear powers, including in the United States, plan to modernize and increase their nuclear arsenals.

This should scare every single Member of this House. Ninety-three nations have signed the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons, which entered into force 3 years ago on January 22, 2021. In my opinion, it is disappointing that the United States has not yet signed. The world is calling on us to end the threat of nuclear war, not enable it.

Mr. Speaker, we need to reverse direction, get back to the negotiating table, and move toward agreements to end the threat of nuclear weapons once and for all.

#### TEAM ALABAMA WORKING TOGETHER

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

Mr. CARL. Mr. Speaker, unfortunately it often takes tragic events to bring us all together.

Last week, a tornado ripped through Cottonwood, Alabama, and it basically destroyed the entire town of about 1,200 people. This weekend, I had the opportunity to visit with the folks in Cottonwood and to see how I could help.

Small communities like this don't have the resources that other big cities have to recover from a storm. The community has to come together to rebuild their homes and their community, and that is exactly what Cottonwood is doing. It is very moving to see everyone come together and to help each other. This is what the Alabama family is truly all about.

I am grateful today and every day to be part of Team Alabama working together at the local, State, and Federal level to rebuild our storm-damaged communities and begin to return to normalcy.

#### KEEP THE GOVERNMENT OPEN

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Mr. Speaker, Americans want Congress to focus on lowering costs and growing the middle class, but extreme MAGA Republicans continue to create one crisis after the next.

The bare minimum is for Congress to keep the government open, yet Republicans have repeatedly threatened government shutdowns. Republicans want a shutdown unless they get harsh and ineffective border policy changes.

They are willing to hold hostage pay for our troops. At the same time, Republicans have rejected billions in funding from President Biden to help secure the border and to create a more orderly process. Republicans prefer to play politics rather than solve problems.

This week, Democrats will once again provide the majority of votes to

keep the government open. Democrats are here to do our job and put people over politics. We need to keep the government open so that American families are not hurt by Republicans' failure to govern.

#### RECOGNIZING ROGER BAKER

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

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Roger Baker for his many years of service to the Ohio Farm Bureau.

This tireless advocate served 12 years as the District 8 State trustee on the Ohio Farm Bureau, representing the counties of Wayne, Medina, Ashland, and Summit.

Mr. Baker is a wealth of knowledge and a champion for agriculture. I can personally attest that he has been invaluable as I carry out my role on the House Agriculture Committee to reflect challenges of Ohio agriculture. Those lucky enough to know him can attest to his passion and dedication to his field.

Even though Mr. Baker's tenure on the Ohio Farm Bureau Board of Trustees has come to an end, I do not doubt that he will continue advocating for Ohio agriculture, and I am thankful for his service on our Ohio 7 agricultural advisory council.

There is no question that the farm community in Ohio has benefited from the farm efforts of Roger Baker.

Mr. Baker's years of dedicated work have helped Ohio's farmers feed the world. I thank Mr. Baker for his dedication to our community.

#### ALBERTSONS-KROGER MERGER

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

Mrs. PELTOLA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to defend Alaska's rights to affordable groceries, which are under threat from a corporate mega-merger.

The Albertsons-Kroger merger would combine Alaska's two largest grocery stores. Many of our communities just have two grocers, a Carrs-Safeway and a Fred Meyer, often across the street, whether it is Airport Way in Fairbanks or the Sterling Highway in Soldotna.

If they merge, 14 of these stores will be sold to a company that has never operated in Alaska. That matters.

Alaska is a remote State with one-of-a-kind logistical challenges. We know what happened in the 1999 Carrs-Safeway merger, when a new operator had to close its stores after barely a year. Alaskans got higher prices and fewer choices.

We won't be ignored this time. We are asking the Federal Trade Commission to listen to our voices, stop this merger, and protect our access to food and jobs.

As the FTC meets this week, Alaskans will be speaking up, asking them to do the right thing and listen to those who have the most to lose.

□ 1215

#### MAUI COUNTY HOUSING PLAN

(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, for so many of our Maui "'ohana," "family," stable housing for their families and the ability to manage mortgages for lost homes keep them up at night.

Earlier this month, the State of Hawaii, Maui County, FEMA, and various philanthropic organizations announced a \$500 million interim housing plan to move thousands of families still living in hotels into stable, long-term housing by July 1 of this year. \$250 million of this critical funding is coming directly from FEMA.

Of all the ways that this plan will seek to provide some stability for "keikis," "children," and "kupuna," "elders," who lost everything, the most critical and urgent are the investments that will be made in more permanent developments.

We need shovels in the ground now, and I strongly encourage FEMA to lean into their plans to build modular homes that will house up to 500 households.

In talking with constituents and Maui Mayor Bissen, we must also focus immediately on identifying options to help survivors with their mortgages. Absent options, our people will feel they have no choice but to leave Lahaina. As I have said before, Lahaina is not Lahaina without her people.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6914, PREGNANT STUDENTS' RIGHTS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6918, SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 957, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES, CONDEMNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER, AND URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO END HIS ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 969 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 969

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students,

and for other purposes. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. 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. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Education and the Workforce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 2. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to consider in the House the bill (H.R. 6918) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Ways and Means now printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-20 shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended, are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill, as amended, and on any further amendment thereto to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Ways and Means or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommit.

SEC. 3. Upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order without intervention of any point of order to consider in the House the resolution (H.Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies. The resolution shall be considered as read. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the resolution and preamble to adoption without intervening motion or demand for division of the question except one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Minnesota is recognized for 1 hour.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, for the purpose of debate only, I yield the customary 30 minutes to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. SCANLON), pending which I yield myself such time as I may consume. During consideration of this resolution, all time yielded is for the purpose of debate only.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, we are here to debate the rule providing for consideration of H.R. 6914 and H.R.

6918, which provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Committee on Education and the Workforce and the Committee on Ways and Means, respectively, and provides each one motion to recommit. The rule further provides for consideration of H. Res. 957 under a closed rule, with 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, citizens across this country, and even Members on both sides of the aisle, have been imploring this administration to end its open-border policies, yet these cries have fallen on deaf ears. The President has failed to maintain operational control of this Nation's borders, causing the worst border crisis in American history.

Of course, this crisis extends way beyond the border. Every community in the country is facing the consequences of this administration's failure, from the strain on schools to the horrifying fentanyl epidemic being worsened by the astonishing amount of narcotics coming across the border.

In short, the policies of this administration have created a border crisis, a national security crisis, and a humanitarian crisis. It is so irresponsible and embarrassing that I almost understand why the Biden administration refuses to take responsibility for it.

Be that as it may, the fact is the responsibility lies with Secretary Mayorkas; the appointed border czar, Vice President HARRIS; and President Joe Biden.

H. Res. 957 condemns the national security and public safety crises these actors and other Biden administration officials have created, denounces the Biden administration's open-border policies, and urges the President to end said policies.

We are also here to discuss two pieces of legislation to support expectant mothers. H.R. 6914, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act, requires institutions of higher education to provide information on the rights of and accommodation and resources for pregnant students. According to the CDC, nearly one-third of all abortions performed in America are for women aged 20 to 24, college-aged students. While most colleges are required to accommodate pregnant students under Title IX, many women are unaware of those requirements and the resources available to them and feel that they have to have an abortion or give up their educational goals.

This bill simply requires these institutions to share information about resources and accommodations they already provide.

H.R. 6918, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act, a bill I introduced with Representative TENNEY from New York and Representative CHRIS SMITH of New Jersey, prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from keeping TANF dollars from being used to sup-

port pregnancy centers. Temporary Assistance for Needy Families provides \$16.5 billion annually to support assistance activities for needy families.

Certainly, pregnancy centers, which provide a wide variety of resources to pregnant women, from treatments to diapers to counseling, qualify for this kind of funding. Unfortunately, the Biden administration has shown their antiwomen, pro-abortion hand again, proposing a rule to modify allowable uses of TANF that singles out pregnancy centers in a way that could prevent States from using these funds for these vital care centers.

Make no mistake, conservatives are here for unborn babies and their mothers, and we want to ensure these moms are supported throughout their pregnancies and empowered to raise their families. These bills do just that.

Each of these bills delivers on the commitment House Republicans have made to the American people. We are here to protect the rights of Americans; we are here to hold the government accountable; and we are here to secure this country and its borders, all of which this administration has failed to accomplish.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding the customary 30 minutes.

Mr. Speaker, here we are, a little more than 48 hours from a devastating government shutdown. The deadline to pass a Federal budget is already 3 months overdue, and the clock keeps ticking.

Unable to get control of their majority and act responsibly, Republicans keep kicking the can down the road. They have struggled to pass any legislation because they choose again and again to appease an extremist minority rather than to advance policies supported by the majority of Americans and their Representatives here in the House.

Moreover, now, as we face pressing challenges at home and around the world, they have brought us to the brink of disaster once more, all because they chose to renege on a bipartisan deal to fund the government.

So, with these serious problems we are facing, what are House Republicans' priorities for today? They are to attack the President and pass more anti-abortion bills. It is a new year, but for House Republicans, it is the same old story.

Distracted by their own chaos and infighting, they have repeatedly failed to deliver for the American people. They have wasted time and tax dollars on baseless investigations and divisive culture wars, dragging the American people with them down rabbit holes of conspiracies and untruths.

They throw tantrums when they can't get their way, ousting their last Speaker and, just last week, bringing all work in the House to a halt because their new Speaker had dared to try to

strike a deal to keep the government open.

They put on dramatic acts of political theater, hoping to hide the fact that they are unable to complete the most basic tasks of governing. In 2023, they led the least productive session of Congress since the Great Depression.

We think the American people deserve better.

With that in mind, Mr. Speaker, let's look at the three bills that the House leadership has chosen to spend Congress' time on this week, and it is more of the same.

The first bill in this rule is the grotesquely misleading H. Res. 957, a resolution that repeats lies and distortions about the migration challenges at our southern border, starting with the title of the resolution and its false claim that this administration is promoting an open border. This is MAGA fiction, and it is an effort to keep campaigning on the fear of immigrants rather than any serious attempt to address the complex issues created by global migration forces and decades of congressional inaction.

It has become obvious that our Republican colleagues don't really want to fix our broken immigration system. They just want to campaign on it.

They have rejected—before even reading—the bipartisan solutions proposed by Senate Republicans, Democrats, and the administration.

They have refused to consider supplemental border funding requests from the President because the truth is they don't want solutions. They want political stunts. They want to rant, complain, blame, and campaign.

Immigration and border issues are complex. That is why they have remained on the table for so many years. They require comprehensive and nuanced policies, not acts of cruelty and dehumanization marked by barbed wire, family separation, or needless tragedies.

As we have seen over and over again, our Republican colleagues would rather use this issue to sow anger, division, and fear. They will use meaningless resolutions that do nothing to change the status quo, like this one, to distract from their failed Congress and their do-nothing agenda.

Mr. Speaker, if you want to see just how House Republicans view immigration and the border as a purely political issue, look no further than House leadership. After saying for months that border security is a crisis and just last month taking a field trip with over 60 House Republicans to the border, this week House leadership refused to even consider a bipartisan deal negotiated by the Senate before they have read it.

Mr. Speaker, you can't say that the border is in a state of emergency yet reject a bipartisan deal to address the crisis.

We can and must do better than this. Moreover, we owe it to our constituents and our country to work toward

real, thoughtful solutions rather than partisan talking points like H. Res. 957.

Now, let's turn to H.R. 6914 and H.R. 6918. Supporting the health and well-being of mothers and babies should be something we can all agree upon, and we would welcome some real collaboration in that area.

Nonetheless, that is not what the majority has brought to the floor today. The fact is that both of these bills are designed to advance an extremist agenda to limit Americans' fundamental freedoms, particularly with respect to reproductive healthcare.

It is nothing but a political exercise that our Republican colleagues undertake every year on the anniversary of Roe v. Wade. It is designed to cater to the most extreme supporters as they descend on Washington, D.C., for an anti-abortion rally.

The fact is that the MAGA majority's anti-abortion agenda is wildly unpopular in this country. The vast majority of Americans do not support it, and they have proven that at the polls repeatedly in the last couple of years.

Americans do not want politicians and rightwing extremists undermining their freedom to make their own medical and reproductive healthcare choices based on their own individual circumstances.

In the face of the overwhelming and repeated rejection of these extremist attempts to interfere in private medical decisions, Republicans are now cloaking their efforts in family-friendly rhetoric and misleading talking points. So, it is important to dig a little deeper and see what these bills are and are not.

If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle really wanted to support pregnant women, children, and families, then they would work with us to address the shameful fact that maternal mortality in our country far exceeds that of our peers. Childbirth is dangerous here in the United States, particularly for Black women and their babies, not because we don't know how to support healthy outcomes but because of a lack of will or interest from Congress.

It is a full-blown crisis, but it doesn't have to be. When it comes to giving our kids brighter futures, we should be talking about powerful tools like the expanded child tax credit, which lifted millions of children out of poverty. We should be strengthening WIC and SNAP, nutrition programs that serve as lifelines for pregnant women, mothers, infants, and families. Instead, this MAGA majority has proposed deep cuts to these nutrition programs.

We should pass policies to improve access to high-quality childcare and early education services, nutritious food, comprehensive maternal and infant healthcare, stable housing, and family-sustaining jobs because those are the things that would really help our kids and families.

□ 1230

The policies that our Republican colleagues have brought before us today in these two bills do none of that.

In fact, they would actually divert money away from vulnerable families and ultimately endanger women's lives.

H.R. 6914 purports to be concerned with providing information to pregnant college students.

Of course, there are obvious and unique challenges to balancing school and parenting, although students and their families can thrive with the right support. Unfortunately, this bill doesn't actually provide such support.

Instead, it requires that colleges inform students only about the rights and resources for carrying a pregnancy to term—resources, I will add, for which this House majority has sought to dramatically slash funding.

The bill purposely leaves out any requirement for schools to distribute medically accurate information regarding all of the healthcare options available to pregnant women. If this bill were truly about ensuring that pregnant college students have the necessary information to make informed decisions to meet their unique reproductive healthcare needs, it would include information about contraception, abortion, miscarriages, and the services that might be available to them during their pregnancy and after.

If the underlying intent of this bill were not clear enough in its one-sided substance, we need only look to the alleged funding section of the bill, which would write into law completely unproven and even false anti-abortion talking points.

These are findings that the bill's author could provide no evidence to support when it was marked up in committee. However, don't take my word for it. Advocates dedicated to advancing civil rights and resources for pregnant and parenting students have expressed deep concerns about this bill, including groups that are experts on this issue like The Coalition For Pregnant and Parenting Students Advocacy.

It is obvious that this MAGA majority doesn't really care about educating and supporting pregnant and parenting students. Instead, they would rather leave them in the dark and attempt to deny women the freedom to make informed decisions about their own bodies and futures.

Lastly, I will talk about H.R. 6918, which is another example of House Republicans doubling down on an extreme and unpopular agenda to try to ban abortion care nationwide. This bill is cloaked in a title that most Americans would agree with, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

In fact, Congress has passed bipartisan legislation to do just that, including through TANF funding, the Temporary Assistance to Needy Families.

However, in recent years, there has been growing evidence and a raft of studies showing that critical TANF aid for families is being diverted to purposes not authorized by Congress.

One of the greatest causes of concern is the siphoning of Federal TANF taxpayer dollars to support so-called crisis pregnancy centers, most of which are part of a well-funded arm of the global anti-abortion movement.

There is a growing body of evidence that these crisis pregnancy centers use deceptive and coercive tactics to target vulnerable people facing unplanned pregnancies, and they often prevent them from accessing a full range of appropriate reproductive healthcare, including safe abortion care and contraceptives.

Just as this bill is cloaked in benign pro-family rhetoric, these pregnancy centers distribute diapers and formula in order to disguise their underlying anti-abortion mission.

One of the great dangers of these crisis pregnancy centers is that they present themselves as legitimate healthcare facilities, but the reality is that most are unlicensed, understaffed by medical professionals, and unbound by the privacy laws that govern medical providers.

This has led to women being misled and given inaccurate or even dangerous information about their pregnancies and the options for care that are available to them, including women who have suffered life-threatening undiagnosed complications in their pregnancies, women who have been denied the information and opportunity to access appropriate reproductive healthcare for them, and women who have been encouraged to undertake dangerous and medically contraindicated procedures.

There is strong evidence that many pregnancy centers are using the public money that States allocate to them through TANF for purposes that are not authorized by Congress. That is why last year, the Department of Health and Human Services issued a proposed regulation to better guide the States in what services were eligible for TANF funding, and that is why this bill, H.R. 6918, is so dangerous and dishonest.

When we have a growing mountain of evidence of misuse and even fraudulent use of TANF dollars by crisis pregnancy centers, this bill by its term would prevent the Department of Health and Human Services from any regulation of pregnancy crisis centers.

House Republicans would green light the unregulated use of public money to fund these anti-abortion facilities, many of which have been proven to promote false medical claims and misinformation; misrepresent their services as providing a full range of reproductive healthcare, despite having only anti-abortion services and usually lacking any medical personnel. Horrifyingly, they are unbound by HIPAA privacy restrictions, and some

of these centers collect and distribute women's sensitive personal information to organizations within the larger anti-abortion movement.

This is what Republicans are trying to push upon American women with these bills, and I wholeheartedly disagree.

Thus, here we are. It is another week, and the House GOP still can't get their act together. Their majority is on track to become one of the most ineffective in modern history.

Again, we are just hours from a government shutdown, but instead of dealing with that or any of the real problems Americans are facing today, this House majority is desperately trying to mask its own failure with misleading rhetoric and bills that will never become law. It would be a joke if it weren't so serious.

Led by their most extreme Members, it is clear our Republican colleagues don't want to make Congress work better for the American people. They want to break it, and they want to campaign on it. They want to bring chaos to this Chamber and pass legislation that feeds the flames of their desperate culture wars.

It is irresponsible, it is reckless, and it is not what the American people want.

Mr. Speaker, I deeply oppose this rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LANGWORTHY).

Mr. LANGWORTHY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota for yielding time to me now, but I am very disappointed to see my colleagues on the other side of the aisle stand up and defend President Biden's plan to restrict resources through TANF that, for many years, have provided help for expecting mothers and families who are facing uncertainty and hardship.

The legislation under the rule today, the Support Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act, introduced by my good friend and colleague, Representative FISCHBACH, will protect access to these critical resources through pregnancy centers across the country that give vulnerable mothers a hand up when they need it the very most.

Yet the Biden administration is working to exclude these pregnancy centers from the TANF program and thereby restrict access for expecting mothers who need things like vitamins, diapers, classes, and transportation.

Pregnancy centers do so much to invest in our community. They are often the first stop for a mother who is dealing with an unplanned pregnancy and will help her assess her options, provide healthcare services, and support her after her child is born.

For those who choose life, pregnancy centers are a lifeline. The bottom line is this: Expectant mothers who qualify and need this hand up under TANF deserve any and all options and resources

available to them, including the option to choose life and to pursue motherhood.

My colleagues keep saying that they want to support all women and their choices, but their support clearly wavers when it comes to mothers who have chosen life for their unborn child. I question the morality of an administration that seeks to restrict these resources in favor of pushing options that are more about promoting abortion services and less about simply helping families who are expecting.

Mr. Speaker, I thank, again, my colleague Representative MICHELLE FISCHBACH for her leadership on this important legislation, which I am a proud cosponsor.

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

We have heard from our colleagues over the course of debate on this bill that they think that they need more discretion to spend TANF dollars, but if this bill were to pass, a pregnancy center would be unregulated. That is what the bill literally says. We cannot regulate pregnancy crisis centers. So if they wanted to use TANF dollars to stage a Taylor Swift concert, they could because there is to be no regulation.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD the executive summary of a report titled, "Designed to Deceive: A Study of the Crisis Pregnancy Center Industry in Nine States," written by the Alliance: State Advocates for Women's Rights and Gender Equity.

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

There was no objection.

Executive Summary:

CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTERS (CPCS) ARE ANTI-ABORTION ORGANIZATIONS THAT SEEK TO REACH LOW-INCOME PEOPLE FACING UNINTENDED PREGNANCIES TO PREVENT THEM FROM ACCESSING ABORTION AND CONTRACEPTION.

CPCs, advance, this mission by using deceptive and coercive tactics and medical disinformation, and misleadingly presenting themselves as medical facilities. The modern CPC industry, a well-resourced arm of the global anti-abortion movement, is rapidly expanding while evading public accountability, despite increasing reliance on public funds.

CONTEXT FOR THIS STUDY

We live in the most hostile era for reproductive freedom in decades. The anti-abortion movement's two primary strategies—passing abortion bans and contraception restrictions and expanding crisis pregnancy center networks with taxpayer money—are simultaneously reaching peak, unprecedented levels. As of this writing, the U.S. Supreme Court has allowed Texas Senate Bill 8 to become law in Texas, effectively undermining *Roe* by establishing a vigilante system wherein private individuals are deputized, and financially incentivized, to enforce the law by suing friends, neighbors, and strangers. This radical law positions Texas CPCs—supported by state funding that has increased twentyfold since 2006—to play a central role in the surveillance of pregnant people.

While severe legislative restrictions such as Senate Bill 8 make headlines, the modernized, proliferating, and mostly evangelical CPC industry's critical role in the anti-abortion, anti-LGBTQ+ movement—and effect on the health of pregnant people—is relatively obscured from public view. Modern CPCs are plugged into the global anti-abortion movement's sophisticated digital infrastructure, which facilitates expansion, client surveillance, and systemic, coordinated promotion of anti-abortion disinformation.

Investment of public money in CPCs is escalating, especially in the states, with virtually no government oversight, accountability, or transparency. Investigations into publicly-funded CPCs by advocates and watchdog groups have found evidence of misuse, waste, and potential skimming of funds in multiple states, including Florida, Michigan, Minnesota, North Carolina, Pennsylvania, and Texas. Yet CPCs continue to secure state contracts while the nature and quality of their services remains largely unexamined and unregulated by policymakers.

States are also enabling CPCs to siphon public funds from safety-net programs for low-income pregnant people and children. In so doing, CPCs exacerbate the very economic scarcity they use to justify their encroachment into under-resourced neighborhoods and communities of color: the modern CPC industry has revitalized strategies to target Black women, who are more likely than white women to face barriers to medical care and pregnancy resources.

Today, crisis pregnancy centers outnumber abortion clinics nationwide by an average of 3 to 1. The disparities are higher in states that fund CPCs: in Pennsylvania, the ratio of CPCs to abortion clinics is 9 to 1; in Minnesota, it is 11 to 1. The maternal and public health consequences of this seismic shift in the reproductive health care landscape in the states are unknown.

#### MAJOR STUDY FINDINGS AT A GLANCE

##### CPCs Provided Virtually No Medical Care.

Many CPC websites used language and imagery signifying they were providers of medical services but the services most commonly offered were not medical.

The most common CPC service was a pregnancy test—usually a self-administered urine-stick test.

The second most common CPC offering was “free” goods, which pregnant people typically had to earn.

More than 1/2 of CPC's offered “non-diagnostic” ultrasound as a tool to signal medical legitimacy and persuade people to carry their pregnancies to term.

Many CPCs offered sexuality “education” as a vehicle for medical disinformation and ideological messaging.

Almost none of the CPC provided prenatal care.

Only 1 of the 607 CPCs provided contraception care.

State-Funded CPCs are More Harmful Than Privately Funded Centers.

CPCs Routinely Promoted False Medical Claims and Used Deceptive Practices.

Almost 2/3 of CPCs promoted patently false and/or biased medical claims about pregnancy, abortion, contraception, and reproductive health care providers.

“Abortion Pill Reversal”—an unethical practice and non-scientific claim—is a CPC priority. More than 1/3 of CPCs promoted APR; in some states more than 1/2 promoted APR.

Fewer than 1/2, of CPCs indicated they had a licensed medical professional. None indicated whether medical professionals were employed or volunteers, or full- or part-time.

Many CPCs deceptively claimed on their website to have no agenda and to provide full and unbiased information.

CPCs seek to intercept people seeking health care—10% operated mobile units that can locate near abortion clinics to confuse their patients. Online, CPCs employ digital tactics to intercept people searching for abortion care.

CPCs Appear to be Local but are Part of a Global Anti-Abortion Network.

#### THE ALLIANCE CRISIS PREGNANCY CENTER STUDY

Measuring the proliferating CPC industry's impact on public health must begin with a thorough assessment of the services CPC offer pregnant people—and the services they do not. In the absence of government oversight, the Alliance conducted this Study to document and evaluate CPC services and practices in nine states in which we operate and partner with allies: Alaska, California, Idaho, Minnesota, Montana, New Mexico, Oregon, Pennsylvania, and Washington. We investigated 607 CPCs between March 2020 and February 2021 and collected over 50 categories of publicly available data through systematic review of CPC websites and social media. In addition, we conducted public records investigations and research into CPC operations in six states (AK, CA, MN, NM, PA, and WA) that further informed the Study. Our findings shine renewed light on the modern CPC industry and expose the particular harms of state-funded CPCs.

CPCs Provided Virtually No Medical Care.

The three most common CPC Services were pregnancy test (88.5%), “free” material goods (88.1%), and “counseling” (78.6%). The fourth most common service was “non-diagnostic” ultrasound. While approximately one-quarter (28.4%) offered STI testing, most did not provide or refer for STI treatment and none offered barrier-method contraception, a standard of care for STI prevention. Only one CPC offered contraception.

The most common CPC service was a pregnancy test. Of the CPC specifying type of test, 96% offered a urine test, the self-administered stick tests available at drugstores. Some CPCs claimed to provide “lab-quality” drug tests.

Almost none of the CPCs in the Study provided prenatal care. While most CPCs offered pregnancy tests, the majority (95%) offered no prenatal care and fewer than half made prenatal care referrals. CPCs affiliated with big anti-abortion networks (almost half of the CPCs in this Study) provided prenatal care less often than unaffiliated centers. Significantly, state-funded CPCs were less likely to offer or refer for prenatal care than CPCs without state funding.

The second most common CPC offering was “free” goods, which pregnant people actually had to earn. Most CPCs (88.1%) advertised free material goods, including maternity and baby supplies, but noted that provision of these goods was contingent on the pregnant person's participation in “earn while you learn” classes or counseling, Bible studies, abstinence seminars, video screenings, or other ideological CPC programming. While CPCs target people considering abortion, research shows most pregnant people who seek out a CPC do so because they cannot afford diapers and other infant and maternity goods CPCs claim to offer for free.

More than half of CPCs offered “non-diagnostic” ultrasound. The fourth most common CPC service, offered by 56% of CPCs, was “non-diagnostic” ultrasound, which cannot study placenta or amniotic fluid, or detect fetal abnormality or fetal distress. Anti-abortion organizations steering the CPC movement promote the use of ultrasound technology as a tool to persuade clients to carry their pregnancies to term and falsely signal medical legitimacy. The American Institute of Ultrasound in Medicine condemns

the use of ultrasounds for any non-medical purpose: “The use of ultrasound without a medical indication to view the fetus, obtain images of the fetus, or identify the fetal external genitalia is inappropriate and contrary to responsible medical practice.”

CPCs offered sexuality “education” as a vehicle for medical disinformation and ideological messaging. Almost 17% of CPCs claimed to offer sexuality-related programming, which typically focused on abstinence and also featured religious and shame-based messages and harmful stereotypes about LGBTQ+ youth and non-traditional families. Approximately 8% of CPCs overall indicated that they offer these services off-site, including in public schools; a full 20% of CPCs in Washington offered these programs off-site.

CPCs Routinely Promoted False Medical Claims and Used Deceptive Practices.

Almost two-thirds (63%) of CPCs promoted patently false and/or biased medical claims, mostly centered on pregnancy, contraception, and abortion, especially medication abortion. False claims typically included patently untrue information about reproductive health care and providers, false and misleading information regarding risks of abortion and contraception, and deceptive citing to make it seem such claims were supported by legitimate medical sources when they are not. Many CPC sites claimed people who have had abortions suffer from “post-abortion syndrome,” a non-existent diagnosis that has been debunked by medical professionals.

While many CPCs claimed to be medical clinics, fewer than half (47%) indicated whether they had a licensed medical professional on staff. Only 16% indicated a physician and 25% indicated a registered nurse was affiliated with their staff; none indicated whether licensed medical professionals were employees or volunteers, nor whether they were engaged full- or part-time. Many CPCs falsely claimed to have no agenda and to provide full and unbiased information to support a pregnant person's choice. Many disguised the fact that they do not provide or refer for abortion. Among CPCs in this Study, 10% operated mobile units that can locate near abortion clinics to confuse and intercept their patients.

Abortion Pill Reversal—an unethical practice and non-scientific claim—is a CPC priority. “Abortion pill reversal” is an anti-abortion marketing term that refers to the experimental administration of high doses of progesterone to pregnant people who have taken the first, but not the second, of two medicines for a medication abortion. Anti-abortion advertising claims this can “reverse” an abortion, but medical experts say such claims “are not based on science and do not meet clinical standards.” Its health effects are unknown; the only credible clinical study was stopped after one-quarter of the participants went to the hospital with severe bleeding.

More than one-third (35%) of CPCs in the Study promoted APR, with significant variation across states: More than half the CPCs in Idaho (57.1%) and Washington (50.9%) promoted APR. Overall, some 5% of CPCs said they provided APR, but none indicated who administered it, whether it was administered vaginally, orally, or by injection, or whether follow-up care was provided.

State-Funded CPCs are More Harmful Than Privately Funded Centers.

The Alliance Study found that taxpayers are unknowingly funding the most problematic practices of the CPC industry. State-funded CPCs promoted abortion pill reversal at significantly higher rates and offered prenatal care and referral less often than CPCs without state funding.

CPCs Appear to be Local but are Part of a Global Anti-Abortion Network.

Almost half (45.8%) of the CPCs in this Study were affiliated with one or more of the international, national, and regional right-wing organizations that steer the CPC industry, including Heartbeat International, Care Net, and National Institute of Family and Life Advocates. These groups provide digital strategy, infrastructure, and marketing tactics to help CPCs intercept people searching online for abortion care, signal that they are trusted sources of health care, and secure public funding. At least one of these groups collects and stores sensitive client data such as sexual history in “digital dossiers.”

#### CONCLUSIONS

While CPCs misleadingly present themselves as medical facilities to draw low-income people experiencing an unplanned pregnancy, the four services most often provided by CPCs served no medical purpose. Most CPCs disseminate medical disinformation focused on stigmatizing abortion and contraception and promote made-up, abortion-related mental health conditions not recognized by medical experts. The promotion of “abortion pill reversal,” an unethical, non-scientific practice based on a fraudulent claim, is currently a top CPC priority.

While people considering abortion are main targets of CPC marketing efforts, research shows that, in fact, the majority of people who go to CPCs intend to carry their pregnancies to term and are primarily seeking the pregnancy tests and infant supplies, especially diapers. CPCs claim to offer for free.

In short, it is widespread financial insecurity and inadequate support for pregnant people that makes people vulnerable to CPCs. CPCs use deceptive and misleading practices to exploit economic insecurity and gaps in access to health care to advance their anti-abortion, anti-contraception agenda. Robust research documents that being denied abortion care exposes both the pregnant person and their family to a range of potential harms. But we do not know the health consequences visiting a CPC has on the typical CPC client; a pregnant person needing prenatal care and parenting resources.

With CPCs outnumbering abortion clinics in almost every state, this unregulated network of ideological, deceptive, and manipulative providers of mostly non-medical services is increasingly more likely to be the most logistically accessible facility in the landscape of services for pregnant people with limited resources. The disparities detected in services between state-funded and other CPCs within the same state underscores the need for a coherent analysis of state-funded CPCs, and the consequences of government investment in CPCs on maternal and public health.

#### CALL TO ACTION: HOLD CPCs ACCOUNTABLE TO PROTECT REPRODUCTIVE & MATERNAL HEALTH

The Alliance Study findings make clear that a thorough data-driven assessment of CPC services, funding streams, and accountability measures is needed in states across the country.

It is our hope that this Study spurs stakeholders to assess how CPCs are targeting and treating low-income pregnant people and how the seismic shift in the reproductive landscape—wherein CPCs have proliferated as access to evidence-based reproductive healthcare and abortion has diminished—affects maternal and public health. We already know delaying access to abortion care poses a range of potential harm to pregnant people; we call for future research to specifically investigate the impact of visiting a CPC on maternal health and birth outcomes.

The United States is in the throes of a maternal mortality and morbidity crisis

marked by severe racial disparities, with Black, Latino and Indigenous people and infants suffering disproportionate harms. And we are still in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, an unprecedented public health crisis that is exacerbating pregnancy-related mortality and racial disparities, especially worsening Black maternal health. And, despite these interrelated public health crises, anti-abortion policymakers and bureaucrats are aggressively advancing an ideological agenda that further undermines maternal health and specifically targets Black women.

In this context, we urgently call on state lawmakers to stop funding CPCs and to dramatically increase investment in equitable access to evidence-based reproductive health care, especially in under-resourced communities.

We call on state policymakers nationwide to act on the detailed and state-specific policy recommendations in this report to: protect CPC clients and pregnant people seeking health care; promote transparency and best practices in publicly funded programs; address significant and deepening gaps in maternal and reproductive health care; and eliminate mounting obstacles to health care experienced by low-income pregnant and parenting people.

These findings reaffirm that the Alliance mission as state-based advocates is more pressing than ever: The fight for reproductive freedom is in the states.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, this report studies crisis pregnancy centers in Alaska, California, Idaho, Montana, Oregon, Washington, Pennsylvania, and Minnesota. Overall, its findings show that crisis pregnancy centers provided virtually no medical care, promoted false medical claims, and used deceptive practices; State-funded crisis pregnancy centers are more harmful than privately-funded centers; and crisis pregnancy centers appear to be local, but are actually part of a global anti-abortion network.

It is clear that these sorts of manipulative and unregulated centers are not what is best for women and children’s health, and actually have been proven to misuse Federal taxpayer dollars. We absolutely shouldn’t be allowing Federal dollars to flow to them without any scrutiny.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), the distinguished ranking member of the Committee on Rules.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, I have a serious question for my Republican colleagues: Did the Trump campaign write these bills for you? They seem right out of his political playbook—cruel, uninformed, nasty bills. You are turning the House of Representatives into the committee to re-elect Donald Trump.

Mr. Speaker, the gentlewoman from Minnesota can claim whatever she wants about these bills, but I wish the other side would just be clear. I wish they would just come clean with the American people. What they want is to ban abortion, a total ban. That is what these bills are about.

Don’t believe their spin. This debate isn’t about giving students more information or helping provide resources to families or whatever other misleading junk you hear from the other side.

That is all a bunch of baloney, a bunch of BS.

Read their bills. Read the bills, and you will see what they do.

The Pregnant Students’ Rights Act doesn’t give anybody any new rights. It contains a bunch of completely made-up claims meant to stigmatize abortion. It lets schools not inform students of their actual rights with regard to contraception or abortion care. That is the truth.

Republicans can name the bill whatever they want. The problem is, when you read the bill, people actually see that the title is misleading.

I read the bill. The title is misleading. Their other bill is about crisis pregnancy centers, and I know a little bit about crisis pregnancy centers. I have one in my district that almost killed somebody because they told her that everything was fine when she had an ectopic pregnancy, and she almost died.

These centers are about pushing a political agenda, about deceiving women—some who are actually trying to seek access to abortion care.

Republicans say that Federal funding can’t go to Planned Parenthood for political reasons, then why the hell is it going to these dangerous political pregnancy centers that push their own agenda? I mean, give me a break.

Now, look, just to be honest about it, the Republican position is to ban abortion nationwide. We know overturning Roe was just the start. Now they want to criminalize abortion, too, and throw women in jail for making decisions about their own bodies. Texas, Kentucky, South Carolina, they are all trying to lock women up if they get an abortion.

Every single week, Republicans are here on the House floor pushing for more extremist culture war nonsense like this.

Maybe that is why they keep losing elections because every time they put their anti-abortion agenda on the ballot, they lose. You would think that they would take the hint. Maybe that is why there are so few speakers on the other side talking about these bills today.

The sickest part of it all, the most disgusting thing is, they do not have one shred of compassion or care about the baby after it is born. They talk about the sanctity of life this and the sanctity of life that, and then they underfund and cut WIC and take food away from postpartum moms and babies. They cut programs that support maternal health. They block the expanded child tax credit, which kept millions of young children and babies out of poverty, and they don’t even want to talk about the Black maternal health crisis in this country.

□ 1245

Forgive us if we think it is a little hypocritical to come down here and get lectured about life from a Republican Party that apparently thinks life begins at conception but ends at birth.

These are awful, awful, awful bills. We are here because the Republican Party is incompetent. They have no vision, no agenda, no way of making life better for people. They are the party of abortion bans, insurrections, and illegitimate investigations, and they will pay for it at the ballot box.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am a little confused. Helping women and their babies and providing information is now an extreme agenda according to my colleagues across the aisle.

Supporting and promoting unrestricted abortion up until the time of birth is an extreme agenda.

The majority of pregnancy resource centers are affiliated with a national organization and have voluntarily signed on to an industry standard called Commitment of Care and Competence created by Heartbeat International that set an ethical code where they agree to adopt a transparent and honest service model.

Pregnancy resource centers provide honest information about services they offer, including ultrasounds and pregnancy testing. They do not hold themselves out to provide all forms of healthcare.

According to a recent report surveying 2,750 pregnancy care centers in 2022, there were 4,779 licensed medical staff, 5,396 licensed medical volunteers, over 500,000 hours of ultrasounds performed, and over 100,000 hours of RNs meeting with STD and STI tests for clients.

If my colleagues really believed in giving pregnant women every option, like they claim, they would have no problem with this bill. We are talking about information and care.

However, the fact that they are pushing against it so passionately just proves what my colleagues and the pro-life community have been saying all along, the left is antiwoman and will find any avenue they can to encourage women to have abortions. There are so many resources that exist that would actually empower them during their pregnancy and raising their families.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to include in the RECORD a letter from the Coalition for Pregnant and Parenting Students Advocacy and other organizations dedicated to advancing civil rights protections and resources for pregnant and parenting students in opposition to H.R. 6914.

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

There was no objection.

JANUARY 10, 2024.

Hon. VIRGINIA FOXX,  
*Chair, House Education and Workforce Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.*

Hon. ROBERT “BOBBY” SCOTT,  
*Ranking Member, House Education and Workforce Committee, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN FOXX AND RANKING MEMBER SCOTT: We are a diverse group of advocates and experts dedicated to advancing civil rights protections and institutional resources for pregnant and parenting students. Students who are pregnant and/or parents deserve the opportunity to complete their education free from bias and harassment, in environments that support them on their educational journeys. Unfortunately, pregnant and parenting students are routinely stigmatized, discriminated against, and denied the resources, accommodations, and support they need to thrive in their educational institutions.

More than 5.4 million college students in the United States are parents, which is nearly one quarter of undergraduate students and nearly one third of graduate students. Despite earning higher GPAs than non-parenting students, parenting college students are less likely to graduate. This is not due to personal failing, but rather a lack of institutional support and recognition of the unique barriers to college completion for parenting students. Pregnant and parenting students often experience feeling disconnected from the larger education community and are not aware of who they can speak to when they experience discrimination because of their pregnancy or parenting status.

This latest bill to “protect the rights of pregnant students” falls far short of the protections that are actually necessary for pregnant and parenting students and their children. The Pregnant Students’ Rights Act is a thinly veiled anti-abortion law which would not address the key barriers to pregnant students’ educational attainment, and instead would further shame and stigmatize people for their pregnancy outcomes.

The proposed bill relies on anti-abortion language and seeks to limit students’ reproductive healthcare decisions. This type of language is part of a deliberate strategy by the anti-abortion movement to further legal grounds for a national abortion ban now that the Supreme Court has overturned the constitutional right to abortion care as established in *Roe v. Wade*. Furthermore, the bill language contrasts with existing legal protections for pregnant students experiencing a range of outcomes related to their pregnancies.

Our belief in personal autonomy and respect for every person’s capacity to make their own decisions—including whether to continue their pregnancy or not—is at the core of our work to support pregnant and parenting students. This bill does not contain any meaningful supports that would actually help pregnant and parenting students be able to remain enrolled and meet their educational goals.

Such supports are critically needed, and include:

- Strengthened Title IX protections
- Nondiscrimination protections at the state and local level
- Accessible and affordable child care, and increased funding for on-campus child care
- Access to early education and pre-kindergarten services
- Transportation access
- Basic needs security (including food, housing, clothing, etc.)
- Flexible school attendance policies
- Lactation accommodations
- Less stigma and shame around young parenthood

Increased accountability measures for institutions who fail to protect pregnant and parenting students

Federal funding to support campus Title IX offices’ work to prevent and investigate discrimination against pregnant students

Mandatory data collection on students’ parenting statuses

Strides toward these meaningful supports are in progress. We applaud, for example, Representatives LUCY MCBATH and DEBORAH ROSS’s recent introduction of the Understanding Student Parent Outcomes Act of 2023, which would allow essential data collection on the barriers to college graduation for pregnant and parenting students. But sweeping legislation is necessary to ensure that pregnant and parenting students and their families are protected.

Although pregnant and parenting students face many roadblocks, they can thrive when their educational institutions listen to them, support them, and prevent discrimination against them. While balancing their health, caregiving responsibilities, and educational goals is challenging, these added responsibilities often renew students’ dedication to their studies. While the decision to parent and/or continue pregnancy is a personal one, the barriers that pregnant and parenting students face are not. This proposed bill would reinforce structural and institutional bias and scrutiny of the decisions students make regarding their personal lives.

We welcome the opportunity to have an open dialogue with the sponsors of the “Pregnant Students’ Rights Act” and with any other members of Congress who are ready to step up as the champion that pregnant and parenting students in our nation need and deserve.

Sincerely,

The Coalition for Pregnant and Parenting Students Advocacy:

A Better Balance; Generation Hope; Healthy Teen Network; Institute for Women’s Policy Research; Justice and Joy National Collaborative; National Women’s Law Center; New America Higher Education Program; Pregnant Scholar Initiative at the Center for WorkLife Law.

Joined by:

Advocates for Youth; American Association of University Women; American Civil Liberties Union; American Federation of Teachers; American Humanist Association; BreastfeedLA; California Women’s Law Center; Center for Freethought Equality.

Center for Reproductive Rights; Clearinghouse on Women’s Issues; Colorado Teen Parent Collaborative; End Rape On Campus; Family Equality; Feminist Majority Foundation; Guttmacher Institute; Harvard Law School; Ipas; League of Women Voters of the United States; Legal Momentum, The Women’s Legal Defense and Education Fund; National Association of Nurse Practitioners in Women’s Health; National Center for Lesbian Rights; National Center for Parent Leadership, Advocacy and Community Empowerment; National Center for Transgender Equality; National Council of Jewish Women; National Education Association; National Family Planning & Reproductive Health Association; National Latina Institute for Reproductive Justice; National Partnership for Women & Families; National Women’s Political Caucus; Physicians for Reproductive Health; Planned Parenthood Federation of America; Positive Women’s Network-USA; Power to Decide; Reproductive Freedom for All (formerly NARAL Pro-Choice America); Southeast Asia Resource Action Center; Stop Sexual Assault in Schools; The Hope Center at Temple University; Union for Reform Judaism; Women of Reform Judaism; Won’t She Do It.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, this letter expresses concern that this bill is

based upon unproven anti-abortion rhetoric and seeks to limit students' ability to make reproductive healthcare decisions with a full range of information.

It goes on to say that the bill does not contain any meaningful support to help pregnant and parenting students meet their educational goals, and it notes how the bill leaves out policies we know would actually make a difference, like strengthen Title IX protections, accessible childcare and early education, basic needs security, and accountability measures for institutions that fail to protect pregnant and parenting students.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 4 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ), a distinguished member of the Rules Committee.

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, today's Republican bills are part of their extreme agenda to create a Federal abortion ban.

The first bill, H.R. 6918, would divert Federal funding used to help feed and house poor families and give it to anti-abortion centers.

The American College of Obstetricians and Gynecologists warned that these centers often mislead women with false medical information and, in the process, endanger public health. It is really endangering women's health because across the country we are hearing stories of women who are dying or nearly dying because of these extreme restrictions on their healthcare.

The other bill, H.R. 6914, should be named the student anti-abortion bill and not the Pregnant Students Bill of Rights because the bill restricts pregnant students' rights when Republicans restrict access to information about the full range of healthcare available to pregnant students or the benefits that might help a pregnant woman and her child receive nutrition assistance or Medicaid benefits; benefits, I would point out, that Republicans oppose. They don't want our babies to be healthy.

Representative STEVENS submitted an amendment to H.R. 6914 that would provide pregnant students information about miscarriages, a devastating loss that affects 1 million women in the U.S. each year. Shockingly, not a single Republican voted for this amendment to give students health information about miscarriages. In fact, Republicans opposed every Democratic amendment intended to make this bill more scientific and objective.

Last night, the chair of the Education and the Workforce Committee claimed this bill says absolutely nothing about abortion and was just a students' rights bill. A strange statement, since abortion is mentioned nine times in the bill.

"Mujeres," "Women," don't let anyone fool you. Extreme Republicans want to keep us in the dark.

We need to keep Congress out of decisions that women deserve to make for

themselves in doctors' offices on campuses and everywhere else women have healthcare needs.

Finally, the last bill on today's rule is a useless resolution that does absolutely nothing to help the problems at the border.

Resolutions like H.R. 957 that distort a real problem we are facing at the border and statements like we hear from President Trump that immigrants are poisoning the blood of our Nation are dangerous. They demonize all immigrants and lead to a rise in white supremacy and hate crimes, and they do nothing to solve our problems at the border.

Let me be clear. I want a secure and humane border. Democrats have put forth specific policies that address the root causes of migration, because the best way to stop the surge of migrants is to help them stay in their own countries. We have proposed funding and policy fixes for our broken immigration system, solutions that Republicans keep rejecting.

Instead, they provide a resolution that offers no solutions.

We need vision, and Republicans are only giving us division. Vision, not division, is what Democrats are about.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the rule and on the bills.

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

Mr. Speaker, I have to repeat it: Helping women and their babies and providing information is not an extreme agenda. We are talking about taking care of women and their babies.

Supporting and promoting unrestricted abortion up to the time of birth is an extreme agenda, and it is a real shame the Democrats and the Biden administration are purposefully targeting and misrepresenting pregnancy centers in the rule and seeking to intimidate States that fund them and denying college students information.

Pregnancy resource centers play a vital role to both mothers, fathers, and their families, empowering them in their decision to choose life for their baby by providing realistic alternatives. They are another option for women who choose to use their services who are looking for an alternative to abortion.

All pregnancy resource centers are open and receive clients on a voluntary basis, and it is disgraceful that Democrats misconstrue these organizations in an effort to limit a woman's choice to raise their child.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, could you please advise how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Pennsylvania has 7 minutes remaining.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, I will offer an amendment to the rule to bring up

H.R. 12, a bill that would ensure every American has full access to essential reproductive healthcare services, including abortion care.

Since the Dobbs decision, every State in the Union has taken action on abortion in some way. Many States have used it as an opportunity to enact laws that ban specific instances of abortion or abortion care entirely. Republicans have reiterated time and again that that is their goal, to ban abortion nationwide.

The abortion access landscape is deeply fractured, and Americans continue to face the devastating consequences of abortion bans and restrictions on both patients' health and the greater healthcare ecosystem.

H.R. 12 ensures every American has full access to vital reproductive healthcare and will stop the devastating health consequences for women when abortion access is banned or limited.

Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to insert the text of my amendment in the RECORD along with any extraneous material immediately prior to the vote on the previous question.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, to discuss our proposal, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, if we defeat the previous question, we will bring up legislation to protect a woman's right to make her own healthcare decisions, the Women's Health Protection Act.

This is necessary because Republican bills being brought to the floor share a common goal, to limit access to reproductive healthcare for those who need it most. Like so many of the bills this Republican majority has advanced, these bills are intentionally designed to mislead with biased and inaccurate information and to shame those who seek abortion care.

Republicans are continuing their politically violent, thinly veiled misinformation campaign to ultimately enact a national abortion ban, a forced birth mandate. Now, they are using our pregnant students as their pawns. The young woman in college making the life-changing decision on when and how to start a family deserves comprehensive and medically accurate information.

Do not fall for the okey-dokey. They are playing with people's lives instead of trying to save and change and improve them.

Republicans don't care about the people, certainly not pregnant students. They have consistently undermined access to contraception, defunded on-campus childcare, and excluded information on essential abortion care from the bill they want us to vote for.

In fact, Republicans do not care about any pregnant person when they

seek to expand crisis pregnancy centers. Since my days on the Boston City Council, I have fought to stop these sham clinics. They use coercion to prevent women from accessing essential abortion care and operate as anti-choice propaganda centers.

As the chair of the Abortion Rights and Access Task Force under our Pro-Choice Caucus, allow me to set the record straight: Abortion care is healthcare, and a fundamental human right.

When the Supreme Court overturned the right to an abortion with the support of Republicans nationwide, they created the most life-threatening conditions for pregnant women in America in over 50 years.

If Republicans truly cared about pregnant students or healthcare or personal autonomy or even the fundamental right, freedom, to make decisions about your own body, they would bring our bill, the Women's Health Protection Act, to the House floor to overturn the Dobbs decision and codify the right to an abortion. Anything less is a disgrace.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on the previous question.

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

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

This MAGA majority has a bleak and nihilistic vision of our government. It is a vision where congressional power is wielded to take down political rivals; to force extremist beliefs on every American, particularly women; and to shamelessly sow division and fear, not to actually serve all Americans.

It is a vision where the idea of working together across party lines on behalf of all Americans is so anathema to the Republican Party that it can cause a Speaker to lose his gavel or rank-and-file Members of Congress to lose their primaries. It is where standing up against lies and for the Constitution results in death threats and where the integrity and core values of our country's institutions are continually chipped away.

This is an unacceptable way to govern. It is not governance at all. Americans deserve so much better. Let's stop playing these ridiculous games and get to work on the work that the people sent us to do.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose the previous question and the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1300

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

We certainly have covered a lot of topics here today, and House Republicans are working hard to keep our commitments to the American people: holding government accountable, securing our border, and protecting the rights of the unborn and their mothers.

Conservatives care deeply about defending the unborn and empowering

women to confidently choose life, whether it be on a college campus or by ensuring access to care at pregnancy centers.

As thousands march for life across the country in the coming days, now is the perfect time to raise awareness of all the wonderful options that exist for women.

For nearly 3 years, we have seen a failure to act by the executive branch of this government to secure our borders. Biden beat his own record, with the 2023 fiscal year beating 2022 as the worst year at the border.

Mr. Speaker, 169 individuals on the terror watch list were apprehended trying to cross the border illegally. That number includes only the ones that we know about.

I am thankful for the hard work and thankless work our Customs and Border Patrol agents are doing and do not want to diminish any of the work that they are doing, but the administration's negligence has damaged our national security. Whether it is done through incompetence or malice, those responsible must be held accountable for their inaction.

To be clear, I am not talking about those hardworking CBP agents. I am talking about DHS Secretary Mayorkas; the so-called border czar, Vice President HARRIS; and President Joe Biden.

Mr. Speaker, I support the rule and underlying legislation.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Mr. Speaker, today I am pleased to comment on H.R. 3058, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act.

There is an undeniable shortage of foster care placements in America, and an even more drastic lack of foster families with individual foster parents that can care for our Foster Youth. Furthermore, it is imperative that Congress ensures that foster children receive the highest standards of care in all current and future placements. This includes ensuring the availability placements that can be respectful of all of the individualities that foster youth hold.

That is why, in my capacity as a member of the Ways and Means Committee, who has jurisdiction over this legislation, as well as the Chairwoman on the Congressional Caucus on foster youth (otherwise referred to as CCFY) I am proud to support this bill. I will also point out that Congressman KILDEE is one of our strongest advocates on the Congressional Caucus on Foster Youth, and I am a proud cosponsor of this legislation alongside my fellow CCFY cochairs, Representatives BACON and SCANLON.

I often reflect on an instance that occurred when I was age 14, upon a visit to my aunt in my home town. I was awakened in the middle of the night with the police at the door. They ushered in a family of twelve children. My aunt was identified as an emergency placement for these foster youth out of a limited number of adults who had been previously vetted to be foster parents. At midnight, I suddenly worked with my aunt to gather the needed supplies for these children, including items like bedding.

While my aunt was an outstanding foster parent, moments like these occur frequently

and exemplify the phenomenon that many youth feel when they enter care. Placements too often feel to youth like they are thrown to a stranger who the state has hired at random who is suddenly an authority of a child's life.

Thankfully, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act takes several important steps that can ensure that a foster care placement feels less alien to a new foster youth and is a more comfortable place for foster children to land during a tumultuous time in their lives.

One provision in this legislation is its requirement that whenever possible, the existing family of youth who are entering foster care are consulted regarding the most appropriate placement for the youth. This serves to not only maintain family bonds, but also increases the possibility that a foster placement has cultural competency with respect to a youth's background.

This bill importantly also includes measures to improve cultural competency of foster placements. This is through its provision that states, "diligently recruit potential foster and adoptive families that reflect the ethnic and racial diversity of the children in foster care". For example, we know that African American youth are disproportionately overrepresented in the foster care system however, there is not a like amount of African American Foster Parents.

Another anecdote that often comes to mind is a little girl of mixed heritage who I knew that ran away from her foster home and chose to come to my own home. It came to light that her reasoning for these actions was because she was in a foster home with white parents, and she knew that my own daughter would actually be able to handle her African American hair in a way that her white foster parents were not able to. After working with these foster parents to improve their ability to help the girl with her hair, we were able to make a successful reunification. It is that simple. We can fix this.

Finally, I would like to emphasize that with the shortage of foster placements, it is all the more difficult to place foster youth with special needs in homes that are prepared to meet their needs. One such example of special needs is sibling groups. It is certainly a tragedy that upon enduring the trauma of being brought into the foster care system, children often also face the trauma for being indefinitely separated from their known biological siblings. Another example is that foster youth who are part of the LGBTQ+ community need special considerations to secure a safe and accepting placement while in foster care. This is all the more challenging as we are seeing vitriol toward this community nationwide. Youth also can have particular dietary needs either pertaining to health matters or cultural identity that should be catered to in a foster placement.

I am so glad that the House of Representatives is choosing to address all of these issues through the passage of the Recruiting Families Using Data Act. I am looking forward to continuing to work on behalf of foster youth with my colleagues in this constructive manner as we move forward.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 969—the rule providing for consideration of the following:

H.R. 6914—to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the

rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; H.R. 6918—to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; and

H. Res. 957—denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies.

This resolution, providing for debate on these highly politicized and dangerous bills, is yet another shameful effort to erode and dismantle the rights and protections of Americans across the country, and to distract the American people with unviable solutions for immigration and border control—all in the face of inaction to prevent our government from shutting down once again.

H. Res. 969 is a measure that must be opposed for the reasons stated below.

As it pertains to H.R. 6914, this bill requires higher education institutions that participate in federal education programs to disseminate information on the rights and resources afforded to prospective, full- and part-time students who are pregnant or may become pregnant to encourage them to carry their pregnancy to term.

These institutions would be required to share this information by email at the start of each academic year, in student handbooks, at each orientation for enrolled students, at student health and counseling centers, and on the school's website.

A list of anti-abortion "findings" in the bill insinuate that women who have an abortion are at risk of developing mental health issues, abusing drugs and alcohol, and becoming suicidal.

Amendments in committee offered to make it clear that schools are still allowed to disseminate information on access to sexual and reproductive health services and the rights, protections, and accommodation afforded to students under Title IX were voted down by Republicans on the Committee.

As it pertains to H.R. 6918, this bill prohibits the Department of Health and Human Services from restricting funding to pregnancy centers, which are defined as any organization that "supports protecting the life of the mother and unborn child" and "offers resources and services to mothers, fathers, and families."

This legislation redirects critical funding to antiabortion facilities, which includes so-called "crisis pregnancy centers," that operate under the guise of legitimate health care providers.

At a time when women and girls' reproductive health care is already under attack from Republicans across the country, my colleagues across the aisle want to go even further by taking money from legitimate providers and redistributing it to these centers whose staff are not required to have any medical credentials.

Additionally, it must be noted that these harmful bills are futile attempts that will be vetoed by this Administration.

As we know, the Administration strongly opposes H.R. 6914 and H.R. 6918.

As highlighted in the White House Statement of Administrative Policy (SAP), the Administration clearly stated its opposition to H.R. 6914 in its current form.

Existing federal civil rights laws have long prohibited discrimination against students on

the basis of pregnancy and related conditions, and institutions of higher education are already required to provide reasonable modifications to pregnant students—from modified class schedules to medical leave.

The Administration stated that it will continue taking action to ensure that students know their rights under federal law and have access to the comprehensive, evidence-based information and resources they need to make informed decisions about their health care.

And as highlighted by the White House in its SAP to H.R. 6918, contrary to the purported purpose of this bill, it would divert federal Temporary Assistance for Needy Families (TANF) funds from effective supports for pregnant and parenting women and families.

Indeed, the bill seeks to prevent the Department of Health and Human Services from even considering commonsense program integrity measures that ensure that the use of federal TANF funds is consistent with federal law and the long-standing purposes set by Congress.

Members of Congress from both parties have recognized the importance of ensuring that federal TANF funds serve their intended purposes, and the Department's proposal would merely ensure that federal TANF funds are used consistent with the statutory requirements.

I stand with the Administration in stating that we remain committed to supporting the economic security, health, and well-being of women and families across the country, and I urge my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to make this commitment as well.

As it pertains to H. Res. 957, this resolution does nothing to address legitimate issues at the southern border—instead, it repeats an old list of hyperbolic Republican talking points on immigration.

Rather than working constructively to address these issues, House Republicans continue to make the evidence-free argument that President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Mayorkas have intentionally created a "national security and public safety crisis" at the southern border.

This bill peddles the false narrative that President Biden has an open-borders policy and villainizes immigrants fleeing dangerous situations.

And it does nothing to advance common sense solutions to improve our immigration system like creating better legal pathways, increasing processing capacity at ports of entry, or funding more immigration judges to reduce the asylum backlog.

It is truly shameful that just days until a government shutdown, my Republican colleagues continue to waste time with a resolution that repeats the same, tired, inaccurate talking points on immigration and the border.

Once again, Republicans talk a big game when it comes to immigration and border security—but instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation that might fix the problems in our immigration system, their resolution accomplishes nothing.

Let's look at the facts.

Today, there are approximately 38,000 people in immigration detention, which is 4,000 more than what DHS is funded for and roughly what the Trump administration averaged in Fiscal Year 2018.

The Biden administration has also significantly increased removals (in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process).

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned to Mexico over 470,000 individuals, including over 78,000 individual members of family units, including children.

The total is nearly equivalent to the number of people removed in all of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration.

This is hardly an open border.

Time and again, my colleagues across the aisle have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs, and for modernization.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and border security operations in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to CBP, including funding for an additional 300 U.S. Border Patrol agents—the first increase since 2011.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

Yet House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for the following:

- an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents;
- 375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims;
- 1,000 CBP officers with a focus on countering fentanyl;
- new detection technology for ports of entry;
- additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and
- \$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

Democrats have put forward good faith bipartisan solutions to actually secure the border by expanding lawful pathways to relieve pressure on the border and adequately fund government agencies.

By forcing a vote on a meaningless resolution filled with empty rhetoric, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border. Members should not take the bait.

In sum, H. Res. 969, the resolution providing for debate on these above stated bills (H.R. 6914, H.R. 6918, and H. Res. 957), is a pitiful attempt to continue the politicization of our government's ability to function and to dismantle rights and protections currently in place for the Americans across the country.

All a vote would do is put every Republican who supports it on record pushing this extreme agenda.

This is not what Congress should be focused on. Democrats and President Biden will stay focused on putting people over politics and keeping our government funded and functioning for the American people.

As such, I ask my colleagues to vote no on this shameful resolution providing for debate on these highly politicized and dangerous bills.

The material previously referred to by Ms. SCANLON is as follows:

AN AMENDMENT TO H. RES. 969 OFFERED BY MS. SCANLON OF PENNSYLVANIA

At the end of the resolution, add the following:

SEC. 4. Immediately upon adoption of this resolution, the House shall proceed to the consideration in the House of the bill (H.R. 12) to protect a person's ability to determine whether to continue or end a pregnancy, and to protect a health care provider's ability to provide abortion services. All points of order against consideration of the bill are waived. The bill shall be considered as read. All points of order against provisions in the bill are waived. The previous question shall be considered as ordered on the bill and on any amendment thereto, to final passage without intervening motion except: (1) one hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees; and (2) one motion to recommitt.

SEC. 5. Clause 1(c) of rule XIX shall not apply to the consideration of H.R. 12.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I yield back the balance of my time, and I move the previous question on the resolution.

The previous question was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on adoption of the resolution.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

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 1 o'clock and 2 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1330

AFTER RECESS

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

Adoption of House Resolution 969; and

Agreeing to the Speaker's approval of the Journal, if ordered.

The first electronic vote will be conducted as a 15-minute vote. Pursuant

to clause 9 of rule XX, the remaining electronic vote will be conducted as a 5-minute vote.

PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6914, PREGNANT STUDENTS' RIGHTS ACT; PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 6918, SUPPORTING PREGNANT AND PARENTING WOMEN AND FAMILIES ACT; AND PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H. RES. 957, DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES, CONDEMNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER, AND URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO END HIS ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 969) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6918) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 198, nays 194, not voting 41, as follows:

[Roll No. 11]

YEAS—198

- |             |                |                 |
|-------------|----------------|-----------------|
| Aderholt    | Carl           | Fischbach       |
| Alford      | Carter (GA)    | Fitzgerald      |
| Allen       | Carter (TX)    | Fitzpatrick     |
| Amodei      | Chavez-DeRemer | Fleischmann     |
| Armstrong   | Ciscomani      | Flood           |
| Arrington   | Cline          | Foxx            |
| Babin       | Cloud          | Franklin, Scott |
| Baird       | Clyde          | Gaetz           |
| Balderson   | Cole           | Gallagher       |
| Banks       | Collins        | Garbarino       |
| Barr        | Comer          | Gimenez         |
| Bean (FL)   | Crane          | Gonzales, Tony  |
| Bentz       | Crawford       | Good (VA)       |
| Bergman     | Crenshaw       | Gooden (TX)     |
| Bice        | Curtis         | Graves (LA)     |
| Biggs       | D'Esposito     | Green (TN)      |
| Billirakis  | Davidson       | Greene (GA)     |
| Bishop (NC) | De La Cruz     | Griffith        |
| Boebert     | Diaz-Balart    | Grothman        |
| Bost        | Donalds        | Guest           |
| Brecheen    | Duncan         | Guthrie         |
| Buchanan    | Dunn (FL)      | Hageman         |
| Buck        | Edwards        | Harris          |
| Bucshon     | Ellzey         | Harshbarger     |
| Burchett    | Estes          | Hern            |
| Burgess     | Fallon         | Higgins (LA)    |
| Burlison    | Feenstra       | Hill            |
| Calvert     | Ferguson       | Hinson          |
| Carey       | Finstad        | Houchin         |

- |              |               |               |
|--------------|---------------|---------------|
| Hudson       | Mast          | Schweikert    |
| Huizenga     | McCaull       | Scott, Austin |
| Hunt         | McClain       | Self          |
| Issa         | McClintock    | Simpson       |
| Jackson (TX) | McCormick     | Smith (MO)    |
| James        | McHenry       | Smith (NE)    |
| Johnson (LA) | Meuser        | Smith (NJ)    |
| Johnson (OH) | Miller (IL)   | Smucker       |
| Johnson (SD) | Miller (OH)   | Spartz        |
| Jordan       | Miller (WV)   | Stauber       |
| Joyce (OH)   | Miller-Meeks  | Steel         |
| Joyce (PA)   | Mills         | Stefanik      |
| Kean (NJ)    | Molinaro      | Steil         |
| Kiggans (VA) | Moolenaar     | Steube        |
| Kiley        | Mooney        | Tenney        |
| Kim (CA)     | Moore (AL)    | Thompson (PA) |
| Kustoff      | Moore (UT)    | Tiffany       |
| LaHood       | Moran         | Timmons       |
| LaLota       | Murphy        | Turner        |
| LaMalfa      | Newhouse      | Valadao       |
| Lamborn      | Norman        | Van Drew      |
| Langworthy   | Nunn (IA)     | Van Duyne     |
| Latta        | Obernolte     | Van Orden     |
| LaTurner     | Owens         | Wagner        |
| Lawler       | Palmer        | Walberg       |
| Lee (FL)     | Pence         | Waltz         |
| Lesko        | Perry         | Weber (TX)    |
| Letlow       | Pfuger        | Webster (FL)  |
| Loudermilk   | Posey         | Wenstrup      |
| Lucas        | Reschenthaler | Westerman     |
| Luetkemeyer  | Rodgers (WA)  | Williams (NY) |
| Luna         | Rogers (AL)   | Williams (TX) |
| Luttrell     | Rose          | Wilson (SC)   |
| Mace         | Rosendale     | Wittman       |
| Malliotakis  | Rouzer        | Womack        |
| Maloy        | Rutherford    | Yakym         |
| Mann         | Salazar       | Zinke         |

NAYS—194

- |               |                 |               |
|---------------|-----------------|---------------|
| Adams         | Gallego         | Morelle       |
| Aguilar       | Garamendi       | Moskowitz     |
| Allred        | Garcia (IL)     | Moulton       |
| Amo           | Garcia (TX)     | Mrvan         |
| Auchincloss   | Garcia, Robert  | Mullin        |
| Balint        | Golden (ME)     | Nadler        |
| Barragan      | Goldman (NY)    | Napolitano    |
| Beatty        | Gomez           | Neal          |
| Bera          | Gonzalez,       | Neguse        |
| Beyer         | Vicente         | Nickel        |
| Bishop (GA)   | Gottheimer      | Ocasio-Cortez |
| Blumenauer    | Green, Al (TX)  | Omar          |
| Bonamici      | Grijalva        | Pallone       |
| Bowman        | Harder (CA)     | Panetta       |
| Boyle (PA)    | Higgins (NY)    | Pappas        |
| Brown         | Himes           | Pascrell      |
| Budzinski     | Horsford        | Payne         |
| Bush          | Houlihan        | Pelosi        |
| Caraveo       | Hoyer           | Peltola       |
| Carbajal      | Hoyle (OR)      | Perez         |
| Cárdenas      | Huffman         | Peters        |
| Carson        | Ivey            | Pettersen     |
| Cartwright    | Jackson (IL)    | Pingree       |
| Casar         | Jackson (NC)    | Pocan         |
| Case          | Jackson Lee     | Porter        |
| Casten        | Jacobs          | Pressley      |
| Castor (FL)   | Jayapal         | Quigley       |
| Castro (TX)   | Jeffries        | Ramirez       |
| Cherfilus-    | Kamlager-Dove   | Raskin        |
| McCormick     | Kaptur          | Ross          |
| Chu           | Keating         | Ruiz          |
| Clark (MA)    | Kelly (IL)      | Ruppersberger |
| Clarke (NY)   | Khanna          | Ryan          |
| Clyburn       | Kildee          | Salinas       |
| Connolly      | Kilmer          | Sánchez       |
| Correa        | Kim (NJ)        | Sarbanes      |
| Courtney      | Krishnamoorthi  | Scanlon       |
| Craig         | Kuster          | Schakowsky    |
| Crockett      | Landsman        | Schiff        |
| Crow          | Larsen (WA)     | Schneider     |
| Cuellar       | Larson (CT)     | Schrier       |
| Davids (KS)   | Lee (CA)        | Scott (VA)    |
| Davis (IL)    | Lee (NV)        | Scott, David  |
| Davis (NC)    | Lee (PA)        | Sherman       |
| Dean (PA)     | Leger Fernandez | Sherrill      |
| DeGette       | Levin           | Slotkin       |
| DeLauro       | Lofgren         | Smith (WA)    |
| DelBene       | Lynch           | Sorensen      |
| Deluzio       | Magaziner       | Soto          |
| DeSaulnier    | Manning         | Stansbury     |
| Dingell       | Matsui          | Stanton       |
| Escobar       | McBath          | Stevens       |
| Eshoo         | McClellan       | Strickland    |
| Espallat      | McCollum        | Swalwell      |
| Evans         | McGarvey        | Sykes         |
| Fletcher      | McGovern        | Takano        |
| Foster        | Meeks           | Thanedar      |
| Foushee       | Menendez        | Thompson (CA) |
| Hill          | Meng            | Thompson (MS) |
| Frankel, Lois | Mfume           | Titus         |
| Frost         |                 |               |

Tlaib	Trone	Wasserman
Tokuda	Underwood	Schultz
Tonko	Vargas	Watson Coleman
Torres (CA)	Vasquez	Wexton
Torres (NY)	Veasey	Williams (GA)
Trahan	Velázquez	

NOT VOTING—41

Bacon	Fulcher	Ogles
Blunt Rochester	Garcia, Mike	Phillips
Brownley	Gosar	Rogers (KY)
Cammack	Granger	Roy
Carter (LA)	Graves (MO)	Scalise
Cleaver	Hayes	Scholten
Cohen	Johnson (GA)	Sessions
Costa	Kelly (MS)	Sewell
DesJarlais	Kelly (PA)	Spanberger
Doggett	Lieu	Strong
Duarte	Massie	Waters
Emmer	Moore (WI)	Wild
Ezell	Nehls	Wilson (FL)
Fry	Norcross	

□ 1357

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 11.

Mr. EMMER. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 11.

Mr. GRAVES of Missouri. Mr. Speaker, I missed a rollcall vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 11.

Stated against:

Mrs. HAYES. Mr. Speaker, I was unavailable to vote because of travel delays due to weather. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 11.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on agreeing to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal, which the Chair will put de novo.

The question is on the Speaker’s approval of the Journal.

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

**DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION’S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES, CONDEMNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER, AND URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO END HIS ADMINISTRATION’S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES**

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 969, I call up the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration’s open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. NEWHOUSE). Pursuant to House Resolution 969, the resolution is considered read.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 957

Whereas the United States is in the midst of the worst border security crisis in the Nation’s history;

Whereas, during every month of the Biden administration, U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) has encountered more than 100,000 illegal aliens along the southwest border;

Whereas the total number of illegal aliens encountered along the southwest border during the Biden administration exceeds 7 million;

Whereas the Biden administration has released at least 3.3 million of those illegal aliens into the interior of the United States;

Whereas, during the Biden administration, more than 1.7 million known illegal alien “gotaways” have successfully evaded U.S. Border Patrol along the southwest border;

Whereas, during the Biden administration, an untold number of unknown illegal alien “gotaways” have evaded detection along the southwest border;

Whereas the record 312 illegal aliens on the Terrorist Screening Dataset encountered by Border Patrol along the southwest border during the Biden administration represents a more than 2,700-percent increase when compared to the total number of such aliens encountered during all four years of the previous administration;

Whereas the Biden administration created the illegal alien crisis at the southwest border by terminating the Migrant Protection Protocols, halting border wall construction, abusing parole authority, mass releasing millions of illegal aliens into the country, and implementing policies that incentivize illegal immigration, among other actions;

Whereas the Biden administration systematically dismantled immigration enforcement and restricted the ability of immigration officials to deport aliens who violate United States law, ensuring relatively few aliens, including criminal aliens, are removed from the country;

Whereas the Biden administration’s lax immigration enforcement policies have resulted in numerous violent criminal aliens being released into United States communities;

Whereas the Biden administration’s lax border enforcement policies have allowedentanyl to saturate United States communities and kill Americans;

Whereas the Biden administration’s historic border crisis has made every State a border State;

Whereas the Biden administration refuses to use tools already at its disposal to end the border crisis; and

Whereas the Biden administration’s proposed solution to the historic border crisis—legislation to grant amnesty to tens of millions of illegal aliens—will do nothing but incentivize additional illegal immigration: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) denounces the Biden administration’s open-borders policies;

(2) condemns the national security and public safety crisis that President Joe Biden, “Border Czar” Vice President Kamala Harris, Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security Alejandro Mayorkas, and other Biden administration officials have created along the southwest border; and

(3) urges President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MORAN).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on H. Res. 957.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I stand today in support of H. Res. 957, denouncing the Biden administration’s open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwestern border, and urging President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies.

Mr. Speaker, we have a problem at our southern border. I represent the First District of Texas, which is a rural district located in northeast Texas comprised of 17 counties. It borders Louisiana and Arkansas, and although it is not physically adjacent to the southern border, my district is directly impacted by the open-border policies of the Biden administration, as is every corner of America today.

The text of my proposed House resolution is simple, straightforward, and to the point. It denounces the Biden administration’s open-border policies, condemns the national security and public safety crisis caused by these policies, and urges President Biden to end them immediately.

Mr. Speaker, why do we need to actually have this resolution in the House today? I will tell you, Mr. Speaker. It is for two primary reasons. One is because we need to admit that there is a problem. This House needs to admit that there is a problem on the border. Number two, we need to identify the source of the problem itself. Why do we have open borders? It is because of the policies of this administration.

Those two things today, to admit and to identify, will help lead us to a solution from this House body and across the three branches of government.

The border numbers do not lie. In fact, they tell a clear story about the depth of the crisis and the proximate cause rooted in the Biden administration policies.

Consider that the total number of illegal aliens encountered along the southern border since President Biden took office exceeds 7 million. At the same time, the Biden administration has released at least 3.3 million of those illegal aliens into the interior of the United States. This number is larger than the entire population of States like Nevada, Arkansas, and Kansas. In fact, it exceeds the combined populations of Wyoming, Vermont, Alaska, and North Dakota together.

Additionally, more than 1.7 million got-aways and an untold number of unknown illegal got-aways have successfully evaded capture by the U.S. Border Patrol along the southwestern border.

Mr. Speaker, 312 illegal aliens on the Terrorist Screening Dataset were encountered along the southwestern border since President Biden took office. By contrast, consider that during the 4 years of the prior administration, only 11 illegal aliens on that same list were encountered by Border Patrol.

If we look just at the last quarter, we see how depraved the situation is on the southwestern border. More than 785,000 migrant encounters have been reported just since the beginning of this fiscal year, and last month's record high, the first time ever in American history, was 300,000-plus encounters along the southwestern border.

In fiscal year 2023, 27,000 pounds of fentanyl were seized at the southern border. This is almost double what fiscal year 2022 brought at 14,700 pounds, and it is six times higher than in fiscal year 2020.

We have seen more than 150,000 unaccompanied minors cross over the U.S.-Mexico border, and reports indicate that we have lost contact with over 85,000 of those unaccompanied children.

It used to be that most of the migrants who were coming up to our southern border were from Mexico, but now the landscape has changed. In fiscal year 2022, migrants from Mexico crossing illegally made up just 33 percent. Now, individuals are coming from across the world, more than 150 countries, and many of those countries have direct ties with terrorism.

When I was down at Eagle Pass on the border several months ago, we were told that there were at least 27 countries with ties to terrorism that had immigrants come across that southern border who were encountered in the last couple of years. How astounding and how problematic for this country.

Despite the authority that the President has to fix these issues, he simply will not do it. What policies are we talking about? The current administration has ended the Migrant Protection Protocols and the remain in Mexico policy. We are told by border security people that if we reinstate just remain in Mexico, that could end up to 70 percent of the encounters that we see coming across the border.

The administration also has reinstated catch-and-release policies. They have suspended asylum cooperative agreements with other nations, such as El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. They have ignored existing restraints on the abuse of parole. They have halted necessary border wall construction. They have undermined the Immigration and Customs Enforcement's core mission by preventing them from deporting certain aliens who violate U.S. law. They have enabled use of smartphone apps to facilitate the release of border crossers into the United

States. Moreover, they have redirected Customs and Border Patrol agents to do ICE paperwork processing instead of focusing on law enforcement work.

In short, the current administration's policies have led to the numbers that we are seeing today, numbers like 2.5 million just in the last fiscal year, 2.3 million in the year before, and 1.74 million in the year before compared to numbers like 400,000 or 500,000 per year under the prior administration.

One is too many, but 2.5 million is egregious. It has led to situations like overcrowded classrooms and children trafficked to do work in industries unsuited for children—unsuited for anybody; millions of dollars in unpaid medical bills in hospitals across the U.S., which overwhelm first responders in border communities; homeless veterans who are getting kicked out of shelters in favor of illegal aliens; and even the deaths of tens of thousands of Americans by fentanyl.

□ 1415

Because of the increased fentanyl crisis, these effects are being felt in rural and metropolitan communities in both blue and red States.

As of the beginning of December, the city of Denver had spent over \$33 million to house, feed, and educate around 30,000 illegal aliens. Chicago residents are up in arms, as well, as are New York City residents. Their mayor says that this crisis will destroy the city.

In 2022, here is the number I was citing for you just a second ago—73,654 people died from fentanyl overdose in the U.S. This is more than double the amount of deaths in 2019 and the highest in American history.

Assaults on Border Patrol agents doubled just last year. Nevertheless, the Biden administration is doubling down on these open-border policies.

What will it take for them to wake up?

What will it take for us to find a solution for the border crisis?

There is a lot to be done. There are lots that can be done by this body and the Senate and across this government, but it starts with leadership in the White House, policy leadership in the White House to undo the current open-border policies and to return to the policies that were preventing this crisis before.

Mr. Speaker, H. Res. 957 denounces these open-border policies, condemns the national security and public crisis that we are seeing today because of that, and urges the President to end those policies immediately. The people of America deserve better. They deserve to have the sovereignty and the geographic borders of this Nation protected.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, this country is facing real problems. The right to bodily autonomy is under attack across the Na-

tion. There was a school shooting just 4 days into the new year, leading to the tragic death of an 11-year-old and the injury of 7 others.

Our immigration system cannot function because Congress has failed to reform it for over 30 years, and Republican hard-liners are threatening to shut down the government if we don't "shut down the border."

House Republicans are not working to respond to any of these problems as they are too busy fighting among themselves. Their historic dysfunction has even prompted multiple Members of their Conference to complain that they have nothing to campaign on.

Today's resolution is not going to help. This resolution will do nothing to solve the situation at the border. It proposes no solutions of any kind. In fact, this resolution is nothing more than a highlight reel of the Republican talking points on immigration that we have heard over and over from Republicans since President Biden was sworn into office.

Let me say once again: The border is not open. The Biden administration has been removing people at a record clip over the last few months, restricting asylum with a new regulation, and placing thousands of families in expedited removal.

Since the end of title 42 last May, the Biden administration has removed or returned nearly a half million individuals. That is more than the number of people removed in all of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration.

However, because President Biden isn't saying that he wants to shoot migrants trying to cross the border, like Governors Abbott and DeSantis have, Republicans don't think he is doing enough.

Further, despite my colleagues' claims, fentanyl is largely not coming into this country between ports of entry. More than 90 percent of fentanyl interdicted is stopped at ports of entry where cartels attempted to smuggle it in through primarily vehicles driven by American citizens.

I am not sure how anyone can say the border is open.

On top of this, at every turn, Republicans have voted against giving the administration the resources it needs to do its job. Nearly every current House Republican voted against the bipartisan infrastructure deal in the fiscal year 2023 omnibus.

Both of these bills provided significant additional funding to increase staffing and modernize ports of entry to combat the smuggling of people and drugs.

We need to work together to address our broken immigration system. Right now we have a system where many, many people come into this country, present themselves to Border Patrol or not. They are apprehended. They claim asylum under our law. They are entitled to a hearing before an immigration judge, but because we don't have enough asylum officers and immigration judges, their case isn't heard for

years, so they are told to come back in 4 years or whatever for their hearing, and the Republicans call this catch and release.

If the Biden administration's proposals for funding for more border guards, more CBP people, more asylum and immigration judges would be approved, then these claims could be adjudicated in a matter of weeks, not years. Those entitled to asylum would be granted it in weeks and would be permitted to work, and those not entitled to it would be swiftly deported.

However, due to the lack of resources caused by Republican insistence on voting against those resources, this doesn't happen, and we have the catch and release system and millions of people staying in this country when they shouldn't entirely because of the Republicans, and then they say it is President Biden's open border policy.

We need to work together to address our broken immigration system. Unfortunately, House Republicans insist they will only consider H.R. 2, their fantasy, draconian, enforcement-only bill which stands no chance of passage in the Senate.

Real solutions require compromise, but MAGA Republicans aren't interested in compromise. What they are interested in is passing bills like the one before us today. I should say resolutions. This is not a bill.

This resolution is nothing but empty rhetoric designed to score cheap political points that bring us no closer to meaningful reform.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this resolution, and I hope we can get to serious work, but meanwhile, we should oppose this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. BIGGS).

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, I get a kick out of listening to the gentleman from New York who doesn't know a darn thing about the border crisis and gets to stand up and say: Oh, by golly, 90 percent of the fentanyl they are catching right there is in the port of entry.

Do you know why they catch it at the port of entry? Because that is where you have x-rays for the vehicles coming in. You have dogs that sniff. Most of the vehicles are getting picked up and looked at. It is the same with the pedestrians coming across.

Do you know why you don't find it between the ports of entry where 1.9 million people have come across the border, Mr. Speaker? You know why they don't find it? Let's say, right now if you are on the Tohono O'odham reservation, they have 62 miles right there along the border. You can drive that, and you are going to see maybe one or two agents in that entire area.

Do you know why? Because the rest of them are processing all of the people that the agents have had to encounter. They are out at these facilities.

When I was down in Lukeville right before Christmas, I was standing there

and I asked, hey, where you from? Guinea. How about you? Burkina Faso. How about you? Senegal. How about you? India. How about you? Pakistan. They are coming from all over the world to Lukeville, Arizona.

I happened to be there during a 2-week period where 30,000 encounters took place in that area alone. Oh, yeah, this border is secure. It is closed. What they don't tell you is that you have got a bunch of people coming in between the ports of entry that we can't even catch.

When I was down in Lukeville, we couldn't catch them. Why can't we catch them? We sense them. In some places we have sensors. Why couldn't we catch them? As I drove along for miles along that border, I didn't see a single agent. Why? Because they are all back at the facility processing. That is what they are doing. That is what these guys have done. That is what the Democrats have done.

When they say, parole is a good thing, the statute is real clear: It is supposed to be particularized. It is supposed to be case by case.

We actually heard in Oversight today that the million-plus people who have received parole are all being adjudicated on a case-by-case basis. I asked the witness: Have you ever been down there and watched the process before they grant somebody parole? I saw it on video. Go with me sometimes. Stand down there, visit, watch it, and you will be stunned to know that there is virtually no vetting whatsoever. Why? We are relying on those individuals to tell us where they are from and who they are. That is how open this border is.

Mr. Speaker, I will say that the gentleman from New York also explained the reason that they support this illegal migration is because they want people to pick our vegetables. That is how they view people coming in from all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I support this resolution, and I urge my colleagues to do so, as well.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, the reason the gentleman from Arizona couldn't find any Border Patrol agents is because Republicans have refused to vote the appropriations to greatly increase the number of Border Patrol agents that the Biden administration has proposed.

We know there aren't enough Border Patrol agents. The administration knows this. The administration has proposed funding for many more Border Patrol agents, but the Republicans have refused to vote for it. Then they complain that they can't find Border Patrol agents along the border.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Washington (Ms. JAYAPAL), the ranking Democrat on the Immigration Integrity, Security, and Enforcement Subcommittee.

Ms. JAYAPAL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 957.

Today, the Republican majority has brought up a pointless resolution that does nothing to address the situation at the border and repeats the same tired and untrue talking points about the border.

I, too, want to be clear: The border is not open. No matter how many times the Republicans repeat it, it doesn't make it true. Every time Republicans go on television with these false claims, the only people that are being empowered by those false claims are the cartels who use those false claims to then entice families to come to the border believing that it is open.

The fact is that Republicans have not had any interest in doing anything to fix the border because they want to keep chaos at the border until the election. They want to use immigrants as a political tool to ramp up fear and xenophobia in the run-up to the election.

Don't just take it from me, Mr. Speaker. Take it from my Republican colleagues themselves. On the issue of immigration, Representative NEHLS said: "I'm not willing to do too damn much right now to help a Democrat and to help Joe Biden's approval rating."

On the issue of holding Ukraine aid hostage for unworkable border policies, Representative CRENSHAW said: "Some might even be afraid of giving up the border as a campaign issue. They don't want a solution." That is from Republicans, not from Democrats.

That is the truth. There are real changes that are needed to immigration policies that haven't been updated in 30 years. Some even have bipartisan support, but none of them have moved because Republicans don't really want a solution to this. That is why time and time again when Republicans had a chance to support more resources and personnel for the border, they voted "no."

In 2021 and 2023, nearly every current House Republican voted against providing additional funding to increase staffing and resources at ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs.

When my colleague from Arizona says that everyone is coming to the border, he is not wrong in that we have taken away all of the legal pathways for people to actually be able to come here and the only one that seems to be remaining open is now the border.

When he says that agents aren't out there, it is because they are processing; then you should want to fund agents to be able to process so that we can have border agents that are out in the field doing the work that they need.

The President's supplemental funding request for the border actually does include more money for immigration judges and asylum officers that would help process people in a legal and orderly fashion. It has money for cities to be able to help people work and support themselves as they wait for their immigration papers to be processed.

Furthermore, we could pass the American Dream and Promise Act and

the Farm Worker Modernization Act, which are both bipartisan, to help bring real solutions to a broken immigration system.

□ 1430

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Washington.

Ms. JAYAPAL. However, Republicans won't agree to that. Why? Because it would help make the situation at the border better, and they don't want that under any circumstance.

They would rather continue the cruelty:

The cruelty of seeing migrants fleeing horrific circumstances thanks to Republican Governors who use their own military to block Border Patrol agents from doing their jobs and saving lives;

The cruelty of blaming immigrants for everything just to try and win elections;

The cruelty of separating mothers from their babies.

That is the extreme Republican playbook.

Let's stop wasting everyone's time with this empty rhetoric and work on some real solutions. Vote "no" on this fact-free resolution.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3½ minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. VAN DREW).

Mr. VAN DREW. Mr. Speaker, a nation without borders is not a nation at all.

Currently, we have an administration that prioritizes illegal immigrants over American citizens, over our own constituents.

Since President Biden took office, more than 8 million illegal immigrants have entered our country without consequence; 300,000 since December alone. Within months, there will be more illegal immigrants than the population of my home State of New Jersey, a State that would rank tenth in population made up of illegals.

Yet, this President, Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, and my Democratic colleagues continue to deny that the crisis even exists, allowing millions of illegal immigrants, many from countries that hate America, threatens our national security, and it is wrong.

Using taxpayer dollars to give illegal immigrants free healthcare and making Americans pay for it is wrong.

Sacrificing the education of our American children to turn their schools into shelters for illegal immigrants is wrong.

Cutting public safety funding to pay for services like free housing, free legal aid, and welfare for illegal immigrants that many Americans struggle to afford themselves is wrong.

College education subsidies for illegal immigrants is wrong.

Those on the terror watch list slipping through our borders is wrong.

Sanctuary State status, sanctuary city status is wrong.

Standing idly by while tens of thousands of Americans, American young people, die at the hands of illicit fentanyl that is flowing freely across our border is wrong.

President Biden and this administration have had the power to stop it, but they refuse. Our Democratic colleagues had a chance to stop it by voting for H.R. 2, but they refused.

Four years ago this didn't exist, and now our Senate colleagues have refused to take up H.R. 2 and are working to increase incentives for illegal immigrants to come into our country.

We need to get serious. Those responsible must be held accountable, and once again I demand that this administration, for once, put American people first.

I hope and I pray that everyone will vote for this good resolution.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, let me just say to my colleagues on this floor that what is really wrong is to misstate the problem, the facts to the American public.

I have been to the border numerous times in the last year as a member of the Committee on Homeland Security, Subcommittee on Border Security and Enforcement. I just got back from Latin America.

I have spoken to the border guards at our border. Do you know what they have told me? They need relief. They need resources. They are tired of working overtime, two double shifts, not enough personnel, not enough resources, not enough technology. That is the answer to the problem.

The problem isn't an open border. The border is not open. The problem is a worldwide refugee challenge. Italy, Greece, Germany, Colombia, Costa Rica, and Mexico all have a problem.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from California.

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, the solution is simple. Let's fund additional resources for our borders, for border security. Senate Democrats and Senate Republicans are joining the President in negotiating a solution. House Democrats are there. I ask my colleagues across the aisle, join us. Let's come up with a solution. America deserves solutions, not political statements.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KILEY).

Mr. KILEY. Mr. Speaker, the situation at the southern border is utterly untenable. It is an urgent national security and public safety crisis. Everyone knows it. The American people know it. Members on both sides of the aisle in this House know it, and the President sure ought to know it.

What we have seen is absolutely beyond anything we have ever seen before. In the 3 years of this administra-

tion, there have been 6.7 million illegal border crossings and 1.7 million gotaways, folks that just evaded detection by Border Patrol. In the last month, we had days where there were 10,000 illegal crossings in a single day.

These numbers are staggering, and they are unprecedented, but what is the meaning of those numbers? On the one hand, it has been an absolute bonanza for the cartels. On the other hand, it has been an absolute tragedy for the American people, as we have truly incredible amounts of fentanyl coming into the country, taking the lives of young people in every community in our country every day. We have more and more people suffering through the horror of human trafficking and being victimized. We have growing national security risks every day with the increasing likelihood of terrorists coming into this country, putting all Americans at risk.

Mr. Speaker, this isn't brain surgery. We know what a secure border looks like. The House has passed legislation, the Secure the Border Act, with commonsense reforms, beefing up our border security with physical barriers, with technology, with Border Patrol, with commonsense legal reforms to the parole and the asylum process, even reinstating remain in Mexico. That one simple step would solve a good portion of this problem.

This should not be a political issue. It is not a partisan issue. It is a basic matter of governance. It is the most basic thing that Americans ought to be able to expect from our government. It is the most basic responsibility of a civil society and of a nation-state.

That is why Americans—Democrat, Republican, Independent, it doesn't matter—are urgently calling for change. This resolution gives voice to that call for change, and I am proud to support it.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the distinguished gentleman from Texas (Ms. ESCOBAR).

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I proudly represent El Paso, Texas, a border community, and I rise today in strong opposition to this resolution, which is nothing more than a collection of Republican talking points.

Let's be clear: Reforming our outdated immigration laws is our responsibility, a congressional responsibility, and it is our responsibility to do so in a way that actually works and doesn't sacrifice our values.

Some Republicans prefer to go on TV to complain, and others openly acknowledge they don't want a solution, including the Speaker of the House, who says he wants to wait until after the election.

To those who claim their unworkable Secure the Border Act is a solution, please read your bill. You will see that fundamental to it is that Mexico will accept every single migrant the U.S. sends to them. That has never happened. It will never happen. Therefore, H.R. 2 is nothing more than a fantasy for you all.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, for those Republicans who are tired of complaining and really want a solution, please join our bipartisan coalition, a coalition that worked on real solutions, legislative solutions. It is called the Dignity Act of 2023. It addresses the border and beyond and does it in a way that doesn't sacrifice our values. Please join us. Let's fix this together because we can.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS).

Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to denounce President Biden's open border policies that have fueled the invasion—I repeat invasion—of our country through our southern border. I wonder how many of my liberal friends across the aisle have actually even been to the border.

Let us be clear: This is a crisis of Biden's making. He has not been to the border nor has Vice President HARRIS been to the border. They have been to a parking lot in El Paso, Texas, and that is as good as they could do.

For over 3 years now, Biden has ignored calls from the American people to secure our border and protect American lives. This administration's failed policies have allowed over 8 million illegal immigrants to cross into our country, forcing border States such as my home State of Texas to take matters into their own hands, only to be attacked by Biden's out-of-reach DOJ and be sued for protecting the lives of Texans.

It is time President Biden and his administration are held accountable for the lack of action at our southern border.

From my very first day, I have fought against the radical left's open border and pro-amnesty policies and the House Republicans have done their job with real solutions and passed H.R. 2 to fully fund and secure our border, but that too has been ignored by Senator SCHUMER and President Biden.

This is not the border between New York and New Jersey. It is totally different. Some don't see it that way. Today, we take another stand. I urge my colleagues to support H. Res. 957 to denounce President Biden's open border policies. In God we trust.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman for yielding, and I am very glad that my colleagues, and some from Texas, want to have the real truth discussed on this floor.

The real truth is that President Biden has not fostered nor encouraged

open borders. In fact, the United States does not have open borders.

It would be truly an act of real leadership if Republicans would work with Democrats and the present administration to do as was done during the Reagan administration when, yes, whether you agreed or disagreed, immigration laws were passed. If this Republican contingent of Members, House and Senate, would work, we would find a resolution to some of the concerns that we have.

It is very clear that the impeachment of Secretary Mayorkas is not a solution. The present resolution that we have is not a solution.

Today, there are approximately 38,000 people in immigration detention, which is 4,000 more than what DHS is funded for. People without facts don't realize, somewhat similar to Trump, many of us are concerned about due process rights, but when accusations are made about one party is better than another, that is not true. Of course, there were those removed under title 42, and the Biden administration did that when that law was in place. The total is nearly equivalent to the number of people removed in all of fiscal 2019 in the past administration.

However, this administration wants to put forward reasonable and effective legislation so that we will get an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents, 375 immigration judges, 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims, 1,000 CBP officers, new detection technology for ports of entry, additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking, and \$1.4 billion more to help communities receiving migrants.

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

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, quickly, fentanyl is not an immigration issue. It is a criminal issue, a crime issue. It is where we have to come together with our law enforcement across America.

What I will say, the utilization of State laws that effectively are not governed by the Constitution, States do not have immigration authority, and blocking the Border Patrol is not an effective immigration tool. Causing a mother and two of her children to die is not an immigration tool. I don't want to be a part of it.

I want to be a part of the work that the President is doing. I thank the President and Vice President. I want this House to be helping in this work so that we can, in fact, have border solutions that work, where visas are able to be given to the appropriate people.

Limiting or removing parole does not work.

Additionally, 8.3 million relatives of U.S. citizens and legal residents are awaiting a green card. That does not work.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article written by David J. Bier ti-

led: "8.3 Million Relatives of U.S. Citizens & Legal Residents Awaited Green Cards in 2022."

[May 17, 2023]

8.3 MILLION RELATIVES OF U.S. CITIZENS & LEGAL RESIDENTS AWAITED GREEN CARDS IN 2022

(By David J. Bier)

The United States hit a new record of about 8.3 million immigrants at various stages in its family-sponsored permanent residence process in 2022—an increase of nearly 1 million since 2019. The staggering number of pending cases is primarily the result of outdated caps on green cards, but processing delays are also affecting a substantial number of applicants.

The U.S. immigration system's current caps came into effect in fiscal year 1992. Figure 1 breaks down the family-based backlog into its two main categories: immediate relatives ("uncapped") and family preference immigrants ("capped") from 1992 to 2022. Immediate relatives—spouses, minor children, and parents of adult U.S. citizens—have no *direct* cap (though their admissions reduce the cap for the family preference (or capped) immigrants from 480,000 to 226,000). The immediate relative backlog has increased from about 73,000 in 1992 to over 1 million in 2022.

Family preference immigrants are spouses and children of legal permanent residents, adult children of U.S. citizens, and siblings of adult U.S. citizens, as well as any spouses and minor children of those relatives. Immigrants who need a cap number available to apply for a green card made up about 86 percent of the family-based backlog in 2022. From 1992 to 2022, the number of capped family-sponsored immigrants stuck in the backlog increased from about 3.3 million to about 7.1 million. The cap is set at 226,000 annually.

These estimates differ significantly from the most commonly referenced source for information on the family-sponsored green card backlog: the State Department's annual immigrant visa waiting list report. The numbers from that report are shown in orange (Petition Approved-Wait Listed (Abroad)), but that report does not include several groups of applicants. It excludes the "immediate relative" or uncapped categories, anyone waiting to apply inside the United States, and—most importantly—anyone whose petition is yet to be adjudicated. As Figure 2 shows, 3.6 million had a sponsor's petition pending. This massive backlog in pending petitions is largely because of the government's correct view that it shouldn't waste resources adjudicating applications that will not result in a green card being issued thanks to the cap.

The overall cap is set at 226,000, but it is divided into 5 categories based on the immigrant's marital status and relationship to the U.S. sponsor:

1. F-1—Married adult children of U.S. citizens: 23,400
2. F-2A—Spouses and minor children of legal permanent residents: ~687,900
3. F-2B—Unmarried adult children of legal permanent residents: ~626,300
4. F-3—Unmarried adult children of U.S. citizens: 23,400
5. F-4—Siblings of U.S. citizens: 65,000

In addition, immigrants from each country have a separate limit. No single birthplace can receive more than 7 percent of the green cards, though 75 percent of the F-2A category aren't counted against the cap.

As a result of the country caps and category caps, applicants face wildly different potential wait times: anywhere from 6 years to 233 years (effectively infinite). As seen in Table 1, the odds of a new family-sponsor surviving to be able to act as a sponsor when

a green card is available under the cap is low in many category-country combinations. Virtually all new sponsors from Mexico in 2022—outside the F-2A category—will die before their family member receives a green card. In fact, nearly 40 percent of all new sponsors in 2022 and 58 percent of sponsors in non-F-2A categories will die before their relatives get to immigrate. Even if the sponsor survives for eternity, about 1.6 million immigrants currently in the backlog will die before receiving a green card.

Even the shortest wait for F-2A category—for spouses and minor children of green card holders—is unconscionable. 6 to 10 years to wait to be with your nuclear family? This would be unimaginable in nearly all developed democracies. The United States stands apart in having some of the most restrictive immigration laws among wealthy countries.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Restricting immigration and parole is a lose-lose situation, as is rejecting DACA young people who are, in fact, ready to be paramedics, lawyers, doctors, teachers.

The White House calls on Congress to advance critical national security.

All of this is what President Biden is doing, and I would make the argument that this is what we should be doing in order to have real immigration reform. I ask that we do not support the underlying bill.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong opposition to H. Res. 957—denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies.

This resolution is yet another shameful effort to distract the American people with unviable solutions for immigration and border control—all in the face of inaction to prevent our government from shutting down once again.

This resolution does nothing to address legitimate issues at the southern border—instead, it repeats an old list of hyperbolic Republican talking points on immigration.

Rather than working constructively to address these issues, House Republicans continue to make the evidence-free argument that President Biden, Vice President Harris, and Secretary Mayorkas have intentionally created a “national security and public safety crisis” at the southern border.

This bill peddles the false narrative that President Biden has an open-borders policy and villainizes immigrants fleeing dangerous situations.

And it does nothing to advance common sense solutions to improve our immigration system like creating better legal pathways, increasing processing capacity at ports of entry, or funding more immigration judges to reduce the asylum backlog.

It is truly shameful that just days until a government shutdown, my Republican colleagues continue to waste time with a resolution that repeats the same, tired, inaccurate talking points on immigration and the border.

Once again, Republicans talk a big game when it comes to immigration and border security—but instead of trying to pass thoughtful and bipartisan legislation that might fix the problems in our immigration system, their resolution accomplishes nothing.

Let's look at the facts.

Today, there are approximately 38,000 people in immigration detention, which is 4,000

more than what DHS is funded for and roughly what the Trump administration averaged in Fiscal Year 2018.

The Biden administration has also significantly increased removals (in ways that many in our caucus worry violates due process).

Since the end of Title 42 last year, the Biden administration has removed or returned to Mexico over 470,000 individuals, including over 78,000 individual members of family units, including children.

The total is nearly equivalent to the number of people removed in ALL of fiscal year 2019 under the Trump administration.

This is hardly an open border.

Time and again, my colleagues across the aisle have refused to support additional resources and personnel for the border.

In 2021, all but six current House Republicans voted against the Bipartisan Infrastructure Deal, which provided additional funding to ports of entry to combat smuggling of people and drugs, and for modernization.

All but two current House Republicans voted against providing robust funding for Customs and Border Protection (CBP) and border security operations in the Fiscal Year 2023 appropriations omnibus legislation.

That bill provided more than \$17 billion to CBP, including funding for an additional 300 U.S. Border Patrol agents—the first increase since 2011.

The omnibus also included \$60 million to hire 125 CBP officers and \$70 million for non-intrusive inspection technology to detect narcotics and firearms at ports of entry.

In October of 2023, the Biden administration sent Congress a supplemental funding request, which included an additional \$13.6 billion for border security.

Yet House Republicans refuse to schedule a vote on this funding request, which would provide the Biden administration the resources it needs to secure the border and provide additional support for communities receiving migrants.

More specifically, this supplemental funding would pay for the following:

an additional 1,300 Border Patrol agents;

375 immigration judges and 1,600 asylum officers to speed up processing of asylum claims;

1,000 CBP officers with a focus on counter-fentanyl;

new detection technology for ports of entry;

additional investigative capabilities to combat fentanyl trafficking; and

\$1.4 billion more in grants to help communities receiving migrants, among other investments.

Democrats have put forward good faith bipartisan solutions to actually secure the border by expanding lawful pathways to relieve pressure on the border and adequately fund government agencies.

By forcing a vote on a meaningless resolution filled with empty rhetoric, Republicans are showing they have no real solutions to address the border. Members should not take the bait.

In sum, this resolution is a pitiful attempt to continue the politicization of our government's ability to function.

All a vote would do is put every Republican who supports it on record pushing this extreme agenda.

This is not what Congress should be focused on. Democrats and President Biden will

stay focused on putting people over politics and keeping our government funded and functioning for the American people.

As such, I ask my colleagues to vote NO on this shameful resolution providing for debate on these highly politicized and dangerous bills.

□ 1445

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CLOUD).

Mr. CLOUD. Mr. Speaker, if we were to ask the cartels to design a border security apparatus for the United States, it would look very much like the one the Biden administration has given us—just enough of the illusion of border security for them to be able to charge a hefty premium but not enough to actually stop their trafficking of humans and drugs into our country.

The truth is, the Biden administration has every single authority and more resources than the Trump administration had to secure the border, but they refuse to do so. They blame Texas. They blame us in Congress by saying they need more money.

As one Border Patrol agent I talked to just 2 weeks ago on the border said, it is like we are holding a bucket in front of an open fire hydrant, and they keep asking for more buckets. We need to cap the fire hydrant.

The problem from Congress' perspective is that we send over a check to the administration, and on the memo column, we put “border security,” but this administration has taken that check, cashed it, and used it to aid and abet cartels with human trafficking and drug trafficking into our country. We have to stop this.

Money that is set aside for natural disasters to help Americans through FEMA goes to help NGOs, this entire cottage industry where cartels bring migrants to our country. Our border security apparatus, along with NGOs and Federal taxpayer funding, is then used to transport them throughout the country, where many times the cartels pick up that relationship and keep migrants in indentured servitude and as sex slaves. We cannot continue to allow this to happen.

What is happening when we talk about processing who is coming across the border right now? Primarily, it is military-age single adults.

When our border security has to collapse to a processing center, it leaves hundreds of miles open. It is where we have what we call known got-aways and, even more dangerous, the unknown got-aways that are coming across our border.

We have no idea what is happening. We have to secure our border. It is a humanitarian issue. It is a national security issue.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentleman from Illinois (Mrs. RAMIREZ).

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose H. Res. 957.

I have a question. If we have open borders, which is what I hear on the

Homeland Security Committee all the time, then let me ask this question: Why are people dying—children—in the Rio Grande while attempting to enter our country?

Let me ask another question. Why are there over 38,000 people right now sitting in immigration detention? If the borders are open, why are families living in fear of separation by deportation?

We know many of them because they go to church with us—at least, I go to church with some of those immigrant families.

Republicans are not serious about making real policy change because if they were, they would do a couple of the things that you see on my board here: allocate resources and capacity to make our borders safer; adopt smart tech to stem fentanyl brought into the U.S. through the ports of entry, much of it by American citizens; expedite and expand work permits to address our labor shortages that are driving inflation; and alleviate the conditions across Latin America that motivate families to migrate.

I have been to the border. My mother crossed the border with me. I can tell you that the borders are not, in fact, open.

I invite those serious about change, though, to support any or all of the solutions, the things that we were sent to do here—find solutions.

I invite you to abandon H. Res. 957, which is a political stunt, and those sham impeachments that make no meaningful policy progress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to see through the political performance of 2023. Let's leave it in '23. We shouldn't have brought it into '24. Let's vote hell no to H. Res. 957.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. VAN DUYNE).

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my Texas colleague's resolution condemning the purposeful actions of the Biden administration and Secretary Mayorkas for turning over our Nation's security and southern border to Mexican cartels and ushering in a vast tsunami of over 10 million illegal immigrants, who are overwhelming our cities and our States.

Ten million illegal immigrants have come here illegally, yet my Democratic colleagues insist the border is closed, nothing to see here.

Indeed, the Biden administration has enabled a horrific new era of human slavery, forced labor, and child sex trafficking that is destroying the lives of tens of thousands of people and causing crime to escalate across America, all because they refuse to enforce our laws that are already written.

This isn't about creating a whole new immigration process. This is about forcing the administration and agencies to do their jobs.

Democrats admit that the President's additional funding request isn't about securing the border or national security, but it is about processing illegals faster into the country.

With more than 100,000 dead Americans from Chinese-supplied and Mexican cartel-trafficked fentanyl into our country, we need to understand that we are at war.

The Biden administration has gleefully brought this misery and destruction to the American people. The first job of the Federal Government is to protect our rights and protect our homeland. Unfortunately, under the Biden administration's disgraceful and dangerous actions, the American people are less safe. We face a national security catastrophe, and the leftists running the White House could not care less.

All of Congress should stand up for the American people, stand up for truly secure borders, and empower Immigration and Customs Enforcement and the brave men and women of our Border Patrol to do their jobs, lock down the border, and fight the Mexican cartels. This is what Americans want, and this is what Americans deserve.

Mr. NADLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the distinguished gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, there is no denying that our immigration system is broken and so deteriorated. The last time that Congress passed any immigration reform, real reform, was in 1996. That was 28 years ago.

It is not just Democrats or Republicans to blame. Frankly, both parties have completely failed to find the courage to really, truly dig deep and fix our broken immigration system. Prison first, humanity later doesn't work. We have a responsibility to act.

I have to tell you, as a former immigration attorney, I remember U.S. citizens waiting 10 years or more just to bring their children over, and it is even longer for those in Mexico. Siblings wait 12, 15, even 20 years to unite with their family members. The system is completely broken and does not work for our country.

Our immigrant neighbors deserve to live with human dignity, stability, and equal recognition as valued members of communities.

Right now, we have so many U.S. citizens who cannot have their immigrant spouses adjust their status here in the United States. Look it up.

It is so important to understand that we need to protect our immigration process by actually making sure it meets the needs of our country. For far too long, millions of our immigrant neighbors have waited in limbo while they face numerous challenges and obstacles to obtain legal status and a pathway to citizenship.

Please remember that migrants and asylum seekers come to our country to escape violence and seek a better life for their families. They should not be vilified, locked in cages, or dehumanized.

I ask all of us to please stop with the fearmongering. These policies are rooted in racism, xenophobia, and white nationalism. We must change our course.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Wyoming (Ms. HAGEMAN).

Ms. HAGEMAN. Mr. Speaker, for years, we have sounded the alarm about the crisis at our southern border. Yet, this can no longer be called a crisis.

What we face is an existential threat to our Nation, and it is a threat enabled by the Biden administration. Since taking office, the Biden administration has flouted and defied countless laws of the United States in order to prop up their blatantly illegal open-border policies.

Countless officials, including Biden, Vice President HARRIS, and Secretary of Homeland Security Mayorkas, have violated their oath of office by failing to faithfully discharge the duties of their offices and protect our Nation.

Under President Biden, 8 million illegal aliens have been stopped at our borders, and over 1.7 million known gotaways have entered the Nation, with an untold number of illegal aliens crossing undetected.

In total, Biden's border failures have resulted in illegal immigrant totals that are well over 14 times the entire population of the State of Wyoming.

The 94 executive actions taken in President Biden's first 100 days alone have decimated all progress made by the Trump administration to secure our Nation, ending the remain in Mexico program, halting construction on the border wall, and handicapping the ability of Federal law enforcement to actually enforce the law. These actions and dozens like them by the Biden administration have deliberately created an environment where the rule of law no longer exists, where fentanyl kills our children and friends, and where no community in America can be considered safe.

Our hospitals are incurring literally tens of millions of dollars in uncompensated care, and our farmers are going broke because of the destruction of their crops.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of H. Res. 957 and call on the Biden administration to end their dangerous open-border policies that place Americans at risk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to refrain from engaging in personalities toward the President.

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

We know from the newspapers and from talking to our colleagues in the Senate that Senate negotiators, Democrats and Republicans, are close to an agreement on a bill to provide for border security and an immigration bill.

The Speaker of the House has said that no matter what they agree to, he is not willing to look at it, that he is not willing to have this House pass any immigration bill whatsoever.

It ill behooves the Republicans to decry lack of border security when the Speaker of the House has announced that under no circumstances will they do anything about it.

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

Mr. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF).

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my Texas colleague's H. Res. 957.

We all know the eye-watering figures: 10 million greater than the population of our seventh largest State, 1.7 million got-aways.

I want to focus on the 100,000 minors that we have literally lost in the interior of the United States, supposedly because under some treaty, we are not authorized to collect and store information on minors.

They are simply in the United States, who knows doing what—slave trade, indentured servitude. The cartels will collect their pound of flesh from the people who pay them to bring them across the border.

They are in every State, and they are in many of our cities. They are now collecting from indentured servants, from the sex trade, from the slavery that we have, from the fentanyl that they bring across and sell.

No new policy, no new law, no new tax dollars are a solution for this issue. It is the lawless behavior of the administration that must change.

If you want a solution, I urge my colleagues across the aisle to address the lawless behavior of this administration. That is the only solution to secure our border.

□ 1500

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

Mr. Speaker, we need to work together to address our broken immigration system. Enforcement alone cannot fix it. We know this because that approach has largely failed for three decades.

We need to update our immigration system so that it meets the needs of our country. We need a balanced, bipartisan approach that expands lawful pathways. This will help relieve pressure on the border and allow people to come to this country in an orderly and efficient way.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution will accomplish none of that. Instead of reaching across the aisle in search of meaningful solutions, this resolution uses empty rhetoric to score cheap political points.

This resolution doesn't claim to accomplish anything for immigration reform. All it does is condemn President Biden.

In a Congress that has broken records for its lack of accomplishments, this is just one more useless bill that does nothing to help the American people.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, these are some of the things that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle have said today.

The border is not open. Mr. CORREA, Ms. JACKSON LEE, and Mr. NADLER all said that.

Ms. JAYAPAL said: "They don't want a solution."

Mr. CORREA also said that we need more resources.

In fact, that was one of the mantras throughout the debate today from the other side of the aisle: more resources, more resources, more resources.

Let me just tell you, funding is not the issue. Funding is at an all-time high for our border protection. Despite border protection funding being at an all-time high, we are seeing record-high encounters at the border.

Why is that? There is one reason for that. It is the administration's current policies.

I have provided this analogy several times to individuals over the months leading up to this debate: When I was being elected, I had a flood at my house. I came home one night, and there was water all over the floor in my house.

My first reaction was not to stand there and say that I needed to go get a bunch of moppers to come in and mop up the water that is there. My first reaction was to find where the water leak was and turn off the valve to shut off the flood.

Mr. Speaker, that is exactly what we need to do. That is what this resolution re-sounds the alarm about. We have been talking about this for years on this side of the aisle. Apparently, both sides of the aisle are not getting the message.

This resolution helps us to admit that there is a problem. It helps us identify the cause and solve it.

Mr. Speaker, if the other side of the aisle was in charge of the flood at my house, they would say: Well, let's just let the flood continue and hire a bunch more moppers to come in to try to clean it up.

That is simply not the solution. You have to turn that valve off first. You have to stop the incursion of water. In this case, you have to stop the incursion of migrants coming across our border illegally.

It is a matter of the rule of law. It is a matter of the sovereignty of the United States. It is a matter of enforcing those laws that are on the books today and, frankly, a matter of the will of the administration to put back in place those policies that were working before 2021 began.

Mr. Speaker, I am astounded by the fact that even today we are hearing over and over again from the other side of the aisle that the border is not open. I urge my colleagues to go visit. Having been in Eagle Pass and El Paso, I can tell you that it is casual. That is the word I would use for it. Watching people, myself, coming across the bor-

der casually and then taken right to a processing center, and before you know it, out into the interior of the United States to who knows where and who knows when to be found again and who knows what they are going to do in our midst.

Mr. Speaker, we are seeing a rise of terrorism across this world. To allow our southern border to have the porous nature it does presently puts our Nation at risk. It is a national security issue that must be solved. We must have the will to do it.

Frankly, the Republicans have already proposed the right solution: H.R. 2.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to be one of the original eight cosponsors of H.R. 2, and we need to pass that in its entirety.

We certainly need to work with Senate Democrats and Republicans and the administration to get that done, but before that happens and for the last 3 years what should have been happening is that the administration should have enforced the policies that the prior administration had in place to solve the problem once and for all to get us to a place where we can, in fact, have our sovereignty restored, our geographic borders protected, and the interior of the United States protected.

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, while the do-nothing extreme MAGA Republican majority wastes the time of the Committee on Homeland Security with a phony, baseless impeachment "investigation," they occupy the House floor with a symbolic resolution equally as false.

Put simply, there are no so-called "open-borders policies" to denounce.

The Biden administration is, in fact, fulfilling its Constitutional responsibility to secure America's southern border. It is apprehending, processing, and removing individuals with no legal basis to remain in the United States in accordance with the law.

Instead of working with Democrats to solve the challenges along our southern border, the extreme MAGA Republicans who run the House of Representatives have consistently squandered opportunities to work across the aisle to solve the challenges facing our Nation.

Last Congress, they voted against funding for DHS, to include billions of dollars in increased funding for border security. Democrats, meanwhile, put people over politics and got those funding bills enacted into law.

Last year, they rejected 43 common-sense amendments during the Homeland Security Committee's markup of its portion of H.R. 2, the MAGA "Child Deportation Act," a bill which would villainize nonprofit organizations and punish local officials providing aid to the needy.

This year, instead of constructively participating in bipartisan negotiations on immigration reform and border security with the Biden administration and Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas, House Republicans are pursuing a sham impeachment of the Secretary for supposedly not doing his job.

Mr. Speaker, how would the extremists in the House Republican Conference even know

Secretary Mayorkas isn't performing his job? They're not showing up to do their job at the negotiating table.

Instead, dressed in polos and perfectly creased khakis, MAGA Republicans fly down to Texas for photo ops while the real work of legislating remains undone—hamstrung by the endless drama within the House Republican Conference.

The talented, hard-working agents and officers of Customs and Border Protection don't need more political photo ops or baseless impeachments or symbolic resolutions. They need resources.

House Republicans would rather shut down the government than give those with their boots on the ground what they need to get their job done.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no" on H. Res. 957 and reject extreme MAGA Republicans' empty gestures and false campaign rhetoric.

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I share my Republican colleagues' strong support of H. Res. 957, to hold the Biden Administration accountable for their shameful and disastrous handling of our Nation's southern border. Every day, this Administration's open border policies are allowing illegal immigrants and drugs, including fentanyl, to pour into our country's communities—including many in Kentucky's 5th Congressional District. It must be stopped.

The President has outright refused to enforce the law, and Americans are suffering for it. Data has shown that drug seizures at the U.S.-Mexico border increased by over 58 percent from 2022–2023, not to mention the drugs and fentanyl that are going around our ports of entry. In 2022, fentanyl killed over 70,000 people and accounted for over 50 percent of all overdose deaths, which are only increasing because of this crisis.

I urge my colleague to stand together to condemn this Administration's shameful treatment of our southernmost border by passing this resolution.

Ms. MCCOLLUM. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong opposition to H. Res. 957. We have all seen what is unfolding on our southern border, and the humanitarian and security issues it raises. The complex problems facing our immigration system need comprehensive reform, not more rhetoric and demonization of immigrants.

But rather than working toward real solutions, this week House Republicans are bringing to the floor a partisan resolution condemning the Biden Administration over its supposed "open border policy." Mr. Speaker, there is no "open border." The Biden Administration has worked from its first day to ensure that everyone who arrives to the United States is treated fairly and humanely, while navigating within an outdated and broken immigration system. Congress has failed to pass any meaningful efforts to fix it for three decades.

The fact remains, the United States needs comprehensive immigration reform. Reform that is compassionate, fair, and at times firm. For years, businesses, law enforcement, and faith groups have reiterated the harms of the current immigration system. We do not need more resolutions that do nothing but parrot partisan talking points.

This Congress, Republicans have demonstrated no willingness to engage in finding solutions. In fact, instead of working toward

solutions, House Republicans are making the problem worse. The Biden Administration requested additional resources for the border in October of last year, including an additional 1,300 border patrol agents and 375 immigration judges, but Republicans refuse to allow a vote.

And just today, Speaker JOHNSON was quoted saying "I don't think now is the time for comprehensive immigration reform."

If now is not the time for action, when is? If, as this resolution claims, we are in "the midst of the worst border security crisis in the Nation's history," why is this not the time to discuss solutions? Republicans must stop using the immigration system as a political talking point and an election ploy. Congress must immediately take meaningful action to reform a broken immigration system.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VALADAO). All time for debate has expired.

Pursuant to House Resolution 969, the previous question is ordered on the resolution and the preamble.

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. MORAN. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

#### RECRUITING FAMILIES USING DATA ACT OF 2023

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3058) to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3058

*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 "Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2023".*

##### SEC. 2. STATE PLAN AMENDMENT.

*(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 422 of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 622) is amended—*

*(1) in subsection (b)(7), by inserting "through the development and implementation of a family partnership plan which meets the requirements of subsection (d) for identification, recruitment, screening, licensing, support, and retention of*

*foster and adoptive families" after "are needed"; and*

*(2) by adding at the end the following:*

*"(d) FAMILY PARTNERSHIP PLAN REQUIREMENTS.—For purposes of subsection (b)(7), the requirements for a family partnership plan (in this subsection referred to as the 'plan') are the following:*

*"(1) The plan is developed in consultation with birth, kinship, foster and adoptive families, community-based service providers, technical assistance providers, and youth with lived experience with foster care and adoption.*

*"(2) The plan describes—*

*"(A) how the State plans to identify, notify, engage, and support relatives (and others connected to the child) as potential placement resources for children;*

*"(B) how the State plans to develop and implement child-specific recruitment plans for every child in or entering foster care who needs a foster or adoptive family;*

*"(C) how the State plans to authentically engage children and youth in recruitment efforts on their behalf;*

*"(D) how the State plans to use data to establish goals, assess needs, measure progress, reduce unnecessary placements in congregate care, increase permanency, improve placement stability, increase the rate of kinship placements, improve recruitment and retention of families for teens, sibling groups, and other special populations, and align the composition of foster and adoptive families with the needs of children in or entering foster care; and*

*"(E) how the State will stand up or support foster family advisory boards for the purpose of improving recruitment and retention of foster and adoptive families.*

*"(3) The plan provides that, not less than annually, the State shall collect and report on the State's actual foster family capacity and congregate care utilization, including the number, demographics, and characteristics of licensed foster families, including prospective adoptive families, the number of such families that haven't received a placement or are not being fully utilized and the reasons therefor, and the number, demographics, and characteristics of children placed in congregate care in-State and out-of-State.*

*"(4) The plan includes, and shall update not less than annually, a summary of the most recent feedback from foster and adoptive parents and youth regarding licensure, training, support, and reasons why parents stop fostering or why adoptive or legal guardianship placements out of foster care fail or foster and such adoptive or legal guardianship families struggle to meet children's needs.*

*"(5) The plan includes, and shall update annually, a report on the State's analysis of specific challenges or barriers to recruiting, licensing, and utilizing families who reflect the racial and ethnic background of children in foster care in the State, and the State's efforts to overcome those challenges and barriers.*

*"(6) The plan includes such other information relating to foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention as the Secretary may require."*

*(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—*

*(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), the amendment made by this subsection shall take effect on October 1, 2024.*

*(2) DELAY PERMITTED IF STATE LEGISLATION REQUIRED.—In the case of a State plan approved under subpart 1 of part B of title IV of the Social Security Act which the Secretary of Health and Human Services determines requires State legislation (other than legislation appropriating funds) in order for the plan to meet the additional requirements imposed by this subsection, the State plan shall not be regarded as failing to comply with the requirements of such part solely on the basis of the failure of the plan to meet such additional requirements before the first day of the first calendar quarter beginning after*

the close of the first regular session of the State legislature that begins after the date of enactment of this subsection. For purposes of the previous sentence, in the case of a State that has a 2-year legislative session, each year of such session shall be deemed to be a separate regular session of the State legislature.

**SEC. 3. INCLUSION OF INFORMATION ON FOSTER AND ADOPTIVE FAMILIES IN ANNUAL CHILD WELFARE OUTCOMES REPORT TO CONGRESS.**

Section 479A(a) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 679b(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (6)(C), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(2) in paragraph (7)(B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(B) include in the report submitted pursuant to paragraph (5) for fiscal year 2025 or any succeeding fiscal year—

“(A) State-by-State data on the number, demographics, and characteristics of foster and adoptive families in the State, and the number of potential foster and adoptive families not being utilized in the State and the reasons why;

“(B) a summary of the challenges of, and barriers to, being a foster or adoptive parent, including with respect to recruitment, licensure, engagement, retention, and why parents stop fostering, adoptions disrupt or dissolve, or foster or adoptive families struggle, as reported by States based on surveys of foster and adoptive parents; and

“(C) a summary of the challenges and barriers States reported on efforts to recruit a pool of families that reflect the racial and ethnic background of children in foster care in the State, and efforts to overcome those barriers.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) and the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. KILDEE) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Iowa.

**GENERAL LEAVE**

Mr. FEENSTRA. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous material on the bill under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 3058, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2023, supports States in addressing the nationwide shortage of foster homes.

In the United States of America, every child deserves a home. Unfortunately, our Nation's foster care system is facing enormous challenges, with a record number of children sleeping in social workers' offices, hotels, and hospitals because they have nowhere else to go.

Iowa lost more than 200 licensed foster care homes since 2019. Washington, D.C., lost nearly half of their foster homes since 2019. States like South Carolina have seen a 60 percent decline.

These foster homes are essential to providing vulnerable children with safe, loving homes, and we have to stop this dramatic decline.

We need to make it easier to find families who are willing and able to

foster children and those generous families who choose to foster to continue.

Unfortunately, the ability for States and nonprofits to respond to the challenges is limited by the shortage of information. We need to know why foster families quit fostering if we are going to make it easier to recruit and retain them. We need to be able to evaluate what the needs of foster families and their children are so that States can set goals for improvement and be able to evaluate whether they are making progress in meeting those goals.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud of the steps this bill takes to modernize child welfare by taking advantage of data to support States in their recruitment and retention of foster parents so children can be cared for in safe and loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this important legislation, and I give a special thanks and shout-out to Representative KILDEE for his leadership on this bill and for the committee's work to strengthen the child welfare system.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let me start by thanking my colleague and friend, Mr. FEENSTRA, for his work on this legislation. I think we have proven once again that while we do have our divisions in this body and some divisions in this country, there are certain issues that bring us together across party lines and across different aspects of our society.

Mr. FEENSTRA and I, I think, proved that with our work on this legislation, along with other Members who have joined together to put this really important act together to help foster youth have a better path forward in life.

This legislation, as Mr. FEENSTRA said, is a commonsense approach to solving one of the problems that we see in the foster care system. It will improve the recruitment and retention of foster families so that we can get more kids into safe and loving homes.

Across the country, there is a severe shortage of foster parents, and retention of foster families, of foster parents, is a big part of the problem. Most foster parents stop fostering after just 1 year, and many stop fostering after their very first or second foster placement.

Under current law, States have the responsibility to develop plans, known as diligent recruitment plans, outlining the actions they will take to ensure that every kid in their care is connected to a family that meets their particular needs. However, a recent review conducted by the U.S. Department of Health and Human Services shows that these plans need significant reform and improvement.

States rarely use data to inform recruitment and retention strategies, and often, they fail to engage foster

parents or foster youth, the people who understand the system better than anyone, in developing those plans.

What this means is that States continue to have difficulty finding and keeping foster parents, which has devastating impacts for those foster kids.

The most recent Federal review of Michigan's foster care system cites countless reports of children sleeping in offices or hotels for weeks and months as they await placement in a foster home.

Our social workers are doing the best they can, stepping up to take care of these children when they don't have anyone else, but that is not the kind of home that any child deserves.

As we continue to grapple with this severe shortage of foster homes, we are also seeing a growing number of foster parents drop out of the system because they just aren't getting the support that they need.

In 2023, the Michigan Department of Health and Human Services reported that close to one-third of foster parents terminate their foster care licenses each year. This, of course, only puts more stress on a system that desperately needs more safe and loving homes.

Mr. Speaker, our legislation, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act, is the first step toward addressing this crisis. To help States better meet the needs of foster children in their care, the bill would replace the outdated diligent recruitment plans with family partnership plans that are developed in consultation with foster youth and their families; support foster family advisory boards, which give foster parents a voice in the policy development process; and, as the title of the bill suggests, use data to establish recruitment and retention goals and measure progress toward those goals.

This is a subject that is close to me. In my original career for almost a decade, I was a social worker working in this field. In fact, I was working in a residential agency for the most at-risk kids in our population, neglected and abused kids. So I know, from my own personal experience, the weaknesses in the system, and I know that fixing the system will require the expertise of the people who know it best.

The foster care system is known best by the people who are part of it, the families and the youth who have gone through it. By giving people a voice and using data that we derive from them and their experiences, we will find better ways to recruit and find retention strategies that really work.

While it doesn't solve the entire problem, this bill would make a significant improvement to the foster care system not just in my home State but all across the country.

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

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

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3058, the Recruiting Families Using Data Act, introduced by Representative DAN KILDEE from the great State of Michigan.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation because we know all too well that protecting America's foster children starts by recruiting and retaining the best foster families to provide safe and loving homes.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, I am a strong believer that we measure what we value. This bill takes a critical step to help States better meet the needs of the foster children in their care by replacing antiquated tactics with improved Family Partnership Plans to collect and utilize data to establish recruitment and retention goals while simultaneously tracking progress toward reaching these goals.

Even with the limited data that currently exists, we know that there is a severe shortage of foster parents across our country due to a lack of retention. By measuring what we value, we can better understand the root causes of low retention and help those willing to open their homes to those who need it the most.

We must never waver as a Congress and as a country to ensure America's foster families have what they need to keep our children safe and loved.

Mr. KILDEE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time for closing.

I thank my colleague, Mr. FEENSTRA, for his work on this, as well as all my colleagues on the Ways and Means Committee and throughout Congress for supporting this legislation.

As I said, there is much we need to do to improve the foster care system, to recognize the needs of foster youth, to make sure that they have a safe and loving home, to put them on a path to be the best versions of themselves. This is a step in that direction. I encourage all my colleagues to support this legislation.

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

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

Every year, thousands of families welcome foster children into their homes. Children in foster care need permanent, loving homes. Sadly, our Nation is facing a shortage of available foster homes, and children are left sleeping in hotels and hospitals and social workers' offices because they have nowhere else to go. These children need foster parents, and we need to show compassion and care for them as they face the trauma and hardship of being removed from their homes. We must do more to ensure that all children in foster care have safe and available placements.

This bill is so important that it has to get passed. I thank, again, Congressman KILDEE for all his work and sup-

port for this legislation. I also appreciate the comments that he just made. I truly urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. FEENSTRA) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3058, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

The point of no quorum is considered withdrawn.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 18 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. ELLZEY) at 4 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, proceedings will resume on questions previously postponed.

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The motion to suspend the rules and pass H.R. 5862; and

Adoption of H. Res. 957.

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

AUTHORITY OF U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TO CONSOLIDATE, MODIFY, OR REORGANIZE CUSTOMS REVENUE FUNCTIONS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5862) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 relating to authority of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to consolidate, modify, or reorga-

nize Customs revenue functions, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 403, nays 9, not voting 20, as follows:

[Roll No. 12]  
YEAS—403

Adams	Cuellar	Hern
Aderholt	Curtis	Higgins (LA)
Aguilar	D'Esposito	Higgins (NY)
Alford	Dauids (KS)	Hill
Allen	Davidson	Hinson
Allred	Davis (IL)	Horsford
Amo	Davis (NC)	Houchin
Amodei	De La Cruz	Houlihan
Armstrong	Dean (PA)	Hoyer
Arrington	DeGette	Hoyle (OR)
Auchincloss	DelBene	Hudson
Babin	Deluzio	Huffman
Baird	DeSaulnier	Huizenga
Balderson	Diaz-Balart	Hunt
Balint	Dingell	Issa
Banks	Doggett	Ivey
Barr	Donalds	Jackson (IL)
Barragán	Duarte	Jackson (NC)
Bean (FL)	Duncan	Jackson Lee
Beatty	Dunn (FL)	Jacobs
Bentz	Edwards	James
Bera	Ellzey	Jayapal
Bergman	Emmer	Jeffries
Beyer	Escobar	Johnson (GA)
Bice	Eshoo	Johnson (OH)
Biggs	Espallat	Johnson (SD)
Bilirakis	Estes	Jordan
Bishop (GA)	Evans	Joyce (OH)
Bishop (NC)	Ezell	Joyce (PA)
Blumenauer	Fallon	Kamlager-Dove
Boebert	Feenstra	Kaptur
Bonamici	Ferguson	Kean (NJ)
Bost	Finstad	Keating
Bowman	Fischbach	Kelly (IL)
Boyle (PA)	Fitzgerald	Kelly (MS)
Brown	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (PA)
Buchanan	Fleischmann	Khanna
Buck	Fletcher	Kigans (VA)
Bucshon	Flood	Kildee
Budzinski	Foster	Kiley
Burchett	Foushee	Kilmer
Burgess	Foxo	Kim (CA)
Bush	Frankel, Lois	Kim (NJ)
Calvert	Franklin, Scott	Krishnamoorthi
Cammack	Frost	Kuster
Caraveo	Fry	Kustoff
Carbajal	Fulcher	LaHood
Cárdenas	Gallagher	LaLota
Carey	Gallego	LaMalfa
Carl	Garamendi	Lamborn
Carson	Garbarino	Landsman
Carter (GA)	Garcia (IL)	Langworthy
Carter (LA)	Garcia (TX)	Larsen (WA)
Carter (TX)	Garcia, Robert	Larson (CT)
Cartwright	Gimenez	Latta
Casar	Golden (ME)	LaTurner
Case	Goldman (NY)	Lawler
Casten	Gomez	Lee (CA)
Castor (FL)	Gonzales, Tony	Lee (FL)
Castro (TX)	Gonzalez,	Lee (NV)
Chavez-DeRemer	Vicente	Lee (PA)
Cherfilus-	Good (VA)	Leger Fernandez
McCormick	Gooden (TX)	Lesko
Chu	Gosar	Letlow
Ciscomani	Gottheimer	Levin
Clark (MA)	Granger	Lieu
Clarke (NY)	Graves (LA)	Lofgren
Cline	Graves (MO)	Loudermilk
Clyburn	Green (TN)	Lucas
Cohen	Green, Al (TX)	Luetkemeyer
Cole	Greene (GA)	Luna
Collins	Griffith	Luttrell
Comer	Grijalva	Lynch
Connolly	Grothman	Mace
Correa	Guest	Magaziner
Courtney	Guthrie	Malliotakis
Craig	Hageman	Maloy
Crawford	Harder (CA)	Mann
Crenshaw	Harris	Manning
Crockett	Harshbarger	Mast
Crow	Hayes	Matsui

McBath  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClellan  
McClintock  
McCollum  
McCormick  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
McHenry  
Menendez  
Meng  
Meuser  
Mfume  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Morelle  
Moskowitz  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Murphy  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Nickel  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Owens  
Pallone  
Palmer  
Panetta  
Pappas  
Pascrell  
Payne  
Pelosi  
Peltola  
Pence  
Perez  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pfluger

Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Posey  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Ross  
Rouzer  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Rutherford  
Ryan  
Salazar  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Schweikert  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, Austin  
Scott, David  
Self  
Sessions  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Simpson  
Slotkin  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smith (WA)  
Smucker  
Sorensen  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Spartz  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Staubert  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil

Stube  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Strong  
Swallow  
Sykes  
Takano  
Tennet  
Thanedar  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tokuda  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone  
Underwood  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden  
Vargas  
Vasquez  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Wexton  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (FL)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

**DENOUNCING THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES, CONDEMNING THE NATIONAL SECURITY AND PUBLIC SAFETY CRISIS ALONG THE SOUTHWEST BORDER, AND URGING PRESIDENT BIDEN TO END HIS ADMINISTRATION'S OPEN-BORDERS POLICIES**

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on adoption of the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the resolution.

This will be a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 225, nays 187, not voting 21, as follows:

[Roll No. 13]

YEAS—225

Brecheen  
Burlison  
Cloud

Jackson (TX)  
Norman  
Perry

NOT VOTING—20

Bacon  
Blunt Rochester  
Brownley  
Clever  
Costa  
DeLauro  
DesJarlais

Garcia, Mike  
Himes  
Massie  
Meeks  
Mooney  
Moore (WI)  
Norcross  
Ogles  
Phillips  
Rogers (KY)  
Roy  
Scalise  
Turner

□ 1707

Messrs. GAETZ, CRANE, PERRY, and BURLISON changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. TAKANO, TORRES of New York, and Mrs. TRAHAN changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, I was attending a bipartisan meeting at the White House with the President to discuss funding needs for our national security. Had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 12.

Aderholt  
Alford  
Allen  
Allred  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bean (FL)  
Bentz  
Bergman  
Bice  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brecheen  
Buchanan  
Buck  
Buchson  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Burlison  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Caraveo  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer  
Ciscomani  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Collins  
Comer  
Craig  
Crane  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Cuellar  
Curtis  
D'Esposito  
Davidson  
Davis (NC)  
De La Cruz  
Diaz-Balart  
Donalds  
Duarte  
Duncan  
Dunn (FL)  
Edwards  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Ezell  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Foxx  
Franklin, Scott  
Fry  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garbarino  
Luna  
Golden (ME)  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
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 (LA)  
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  
Landsman  
Langworthy  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lawler  
Lee (FL)  
Lee (NV)  
Lesko  
Lettlow  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Luna  
Luttrell  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Maloy  
Mann  
Mast  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McCormick  
McHenry  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)  
Miller (OH)  
Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Mills  
Molinaro  
Moolenaar  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Moran  
Moskowitz  
Murphy  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Nickel  
Norman  
Nunn (IA)  
Oberholte  
Owens  
Palmer  
Peltola  
Pence  
Perez  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)

Rogers (AL)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Rutherford  
Salazar  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Self  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Sorensen

Spartz  
Stauber  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Stube  
Strong  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dwyne  
Van Orden

Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (NY)  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zinke

NAYS—187

Adams  
Aguilar  
Amo  
Auchincloss  
Balint  
Barragan  
Beatty  
Bera  
Beyer  
Bishop (GA)  
Blumenauer  
Bonamici  
Bowman  
Boyle (PA)  
Brown  
Budzinski  
Bush  
Carbajal  
Cárdenas  
Carson  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Correa  
Courtney  
Crockett  
Crow  
Davids (KS)  
Davis (IL)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Dingell  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Espallat  
Evans  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert  
Goldman (NY)

Gomez  
Gottheimer  
Green, Al (TX)  
Grijalva  
Harder (CA)  
Hayes  
Higgins (NY)  
Himes  
Horsford  
Houlahan  
Hoyer  
Hoyle (OR)  
Huffman  
Ivey  
Jackson (IL)  
Jackson (NC)  
Jackson Lee  
Jacobs  
Jayapal  
Jeffries  
Johnson (GA)  
Kamlager-Dove  
Kaptur  
Keating  
Kelly (IL)  
Khanna  
Kildee  
Kilmer  
Kim (NJ)  
Krishnamoorthi  
Kuster  
Larsen (WA)  
Larson (CT)  
Lee (CA)  
Lee (PA)  
Leger Fernandez  
Levin  
Lieu  
Lofgren  
Lynch  
Magaziner  
Manning  
Matsui  
McBath  
McClellan  
McCollum  
McGarvey  
McGovern  
Menendez  
Meng  
Mfume  
Morelle  
Moulton  
Mrvan  
Mullin  
Nadler  
Napolitano  
Neal  
Neguse  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pallone  
Panetta

Pappas  
Pascrell  
Pelosi  
Peters  
Pettersen  
Pingree  
Pocan  
Porter  
Pressley  
Quigley  
Ramirez  
Raskin  
Ross  
Ruiz  
Ruppersberger  
Ryan  
Salinas  
Sánchez  
Sarbanes  
Scanlon  
Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Scholten  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Swallow  
Sykes  
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  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)

NOT VOTING—21

Bacon  
Blunt Rochester  
Brownley  
Clever  
Connolly  
Costa  
DesJarlais

Garcia, Mike  
Massie  
Meeks  
Mooney  
Moore (WI)  
Norcross  
Ogles

Payne  
Phillips  
Rogers (KY)  
Roy  
Scalise  
Schneider  
Takano

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1714

So the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall no. 13.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I unfortunately missed three votes today. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 11, "nay" on rollcall No. 12, and "yea" on rollcall No. 13.

HONORING WORLD WAR II  
VETERAN JOHN WARD

(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 honor World War II veteran John Ward of Oil City, Pennsylvania, on his 100th birthday.

Mr. Ward enlisted in the U.S. Army at the age of 18 and participated in campaigns in Europe with the 405th Antiaircraft Gun Battalion. He saw time in Normandy and northern France, Germany, Belgium, and England, where he received numerous citations for his service to this Nation.

Mr. Ward said he has fond memories of his time in the Army, especially the people he met and the friendships he made. For a number of years, John and his late wife, Betty, enjoyed reunions of the 405th Battalion.

After he concluded his military service, John returned to Oil City and worked in the local steel plant for 39 years. He is a longtime devoted member of the Oil City Wesleyan Methodist Church. He was married to Betty for 72 years until her passing in 2019. They raised three children.

Mr. Speaker, I wish Mr. John Ward of Oil City a very happy 100th birthday and thank him for his service during World War II.

IN HONOR OF DR. MARTIN LUTHER  
KING, JR.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor one of the greatest Americans, Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

Dr. King spent his life making sure all Americans were given the same rights regardless of color or creed. He had a dream. He had a dream the country would find a peaceful path to racial equality, and his dream attracted more than 250,000 people to Washington and the steps of the Lincoln Memorial.

His work helped pass the 1964 Civil Rights Act and the 1965 Voting Rights Act. These Acts restored rights to African Americans that had been denied

them for decades. For his work, Dr. King received a Nobel Peace Prize in 1964. For his work, he received assassination from a bullet.

If he had resorted to violence himself, none of these events would have happened, and we would not have the movement for equality we have today.

So let us take this week to honor the legacy of Dr. King and remember his legacy as we continue to fight for all rights of all Americans.

CALIFORNIANS DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, in my home State of California, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle there, the Democrats there, just know how to tax and spend other people's money.

Our State's massive \$100 billion budget surplus was wasted on far-left priorities. Now, California is facing at least a \$40 billion, maybe even a \$68 billion budget deficit in the coming year.

Instead of reckoning with these massive overspendings, our Governor Newsom is dipping into the State's reserves while delaying some of these program rollouts instead of making the necessary cuts and reductions in Big Government.

Governor Newsom is claiming California is in a fiscal emergency, yet he is still planning on giving millions of illegal immigrants free healthcare, including sex-change operations. He is not even delaying that idea, as well.

Of course, this healthcare for illegals won't actually be free. The taxpayers will pay, as you know. California has the highest top income tax rate of any State, some of the highest taxes in the country overall. Our tax dollars certainly don't go toward any projects that benefit Californians, such as much-needed water storage or fixing more of our crumbling freeways. Instead, we see more blackouts, wildfires, crumbling infrastructure, and social breakdowns in our cities. We must do better.

IN HONOR OF CAFE JUMPING  
BEAN

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Cafe Jumping Bean, a Latino-owned coffee shop in my district, on their 30th anniversary.

When then-26-year-old Eleazar Delgado was searching for a place for artists to meet in Pilsen, he realized that such a place was nonexistent on the southwest side of Chicago. So he took a chance and opened Pilsen's first coffee house, but not just any coffee shop; one featuring local artists and their local creations. From hosting cel-

list Yo-Yo Ma to local artwork displays, Cafe Jumping Bean has maintained its roots in a changing, diverse Pilsen and now has become a pillar in our community.

Whether you go for the chocolate mexicano or their famous Screaming Bean, one thing is certain: You will enjoy a taste of culture in a cup.

I wish a happy anniversary to Eleazar Delgado and Cafe Jumping Bean. Here is to the next 30 years of serving Pilsen and the larger community.

STEFANIK CENSURE RESOLUTION

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

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce a resolution to censure Congresswoman ELISE STEFANIK for providing aid, comfort, and support to the rioters and insurrectionists who violently attacked this Capitol on January 6, 2021, in an effort to undermine our democracy and illegally stop the peaceful transfer of power.

Since that attempted coup, Ms. STEFANIK has repeatedly and persistently expressed support for the duly convicted insurrectionists. Last week, echoing the inflammatory language of criminal defendant Donald Trump, Ms. STEFANIK disgracefully referred to the January 6 insurrectionists in prison as "hostages."

Ms. STEFANIK's support of convicted criminals charged with offenses against the United States Government, including attempted violence against Members of this body, is simply unacceptable from a Member of Congress, nor is it acceptable for a Member of Congress who purports to oppose anti-Semitism to equate convicted insurrectionists with the more than 130 Israeli hostages who remain subject to horrific conditions in Gaza. She, therefore, must be censured.

BRING THEM HOME NOW

(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, holding tightly to her stuffed animal as long as she could, Hila, an innocent 13-year-old young Israeli girl, was taken hostage and endured a horrible experience in Hamas captivity. As the father of three boys, hearing her story and others was heart-wrenching.

Hila Rotem Shoshani spent 50 days in captivity after being kidnapped from her home in Kibbutz Be'eri, along with her mother and friend Emily, who was at a sleepover.

Young Hila saw and experienced things that no child should ever have to. It has been over 100 days, and the families left behind direly want their loved ones home. No family should

have to endure the anguish and separation and the uncertainty that Hila, her mother, and other families have experienced.

Bring them home now.

□ 1730

#### APPRECIATING SECRETARY OF DEFENSE LLOYD AUSTIN

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Mr. Speaker, I want to register my sincere appreciation to Secretary of Defense Lloyd Austin for his lifetime of exemplary service to our Nation in the U.S. military. I wish him a speedy recovery from his recent successful surgery.

Critics who took the first occasion to swing at him obviously have no self-control, no discretion, and no understanding of what a military officer at his level endures.

From his hospital bed, Secretary Austin expertly orchestrated an American-led strike against Houthi terrorists who threaten global commerce and put American lives at risk through their continued assault on civilian ships in the Red Sea.

Let us remain steadfast in our Nation's strategic interests at a most challenging time globally.

Mr. Speaker, if you wish to be constructive, work with Members to serve on a bipartisan basis on our Defense committees. Address your concerns through proper channels.

Why air ill-informed grievances on social media or cable news?

Team America must remain steadfast and of united purpose.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Secretary Austin for his service.

#### OPPOSING THE GOP'S ANTIABORTION LEGISLATION

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

Ms. STANSBURY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in opposition to the GOP's two anti-choice bills which are going to be on the House floor this week.

These two bills, like so much of the House GOP's legislation, claim to support women and our communities while doing the exact opposite through a thinly veiled attempt to further restrict and stigmatize abortion as they meanwhile work to gut access to reproductive care all across this country.

These policies are so unpopular that they are now hiding them in education bills like the ones that they are bringing to the floor this week, as nearly three dozen of our House Republican colleagues are now trying to walk back their support for national abortion bans.

Be that as it may, the American people are not fooled. Do not be fooled by

these bills. Our reproductive rights are under attack, and these two bills are part of that attempt to gut the rights of women.

That is why I will not only be voting "no" but hell no to these bills.

#### CHOOSING LIFE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CISCOMANI). 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, this week, House Republicans are doing important work to support pregnant women and mothers. As thousands of people across the Nation join together this week to promote their pro-life cause, we are grateful for the chance to do our part on the legislative level and bring two critical bills to the floor, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

We are also continuing to hold the Biden administration accountable for their policy failures at the southern border. Time and time again we are up here talking about this. We are visiting the border. We are, as the House GOP, intently focused on making some what should be very simple fixes to be able to reduce the ability for the cartels to run the border and to set so many people up for failure with this entire topic. We are going to continue to sound this alarm.

Since President Biden has taken office, there have been 8 million illegal crossings nationwide and over 6.7 million encounters at the southern border. It is unacceptable, and we just passed a resolution denouncing the administration's open border policies that are threatening the safety of our communities.

These are important items and important legislative topics. We have several colleagues of mine here to share their thoughts on this approach.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Nebraska (Mr. SMITH) for the first remarks of the evening.

Mr. SMITH of Nebraska. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. MOORE of Utah, for his efforts here today and certainly to all of my colleagues for having an exchange and conversation that I think is vital for our country.

It is important that we always examine what is taking place across America, what is appropriate for the Federal Government to do, not to do, and how best to do what is good for the Amer-

ican people within certainly the Constitution and its parameters.

There is a program called Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, TANF. Many caseworkers across America are familiar with TANF, and beneficiaries are, as well.

As far as Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, it has come about that the administration is excluding various women in need of care for their pregnancy if they seek care or conversations within the delivery method of a pregnancy center. I find this disturbing.

I have been inspired, actually, by the work that these pregnancy centers do in meeting the needs of women. If a woman finds herself in a crisis pregnancy, if they present information and they ultimately offer care and a friendship, if you will, to a person in need to make decisions in their interests, certainly the interests of a little one, then the administration excludes this care.

I think it is important to note that it is one thing to be pro-life and it is quite another to make sure that a child is cared for and receives what they need for nourishment and care, hopefully with the mother and hopefully, with the father, as well.

As we sort out all of these policies that we see coming and going here through this institution and through Congress in general, I think it is vital that we certainly uphold the purposes of Temporary Assistance for Needy Families in making sure that those in need receive the resources that they need and that they would select.

I would say that the administration's policies of excluding pregnancy centers is actually restricting a young mother, a prospective mother, from information and approaches that they would prefer to have.

So as we look at all of TANF and Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, I hope that given the fact that we allow States much latitude in carrying out what they think they need to do with these tax dollars that flow through the Federal Government but ultimately from taxpayers, I think it is absolutely incumbent upon us to make sure that those dollars end up where they need to go and can be expected to make a positive difference.

This is a very reasonable proposition.

As a Federal policymaker, as these dollars flow out across America, I believe that we would expect those dollars to be wisely spent.

For the critics of pregnancy centers, I urge all of them to visit a pregnancy center themselves. These pregnancy centers exist all across America in communities small and large. I have been very impressed hearing from the clients themselves of how they appreciated the care that they found through the pregnancy centers and that they had someone to walk with them through a very difficult moment in life, perhaps, and also taking a difficult moment in life and realizing that that can become a very triumphant moment, as well.

I certainly urge my colleagues to support our legislation later this week so that pregnant women will have access to information that they would select themselves and that we can honor those options that these expectant mothers should have along the way and that the Federal Government would not stand in the way of an expectant mother receiving information and the care that they would choose to have.

Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague, Mr. MOORE of Utah, for holding this Special Order that I think is vital for our country and certainly vital to the future of America.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I joined the gentleman last week at our legislative markup on this exact topic. The point we were trying to make is in this situation, particularly with TANF dollars, we need to be able to provide more care and stretch those dollars to support as many situations as possible.

This is an unneeded rule. It is targeted at groups that are trying to do right by their communities and support women going through very difficult situations as best as they can.

So continuing, as we have been doing these Special Orders, Mr. Speaker, we have had an overwhelming number of individuals, particularly from Texas, as the border issue continues to just rage on affecting those communities acutely, and other States are becoming a border State because of it.

Our Representatives from Texas are so passionate about this issue.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the 14th District of Texas (Mr. WEBER) to give a message on both the border and a pro-life message.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I am going to start with what it means when we talk about being pro-life.

Mr. Speaker, let this sink in: 65,464,760 precious babies have been killed in abortions since Roe v. Wade in 1973.

Mr. Speaker, I have three children, eight grandchildren, and even a great-granddaughter.

As a Christian and as a father of those three children and a grandfather of those eight, the issue of abortion is extremely personal to me. Every single unborn child is a human life wonderfully made and worth protecting.

I can tell you from experience, Mr. Speaker, that the joy that children bring into the world is unparalleled. They are a gift from God that He gives to all of us. We need to look no further than Jeremiah 1:5 to know God's love for each child: "Before I formed you in the womb I knew you, and before you were born I set you apart."

In Deuteronomy 30:19, we are called to choose life. Moses is laying out for the Israelites the blessings of obedience and the curses of disobedience.

He says in Deuteronomy 30:19 that we are called to choose life.

"I have set before you life and death, blessing and cursing: Therefore choose life that both thou and thy seed may live."

Mr. Speaker, when we are choosing the death of an unborn child by abortion, then our unborn seed is not living.

Our great Nation has carried this belief in and respect for life from the very moment of our founding. Our forefathers noted that we are endowed by our creator with certain inalienable rights. Life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness are granted to each of us, assuming we have the chance to begin living that life, yet, our society seems to struggle with that simple proposition.

□ 1745

Life allows for liberty and liberty allows for the pursuit of happiness. Without the fundamental right to life, our society begins to look vastly different. Without the fundamental right to life, we have neither liberty nor happiness.

Then on June 24, 2022, after almost 50 years of living—many of us would say dying—under the tragically unconstitutional Roe v. Wade decision, the Supreme Court overturned Roe v. Wade. What a victory. The voiceless, once again, finally have a voice.

As thousands prepare to stand for life in our Nation's Capital, my Republican colleagues and I continue our fight for life by voting for the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

I will always, always, Mr. Speaker, stand up and protect life.

Mr. Speaker, the gentleman is exactly correct. In Texas, the border is important to us.

Mr. Speaker, it is absolutely no secret that the Biden administration has purposefully and willfully destroyed over 100 years of immigration policy, resulting in 8-million-plus illegal crossings since Joe Biden took office.

Mr. Speaker, I have been visiting the Texas border since my time in the Texas State House back in 2009. I was vice chair of the border committee my second term there. I got back from the border earlier this month, and I am heading back to the border soon.

What we are witnessing now is the worst I have ever seen. It is the worst that the Border Patrol agents and the Texas law enforcement officers have ever seen. They told us that in person.

Mr. Speaker, Joe Biden is responsible for creating the policies that are encouraging illegal immigration and he will not work in good faith with Republicans to fix the problem he created.

Mr. Speaker, we passed a border bill, H.R. 2, strong legislation to secure the American border. We passed that over 6 months ago. Just in the Border Patrol's Del Rio sector, we are seeing folks come across from countries like Iraq, Iran, Saudi Arabia, Syria, and China just to name a few, and over 300 documented cases of smuggling since October.

How many terrorists on 9/11 took down the World Trade Center? Nineteen.

Now we can identify a whole lot more terrorists coming in—300 documented cases of smuggling, as I said, since October. The weekly revenue for illicit human smuggling—let this sink in—\$30 million a week. That is \$120 million a month in the Del Rio sector alone, Mr. Speaker.

These are the people that Joe Biden is encouraging and enticing to come into our communities. We don't even know their background. Therefore, I can't say with confidence that we trust the Biden administration to perform due process, as he calls it, in processing illegal aliens before releasing them into our communities, into our States, and into our Nation.

This administration has a deliberate strategy to keep the border open and to continue the chaos, but Texas has had enough. Americans have had enough. Republicans are united to do whatever it takes to secure our southern border.

It is so simple, Mr. Speaker. All that the Biden administration needs to do to deter illegals and stop this crisis is to actually enforce laws already on the books.

Unfortunately, it has become painfully clear that President Biden prefers, instead, for 8 million or more illegal aliens to resettle in all 50 States and play a cynically partisan role in the future of American life by trying to make Democrats a permanent majority, or so they think.

They refuse to acknowledge what we understand so clearly, Mr. Speaker: it is simply that Americans of all stripes, all walks, all persuasions want a secure border.

The American people want these four things: End catch and release, Mr. President; build the wall, Mr. President; cease abuse of parole authority; reinstate remain in Mexico, Mr. President. It is just that simple. Secure the border, President Joe Biden.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his comments. I echo his sentiment of how simple and best it can be for the American people. It is just baffling that we can't have the administration understand this. I appreciate so many credible Members coming down and sharing their message from their own districts.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas' 36th District, Representative BRIAN BABIN.

Mr. BABIN. Mr. Speaker, I very much thank my good friend from Utah for yielding me the time.

Mr. Speaker, in all the years of my life, never would I ever have imagined that I would witness an American President using every resource available to him to unravel American national security, but that is our reality.

Since Joe Biden's very first day in office, the American people have watched him repeatedly and deliberately turn a blind eye to the border crisis unfolding down at our southern border and even up in our northern border.

As a result of his negligence, millions and millions of illegal aliens, including

cartel members, terror suspects, human traffickers, deadly drugs, illicit weapons, and more, much more, have been allowed to enter the Nation freely with fatal results for tens of thousands of American citizens, and even the migrants themselves.

Monthly illegal alien apprehension all-time records have been set and then broken under this administration, which is by the Department of Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas' own admission, releasing upwards of 85 percent of those unlawfully crossing the border into the interior of the U.S.—85 percent of those apprehended at the border are released into the country.

More than 242,400 illegals were encountered crossing the southern border last November, a 236 percent increase from November 2020, roughly the population of Scottsdale, Arizona.

I would give an appropriate metaphor for December's historic border apprehensions, which reportedly have surpassed 302,000, but the administration has yet to make those public.

Knowing this, the President and his cronies would still have us believe that the southern border is somehow secure, which leads me to think that either they do not know the definition of the word "secure," or they think the American people are stupid.

My bet is on the latter, especially when you look at the dramatic dip in illegal border crossings this month. We were at the border 2 weeks ago with our Speaker and inexplicably before we got there, numbers had dropped mysteriously.

The White House would most likely have you believe that this decline in daily border encounters is the outcome of policy change, but Americans are not stupid.

This is nothing more than another facade to fool the public into thinking that the left has finally come to its senses on border security. Don't fall for it. Nothing could be further from the truth.

Whatever backhanded deal this administration has suddenly made with Mexico for a temporary period of time has nothing to do with your safety and everything to do with the optics surrounding a particular event taking place this November, a certain national election.

The only way to end this border crisis is to implement policies that stop incentivizing illegal immigration by finishing the border wall, by ending catch and release, by closing asylum loopholes, by blocking the exploitation of the Department of Homeland Security's CBP One app, restoring interior enforcement, and more. These are all policies that this administration and congressional Democrats clearly have no intention of doing on a permanent basis whatsoever.

I could go on and on, but the bottom line is this: The fate of America's sovereignty and very existence rests with its people, whose votes this November

will make that determination of whether America survives as we know it; as the great beacon of freedom shining on the hill for the rest of the world to see and emulate.

I will never falter. I will continue working to close the southern border and hold this administration to account.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his very clear message on navigating solving this issue.

Again, I reiterate: There are simple policy fixes that would take off an enormous amount of strain at our southern border. We have got the data to show that these policies are effective. I don't want to oversimplify it because I know this is Congress, but the immediate fixes can be so simple, and we have to quit empowering the cartels to put people in these situations.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the Sixth District of Tennessee, Representative JOHN ROSE.

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Utah, Vice Chairman MOORE, for yielding and for claiming time this evening to discuss these important issues facing our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, Tennesseans across the State will travel to Washington to March for Life in our Nation's Capital later this week. I have had the opportunity to meet many of these people at various pro-life events throughout the years.

As they make the trek, I want them to know that this week, House Republicans are standing up for life on the House floor. Thanks to Republican leadership, the House will consider two pieces of pro-life legislation—the Pregnant Students' Rights Act and the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act.

Both bills are important steps toward ensuring that every child has the right to live and is protected. The Pregnant Students' Rights Act would require colleges and universities to disperse information to both prospective and enrolled students on the rights and resources available for pregnant students.

Too often, college students make the irreversible decision to have an abortion because they are unaware of resources that would support an alternative decision. This bill ensures that they have important information on their options and rights while pregnant.

The Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act would block an out-of-touch, proposed Biden administration rule that could prohibit States from giving Temporary Assistance for Needy Families, or TANF, funds to pregnancy centers that support the life of both the mother and the unborn child.

Pregnancy resource centers provide miracles for children and mothers seeking assistance with pregnancy and raising a child. The last thing the Biden administration should be doing

is implementing rules that discourage their use.

These bills are in addition to steps House Republicans have already taken to protect the sanctity of life, like passing the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act and a resolution supporting crisis pro-life organizations that have been attacked, like the one in recent years in Nashville.

I was honored to speak in support of this resolution when it was brought to the floor last year and I was a proud cosponsor of the Born-Alive Abortion Survivors Protection Act.

□ 1800

Just because *Roe v. Wade* was overturned does not mean our work fighting for the right to life for all children is over. In fact, our work has just begun. As a pro-life father of two young sons, Guy and Sam, I will always stand for the right to life.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. ROSE for his heartfelt message on a very important week for this particular topic.

I yield to the gentleman from the Second District of South Carolina (Mr. WILSON), my former colleague on defense matters extraordinaire. I appreciate all his work in that regard.

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, we all appreciate the great work and leadership of Congressman MOORE of Utah, as he is conducting tonight's Special Order.

As the anniversary approaches for the 1973 infamous Supreme Court ruling *Roe v. Wade*, I was grateful to attend Proudly Pro-Life events at the South Carolina Statehouse in Columbia 2 weeks ago supporting mothers and children.

As part of that weekend, I joined South Carolina Lieutenant Governor Pamela Evette, South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, State Senator Mike Reichenbach of Florence, and other State leaders for the 50th March for Life. The march began at Russell House on the University of South Carolina campus, and a rally began on the statehouse grounds. It was well attended by many supporters despite very cold weather.

Founded by South Carolina Citizens for Life in 1974, the group is a State affiliate of the National Right to Life Committee, the largest single issue right-to-life organization in the Nation. It exists solely to protect innocent human life from abortion, infanticide, assisted suicide, and euthanasia while supporting mother and child.

Courageous leaders in South Carolina are Holly Gatling, Lisa Van Riper, and Sally Zaleski. I am grateful that my eldest grandson, Addison Wilson III, several years ago participated in a National Right to Life March with classmates of the Holy Trinity Classical Christian School of Beaufort, South Carolina.

Through the legal and peaceful means of education, legislation, and political action, South Carolina Citizens for Life works to restore the right

to life of the preborn and to protect the lives of medically vulnerable individuals, including elderly, disabled, mentally ill, chronically ill, and terminally ill persons.

After the U.S. Supreme Court correctly overturned *Roe v. Wade*, State legislatures have become the determiners of abortion access. South Carolina, with strong bipartisan support in the General Assembly, is a right-to-life State. Additionally, South Carolina is upholding the State's ban on abortion after a fetal heartbeat is detected, as interpreted by the South Carolina Supreme Court.

South Carolina Attorney General Alan Wilson, in a statement, welcomed the decision saying: "The right to life is foremost and absolutely must be protected and prioritized."

This law protects life by prohibiting abortions after a fetal heartbeat has been detected with exceptions for rape or incest during the first 12 weeks of pregnancy, medical emergencies, or fatal fetal anomalies.

Upon signing the bill into law, Governor Henry McMaster said: "This is a great day for life in South Carolina, but the fight is not over. We stand ready to defend this legislation against all challenges and are confident we will succeed. The right to life must be preserved, and we will do everything we can to protect it."

It is sad that Biden has abandoned his pro-life position to export extremist, radical, murderous abortion of babies up to the time of birth. This is infanticide, killing viable babies, which is condemned across the world except in dictatorial China and dictatorial North Korea.

In conclusion, God bless our troops, who have protected America for 20 years since the 9/11 attacks. Sadly, currently, due to the appeasement in Afghanistan, the global war on terrorism continues with Afghanistan as a safe haven for terrorists to bring more attacks to America with Biden open borders. All Americans must be alerted that terrorist attacks could be imminent and are imminent in America, as warned by the FBI.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. WILSON's message during this very important week.

I yield to the gentleman from the First District of California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. MOORE's leading us here tonight. Indeed, a lot of important issues, but we know January is typically a month of action for people who believe in being pro-life or those who are pro-abortion.

As we know, January of 1973 is when the *Roe v. Wade* decision was arbitrarily legislated by the Supreme Court, I believe by a vote of 7-2, to somehow make abortion a law instead of leaving that up to State legislators.

Well, that was overturned after many, many years. It is now in the hands of legislators to actually do the

legislating and search their souls on whether they think an unborn baby is actually a life or something else.

Many people have stood up around this country to have their voices heard on the wrongness of that decision, and you find that in rallies and marches like happened all over the country and happened right here in D.C. in January. People have certainly made their voices heard, and I think it was successful in a Court that actually decided to interpret the Constitution.

Science supports the idea that life begins at conception. We know as early as 5 weeks in the womb, babies have a heartbeat. Some States, some jurisdictions are deciding that would be the point at least to start and acknowledge it is a life.

Their brain and circulatory systems are beginning to develop at 10 weeks in the womb. They have arms, legs, fingers and toes. They can jump and kick if startled.

At 15 weeks in the womb, babies have fully developed hearts and can taste, yawn, and hiccup. By this time, their brain is developed enough to feel and respond to pain. That is why we have seen pain-capable legislation at that level.

If this isn't life, then what is?

Thanks to advances in modern medicine and science, the humanity of a child in the womb is undeniable if it wasn't already common sensibly, and denying this reality undermines the very foundation of our ethical principles of science. Trust the science, we hear in other quarters.

I believe that each one of these innocent souls was created by God in his divine vision and that we must stand up against the left's radical, extreme, and immoral abortion agenda that wants to allow for discriminatory abortions at any point in a pregnancy, even on the basis of a baby's sex, race, and disability, even including late-term abortions for babies that would be able to survive perfectly fine outside of the womb, which that number is moving lower and lower in the number of weeks in which they have viability.

We must uphold the value, dignity, and potential for every person's life. Choosing life also means protecting women's health and their families. Yes, protecting health doesn't necessarily mean abortions that you would hear on the left because there are side effects that can affect the woman, as well.

This week, the House is considering two pro-life bills aimed at supporting expectant mothers, helping them choose life. H.R. 6918, the Supporting Pregnant and Parenting Women and Families Act would strike down the Department of Health and Human Services' proposed rule that would prohibit funding for pregnancy centers.

It speaks volumes that the Biden administration wants our tax dollars to go toward abortion but not pregnancy centers which provide invaluable services and resources to expectant mothers who want to keep their children.

They provide both sides of the story to a prospective mother.

I have visited these centers before and seen the good work, the good cheer, the good attitude they have on actually helping a woman in a difficult decision to have all the facts, so that all the facts are known. They provide pregnancy counseling and information about pregnancy, offering free pregnancy testing and sometimes even clothing and supplies for the newborns.

The other bill, H.R. 6914, the Pregnant Students' Rights Act, requires higher-education institutions to provide prospective and enrolled pregnant students with a list of nearby resources for new and expectant mothers, as well as available accommodations on campus. Indeed, both sides of the story, not just the abortion one.

The bill is critical to ensure that mothers don't have to give up their education and can further their careers while, indeed, starting a family. Being pro-life means supporting initiatives that provide resources for pregnant women, promoting adoption as a loving option, and advocating for policies that protect the unborn, humans.

Abortion is a gruesome act that destroys families, harms women's health, and murders the innocent. I will fight for the unborn, the sanctity of life, and traditional family values because I think that is the right way to be in the eyes of God.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the message of the gentleman from California, particularly during this week again.

Finally, I yield to the gentleman from the Fourth District of Florida (Mr. Bean) for a special message.

Mr. BEAN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a great week to honor life, but what about the secret to life? Most people spend their whole lives chasing the secret to life, but Chris Bryan figured it out early: Family, community, and caring about others.

I rise today to honor the meaningful life of Christina "Chris" Bryan. If you called her Christina, then you were a salesman from out of town. A true friend and long-time mentor of mine, Chris Bryan was a shining example of everything wonderful about northeast Florida. Throughout her life, she wholeheartedly invested in her family and friends and embodied the virtues of service, grit, determination, and generosity.

Born and raised in Fernandina Beach, Chris was a pillar of our community for the better part of a century. Chris dedicated her life to service. She was a key member of so many community organizations, including the Gator Booster Board of Directors, the YMCA, the Baptist Medical Center Nassau Board, the Fernandina Beach High School Foundation, the Nassau County Council on Aging. Chris was also involved heavily at the Memorial United Methodist Church.

Just speaking from experience, Mr. Speaker—you may know this—I do

charity auctions and have done a ton. One of my secrets to raising a lot of money was having Chris and the Bryan family in the audience because I knew if she and they were there, it was going to be a big night for the charity because of her unmatched generosity.

Although she made countless contributions to these organizations, many as a founder, her true legacy is the beautiful family she leaves behind. She is survived by her loving husband of 53 years, Bill Bryan; their daughters, Amy and Ginny; Ginny's husband, Heyward; and their grandchildren, Heyward and Liz. I am told they had a wonderful Christmas Eve this year. She and Bill cooked and spent the evening listening to her family talking about what was going on in their lives and letting her family know how much they were loved and cared for.

We knew she was sick, but she was so positive in her treatment that few knew just how sick she was. She passed away peacefully at the age of 78, and I am devastated about her passing. Chris put her family and her community and friends first. She forged strong bonds with those around her, and that is the reason why it is so hard to say goodbye. I count myself blessed and lucky to have called her a friend. I take heart in knowing that she is in a much better place, suffering no more.

Revelation 21:4 says:

He will wipe away every tear from their eyes, and death shall be no more. Neither shall there be mourning nor crying nor pain anymore, for the former things have passed away.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating the radiant life of Chris Bryan.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman. Every one of our constituents, the people who we serve deserve that type of attention. I appreciate you for highlighting the wonderful life that she lived.

Mr. Speaker, I will wrap up briefly just by saying House Republicans have an incredible focus this week, keeping the focus on finding the solutions needed at the border and pressuring and pleading with President Biden to just take a look at what has been done in the past.

We have got policies that existed in the previous administration that worked, and they limited border activity and cartel activity. These things are simple, and we need them reinstated. Embracing these things is what the American people need.

Lastly, we have got very important bills on the floor this week related to supporting women, parents, and babies, as women make incredibly tough choices, finding the support they need in various ways, whether they are in school, whether they are in their community, whether they are working, whatever the circumstance may be. These children need a chance to have every opportunity they deserve. We are focused on building out sound legislation that addresses that this week.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues for sharing their messages, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Members are reminded to direct their remarks to the Chair and not to a perceived viewing audience.

□ 1815

#### ASSESSING IMPACT OF MEDICARE CUTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MURPHY) for 30 minutes.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MURPHY. 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.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, in 1965, a program called Medicare was inception. It was offering health benefits to those over age 65.

At first, physicians were very suspicious of allowing so much government intervention in medicine. After a while, more and more physicians doing their duty to take care of patients accepted it.

The sad fact and the problem is that Medicare now is what they, in 1965, were very afraid of, that so much of government has gotten into medical issues.

This is the main problem. Medicare does not reimburse the cost of care for patients. This is a real access issue. We are not really talking about paying physicians. We are talking about access to care.

This year, CMS is proposing a 3.37 percent cut to the physician fee schedule. It would be about a 20 percent cut over the last 20 years.

Doctors want to see Medicare patients, but they simply won't be able to, and this is going to affect access to care.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), my good friend who is board-certified in internal medicine and dermatology.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for holding this Special Order to discuss the issues of the impact of the Medicare cuts.

In rural communities, like where I serve in south central and southwestern Pennsylvania, seniors rely on Medicare to see their doctors, to fill their prescriptions, and to take an ambulance in case of an emergency. Now, these patients are in serious danger of losing access to their trusted healthcare providers.

Medicare pay cuts, when compiled with 4.6 percent medical inflation, re-

sult in increased barriers to care for Medicare beneficiaries.

Let's be clear about what these cuts mean for a Medicare patient, and these cuts, for everyone's information, have already gone into effect on January 1.

These cuts mean that rural and small providers will be forced to restrict access to Medicare patients and, in dire cases, will be unable to keep their doors open at all.

As a doctor, I understand firsthand the negative impact that these significant year-after-year cuts have on rural providers.

Now, extrapolate that and then compound that with already existing workforce shortages in underserved areas like my district in rural Pennsylvania. I can assure you the repercussions are dire. These cuts jeopardize physicians' ability to provide quality care for elderly patients in our communities.

When physicians who participate in Medicare are increasingly being forced to do more with less, it is ultimately the patient who will suffer. These cuts will accelerate practice consolidation and force patients into higher cost settings for care. It will mean longer travel times and longer wait times for patients to see their family doctor, to see a surgeon, and to see a specialist.

As physicians and as legislators, we have an obligation to work to find a solution for Medicare patients. Congress must step in and address these cuts before they do any additional damage to our healthcare system.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order hour.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS), one of the doctor co-chairs. He has been a stalwart in the Chamber for 20-plus years as a physician, a retired OB-GYN.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MURPHY for bringing us together tonight. I am here tonight not just because I am a Member of Congress from the 26th Congressional District, but I am also a doc. I practiced for 25 years back home. I am a Medicare patient. I know firsthand how hard it can be to find a doctor that still accepts Medicare.

I will tell you, there is nothing more injurious to our medical system here in this country than the repetitive cuts that this administration has delivered to the doctors of this country.

In November, the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services finalized a 3.5 percent cut in physician payments for this year, 2024, a decision that took place on January 1 of this year, a blow to the very backbone of our healthcare.

As a member of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we had an actual historic event last month. We marked up a doc fix and a budget neutrality bill.

The GOP Doctors Caucus and the Energy and Commerce Committee took action to address the challenges by passing H.R. 6545, which was the Physician Fee Schedule Update and Improvements Act. That bill includes a conversion factor update as well as provisions

from H.R. 6371, the Provider Reimbursement Stability Act, also led by the GOP Doctors Caucus.

These provisions make needed changes to the budget neutrality requirement, allowing for long-term sustainability within the physician fee schedule. These are significant steps, and the urgency cannot be overstated.

On January 1, those lower rates went into effect. CMS has said they are going to hold payments until Congress acts, but if we don't act pretty darn quick, they will have to remit at the lower level. The doctors can never go back and recoup the money that they should have been paid.

This is a crisis that is not necessary. We can fix this. We can fix this in the CR. Unfortunately, congressional Democrats, the minority leader on the House side, and the Finance Committee chairman on the Senate side are blocking this very simple fix from occurring. It is wrong. It needs to change.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for holding this Special Order hour.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, it is about access. Physicians want to see Medicare patients, but if you do not pay the bills, they can't keep the doors open.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. WENSTRUP), my good friend and a board-certified podiatric surgeon.

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, America and Members of Congress really need to understand the impact these recent cuts to the Medicare physician fee schedule have on patient access to healthcare across the country.

The cuts that took place January 1, 2024, took effect, impacting providers everywhere. Providers have to continue to bear the costs and the many challenges that arose during and after the pandemic, including staffing shortages, supply chain shortages, and continued rising inflation. As the cost of providing care continues to rise, the reimbursement to physicians who provide that care continues to be cut. We can't keep this up.

Here is the scary part. Doctors retire early. Some reduce Medicare patients out of survival for their practice or stop seeing them at all, and they hate that. They quit taking call. They go to a cash-only practice in order to keep their doors open.

If we don't act swiftly to address these cuts now and in the long term, patients are going to suffer the most. The physician shortage will continue to rise. Hospitals and independent community-based providers will continue to shut their doors. America's seniors will be left with no option for high-quality, affordable healthcare. Rural communities in underserved areas will become healthcare deserts.

Mr. Speaker, I urge congressional leadership to put the health of America first. Ensure that patients and Medicare beneficiaries have access to the providers who care for them.

We have to stop these cuts. Every cut the government makes affects the en-

tire United States. We are one great Nation, but we become a less healthy Nation.

This is just one issue that gets in the way of our goal to make the United States of America the healthiest nation on this planet.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, we are experiencing a doctor shortage, and it is going to get worse and worse, driving physicians out because they no longer are able to be paid for their services or forcing them into employment that destroys the historically great quality of medicine in America.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), my good friend from the Ways and Means Committee.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to talk about a very pressing issue that not only have we heard about throughout our country but especially in the 19th Congressional District of California, which I represent. It is the decreasing amount of reimbursement rates to Medicare providers. It is an issue, unfortunately, that threatens the care for many senior citizens that I represent.

Now, as the proud Representative of California-19, it is a place where the cost of living, unfortunately, can be pretty high—not just for families, not just for workers, but for doctors, as well.

We in the 19th are already facing challenges when it comes to keeping enough medical providers around to care for our seniors. It is actually a problem throughout California where not only is the cost of living too high, but also Medicare reimbursements are way too low.

Mr. Speaker, 76 percent of California physicians report that Medicare no longer covers their cost to provide care. That puts more than 6.5 million Californians enrolled in Medicare at risk as many primary care doctors are not even taking new part B patients.

A key driver of this is how Medicare isn't reimbursing physicians enough. This past year, Medicare expenses rose 4.6 percent. In the past two decades, payments to providers have declined 26 percent while costs to providers have risen 47 percent, according to the AMA.

What is worse is that when CMS updates payment rates for billing codes under part B, that creates many unsustainable cuts for too many providers and leads to way too many scheduled decreases to Medicare physician reimbursement.

Because of that, we are seeing physicians take on fewer Medicare patients, and we all know what that means—that there are more seniors with fewer healthcare options.

Now, fortunately, thanks to the leadership of Mr. MURPHY and other Members of Congress who have come together in a bipartisan fashion for a temporary fix, this legislation would provide an offset for the cuts to providers so that our providers keep getting reimbursed appropriately, so that

we can keep providers in our communities, and so that providers can keep serving the needs of seniors.

I am proud to work with Representative MURPHY on the Ways and Means Committee for this straightforward fix to this problem, but this Congress needs to act with urgency, as these cuts have already taken effect.

Ultimately, we need a long-term solution to this issue by ensuring that Medicare reimbursement is keeping up with inflation and that the system is streamlined so physicians can continue to care for their patients.

We can't underestimate how Medicare plays an essential role in the health of senior citizens. That is why Congress must ensure that in order for it to continue to be that cornerstone of healthcare, we must provide our providers with the proper reimbursement so that our seniors can get proper healthcare.

I appreciate Mr. MURPHY's leadership on this, and I look forward to working with many of our colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do our job by making sure the Federal Government works for our constituents by ensuring that Medicare always allows our providers to care for our senior citizens.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, as you can see, this is obviously a bipartisan issue. We care about our constituents, but we also care about the health of our constituents.

Mr. Speaker, 10,000 Americans each day are added to the Medicare rolls. Again, with such a doctor shortage, you are adding more and more individuals where Medicare doesn't pay their bills, and it is harder and harder to take care of them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. BERA), another physician friend of mine from the great State of California, to discuss the difficult problem we are facing today.

□ 1830

Mr. BERA. Mr. Speaker, over 30 years ago I graduated from medical school. As you are kind of figuring out what you want to do as a resident, I chose to become a primary care internal medicine doctor.

The rationale for that decision was to take care of our seniors: Our moms, dads, grandparents, and so forth.

I love the job. You put that white coat on, you are there and able to help people immediately. That is the joy of being a doctor.

When I talk to my colleagues today, the practice of medicine has gotten harder and harder: The administrative burdens, the lack of reimbursement, the cost of care, the amount of physician burnout.

That is not why we went to medical school. That is not why we went into this profession.

We went into the profession to take care of folks, but if you can't cover your expenses, if you can't give the necessary care to those individual patients, to our parents and grandparents, then it becomes hard. It becomes challenging. We have to fix this.

We have to at least make sure the cost of care, what we give our providers, our doctors, keeps pace with inflation. You see it in every other aspect of healthcare, yet, physician reimbursement is going in the wrong direction.

Mr. Speaker, all we are asking for is to keep up with the pace of inflation and allow our doctors, America's doctors, to take care of our senior citizens. These are folks that have worked their entire life. They have paid into Medicare. They just want routine care.

So let's do what is right. Let's fix this. Let's do a temporary fix in this Congress.

We can do it. We have a few weeks left to get that done, then let's actually come together as Democrats and Republicans, take a look at it, come up with new ideas so there is predictability so that America's seniors and America's doctors can take care of our patients.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Dr. MURPHY, for his leadership.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, the gentleman points out a perfect issue. We are depriving access to patients and developing more and more concierge medicine, which is wonderful for those who can afford it, but for those who can't afford to go and see one of these cash doctors, and you can't get into a doctor's office because they can't take more Medicare patients, guess what happens? They get driven to emergency departments where a more costly care goes on.

We have to stop this nonsense.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Washington (Ms. SCHRIER), a pediatrician.

Ms. SCHRIER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak about fair physician reimbursement to urge my colleagues to immediately address the physician fee schedule cuts that went into effect on January 1, and in a broader sense, address chronically lagging Medicare physician care reimbursement.

Fundamentally, fair reimbursement respects the work that physicians do, and it keeps those physicians' practices open and available to patients so that seniors and others can get the care they need.

Over the past 22 years, adjusting for inflation, physicians have essentially taken a 26 percent pay cut from Medicare. This is in the context of everything else increasing, with expenses up about 47 percent.

I cannot think of another profession whose compensation has dropped by 26 percent over two decades.

If we continue down this path, we will soon find ourselves with loved ones or ourselves unable to find a physician because physician offices will close.

Because of CMS rules, on January 1, physicians just took a 3.4 percent cut in Medicare reimbursement. The least we can do is reverse that.

Last month, I co-led a letter with my colleagues encouraging a fix to this. Here is a way to do it: I co-led a bill

that passed out of the Committee on Energy and Commerce that would level physician reimbursement from Medicare and keep it essentially unchanged this year.

Physicians are nervous, and, fundamentally, we need a longer term solution, and that means we need Medicare reimbursement to keep pace with inflation.

That is how we will keep these practices open. We are already seeing practices in rural communities and small towns closing their doors or being consolidated.

Without adequate reimbursement, we are going to see more of this, offices closing, and that will result in patients, seniors, and others who require or depend on Medicare not being able to access the high-quality care they need.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, if you owned a hardware store and sold hammers that cost \$1 apiece but you had to sell them for 40 cents apiece, how long would you sell hammers?

You wouldn't sell them very long because it just doesn't make financial sense, and you literally can't just give money and walk money out the door.

Unfortunately, this is what is happening with Medicare patients. Physicians want to take care of their patients. They are caring individuals, but when the numbers don't matter, you just can't do it.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. McCORMICK), and emergency room physician, to talk on this issue.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is rare in this Chamber, especially recently, that you find a bipartisan effort, especially one that is all about the people. In this case, it is about the people.

You have seen several physicians and several people from different committees from all over the Nation agree on one thing: We are not doing the right thing.

By cutting Medicare payments to individual practitioners, we have done the opposite of the right thing. We will consolidate healthcare. You lose the cheapest way to deliver healthcare to the most people.

Right now, hospital systems employ 71 percent of all physicians, and that is going up every year.

Physicians deliver healthcare at the lowest possible rate. That is a fact. By doing the Medicaid payment cuts just to physicians, not to hospital systems, just to physicians at this quantity, you are forcing more physicians to work for hospitals, which means less competition and higher prices. That is the end-all-be-all to what is going to happen right now.

It is not going to save more money. It is going to mean more consolidations, more monopolistic practices, higher prices, and worse access, because physicians simply won't be out there to accept you as patients.

You will have people retire; you will have people go out of business. When those physicians aren't there to take care of you at the most rudimentary level, the best and more affordable level, you will have nothing but worse patient care and a worse environment for physicians.

Therefore, I do recommend, just like my colleagues on both sides of the aisle, to do the right thing. If people in Congress on both sides of the aisle are demanding to do the right thing, why can't we make it happen?

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of us to stand with our fellow physicians in a bipartisan effort to pass legislation to prevent cuts to the Medicare payments to physicians.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 9 minutes remaining.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, I have seen Medicare patients for more than 30 years. I have had individuals come in my office after I have operated on and cared for them in the hospital and apologized, flat out apologized for the lack of payment that we received from Medicare.

I tell them I do it because I love operating and taking care of people, but there comes a point where you have to keep the lights on, you have to pay your nurses, and pay your mortgage.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), a doctor of pharmacy, to talk about the ridiculous cuts that are facing our colleagues as physicians.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to address the rising cost of healthcare due to inflation and the need to address Medicare physician payments to ensure quality care for our seniors.

Adjusting for inflation and practice costs, Medicare physician pay has declined over 25 percent since 2001.

Despite this important statistic, Medicare payment updates are scheduled for all healthcare providers except physicians in 2024.

Last November, CMS finalized a rule that would decrease Medicare reimbursement for physician services by 3.37 percent this year. Combined with 3 years of consecutive cuts to Medicare and the rising practice costs, Medicare payments have been cut by nearly 10 percent.

Mr. Speaker, what physician will continue to practice when their salaries are being cut by 10 percent?

It is critical that Congress takes action to address these unsustainable Medicare cuts immediately in order to ensure that patients continue receiving quality care.

The negative effects of these cuts will hit our seniors living in rural areas the hardest; areas that already face significant healthcare challenges.

As a community pharmacist in one of the country's most rural districts and co-chair of the Rural Healthcare Caucus, I urge the House and Senate to act

swiftly on passing legislation that would stabilize Medicare payments to physicians and other providers to ensure that our seniors maintain access to quality healthcare.

Mr. MURPHY. Mr. Speaker, we submitted a bill, H.R. 6683, a couple weeks ago, and while ENC was able to keep the cut at 1.25 percent, we are actually desiring to not allow the cut at all. We are taking money from the Medicare Improvement Fund, which is what the money is for, to solve problems within Medicare.

Unfortunately, as this was a wonderful bipartisan discussion this evening, we are oftentimes imprisoned, if you will, sometimes to the will of some of the leaders over in Senate, sometimes even here in the House.

Leaders over in the Senate didn't want anything for a doctor fix. The Democratic leader said, no, we want this huge wish list of things done, and we will trade that for the doctor fix.

Well, guys, you can't take poison pills to try to help physicians. This is where there should not be politics whatsoever. We saw both sides tonight, Democrats and Republicans, speak about the healthcare of patients in this country.

Mr. Speaker, at some point it is going to snap. At some point, whether it be what Obamacare was trying to do, absolutely starve private practice so that everybody would either be bought out by private equity or have to be assumed by hospital systems. Where, by the way, physicians don't work as efficiently, physicians cost more, and they see fewer patients. It is a closer ownership care of patients.

When I was practicing full-time, if another doctor called me and said, hey, can you see somebody? My response was always: Do you want me to see them today or tomorrow?

The sad fact is once physicians become employed, not only do they cost more to the system, but the work ethic is not as good. That is just point-blank what is seen.

What we need to understand is that private practice is the most efficient way of delivering healthcare in this country, but it is also the one where we care the most, and we follow up. We are always happy to see that next patient and make sure that we keep our doors open.

At this point, Mr. Speaker, we are going to approach a calamitous cliff, if you will, in the next 3 to 5 years with the number of surgeons that are available to take care of patients.

I am a urologist. I take care of disorders of the kidney, prostate, and bladder—those type of things. We are the most critically short specialty in the country.

Right now, the median age of individuals practicing urology is my age, the age of 60. If now we are not paying doctors enough to stay in business, they are going to quit. We are going to make a bad shortage even worse. We have to pay those who take care of patients what they need to be paid.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that this was a bipartisan discussion this evening, something that is easy for our leadership to fix. I ask that they do that.

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 Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise to address a few issues tonight that have been brought to my attention by my constituents back home.

First of all, I rise to address the current policy of so much of the left of trying to encourage more and more people, and, in California, even require people, to build electric vehicles.

Now, I am very concerned, given other policies, that we are making it harder and harder in America to become a member of the middle class. One of the things that has kept America a free country is the fact that we have always had a large, strong, middle class, who when they go to the polls, protect the freedoms our forefathers have given us.

In order to become a member of the middle class, to me, you have to buy three things: you need a house; you need food; and in America today, you need a vehicle.

Americans have been in love with their cars for over 100 years, and that has been something owned by not only every member of the middle class, but even people who don't have as much money.

I am very afraid that the high-income, leftwing, liberal element has taken over the Democratic Party, and by pushing electric vehicles, that they are creating something that will make it very, very difficult to achieve middle-class status.

Mr. Speaker, I have been alerted by some insurance agents that when you buy an electric vehicle, your insurance can go up 125 percent. That is right, 125 percent.

Now, that is not something that the uber wealthy have to worry about; they always have money to pay their bills. And, quite frankly, it is not something that the incredibly poor people have to worry about, because a lot of times they don't have any auto insurance anyway, or they try to find a way to get around it.

□ 1845

However, for the average American to have their auto insurance go up 125 percent is devastating, and you are hitting the most responsible members of society. Not only is your cost of auto insurance going through the roof, but I am informed the cost of a new vehicle, if you have to buy electric instead of buying the old gas engine, will also go up by 25 percent.

On one shot, the policies we are seeing in California, the policies we are encouraging on a national level, are going to make it much more difficult to buy that automobile that all Americans need, make it much more difficult to obtain middle-class status, much more difficult to have enough money left over to have children.

It was also recently brought to our attention, at least in Chicago—we have had a snap of a bit of a cold spell in the Midwest—that it is frequently true that when the weather gets cold enough you cannot get a decent charge on these vehicles anyway. Even if you do get a charge, I am told the maximum mileage you can make on a full charge may drop 35 or 40 percent.

In other words, it may not be a problem for people in Hollywood, it may not be that big a problem for people on Martha's Vineyard, but I will tell you, it is a big problem for people in a lot of America, including Wisconsin.

I think before we continue the laws which encourage more and more use of electric vehicles, we ought to have a look and see how well they operate at times like today, when the temperature is under 10 degrees in my district back home. It is time to stand up to the leftwing, wealthy set who think it is all cool to buy an electric vehicle, because they have always got enough money to deal with the insurance, deal with the high cost, and probably have another car that they can use when the temperature gets below zero. For the average person, this is really a body blow as you try to achieve the middle class.

The next thing I am going to deal with is an issue I touched on briefly last week, and I think some people wrote about it incorrectly. That is with regard to anchor babies.

Anchor babies are babies that somebody comes here, is not a citizen, and has a child. By custom today, we are calling those children U.S. citizens, but this is not guaranteed under the U.S. Constitution. It is important that all Americans understand it is not guaranteed under the Constitution. People get the idea that you should be able to come here, have a baby, and go back to China, or go back to wherever, and that child will immediately become an American citizen. They get that from looking at the 14th Amendment of the United States Constitution.

To understand why this did not create birthright citizenship, you have to look at when the 14th Amendment was passed and why it was passed.

At the time, when the Civil War wrapped up—so many Americans fought and died in the Civil War. I had at least two ancestors myself who fought in the Civil War. At that time, there was concern that as the other party regained power, they would claim that since Black people who were slaves at the time in the South, that the Southern States would claim that they were not citizens and their children were not citizens. At the time,

you became a citizen if your parents were citizens.

They passed the 14th Amendment to make sure if you were in this country when that child was born, that child was a citizen. Of course, it was designed to make sure that—some of the people in the South didn't want to give up the fight—they did not try to say that if your parents were slaves, you were therefore not citizens.

It was not designed—and it makes no sense to say it was designed—that if somebody wanted to come here from another country and just have a child and return back home, that that child would automatically become an American citizen. That would make no sense.

There are two Supreme Court cases that misinform people and sometimes try to confuse people into thinking we have birthright citizenship in this country. One of those cases was in 1898. The court case revolved around people who were here legally, legal citizens, having a child and saying that then that child was a citizen. I don't really think that is what the Congress, after the Civil War, meant. At least it was restricted to people who were legal citizens here.

Later on, there were some dicta put in there by Justice Brennan, which is not binding on anybody, talking about birthright citizenship. Of course, Justice Brennan was one of the most far-left Justices we had in my lifetime. In any event, that was a case not reaching a decision on birthright citizenship; that was just some language that Justice Brennan threw in a decision, but it is not determinative.

When we look at this, we should rely on our common sense. In America today, while there are bills out there—and I have cosponsored the bill to get rid of birthright citizenship—any President, if they want to, can say that the 14th Amendment solely applies to situations which were anticipated by the Congress after the Civil War. There are really none of those situations left today, because all the children of slaves have long since passed away.

It is scandalous that people will take the work done by that Congress, including people who were related to and were so familiar with the people who gave all to end slavery in this country, and they would try to take this amendment designed to protect children of slaves and claim that creates a situation in which you have a tourist industry in which somebody can fly here from Asia, come up here from Latin America, just step across the border, have a child one week after you are here, go back home, and forever that child is an American citizen. That obviously makes no sense.

Insofar as journalists try to confuse the public, you have to remember that the Supreme Court decision in the 1890s was not all encompassing, was not intended to be all encompassing, and the Supreme Court decision in which there were some dicta put in there by Justice Brennan is also not binding.

We should pass legislation, if we have to, but hopefully, we will get a good President in here who will get rid of birthright citizenship. The idea that somebody who just comes across the border can have an American citizen child makes no sense.

My final comment for the day is with regard to a hearing we had earlier, and that hearing was with regard to deportations or the lack of deportations under President Biden.

A lot has been talked about with regard to the huge number of people who are crossing the southern border. I have talked many times at this microphone that we have gone from under 20,000 people coming here a month 3 years ago to right now over 300,000 people being left in the country every month.

It is not as publicized that not only are we trying to change America by letting an unlimited number of people come here, but we are also trying to change America by not deporting people even after they have committed crimes. Right now, we have dropped from a situation in which over 250,000 people were being deported during the Trump administration. Perhaps people will remember that under President Trump, he was rightly criticized for not deporting enough people. That was one of the few times the Republican Party stood up and was critical of President Trump.

After getting over 250,000 people deported a year, that has fallen now to under 75,000. We are in a situation in which we are at about one quarter the number of people being deported as were deported 3 years ago. Not only are we changing America by letting so many people in here; we are also trying to change America by not kicking out people who I think the average American citizen wish would be deported.

I hope this is something that our leadership team, in negotiating the appropriations bills with the Democrats at this time, bring to the floor and insist President Biden deport people at least at the low rate that President Trump was deporting people. When you see less deportations today, at a time when there are so many more people that you could deport, so many more people committing crimes, so many more people we wouldn't want to have here.

I call upon President Biden to look out for the future of America, to look out for the future of your children, and not only not let so many people in the country who we have not vetted but begin to remove the people that we used to remove after they had committed crimes in America.

Those are three issues that I don't think have been adequately covered in the press: Both the degree to which the electric vehicle scandal is going to put vehicles beyond the reach of the middle class or create a situation in which you have to spend so much on vehicles you won't have enough money for food, you won't have enough money for a house,

and you won't have as much money as you should to have children.

The next issue for the press to cover is the lack of deportations in this country, which goes hand in hand with the unlimited people crossing the southern border.

Finally, I hope we cover a little bit more accurately the laws in this country regarding birthright citizenship. We should not say that someone can come in here from another country, fly in on an American airline, have a baby within a week, go back home, and forever that child is an American citizen.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2929. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Market Development Division, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Potato Research and Promotion Plan; Changes to Board Membership and Administrative Committee [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-22-0041] received January 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2930. A letter from the Administrator, Agricultural Marketing Service, Specialty Crops Program, Department of Agriculture, transmitting the Department's final rule — Marketing Order for Oranges, Grapefruit, Tangerines, and Pummelos Grown in Florida [Doc. No.: AMS-SC-21-0054] received January 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Agriculture.

EC-2931. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Per- and Polyfluoroalkyl Chemical Substances Designated as Inactive on the TSCA Inventory; Significant New Use Rule [EPA-HQ-OPPT-2022-0867; FRL-9655-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AL10) received January 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2932. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Illinois; NAAQS Update [EPA-R05-OAR-2022-0673; FRL-10900-02-R5] received January 11, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2933. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's Major final rule — Standards of Performance for New, Reconstructed, and Modified Sources and Emissions Guidelines

for Existing Sources: Oil and Natural Gas Sector Climate Review [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0317; FRL-8510-01-OAR] received January 11, 2014, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-2934. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, "International Exchanges and Training Programs: Activities of the Interagency Working Group", pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2460(f); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2935. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report titled, "Resolution of the Cyprus Dispute", pursuant to 22 U.S.C. 2373(c); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2936. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting the Department's final rule — Publication, Coordination, and Reporting of International Agreements: Amendments; Correction [Public Notice: 12266] (RIN: 1400-AF63) received January 8, 2024, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2937. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-067, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2938. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 23-072, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2939. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Department Notification Number: DDTC 22-026, pursuant to Section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

#### 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:

Mrs. FISCHBACH: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 969. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6918) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies (Rept. 118-350). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### 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 Ms. BONAMICI (for herself, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia):

H.R. 7002. A bill to provide for a wage differential program to support new nursing

school faculty members; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. DELBENE (for herself, Ms. SCHRIER, Ms. PEREZ, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Ms. BONAMICI, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 7003. A bill to amend the National Landslide Preparedness Act to reauthorize such Act; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, 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. CURTIS (for himself, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Ms. MALOY, and Mr. OWENS):

H.R. 7004. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 7005. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7006. A bill to prohibit natural asset companies from entering into any agreement with respect to land in the State of Utah or natural assets on or in such land; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. PANETTA, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 7007. A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Bilingual programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language, and early language programs; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. BURLISON (for himself and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7008. A bill to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act relating to judicial review of a permit issued under such section, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CARAVEO (for herself and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 7009. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Transportation to approve as allowable costs the expenses of certain security measures in a revenue producing parking lot under section 47119 of title 49, United States Code, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. CHU (for herself and Mrs. HOUCHIN):

H.R. 7010. A bill to provide an incentive for States to extend child welfare support and services for youth through 21 years of age, and to allow youth to re-enter foster care after attaining 18 years of age, both without regard to the AFDC eligibility of their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CISCOMANI (for himself, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. GRIJALVA):

H.R. 7011. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 209 Main Street in Duncan, Arizona, as the "Sandra Day O'Connor Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO (for himself, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. LAWLER, Ms.

BROWNLEY, Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER, Ms. TITUS, Mr. MOLINARO, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. BACON, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. BLUMENAUER):

H.R. 7012. A bill to modify the public transportation emergency relief program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. DUARTE (for himself and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7013. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the scope of national pollutant discharge elimination system permit discharge authorizations and the expression of effluent limitations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. HUDSON (for himself, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. CALVERT):

H.R. 7014. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to prohibit Federal Medicaid funding for the administrative costs of providing health benefits to individuals who are unauthorized immigrants; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MOYLAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. DUARTE, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Ms. CARAVEO, Mr. MANN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER, Mr. SORENSEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mrs. FISCHBACH):

H.R. 7015. A bill to amend the Rural Innovation Stronger Economy Grant Program of the Department of Agriculture; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. LEE of Nevada (for herself, Mr. D'ESPOSITO, and Mr. TRONE):

H.R. 7016. A bill to establish a grant program for innovative partnerships among teacher preparation programs, local educational agencies, and community-based organizations to expand access to high-quality tutoring in hard-to-staff schools and high-need schools, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LEVIN (for himself and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 7017. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to take certain Medicare premiums of household members into account in determining the health care insurance premiums tax credit; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself and Mr. SCHIFF):

H.R. 7018. A bill to prohibit the sale and use of glue traps for the trapping of rodents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER (for himself and Mr. SHERMAN):

H.R. 7019. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to address disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders of foreign private issuers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. McCLAIN (for herself, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. HUIZENGA, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. POCAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. JAMES, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. LANGWORTHY, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAPTUR, Ms. TLAIB, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 7020. A bill to direct the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to conduct high-resolution mapping of the lakebeds of the Great Lakes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. OWENS (for himself and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7021. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act with respect to the procedure for the development of water quality criteria, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 7022. A bill to provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 7023. A bill to amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 7024. A bill to make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Rules, 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. SMITH of New Jersey (for himself, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. CUELLAR):

H.R. 7025. A bill to extend and authorize annual appropriations for the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom through fiscal year 2026; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. STAUBER (for himself and Mr. ROUZER):

H.R. 7026. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to clarify when the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency has the authority to prohibit the specification of a defined area, or deny or restrict the use of a defined area for specification, as a disposal site under section 404 of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. STEUBE (for himself, Mr. OGLES, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. CLINE, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 7027. A bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to clarify that certain tax exemptions are not treated as Federal financial assistance; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TORRES of New York (for himself, Ms. CHU, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MFUME, Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. ESHOO, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. NORTON, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. TAKANO, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. CARSON, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. TONKO, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. NICKEL, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. FROST, Mr. PETERS, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. MENG, Ms. BALINT,

Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. NORCROSS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHIFF, Ms. TITUS, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. ESCOBAR, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. POCAN, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. TRONE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHU):

H.R. 7028. A bill to authorize the issuance of visas and admission of certain aliens, and their derivatives, who were selected to apply for diversity immigrant visas but were unable to be issued such visas or be admitted to the United States as a result of certain Presidential Proclamations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LAHOOD (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. BACON, and Ms. CASTOR of Florida):

H. Con. Res. 82. Concurrent resolution recognizing and supporting the efforts of the New Heights Bid Committee to bring the 2027 Fédération Internationale de Football Association (FIFA) Women's World Cup competition to the United States and Mexico; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. GOLDMAN of New York:

H. Res. 970. A resolution censuring Representative Elise Stefanik of the 21st Congressional District of New York; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN (for herself, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. PELTOLA, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. TRONE, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WILSON of Florida, and Ms. OMAR):

H. Res. 971. A resolution commemorating the 60th anniversary of the War on Poverty and acknowledging its shortcomings; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

#### 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 Ms. BONAMICI:

H.R. 7002.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8 United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:  
Nursing

By Ms. DELBENE:

H.R. 7003.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Reauthorizing the national landslide preparedness act

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7004.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7005.

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 the Federal Communications Commission to establish a vetting process for prospective applicants for high-cost universal service program funding.

By Mr. CURTIS:

H.R. 7006.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

the management of lands in the state of Utah.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 7007.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Education

By Mr. BURLISON:

H.R. 7008.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

The bill relates to section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act (U.S.C. 1344)

By Ms. CARAVEO:

H.R. 7009.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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 single subject of this legislation is:

To expand the Airport Improvement Program to be used to combat car theft at airport parking lots.

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 7010.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 1 of Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To provide an incentive for States to extend child welfare support and services for youth through 21 years of age, and to allow youth to re-enter foster care after attaining 18 years of age, both without regard to the AFDC eligibility of their parents or legal guardians, and for other purposes

By Mr. CISCOMANI:

H.R. 7011.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To designate one post office

By Mr. D'ESPOSITO:

H.R. 7012.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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:

To modify the public transportation emergency relief program, and for other purposes.; Transportation and Public Works

By Mr. DUARTE:

H.R. 7013.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill amends the Federal Water Pollution Control Act regarding the scope of national pollutant discharge elimination system permit discharge authorizations and the expression of effluent limitations.

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 7014.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is: Medicaid

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 7015.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is: Workforce

By Ms. LEE of Nevada:

H.R. 7016.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 provides Congress with the power to "lay and collect Taxes Duties, Imposts, and Excises"

The single subject of this legislation is: Education

By Mr. LEVIN:

H.R. 7017.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Health care affordability

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 7018.

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: Animal welfare

By Mr. LUETKEMEYER:

H.R. 7019.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of this bill is based upon Congress's power under the Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: To amend the Securities and Exchange Act of 1934 to address disclosures by directors, officers, and principal stockholders of foreign private issuers, and for other purposes.

By Mrs. McCLAIN:

H.R. 7020.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: This map authorizes NOAA to map the lakebeds of the Great Lakes.

By Mr. OWENS:

H.R. 7021.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: The single subject of this legislation is water quality

By Mrs. PELTOLA:

H.R. 7022.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

The single subject of this legislation is: To provide equitable treatment for the people of the Village Corporation established for the Native Village of Saxman, Alaska, and for other purposes.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 7023.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: To amend section 404 of the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify certain regulatory provisions relating to nationwide permits for dredged or fill material, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri:

H.R. 7024.

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 make improvements to the child tax credit, to provide tax incentives to promote economic growth, to provide special rules for the taxation of certain residents of Taiwan with income from sources within the United States, to provide tax relief with respect to certain Federal disasters, to make improvements to the low-income housing tax credit, and for other purposes.

By Mr. SMITH of New Jersey:

H.R. 7025.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is: Foreign Policy

By Mr. STAUBER:

H.R. 7026.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, specifically Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

The purpose of the Reducing Permitting Uncertainty Act is to clarify when section 404(c) of the Clean Water Act can be used.

By Mr. STEUBE:

H.R. 7027.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend title 1, United States Code, to clarify that certain tax exemptions are not treated as Federal financial assistance.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H.R. 7028.

Article 1, Section 8.

The single subject of this legislation is: Immigration

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Ms. SALINAS.  
 H.R. 24: Mr. CRANE and Mr. VAN DREW.  
 H.R. 41: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 51: Ms. CARAVEO.  
 H.R. 82: Mr. VAN ORDEN.  
 H.R. 279: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 330: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 407: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 431: Mr. SIMPSON and Mr. MORAN.  
 H.R. 537: Mr. McCORMICK, Mr. KILMER, and Mr. NORMAN.  
 H.R. 547: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
 H.R. 562: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 619: Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
 H.R. 632: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 652: Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 696: Mr. TAKANO.  
 H.R. 709: Ms. PLASKETT.  
 H.R. 751: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.  
 H.R. 766: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 808: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
 H.R. 895: Mr. SHERMAN.  
 H.R. 909: Mrs. HINSON.  
 H.R. 926: Ms. CARAVEO, Ms. MANNING, and Ms. PEREZ.  
 H.R. 932: Mr. CASAR.  
 H.R. 1046: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
 H.R. 1083: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 1102: Mr. ALLEN.  
 H.R. 1118: Ms. CARAVEO and Ms. SCANLON.  
 H.R. 1179: Mr. GROTHMAN.  
 H.R. 1182: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 1247: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. DOGGETT.  
 H.R. 1278: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 1387: Mr. MEEKS.  
 H.R. 1437: Mr. STEUBE.  
 H.R. 1470: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 1477: Mr. WOMACK, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mr. DONALDS, and Mr. CLINE.  
 H.R. 1572: Ms. McCOLLUM.  
 H.R. 1741: Mr. DOGGETT.  
 H.R. 1770: Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.  
 H.R. 1824: Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 2413: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 2440: Mr. DONALDS, Mr. POSEY, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
 H.R. 2474: Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. FINSTAD, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
 H.R. 2480: Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 2484: Mr. DELUZZIO.  
 H.R. 2573: Ms. SCHRIER.  
 H.R. 2620: Mr. MANN.  
 H.R. 2669: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 2685: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 2707: Mr. RUTHERFORD.  
 H.R. 2742: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.  
 H.R. 2748: Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 2814: Ms. MALOY.  
 H.R. 2825: Ms. BARRAGÁN.  
 H.R. 2870: Mrs. TRAHAN and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 2918: Mrs. WAGNER.  
 H.R. 2950: Mr. MOYLAN.  
 H.R. 2955: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 2992: Mr. NEGUSE.  
 H.R. 3005: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.  
 H.R. 3074: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.  
 H.R. 3083: Mr. GRIJALVA and Mr. BISHOP of Georgia.  
 H.R. 3086: Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 3133: Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
 H.R. 3220: Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.  
 H.R. 3238: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. CURTIS.  
 H.R. 3329: Mr. CRANE.  
 H.R. 3347: Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania and Mr. NORMAN.  
 H.R. 3350: Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.  
 H.R. 3470: Ms. ADAMS and Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK.  
 H.R. 3475: Mr. ESPAILLAT.  
 H.R. 3599: Mr. SORENSEN.  
 H.R. 3625: Ms. SALINAS.  
 H.R. 3654: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
 H.R. 3680: Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 3850: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 3892: Mr. JAMES.  
 H.R. 3982: Mr. WENSTRUP.  
 H.R. 3990: Mr. KILMER.  
 H.R. 4050: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York.  
 H.R. 4052: Mr. JACKSON of Illinois.  
 H.R. 4059: Mrs. FISCHBACH and Mr. JAMES.  
 H.R. 4138: Mr. OBERNOLTE.  
 H.R. 4175: Mr. HUDSON and Mr. GARAMENDI.  
 H.R. 4273: Ms. BARRAGÁN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, and Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.  
 H.R. 4322: Ms. SALINAS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. STEVENS, and Mr. FROST.  
 H.R. 4335: Ms. CRAIG.  
 H.R. 4423: Mr. TRONE.  
 H.R. 4438: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 4538: Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 4545: Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 4565: Mr. JAMES.  
 H.R. 4663: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 4673: Mr. MOONEY.  
 H.R. 4779: Mrs. HAYES.  
 H.R. 5003: Mr. COHEN.  
 H.R. 5012: Mr. BUCSHON.  
 H.R. 5048: Ms. MANNING.  
 H.R. 5124: Mr. DELUZZIO.  
 H.R. 5134: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.  
 H.R. 5167: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
 H.R. 5184: Mr. WEBER of Texas.  
 H.R. 5263: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
 H.R. 5266: Mr. VAN DREW and Mrs. LUNA.  
 H.R. 5399: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.  
 H.R. 5433: Mr. LIEU.

- H.R. 5526: Mr. MURPHY.  
H.R. 5530: Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. LEVIN.  
H.R. 5608: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
H.R. 5644: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 5658: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia and Mr. BURCHETT.  
H.R. 5799: Mr. SOTO.  
H.R. 5810: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 5840: Ms. CRAIG.  
H.R. 5867: Mr. MOSKOWITZ and Ms. WILSON of Florida.  
H.R. 5883: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 5896: Ms. PLASKETT, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. WATERS.  
H.R. 5909: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 5934: Mr. NADLER.  
H.R. 5985: Mr. CÁRDENAS.  
H.R. 5995: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. NORTON.  
H.R. 6003: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.  
H.R. 6023: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. FROST.  
H.R. 6049: Ms. HOULAHAN, Ms. MATSUI, and Mr. BLUMENAUER.  
H.R. 6094: Ms. SHERRILL.  
H.R. 6143: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 6191: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 6203: Ms. STANSBURY and Mr. NEGUSE.  
H.R. 6283: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 6319: Ms. LOFGREN.  
H.R. 6331: Ms. CARAVEO.  
H.R. 6349: Ms. TITUS, Mr. JAMES, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mr. MAST.  
H.R. 6351: Ms. CARAVEO and Mr. ROSE.  
H.R. 6377: Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. OMAR, Mr. MULLIN, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 6394: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, and Mrs. HAYES.
- H.R. 6415: Ms. TITUS.  
H.R. 6438: Ms. LEE of California and Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6451: Mr. MCGOVERN.  
H.R. 6459: Mr. NEWHOUSE.  
H.R. 6504: Mr. MCCORMICK.  
H.R. 6542: Mr. BABIN and Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 6555: Ms. TITUS, Ms. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. GROTHMAN.  
H.R. 6563: Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 6573: Mr. MANN.  
H.R. 6683: Ms. TOKUDA and Mr. BABIN.  
H.R. 6687: Mrs. CHAVEZ-DEREMER.  
H.R. 6696: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.  
H.R. 6727: Mr. JAMES and Mr. CROW.  
H.R. 6734: Mr. MCCAUL.  
H.R. 6747: Mr. RYAN and Mr. HORSFORD.  
H.R. 6751: Mr. SOTO and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.  
H.R. 6808: Mr. LAWLER.  
H.R. 6810: Mr. FROST and Mr. GIMENEZ.  
H.R. 6831: Mr. JAMES.  
H.R. 6853: Mr. SMUCKER.  
H.R. 6870: Mr. CRANE.  
H.R. 6926: Mr. BOST and Mr. JAMES.  
H.R. 6933: Mr. TIMMONS and Mr. MEUSER.  
H.R. 6934: Mr. WILLIAMS of New York, Mr. GUTHRIE, and Mr. FINSTAD.  
H.R. 6939: Mr. CRAWFORD and Mr. JACKSON of Texas.  
H.R. 6941: Mr. VAN DREW.  
H.R. 6942: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. CRAWFORD.  
H.R. 6944: Ms. ESHOO.  
H.R. 6963: Mrs. TRAHAN.  
H.R. 6972: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MILLS, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. FINSTAD.
- H.R. 6973: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.  
H.R. 6974: Mr. CURTIS.  
H.R. 6980: Mr. LAWLER, Mr. BACON, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 6988: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.  
H.J. Res. 13: Ms. STRICKLAND, Ms. BUDZINSKI, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.  
H.J. Res. 37: Mr. PALMER.  
H.J. Res. 78: Mr. DELUZIO.  
H. Res. 81: Mr. STANTON.  
H. Res. 82: Mr. GUEST, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. BAIRD.  
H. Res. 280: Mr. NADLER.  
H. Res. 608: Mr. COHEN.  
H. Res. 643: Ms. NORTON.  
H. Res. 738: Mr. MOOLENAAR.  
H. Res. 837: Mr. ROSE.  
H. Res. 872: Ms. BROWNLEY.  
H. Res. 881: Mr. FROST.  
H. Res. 882: Ms. MENG and Mr. LAWLER.  
H. Res. 915: Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Res. 920: Mrs. MILLER of Illinois.  
H. Res. 936: Ms. NORTON and Mr. DESAULNIER.  
H. Res. 938: Mr. TRONE.  
H. Res. 955: Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. RESCHENTHALER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. HUDSON, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. FINSTAD.  
H. Res. 962: Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. JACOBS, and Mr. CASE.  
H. Res. 963: Mr. CORREA and Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H. Res. 965: Mr. MCCORMICK, Ms. SLOTKIN, and Ms. STEFANIK.  
H. Res. 967: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. BURCHETT.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 118<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 170

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No. 9

## Senate

The Senate met at 11 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Almighty God, whose kingdom is above all earthly kingdoms, give our lawmakers this day clean hands and pure hearts to serve You for the glory of Your Name. Lord, equip them with grace, strength, and wisdom to face successfully the challenges that beset our Nation and world.

Infuse them with a creativity that will inspire them to do their work according to Your will, causing justice to roll down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream.

Lord, give them peace of soul when their thoughts and plans are right and disturb them when they drift from what is best. Lead them in paths of integrity, courage, and truth.

We pray in Your mighty 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, January 17, 2024.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable JOHN W. HICKENLOOPER, a Senator from the State of Colorado, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. HICKENLOOPER 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.

### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013—Motion to Proceed—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the motion to proceed to H.R. 2872, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows: Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 243, H.R. 2872, a bill to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. McCONNELL. Mr. President, over the weekend, President Biden

once again refused to describe the situation at the southern border as a crisis. Apparently, according to the Commander in Chief, 10,000 illegal border crossings in a day—and the busiest month and year on record at the border—is, somehow, not a crisis.

Needless to say, I am glad that Senator LANKFORD and our colleagues working on meaningful border security policy don't share that view. I am glad that we may soon be able to address an urgent crisis with urgent action.

Negotiators are making headway toward the most significant border enhancements in almost 30 years. They are getting closer to delivering serious, lasting solutions to the unprecedented humanitarian and national security catastrophe that has unfolded on President Biden's watch. That is certainly good news.

Of course, our colleagues' work is also the linchpin of our broader efforts to address the national security challenges we face around the world, from Russian aggression in Europe to Iran-backed terror in Israel and the Middle East, to competition with China.

### CHINA

Mr. President, an increasingly aggressive China represents the greatest strategic challenge of the century, and recent events in the Indo-Pacific remind us exactly what is at stake. The PRC is an expansionist, revisionist, and repressive power all at the same time. It wants to impose its will on its neighbors, regardless of their views or values, just like it does at home.

Just consider the free, fair, and hotly contested elections that took place in Taiwan this past Saturday. The people of Taiwan have resisted Beijing's blatant efforts to interfere in their politics, and the PRC is clearly unhappy with the outcome of the election, which saw the DPP maintain its hold on the Presidency.

But it wasn't just the results of Taiwan's elections that the PRC views as a threat. It is also the basic process

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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itself. The idea of self-determination—of citizens actually getting a choice—terrifies the leaders in Beijing.

Of course, it is impossible to watch Taiwan's defiant self-expression without thinking how fragile this autonomy can be. Just remember how swiftly the PRC has acted to snuff out forces of democracy in Hong Kong.

Right now, my old friend Jimmy Lai, prolific publisher and a proud Hongkonger, is on trial. He is facing the possibility of life in prison simply for committing the crime of journalism, of seeking to publish the truth at variance with the party's definition of it.

See, the Chinese Communist Party doesn't just fear its own people. It fears the pursuit of truth. And, on both counts, Beijing finds common cause with fellow authoritarians in Moscow, Tehran, and Pyongyang. These regimes, and the would-be imperialists who lead them, understand that their most precious currency isn't truth or legitimacy, but control and fear.

The PRC subjects its citizens to extensive surveillance, censorship, and repression. And in the case of ethnic minorities like the Uighurs, Beijing has employed detention, sterilization, and outright genocide.

Beijing fears difference. It fears dissent, and not just at home. The PRC's interference in Taiwan's democracy is emblematic of the shadow of intimidation Beijing hopes to cast further across that region.

The PRC is building a military with the capacity to bend Beijing's neighbors to its will. It is putting U.S. allies like the Philippines directly in its crosshairs. It is aiming to impose direct, prohibitive cost on the United States, and it isn't pinching pennies to achieve those aims.

For more than two decades, its investments in new military equipment and capabilities have grown by an average of 10 percent per year. So it has become quite fashionable in Washington to talk about how we are not taking competition with China seriously enough.

But the resource this competition demands most urgently is not a stern lecture from a climate diplomat. What America and our allies need most in the race to outcompete our top strategic adversary and systemic rival is hard power.

At its essence, winning the competition means credibly deterring Beijing's worst impulses, which, for us, means investing in American strength. Outcompeting the PRC will require greater investment in our military capabilities and in our industrial capacity to produce them.

The West cannot be caught unprepared for this challenge. We cannot afford to neglect the lessons of history.

The Senate has opportunities ahead to demonstrate that we understand what is at stake. We will have chances to take hard power investments seriously. We need to be ready to take them.

#### ELECTRIC VEHICLES

Mr. President, now on a related matter, the Biden administration is continuing to wage war on the affordable and reliable American energy that makes America competitive. The administration's climate policy isn't just weakening American workers and businesses; it is actually making China's economy stronger.

President Biden's EPA recently issued new emissions standards that, as several of my Republican colleagues pointed out last year, "are so stringent they effectively mandate automakers to produce electric vehicles, even if Americans do not want them."

The move is shockingly out of step with the needs of American consumers, the capacity of American industry, and our Nation's strategic interest. The whimsical desire for universal electric vehicles caters to the preferences of wealthy coastal liberals, but working families simply aren't buying it. The average EV on the market costs over \$16,000 more than the average gas-powered car. As one automaker recently put it, the Biden administration has been "far too focused on . . . the well-heeled one-to-two percenters . . . forgetting about the people where a car is not a luxury—it's a necessity."

Sure enough, a \$16,000 premium is more than most sensible Americans are willing to pay. Electric vehicles account for less than 8 percent of new vehicle sales in the United States. Less than 8 percent of Americans shopping for a new car are buying an EV. That, however, hasn't stopped the Biden administration from powering ahead for an absurd goal for electric vehicles to make up two-thirds of the car sales by 2032.

American businesses are not buying this nonsense either. In fact, auto dealers in Kentucky and across the Nation recently sounded alarm bells in a letter to the President. Here is what they said:

This attempted electric vehicle mandate is unrealistic based on current and forecasted customer demand. Already, electric vehicles are stacking up on our lots.

And just earlier this month, Hertz announced plans to sell off a third of its electric vehicle rental fleet due to sparse demand and heavy repair costs.

Meanwhile, State utilities are becoming concerned that a massive uptick of EV use could overload power grids that are already on the edge of blackouts.

Talk about a lose-lose proposition. But there is one party that stands to benefit from Washington Democrats' climate scheme, and that is the Chinese Communist Party. As I mentioned before, China controls nearly 70 percent of the supply chain for the batteries required to manufacture EVs. A Chinese automaker just became the world's top seller of electric cars.

And thanks to Washington Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, leased cars from China qualify for a major tax credit. This means hard-

working Americans like the Kentuckians I represent are directly subsidizing California millionaires and the CCP all at the same time.

So it is one thing for the Biden administration's outgoing climate czar to spend his time begging China to voluntarily engage in unenforceable green diplomacy, but it is quite another for Washington Democrats to forcibly create a pipeline that pumps working Americans' tax dollars into the pockets of our biggest strategic adversary.

It is time for President Biden to choose between the American people and a leftwing dream that communist China can't wait for us to realize.

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.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### CONTINUING RESOLUTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Mr. President, last night the Senate took an important step toward passing a temporary extension of government funding and avoiding an unnecessary government shutdown. We had a strong bipartisan vote last night with 68 Members in favor of moving forward with the CR, and that number would have been higher were it not for weather delays. It is a clear signal that majorities of both parties in the Senate want to pass this funding extension as quickly as we can.

If both sides continue working in good faith, we can have the CR passed by tomorrow. If both sides continue working in good faith, we can avoid a shutdown without last minute drama or needless anxiety for so many Americans.

There is every reason in the world to make this an easy, uncomplicated, and drama-free process. I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do just that, work in good faith. We are willing to cooperate, as always, with the other side to keep this process moving, but Republican Members need to be realistic and practical about how much time we have left before the shutdown deadline.

What the Senate cannot do right now is mimic the chaos in the House, where a vocal minority of hard-right rabble-rousers want to bully their way into making a shutdown happen. Amazingly, the hard right thinks preventing a shutdown is somehow a "surrender," as the House Freedom Caucus suggested a few days ago.

Only in the bizarre world of the hard right is it a surrender to keep the government open. Only in the twisted logic of MAGA extremism is it a disaster to extend funding so that VA offices remain open, food inspectors remain on the job, nutrition funding remains in place. All of these programs

would be at risk if the government shuts down on Friday. But to the hard right, a shutdown is precisely the point. They want to create pain and chaos for the American people in order to bully their way into getting what they want.

But by now, many Republicans—even in the House—are exhausted by the hard right's bully tactics. The Republican majority can't get anything done over in the House because the hard right keeps sabotaging things on the floor—even their own appropriations bills. The hard right and the House Republican leadership's all-too-often willingness to go along with them is perhaps the biggest reason why this Republican majority is one of the least impressive, least productive, and least competent in modern history.

But for all their bullying and bluster, all their attempts at intimidation, the hard right's efforts are going to end in failure. If the majority of Senators and Representatives continue working in good faith—Democrat and Republican—we are going to keep the government open. We are going to continue on the appropriations process.

So I urge my colleagues, once again, let's work together. Let's work together to pass a CR quickly so we avoid a shutdown with time to spare.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, today I will join with congressional leaders from both sides of the aisle in both Houses to meet at the White House with President Biden and discuss the importance of passing the national security supplemental.

I expect the meeting with President Biden will reinforce something I have been saying all along: It is a matter of the highest national urgency that both parties keep working together to pass the supplemental. The vast majority of Members on both sides know we must do something on Ukraine. The eyes of history are upon this Chamber. We made a lot of good progress over the past 2 weeks, and I remain hopeful that things are headed in the right direction.

Reaching an agreement on the supplemental, of course, is very complex. Republicans have demanded that border provisions be included in exchange for Ukraine. Everyone knew that was never going to be easy.

Nevertheless, President Biden has made clear that he is willing to work with Republicans on border security. But as everyone knows, including Republican leadership, this has to be bipartisan.

The hard right—typical of them in the House—have insisted on passing a highly partisan bill, H.R. 2, word for word. That is not bipartisanship. Any agreement on an issue as complex and contentious as the border is going to have to have support from both sides of the aisle.

The work is not done on the supplemental, but I remain very hopeful that negotiations continue heading in the right direction.

Democrats are trying very hard to keep this process going, and I want to acknowledge the efforts of my Senate colleagues who have been at this for weeks. Passing the supplemental is one of the hardest things that the Senate has done in a very long time, but we must do everything in our power to finish the job. At stake is the security of our country, the survival of our friends in Ukraine, the safety of our friends in Israel, and nothing less—nothing less—than the future of Western democracy.

We cannot come up short in this pivotal moment. We must stay the course until the job is done.

#### BIPARTISAN TAX AGREEMENT

Mr. President, on the bipartisan tax agreement, yesterday Senate Finance Chairman WYDEN and House Ways and Means Chair SMITH announced a bipartisan, bicameral tax agreement with important wins for working families and for Main Street businesses. I am proud to support this bipartisan tax agreement because it will provide much needed relief for low-income families and keep American businesses competitive against the Chinese Communist Party.

The child tax credit alone will benefit as many as 60 million children in low-income households and lift nearly half a million kids out of poverty—half a million kids out of poverty. That is a really significant achievement, and it is a credit to Chairman WYDEN and all the negotiators.

Now, most Democrats, myself certainly included, wanted to restore full refundability to the child tax credit. This framework does go a good part of the way toward restoring full refundability. The best part is the biggest tax credits under this expanded CTC will go to low-income families, helping them afford basic necessities like groceries, diapers, baby formula, clothing, toiletries, and so much more.

Second, I am really happy that this framework expands the low-income tax credit or LIHTC. I made it clear to the negotiators from the beginning that any agreement must include provisions to support affordable housing or I couldn't support it.

I want to thank Senator CANTWELL for all the work she did to make sure that strong affordable housing provisions were included in the bill. She is a very influential member of the Finance Committee, and she and I have worked on low-income tax credit issues for a while.

Right now, housing is one of the biggest problems in our country. States like mine and yours, Mr. President, particularly, struggle with increasing the supply for affordable loans. The housing shortage affects everyone everywhere—urban, suburban, and rural areas. Thankfully, this tax package will support the construction of up to 200,000 new affordable homes by bolstering LIHTC allocations and providing greater financing flexibility for affordable housing construction.

In an era of divided government, when you have a House Republican ma-

majority constantly trying to put housing funding on the chopping block, the LIHTC is the best tool available to increase the supply of affordable housing. So I am proud of the expansion we secured in the agreement.

Of course, like everything nowadays, moving forward with this agreement will take continued cooperation from both sides in both Chambers. I hope my Republican colleagues will work with us in good faith because this could improve the lives of millions of working families and help Main Street businesses grow in today's economy.

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. DURBIN. 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.

(The remarks of Mr. DURBIN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3597 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. DURBIN. 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. THUNE. 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.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, over the weekend, a reporter asked President Biden if the situation at our southern border is a crisis.

"No," the President said. "No."

Well, I would express surprise, but, unfortunately, failing to recognize crises is pretty much par for the course for President Biden—see also his inflation crisis or his withdrawal from Afghanistan.

But the President's answer is still notable for the complete disconnection it shows from the reality at our southern border, and it demonstrates why it has become absolutely necessary for Congress to step in; because the situation at our southern border is, in fact, a crisis—a logistical crisis, a humanitarian crisis, and a national security crisis.

For the President's edification, I will just run through the numbers. We have had three recordbreaking years of illegal immigration at our southern border on President Biden's watch. Fiscal year 2021 saw a recordbreaking 1,734,686 migrant encounters at our southern border. Then fiscal year 2022 broke that record, and then fiscal year 2023 broke the 2022 record. If fiscal year 2024 continues on its current trajectory, we will end up breaking the record yet again.

December reportedly saw a staggering 302,000 migrant encounters at our southern border—the highest monthly number ever recorded—and I cannot emphasize enough just how large of a number that is. As my colleague from Pennsylvania said of September's border number, it is like having the city of Pittsburgh show up at the border in just 1 month.

American cities—blue cities now as well as border cities—are staggering under the influx of migrants. Major cities like Chicago and New York are running up big bills and have begged for more Federal money, and that is just to deal with a fraction of the number of migrants we saw cross the border in December alone.

But more than a logistical crisis—and, of course, a humanitarian crisis since migrants are exposed to significant dangers on their journeys to the border—this is a national security crisis. Our country cannot be secure while we have hundreds of thousands of individuals illegally flooding across our southern border every single month. The volume alone smooths the way for terrorists, criminals, and other dangerous individuals to enter our country—and there are dangerous individuals trying to enter our country.

In the first 2 months of fiscal year 2024, 30 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist were apprehended attempting to cross our southern border; in other words, roughly, one every other day. Fiscal year 2023 saw 169 individuals on the Terrorist Watchlist apprehended at our southern border—a sharp increase over fiscal year 2022, which was itself a sharp increase over fiscal year 2021. That is a dangerous trajectory.

Of course, these numbers only refer to individuals the Border Patrol actually apprehended. Since October 1 alone, there have been more than 83,000 known “got-aways.” Those are individuals the Border Patrol saw but was unable to apprehend. And there is no telling how many unknown “got-aways” there have been over that same period. How many of those individuals were terrorists, criminals, or other dangerous individuals?

Well, the fact of the matter is, we have no way of knowing. What we do know is that dangerous people are trying to make their way into our country across our southern border, and there is no question that the chaos at our southern border is smoothing the way for them.

President Biden bears a lot of responsibility for the 3 years of chaos we have seen at our southern border. From the day that he took office, when he rescinded the declaration of a national emergency at our southern border, President Biden made it clear that border security was at the bottom of his priority list. And over the 3 years since, he has turned our southern border into a magnet for illegal migration—from repealing the border policies of his predecessor to misusing our

asylum and parole systems, which are now providing temporary amnesty to hundreds of thousands of individuals who are here illegally.

As his answer to the reporter over the weekend once again made clear, he still does not understand the magnitude of the resulting crisis. In fact, he doesn't understand that it is a crisis at all.

So it is time for Congress to step in. After months of delay, Democrats have finally come to the table, and I am encouraged by the ongoing talks. I am hopeful that, in the coming days, we will see final agreement on real border security legislation—not cosmetic fixes or superficial tweaks but real reforms that will allow us to stem the flow at our southern border.

Senator LANKFORD deserves a ton of credit for staying at the negotiating table to hammer home the reality of the situation to Democrats and to craft long-term changes to our border policies that will decrease the flow to the border and remove individuals already within the country. I have to say, I am grateful for his hard work.

Three years of chaos is long enough. We owe it—we owe it—to the American people to get this crisis under control today.

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. CORNYN. 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.

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I and Senator BROWN, the Senator from Ohio, be allowed to finish our remarks before the planned recess.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### GOVERNMENT FUNDING

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, for the third time—third time—since late September, Congress is rushing to avert a government shutdown.

We have an annual appropriations process for the fiscal year, which ends at the end of September each year. But, for some reason, we find ourselves in a position where, frankly, we reflect embarrassingly the dysfunction here in Washington, DC, because of the way we deal with keeping the lights on and keeping the government up and running.

The Senate and the House both have failed to send a single regular appropriations bill to the President's desk. Just before the start of this fiscal year, we passed a stopgap bill to fund the government through mid-November. When that deadline rolled around, we punted again and set two separate deadlines. The first is this Friday, and the second is just 2 weeks after that.

Today, Congress is on track to kick the can down the road once again. The Senate is preparing to vote on a continuing resolution that will push these deadlines even further. The first will arrive on March 1, and the second will come on March 8. We can only wonder what is going to happen between now and March 1 and March 8 that will prevent us from another can kicked down the road.

None of this is inevitable. This is a result of planned dysfunction. It is embarrassing to find ourselves in this situation once again. This is not complicated. It is not physics. We are talking about the most basic duty of funding the government for a full year. This is one of the most fundamental responsibilities of Congress, but obviously it is not a priority for the majority leader, whose job it is to schedule votes in the Senate. In other words, none of us—not the Presiding Officer, not me, none of the 99 Senators—other than the majority leader can actually schedule something for a vote on the floor.

I know I must sound a little bit like a broken record, but it is important for everybody to remember that this roller coaster of last-minute stopgap funding bills is not inevitable. Congress has all year to plan and prepare for the end of the fiscal year. It is not a deadline that comes out of nowhere; it arrives like clockwork on September 30.

Despite the long runway, the Senate has failed to pass a single funding bill before the deadline. That wasn't because the individual bills were not available, it wasn't because they were divisive or ultrapartisan, and it certainly wasn't because of lack of time. The Senate Appropriations Committee passed all 12 regular appropriations bills in June and July—last June and last July. Each bill passed the committee with strong bipartisan support, and more than half of them passed unanimously. I think that would shock a lot of people who think Congress is polarized and irretrievably broken, that actually the Appropriations Committee could pass bipartisan appropriations bills and more than half of them unanimously.

So what is the deal? Well, the deal is the majority leader could have put the bills on the floor immediately. We could have been voting on funding bills last June. Instead, days, weeks, and months crept by without even an inch of progress. It was mid-September before Senator SCHUMER even attempted to put the first appropriations bill on the floor. We are now 3½ months into the fiscal year, and none of the 12 appropriations bills have been signed into law—not one.

Congress has developed a dangerous, dangerous habit of circumventing the normal processes for funding the government, and it is not without cost or consequences. It has been common to blow through the deadlines and rely on short-term funding bills to keep the lights on. I know of no business, large

or small, in the United States that could operate like this because you can't plan. All of your time is absorbed and energy absorbed in these efforts to keep the government from shutting down, and all of it is avoidable.

Now, there is no doubt that stopgap bills are better than government shutdowns, but it is not a good solution, especially for critical missions like national defense.

Here is the price the Nation pays for the failure to do our business on time. Short-term funding bills do avoid the most immediate consequences of a shutdown. They ensure that our troops are paid on time and that short-term operations can continue. But they have a decidedly negative impact on a full range of long-term projects, from recruitment to modernization.

During a continuing resolution, the Department of Defense can't even start some of the programs we authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act, which we passed in December. Our Nation's top military leaders have repeatedly emphasized the importance of full-year government funding bills. They have told us over and over again that reliable funding is a key to planning and preparing for the future.

I remember maybe about a year ago now having lunch—a bipartisan group of Senators—in the Senate Dining Room with Secretary Bob Gates.

Secretary Gates, a former Secretary of Defense, served, I want to say, under eight Presidents, and he is wise in the ways of Washington, DC, although he hadn't been back to Capitol Hill for some time before we had lunch.

I asked him for his suggestions and recommendations for how we can ensure the safety and security of the United States by making sure that our military was second to none and making sure that we maintain maximum deterrence so that wars wouldn't break out because people experienced or sensed a lack of will or preparation. He said the single most important thing—piece of advice he could give us is no more continuing resolutions. No more continuing resolutions—the single most important thing. What we have been doing time and time and time again is continuing resolutions—exactly the wrong thing when it comes to our national security and our standing in the world and our ability to deter aggressors in a very, very dangerous environment.

In short, timely, full-year appropriations support our long-term goals. You can't plan for a few weeks at a time. Long, full-year appropriations bills support our troops, boost our military readiness, restore credible deterrence, and maintain our ability to compete with our most formidable adversaries.

By continuing to move from one stopgap bill to another, we are shooting ourselves in the foot. We are weakening our own defense as China's military strength continues to grow and as we see more and more aggression on the part of Iran in the Middle East

through various proxies like Hamas. We see Kim Jong Un in North Korea say he wants nothing to do with South Korea and has basically declared a state of war against South Korea. In Asia proper, China continues to threaten to attack Taiwan, creating a potentially catastrophic set of circumstances.

We need credible deterrence, and that credible deterrence comes with a first-class military, second to none, and an understanding that America is absolutely committed first and foremost to our national security.

Given the threats we face in the world today, from the Middle East to Europe and the Indo-Pacific, it is absolutely critical that Congress take defense funding seriously. It cannot be the last item on our to-do list; it should be priority No. 1. There are a lot of things Congress does that are not priorities, but national defense is our No. 1 priority—should be. Reliable funding for our defense is vital to our security. It should come before votes on nominees and virtually every other task on the Senate's agenda.

Well, watching this play out once again is like watching another bad movie. The characters miss the obvious warning signs, make bad decisions, and repeatedly stumble into danger. Throughout this movie, you can't help but think that no one is foolish enough to land in this situation or certainly to do so voluntarily, but, sadly, that is how I feel, looking at the majority leader's decisionmaking when it comes to funding the government and particularly national security.

At the end of September, Congress kicked the can to November. In November, we punted to January and February. Now Congress is on track to push the deadline once again, teeing us up for another fiscal cliff—actually, not just one but two of them—in March.

With each stopgap bill, we are sending the message that we are really not serious about our national security because we are weakening our defense, crippling our readiness, and hurting our long-term security.

Here in the Senate, the stakes are much higher than in this bad movie. We don't have the freedom to make poor decisions just to put on a show. So the bottom line is this: Congress has a duty to pass full-year, on-time appropriations bills. This is the absolute bare minimum when it comes to governing. It is time to get serious about debating, amending, and passing those regular appropriations bills.

I don't know what it is going to take to convince the majority leader that this is important, which is the reason I keep coming to the floor and talking about it. Hopefully somebody, somewhere, will be paying attention.

Congress failed to get the job done before the first deadline. We failed to get it done before the second deadline. We failed to get it done before the third deadline. We simply cannot, in good

conscience, delay this process any further. There is far too much at stake.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BROWN. 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.

REMEMBERING PAM ROSADO

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, this is not the speech I really ever wanted to give. I appreciate being recognized to give it.

I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Pam Rosado, a longtime member of my staff, dedicated public servant, and advocate, whom we lost last week.

I have known Pam from the community in her work as an advocate for unions and for social service agencies, and especially for people individually. And then she joined our office more than 4 years ago. I will get to that.

She embodied the true meaning of service. She spent her life fighting for others. She understood and supported the whole idea of dignity of work. She bettered our State. She bettered our country. She touched so many lives along the way.

She joined our staff in the beginning of 2019—almost 5 years ago—as a constituent advocate on our casework team.

We don't think about it enough around here, but the foundation of our work in these jobs—the foundation of our work—is individual service to individual people. We look at, you know, taxes and Medicare and Social Security and foreign policy and Ukraine. All of those things obviously are important. It is what we are elected to do. But, fundamentally, these jobs are about helping individual people when they have an issue—whether it is Social Security, whether it is Medicare, whether it is a passport, whether it is a tragedy in somebody's life—and we cut through redtape and do that.

Nobody, nobody represented that service—and I have a lot of people in my office who represent that service, and a lot of people, on their first day, they understand the importance of individual service. We just interviewed someone who joined our staff this week. I interviewed her several weeks ago, and what made me want to hire her is she said the most important thing in these jobs is helping people one at a time, individually. We forget that in this job far too often.

Pam joined our office about 5 years ago. Not long afterward, we were taking on a record caseload as Ohioans dealt with the effects of the pandemic. Too many workers were reaching out. So many people were reaching out to our office for assistance. The world was an uncertain place.

Pam was a rock for Ohioans. She was a rock for other staff persons because she had already had a life of service and, especially, was a mentor to young people in the office. And she was a source of hope. She made things happen.

We have calculated this. She worked on 1,331 cases in those 5 years. She was a relentless advocate, known for quick responses in care and handling. And for every case, she provided a space for Ohioans to be heard and showed unwavering kindness.

In letters people sent us and descriptions people gave of Pam during the time and since her death, the word “kindness” comes back over and over and over again. Humility is the foundation of virtue, and I would say kindness is too. And Pam understood that. She didn’t bring that to our office; she had lived her life that way.

Ohioans were lucky to have Pam on their side. We were lucky to have her on our team. For some Ohioans, she resolved disputes with the Veterans Administration or the U.S. Postal Service. For others, she helped secure a federally compliant driver’s license. One Ohioan shared that, because of Pam, he was able to return to his union job as a driver for UPS. And those jobs, because they have an effective union—something Pam understood—those jobs have good pay, good benefits, good retirement—again, because of an effective union at the bargaining table. Pam understood all of that, but this was a gentleman who needed a little bit of help to return to that job.

In the numerous notes she received, they thanked her for her dedication and determination in seeing her cases through. They wrote in for different reasons. Every letter shared heartfelt gratitude and warm wishes. In reading those letters, it is clear the impact that Pam had. Again, “kindness”—we heard that word over and over.

“After receiving help from Pam,” one Ohioan wrote in—I mean, people, after they get help, most of them don’t think about writing in because we are the government, even though we are individual people in the government, and the caseworkers are doing what they do. But people don’t think to write in. But an unusually high, an inordinate number of people wrote in to thank Pam Rosado.

This one Ohioan wrote:

There is tremendous value in being able to speak with a kind and understanding person after hours on the internet.

Then he wrote:

You are exceptional, Ms. Rosado.

My staff and I couldn’t agree more. She was exceptional. She cared deeply for the people in her life, strangers whom she met through our office—or never met, only online or on the phone or a few coming in. But she cared deeply for the people in her life.

She was closest to her family, her friends, her colleagues, and, of course, every Ohioan who reached out. And action always accompanied that care.

She wanted to help everyone have a better day, a better life. That makes a difference for so many Ohioans and so many of our colleagues.

To my staff—to the person, I believe—Pam was more than a coworker. She was a friend. She believed in her colleagues. She lifted them up. She knew our job was to help people individually, including coworkers.

Her joy, her spirit were infectious. She lit up every room she walked into. This past November, in a meeting that we did with all members of the staff, she greeted everyone with excitement as she reconnected with colleagues.

We have offices all over the State: Cleveland and Columbus and Cincinnati and Lorain. So they don’t all see each other all the time.

And she met new members of our team. Whenever a staffwide email went out announcing a departure or a new hire—we have had members, people on our staff—it seems to be happening a good bit—who are called up to serve in the military or they are National Guard people, or whenever somebody leaves for a better job or retires or whatever it is, she was the first to respond with heartfelt congratulations, words of encouragement, and—several people told me—a smiley face emoji. She made every member of this office feel appreciated and welcomed, and that warmth touched each of us.

In the Cleveland office where she worked, her laugh filled the halls as she spoke with constituents and colleagues. When you heard her, you couldn’t help but smile and laugh too. She made a difference for every member of our staff and for so many Ohioans. Our office is a better place because of Pam. Ohio is better because of her.

It wasn’t just in our office. Throughout Pam’s entire life, she served others and fought for others.

She served the community in a number of ways. She served on nonprofit boards. She was an active member of her church and community, and she was a mentor to aspiring advocates and policymakers.

Before joining our office—and this was the first time, I believe, years ago; I believe it was the first time I met Pam—she was the political director of the Service Employees International Union, a union that typically represents people who are not the highest income workers. They are people who, because they have a union, make a living wage and have the kind of benefits that unions bring. She was their political director.

She advocated for the United Labor Agency. She organized and taught classes to future union leaders about the history of the labor movement. Something, my God—I know that some people in this body don’t think we should teach history, and many don’t even think of the history of the labor movement. She understood that if you know the history of the labor movement, you know the history of the middle class, you know the history of the

dignity of work. She taught about the fight for good jobs, good benefits, and what their union card means.

She dedicated a decade of her career to leading outreach for Policy Matters Ohio. She made sure their efforts were grounded in what workers needed and reached as many Ohioans as possible.

Her colleagues at Policy Matters recognize Pam’s integral role in making the think tank and the labor movement what they are today. They recall Pam’s ability to make things happen, whether it was planning a last-minute event or helping to secure an Ohioan’s deserved interim benefits.

That ability made her an indispensable member of our team. Frankly, it made her an indispensable member of any team that she interacted with or was a part of.

Her legacy will be upheld by her friends, her family, and every member of our staff. We honor her memory. We grieve for her mother and her family. We will honor it by continuing her public service, her activism, her advocacy, and the work we believe in and she believed in, as we fight for Ohioans with her tenacity and dedication.

Today, our thoughts are with Pam’s family, her friends, those who knew and loved Pam, my staff, all who had the privilege of working alongside her, and all who had the privilege of benefiting from her work. And that was a huge number of people in a State of 12 million.

This office will be forever grateful for our time with Pam. We will miss her every day. I am grateful for my years of time with Pam, on and off, in her different roles, and we were thrilled to have her as a member of our staff.

May she rest in peace.

#### RECESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 2:15 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 12:47 p.m., recessed until 2:15 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. ROSEN).

#### AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013—Motion to Proceed—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Missouri.

#### CHAMPIONS OF MISSOURI

Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise to bring this body’s attention to 13 extraordinary Missourians who truly embody the best that our great State has to offer. They represent the inaugural class of my office’s new Champions of Missouri Program, which seeks to identify and honor Missourians who have gone above and beyond the call of duty, selflessly served their community, and achieved great things.

These 13 honorees span the State of Missouri—including St. Louis, Hermann, Kansas City, Wentzville, Sedalia, Springfield, Fulton, Memphis, Fredericktown, and the bootheel.

All of these honorees represent service, sacrifice, and success and make me proud to be a Missourian.

The first Missourian I want to honor today is Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith, who was tragically killed in the line of duty in March of 2023. Sergeant Griffith and Officer Adam Sullentrup of the Hermann Police Department responded to a disturbance call at a local gas station. When a shootout occurred, Sergeant Griffith was shot and sadly killed.

Sergeant Griffith served his community with distinction and truly had a servant's heart. In addition to serving the Hermann Police Department for 12 years, he was the chief of police in his hometown of Rosebud and a Reserve Deputy Sheriff in the Gasconade County Sheriff's Department.

Many describe Sergeant Griffith as one of the most kind and helpful people you would ever come across. His wife Jennifer and son Carson and friends are up in the Senate Gallery here today, and it was my distinct pleasure to present the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD honoring Sergeant Griffith to her and him earlier today.

While this is merely a small token of mine and Missouri's gratitude for your husband's service and sacrifice, it is my hope that his memory will continue in the hearts and minds of those touched by his life and his service. Thank you, Sergeant Griffith, for your unwavering commitment to safety in your community. You truly are a Champion of Missouri.

Another honoree is Officer Adam Sullentrup, who was with Sergeant Mason Griffith on that fateful disturbance call in March of 2023. Officer Sullentrup was shot and critically injured in what ultimately would be a 20-hour standoff with the suspect.

After spending 7 months in a Colorado rehab hospital to recover from his injuries, Officer Sullentrup was finally able to come home to his family right before Thanksgiving.

His community in Washington, MO, lined the highways to welcome him back home, a true testament to his character and his unwavering service to keeping his fellow Missourians safe.

My prayers are with him, his wife Michelle, and their entire family as he continues to recover. Thank you, Officer Sullentrup. You are truly a Champion of Missouri.

Next up is Captain Philip Gregory of Fredericktown, MO. Captain Gregory proudly served with the Missouri State Highway Patrol for over three decades, working to keep his community safe. Before joining the Missouri State Highway Patrol, Captain Gregory served as an EMT and a paramedic.

In his law enforcement career, Captain Gregory has served as a zone supervisor, a criminal investigator, a corporal, a sergeant, a lieutenant, an assistant division director, and, finally, a captain. After 30 years of service and sacrifice, Captain Gregory retired in August of 2023.

I wish him and his wife Tanya all the best in his hard-earned retirement. Thank you for your years of service to our great State, Captain Gregory. You are truly a champion for our great State.

Nancy Baumgartner Hanson is a resident of Fulton, MO, and has done truly incredible work for individuals with disabilities. Nancy saw a need in her community when her daughter Shelby, a decorated Special Olympics athlete, graduated high school and needed a safe and supporting place to start her adult life.

Nancy is leading the charge to put a WeBUILT in Fulton, which is a self-sustaining community development that provides a safe shelter for individuals with disabilities. It would be the first of its kind in Missouri.

Additionally, Nancy has hosted iCan Bike in Fulton for nearly a decade, which teaches individuals with disabilities how to ride a bike, fostering independence and confidence.

As the father of a son with disabilities, I know just how important these programs are in giving those living with disabilities more opportunities. Thank you, Nancy, for your great work that you have done to support those who sometimes need it most. You are truly a Champion of Missouri.

John Meehan has had a storied career and has been a mainstay in Sedalia, MO, for decades. Throughout his career, John served as vice president of Third National Bank from 1982 to 2009; served as Pettis County presiding commissioner from 2011 to 2014; served on the board of directors for the United Way in Sedalia, Pettis County, from 2008 to 2015; served as president of the board of directors for the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce from 2017 to 2018; and has served as council chairman of the Wesley United Methodist Church since 2016.

John also is an active member in civic organizations in the area. He spent a majority of his career aiming to make his community a better place. Thank you, John, for your commitment to Sedalia. You are truly a Champion of Missouri.

Next up, Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack were driving along the highway when they noticed a car veering off the road and into a median. The driver was having an untimely medical emergency. Kevin and Justin sprang into action, entering through the passenger door of the car, stopped the car, administered CPR, and ultimately saved the life of the driver.

For their heroic actions, Kevin and Justin were both bestowed with the Honorary Trooper Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the State Highway Patrol.

While Kevin and Justin both insist they aren't heroes, I think my fellow Missourians would agree with me that they are. Thank you, Kevin and Justin, for your swift thinking and decisive actions that saved a life. You are both truly Champions of Missouri.

Adam and Melinda Hendrix lost their 23-year-old son Justin to a heroin overdose in 2017. In his honor, Adam and Melinda started Justin Delivers Hope, a charity that has done unbelievable work to combat opioid abuse and addiction in their hometown of Wentzville and in the broader St. Louis region.

JDH has raised money for education efforts, distributed lifesaving Narcan to family members and friends of users, and has worked with local police departments to fund more canine units to fight drug-related crime. Since its founding, JDH has funded 18 canine units to work in local police departments in St. Charles, and those units have helped officers confiscate nearly 300 pounds of illegal drugs in 2022.

Thank you, Adam and Melinda, for honoring your son Justin by building a critical resource for those struggling with opioid abuse and addiction. You truly are Champions of Missouri.

Hannah Montgomery is an inspiration to her community. Hannah has been in a motorized wheelchair since January of 2020 due to a neurological disorder caused by inflammation of her spinal cord, but she hasn't let that keep her down. Hannah has been involved in her local 4-H program since she was 6 years old and has a passion for showing her pigs.

Hannah was recently selected as the Adair County SB40 Spotlight Award recipient for Kids Inclusion. Hannah's positive attitude, love for life, and perseverance in the face of adversity is something we can all learn from. Thank you, Hannah. You are truly a Champion of Missouri.

Jim Chappell ran Chappell's Restaurant and Sports Museum from 1986 to 2018, and Chappell's has become a Kansas City legend and so has Jim. For years and years, there was no better place to grab dinner, a beer, watch a Chiefs or Royals game than Chappell's. Jim's eclectic watering hole for the Kansas City sports diehards also featured a unique collection of rare sports memorabilia that Jim himself curated.

Outside of the walls of Chappell's, Jim demonstrated a tremendous spirit of service across business, civic, and community organizations. Thank you, Jim, for building a memorable safe haven for Kansas City sports fans and for fostering a stronger, deeper community. You truly are a Champion of Missouri.

The city of St. Louis recently welcomed its newest sports team, the St. Louis City Soccer Club. We had an extraordinary inaugural season in front of thousands and thousands of adoring fans. One City player, Miguel Perez, is an exemplary ambassador for St. Louis and the State of Missouri. Just 2 days after graduating from Pattonville High School, Miguel scored his first career MLS goal for St. Louis City. Hailing from St. Louis, Miguel has demonstrated an intense dedication to the sport that he loves and represents that playoff team with a lot of hard work and great work ethic. It is safe to assume we can expect great things from

Miguel, and we are certainly happy to have him in St. Louis. Miguel, you are truly a Champion of Missouri.

Last but not least, is Sheryl Lynnette Branch-Maxwell, affectionately known as Ms. Sherry. Ms. Sherry has dedicated her time and energy in empowering youth in Missouri's bootheel through education and mentorship. Ms. Sherry's work as a program educator at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension in Charleston, MO, has been pivotal in implemented programs focused on leadership, self-esteem, and anti-drug initiatives. Ms. Sherry has worked to improve the well-being and development of our youth in daycare facilities and Head Start centers. Thank you, Ms. Sherry, for spending your time and investing in the well-being of our State's children and young adults. You truly are a Champion of Missouri.

These Missourians have dedicated their time, energy, and efforts to improving the lives of others in their communities, and for that they should be commended and honored.

It is critical that we continue to honor ordinary Missourians who do extraordinary things. These 13 individuals represent the best of the "Show-Me" State and truly exemplify what it means to be a Champion of Missouri.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### AMERICAN HOSTAGES IN GAZA

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, these are the faces of the six Americans who have been at the mercy of Iran-backed Hamas for over 100 days. They are brothers, sons, husbands, fathers, and grandfathers. They range in age from 18 to 62.

Their families have been sick with worry. They have been sick with fear day after day, not knowing whether their loved ones are even alive. As they cry out for answers and action, the families have yet once again returned to Congress, looking for hope and looking for leadership. These requests should not go unanswered.

During Hamas's October 7 terrorist assault on Israel, I was in the Middle East leading a bicameral, bipartisan delegation to bring a message of peace and optimism for further normalization in the region. But Hamas shattered this dream for millions in the region and beyond.

We woke up to the terrible news on October 7, knowing that the world was altered and plans had changed. The delegation unanimously agreed that we needed to go into Israel immediately, as the first group on the ground to stand with our ally in the face of this devastation.

In Israel, we met with families in anguish after Hamas had taken our citizens—American citizens—hostage and had killed over 30 Americans in the initial assault.

Since then, I have remained in constant contact with these hostage families. I heard their calls on behalf of

their loved ones: Bring them home. Bring them home now.

The response has only been words. Where is the action from this administration, and where is the outrage from our fellow Americans?

Still, over 100 days later, many do not know the status of their loved ones. That is why I returned with the same delegation from October, plus one, to the region at the beginning of this year—to build upon our work and press for the release of our American hostages; to tell the families and the heads of state in the region that the safe return of hostages is our No. 1 priority.

Back in Israel, we saw firsthand the impact of Hamas's brutality at kibbutz Nir Oz, a place that, pre-October 7, could have been described as an oasis in the desert, a gentle farming community of peace-loving people. We were guided through the wreckage by a gentleman who called this kibbutz home and whose own son is an American being held hostage. In this community of peace lovers, Hamas burned homes, they terrorized children, they killed the innocent, put bullets into bedrooms, and violated the very foundation of peace that the kibbutz stood for.

Armed with heart-wrenching stories from each of the hostage families, our delegation traveled to Egypt, Qatar, and Bahrain. Our message was clear: Bring Americans home. This was the message I delivered to the senior leaders and hostage negotiators in each of those countries. It is a message backed by the entire bicameral, bipartisan delegation. We pressed our partners in the region to bring Hamas back to the negotiating table and release our citizens immediately.

Still, we must do more. These hostage families deserve answers immediately, and it is clear they are desperately looking for action from President Biden and his team.

Shockingly, we are witnessing the absolute wrong action from the Biden administration staff. As American hostages sit in Gaza in tunnels, captives of Hamas, some of the Biden administration staff are staging walkouts and demanding a ceasefire with Hamas. It is unbelievable that they are standing up for terrorists torturing our American brothers and sisters. Without a doubt, these staff members should be fired. Where is their outrage against Hamas? Where is the protest demanding that Hamas release their fellow citizens?

In the face of the vacuum created by this administration, Congress has a role to play in bringing Americans home, and that is a role I have stepped into. And congressional pressure is working. Already, the world is witnessing some of the effects of this call to action. After meeting with leaders in Qatar, Qatari negotiators reportedly paved the way for Israel to send medicine to the hostages in Gaza for the first time since October 7.

I am glad to see Qatar has responded to our calls to action; however, this is

only a first and a very modest step. More action is required, and I will continue to fight to get Americans home immediately. After all, every day that Hamas holds Americans captive is a win for evil. That is why I will continue to hold our partners' feet to the fire to reunite these families.

I encourage every Member in this body and every American to join me in pressuring Hamas to free our citizens. American lives are on the line. Folks, now is a time for choosing.

As these hostage families call out for the strength of America to reunite them with their loved ones, there should be only one response: Bring our hostages home now.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Arkansas.

#### HONORING DEPUTY JUSTIN SMITH

Mr. BOOZMAN. Madam President, I rise today with my friend and colleague, Senator COTTON, to recognize the service and the sacrifice of Stone County Sheriff's Deputy Justin Smith, who was fatally wounded in the line of duty on January 2, 2024.

It takes a special person to wear a law enforcement officer's uniform. For Deputy Smith, being part of this select group of individuals called to serve and protect was a dream come true. He was a distinguished member of the law enforcement community for 24 years, honorably serving first as a corrections officer in Jackson and Independence Counties and then as a constable and deputy sheriff in Stone County, where he spent 14 years.

Deputy Smith loved his job. He loved working for the good of his family, friends, and neighbors. He was so proud to be in a position to make a difference in the lives of the Arkansans and took advantage of that opportunity on countless occasions.

Those who served alongside him recognized his compassion and the helpful influence he had on the youth he worked with—two marks of any special public servant. Stone County Sheriff Brandon Long described Deputy Smith as a team player who was always willing to go the extra mile. The sheriff said:

There was never a time he was called to come in that he didn't show up.

By living his life dedicated to public service, he also instilled that passion in his family. His sons have taken up roles with a higher calling as well, one being a veteran, another currently serving in Active Duty in the Air Force, and another who followed directly in his father's footsteps by pursuing a career in law enforcement. They all benefited from the love of their dad, not only for them but for others, and the faithful way he went about showing it in every aspect of life.

As Deputy Smith knew, we depend on law enforcement officers to keep us safe. His death is a tragic reminder of the risks these men and women face each day, and it prompts us to ensure

we always offer the gratitude and respect they so richly deserve in exchange for the tremendous sacrifices that they make.

I join all Arkansans as we mourn the death of this hero.

I ask my colleagues to lift up Deputy Smith's wife Lori and his entire family. Stone County's law enforcement personnel, and all who loved him in prayer. We will forever remember him as the true hero he was.

I yield to my colleague, Senator COTTON.

Mr. COTTON. Madam President, today, I join Senator BOOZMAN in mourning the death of Stone County Deputy Sheriff Justin Smith.

On January 2, Deputy Smith was shot and killed in the line of duty while serving a warrant. With his passing, Arkansas has lost a selfless public servant, reflecting the very best in our State.

Deputy Smith grew up in Arkansas, and he worked in law enforcement for 24 years—first as a corrections officer and then at the Stone County Sheriff's Department, where he worked for the past 14 years.

Time and again, he went above and beyond the call of duty. Stone County Sheriff Brandon Long said of Deputy Smith:

There was never a time he was called to come in that he didn't show up. He was the type of person that when his shift ended, if he needed to stay over, no questions asked.

Deputy Smith was a gregarious and generous man who made friends and smiled easily. He enjoyed hunting and spending time with his large family.

Deputy Smith is survived by his wife Lori, 3 sons, 2 daughters-in-law, 3 stepchildren, 4 siblings, and 14 grandchildren, along with many nieces, nephews, and cousins.

Our prayers and the prayers of all Arkansans are with his family in this time of pain and mourning.

One of his sons reflected:

Perhaps the hardest part of all of this is that my dad only exists in memories and photos, and that's all we'll have left of him.

Those heartbreaking words reflect the terrible danger that our men and women in blue and their families endure every single day. It is one of the many reasons our police deserve the lasting gratitude and support of their communities, States, and our Nation.

That gratitude was on full display at Deputy Smith's funeral, where leaders from across the State attended, including Governor Sarah Sanders and Attorney General Tim Griffin. In fact, so many people wanted to honor Deputy Smith's life that the service had to be simulcast into a second church.

On behalf of a grateful State, Senator BOOZMAN and I want to thank Deputy Smith and his whole family for their service to Stone County and to Arkansas.

God bless them, and God bless Arkansas.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BALDWIN). The junior Senator from California.

#### MAIDEN SPEECH

Ms. BUTLER. Madam President, before I begin my formal remarks, I would like to take a moment to acknowledge the delegation of California mayors who are here in the Gallery today.

Madam President, I rise today with gratitude, honored to be a Member of this esteemed body. I rise having never imagined that this opportunity to serve would be a part of my journey. But I am grateful to so many who have helped it become true.

I was appointed by Governor Gavin Newsom to serve the people of California after the passing of Senator Feinstein. No one could ever fill Senator Feinstein's shoes, but there are so many of us who stand on her shoulders. To both of them, I am grateful.

I also know that my presence in these hallowed Halls is only made possible by Senator Carol Moseley Braun and now-Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, both of whom were historic Members of this great Chamber. And to stand on their shoulders as the only Black woman in this Chamber today, I am eternally grateful.

I appreciate the sacrifice and support of my friends and my family and the leadership of EMILYs List, who allowed me to turn their lives inside out and upside down to meet this moment in our Nation's story. To my partner, Neneki Lee, and my daughter, Nylah Grace, who are in the Gallery, I am especially grateful.

Madam President, I know that I am the newest Senator to join this Chamber, and while I may be new to this title and to this institution, I am not new to the struggle and the work of justice. You see, I am the proud daughter of the South, born in Magnolia, MS, the youngest of three children. I am the granddaughter to Kary, a sharecropper from Louisiana, crippled at a young age by polio; the granddaughter to Lettie Ruth, a maid who had to take her children to the homes of the White families for whom she cleaned and children she cared for even as she worked to get her certificate as a nursing assistant.

My grandparents were patriots who had to be urgent about the promise of America for their 11 children, the promise that if they worked hard and played by the rules, that their children would never have to see sharecropping as their destiny.

My mother Sarah was number six. She had five in front and five behind. She was born in 1953, 1 year before the Brown v. Board of Education decision. Yet it would be 13 years before she and her classmates saw an integrated school or had any semblance of equal.

As an adult, my mom made ends meet by working sometimes three jobs in the same day—working as a classroom assistant for mostly special needs children. She worked as a certified nursing assistant, just as her mom before her. She was a security officer, a cashier at a gas station. But her full-

time job was unpaid. For more than a decade, she was the primary caregiver for my father Delos, who died after suffering six heart attacks, angioplasty, and receiving a heart transplant from an 18-year-old who died in a motorcycle accident. My father passed when I was 15 years old.

Colleagues, my mother, too, needed to be urgent about the future of her three children. She knew she had to be and do everything and anything she could to ensure that we had the opportunities to break beyond the barriers of poverty and to chase our dreams.

I went on to be educated at the Jackson State University in Jackson, MS. I had professors who were lawyers and scholars and organizers in the civil rights movement, who were urgent about the young minds and lives they were there to educate, leaders like Dr. Mary Coleman, who chaired our political science department and at the same time was a part of the litigation team that sued the State of Mississippi for equal funding for its historically Black colleges; professors like Dr. Leslie-Burl McLemore, who taught in our lecture halls but also served as a model of leadership, becoming the president of our beloved university, the mayor of Jackson, MS, and today, at 83 years old, one of the first Black elected officials in his hometown of Walls, MS. They and others taught me the urgency of opportunity inherent in the promise of America, but they also were clear that the arc of our moral universe bends toward justice only when people keep our heart and our hands pushing it in that direction.

My time with workers, their families, and other leaders at SEIU was also formative because we built coalitions to win—to win healthcare benefits for healthcare workers who had never been able to see a doctor. We built a coalition to win to raise the minimum wage in California to \$15 an hour when the average Californian was spending 40 percent of their disposable income on housing and on food. Together, we fought for environmental justice and to restore redemption and rehabilitation to our criminal justice system. We knew that we urgently needed to work to build the California that our children deserved.

I was able to continue that work during my time at EMILYs List, supporting pro-choice women who advanced values that united their communities at every level of government. We were intent on creating that new generation of leaders.

Madam President, today, I am clear that my time in the Senate can be no different, and I rise today urgent about the future of our Nation's children. I rise carrying the urgent hopes of my grandfather and my grandmother, the deferred dreams of my mother. I rise bearing witness to the urgent sense of action of my professors, who were determined to show that next generation of leaders that change is possible only when we choose to do it together.

There are those who believe that the greatest test of our democracy is coming this November. I would submit that it is already happening. It is happening in our high schools and on our college campuses around the country. That is where my sense of urgency really comes from today.

My impatience emerges from listening to my own child, who, at my staff holiday celebration just last year, shared the story of her elementary school lockdown as if it were commonplace.

My sense of urgency comes from the facts amplified by the American Psychological Association that 13 percent of high school girls had attempted suicide, while 30 percent had considered it. Those numbers rose to 20 percent for LGBTQ+ students. And amongst Black girls, the suicide rate rose 36½ percent.

My impatience was formed on June 24, 2022, when millions of women and girls across the country, just like my little girl, came home less free than their mothers and grandmothers the morning of the final Dobbs decision.

My urgency was affirmed this past weekend while I was home in California celebrating the legacy of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr.

I had the opportunity to visit some of our State's best, brightest, and youngest minds. One of them is Jesus Francisco Estrada, Jr. He goes by "Paco."

Paco is going to turn 22 years old a week from today. He is a first-generation college student at Loyola Marymount University, and he is from South Central Los Angeles—he wanted me to make sure that I said between Green Meadows and Watts. His father is a member of UFCW Local 770, and he was the primary income earner in their house when he was working full time for over 20 years at a meat-processing and meat-cutting facility. Paco's mother was often too sick to work, as she suffered from a complex diabetes condition as well as having had a scare with cancer.

Paco shared with me that, his entire childhood, he had grown up watching and knowing that his family was not going to be able to secure housing month to month. He knew this because he knew that his father was barely making ends meet and that sometimes they couldn't afford the rent. He saw the stress this added to his father's already grueling responsibilities.

Then, 2 years ago, his younger sister had a psychotic episode that was later diagnosed as schizophrenia. As her condition progressed, she became violent in her behavior and once had to have the police come and take her away. As he had to be the translator for his Spanish-speaking parents about what was happening in his home that day, he said that he learned then, watching his sister be taken away, that police aren't equipped to deal with people with mental health disorders.

The challenges and headwinds of Paco's life are enough to set anyone back. Instead, he has chosen to live and to lead forward.

So my commitment to Paco, my urgency about the future of our children, my service to the people of California has to start with democracy and freedom, protecting and advancing its very ideals, determined to preserve it for those who must carry it forward. And I look forward to working with my colleagues to pass the Freedom to Vote Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Freedoms once thought to be protected by our Constitution for decades—like reproductive healthcare, abortion access, and equal opportunity—are being stripped away right in front of us. I am eager to get to work with my colleagues to pass legislation to restore these protections and do today what cannot be left as the unfinished business of generations to come.

My commitment to generation now includes a focus on their mental health and well-being. I am impatient to work with my colleague Senator PADILLA and others to improve access to mental health and eager to work with Senator BROWN and Senator SCOTT to advance the FEND Act to stop the spread of fentanyl in our communities and the killing of our children.

According to recent data gathered by the AFL-CIO, 80 percent of workers under 30 want to be in a union. I am urgently ready to stand with those workers and with my colleagues who are committed to taking on the corporations that would stand in their way.

We must pass legislation like the PRO Act and the Home and Community-Based Services Access Act to create the workforce necessary to provide the care in our communities, advancing economic opportunities for generation now, who will lead and work in the economy of the future. We must do all that we can to ensure the tools necessary to believe in the American dream again.

In closing, Madam President, while I am urgent, I am also filled with abiding hope. Generation now may be cynical, but they are not sitting it out. Even as they have had to question whether government could truly work for them, even as they have seen dysfunctional and bitter politics, their advocacy on behalf of themselves and their future deserves its own recognition.

The world watched as students from Marjory Stoneman Douglas High School in Parkland, FL, organized the March for Our Lives rally, bringing together almost 2 million people across the country to demand that Congress act on gun safety legislation. That rally became one of the largest student-led protests since the Vietnam war.

From the Women's March to the Black Lives Matter marches around the globe, the most racially and ethnically diverse generation of our time has shown up time and time again, demanding that we do better. Whether it is the movements for gun reform, envi-

ronmental protection, racial justice, or your local barista's fight to join a union, young people are demonstrating their willingness to be the force, the energy, and the face of change.

While this is true across the Nation, it is especially true in my home State of California, the State home to the largest number of Gen Zers in our country.

One of them is Kamarie Brown, a 20-year-old student now at Spelman College, who discovered a passion for education equity. At just 17 years old, she was the first Black female ever to be selected to the student seat on the Los Angeles County School Board, the second largest school district in our Nation.

It is thanks to Kamarie's leadership that students in L.A. have access to greater resources that they need to thrive. She secured unanimous support for resolutions that leveraged district funding to improve the communities around her, beyond the walls of Crenshaw High School.

It is young leaders like Kamarie, who don't sit on their hands and stand idle as the world passes them by. It is the stories of Generation Now, who believe that their lives can add up to something more that truly inspires them.

As I take my seat, I offer again the clarion call that was shared with this body and the world almost 3 years ago to the day. On January 20, 2021, Amanda Gorman, the youngest person ever to serve as the inaugural poet, said this:

[W]e are far from polished, far from pristine, but that doesn't mean that we are striving to forge a union that is perfect. We are striving to form a union with purpose, to compose a country committed to all cultures, colors, characters and conditions of man. And so we lift our gazes not to what stands between us but what stands before us. We close the divide because we know, to put our futures first, we must first put our differences aside.

If our children are our future, let us be urgent about the promise of America. It must be that we put our future first because their lives are depending on us today.

I yield the floor.

(Applause.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from West Virginia.

#### CLIMATE LEGISLATION

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I rise today in light of the news that John Kerry, America's climate czar, will soon be leaving his post. Mr. Kerry's exit presents, I think, us with an opportunity to comprehensively reexamine the Biden administration's record on energy and the environment.

For 3 years now while Mr. Kerry has been there, we have had energy regulation after energy regulation, climate mandate after climate mandate; and President Biden has clearly and unapologetically put the American people last.

His Cabinet Secretaries and unelected staff members from the State Department to the EPA, from

the White House to the U.S. Department of Transportation, have followed his lead. They have pushed an unworkable, untenable agenda meant to appease the global climate community and environmental activists alike.

The problem is that these goals and proposals are completely detached from reality. Well, let's just start with Mr. Kerry's recent comments:

There shouldn't be any more coal-fired power plants permitted anywhere in the world.

Followed by him signing an international pledge to do just that.

Well, that is a big statement for someone in his position, yet he has outlined no plan to replace this baseload energy source that is critical to our Nation and, really, critical around the world, especially in these winter months on days like we see today and this past week where we have had record freezing—and below-freezing—temperatures.

He makes comments like this but does not acknowledge that States like mine—West Virginia—or States like Michigan, Minnesota, Kentucky, and Colorado all rely heavily on coal-fired power plants for our electricity.

Acknowledging this reality would not be wise for Mr. Kerry because decimating the entire electric grid of dozens of States across the country and the thousands—tens of thousands of jobs that go with it would not be a good look for the administration.

So they never quite get to the next point of what would happen if we actually followed what he is saying. But not to fear, the EPA has Mr. Kerry's back when it comes to threatening America's energy grid with policies that are just not based in reality.

Despite the Supreme Court knocking down the Obama administration's previous attempt to close down coal- and gas-fired power plants in West Virginia v. EPA, the Biden administration has doubled down on this reckless policy. The Clean Power Plan 2.0 is, again, designed to prematurely force the retirement of these power plants and require the use of technologies that are not nearly ready for prime time.

Unfortunately for the American people, by the time the courts catch up, as they did before, a lot of the damage is done. Jobs are lost, the electric grid is undetermined and undermined, and the lives of entire communities are disrupted. Believe me, I know this firsthand. We lived through this in West Virginia during the Obama administration, and I would not wish it on any other parts of this country.

But the Biden administration is not stopping there. In a mind-boggling display of irony, the EPA is simultaneously pushing a rapid transition to electric vehicles. What do you have to use for that? That would be more electricity.

So let's look at what happened this week. In Iowa, we saw how cold it was during the caucuses, below zero everywhere. Many Americans faced a cold

snap this week across the country, but owners of EVs were stuck because, No. 1, the EVs couldn't hold a charge in the cold weather and, No. 2, they found they couldn't even charge them at the charging stations.

A rapid and unreasonable transition to these vehicles—and I am not anti-electric vehicle at all—with serious reliability concerns would also increase electricity demand as the Agency works to shut down reliable baseload energy sources of power. It makes no sense.

And, again, ignoring reality, the Biden administration just carries on. More recently, the EPA announced a tax on energy companies through a methane fee, using the Democrats' really disastrous Inflation Reduction Act to target and penalize American energy producers. And, currently, a complex set of cases is winding through the courts on the topic of the EPA's so-called good neighbor air regulation.

This policy would take away the authority of 23 States, mine included, to determine how best to regulate ozone and reduce emissions in their own borders, which is what the Clean Air Act calls for, an alarming consolidation of power for Washington bureaucrats.

The EPA's approach ignores the cooperative Federalism framework of the Clean Air Act and deprives the States of their rights to regulate first. Our States know our States better than the Federal Government. Twelve States have already been successful in convincing courts that this program has serious legal challenges and issues, and that the courts have issued stays of the rule.

And this was all followed then by the EPA's disastrous Waters of the U.S., better known in these Halls as WOTUS, which illegally expanded the jurisdiction of the Federal Government at the expense of American farmers, builders, and private landowners.

Unsurprisingly, this was roundly rejected by the Supreme Court—including a 9-to-0 agreement that the scope of the proposal went way too far.

Yet even as the highest Court in the land sends clear warning signals that President Biden's energy and environmental overreach is illegal, those down the street at 1600 Pennsylvania Avenue just don't seem to care.

We have seen the resounding theme of Federal overreach, not just at Departments and Agencies but also directly from the White House.

As the administration is touting investments being made in our Nation's infrastructure, a bill that I roundly and soundly supported and also helped to create, the White House Council on Environmental Quality—better known as CEQ—has actually proposed making it harder to build and complete these projects.

So on the one hand, we are going to create a huge program for infrastructure; on the other hand, we are going to restrict how you build, when you build, how much it costs to build, and

if you can build at all. They have championed burdensome permitting rules and redtape regulations, none of which—none of which—were agreed to by this Congress. And the White House Office of Management and Budget—better known as OMB—published a governmentwide mandate on Agencies to consider its flawed “social cost of greenhouse gases” metrics.

Well, I have asked for transparency here because I want to know how these numbers are developed and used, and I have gotten no substantive answers in response. It is crickets over there when I ask these questions. All we have received are broad public pronouncements that these numbers are to be used by Departments and Agencies when purchasing any goods or services in this time of high inflation and supply cost issues and when reviewing any proposed energy or infrastructure projects as they see fit.

Again, the irony is astounding for those of us looking at this from a realistic point of view. The same White House boasting about infrastructure investments—I am going to repeat—and growth is simultaneously hamstringing itself with climate mandates and memos that will impact millions of workers, families, and employers across this country, with all of the details hidden out of the sight of the American people.

After 3 years, there is a clear message President Biden and Mr. Kerry need to hear, regulations meant to signal climate action that don't follow the law and aren't based in reality are not the answer.

There is a better way—one that will unite us and actually make our Nation and world healthier and stronger. I have said so many times that our energy and environmental policies do not have to be at odds. So instead of targeting natural gas production, which was the major reason America reduced its emissions in the last 20 years, we should continue to support it. Doing so will boost our American energy, make for a cleaner environment, a better environment, and help our allies abroad, all at the same time.

We can also support the future expansion of nuclear energy, which holds great promise. It is emissions free. It is a linchpin of America's energy grid by enacting these policies that will drive development here on our shores and help us grow.

And we could move ahead with permits for carbon capture, use, and storage, in States who want to harness innovative technologies like mine, create jobs, and protect the environment at the same time and use natural gas, coal, as long as we can, because it is abundant in this country.

There is room for all of that, if we would just stop the hyperbole and the alarmism that is so often encountered when discussing this issue. When I and so many Americans hear somebody say “shut it all down” comments from the “climate czar” that are then mirrored

in actual regulations from the Federal Government, it just is not helpful. And I believe that history will show and has shown that it only hurts us.

So as Mr. Kerry exits the administration, let's take stock of the path the Biden administration has taken us down. And it is clear we must reverse course; we must leave behind the unworkable proposals and job-killing overreach and work together to allow realistic solutions to thrive right here in America.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The junior Senator from North Carolina.

Mr. BUDD. Madam President, I want to thank the Senator from West Virginia for holding this event to highlight one of the biggest issues facing working families today, and that is the cost of energy in America.

Since President Biden took office, the overall price of energy has skyrocketed by almost 35 percent. And when you dig down into the numbers, individual sources of energy, the news doesn't get any better. Fuel oil is up nearly 50 percent; gas prices are up over 40 percent; natural gas is up over 27 percent.

You know, in real terms, everyday Americans are spending an extra \$111 per month to fuel their car and to heat their home. Businesses of all sizes are having to spend thousands of dollars more to produce goods and to move them around the country.

So what is causing all of this? Well, if you ask President Biden, he trots out talking points blaming foreign conflicts for the rising prices. But, to be fair, turmoil in the Middle East and Russia certainly plays a part. But the real question is, Why is the United States so dependent on foreign nations in the first place? Why are we at the mercy of petty despots and dictators for the fuel that we need right here?

It is because President Biden has orchestrated an all-out assault on American energy, starting on his first day in office. The Biden administration stopped construction of the Keystone Pipeline; they canceled all remaining oil and gas leases from the Trump administration in the Arctic Refuge; and they shut down energy exploration on Federal lands. Make no mistake, this is a crisis of President Biden's own making.

In response, President Biden has grasped for a political solution to a policy problem. His administration began to tap the U.S. Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Now the SPR is designed for times of war, national disaster, or a true national emergency. President Biden, on the other hand, has used it over and over again to bail himself out of the political consequences of his anti-energy crusade.

The result? The SPR has declined by nearly 287 million barrels of crude oil since President Biden took office. Our Nation's emergency energy reserves are now at their lowest level since President Reagan's—President Reagan's—first term.

Our country is no longer well-positioned to deal with the next crisis because this President is tilting at windmills and pursuing a radical Green New Deal agenda. For example, this President's EPA is mandating that 67 percent of new car sales in the United States in 2032 be electric. The only problem is, in 2023, only roughly 8 percent—8 percent—of new car sales were EVs. It is clear that the consumer demand is nowhere near sufficient to satisfy his big government mandate.

Even so, if we are going to push such a drastic increase in electric vehicles, President Biden has to get serious about ways to produce enough reliable, affordable energy. He cannot continue to rely on our own emergency reserves to meet this supply. It is time for us to get back to an America-first energy plan: drill on our shores, refill our emergency reserves for a real crisis, and lower gas and electric prices for hard-working Americans.

In order to be a strong nation, we have to be a self-sufficient nation and energy dominant. We know what to do. All we need is the right leadership to get it done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). The Senator from Nebraska.

Mrs. FISCHER. Madam President, last week the Biden administration announced over half a billion dollars in subsidies for electric vehicle, or EV, charging stations. That half billion follows 2 billion more that has already been handed out to States, despite the fact that only 4 percent of Americans own EVs.

This is a common trend for this administration: forcing untested, expensive solutions onto the American people in the name of climate change.

But according to the Wall Street Journal, only two federally funded EV charging stations have been built since Biden became President, even though billions of taxpayer dollars are subsidizing those projects.

And Americans remain hesitant to drive these expensive cars. Last year, 84 percent of Americans said they are not considering buying one. The EV malfunctions that have happened over the past few days of this winter weather that we have been having across my part of the country only serve to confirm their choices.

The administration's plan for massive adoption of EVs over the next 8 years is a pipedream. But there are realistic, practical reforms we can make that would benefit the environment without limiting freedom or harming our economy. One of them is approving the sale of gasoline blends with 15 percent ethanol, or E15.

My legislation, the Nationwide Consumer and Retailer Choice Act, would cut redtape and remove roadblocks to the sale of E15.

Today, California is the only State that hasn't approved the sale of this partially renewable fuel, an unusual stance for a State that styles itself as a leader in protecting the environment.

Should California join the other 49 States in approving E15, that nationwide approval would benefit our environment, our economy, and our energy independence.

Emissions from ethanol are 46 percent lower than from traditional gasoline. One study found that corn ethanol contributed to a reduction of 500 million tons in emissions between 2005 and 2019.

Studies show that if all the gas in California had been E15 in 2022, there would have been a 450 million-gallon reduction in petroleum consumption. That switch, it would have resulted in greenhouse gas savings of 2.2 billion metric tons, and that is in California alone. These environmental benefits would increase exponentially if E15 were used more across this country.

Not only do higher ethanol blends of gasoline emit less greenhouse gases, but the corn used in its production soaks up massive amounts of additional CO<sub>2</sub>. This is a doubly positive effect that should please even the most skeptical of our environmental friends.

It has been proven by NASA—by the scientists at NASA with data that they have gathered from their satellites—that during the summer, the Corn Belt in the United States of America has more photosynthetic activity than even the Amazon rainforest.

Family farmers in the Corn Belt are helping our climate by producing cleaner fuel, and they don't have to own an EV to do it.

Unlike EV subsidies, E15 is a sensible way to advance environmental goals that do not weigh down our economy. This fuel does not require taxpayer money. It is cheap enough to be market driven. The average price of E15 during the 2022 summer driving season was 16 cents less per gallon than regular gas. In an age of record inflation, that makes a big difference.

It benefits retailers that can profit off of E15, and it benefits millions of American drivers who can switch to a more affordable fuel. Access to E15 will free retailers and consumers from a dependence on energy that is produced abroad. Instead, we will be relying on producers here at home.

This is the way that we can unleash American energy, prioritize our domestic production, and take advantage of the wonderful natural resources that we have.

California's approval would make E15 a nationwide fuel option, and my bill eliminates Federal regulatory roadblocks to the year-round nationwide sale of E15, a lower cost, lower carbon fuel.

Congress and President Biden must come together to pass legislation that will truly advance an "all of the above" approach to energy, one that uses many resources that we produce right here in America.

E15, the approval of that is a win. It is a win for family farmers who produce ethanol; it is a win for consumers at the gas pump; and it is a win

for our environment, which makes it a win also for American energy security.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

Mr. RICKETTS. Madam President, over the last week, my home State of Nebraska has been hit by bitter winter storms. We have had subzero temperatures, snow, and high winds that have closed many roads across the State of Nebraska.

As always, in times like these, Nebraskans step up to help. I want to thank all of our first responders, whether they were snowplow drivers, law enforcement, firefighters, EMTs, other emergency personnel—all the folks who demonstrated their grit and service this last week to be able to help people out. And I especially want to thank Nebraska State Patrol for the over 1,400 drivers they assisted during this crippling winter weather.

Hospitals saw a number of frostbite injuries. Our farmers and ranchers continued to work to ensure our food supply here at home.

I want to thank my Federal delegation as well and will work with them to provide any support that is needed. I appreciate that Governor Jim Pillen declared a state of emergency and will also assist with any Federal assistance that may be needed for this emergency. As we recover from these storms, I stand ready to work with my colleagues.

It is also an opportunity for us to be able to think about how government can do better. Many times a storm like this will create situations where we need to tease out what we should do better for the next time. However, in this case, one of the lessons has become clear right away.

As we all know, the EPA has a mandate that they want all new cars and trucks sold by the year 2032—I shouldn't say all; two-thirds of all cars and trucks sold by the year 2032—to be electric vehicles. This weekend we saw why this is just a dumb idea. These EV mandates are burdensome and do not work in places like the upper Midwest, where we can see these bitter cold temperatures. We saw that EVs don't work well when the temperature drops so precipitously. It turns out they are just not reliable when the weather turns this cold.

FOX 32 in Chicago has a story which I am going to quote from here. They reported that "public charging stations have turned into car graveyards over the past couple of days."

The story goes on to describe "dozens of [EV] owners trying desperately to power up their cars at the . . . super-charging station in Oak Brook. It was a scene mirrored with long lines and abandoned cars at scores of other charging stations around the Chicago area."

Also in the story there was a driver who referred to all these stalled electric vehicles as "dead robots."

"Car graveyards" and "dead robots"—is that the future we want? I don't think so.

And this happened in Chicago, where there are a lot of EV charging stations. What about my home State of Nebraska, where we don't have as many?

President Biden's own Department of Energy map shows no EV chargers on a 244-mile stretch of highway from Broken Bow to Scotts Bluff. There is not a charging station within 65 miles of Mullen, NE. Many rural communities are more than an hour's drive away from a charging station in towns like Hyannis, Cody, Merriman, Kilgore, and Theedford.

Nebraska is the "Beef State." I can guarantee you that electric trucks are not practical when you are hauling livestock. One cannot afford just to pull over and start charging for 2 hours or even longer when the temperature is below zero—cattle cannot tolerate it.

And the thing about not being able to charge at all—imagine EV ambulances that break down trying to get to a rural hospital or EV buses breaking down trying to connect people to their jobs.

These are very real considerations in States like mine. Nebraskans tell me over and over again: The east coast Washington bureaucrats have no idea what their policies will do in the Midwest of the United States.

Guess what. They are right because, as it turns out, EVs don't work in cold weather.

These bureaucrats on the east coast have no idea of the implications of what their policies are to people in the Midwest. These major winter storms are a reminder that, right now, EV's don't have the performance or the reliance or the range in cold weather to be able to work in the Midwest.

Imposing an EV mandate on Midwestern States like Nebraska is foolish, unworkable, and it is wrong. I urge President Biden to reconsider this terrible policy. Until he does, I will continue to fight here in the U.S. Senate with every tool at my disposal.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. HOEVEN. Madam President, I am pleased to join my colleague from Nebraska and others in discussing the importance of continuing to develop our energy resources here in North Dakota. We have the most abundant energy resources in the world, and we need to use all of them to develop and continue to build an "all of the above" energy policy.

Much of the Nation continues to experience very cold temperatures—in some cases, really record cold temperatures. In my State of North Dakota, coal typically provides 35 to 40 percent of the 24/7 baseload power generation to not only our State but to other States in the region. We supply both the MISO and the SPP power pools with energy for our region that they can count on 24/7—baseload energy. In the coldest times or in the hottest times—at peak energy times—they know that those baseload powerplants are going to be

there to keep the lights on, to keep the heat going, and to provide whatever other power needs are called for. That is 24/7 baseload power provided all the time.

Also, not only is it 24/7 energy when needed and at peak times, but according to the Energy Information Office, in their October 23 report, North Dakotans paid the lowest electricity prices in the country—the lowest in the country. Let's compare that, for example, to California. California paid four times as much for electricity during the same time period.

My colleague from Nebraska just talked about electric vehicles. Well, you need charging stations for those electric vehicles. Where is that electricity going to come from? Particularly, where is it going to come from at times when you have peak power needs? You still need that electricity for all of these different purposes.

We have to recognize that, even as we develop new technologies and do all of these things that people want, we have got to have that baseload power coming from somewhere. We simply can't take our baseload energy—our coal-fired electric—for granted, and our other sources have to be there. Again, we continue to develop new technologies and continue to press for the best possible environmental stewardship, but we have got to recognize that we need more energy and that we have got to continue to use all of our resources to generate that energy.

Access to affordable and reliable energy is not only a quality-of-life issue but, obviously, a public safety issue, and we have seen that with these record cold temperatures. That includes keeping our homes warm and our businesses running. It includes keeping the lights on for our critical infrastructure like hospitals, schools, police, fire departments, and many, many other public services that we depend on every single day.

But the reality is our electric grid only works when there is sufficient power generation available to meet demand in realtime. You can't not have that energy when you need it and expect the grid to keep working, and of course those vital needs to be met.

In its "2023 Long-Term Reliability Assessment," the North American Electric Reliability Corporation, or NERC, as it is commonly referred to, is warning that our grid—our power grid—continues to face higher risks of blackouts and brownouts because of planned powerplant retirements alongside rising electricity demand.

Again, think about this. Whether it is electric vehicles, whether it is your computer or data processor, whatever it may be, we can continue to develop all of these new things—these new technologies and all of these things we want to do—but you have got to have the power to run them. When you go into the house and flip on that switch, where is that electricity coming from? People take it for granted, but if we

don't have the baseload out there, you can't take it for granted because it won't happen.

FERC's Commissioners emphasized these concerns in testimony before our Senate Energy Committee last year, of which I am a member, and that included Commissioner Christie, who noted:

The United States is heading for a reliability crisis.

Once again, Commissioner Christie—one of the FERC Commissioners—said specifically in front of our Energy Committee that the United States is heading for a reliability crisis because of the lack of baseload generation. We need to take this seriously. It is a national security issue.

Despite these warnings, the Biden administration's Green New Deal approach and regulations continue to accelerate the problem. This includes the EPA's proposed Clean Power Plan 2.0 and an unworkable MATS standard—new rules that seek to drive up the cost of operations for our powerplants. Of course, at some point, those powerplants are no longer economical, and that forces them to shut down.

In addition to its powerplant regulations, the EPA is proposing a new methane regulation, including, in just this past week, a new tax on methane. That was authorized by the IRA legislation. Again, it is a tax that is not only going to reduce supply but that will drive up costs on consumers. Somebody has to pay for that. It gets passed down the line, and consumers pay for it. That means higher electricity costs—not only less electricity, less energy but higher costs to consumers.

The Interior Department continues to restrict access to our taxpayer-owned energy reserves, which also drives up the cost of energy production because we produce energy on Federal lands as well as on private lands. Producing less energy here at home means higher costs, but it also makes us dependent on sources of energy from other parts of the world—in many cases, parts of the world that are unstable and have environmental standards that are vastly inferior to our own here in this country.

Once again, we have got to find ways to make American energy production less expensive and more reliable. That means producing the energy here at home. That means having an environment that encourages energy development, not more regulation and more taxes which make it harder to produce energy and drive up costs. That means energy from all sources—right?—meaning tradition and renewable—all sources with the latest technology.

So, again, if we are going to continue to develop all of these wonderful new things that we want to utilize, we are going to have to have the energy to make sure that we can power them. We are going to have to have the energy to make sure that, on the coldest day, we are comfortable in our homes for our families and all of those we care about.

In my State of North Dakota, we have over 700 years of coal supply alone, and we are developing the latest, greatest technology to produce that coal and are doing it so that we have baseload electricity, dependable low cost, and the best environmental stewardship. We continue to do that. America leads the world in this kind of innovation. Let's empower that. Let's empower that. It is, again, all about our country producing electricity here at home so that we are truly not only energy independent but energy dominant.

In fact, developing resources like natural gas and LNG helps our allies so they are not depending on countries like Russia or countries that are adversarial to us and our allies but rather that are working together—America and our allies—on important things like energy development. We can do that, and that is the kind of thing that we should be doing.

A little over a decade ago, we cracked the code on the shale production. In places like the Bakken in my State of North Dakota and at the Permian in Texas, we have produced incredible amounts of energy as a result. Again, that is not only important in terms of our economy, it makes sure that we don't have to get energy from places like OPEC. We all know the incredible problems that that has created for us through the years when we can't produce that energy at home and have to look at players like OPEC.

The fact remains that coal, oil, and natural gas remain vital to our economic interests and to our national security because these resources are reliable and energy-dense compared, in many cases, to renewable energy, which only provides energy part of the time.

What do you do when you need energy and the Sun isn't shining and you are only dependent on solar energy? What do you do when you need energy, and you are relying on wind power, and the wind isn't blowing? We have got to have this baseload electricity.

Again, this is common sense. This is about having an energy policy that truly empowers this country to produce more energy; to do it with the best environmental stewardship; to make it reliable, dependable, affordable; to make sure it is there 24/7, every day—on the coldest day, on the hottest day—for whatever those growing needs are. Let's make sure we have that energy here at home. Let's not just be energy independent but energy dominant. We can do that in this country, and we need to do it in this country.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### WOMEN'S RIGHT TO KNOW ACT

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this Friday is going to mark the beginning of the 51st annual March for Life, and we have got thousands of Americans and, indeed, hundreds of Tennesseans who are coming to our Na-

tion's Capital to celebrate life, to talk about how to defend life, and to uphold the sanctity of life.

This is the second March for Life since the Supreme Court overturned *Roe v. Wade*. We know, with the Dobbs decision, it really sent the authority back to the States and to the people, and that is where it does belong. Across the Nation, we have seen States step up and take responsibility for the rules and regulations around abortion practices.

Now, one of these areas they have looked at is informed consent laws. This would require abortion providers to inform expectant mothers of all the medical risks to the mother and to the child because of this abortion procedure. What we know is that informed consent is a very important part of medical ethics.

According to the AMA's medical ethics code, this is what it says:

Patients have the right to receive information and ask questions about treatments so that they can make well-considered decisions about care.

But not all States have informed consent laws, and there are abortion providers who withhold this information, which prevents these expectant mothers from understanding all of the risks that they face. A nationwide safeguard regarding informed consent is something that is long overdue.

So this week, I introduced the Women's Right to Know Act, which would set reasonable medical requirements for physicians to meet and protect the life of the mother and the child before the abortion can be performed. So they would have to meet these standards and give this information to the patients.

Now, the providers would be required to explain all of the medical risks associated with the abortion procedure, explain the probable gestational age and development features of the unborn child at the time the abortion is to be performed, and to present this information at least 24 hours in advance of an abortion procedure.

We think that this is essential legislation that will really do so much to raise the safety standards and protect the health of vulnerable women, and it will help to save lives.

#### IMMIGRATION

Madam President, last week, House Republicans launched their impeachment proceedings against Secretary Ali Mayorkas for a simple reason: The Secretary of Homeland Security does not believe in securing the homeland. We know that he has failed to carry out his duties, and we know it because of the numbers.

Over 8½ million illegal immigrants have come into this country on his watch. That includes 1.7 million or thereabouts of what are called known "got-aways." These are people who can be seen on surveillance, but Border Patrol cannot get to them.

There are also tens of thousands of pounds of fentanyl that have been trafficked into this country, and once it is

across that border, it ends up in your towns, in your communities. This, we know, is happening.

In addition, there are hundreds of individuals on the Terror Watchlist who have been apprehended at the southern border, including 30 since the start of fiscal 2024.

In addition to this, there are thousands of individuals from countries of interest. We wonder why they are choosing to come to the country, but we do know many of them are young men. They are not coming with a family; they come separately.

These numbers alone would give reason for why the Secretary should be removed from office. His job is to secure the homeland. Obviously, with these numbers, with the concerns that come with these numbers, the homeland is not secure.

Ultimately, you have to look at the harm that this administration is inflicting on our country with its open border policies because those harms go way beyond the stats I have given you today.

These policies of this administration, of this Secretary, are failing this country. They are upending the rule of law, which is foundational to this democratic Republic. It is foundational.

At every opportunity, what is astounding to me is this administration continues to look for ways to make illegal legal. We have seen this action with Executive orders. We have seen this with Agency rules and regulations. We see it at the border as they try to find new ways—maybe it is using their app. Maybe it is letting you know that they are coming. But what they are trying to do is say: Discard the rule of law. We are going to give you a new way to come here. And by the way, we are doing everything we can to make illegal legal.

Does that make any sense at all? Of course not.

Under President Biden and this administration, illegally entering the country is something that they say: Well, we don't consider that to be a crime.

Now, if you or I, Madam President, were in Mexico and said "Oh, the border crossing is backed up. We are just going to walk across the Rio Grande. We are going to just walk on back into the country because it is faster. We don't want to drive to the border crossing. We are here, there is the river, and we are just going to skip on over there," do you know what? We would be apprehended. And where would we be taken? We would be taken to jail. We would face prosecution. Think about that. Why is it that we would do that? Because it is illegal.

But to those who are trying to enter our country illegally—and by the way, it is not just from Central America. Border Patrol tells us we have had people from about 170 countries over the last year come to that southern border. And who is in charge of all of this? It is the cartels that work on the Mexico

side of the border. They are big, global businesses, and they are bringing people from that many different countries to our southern border. They are bringing thousands of pounds of fentanyl. By the way, who creates the chemicals for fentanyl? China. They are in cahoots on this.

But it is so disappointing to me that at every opportunity, this administration is trying to make illegal legal. In doing that, what they are doing is putting lawbreakers ahead of law-abiding Americans.

Secretary Mayorkas last week admitted that 85 percent of the illegal immigrants who are apprehended at our border are released into the country—85 percent. These are people who are not being sent before a judge for an asylum hearing. These are individuals who are being given a notice to appear, and then they are waved on into the country. Then they are given a phone, they are given food, and they are given a plane ticket to wherever they want to go. And who pays for this? Who is footing the bill on this? We know who is paying for this. It is the hard-working taxpayer. They are bearing the cost for this.

With these hundreds of thousands of migrants crossing into our country each month—by the way, last month, 302,000 people. Think about the cities in your State. How many of them have more than 300,000 residents in that city? This is the number coming across that border.

What we have seen is that States are taking this matter into their own hands, States like Arizona and Texas that have constructed their own barriers across the southern border. What has the Biden administration done to them? Instead of saying "Thank you for helping us carry out this duty to protect illegal entry into our country. Thank you for the assistance"—no, no. That is not what they have done. They are suing the States. They are suing them for trying to protect their property. This makes no sense.

Let's think about this. There is immigration law in this country. There is a way to come into this country. There is a way to ask for asylum. It is not to go pay a cartel and have them bring you across our border and enter the country illegally. So these States are saying: We are going to protect our sovereignty. By the way, we have ranchers and farmers who live here on the border. We are going to allow barriers to go up so that it helps to protect their private property.

This administration says: If you do that, we will sue you.

Under this administration, border agents are not putting up fences and razor wire. They are actually out there cutting the razor wire because this administration is telling them that is what they have to do. They don't want to do it, but they are being told they have to do it.

That is how far this administration is going to make illegal legal. They are

saying to law-abiding citizens: You can't protect your ranch. You can't protect your farm. They are saying to Texas and Arizona: You can't put up containers. You can't put up razor wire. You cannot protect your State. We are going to make you sit by and watch as we violate Federal law.

Whoever would have thought—whoever would have thought—that you would have an administration going in here and finding ways to violate Federal law, but that is exactly what they are doing, and they are doing it every day.

Once the migrants have illegally come into the country, the administration doesn't just resettle them; they use taxpayer dollars to even pay for their healthcare. I have already mentioned they get a phone, food, clothing, and a plane ticket to wherever they want to go.

In fiscal year 2022, taxpayers shouldered the cost for \$94.3 million of medical expenses for these migrants. In fiscal year 2021, Immigration and Customs Enforcement healthcare budgeted more than \$74 million for the Department of Veterans Affairs to assist with outside referrals and medical claims processing. Think about this. The VA—the VA—is subsidizing healthcare for illegal immigrants. So while the VA is helping to treat migrants, more than 1 million veterans are waiting for staff to process their claims. Can you see the problem here?

We are talking about healthcare for our Nation's veterans, people who have raised their hands and have sworn an oath and have worn the uniform, men and women who have protected this Nation, and we have said: When you do this, we will provide your healthcare. But oh, no. Look at what is happening. Those who are illegally entering the country are being put in front of our Nation's veterans. And right now, we are seeing this backlog grow. There had been a quarter of a million claims about this time last year, and then it went to 400,000, and now we are at a million—a million. But those who have illegally come, they are put at the head of the line, and our veterans are at the back. Do you think that is fair? Is there anyone in this Chamber who thinks that is fair and that is right?

On top of this, we learn now that New York City—again, led by Democrats—in New York City, what are they doing? They are shutting down high schools, and they are sending kids home for remote learning. We tried that during COVID, right? It didn't work out very well, did it? But kids in New York are being forced to go home so that their school can be used as a shelter.

You know, it might be more appropriate if New York City took some of those Federal buildings where the workers are not showing up for work and used those for temporary housing. But allowing these facilities to be used and kids to be sent home and placed on remote learning—it is so inappropriate, and it is wrong. But at every step, my

Democratic colleagues have supported this administration's disastrous open border policies.

And for more than 7 months, they have refused to bring H.R. 2 to this floor for a vote. H.R. 2 is the House Republicans' Secure the Border Act. It would help end this crisis. In fact, since the House passed H.R. 2 and sent it over here to the Senate, the Senate Judiciary Committee has held 83 hearings—83 hearings and meetings since that bill was passed. H.R. 2 has never been brought up for 1 minute of discussion in this Chamber. It just shows you: Open border is this administration's policy. This is what they want.

Now, I think that it is very telling what the Democrats are for on this. Their inaction on what is a crucial issue and, indeed, the No. 1 issue with the American people reveals a lot about their priorities.

But I would have to ask my Democratic colleagues: Why is it that you are for illegal immigration? Why is it that you are working so hard to make illegal legal? What is it about circumventing the rule of law that you think is the right thing to do? Do you want to circumvent the rule of law and throw away all immigration policy? Or is it just you want to allow illegal entry into this country?

I will tell you what, Madam President: We need to know who is coming in this country and why they are coming. I would yield time on this floor to any Democrat who wanted to come and explain why you are working so hard to make illegal legal. I would like to hear that explanation because it seems, every time we turn around, you are looking for some way to codify illegal entry into this country.

How about abiding by the rule of law, because when you circumvent the rule of law, what do you do? You devalue our citizenship. What about the thousands of people who are working legally toward citizenship, who are spending money, who are spending time? Have any of you spent time going to a naturalization ceremony, a citizenship ceremony? Have you heard these stories of how hard people work, how they want to be a U.S. citizen?

But, oh, no. What some of you want to do is devalue that. You want to say: Let's make it OK for people to just waltz across the Rio Grande, walk in here, and enter this country illegally outside of the rule of law, wait 10 years to get an asylum hearing.

What is right about that? And you know the answer: Nothing is right. Nothing is right. And it is amazing to me. Give me an explanation of why you think you should preference people who illegally come in this country before our Nation's veterans and hard-working taxpayers. Why do you do that? Why do you think that that is OK?

I will tell you what right now: Tennesseans don't think that is OK. They don't think having a million people on the VA backlog for services is OK while you are spending millions of dollars for

healthcare for veterans for processing claims. They don't think that sending outside referrals for them when veterans can't get into community care—this is not right.

I can't imagine an explanation from one of my Democratic colleagues that would say: I think that is what we ought to do. We ought to just say: Illegal immigrants, we are going to take care of you first, and everybody else to the back of the line.

But, in essence, that is what your actions are showing that you support. Your actions and inactions are showing that you think making illegal legal, that that is a really good thing.

And the other thing I don't get about all of this: Each and every one of you know you do not come to that southern border on your own; you have paid a cartel. People pay the cartels.

And then, Border Patrol will show you the bands and bracelets that are put on people. What it shows is the cartel and what this person needs to do to work out their fee, because not everybody can pay the \$5,000 or \$10,000 to the cartel to illegally come in this country and then have the U.S. taxpayer finish the job for them once they get to the U.S. border because they get their asylum claim, their notice to appear, their phone, their food, their clothes, their plane tickets, and their healthcare.

But they have a band on them, a tracking device, and that is what tells the cartel and their job. It may be going to a gang. It may be going to a work crew. It may be selling drugs—fentanyl—and pushing that into our communities. It may be that these people are part of a human trafficking ring, they are going to be put into human trafficking and sex trafficking.

So to my Democratic colleagues: Do you think this is compassionate? How do you say this defines compassion? It is beyond me. You all know that this is modern-day slavery. And if you haven't seen these bands, I think there are some of us that would show you these bands that people have to wear, will show you the Department of Homeland Security stats that shows that just a few years ago, human trafficking was a \$500-million-a-year business. Today, DHS tells us it is a \$150-billion-a-year profit center. That is right: \$150 billion a year.

Let me tell you something. These women and children that are being sex trafficked, they are being mentally, physically, emotionally, sexually, and drug abused as they make these journeys. You all know that. But why would you say an open border is a compassionate policy? It is not.

This is a humanitarian crisis. This is a crisis where people are having their lives ruined. They are sold a bill of goods by a cartel who is incentivized because the cartel says: Biden said come on, border is open. The policy is an open border.

You know, it is imperative that we stand with the rule of law. I have got a couple of pieces of legislation that I

filed hoping that they will help. One is the CONTAINER Act that would allow States to protect their portion of that southern border, give them the ability. They have got that right. If the Federal Government falls down on their job, they have got the right to protect their citizens, and they want to do that.

The other is No VA Resources for Illegal Aliens Act. This is something that I have done along with Senator TUBERVILLE to stop the administration's Department of Veterans Affairs from providing taxpayer-funded healthcare to illegal aliens or engaging in claims processing for anyone unlawfully present in the United States.

It is time that we secure this southern border and that we end this illegal entry into this country.

I yield the floor.

(Ms. CORTEZ MASTO assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. OSSOFF assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HASSAN). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I know of no further debate on the motion to proceed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. If there is no further debate, the question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

#### AMENDING THE PERMANENT ELECTRONIC DUCK STAMP ACT OF 2013

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 2872) to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes.

#### ORDER OF PROCEDURE

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the only amendments in order to H.R. 2872 be the following: Paul No. 1384, Marshall Motion to Commit, Braun No. 1382, Murray No. 1381; and that at 12:30 p.m. tomorrow, Thursday, January 18, the Senate vote on adoption of the amendments in the order listed, with each subject to 60 affirmative votes required for adoption, with the exception of the Marshall Motion to Commit and Murray No. 1381; that there be 2 minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote; further, that on disposition of the Braun amendment, the Murray substitute amendment No. 1381, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, the bill be considered read a third time, and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage, all without further intervening action or debate.

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

#### AMENDMENT NO. 1381

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute.)

Mr. SCHUMER. I call up substitute amendment No. 1381.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the amendment by number.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER], for Mrs. MURRAY, proposes an amendment numbered 1381.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask that further reading the amendment be dispensed with.

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

(The amendment is printed in the RECORD of January 16, 2024, under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, there is good news. We have just agreed to lock in an agreement and pass a bill tomorrow that will fund the government and avoid an unnecessary government shutdown. This CR will give Congress time to continue working on the appropriations process to fund the government for the rest of the fiscal year. We hope that the House will take up this bill before the Friday deadline with bipartisan support. I appreciate the work of all the leaders to move forward with this CR.

And, in conclusion, I hope—truly hope—we will see the same bipartisanship we have seen tonight in the Senate continue as we tackle the very important supplemental and appropriations bills before us.

#### CONGRATULATING THE UNIVERSITY OF MICHIGAN WOLVERINES FOOTBALL TEAM

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2023 AS NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH

#### REPEALING STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO FLOWERS IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Science, Commerce, and Transportation be discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 520 and that the Senate proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions: S. Res. 520, S. Res. 525, and S. Res. 526.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles, where applicable, be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table all en bloc.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 520) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of January 11, 2024, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 525) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

The resolution (S. Res. 526) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

#### MORNING BUSINESS

#### THE PROTECTING AND ENHANCING PUBLIC ACCESS TO CODES (PRO CODES) ACT

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, ensuring Americans' right to access, read, and understand the law is critical to the functioning of our democracy. Whether text with the force of law is found in statute or regulation or whether it has been incorporated by reference, it is essential that all members of the public have fair and equitable access to the legal standards by which they must abide.

Unfortunately, I have concerns that the Protecting and Enhancing Public Access to Codes (Pro Codes) Act would hinder, rather than enhance, the public's access to technical or voluntary consensus standards that have been incorporated into law by reference. This bill explicitly allows standards-setting organizations to require that a member of the public create an account or agree to terms of service as a condition of access. Requiring that an interested party surrender personal information to, or enter into a binding contract with, a private entity in order to read the law raises concerns of privacy and fairness.

I am also troubled that the bill lacks robust standards for public accessibility. It does not require standards to be made available in print or in person, and it does not require standards to be searchable, machine-readable, or accessible to persons with disabilities. In this way, the Pro Codes Act risks creating barriers to access for many Americans, including researchers and reporters, those without reliable internet service, and individuals with visual impairments.

For these reasons, I will object to any unanimous consent agreement regarding the Pro Codes Act.

#### GUATEMALA

Mr. WELCH. Madam President, the inauguration of Bernardo Arevalo as President of Guatemala shortly after midnight on January 15 was a triumph for the people of Guatemala. Despite corrupt forces in the outgoing government, the Congress, and the Office of the Attorney General—who abused their authority in a flagrant attempt to subvert the result of a free and fair election that President Arevalo won overwhelmingly—in the end, Guatemala's democracy was preserved.

I want to congratulate the Guatemalan people for their courage and perseverance, especially the indigenous Mayan population who have suffered deprivation and indignity under successive governments whose officials cared far more about enriching themselves than improving the lives of the country's most vulnerable. It is long past time for Guatemala's indigenous leaders to have a central role in the national government.

I also want to commend the Biden administration, in particular U.S. Agency for International Development Administrator Samantha Power, Assistant Secretary of State Brian Nichols, Charge d'Affaires Patrick Ventrell, and the other U.S. Embassy staff, who in the months leading up to the election and late into the chaotic night of January 14 until Arevalo was finally sworn in, used a combination of diplomacy, sanctions, and advocacy to support a peaceful democratic transition of power. Without their sustained diplomatic engagement and the strong support of the international community, it is likely that the so-called Pact of the Corrupt would have prevailed in destroying Guatemala's fragile democracy.

President Arevalo faces immense challenges. Late last year, in an attempt to ensure that if he came to power he would be unable to govern effectively, the Congress slashed the national budget for the social programs and economic reforms necessary to carry out his anti-corruption, anti-poverty, pro-justice, and accountability vision for the country. The Guatemalan people expect him to deliver on his campaign promises, but the very forces that sought to prevent him from taking office have made clear that they will do every possible to prevent him from governing.

Despite these formidable obstacles, Bernardo Arevalo's remarkable ascendancy to the Presidency offers Guatemala and the United States an opportunity that has not existed for generations. Hundreds of thousands of impoverished Guatemalans have fled their country, risking their lives in search of safety and a better life in the United States. In President Arevalo, we finally have a partner of integrity with whom we can focus on addressing the root causes of migration.

For generations, Guatemala's elites, including business and political leaders, have profited from a corrupt system at the expense of the best interests of the country. Tax revenues are a fraction of what they should be. Large areas of the country lack basic public services. Millions of Guatemalan children are malnourished and have no access to higher education. The justice system has been used to perpetuate the unjust and inequitable status quo.

If the Pact of the Corrupt had succeeded, Guatemala's business community would have also paid dearly. The choices were, and remain, stark. They can either help create the conditions

for new investment and economic growth or share responsibility for putting the country on a course leading to the scale of criminality and economic decline that have engulfed Nicaragua and Venezuela. With American companies relocating from China back to this hemisphere and with a Guatemalan President who believes in transparent and accountable governance, there is an opportunity for new investment and business partnerships in Guatemala unlike any time in recent memory. It is time for Guatemala's business leaders to embrace President Arevalo's vision for the country and to become real partners in the Guatemala's development.

I had the privilege of traveling to Guatemala in December as part of a bicameral congressional delegation led by Senator TIM Kaine. Our purpose was to show our support for Guatemala's democracy and for a peaceful transfer of power. We left Guatemala convinced that, while the outcome was far from certain, the people of that country would defend their democracy to the end. That is what they have done, and while the daunting challenges of governing lie ahead, they and President Arevalo deserve our congratulations and our strong support.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO CHRIS GEORGE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Madam President, I rise today to recognize my friend and fellow Connecticut resident, Chris George, on the occasion of his retirement from Integrated Refugee & Immigrant Services—IRIS—after 18 years of remarkable leadership in resettling individuals and families seeking to build a new life in our country.

In 2005, Chris joined the organization that would later be known as IRIS, which operated out of a small office in New Haven with an eight-person staff. Over the following 18 years, Chris guided an enormous expansion of the organization, with 150 employees now helping to resettle 1,000 people per year across Connecticut. During Chris' tenure, IRIS has been at the center of Connecticut's response to refugees and other immigrants fleeing from persecution and violence, working with those displaced from Iraq, Afghanistan, Syria, the Democratic Republic of Congo, Ukraine, and many other places worldwide. Chris and IRIS performed lifesaving work to accommodate refugees, especially through the expansion of their community cosponsorship program.

The success of IRIS under Chris' leadership has made New Haven and Connecticut national leaders in refugee resettlement. In January 2023, the organization was selected by the U.S. Department of State as one of five agencies to lead a consortium of nonprofit organizations as a part of the launch of the Welcome Corps program. In this

role, IRIS is responsible for coordinating and managing the newly created Welcome Corps program infrastructure, which includes vetting, certifying, and training private sponsors, as well as monitoring and evaluating the overall success of the program.

I have been deeply honored to work with Chris over the years and witness his incredible accomplishments firsthand. I will always remember collaborating with him closely during the evacuation of Americans and allies from Afghanistan in 2021. From the outset of the crisis, Chris worked tirelessly, oftentimes communicating with those trapped in Afghanistan directly in order to secure their safe evacuation. Chris was quick to recognize the complexities that the evacuation from Afghanistan presented and was able to secure humanitarian parole for hundreds of refugees resettling across Connecticut. Chris has also been a key contributor and spokesperson for the Afghan Adjustment Act, aiming to affirm the legal status of the refugees who have been able to make it to the United States. Chris and IRIS were critical in not only advocating for and assisting in the safe escape of these individuals from the Taliban, but also in helping them to find housing, connect with healthcare, enroll in school, find jobs, and learn English.

Chris has been a fierce advocate on behalf of all fleeing oppression across the world, and his remarkable career is a testament to his diligence, leadership, and compassion. Although he is stepping down from IRIS, he plans to continue advocating for humanitarian causes, including working at the newly created Welcome Corps. I applaud Mr. Chris George for his incredible work and hope my colleagues will join me in expressing our gratitude and admiration. •

##### TRIBUTE TO NILS BURINGRUD

• Mr. CRAMER. Madam President, I want to honor a very special North Dakota resident who turned 100 years old on January 11. Nils Martin Buringrud celebrated this landmark birthday in Fargo at a party with a small group of friends and later a dinner with his family.

Nils was born January 11, 1924, to Nils and Marthe Buringrud in Thief River Falls, MN. His father was a farmer, and the family moved near the Red River Valley community of Kelso, ND, in 1930. They moved 3 years later to a place a few miles away southwest of the community of Hillsboro. In 1943, they moved to a new home southeast of Hillsboro, where Nils lived until he graduated from high school in 1942.

That fall he moved to Spokane, WA, and then to McClellan Air Force Base near Sacramento, CA, where he worked in shipping airplane engines overseas to military bases in the Pacific. Nils returned home and helped farm for awhile before enlisting in the Marines in 1944 at the age of 22. During World

War II, he served aboard an aircraft carrier that sailed through the Panama Canal and on to all the islands in the Pacific, along with Japan, China, India, and near the coast of Africa. He was an expert rifleman when the war ended.

After being discharged from the Marines, he farmed with his brother-in-law and sister and later delivered fuel to area farms. He married Elaine Ponto in 1947, and the newlyweds lived in a home on the Argusville farm of his brother-in-law and sister until 1949, when they bought a farmstead 3-and-a-half miles east of Gardner. There, they continued to farm and raised six children. Nils was active in the American Legion, and he and Elaine attended regular reunions with friends from his Marine unit. They lived there until 1993 when they sold their farm and moved to Fargo.

Elaine died in 2006 and Nils continues to reside in Fargo in the home they purchased in 1998. His daughter Marcia now lives with him, and his life is filled with the activities of his four children who are still living and 11 grandchildren. He continues to drive and walks about an hour daily, weather permitting. While not the oldest living veteran in North Dakota, his family believes he may be the oldest to still have a valid drivers license.

North Dakota is home to more than 200 centenarians, and we consider them among our most treasured residents. Nils Buringrud embodies the very best of the Greatest Generation, growing up on a farm, moving out of State for awhile, enlisting to serve in World War II, and then returning home to raise a family and contribute to his community and State. He has remained a proud and active veteran, and his pioneer spirit, dignity, and hard work have brought him through many challenges and personal achievements. He is an inspiration to all of us.

On behalf of all North Dakotans, I thank Nils for his service to our country and wish him a happy 100th birthday. I hope you enjoy continued good health and vitality for years to come. •

##### RECOGNIZING WELTER STORAGE EQUIPMENT CO., INC.

Ms. ERNST. Madam President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Iowa small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Welter Storage Equipment Co., Inc., of Monticello, IA, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Welter Storage Equipment was founded by Lloyd and Joyce Welter in 1982 on their family farm in Monticello during the farm crisis of the 1980s. The farm crisis affected thousands of farmers and farming communities in Iowa, and many farmers had to find alternate forms of income to support themselves. Before launching Welter Storage

Equipment, Lloyd served in the U.S. Army from 1956 until 1958. Following his service, Lloyd saw a need in the Monticello community for shelving, pallet racks, and storage equipment. What began as an idea around the kitchen table grew, and in 1987, Welter Storage Equipment moved off the Welter family farm to its current headquarters location on South Main Street in Monticello.

Welter Storage Equipment sells both new and reconditioned warehouse equipment and office furniture acquired through auctions, liquidations, bankruptcies, closeouts, and more. They also provide storage equipment and forklifts. Over the years, Welter Storage Equipment has become a trusted local resource for office furniture and warehouse racks. The business is not only a community staple, but now sells products to customers across the United States.

Currently, the Welter Storage Equipment team operates in Cedar Rapids, Dubuque, and Monticello, with their Monticello location serving as the company's headquarters. Lloyd and Joyce's sons Ron, Dave, Dean, and Bob serve as the current owners and have seen three generations of the Welter family work at the family business. Lloyd Welter passed away in 2021, leaving behind a legacy of hard work, service, and dedication to entrepreneurial excellence.

Welter Storage Equipment is actively involved in the Monticello, Dubuque, and Cedar Rapids communities. In addition to employing more than 60 people, they have sponsored the Great Jones County Fair and have served as a business partner to the Dubuque Senior High School Drama Department. They were named a 2023 Business Hero by Animal Welfare Friends, a nonprofit that aims for the adoption and fostering of dogs and cats in the Monticello area. Due to the team's hard work, Welter Storage Equipment Company celebrated its 41st business anniversary in 2023.

Welter Storage Equipment's commitment to providing quality office, storage equipment, and furniture in Eastern Iowa is clear. I want to congratulate the Welter family and the entire team at Welter Storage Equipment for their dedication to the Monticello, Cedar Rapids, and Dubuque communities. I look forward to seeing their continued growth and success in Iowa.

#### TRIBUTE TO SHERYL "SHERRY" BRANCH-MAXWELL

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the extraordinary contributions of an exceptional individual, Ms. Sheryl Lynette Branch-Maxwell of Charleston, MO, affectionately known as Ms. Sherry. Her dedication to service and her tireless efforts in improving the lives of Southeast Missourians exemplifies the spirit of selflessness and community stewardship that inspires us all.

For over four decades, Ms. Sherry has been a pillar of support for her community. Her journey began when she dedicated herself to the well-being and development of children in daycare facilities and Head Start Centers. Her commitment to nurturing youth extended beyond the classroom as she coordinated and directed summer food programs, ensuring children had access to essential nutrition during the summer months.

Ms. Sherry's leadership and commitment to her community organizations have significantly benefited the Bootheel region of Missouri. Her work as a program educator at Lincoln University Cooperative Extension in Charleston has been pivotal in implementing programs focused on leadership, self-esteem, and anti-drug initiatives.

Another commendable accomplishment is the development of the Kids' Beat initiative. This program became a beacon of hope offering guidance and support through more than 30 clubs across all counties of the Missouri Bootheel. Ms. Sherry's dedication to empowering youth through education and mentorship is truly commendable.

Sheryl Lynette Branch-Maxwell is truly a champion of Missouri. I ask my esteemed colleagues to join me in applauding Ms. Sherry, an exceptional individual whose dedication and contributions have made an indelible mark on the fabric of our community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JIM CHAPPELL

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor an exceptional individual who has greatly impacted Missouri, Jim Chappell.

As founder and long-time owner of the beloved Chappell's Restaurant & Sports Museum, Jim Chappell has made an indelible impact on the culture and community of Kansas City, MO. Jim first captured the hearts of Kansas Citians through his restaurant, a cultural mainstay celebrating sports legends and hometown pride for over three decades. However, he is seen as far more than a successful restaurateur; Jim is a respected leader who has demonstrated a tremendous spirit of service across business, civic, and community organizations over his illustrious career.

Under his visionary leadership, Chappell's became far more than a place to grab drinks and watch the game; it emerged as a living museum and community touchstone, drawing praise as a one-of-a-kind local gem. The uniqueness of Chappell's Restaurant & Sports Museum was part of the reason USA Today selected it as "the number one place in the country to watch the Super Bowl." Beyond the restaurant walls, Jim lends his talents to multiple Kansas City institutions as a board member shaping influential business, banking, and civic organizations.

His insights helped guide institutions like First Bank of Missouri, Valley

View Bank, and the Kansas City Police Employees' Retirement System. Additionally, Jim upholds Kansas City's heritage through his involvement with groups like the Sons of the American Revolution and Native Sons & Daughters of Greater Kansas City. From preserving beloved traditions to promoting sports icons, he connects the community's past glories to its future potential.

Jim Chappell is truly a Champion of Missouri. Jim stands as a model Kansan through his leadership, business success, and community spirit. His enduring passion for elevating local culture lays the groundwork for generations to come. Today, we commend this esteemed individual for his impact on Missourians. I wish to extend my heartfelt gratitude to Jim Chappell for his significant contributions to the Missouri community.●

#### TRIBUTE TO CAPTAIN PHILIP E. GREGORY

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Captain Philip E. Gregory of Fredericktown, MO, for his service to the State of Missouri.

Captain Philip E. Gregory has been a servant leader, dedicated to keeping Missourians safe throughout his three decades of service with the Missouri State Highway Patrol. Gregory's career began in Southeast Missouri, and each patrol appointment across the State has given him the chance to give back to his community by working closely with local law enforcement and first responders.

Gregory's desire to serve his community started as early as high school where he worked in the fire service and then served as an EMT/paramedic. His career in law enforcement started when he turned 21 and has continued to this day. He credits his parents for instilling in him a strong work ethic, which provided the structure upon which he has built his career. Throughout his career, Gregory has served as a zone supervisor, a criminal investigator, a corporal, a sergeant, a lieutenant, an assistant division director, and a captain for the highway patrol. In each role, Gregory worked to better protect his neighbors. On August 1, 2023, after 30 years of dedicated service to Missouri, Captain Gregory retired.

Captain Philip Gregory is truly a Champion of Missouri. I wish Captain Gregory and his wife Tanya all the best in his well-earned retirement. Missourians are safer and better off because of his efforts and his service to his fellow Missourians.●

#### HONORING DETECTIVE SERGEANT MASON GRIFFITH

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor the life and memory of Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith, of Rosebud, MO. Sergeant Griffith served with the Hermann Police Department with distinction for over 12

years, until he was fatally shot on duty while responding to a call on March 12, 2023.

Sergeant Griffith made the ultimate sacrifice to protect the Hermann community. He, along with Officer Adam Sullentrup, who was also shot and put in critical condition, were responding to a disturbance at a local gas station when a shootout occurred. This incident led to a nearly 20-hour standoff with the suspect until the suspect was eventually taken into custody by Missouri Highway Patrol SWAT.

Sergeant Griffith sadly passed away at only 34 years old and truly had a servant's heart. Along with serving the Hermann Police Department for 12 years, he was also the chief of police in his hometown of Rosebud and a reserve deputy sheriff for the Gasconade County Sheriff's Office. He was a leader in his community and was described by many as one of the most caring and helpful people you could ever meet. Sergeant Griffith touched numerous lives during his life, and now, his memory lives on through his family and in his community.

Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith is truly a Champion of Missouri. His selfless service and dedication to his community inspires myself and all Missourians. Our State is safer because of Sergeant Griffith, and he truly is a hero. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Sergeant Griffith's life, and I offer my deepest condolences to his wife Jennifer and their two children, who are in attendance today, for their loss.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NANCY BAUMGARTNER HANSON

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, today I rise in recognition of a great Missourian, Nancy Baumgartner Hanson. She embodies someone who enriches their community as a service to others, loving their fellow neighbors and caring for them like family.

A resident of Fulton, MO, Nancy saw a need to create opportunities for adults with disabilities, in part because her daughter Shelby, a decorated Special Olympics athlete, recently graduated high school and was looking for a safe space to start her adult life. Not seeing options for her daughter, Nancy set out to build her own. WeBUILT is the first of its kind in Missouri. It is a self-sustaining community development that provides a safe shelter to adults with disabilities. It is maintained and owned by those living in the development.

In reporting on her efforts, a local television station reported, "Ask any parent what they would do for their child, and most would say they would go to the ends of the Earth for them. We met one mom [Nancy] who is moving the Earth to help her adult daughter find freedom and independence." Indeed, the level of effort and dedication to find a solution for her daughter and create a big enough endeavor to

share it with her community is a feat every Missourian should be proud of.

Further, Nancy's commitment to her family and community extends to empowering individuals with disabilities through programs like the iCan Bike camp. As the current host of iCan Bike in Fulton, Nancy teaches individuals with disabilities how to ride a bicycle. The program fosters independence and confidence. Nearing a decade of teaching, iCan Bike underscores Nancy's enduring commitment to making a positive difference in the lives of those with disabilities.

Nancy Baumgartner Hanson is truly a Champion of Missouri. Her accomplishments lie in the lives she has changed, the can-do attitude that she embodies to serve others, and the resulting community she has forged through her efforts. I am proud to represent her and highlight her remarkable contributions to Missouri in the U.S. Senate.●

#### TRIBUTE TO ADAM AND MELINDA HENDRIX

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Adam and Melinda Hendrix of Wentzville, MO, for their inspirational work through their nonprofit, Justin Delivers Hope, or JDH.

In 2017, Adam and Melinda lost their 23-year-old son Justin to a heroin overdose. With this tragedy, the Hendrixes decided to devote themselves to helping other families who have experienced the loss of a loved one. Motivated by their loss to establish Justin Delivers Hope, this charity has done heroic work. JDH has raised money for the education and prevention of heroin and opiate abuse, distributed Narcan to family members and friends of users, and assisted local police departments by funding more K-9 units to fight drug-related crime.

Since its founding, JDH has raised enough money to fund 18 K-9 units to work in local police departments in St. Charles, MO. In 2022, these dogs have helped officers remove nearly 300 pounds of illegal drugs off the streets.

Adam and Melinda Hendrix are truly Champions of Missouri. Because of their efforts and compassion, the St. Louis community is safer and better equipped to address the tragic effects of drug abuse. I am proud to recognize both Adam and Melinda for their work on this important issue and wish them all the best as they continue to serve the citizens of Missouri.●

#### TRIBUTE TO KEVIN JEFFRIES AND JUSTIN PARRACK

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to recognize the courageous actions of Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack of Springfield, MO, who went above and beyond to rescue a distressed driver in their time of need.

While traveling along the highway, Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack noticed a driver veering off the road into

the median, which was later understood to be due to an untimely medical emergency. These two exemplary men, acting in concert, swiftly entered through the passenger side door, brought the car to a halt, administered CPR, and ultimately saved the life of the driver.

In response to their feats of heroism, they have been honored with the prestigious Honorary Trooper Award, the highest civilian honor bestowed by the Missouri State Highway Patrol. When asked about the situation, Kevin Jeffries humbly remarked, "Thank you, guys, for calling me a hero, but I just feel like I'm just Kevin," while Justin Parrack expressed, "I wouldn't call myself a hero. I'm just a guy doing and trying to do the right thing."

Both Kevin Jeffries and Justin Parrack are truly Champions of Missouri. The actions of these men are nothing short of heroic. They prevented further potential fatalities, injuries, or damages, and, most importantly, they saved the life of the driver. I ask my colleagues to join me in applauding these two remarkable individuals for their selfless and courageous actions.●

#### TRIBUTE TO JOHN MEEHAN

● Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor John Meehan of Sedalia, MO, for his investment in his community and willingness to serve his fellow Missourians.

John Meehan has been a dedicated member of various community chambers and nonprofits boards, applying his knowledge of the region and his desire to cultivate relationships to make the community better.

Throughout Meehan's varied career, he has served wherever there was opportunity, including as vice president of Third National Bank from 1982 to 2009, Pettis County Presiding Commissioner from 2011 to 2014, serving on the board of directors for the United Way in Sedalia-Pettis County from 2008 to 2015, as president of the board of directors for the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce from 2017 to 2018, and as council chairman of the Wesley United Methodist Church from 2016 to the present. He has even joined as a cohost of a morning talk show called "Let's Talk," to promote local happenings throughout Sedalia.

John Meehan is truly a Champion of Missouri. Even in retirement, Meehan continues to be an active member of civic organizations like the Sedalia Noonday Optimist Club, the Lions Club of Sedalia, and the Sedalia Area Chamber of Commerce. I wish him and his wife Mary all the best in his retirement, though I suspect he will continue to remain quite active in his community. Missourians are better off because of his servant leadership and his dedication to his neighbors.●

TRIBUTE TO HANNAH  
MONTGOMERY

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise to recognize Hannah Montgomery of Memphis, MO, for her participation in 4-H and the inspiration she is to her community.

Hannah has been involved in her local community's 4-H program since she was 6 years old and is now 13. She has been in a motorized wheelchair since January 2020, due to a neurological disorder caused by inflammation of her spinal cord. Hannah has never let her physical limitations get in the way of her passion for showing her pigs, and her positive attitude always radiates through to everyone.

At such a young age, Hannah is an active member of her community, demonstrating great advocacy and inclusion for those in similar situations to her. This past August, she was selected as the Adair County SB40 Spotlight Award recipient for Kids Inclusion. Hannah continues to show her community perseverance and the power of a positive attitude.

Hannah Montgomery is truly a Champion of Missouri. She is an example to each and every one of us to pursue what we love, despite barriers that may come in our way. I am proud to honor her work in 4-H and recognize her parents as they have navigated Hannah's medical diagnosis. Missouri is a brighter place because of her, and I am excited to see all this young lady will accomplish in the future. •

TRIBUTE TO MIGUEL PEREZ

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor an impressive soccer player from my home State of Missouri, Miguel Perez. He has achieved athletic excellence and success at a young age. I am proud to highlight this talented soccer player who should be noted for his ability to perform on the pitch, as well as his desire to serve his neighbors.

Hailing from St. Louis, this young prodigy recently reached a significant career milestone. Two days after graduating from Pattonville High School, Miguel scored his first career Major League Soccer—MLS—goal as a new striker for the St. Louis City SC professional team. Miguel's ascent from local school sports to the pros proves his exceptional skill and work ethic on the field. Yet his achievement also encapsulates the realization of dreams for Miguel, his family, and the wider St. Louis community.

The son of Jackie and Luis Perez, who instilled values of discipline and public service in Miguel from a young age, Miguel grew up embracing soccer as a passion and outlet. During high school and now into his professional soccer career, he maintains academic rigor and community engagement, values modeled by his parents' commitments to Washington University's Orthopedic Department and the St. Louis County Police Department.

Miguel Perez is truly a Champion of Missouri. Furthermore, he is a champion of athletics for Missouri. His early successes in soccer mirror the resilience, character, and work ethic that define our community. I look forward to following his continued growth and career in the MLS. I wish to extend my heartfelt congratulations to Mr. Perez for his success and service to Missouri. St. Louis stands proud—"Who are we? S-T-L!" •

TRIBUTE TO OFFICER ADAM  
SULLENTROP

• Mr. SCHMITT. Madam President, I rise today to honor Hermann Police Officer Adam Sullentrop, of Washington, MO. Officer Sullentrop was shot and critically injured on duty while responding to a call on March 12, 2023.

Officer Sullentrop put himself in the line of fire to protect the Hermann community. He, along with Detective Sergeant Mason Griffith, who was fatally shot during the call, were responding to a disturbance at a local gas station when the shootout occurred. This incident led to a nearly 20-hour standoff with the suspect until the suspect was eventually taken into custody by Missouri Highway Patrol SWAT.

After the March shooting, Officer Sullentrop spent 7 months in a Colorado rehabilitation hospital to begin recovering from his injuries. He was finally able to come home to his family a few days before Thanksgiving, a special gift for the holidays. After landing at Lambert Airport in St. Louis, he and his family were escorted back to his home in Washington, MO, by first responders from several agencies in the St. Louis region. His neighbors also lined 15 miles of highway along the route back to Washington to show their gratitude and to support him and his family. Officer Sullentrop has touched many lives during his time as an officer and continues to be an inspiration during his recovery.

Officer Adam Sullentrop is truly a Champion of Missouri. My State is fortunate to be inspired by his service to his community. I ask my Senate colleagues to join me in honoring Officer Sullentrop, and my thoughts and prayers are with him, his wife Michelle, and his entire family during his continued recovery. Officer Sullentrop continues to remain a beacon of hope for all Missourians. •

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-3300. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Clinical Laboratory Improvement Amendments of 1988 (CLIA) Fees;

Histocompatibility, Personnel, and Alternative Sanctions for Certificate of Waiver Laboratories" (RIN0938-AT47) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 26, 2023; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-3301. A communication from the Security Officer II of the Office of Senate Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding Brian Hook (OSS-2024-0004); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3302. A communication from the Security Officer II of the Office of Senate Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report regarding Michael Pompeo (OSS-2024-0005); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3303. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a Determination Under Section 614(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Assistance to Ukraine (OSS-2023-1333); to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3304. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Publication, Coordination, and Reporting of International Agreements: Amendments, Correction" (RIN1400-AF63) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 11, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3305. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Determination Under Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act"; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3306. A communication from the Secretary of Education, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Fulbright-Hays Doctoral Dissertation Research Abroad Fellowship Program and Faculty Research Abroad Fellowship Program" (RIN1840-AD90) received in the Office of the President pro tempore of the Senate; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-3307. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Action to Delay Effective Date Consistent With Congressionally Enacted Moratorium" (RIN0938-AA14) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3308. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Independent Dispute Resolution (IDR) Process Administrative Fee and Certified IDR Entity Fee Ranges" (RIN0938-AV39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 26, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3309. A communication from the Director, Office of Workers' Compensation Programs, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department of Labor's fiscal year 2022 Office of Workers' Compensation Programs annual report; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3310. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office for Civil Rights, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Safeguarding the Rights of Conscience as Protected by Federal Statutes" (RIN0945-AA18) received in the Office

of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3311. A communication from the Senior Policy Advisor, Wage and Hour Division, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Employee or Independent Contractor Classification Under the Fair Labor Standards Act" (RIN1235-AA43) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3312. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Independent Dispute Resolution Process Administrative Fee and Certified Independent Dispute Resolution Entity Fee Ranges" (RIN0938-AV39) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 26, 2023; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3313. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Office of the National Coordinator for Health IT, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Health Data, Technology, and Interoperability: Certification Program Updates, Algorithm Transparency, and Information Sharing" (RIN0955-AA03) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 10, 2024; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3314. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3602-EM in the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-3315. A communication from the Chair, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's 2023 inventory list; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3316. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Employees' Retirement System; Present Value Conversion Factors for Spouses of Deceased Separated Employees" (RIN3206-AO55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3317. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Appointment of Current and Former Land Management Employees" (RIN3206-AN28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on January 8, 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3318. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's fiscal year 2023 Federal Activities Inventory Reform (FAIR) Act submission of its commercial and inherently governmental activities; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3319. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Memorandum, Use of Project Labor Agreements on Federal Construction Projects (Note: OMB has concluded that this memo-

randum is not a 'rule' within the meaning of 5 U.S.C. 804(3)). Nevertheless, out of an abundance of caution, OMB is submitting it to each House of the Congress and to the Comptroller General consistent with the procedures set forth in 5 U.S.C. 801(a))" received during in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 20, 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3320. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-329, "Children's National Hospital Research and Innovation Campus Equitable Tax Relief Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3321. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-330, "Life and Health Insurance Guaranty Association Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3322. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-331, "Motor Vehicle and Homeowner Insurance Prior Approval Rate Filing Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3323. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-332, "Access to Emergency Medications Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3324. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-333, "Prescription Drug Monitoring Program Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3325. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-343, "Opioid Crisis and Juvenile Crime Public Emergencies Extension Authorization Temporary Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3326. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 25-342, "Crime Victimization Survey Amendment Act of 2023"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3327. A communication from the Chair of the Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-3328. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2023; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

#### PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petition or memorial was laid before the Senate and was referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-96. A resolution adopted by the City Commission of Miami, Florida, expressing its unanimous and unequivocal support of the State of Israel in its war against Hamas and its right to protect and defend its citi-

zens in the wake of Hamas' unprecedented surprise attack on October 6, 2023, resulting in the killing and abduction of hundreds of innocent civilians; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS for the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

\*Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security.

\*Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, for the term of five years.

\*Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman of the Merit Systems Protection Board.

\*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.

\*Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations Authority for a 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. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Mr. HEINRICH):

S. 3595. A bill to award grants to States to establish or improve, and carry out, Seal of Biliteracy programs to recognize high-level student proficiency in speaking, reading, and writing in both English and a second language, and early language programs; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 3596. A bill to amend the Mineral Leasing Act to amend references of gilsonite to asphaltite; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3597. A bill to reauthorize programs relating to oral health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. OSSOFF, and Mr. CRUZ):

S. 3598. A bill to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to establish a comprehensive standard for timing between referrals and appointments for care from the Department of Veterans Affairs and to submit a report with respect to that standard, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. KELLY (for himself and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 3599. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to limit the authority of corporations to establish and operate separate segregated funds utilized for political purposes, including the establishment

or operation of a political committee, to nonprofit corporations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Rules and Administration.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. VANCE):

S. 3600. A bill to enable an employer or employees to establish an employee involvement organization to represent the interests of employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself and Ms. SINEMA):

S. 3601. A bill to amend the Financial Stability Act of 2010 to require the Financial Stability Oversight Council to consider alternative approaches before determining that a U.S. nonbank financial company shall be supervised by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, and Mr. ROUNDS):

S. 3602. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to penalize false communications to cause an emergency response, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. HAGERTY (for himself and Ms. LUMMIS):

S. 3603. A bill to establish an information-sharing pilot program to combat the illicit use of crypto assets; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself, Mr. VANCE, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. SCHMITT, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. LEE):

S. 3604. A bill to amend title 1, United States Code, to clarify that certain tax exemptions are not treated as Federal financial assistance; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHATZ, and Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3605. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop guidelines and best practices for local evacuation route planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3606. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of 1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, Mr. THUNE, Mr. DAINES, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3607. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that amounts paid for an abortion are not taken into account for purposes of the deduction for medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. BRAUN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. RUBIO, and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 3608. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to prohibit treatment of certain distributions and reimbursements for certain abortions as qualified medical expenses; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 525. A resolution expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as "Na-

tional Co-Op Month" and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. Res. 526. A resolution repealing standing orders relating to flowers in the Senate Chamber; considered and agreed to.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 81

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 81, a bill to provide a moratorium on all Federal research grants provided to any institution of higher education or other research institute that is conducting gain-of-function research.

S. 260

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 260, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 359

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 359, a bill to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide for a code of conduct for justices of the Supreme Court of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 786

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. 786, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) was added as a cosponsor 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. 956

At the request of Mr. KELLY, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 956, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to improve dependent coverage under the TRICARE Young Adult Program.

S. 1007

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. MERKLEY) and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 1007, a bill to establish in the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor of the Department of State a Special Envoy for

the Human Rights of LGBTQI+ Peoples, and for other purposes.

S. 1300

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the names of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET), and the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) were added as cosponsors 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. 1705

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1705, a bill to amend the Student Support and Academic Enrichment Grant program to promote career awareness in accounting as part of a well-rounded STEM educational experience.

S. 1863

At the request of Mr. COONS, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) were added as cosponsors of S. 1863, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, and for other purposes.

S. 1950

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1950, a bill to extend the temporary order for fentanyl-related substances.

S. 1957

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1957, a bill to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk, and for other purposes.

S. 2337

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2337, a bill to require the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to promulgate certain limitations with respect to pre-production plastic pellet pollution, and for other purposes.

S. 2389

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2389, a bill to require the Secretary of the Interior to conduct certain offshore lease sales under the Outer Continental Shelf Lands Act.

S. 2781

At the request of Mr. HEINRICH, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2781, a bill to promote remediation of abandoned

hardrock mines, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2839, a bill to clarify the maximum hiring target for new air traffic controllers, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2888, a bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to authorize representatives of veterans service organizations to participate in presentations to promote certain benefits available to veterans during prepreparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2974

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD) were added as cosponsors of S. 2974, a bill to require public institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes.

S. 3080

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3080, a bill to amend title 49, United States Code, to authorize state of good repair grants to be used for public transportation resilience improvement, and for other purposes.

S. 3109

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the names of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3109, a bill to require the Administrator of the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services and the Commissioner of Social Security to review and simplify the processes, procedures, forms, and communications for family caregivers to assist individuals in establishing eligibility for, enrolling in, and maintaining and utilizing coverage and benefits under the Medicare, Medicaid, CHIP, and Social Security programs respectively, and for other purposes.

S. 3176

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3176, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to impose an excise tax on excessively disparate wages paid to chief executive officers.

S. 3194

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the name of the Senator from Wisconsin (Ms. BALDWIN) was added as a cospon-

sor of S. 3194, a bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to achieve parity between the cost-of-living adjustment with respect to an annuity under the Federal Employees Retirement System and an annuity under the Civil Service Retirement System, and for other purposes.

S. 3276

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3276, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to allow certain alien veterans to be paroled into the United States to receive health care furnished by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3280

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3280, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to establish a veterans visa program to permit veterans who have been removed from the United States to return as immigrants, and for other purposes.

S. 3286

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3286, a bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to amend the rules of the Commission relating to disclosures by advisors of private funds, and for other purposes.

S. 3358

At the request of Mr. MULLIN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3358, a bill to authorize livestock producers and their employees to take black vultures to prevent death, injury, or destruction to livestock, and for other purposes.

S. 3459

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3459, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 3490

At the request of Mr. TUBERVILLE, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. VANCE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3490, a bill to prohibit the Secretary of Veterans Affairs from providing health care to, or engaging in claims processing for health care for, any individual unlawfully present in the United States who is not eligible for health care under the laws administered by the Secretary.

S. 3496

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3496, a bill to amend the Energy Policy

Act of 2005 to address measuring methane emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 3520

At the request of Mr. LEE, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 3520, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for education.

S. 3536

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3536, a bill to amend the Individuals with Disabilities Education Act to require notification with respect to individualized education program teams, and for other purposes.

S. 3568

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 3568, a bill to amend chapter 3081 of title 54, United States Code, to enhance the protection and preservation of America's battlefields.

S. 3576

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the names of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. MULLIN) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3576, a bill to authorize certain States to take certain actions on certain Federal land to secure an international border of the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 3587

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ), the Senator from Missouri (Mr. HAWLEY) and the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3587, a bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to immediately initiate removal proceedings for aliens whose visas are revoked on security or related grounds.

S.J. RES. 45

At the request of Mrs. SHAHEEN, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 45, a joint resolution proposing an amendment to the Constitution of the United States relating to contributions and expenditures intended to affect elections.

S.J. RES. 49

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 49, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status".

S.J. RES. 53

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 53, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval of the proposed foreign military sale to the Kingdom of

Saudi Arabia of certain defense articles and services.

S. CON. RES. 16

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 16, a concurrent resolution urging all countries to outlaw the dog and cat meat trade and to enforce existing laws against such trade.

S. CON. RES. 23

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Mr. SULLIVAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 23, a concurrent resolution expressing the sense of Congress that a carbon tax would be detrimental to the economy of the United States.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 333, a resolution designating 2024 as the Year of Democracy as a time to reflect on the contributions of the system of Government of the United States to a more free and stable world.

S. RES. 494

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 494, a resolution expressing the need for the Federal Government to establish a national biodiversity strategy for protecting biodiversity for current and future generations.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 3597. A bill to reauthorize programs relating to oral health promotion and disease prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, last week, we received remarkable news about a milestone in America's healthcare: A record 20 million Americans are now covered by health insurance under the Affordable Care Act.

This is a sign of progress as we improve the quality of life and healthcare protections under President Biden.

Having quality, affordable healthcare coverage means having peace of mind if you get a diagnosis, an accident, or if you need access to care and are facing medical debt.

I know this story. I have been there. I was a law student at Georgetown when my wife and I were blessed with the birth of our first child, a baby girl born with a serious medical condition. As a young father without insurance, I can tell you, there is no greater feeling of helplessness.

That is why Democrats have been committed to expanding health insurance to millions more Americans and ensuring it contains protections for patients with preexisting conditions.

But even with these successes, there are serious gaps in America's

healthcare system, gaps which are unimaginable until you learn specifically what I mean.

I want to focus on one of them: access to dental care.

I spent the August recess last year visiting small towns in Southern Illinois. I met with the new mayor of Carbondale, IL, Carolin Harvey.

I asked her: OK. You have a U.S. Senator in your office, Mayor. What is your ask? What do you want?

Her answer: pediatric dentistry, of all things. I couldn't imagine that. I thought it would be a sewer line or a street or something for law enforcement—pediatric dentistry. She said: Senator, we just don't have enough dentists for kids in Southern Illinois. In fact, there are 10 rural counties in the State that have only 1 dentist to serve their community. In Lawrence County, there is 1 dentist for 15,000 people. That ratio—a local ratio—is 11 times worse than the national average.

What is the result of a shortage of dentists, particularly for kids? Patients' conditions worsen as they face delays to getting an examination.

My office was recently contacted about a child in Southern Illinois who was found to have tooth decay in her 18-month checkup. The patient is covered by Medicaid, and her parents had a hard time finding a dentist who would even see her.

Imagine this for a minute as I tell you this story, that you are a father or mother of a child who is 18 months old and has tooth decay and pain. After nearly a year, the patient was finally treated for severe tooth decay, erosion of the upper incisor teeth, and a large tooth abscess, but her condition did not improve after multiple rounds of antibiotics so her dentist called around to find a specialist to see her.

They were told by the specialist that "unfortunately, we have over 200 patients on our [waiting] list, so we really cannot help [her]." This child is going to have to develop a much worse condition known as facial cellulitis, then she can be sent to an emergency room and then "we can see her."

Listen to what I just said. You have a child who is a year and a half old, who has already been treated by a dentist, who has complications, who is trying to find her way back to the dentist and is being told: Sorry. There is a waiting list here of 200 people. Get to the end of the line, and wait.

Perhaps, though, there is a way out. If this child's condition worsens or is complicated, then maybe we can qualify under a new code under Medicaid to finally see her and treat her. In other words, this toddler had to develop deep-tissue infection—putting her at risk of sepsis, jaw damage, and other life-threatening illnesses—to get her decayed teeth pulled.

Imagine that as a parent, would you. Think about that for a minute.

Her dentist called a specialist in a neighboring State. Thankfully, they were able to perform emergency sur-

gery to remove the decayed teeth but not before risking life-threatening illnesses.

That is the reality for people in the United States of America and in the State of Illinois today. That is unacceptable. In fact, it is embarrassing. So what are we going to do about it in Washington, with all our money and all our power?

Thankfully, there is a Federal program that can help. It is called the National Health Service Corps. It provides a scholarship and loan repayment to dental, medical, and mental health providers who work in rural and urban areas in need. It is the primary Federal program intended to build a pipeline of healthcare providers and address shortages such as the one I just described to you. Nationwide, there are 20,000 professionals serving in the National Health Service Corps, treating 21 million patients.

But \$310 million in mandatory funding for this program will expire at the end of this month. We cannot allow this to happen. Senator MARCO RUBIO—a Republican from Florida—and I have a bipartisan measure to extend this program and nearly triple its funding. It is supported by more than 65 leading medical organizations. They know the reality on the ground for poor people in America, particularly in rural areas and urban areas in need.

The Senate HELP Committee passed a major bipartisan package last fall that included significant new funding for this program. I urge my Republican colleagues to join and support it.

But there is a lot more we need to do. For example, in Illinois, only one-quarter of practicing dentists accepts Medicaid. Think about that. Only one-quarter of practicing dentists accepts Medicaid. Since so few dentists take Medicaid patients, it means that kids in Illinois, with private insurance, are six times more likely to get a dental appointment than those who have Medicaid. In other words, if you are poor, that child complaining of a toothache is just going to have to take it. That, unfortunately, in my State and in many States, is reality.

Low reimbursement rates and arbitrary practices by companies that administer dental benefits under Medicaid contribute to this. So I recently sent a letter to the three major insurance providers—DentaQuest, Avesis, and Envolve—to understand their tactics and their corporate strategies and ensure they are not putting unnecessary barriers up for basic dental treatment.

I am also working with stakeholders to bring in Federal dollars to expand dental residency training programs, fund mobile clinics that drive into rural areas, and expand surgical capacity.

I might just say this as an aside. I am often asked the question: Why in the world do we treat dentistry as anything other than a medical specialty? It certainly is. If you have got a sore

tooth or a decayed tooth or a problem in your mouth, you want help, and you want it now; and you want a professional to provide it. They go through years and years of training. Yet, instead of being treated like a medical specialty like orthopedics or cardio, they are in a different category altogether. It makes no sense.

Today, I am announcing a new bill that I am introducing with Senator ROGER MARSHALL of Kansas. Our bipartisan legislation will authorize funding for the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention to enhance public health activities to improve dental care across America. It will support education, data collection, sealant treatments in schools, water fluoridation efforts, the development of the dental workforce, and community outreach efforts, such as the distribution of toothbrushes—the basics—to new parents and children.

Illinois has not received funding for this important work in nearly 20 years due to a lack of funding. I want to change that. If we improve the health of Americans, especially kids, then we must invest in preventing cavities, tooth decay, and infections. We must also ensure that patients have access to treatment, regardless of their ZIP Codes.

I appreciate the partnership of my colleague Senator MARSHALL, and I will be working to pass this bipartisan legislation quickly.

I want to say, just in closing, to the mayor, Carolin Harvey of Carbondale, IL, that you shocked me when you suggested pediatric dentistry was your ask. It told me a lot about you, your heart, and your caring for kids. Now that we know the reality of kids waiting for months and months and even years for basic dental treatment, let's do something about it, not just in Illinois but across this country. This is fundamental and basic, good health, and we need to make sure it is included in all healthcare coverage.

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. 3597

*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 “Promoting Dental Health Act”.

**SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION OF PROGRAMS.**

Section 317M of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247b-14) is amended—

(1) in subsection (d)(2), by striking “2010 through 2014” and inserting “2024 through 2028”; and

(2) in subsection (f), by striking “2001 through 2005” and inserting “2024 through 2028”.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself,  
Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SCHATZ, and  
Ms. HIRONO):

S. 3605. A bill to require the Secretary of Transportation to develop

guidelines and best practices for local evacuation route planning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the Emergency Vehicle and Community, EVAC, Planning Act. This legislation would strengthen communities to incorporate emergency evacuation routes in the transportation planning process.

Specifically, this bill would direct the Department of Transportation, DOT, in consultation with the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, to develop and publicly disseminate guidance and best practices for States, territories, Indian Tribes, and local governments to utilize to ensure necessary considerations are taken for evacuation routes during local planning.

As we suffer from increasingly catastrophic natural disasters—from fires to hurricanes to flooding—efficient emergency evacuation routes can be the difference between life and death for our most vulnerable communities.

The 2018 Camp Fire tore through the town of Paradise, CA, incinerating roughly 19,000 homes, businesses, and other buildings. Eighty-five people perished. But one of the most horrifying aspects of this tragedy was that some of the victims were killed in their cars when flames overtook the backed-up traffic on the only road out of town.

We saw similar concerns in Louisiana during Hurricane Katrina, which resulted in efforts to improve evacuation route capacity, after nearly 100,000 residents were trapped inside the city of New Orleans.

And most recently in Lahaina, HI, a lack of evacuation routes contributed to making this the deadliest U.S. wildfire in more than a century. Press accounts detail the harrowing experience of people finding themselves caught in their cars, jammed together on narrow roads, surrounded by flames on three sides and the ocean on the fourth.

In the event of a natural disaster, people need to efficiently access evacuation routes that have been strategically designed to save lives and move people out of the area quickly.

Many cities, counties, and Tribal governments—especially those that are rural or low-income—that are the most vulnerable to disaster are also the least likely to have the resources and in-house expertise necessary to develop comprehensive and efficient emergency evacuation routes.

I thank Senators CASSIDY, SCHATZ, and HIRONO for introducing this important legislation with me. I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bill to ensure communities are equipped with the guidelines and best practices necessary to bolster disaster preparedness and save lives.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and  
Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 3606. A bill to reauthorize the Earthquake Hazards Reduction Act of

1977, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to introduce the NEHRP Reauthorization Act of 2023. This bipartisan legislation would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, and improve the Nation's earthquake preparedness.

This bill would reauthorize the National Earthquake Hazards Reduction Program, NEHRP, and authorize a total of \$175.4 million per year from fiscal year 2024 to 2028 across the four Federal Agencies responsible for long-term earthquake risk reduction under NEHRP: the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA, the National Institute of Standards and Technology, NIST, the National Science Foundation, NSF, and the United States Geological Survey, USGS.

Specifically, the NEHRP Reauthorization Act of 2023 would authorize \$10.6 million for FEMA, \$5.9 million for NIST, \$58 million for NSF, and \$100.9 million for USGS per year from fiscal year 2024 to 2028. This funding would support research, development, and implementation activities related to earthquake safety and risk reduction.

In California and across the Nation, earthquakes threaten lives, infrastructure, and communities. NEHRP allows vulnerable communities across the State to better prepare and respond to earthquakes through crucial tools like the ShakeAlert Earthquake Early Warning System Program and working to advance the scientific understanding of earthquakes.

I want to thank Senator MURKOWSKI for introducing this important legislation with me in the Senate, and I hope all of our colleagues will join us in supporting this bipartisan bill to improve our nation's earthquake preparedness.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 525—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF OCTOBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL CO-OP MONTH” AND COMMENDING THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL AND THE MEMBER-OWNERS, BUSINESSES, EMPLOYEES, FARMERS, RANCHERS, AND PRACTITIONERS WHO USE THE COOPERATIVE BUSINESS MODEL TO POSITIVELY IMPACT THE ECONOMY AND SOCIETY

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 525

Whereas a cooperative—

(1) is a business that is owned and governed by its members, who are the individuals who use the business, create the products of the business, or manage the operation of the business; and

(2) operates under the 7 principles of—

- (A) voluntary open membership;
- (B) democratic control;
- (C) owner economic participation;
- (D) autonomy and independence;
- (E) education, training, and information;
- (F) cooperation among cooperatives; and
- (G) concern for community;

Whereas cooperative entrepreneurs can be found in almost every economic sector in the United States, throughout all 50 States and the territories of the United States, and in every congressional district in the United States;

Whereas cooperatives help farmers increase incomes and become more resilient to economic business cycles by working together to plan and prepare for the future, while contributing significantly to the economic activity in the agriculture and food markets of the United States;

Whereas the roughly 1,700 agricultural cooperatives in the United States operate more than 9,500 facilities, employ a record \$11,000,000,000 in assets, and generate more than \$231,400,000,000 in business;

Whereas the majority of the 2,000,000 farmers in the United States belong to an agricultural cooperative;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives offer members the opportunity to access commodity value-added profits throughout the handling, processing, and distribution chains;

Whereas member-owners in agricultural cooperatives are dedicated to providing the highest quality product for consumers;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives add significant benefits to the economic well-being of rural areas of the United States by providing more than 250,000 jobs with annual wages totaling more than \$11,000,000,000;

Whereas agricultural cooperatives provide resources to their member-owners, such as low-cost supplies, effective marketing, and services;

Whereas farmer members in agricultural cooperatives have the opportunity to pool resources and reinvest profits into the communities of the farmer members;

Whereas the principles of cooperation and the cooperative business model help smallholder farmers organize themselves and gain access to local and global markets, training, improved inputs, conservation programs, and aggregated sales and marketing;

Whereas the cooperative business model provides farmers ownership over their economic decisions, a focus on learning, and a broader understanding of environmental and social concerns;

Whereas the cooperative business model has been used throughout the history of the United States to advance civil rights and to help ensure that all people have equal access to economic opportunity;

Whereas cooperative values promote self-determination and democratic rights for all people;

Whereas the comprehensive global food security strategy established under section 5 of the Global Food Security Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9304) (commonly known as “Feed the Future”) and the Cooperative Development Program of the United States Agency for International Development use cooperative principles and the cooperative business model to advance international development, nutrition, resilience, and economic security;

Whereas the Interagency Working Group on Cooperative Development—

(1) is an interagency group that is coordinated and chaired by the Secretary of Agriculture to foster cooperative development and ensure coordination with Federal agencies and national and local cooperative organizations that have cooperative programs and interests; and

(2) as of the date of introduction of this resolution, has organized 11 meetings;

Whereas the bipartisan Congressional Cooperative Business Caucus unites Members of Congress to—

(1) create a better-informed electorate and a more educated public on the important role that cooperatives play in the economy of the United States and the world;

(2) promote the cooperative business model because that model ensures that consumers have access to high-quality goods and services at competitive prices and costs that improve the lives of individuals, families, and their communities; and

(3) address and correct awareness challenges among the public and within the Federal Government relating to what cooperatives look like, who participates in cooperatives, where cooperatives are located, and why individuals choose cooperatives;

Whereas the Bureau of the Census, as part of the 2017 and 2022 Economic Censuses, asked each business if the business was organized as a cooperative, and the responses of businesses yielded both quantitative and qualitative data on the effects and importance of cooperatives across the economy of the United States;

Whereas, throughout the rural United States, many utility service providers operate as cooperatives and are tasked with the delivery of public services, such as electricity, water, telecommunications, and broadband, in areas where investor-owned utility companies typically do not operate;

Whereas utility cooperatives have innovated to meet the evolving needs of their member-owners, create more resilient communities, and help rural individuals in the United States prosper;

Whereas electric cooperatives serve 56 percent of the landmass of the United States, including 92 percent of persistent poverty counties, and energy cooperatives power more than 21,500,000 homes, businesses, and schools;

Whereas there are approximately 260 telephone cooperatives in the United States with total annual revenues of \$3,900,000,000;

Whereas, in the financial services sector, cooperatives, including credit unions, farm credit banks, and other financing organizations that lend to cooperatives, provide numerous benefits to the member-owners of those cooperatives;

Whereas, nationally, approximately 4,800 credit unions serve 138,000,000 members;

Whereas member-owners of cooperatives vote in board elections, and earned profits cycle back into cost-saving programs or return as dividend payments;

Whereas purchasing and shared service cooperatives allow independent and franchise businesses to thrive;

Whereas food cooperatives range in size from small, local institutions to multi-store regional giants that compete with chain stores with locations across the United States;

Whereas food cooperatives support local producers in all 50 States and reduce food insecurity;

Whereas, in the housing sector, housing cooperatives and resident-owned communities in which members own the building or land—

(1) are an alternative to conventional apartment buildings, manufactured home parks, and condominiums; and

(2) empower each resident with ownership and responsibility;

Whereas housing cooperatives have roots dating to the late 1800s and are increasingly becoming a housing alternative for students at colleges throughout the United States;

Whereas shared equity housing cooperatives are a strategy for preserving long-term, affordable housing;

Whereas cooperatives allow residents of manufactured home communities to collectively purchase the land on which they live, providing stability and the opportunity to self-govern;

Whereas, as of 2023, 309 manufactured home communities are cooperatively owned;

Whereas the growth of worker cooperatives in the United States is allowing more workers to own and have greater control over their businesses;

Whereas many small businesses convert to cooperatives when faced with closure or a buyout, ensuring that such a business can continue to serve its community; and

Whereas the cooperative business model allows business owners to retire and transfer business ownership to employees or consumers, protecting local ownership and supporting local communities: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) expresses support for the designation of “National Co-Op Month”;

(2) commends the cooperative business model for—

(A) its contributions to the economy of the United States;

(B) the jobs it creates; and

(C) its positive impacts on local communities;

(3) expresses confidence in, and support for, cooperatives to continue their successes; and

(4) will be mindful in crafting legislation that affects business models that are not the cooperative business model so that the legislation does not adversely affect the cooperative business model.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 526—REPEALING STANDING ORDERS RELATING TO FLOWERS IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself and Ms. KLOBUCHAR) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 526

*Resolved*,

#### SECTION 1. REPEAL OF RESTRICTION ON FLOWERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Senate Resolution 284 (58th Congress), agreed to February 24, 1905, is repealed.

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Senate Resolution 221 (98th Congress), agreed to September 15, 1983, is repealed.

#### AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1382. Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1383. Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1384. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 1385. Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

## TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

**SA 1382.** Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872 of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 13, after line 14, add the following:

**SEC. 402. EXECUTIVE ORDER MANDATED INFLATION ACCOUNTABILITY AND REFORM.**

(a) MANDATORY INFLATION FORECASTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For any major Executive order, the President, acting through the Director of the Office of Management and Budget and the Chair of the Council of Economic Advisers, shall prepare and consider a statement estimating the inflationary effects of the Executive order, including whether the Executive order is determined to have no significant impact on inflation, is determined to have quantifiable inflationary impact on the consumer or producer price index (including a detailed description of such impact), or is determined likely to have a significant impact on inflation but the amount cannot be determined at the time the estimate is prepared. Any statement prepared under this paragraph shall incorporate the inflationary impact of the debt servicing costs associated with the applicable major Executive order. To the greatest extent practicable, any estimate of the inflationary impact of any major Executive order under this paragraph shall take into account the spending patterns of military personnel and of residents of non-metropolitan areas, including rural areas and farm households.

(2) CPI IMPACT DISAGGREGATED.—If an Executive order is determined to have a quantifiable inflationary impact on the consumer price index under paragraph (1), the statement required by such paragraph shall include the amount of such impact on the consumer price index in total and disaggregated by the Food, Energy, and All Items Less Food and Energy categories of the consumer price index (as such categories are determined by the Secretary of Labor in consultation with the Commissioner of the Bureau of Labor Statistics).

(b) AGENCY ASSISTANCE.—The head of each agency shall provide to the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, such information and assistance as the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, may reasonably request to assist the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, in carrying out this section.

(c) REPORTING.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every year thereafter, the President, acting through the Director and the Chair, shall publish on the public website of the Office of Management and Budget and submit to the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on the Budget and the Committee on Oversight and Accountability of the House of Representatives a report containing each statement prepared and considered under subsection (a) during the year.

(d) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to suggest that the task of combating inflation and bringing down the cost of living is the sole responsibility of the Executive Office of the President, and not also a key pursuit of the Senate during the 118th Congress through thoughtful, productive legislative action.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given such term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) MAJOR EXECUTIVE ORDER.—The term “major Executive order” means any Executive order that would be projected (in a conventional cost estimate) to cause an annual gross budgetary or economic effect of at least \$1,000,000, but does not include any such measure that—

(A) provides for emergency assistance or relief at the request of any State or local government or any official of a State or local government; or

(B) is necessary for the national security or the ratification or implementation of international treaty obligations.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” means each State of the United States, the District of Columbia, each commonwealth, territory, or possession of the United States, and each federally recognized Indian Tribe.

**SA 1383.** Mr. CRUZ submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872 of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of the bill, add the following:

**DIVISION C—SECURING THE BORDER**

**SEC. 1001. SHORT TITLE.**

This division may be cited as the “Secure the Border Act of 2024”.

**TITLE I—BORDER SECURITY**

**SEC. 1101. DEFINITIONS.**

In this title:

(1) CBP.—The term “CBP” means U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) COMMISSIONER.—The term “Commissioner” means the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(3) DEPARTMENT.—The term “Department” means the Department of Homeland Security.

(4) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term “operational control” has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

(5) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

(6) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term “situational awareness” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term “unmanned aircraft system” has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.

**SEC. 1102. BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—

(1) IMMEDIATE RESUMPTION OF BORDER WALL CONSTRUCTION.—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall resume all activities related to the construction of the border wall along the border between the United States and Mexico that were underway or being planned for prior to January 20, 2021.

(2) USE OF FUNDS.—To carry out this section, the Secretary shall expend all unexpired funds appropriated or explicitly obligated for the construction of the border wall that were appropriated or obligated, as the case may be, for use beginning on October 1, 2019.

(3) USE OF MATERIALS.—Any unused materials purchased before the date of the enactment of this Act for construction of the border wall may be used for activities related to the construction of the border wall in accordance with paragraph (1).

(b) PLAN TO COMPLETE TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE AND TECHNOLOGY.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter until construction of the border wall has been completed, the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees an implementation plan, including annual benchmarks for the construction of 200 miles of such wall and associated cost estimates for satisfying all requirements of the construction of the border wall, including installation and deployment of tactical infrastructure, technology, and other elements as identified by the Department prior to January 20, 2021, through the expenditure of funds appropriated or explicitly obligated, as the case may be, for use, as well as any future funds appropriated or otherwise made available by Congress.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term “tactical infrastructure” includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads associated with a border wall.

(3) TECHNOLOGY.—The term “technology” includes border surveillance and detection technology, including linear ground detection systems, associated with a border wall.

**SEC. 1103. STRENGTHENING THE REQUIREMENTS FOR BARRIERS ALONG THE SOUTHERN BORDER.**

Section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (Division C of Public Law 104-208; 8 U.S.C. 1103 note) is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (a) to read as follows:

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall take such actions as may be necessary (including the removal of obstacles to detection of illegal entrants) to design, test, construct, install, deploy, integrate, and operate physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology in the vicinity of the southwest border to achieve situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border and deter, impede, and detect unlawful activity.”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the subsection heading, by striking “FENCING AND ROAD IMPROVEMENTS” and inserting “PHYSICAL BARRIERS”;

(B) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in the heading, by striking “FENCING” and inserting “BARRIERS”;

(ii) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) REINFORCED BARRIERS.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall construct a border wall, including physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology, along not fewer than 900 miles of the southwest border until situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border is achieved.”;

(iii) by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) PHYSICAL BARRIERS AND TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control of the southwest border.”;

(iv) in subparagraph (C)—

(I) by amending clause (i) to read as follows:

“(i) IN GENERAL.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall consult with the Secretary of the Interior, the Secretary of Agriculture, appropriate representatives of State, Tribal, and local governments, and appropriate private property owners in the United States to minimize the impact on natural resources, commerce, and sites of historical or cultural significance for the communities and residents located near the sites at which physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology are to be constructed. Such consultation may not delay such construction for longer than seven days.”; and

(II) in clause (ii)—

(aa) in subclause (I), by striking “or” after the semicolon at the end;

(bb) by amending subclause (II) to read as follows:

“(II) delay the transfer to the United States of the possession of property or affect the validity of any property acquisition by the United States by purchase or eminent domain, or to otherwise affect the eminent domain laws of the United States or of any State; or”;

(cc) by adding at the end the following new subclause:

“(III) create any right or liability for any party.”; and

(v) by striking subparagraph (D);

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by striking “Attorney General” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(ii) by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”;

(iii) by striking “construction of fences” and inserting “the construction of physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology”;

(D) by amending paragraph (3) to read as follows:

“(3) AGENT SAFETY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security, when designing, testing, constructing, installing, deploying, integrating, and operating physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology, shall incorporate such safety features into such design, test, construction, installation, deployment, integration, or operation of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology, as the case may be, that the Secretary determines are necessary to maximize the safety and effectiveness of officers and agents of the Department of Homeland Security or of any other Federal agency deployed in the vicinity of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology.”; and

(E) in paragraph (4), by striking “this subsection” and inserting “this section”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) by amending paragraph (1) to read as follows:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall waive all legal requirements necessary to ensure the expeditious design, testing, construction, installation, deployment, integration, operation, and maintenance of the physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, and technology under this section. The Secretary shall ensure the maintenance and effectiveness of such physical barriers, tactical infrastructure, or technology. Any such action by the Secretary shall be effective upon publication in the Federal Register.”;

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) NOTIFICATION.—Not later than seven days after the date on which the Secretary of Homeland Security exercises a waiver pursuant to paragraph (1), the Secretary shall notify the Committee on Homeland Security of

the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate of such waiver.”; and

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

“(e) TECHNOLOGY.—In carrying out this section, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall deploy along the southwest border the most practical and effective technology available for achieving situational awareness and operational control.

“(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) ADVANCED UNATTENDED SURVEILLANCE SENSORS.—The term ‘advanced unattended surveillance sensors’ means sensors that utilize an onboard computer to analyze detections in an effort to discern between vehicles, humans, and animals, and ultimately filter false positives prior to transmission.

“(2) OPERATIONAL CONTROL.—The term ‘operational control’ has the meaning given such term in section 2(b) of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (Public Law 109-367; 8 U.S.C. 1701 note).

“(3) PHYSICAL BARRIERS.—The term ‘physical barriers’ includes reinforced fencing, the border wall, and levee walls.

“(4) SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.—The term ‘situational awareness’ has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(7) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(7)).

“(5) TACTICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The term ‘tactical infrastructure’ includes boat ramps, access gates, checkpoints, lighting, and roads.

“(6) TECHNOLOGY.—The term ‘technology’ includes border surveillance and detection technology, including the following:

“(A) Tower-based surveillance technology.

“(B) Deployable, lighter-than-air ground surveillance equipment.

“(C) Vehicle and Dismount Exploitation Radars (VADER).

“(D) 3-dimensional, seismic acoustic detection and ranging border tunneling detection technology.

“(E) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

“(F) Mobile vehicle-mounted and man-portable surveillance capabilities.

“(G) Unmanned aircraft systems.

“(H) Tunnel detection systems and other seismic technology.

“(I) Fiber-optic cable.

“(J) Other border detection, communication, and surveillance technology.

“(7) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEM.—The term ‘unmanned aircraft system’ has the meaning given such term in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code.”.

#### SEC. 1104. BORDER AND PORT SECURITY TECHNOLOGY INVESTMENT PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in consultation with covered officials and border and port security technology stakeholders, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a strategic 5-year technology investment plan (in this section referred to as the “plan”). The plan may include a classified annex, if appropriate.

(b) CONTENTS OF PLAN.—The plan shall include the following:

(1) An analysis of security risks at and between ports of entry along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) An identification of capability gaps with respect to security at and between such ports of entry to be mitigated in order to—

(A) prevent terrorists and instruments of terror from entering the United States;

(B) combat and reduce cross-border criminal activity, including—

(i) the transport of illegal goods, such as illicit drugs; and

(ii) human smuggling and human trafficking; and

(C) facilitate the flow of legal trade across the southwest border.

(3) An analysis of current and forecast trends relating to the number of aliens who—

(A) unlawfully entered the United States by crossing the northern or southern border of the United States; or

(B) are unlawfully present in the United States.

(4) A description of security-related technology acquisitions, to be listed in order of priority, to address the security risks and capability gaps analyzed and identified pursuant to paragraphs (1) and (2), respectively.

(5) A description of each planned security-related technology program, including objectives, goals, and timelines for each such program.

(6) An identification of each deployed security-related technology that is at or near the end of the life cycle of such technology.

(7) A description of the test, evaluation, modeling, and simulation capabilities, including target methodologies, rationales, and timelines, necessary to support the acquisition of security-related technologies pursuant to paragraph (4).

(8) An identification and assessment of ways to increase opportunities for communication and collaboration with the private sector, small and disadvantaged businesses, intragovernment entities, university centers of excellence, and federal laboratories to ensure CBP is able to engage with the market for security-related technologies that are available to satisfy its mission needs before engaging in an acquisition of a security-related technology.

(9) An assessment of the management of planned security-related technology programs by the acquisition workforce of CBP.

(10) An identification of ways to leverage already-existing acquisition expertise within the Federal Government.

(11) A description of the security resources, including information security resources, required to protect security-related technology from physical or cyber theft, diversion, sabotage, or attack.

(12) A description of initiatives to—

(A) streamline the acquisition process of CBP; and

(B) provide to the private sector greater predictability and transparency with respect to such process, including information relating to the timeline for testing and evaluation of security-related technology.

(13) An assessment of the privacy and security impact on border communities of security-related technology.

(14) In the case of a new acquisition leading to the removal of equipment from a port of entry along the northern or southern border of the United States, a strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders affected by such removal.

(15) A strategy to consult with the private sector and community stakeholders with respect to security impacts at a port of entry described in paragraph (14).

(16) An identification of recent technological advancements in the following:

(A) Manned aircraft sensor, communication, and common operating picture technology.

(B) Unmanned aerial systems and related technology, including counter-unmanned aerial system technology.

(C) Surveillance technology, including the following:

(i) Mobile surveillance vehicles.

(ii) Associated electronics, including cameras, sensor technology, and radar.

(iii) Tower-based surveillance technology.  
 (iv) Advanced unattended surveillance sensors.

(v) Deployable, lighter-than-air, ground surveillance equipment.

(D) Nonintrusive inspection technology, including non-x-ray devices utilizing muon tomography and other advanced detection technology.

(E) Tunnel detection technology.

(F) Communications equipment, including the following:

(i) Radios.

(ii) Long-term evolution broadband.

(iii) Miniature satellites.

(c) LEVERAGING THE PRIVATE SECTOR.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall—

(1) leverage emerging technological capabilities, and research and development trends, within the public and private sectors;

(2) incorporate input from the private sector, including from border and port security stakeholders, through requests for information, industry day events, and other innovative means consistent with the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

(3) identify security-related technologies that are in development or deployed, with or without adaptation, that may satisfy the mission needs of CBP.

(d) FORM.—To the extent practicable, the plan shall be published in unclassified form on the website of the Department.

(e) DISCLOSURE.—The plan shall include an identification of individuals not employed by the Federal Government, and their professional affiliations, who contributed to the development of the plan.

(f) UPDATE AND REPORT.—Not later than the date that is two years after the date on which the plan is submitted to the appropriate congressional committees pursuant to subsection (a) and biennially thereafter for ten years, the Commissioner shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees—

(1) an update of the plan, if appropriate; and

(2) a report that includes—

(A) the extent to which each security-related technology acquired by CBP since the initial submission of the plan or most recent update of the plan, as the case may be, is consistent with the planned technology programs and projects described pursuant to subsection (b)(5); and

(B) the type of contract and the reason for acquiring each such security-related technology.

(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(2) COVERED OFFICIALS.—The term “covered officials” means—

(A) the Under Secretary for Management of the Department;

(B) the Under Secretary for Science and Technology of the Department; and

(C) the Chief Information Officer of the Department.

(3) UNLAWFULLY PRESENT.—The term “unlawfully present” has the meaning provided such term in section 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(a)(9)(B)(ii)).

**SEC. 1105. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of title IV of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 231 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 437. BORDER SECURITY TECHNOLOGY PROGRAM MANAGEMENT.**

“(a) MAJOR ACQUISITION PROGRAM DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘major acquisition program’ means an acquisition program of the Department that is estimated by the Secretary to require an eventual total expenditure of at least \$100,000,000 (based on fiscal year 2023 constant dollars) over its life-cycle cost.

“(b) PLANNING DOCUMENTATION.—For each border security technology acquisition program of the Department that is determined to be a major acquisition program, the Secretary shall—

“(1) ensure that each such program has a written acquisition program baseline approved by the relevant acquisition decision authority;

“(2) document that each such program is satisfying cost, schedule, and performance thresholds as specified in such baseline, in compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

“(3) have a plan for satisfying program implementation objectives by managing contractor performance.

“(c) ADHERENCE TO STANDARDS.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall ensure border security technology acquisition program managers who are responsible for carrying out this section adhere to relevant internal control standards identified by the Comptroller General of the United States. The Commissioner shall provide information, as needed, to assist the Under Secretary in monitoring management of border security technology acquisition programs under this section.

“(d) PLAN.—The Secretary, acting through the Under Secretary for Management, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Science and Technology and the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a plan for testing, evaluating, and using independent verification and validation of resources relating to the proposed acquisition of border security technology. Under such plan, the proposed acquisition of new border security technologies shall be evaluated through a series of assessments, processes, and audits to ensure—

“(1) compliance with relevant departmental acquisition policies and the Federal Acquisition Regulation; and

“(2) the effective use of taxpayer dollars.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 436 the following new item:

“Sec. 437. Border security technology program management.”.

(c) PROHIBITION ON ADDITIONAL AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—No additional funds are authorized to be appropriated to carry out section 437 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as added by subsection (a).

**SEC. 1106. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION TECHNOLOGY UPGRADES.**

(a) SECURE COMMUNICATIONS.—The Commissioner shall ensure that each CBP officer or agent, as appropriate, is equipped with a secure radio or other two-way communication device that allows each such officer or agent to communicate—

(1) between ports of entry and inspection stations; and

(2) with other Federal, State, Tribal, and local law enforcement entities.

(b) BORDER SECURITY DEPLOYMENT PROGRAM.—

(1) EXPANSION.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall—

(A) fully implement the Border Security Deployment Program of CBP; and

(B) expand the integrated surveillance and intrusion detection system at land ports of entry along the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated \$33,000,000 for fiscal years 2024 and 2025 to carry out paragraph (1).

(c) UPGRADE OF LICENSE PLATE READERS AT PORTS OF ENTRY.—

(1) UPGRADE.—Not later than two years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall upgrade all existing license plate readers in need of upgrade, as determined by the Commissioner, on the northern and southern borders of the United States.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to amounts otherwise authorized to be appropriated for such purpose, there is authorized to be appropriated \$125,000,000 for fiscal years 2023 and 2024 to carry out paragraph (1).

**SEC. 1107. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION PERSONNEL.**

(a) RETENTION BONUS.—To carry out this section, there is authorized to be appropriated up to \$100,000,000 to the Commissioner to provide a retention bonus to any front-line U.S. Border Patrol law enforcement agent—

(1) whose position is equal to or below level GS-12 of the General Schedule;

(2) who has five years or more of service with the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(3) who commits to two years of additional service with the U.S. Border Patrol upon acceptance of such bonus.

(b) BORDER PATROL AGENTS.—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Commissioner shall hire, train, and assign a sufficient number of Border Patrol agents to maintain an active duty presence of not fewer than 22,000 full-time equivalent Border Patrol agents, who may not perform the duties of processing coordinators.

(c) PROHIBITION AGAINST ALIEN TRAVEL.—No personnel or equipment of Air and Marine Operations may be used for the transportation of non-detained aliens, or detained aliens expected to be administratively released upon arrival, from the southwest border to destinations within the United States.

(d) GAO REPORT.—If the staffing level required under this section is not achieved by the date associated with such level, the Comptroller General of the United States shall—

(1) conduct a review of the reasons why such level was not so achieved; and

(2) not later than September 30, 2027, publish on a publicly available website of the Government Accountability Office a report relating thereto.

**SEC. 1108. ANTI-BORDER CORRUPTION ACT RE-AUTHORIZATION.**

(a) HIRING FLEXIBILITY.—Section 3 of the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 (6 U.S.C. 221; Public Law 111-376) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following new subsections:

“(b) WAIVER REQUIREMENT.—Subject to subsection (c), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1)—

“(1) to a current, full-time law enforcement officer employed by a State or local law enforcement agency who—

“(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;

“(B) is authorized by law to engage in or supervise the prevention, detection, investigation, or prosecution of, or the incarceration of any person for, any violation of law, and has statutory powers for arrest or apprehension; and

“(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position;

“(2) to a current, full-time Federal law enforcement officer who—

“(A) has continuously served as a law enforcement officer for not fewer than three years;

“(B) is authorized to make arrests, conduct investigations, conduct searches, make seizures, carry firearms, and serve orders, warrants, and other processes;

“(C) is not currently under investigation, has not been found to have engaged in criminal activity or serious misconduct, has not resigned from a law enforcement officer position under investigation or in lieu of termination, and has not been dismissed from a law enforcement officer position; and

“(D) holds a current Tier 4 background investigation or current Tier 5 background investigation; or

“(3) to a member of the Armed Forces (or a reserve component thereof) or a veteran, if such individual—

“(A) has served in the Armed Forces for not fewer than three years;

“(B) holds, or has held within the past five years, a Secret, Top Secret, or Top Secret/Sensitive Compartmented Information clearance;

“(C) holds, or has undergone within the past five years, a current Tier 4 background investigation or current Tier 5 background investigation;

“(D) received, or is eligible to receive, an honorable discharge from service in the Armed Forces and has not engaged in criminal activity or committed a serious military or civil offense under the Uniform Code of Military Justice; and

“(E) was not granted any waivers to obtain the clearance referred to in subparagraph (B).

“(C) **TERMINATION OF WAIVER REQUIREMENT; SNAP-BACK.**—The requirement to issue a waiver under subsection (b) shall terminate if the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) certifies to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP has met all requirements pursuant to section 1107 of the Secure the Border Act of 2024 relating to personnel levels. If at any time after such certification personnel levels fall below such requirements, the Commissioner shall waive the application of subsection (a)(1) until such time as the Commissioner re-certifies to such Committees that CBP has so met all such requirements.”.

(b) **SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY; REPORTING; DEFINITIONS.**—The Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010 is amended by adding at the end the following new sections: **“SEC. 5. SUPPLEMENTAL COMMISSIONER AUTHORITY.**

“(a) **NONEXEMPTION.**—An individual who receives a waiver under section 3(b) is not exempt from any other hiring requirements relating to suitability for employment and eligibility to hold a national security designated position, as determined by the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(b) **BACKGROUND INVESTIGATIONS.**—An individual who receives a waiver under section

3(b) who holds a current Tier 4 background investigation shall be subject to a Tier 5 background investigation.

“(c) **ADMINISTRATION OF POLYGRAPH EXAMINATION.**—The Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection is authorized to administer a polygraph examination to an applicant or employee who is eligible for or receives a waiver under section 3(b) if information is discovered before the completion of a background investigation that results in a determination that a polygraph examination is necessary to make a final determination regarding suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.

**“SEC. 6. REPORTING.**

“(a) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, and annually thereafter while the waiver authority under section 3(b) is in effect, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to Congress a report that includes, with respect to each such reporting period, the following:

“(1) Information relating to the number of waivers granted under such section 3(b).

“(2) Information relating to the percentage of applicants who were hired after receiving such a waiver.

“(3) Information relating to the number of instances that a polygraph was administered to an applicant who initially received such a waiver and the results of such polygraph.

“(4) An assessment of the current impact of such waiver authority on filling law enforcement positions at U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

“(5) An identification of additional authorities needed by U.S. Customs and Border Protection to better utilize such waiver authority for its intended goals.

“(b) **ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.**—The first report submitted under subsection (a) shall include the following:

“(1) An analysis of other methods of employment suitability tests that detect deception and could be used in conjunction with traditional background investigations to evaluate potential applicants or employees for suitability for employment or continued employment, as the case may be.

“(2) A recommendation regarding whether a test referred to in paragraph (1) should be adopted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection when the polygraph examination requirement is waived pursuant to section 3(b).

**“SEC. 7. DEFINITIONS.**

“In this Act:

“(1) **FEDERAL LAW ENFORCEMENT OFFICER.**—The term ‘Federal law enforcement officer’ means a ‘law enforcement officer’, as such term is defined in section 8331(20) or 8401(17) of title 5, United States Code.

“(2) **SERIOUS MILITARY OR CIVIL OFFENSE.**—The term ‘serious military or civil offense’ means an offense for which—

“(A) a member of the Armed Forces may be discharged or separated from service in the Armed Forces; and

“(B) a punitive discharge is, or would be, authorized for the same or a closely related offense under the Manual for Court-Martial, as pursuant to Army Regulation 635-200, chapter 14-12.

“(3) **TIER 4; TIER 5.**—The terms ‘Tier 4’ and ‘Tier 5’, with respect to background investigations, have the meaning given such terms under the 2012 Federal Investigative Standards.

“(4) **VETERAN.**—The term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given such term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.”.

(c) **POLYGRAPH EXAMINERS.**—Not later than September 30, 2025, the Secretary shall increase to not fewer than 150 the number of trained full-time equivalent polygraph exam-

iners for administering polygraphs under the Anti-Border Corruption Act of 2010, as amended by this section.

**SEC. 1109. ESTABLISHMENT OF WORKLOAD STAFFING MODELS FOR U.S. BORDER PATROL AND AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS OF CBP.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner, in coordination with the Under Secretary for Management, the Chief Human Capital Officer, and the Chief Financial Officer of the Department, shall implement a workload staffing model for each of the following:

(1) The U.S. Border Patrol.

(2) Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

(b) **RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE COMMISSIONER.**—Subsection (c) of section 411 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211), is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (18) and (19) as paragraphs (20) and (21), respectively; and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (17) the following new paragraphs:

“(18) implement a staffing model for the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the Office of Field Operations that includes consideration for essential frontline operator activities and functions, variations in operating environments, present and planned infrastructure, present and planned technology, and required operations support levels to enable such entities to manage and assign personnel of such entities to ensure field and support posts possess adequate resources to carry out duties specified in this section;

“(19) develop standard operating procedures for a workforce tracking system within the U.S. Border Patrol, Air and Marine Operations, and the Office of Field Operations, train the workforce of each of such entities on the use, capabilities, and purpose of such system, and implement internal controls to ensure timely and accurate scheduling and reporting of actual completed work hours and activities;”.

(c) **REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act with respect to subsection (a) and paragraphs (18) and (19) of section 411(c) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as amended by subsection (b)), and annually thereafter with respect to such paragraphs (18) and (19), the Secretary shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report that includes a status update on the following:

(A) The implementation of such subsection (a) and such paragraphs (18) and (19).

(B) Each relevant workload staffing model.

(2) **DATA SOURCES AND METHODOLOGY REQUIRED.**—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include information relating to the data sources and methodology used to generate each relevant staffing model.

(d) **INSPECTOR GENERAL REVIEW.**—Not later than 90 days after the Commissioner develops the workload staffing models pursuant to subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department shall review such models and provide feedback to the Secretary and the appropriate congressional committees with respect to the degree to which such models are responsive to the recommendations of the Inspector General, including the following:

(1) Recommendations from the Inspector General’s February 2019 audit.

(2) Any further recommendations to improve such models.

(e) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term ‘appropriate congressional committees’ means—

(1) the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate.

**SEC. 1110. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title XX of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 601 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

**“SEC. 2010. OPERATION STONEGARDEN.**

“(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a program to be known as ‘Operation Stonegarden’, under which the Secretary, acting through the Administrator, shall make grants to eligible law enforcement agencies, through State administrative agencies, to enhance border security in accordance with this section.

“(b) ELIGIBLE RECIPIENTS.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, a law enforcement agency shall—

“(1) be located in—

“(A) a State bordering Canada or Mexico; or

“(B) a State or territory with a maritime border;

“(2) be involved in an active, ongoing, U.S. Customs and Border Protection operation coordinated through a U.S. Border Patrol sector office; and

“(3) have an agreement in place with U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement to support enforcement operations.

“(c) PERMITTED USES.—A recipient of a grant under this section may use such grant for costs associated with the following:

“(1) Equipment, including maintenance and sustainment.

“(2) Personnel, including overtime and backfill, in support of enhanced border law enforcement activities.

“(3) Any activity permitted for Operation Stonegarden under the most recent fiscal year Department of Homeland Security’s Homeland Security Grant Program Notice of Funding Opportunity.

“(d) PERIOD OF PERFORMANCE.—The Secretary shall award grants under this section to grant recipients for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

“(e) NOTIFICATION.—Upon denial of a grant to a law enforcement agency, the Administrator shall provide written notice to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate, including the reasoning for such denial.

“(f) REPORT.—For each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 the Administrator shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report that contains—

“(1) information on the expenditure of grants made under this section by each grant recipient; and

“(2) recommendations for other uses of such grants to further support eligible law enforcement agencies.

“(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$110,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 for grants under this section.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Subsection (a) of section 2002 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 603) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—The Secretary, through the Administrator, may award grants under sections 2003, 2004, 2009, and 2010 to State, local, and Tribal governments, as appropriate.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting

after the item relating to section 2009 the following new item:

“Sec. 2010. Operation Stonegarden.”.

**SEC. 1111. AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.**

(a) AIR AND MARINE OPERATIONS FLIGHT HOURS.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure that not fewer than 110,000 annual flight hours are carried out by Air and Marine Operations of CBP.

(b) UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—The Secretary, after coordination with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration, shall ensure that Air and Marine Operations operate unmanned aircraft systems on the southern border of the United States for not less than 24 hours per day.

(c) PRIMARY MISSIONS.—The Commissioner shall ensure the following:

(1) The primary missions for Air and Marine Operations are to directly support the following:

(A) U.S. Border Patrol activities along the borders of the United States.

(B) Joint Interagency Task Force South and Joint Task Force East operations in the transit zone.

(2) The Executive Assistant Commissioner of Air and Marine Operations assigns the greatest priority to support missions specified in paragraph (1).

(d) HIGH DEMAND FLIGHT HOUR REQUIREMENTS.—The Commissioner shall—

(1) ensure that U.S. Border Patrol Sector Chiefs identify air support mission-critical hours; and

(2) direct Air and Marine Operations to support requests from such Sector Chiefs as a component of the primary mission of Air and Marine Operations in accordance with subsection (c)(1)(A).

(e) CONTRACT AIR SUPPORT AUTHORIZATIONS.—The Commissioner shall contract for air support mission-critical hours to meet the requests for such hours, as identified pursuant to subsection (d).

(f) SMALL UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS.—(1) IN GENERAL.—The Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall be the executive agent with respect to the use of small unmanned aircraft by CBP for the purposes of the following:

(A) Meeting the unmet flight hour operational requirements of the U.S. Border Patrol.

(B) Achieving situational awareness and operational control of the borders of the United States.

(2) COORDINATION.—In carrying out paragraph (1), the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol shall coordinate—

(A) flight operations with the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to ensure the safe and efficient operation of the national airspace system; and

(B) with the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP to—

(i) ensure the safety of other CBP aircraft flying in the vicinity of small unmanned aircraft operated by the U.S. Border Patrol; and

(ii) establish a process to include data from flight hours in the calculation of got away statistics.

(3) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Paragraph (3) of section 411(e) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 211(e)) is amended—

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

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

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (B) the following new subparagraph:

“(C) carry out the small unmanned aircraft (as such term is defined in section 44801 of title 49, United States Code) requirements

pursuant to subsection (f) of section 1111 of the Secure the Border Act of 2024; and”.

(g) SAVINGS CLAUSE.—Nothing in this section may be construed as conferring, transferring, or delegating to the Secretary, the Commissioner, the Executive Assistant Commissioner for Air and Marine Operations of CBP, or the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol any authority of the Secretary of Transportation or the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration relating to the use of airspace or aviation safety.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) GOT AWAY.—The term “got away” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(3) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(3)).

(2) TRANSIT ZONE.—The term “transit zone” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a)(8) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (Public Law 114-328; 6 U.S.C. 223(a)(8)).

**SEC. 1112. ERADICATION OF CARRIZO CANE AND SALT CEDAR.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary, in coordination with the heads of relevant Federal, State, and local agencies, shall hire contractors to begin eradicating the carrizo cane plant and any salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations. Such eradication shall be completed—

(1) by not later than September 30, 2027, except for required maintenance; and

(2) in the most expeditious and cost-effective manner possible to maintain clear fields of view.

(b) APPLICATION.—The waiver authority under subsection (c) of section 102 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1103 note), as amended by section 1103, shall apply to activities carried out pursuant to subsection (a).

(c) REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a strategic plan to eradicate all carrizo cane plant and salt cedar along the Rio Grande River that impedes border security operations by not later than September 30, 2027.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated \$7,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2024 through 2028 to the Secretary to carry out this subsection.

**SEC. 1113. BORDER PATROL STRATEGIC PLAN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and biennially thereafter, the Commissioner, acting through the Chief of the U.S. Border Patrol, shall issue a Border Patrol Strategic Plan (referred to in this section as the “plan”) to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(b) ELEMENTS.—The plan shall include the following:

(1) A consideration of Border Patrol Capability Gap Analysis reporting, Border Security Improvement Plans, and any other strategic document authored by the U.S. Border Patrol to address security gaps between ports of entry, including efforts to mitigate threats identified in such analyses, plans, and documents.

(2) Information relating to the dissemination of information relating to border security or border threats with respect to the efforts of the Department and other appropriate Federal agencies.

(3) Information relating to efforts by U.S. Border Patrol to—

(A) increase situational awareness, including—

(i) surveillance capabilities, such as capabilities developed or utilized by the Department of Defense, and any appropriate technology determined to be excess by the Department of Defense; and

(ii) the use of manned aircraft and unmanned aircraft;

(B) detect and prevent terrorists and instruments of terrorism from entering the United States;

(C) detect, interdict, and disrupt between ports of entry aliens unlawfully present in the United States;

(D) detect, interdict, and disrupt human smuggling, human trafficking, drug trafficking, and other illicit cross-border activity;

(E) focus intelligence collection to disrupt transnational criminal organizations outside of the international and maritime borders of the United States; and

(F) ensure that any new border security technology can be operationally integrated with existing technologies in use by the Department.

(4) Information relating to initiatives of the Department with respect to operational coordination, including any relevant task forces of the Department.

(5) Information gathered from the lessons learned by the deployments of the National Guard to the southern border of the United States.

(6) A description of cooperative agreements relating to information sharing with State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States.

(7) Information relating to border security information received from the following:

(A) State, local, Tribal, territorial, and other Federal law enforcement agencies that have jurisdiction on the borders of the United States or in the maritime environment.

(B) Border community stakeholders, including representatives from the following:

(i) Border agricultural and ranching organizations.

(ii) Business and civic organizations.

(iii) Hospitals and rural clinics within 150 miles of the borders of the United States.

(iv) Victims of crime committed by aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

(v) Victims impacted by drugs, transnational criminal organizations, cartels, gangs, or other criminal activity.

(vi) Farmers, ranchers, and property owners along the border.

(vii) Other individuals negatively impacted by illegal immigration.

(8) Information relating to the staffing requirements with respect to border security for the Department.

(9) A prioritized list of Department research and development objectives to enhance the security of the borders of the United States.

(10) An assessment of training programs, including such programs relating to the following:

(A) Identifying and detecting fraudulent documents.

(B) Understanding the scope of CBP enforcement authorities and appropriate use of force policies.

(C) Screening, identifying, and addressing vulnerable populations, such as children and victims of human trafficking.

**SEC. 1114. U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION SPIRITUAL READINESS.**

Not later than one year after the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Commissioner shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee

on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the availability and usage of the assistance of chaplains, prayer groups, houses of worship, and other spiritual resources for members of CBP who identify as religiously affiliated and have attempted suicide, have suicidal ideation, or are at risk of suicide, and metrics on the impact such resources have in assisting religiously affiliated members who have access to and utilize such resources compared to religiously affiliated members who do not.

**SEC. 1115. RESTRICTIONS ON FUNDING.**

(a) **ARRIVING ALIENS.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department to process the entry into the United States of aliens arriving in between ports of entry.

(b) **RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION SUPPORT FOR UNLAWFUL ACTIVITY.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for disbursement to any nongovernmental organization that facilitates or encourages unlawful activity, including unlawful entry, human trafficking, human smuggling, drug trafficking, and drug smuggling.

(c) **RESTRICTION ON NONGOVERNMENTAL ORGANIZATION FACILITATION OF ILLEGAL IMMIGRATION.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated to the Department for disbursement to any nongovernmental organization to provide, or facilitate the provision of, transportation, lodging, or immigration legal services to inadmissible aliens who enter the United States after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1116. COLLECTION OF DNA AND BIOMETRIC INFORMATION AT THE BORDER.**

Not later than 14 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall ensure and certify to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate that CBP is fully compliant with Federal DNA and biometric collection requirements at United States land borders.

**SEC. 1117. ERADICATION OF NARCOTIC DRUGS AND FORMULATING EFFECTIVE NEW TOOLS TO ADDRESS YEARLY LOSSES OF LIFE; ENSURING TIMELY UPDATES TO U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION FIELD MANUALS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than triennially thereafter, the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall review and update, as necessary, the current policies and manuals of the Office of Field Operations related to inspections at ports of entry, and the U.S. Border Patrol related to inspections between ports of entry, to ensure the uniform implementation of inspection practices that will effectively respond to technological and methodological changes designed to disguise unlawful activity, such as the smuggling of drugs and humans, along the border.

(b) **REPORTING REQUIREMENT.**—Not later than 90 days after each update required under subsection (a), the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a report that summarizes any policy and manual changes pursuant to subsection (a).

**SEC. 1118. PUBLICATION BY U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION OF OPERATIONAL STATISTICS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than the seventh day of each month beginning with the second full month after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner of

U.S. Customs and Border Protection shall publish on a publicly available website of the Department of Homeland Security information relating to the total number of alien encounters and nationalities, unique alien encounters and nationalities, gang affiliated apprehensions and nationalities, drug seizures, alien encounters included in the terrorist screening database and nationalities, arrests of criminal aliens or individuals wanted by law enforcement and nationalities, known got aways, encounters with deceased aliens, and all other related or associated statistics recorded by U.S. Customs and Border Protection during the immediately preceding month. Each such publication shall include the following:

(1) The aggregate such number, and such number disaggregated by geographic regions, of such recordings and encounters, including specifications relating to whether such recordings and encounters were at the southwest, northern, or maritime border.

(2) An identification of the Office of Field Operations field office, U.S. Border Patrol sector, or Air and Marine Operations branch making each recording or encounter.

(3) Information relating to whether each recording or encounter of an alien was of a single adult, an unaccompanied alien child, or an individual in a family unit.

(4) Information relating to the processing disposition of each alien recording or encounter.

(5) Information relating to the nationality of each alien who is the subject of each recording or encounter.

(6) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database (as such term is defined in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621)) who have repeatedly attempted to cross unlawfully into the United States.

(7) The total number of individuals included in the terrorist screening database who have been apprehended, including information relating to whether such individuals were released into the United States or removed.

(b) **EXCEPTIONS.**—If the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection in any month does not publish the information required under subsection (a), or does not publish such information by the date specified in such subsection, the Commissioner shall brief the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the reason relating thereto, as the case may be, by not later than the date that is two business days after the tenth day of such month.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ALIEN ENCOUNTERS.**—The term “alien encounters” means aliens apprehended, determined inadmissible, or processed for removal by U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

(2) **GOT AWAY.**—The term “got away” has the meaning given such term in section 1092(a) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2017 (6 U.S.C. 223(a)).

(3) **TERRORIST SCREENING DATABASE.**—The term “terrorist screening database” has the meaning given such term in section 2101 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 621).

(4) **UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILD.**—The term “unaccompanied alien child” has the meaning given such term in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)).

**SEC. 1119. ALIEN CRIMINAL BACKGROUND CHECKS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than seven days after the date of the enactment of this Act,

the Commissioner shall certify to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate that CBP has real-time access to the criminal history databases of all countries of origin and transit for aliens encountered by CBP to perform criminal history background checks for such aliens.

(b) **STANDARDS.**—The certification required under subsection (a) shall also include a determination whether the criminal history databases of a country are accurate, up to date, digitized, searchable, and otherwise meet the standards of the Federal Bureau of Investigation for criminal history databases maintained by State and local governments.

(c) **CERTIFICATION.**—The Secretary shall annually submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate a certification that each database referred to in subsection (b) which the Secretary accessed or sought to access pursuant to this section met the standards described in subsection (b).

**SEC. 1120. PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENTS AT AIRPORT SECURITY CHECKPOINTS; NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Administrator may not accept as valid proof of identification a prohibited identification document at an airport security checkpoint.

(b) **NOTIFICATION TO IMMIGRATION AGENCIES.**—If an individual presents a prohibited identification document to an officer of the Transportation Security Administration at an airport security checkpoint, the Administrator shall promptly notify the Director of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, the Director of U.S. Customs and Border Protection, and the head of the appropriate local law enforcement agency to determine whether the individual is in violation of any term of release from the custody of any such agency.

(c) **ENTRY INTO STERILE AREAS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Except as provided in paragraph (2), if an individual is found to be in violation of any term of release under subsection (b), the Administrator may not permit such individual to enter a sterile area.

(2) **EXCEPTION.**—An individual presenting a prohibited identification document under this section may enter a sterile area if the individual—

(A) is leaving the United States for the purposes of removal or deportation; or

(B) presents a covered identification document.

(d) **COLLECTION OF BIOMETRIC INFORMATION FROM CERTAIN INDIVIDUALS SEEKING ENTRY INTO THE STERILE AREA OF AN AIRPORT.**—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator shall collect biometric information from an individual described in subsection (e) prior to authorizing such individual to enter into a sterile area.

(e) **INDIVIDUAL DESCRIBED.**—An individual described in this subsection is an individual who—

(1) is seeking entry into the sterile area of an airport;

(2) does not present a covered identification document; and

(3) the Administrator cannot verify is a national of the United States.

(f) **PARTICIPATION IN IDENT.**—Beginning not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in coordination with the Secretary, shall submit biometric data collected under this sec-

tion to the Automated Biometric Identification System (IDENT).

(g) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—The term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration.

(2) **BIOMETRIC INFORMATION.**—The term “biometric information” means any of the following:

(A) A fingerprint.

(B) A palm print.

(C) A photograph, including—

(i) a photograph of an individual’s face for use with facial recognition technology; and

(ii) a photograph of any physical or anatomical feature, such as a scar, skin mark, or tattoo.

(D) A signature.

(E) A voice print.

(F) An iris image.

(3) **COVERED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.**—The term “covered identification document” means any of the following, if the document is valid and unexpired:

(A) A United States passport or passport card.

(B) A biometrically secure card issued by a trusted traveler program of the Department of Homeland Security, including—

(i) Global Entry;

(ii) Nexus;

(iii) Secure Electronic Network for Travelers Rapid Inspection (SENTRI); and

(iv) Free and Secure Trade (FAST).

(C) An identification card issued by the Department of Defense, including such a card issued to a dependent.

(D) Any document required for admission to the United States under section 211(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1181(a)).

(E) An enhanced driver’s license issued by a State.

(F) A photo identification card issued by a federally recognized Indian Tribe.

(G) A personal identity verification credential issued in accordance with Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12.

(H) A driver’s license issued by a province of Canada.

(I) A Secure Certificate of Indian Status issued by the Government of Canada.

(J) A Transportation Worker Identification Credential.

(K) A Merchant Mariner Credential issued by the Coast Guard.

(L) A Veteran Health Identification Card issued by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

(M) Any other document the Administrator determines, pursuant to a rule making in accordance with section 553 of title 5, United States Code, will satisfy the identity verification procedures of the Transportation Security Administration.

(4) **IMMIGRATION LAWS.**—The term “immigration laws” has the meaning given that term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

(5) **PROHIBITED IDENTIFICATION DOCUMENT.**—The term “prohibited identification document” means any of the following (or any applicable successor form):

(A) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I-200, Warrant for Arrest of Alien.

(B) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I-205, Warrant of Removal/Deportation.

(C) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I-220A, Order of Release on Recognizance.

(D) U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement Form I-220B, Order of Supervision.

(E) Department of Homeland Security Form I-862, Notice to Appear.

(F) U.S. Customs and Border Protection Form I-94, Arrival/Departure Record (including a print-out of an electronic record).

(G) Department of Homeland Security Form I-385, Notice to Report.

(H) Any document that directs an individual to report to the Department of Homeland Security.

(I) Any Department of Homeland Security work authorization or employment verification document.

(6) **STERILE AREA.**—The term “sterile area” has the meaning given that term in section 1540.5 of title 49, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor regulation.

**SEC. 1121. PROHIBITION AGAINST ANY COVID-19 VACCINE MANDATE OR ADVERSE ACTION AGAINST DHS EMPLOYEES.**

(a) **LIMITATION ON IMPOSITION OF NEW MANDATE.**—The Secretary may not issue any COVID-19 vaccine mandate unless Congress expressly authorizes such a mandate.

(b) **PROHIBITION ON ADVERSE ACTION.**—The Secretary may not take any adverse action against a Department employee based solely on the refusal of such employee to receive a vaccine for COVID-19.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate on the following:

(1) The number of Department employees who were terminated or resigned due to the COVID-19 vaccine mandate.

(2) An estimate of the cost to reinstate such employees.

(3) How the Department would effectuate reinstatement of such employees.

(d) **RETENTION AND DEVELOPMENT OF UNVACCINATED EMPLOYEES.**—The Secretary shall make every effort to retain Department employees who are not vaccinated against COVID-19 and provide such employees with professional development, promotion and leadership opportunities, and consideration equal to that of their peers.

**SEC. 1122. CBP ONE APP LIMITATION.**

(a) **LIMITATION.**—The Department may use the CBP One Mobile Application or any other similar program, application, internet-based portal, website, device, or initiative only for inspection of perishable cargo.

(b) **REPORT.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commissioner shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the date on which CBP began using CBP One to allow aliens to schedule interviews at land ports of entry, how many aliens have scheduled interviews at land ports of entry using CBP One, the nationalities of such aliens, and the stated final destinations of such aliens within the United States, if any.

**SEC. 1123. REPORT ON MEXICAN DRUG CARTELS.**

Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, Congress shall commission a report that contains the following:

(1) A national strategy to address Mexican drug cartels, and a determination regarding whether there should be a designation established to address such cartels.

(2) Information relating to actions by such cartels that causes harm to the United States.

**SEC. 1124. GAO STUDY ON COSTS INCURRED BY STATES TO SECURE THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to examine the costs

incurred by individual States as a result of actions taken by such States in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border, and the feasibility of a program to reimburse such States for such costs.

(b) **CONTENTS.**—The study required under subsection (a) shall include consideration of the following:

(1) Actions taken by the Department of Homeland Security that have contributed to costs described in such subsection incurred by States to secure the border in the absence of Federal action, including the termination of the Migrant Protection Protocols and cancellation of border wall construction.

(2) Actions taken by individual States along the southwest border to secure their borders, and the costs associated with such actions.

(3) The feasibility of a program within the Department of Homeland Security to reimburse States for the costs incurred in support of the Federal mission to secure the southwest border.

**SEC. 1125. REPORT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY.**

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report examining the economic and security impact of mass migration to municipalities and States along the southwest border. Such report shall include information regarding costs incurred by the following:

(1) State and local law enforcement to secure the southwest border.

(2) Public school districts to educate students who are aliens unlawfully present in the United States.

(3) Healthcare providers to provide care to aliens unlawfully present in the United States who have not paid for such care.

(4) Farmers and ranchers due to migration impacts to their properties.

(b) **CONSULTATION.**—To produce the report required under subsection (a), the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall consult with the individuals and representatives of the entities described in paragraphs (1) through (4) of such subsection.

**SEC. 1126. OFFSETTING AUTHORIZATIONS OF APPROPRIATIONS.**

(a) **OFFICE OF THE SECRETARY AND EMERGENCY MANAGEMENT.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Alternatives to Detention Case Management Pilot Program or the Office of the Immigration Detention Ombudsman for the Office of the Secretary and Emergency Management of the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) **MANAGEMENT DIRECTORATE.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for electric vehicles or St. Elizabeths campus construction for the Management Directorate of the Department of Homeland Security.

(c) **INTELLIGENCE, ANALYSIS, AND SITUATIONAL AWARENESS.**—There is authorized to be appropriated \$216,000,000 for Intelligence, Analysis, and Situational Awareness of the Department of Homeland Security.

(d) **U.S. CUSTOMS AND BORDER PROTECTION.**—No funds are authorized to be appropriated for the Shelter Services Program for U.S. Customs and Border Protection.

**SEC. 1127. REPORT TO CONGRESS ON FOREIGN TERRORIST ORGANIZATIONS.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for five years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall sub-

mit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of foreign terrorist organizations attempting to move their members or affiliates into the United States through the southern, northern, or maritime border.

(b) **DEFINITION.**—In this section, the term “foreign terrorist organization” means an organization described in section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

**SEC. 1128. ASSESSMENT BY INSPECTOR GENERAL OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY ON THE MITIGATION OF UNMANNED AIRCRAFT SYSTEMS AT THE SOUTHWEST BORDER.**

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate an assessment of U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s ability to mitigate unmanned aircraft systems at the southwest border. Such assessment shall include information regarding any intervention between January 1, 2021, and the date of the enactment of this Act, by any Federal agency affecting in any manner U.S. Customs and Border Protection’s authority to so mitigate such systems.

**TITLE II—IMMIGRATION ENFORCEMENT AND FOREIGN AFFAIRS**

**Subtitle A—Asylum Reform and Border Protection**

**SEC. 1201. SAFE THIRD COUNTRY.**

Section 208(a)(2)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by striking “if the Attorney General determines” and inserting “if the Attorney General or the Secretary of Homeland Security determines—”;

(2) by striking “that the alien may be removed” and inserting the following:

“(i) that the alien may be removed”;

(3) by striking “, pursuant to a bilateral or multilateral agreement, to” and inserting “to”;

(4) by inserting “or the Secretary, on a case by case basis,” before “finds that”;

(5) by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(6) by adding at the end the following:

“(ii) that the alien entered, attempted to enter, or arrived in the United States after transiting through at least one country outside the alien’s country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence en route to the United States, unless—

“(I) the alien demonstrates that he or she applied for protection from persecution or torture in at least one country outside the alien’s country of citizenship, nationality, or last lawful habitual residence through which the alien transited en route to the United States, and the alien received a final judgment denying the alien protection in each country;

“(II) the alien demonstrates that he or she was a victim of a severe form of trafficking in which a commercial sex act was induced by force, fraud, or coercion, or in which the person induced to perform such act was under the age of 18 years; or in which the trafficking included the recruitment, harboring, transportation, provision, or obtaining of a person for labor or services through the use of force, fraud, or coercion for the purpose of subjection to involuntary servitude, peonage, debt bondage, or slavery, and was unable to apply for protection from persecution in each country through which the alien transited en route to the United

States as a result of such severe form of trafficking; or

“(III) the only countries through which the alien transited en route to the United States were, at the time of the transit, not parties to the 1951 United Nations Convention relating to the Status of Refugees, the 1967 Protocol Relating to the Status of Refugees, or the United Nations Convention against Torture and Other Cruel, Inhuman or Degrading Treatment or Punishment.”

**SEC. 1202. CREDIBLE FEAR INTERVIEWS.**

Section 235(b)(1)(B)(v) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225(b)(1)(B)(v)) is amended by striking “there is a significant possibility” and all that follows, and inserting “, taking into account the credibility of the statements made by the alien in support of the alien’s claim, as determined pursuant to section 208(b)(1)(B)(iii), and such other facts as are known to the officer, the alien more likely than not could establish eligibility for asylum under section 208, and it is more likely than not that the statements made by, and on behalf of, the alien in support of the alien’s claim are true.”

**SEC. 1203. CLARIFICATION OF ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 208(b)(1)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(1)(A)) is amended by inserting after “section 101(a)(42)(A)” the following: “(in accordance with the rules set forth in this section), and is eligible to apply for asylum under subsection (a)”.

(b) **PLACE OF ARRIVAL.**—Section 208(a)(1) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or who arrives in the United States (whether or not at a designated port of arrival and including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters).”; and

(2) by inserting after “United States” the following: “and has arrived in the United States at a port of entry (including an alien who is brought to the United States after having been interdicted in international or United States waters).”

**SEC. 1204. EXCEPTIONS.**

Paragraph (2) of section 208(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(b)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) **EXCEPTIONS.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien if the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that—

“(i) the alien ordered, incited, assisted, or otherwise participated in the persecution of any person on account of race, religion, nationality, membership in a particular social group, or political opinion;

“(ii) the alien has been convicted of any felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

“(iii) the alien has been convicted of any misdemeanor offense under Federal, State, tribal, or local law involving—

“(I) the unlawful possession or use of an identification document, authentication feature, or false identification document (as those terms and phrases are defined in the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred), unless the alien can establish that the conviction resulted from circumstances showing that—

“(aa) the document or feature was presented before boarding a common carrier;

“(bb) the document or feature related to the alien’s eligibility to enter the United States;

“(cc) the alien used the document or feature to depart a country wherein the alien has claimed a fear of persecution; and

“(dd) the alien claimed a fear of persecution without delay upon presenting himself

or herself to an immigration officer upon arrival at a United States port of entry;

“(II) the unlawful receipt of a Federal public benefit (as defined in section 401(c) of the Personal Responsibility and Work Opportunity Reconciliation Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1611(c))), from a Federal entity, or the unlawful receipt of similar public benefits from a State, tribal, or local entity; or

“(III) possession or trafficking of a controlled substance or controlled substance paraphernalia, as those phrases are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred, other than a single offense involving possession for one’s own use of 30 grams or less of marijuana (as marijuana is defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred);

“(iv) the alien has been convicted of an offense arising under paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of section 274(a), or under section 276;

“(v) the alien has been convicted of a Federal, State, tribal, or local crime that the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security knows, or has reason to believe, was committed in support, promotion, or furtherance of the activity of a criminal street gang (as defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred or in section 521(a) of title 18, United States Code);

“(vi) the alien has been convicted of an offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law, in which such intoxicated or impaired driving was a cause of serious bodily injury or death of another person;

“(vii) the alien has been convicted of more than one offense for driving while intoxicated or impaired, as those terms are defined under the law of the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs), without regard to whether the conviction is classified as a misdemeanor or felony under Federal, State, tribal, or local law;

“(viii) the alien has been convicted of a crime—

“(I) that involves conduct amounting to a crime of stalking;

“(II) of child abuse, child neglect, or child abandonment; or

“(III) that involves conduct amounting to a domestic assault or battery offense, including—

“(aa) a misdemeanor crime of domestic violence, as described in section 921(a)(33) of title 18, United States Code;

“(bb) a crime of domestic violence, as described in section 40002(a)(12) of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291(a)(12)); or

“(cc) any crime based on conduct in which the alien harassed, coerced, intimidated, voluntarily or recklessly used (or threatened to use) force or violence against, or inflicted physical injury or physical pain, however slight, upon a person—

“(AA) who is a current or former spouse of the alien;

“(BB) with whom the alien shares a child;

“(CC) who is cohabitating with, or who has cohabitated with, the alien as a spouse;

“(DD) who is similarly situated to a spouse of the alien under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurred; or

“(EE) who is protected from that alien’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or of any State,

tribal government, or unit of local government;

“(ix) the alien has engaged in acts of battery or extreme cruelty upon a person and the person—

“(I) is a current or former spouse of the alien;

“(II) shares a child with the alien;

“(III) cohabitates or has cohabitated with the alien as a spouse;

“(IV) is similarly situated to a spouse of the alien under the domestic or family violence laws of the jurisdiction where the offense occurred; or

“(V) is protected from that alien’s acts under the domestic or family violence laws of the United States or of any State, tribal government, or unit of local government;

“(x) the alien, having been convicted by a final judgment of a particularly serious crime, constitutes a danger to the community of the United States;

“(xi) there are serious reasons for believing that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States prior to the arrival of the alien in the United States;

“(xii) there are reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

“(xiii) the alien is described in subclause (I), (II), (III), (IV), or (VI) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i) or section 237(a)(4)(B) (relating to terrorist activity), unless, in the case only of an alien inadmissible under subclause (IV) of section 212(a)(3)(B)(i), the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines, in the Secretary’s or the Attorney General’s discretion, that there are not reasonable grounds for regarding the alien as a danger to the security of the United States;

“(xiv) the alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States; or

“(xv) there are reasonable grounds for concluding the alien could avoid persecution by relocating to another part of the alien’s country of nationality or, in the case of an alien having no nationality, another part of the alien’s country of last habitual residence.

“(B) SPECIAL RULES.—

“(i) PARTICULARLY SERIOUS CRIME; SERIOUS NONPOLITICAL CRIME OUTSIDE THE UNITED STATES.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(x), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security, in their discretion, may determine that a conviction constitutes a particularly serious crime based on—

“(aa) the nature of the conviction;

“(bb) the type of sentence imposed; or

“(cc) the circumstances and underlying facts of the conviction.

“(II) DETERMINATION.—In making a determination under subclause (I), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security may consider all reliable information and is not limited to facts found by the criminal court or provided in the underlying record of conviction.

“(III) TREATMENT OF FELONIES.—In making a determination under subclause (I), an alien who has been convicted of a felony (as defined under this section) or an aggravated felony (as defined under section 101(a)(43)), shall be considered to have been convicted of a particularly serious crime.

“(IV) INTERPOL RED NOTICE.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(xi), an Interpol Red Notice may constitute reliable evidence that the alien has committed a serious nonpolitical crime outside the United States.

“(ii) CRIMES AND EXCEPTIONS.—

“(I) DRIVING WHILE INTOXICATED OR IMPAIRED.—A finding under subparagraph (A)(vi) does not require the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to find the first conviction for driving while intoxicated or impaired (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs) as a predicate offense. The Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security need only make a factual determination that the alien previously was convicted for driving while intoxicated or impaired as those terms are defined under the jurisdiction where the conviction occurred (including a conviction for driving while under the influence of or impaired by alcohol or drugs).

“(II) STALKING AND OTHER CRIMES.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(viii), including determining the existence of a domestic relationship between the alien and the victim, the underlying conduct of the crime may be considered, and the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security is not limited to facts found by the criminal court or provided in the underlying record of conviction.

“(III) BATTERY OR EXTREME CRUELTY.—In making a determination under subparagraph (A)(ix), the phrase ‘battery or extreme cruelty’ includes—

“(aa) any act or threatened act of violence, including any forceful detention, which results or threatens to result in physical or mental injury;

“(bb) psychological or sexual abuse or exploitation, including rape, molestation, incest, or forced prostitution, shall be considered acts of violence; and

“(cc) other abusive acts, including acts that, in and of themselves, may not initially appear violent, but that are a part of an overall pattern of violence.

“(IV) EXCEPTION FOR VICTIMS OF DOMESTIC VIOLENCE.—An alien who was convicted of an offense described in clause (viii) or (ix) of subparagraph (A) is not ineligible for asylum on that basis if the alien satisfies the criteria under section 237(a)(7)(A).

“(C) SPECIFIC CIRCUMSTANCES.—Paragraph (1) shall not apply to an alien whose claim is based on—

“(i) personal animus or retribution, including personal animus in which the alleged persecutor has not targeted, or manifested an animus against, other members of an alleged particular social group in addition to the member who has raised the claim at issue;

“(ii) the applicant’s generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other non-state organizations absent expressive behavior in furtherance of a discrete cause against such organizations related to control of a State or expressive behavior that is antithetical to the State or a legal unit of the State;

“(iii) the applicant’s resistance to recruitment or coercion by guerrilla, criminal, gang, terrorist, or other non-state organizations;

“(iv) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on wealth or affluence or perceptions of wealth or affluence;

“(v) the applicant’s criminal activity; or

“(vi) the applicant’s perceived, past or present, gang affiliation.

“(D) DEFINITIONS AND CLARIFICATIONS.—

“(i) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(I) FELONY.—The term ‘felony’ means—

“(aa) any crime defined as a felony by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or

“(bb) any crime punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

“(II) MISDEMEANOR.—The term ‘misdemeanor’ means—

“(aa) any crime defined as a misdemeanor by the relevant jurisdiction (Federal, State, tribal, or local) of conviction; or

“(bb) any crime not punishable by more than one year of imprisonment.

“(ii) CLARIFICATIONS.—

“(I) CONSTRUCTION.—For purposes of this paragraph, whether any activity or conviction also may constitute a basis for removal is immaterial to a determination of asylum eligibility.

“(II) ATTEMPT, CONSPIRACY, OR SOLICITATION.—For purposes of this paragraph, all references to a criminal offense or criminal conviction shall be deemed to include any attempt, conspiracy, or solicitation to commit the offense or any other inchoate form of the offense.

“(III) EFFECT OF CERTAIN ORDERS.—

“(aa) IN GENERAL.—No order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, clarifying a sentence, or otherwise altering a conviction or sentence shall have any effect under this paragraph unless the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security determines that—

“(AA) the court issuing the order had jurisdiction and authority to do so; and

“(BB) the order was not entered for rehabilitative purposes or for purposes of ameliorating the immigration consequences of the conviction or sentence.

“(bb) AMELIORATING IMMIGRATION CONSEQUENCES.—For purposes of item (aa)(BB), the order shall be presumed to be for the purpose of ameliorating immigration consequences if—

“(AA) the order was entered after the initiation of any proceeding to remove the alien from the United States; or

“(BB) the alien moved for the order more than one year after the date of the original order of conviction or sentencing, whichever is later.

“(cc) AUTHORITY OF IMMIGRATION JUDGE.—An immigration judge is not limited to consideration only of material included in any order vacating a conviction, modifying a sentence, or clarifying a sentence to determine whether such order should be given any effect under this paragraph, but may consider such additional information as the immigration judge determines appropriate.

“(E) ADDITIONAL LIMITATIONS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may by regulation establish additional limitations and conditions, consistent with this section, under which an alien shall be ineligible for asylum under paragraph (1).

“(F) NO JUDICIAL REVIEW.—There shall be no judicial review of a determination of the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General under subparagraph (A)(xiii).”

#### SEC. 1205. EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.

Paragraph (2) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION PERMITTED.—An applicant for asylum is not entitled to employment authorization, but such authorization may be provided under regulation by the Secretary of Homeland Security. An applicant who is not otherwise eligible for employment authorization shall not be granted such authorization prior to the date that is 180 days after the date of filing of the application for asylum.

“(B) TERMINATION.—Each grant of employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and any renewal or extension thereof, shall be valid for a period of 6 months, except that such authorization, renewal, or extension shall terminate prior to the end of such 6 month period as follows:

“(i) Immediately following the denial of an asylum application by an asylum officer, unless the case is referred to an immigration judge.

“(ii) 30 days after the date on which an immigration judge denies an asylum application, unless the alien timely appeals to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

“(iii) Immediately following the denial by the Board of Immigration Appeals of an appeal of a denial of an asylum application.

“(C) RENEWAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant, renew, or extend employment authorization to an alien if the alien was previously granted employment authorization under subparagraph (A), and the employment authorization was terminated pursuant to a circumstance described in subparagraph (B)(i), (ii), or (iii), unless a Federal court of appeals remands the alien’s case to the Board of Immigration Appeals.

“(D) INELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may not grant employment authorization to an alien under this paragraph if the alien—

“(i) is ineligible for asylum under subsection (b)(2)(A); or

“(ii) entered or attempted to enter the United States at a place and time other than lawfully through a United States port of entry.”

#### SEC. 1206. ASYLUM FEES.

Paragraph (3) of section 208(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) FEES.—

“(A) APPLICATION FEE.—A fee of not less than \$50 for each application for asylum shall be imposed. Such fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application. Such fee shall not apply to an unaccompanied alien child who files an asylum application in proceedings under section 240.

“(B) EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A fee may also be imposed for the consideration of an application for employment authorization under this section and for adjustment of status under section 209(b). Such a fee shall not exceed the cost of adjudicating the application.

“(C) PAYMENT.—Fees under this paragraph may be assessed and paid over a period of time or by installments.

“(D) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to limit the authority of the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security to set adjudication and naturalization fees in accordance with section 286(m).”

#### SEC. 1207. RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) RULES FOR DETERMINING ASYLUM ELIGIBILITY.—In making a determination under subsection (b)(1)(A) with respect to whether an alien is a refugee within the meaning of section 101(a)(42)(A), the following shall apply:

“(1) PARTICULAR SOCIAL GROUP.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General shall not determine that an alien is a member of a particular social group unless the alien articulates on the record, or provides a basis on the record for determining, the definition and boundaries of the alleged particular social group, establishes that the particular social group exists independently from the alleged persecution, and establishes that the alien’s claim of membership in a particular social group does not involve—

“(A) past or present criminal activity or association (including gang membership);

“(B) presence in a country with generalized violence or a high crime rate;

“(C) being the subject of a recruitment effort by criminal, terrorist, or persecutory groups;

“(D) the targeting of the applicant for criminal activity for financial gain based on perceptions of wealth or affluence;

“(E) interpersonal disputes of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

“(F) private criminal acts of which governmental authorities in the relevant society or region were unaware or uninvolved;

“(G) past or present terrorist activity or association;

“(H) past or present persecutory activity or association; or

“(I) status as an alien returning from the United States.

“(2) POLITICAL OPINION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien holds a political opinion with respect to which the alien is subject to persecution if the political opinion is constituted solely by generalized disapproval of, disagreement with, or opposition to criminal, terrorist, gang, guerilla, or other non-state organizations and does not include expressive behavior in furtherance of a cause against such organizations related to efforts by the State to control such organizations or behavior that is antithetical to or otherwise opposes the ruling legal entity of the State or a unit thereof.

“(3) PERSECUTION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may not determine that an alien has been subject to persecution or has a well-founded fear of persecution based only on—

“(A) the existence of laws or government policies that are unenforced or infrequently enforced, unless there is credible evidence that such a law or policy has been or would be applied to the applicant personally; or

“(B) the conduct of rogue foreign government officials acting outside the scope of their official capacity.

“(4) DISCRETIONARY DETERMINATION.—

“(A) ADVERSE DISCRETIONARY FACTORS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General may only grant asylum to an alien if the alien establishes that he or she warrants a favorable exercise of discretion. In making such a determination, the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall consider, if applicable, an alien’s use of fraudulent documents to enter the United States, unless the alien arrived in the United States by air, sea, or land directly from the applicant’s home country without transiting through any other country.

“(B) FAVORABLE EXERCISE OF DISCRETION NOT PERMITTED.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), the Attorney General or Secretary of Homeland Security shall not favorably exercise discretion under this section for any alien who—

“(i) has accrued more than one year of unlawful presence in the United States, as defined in sections 212(a)(9)(B)(ii) and (iii), prior to filing an application for asylum;

“(ii) at the time the asylum application is filed with the immigration court or is referred from the Department of Homeland Security, has—

“(I) failed to timely file (or timely file a request for an extension of time to file) any required Federal, State, or local income tax returns;

“(II) failed to satisfy any outstanding Federal, State, or local tax obligations; or

“(III) income that would result in tax liability under section 1 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and that was not reported to the Internal Revenue Service;

“(iii) has had two or more prior asylum applications denied for any reason;

“(iv) has withdrawn a prior asylum application with prejudice or been found to have abandoned a prior asylum application;

“(v) failed to attend an interview regarding his or her asylum application with the Department of Homeland Security, unless the alien shows by a preponderance of the evidence that—

“(I) exceptional circumstances prevented the alien from attending the interview; or

“(II) the interview notice was not mailed to the last address provided by the alien or the alien’s representative and neither the alien nor the alien’s representative received notice of the interview; or

“(vi) was subject to a final order of removal, deportation, or exclusion and did not file a motion to reopen to seek asylum based on changed country conditions within one year of the change in country conditions.

“(C) EXCEPTIONS.—If one or more of the adverse discretionary factors set forth in subparagraph (B) are present, the Attorney General or the Secretary, may, notwithstanding such subparagraph (B), favorably exercise discretion under section 208—

“(i) in extraordinary circumstances, such as those involving national security or foreign policy considerations; or

“(ii) if the alien, by clear and convincing evidence, demonstrates that the denial of the application for asylum would result in exceptional and extremely unusual hardship to the alien.

“(5) LIMITATION.—If the Secretary or the Attorney General determines that an alien fails to satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1), the alien may not be granted asylum based on membership in a particular social group, and may not appeal the determination of the Secretary or Attorney General, as applicable. A determination under this paragraph shall not serve as the basis for any motion to reopen or reconsider an application for asylum or withholding of removal for any reason, including a claim of ineffective assistance of counsel, unless the alien complies with the procedural requirements for such a motion and demonstrates that counsel’s failure to define, or provide a basis for defining, a formulation of a particular social group was both not a strategic choice and constituted egregious conduct.

“(6) STEREOTYPES.—Evidence offered in support of an application for asylum that promotes cultural stereotypes about a country, its inhabitants, or an alleged persecutor, including stereotypes based on race, religion, nationality, or gender, shall not be admissible in adjudicating that application, except that evidence that an alleged persecutor holds stereotypical views of the applicant shall be admissible.

“(7) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(A) The term ‘membership in a particular social group’ means membership in a group that is—

“(i) composed of members who share a common immutable characteristic;

“(ii) defined with particularity; and

“(iii) socially distinct within the society in question.

“(B) The term ‘political opinion’ means an ideal or conviction in support of the furtherance of a discrete cause related to political control of a state or a unit thereof.

“(C) The term ‘persecution’ means the infliction of a severe level of harm constituting an exigent threat by the government of a country or by persons or an organization that the government was unable or unwilling to control. Such term does not include—

“(i) generalized harm or violence that arises out of civil, criminal, or military strife in a country;

“(ii) all treatment that the United States regards as unfair, offensive, unjust, unlawful, or unconstitutional;

“(iii) intermittent harassment, including brief detentions;

“(iv) threats with no actual effort to carry out the threats, except that particularized threats of severe harm of an immediate and menacing nature made by an identified entity may constitute persecution; or

“(v) non-severe economic harm or property damage.”

#### SEC. 1208. FIRM RESETTLEMENT.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158), as amended by this subtitle, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) FIRM RESETTLEMENT.—In determining whether an alien was firmly resettled in another country prior to arriving in the United States under subsection (b)(2)(A)(xiv), the following shall apply:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien shall be considered to have firmly resettled in another country if, after the events giving rise to the alien’s asylum claim—

“(A) the alien resided in a country through which the alien transited prior to arriving in or entering the United States and—

“(i) received or was eligible for any permanent legal immigration status in that country;

“(ii) resided in such a country with any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylee, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist); or

“(iii) resided in such a country and could have applied for and obtained an immigration status described in clause (ii);

“(B) the alien physically resided voluntarily, and without continuing to suffer persecution or torture, in any one country for one year or more after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States, except for any time spent in Mexico by an alien who is not a native or citizen of Mexico solely as a direct result of being returned to Mexico pursuant to section 235(b)(3) or of being subject to metering; or

“(C) the alien is a citizen of a country other than the country in which the alien alleges a fear of persecution, or was a citizen of such a country in the case of an alien who renounces such citizenship, and the alien was present in that country after departing his country of nationality or last habitual residence and prior to arrival in or entry into the United States.

“(2) BURDEN OF PROOF.—If an immigration judge determines that an alien has firmly resettled in another country under paragraph (1), the alien shall bear the burden of proving the bar does not apply.

“(3) FIRM RESETTLEMENT OF PARENT.—An alien shall be presumed to have been firmly resettled in another country if the alien’s parent was firmly resettled in another country, the parent’s resettlement occurred before the alien turned 18 years of age, and the alien resided with such parent at the time of the firm resettlement, unless the alien establishes that he or she could not have derived any permanent legal immigration status or any non-permanent but indefinitely renewable legal immigration status (including asylum, refugee, or similar status, but excluding status of a tourist) from the alien’s parent.”

#### SEC. 1209. NOTICE CONCERNING FRIVOLOUS ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 208(d)(4) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(4)) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “the Secretary of Homeland Security or” before “the Attorney General”;

(2) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and of the consequences, under paragraph (6), of knowingly filing a frivolous application for asylum; and” and inserting a semicolon;

(3) in subparagraph (B), by striking the period and inserting “; and”;

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(C) ensure that a written warning appears on the asylum application advising the alien of the consequences of filing a frivolous application and serving as notice to the alien of the consequence of filing a frivolous application.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 208(d)(6) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158(d)(6)) is amended by striking “If the” and all that follows and inserting:

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines that an alien has knowingly made a frivolous application for asylum and the alien has received the notice under paragraph (4)(C), the alien shall be permanently ineligible for any benefits under this chapter, effective as the date of the final determination of such an application.

“(B) CRITERIA.—An application is frivolous if the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General determines, consistent with subparagraph (C), that—

“(i) it is so insufficient in substance that it is clear that the applicant knowingly filed the application solely or in part to delay removal from the United States, to seek employment authorization as an applicant for asylum pursuant to regulations issued pursuant to paragraph (2), or to seek issuance of a Notice to Appear in order to pursue Cancellation of Removal under section 240A(b); or

“(ii) any of the material elements are knowingly fabricated.

“(C) SUFFICIENT OPPORTUNITY TO CLARIFY.—In determining that an application is frivolous, the Secretary or the Attorney General, must be satisfied that the applicant, during the course of the proceedings, has had sufficient opportunity to clarify any discrepancies or implausible aspects of the claim.

“(D) WITHHOLDING OF REMOVAL NOT PRECLUDED.—For purposes of this section, a finding that an alien filed a frivolous asylum application shall not preclude the alien from seeking withholding of removal under section 241(b)(3) or protection pursuant to the Convention Against Torture.”

#### SEC. 1210. TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.

Section 208 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1158) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraph (2)(D), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(B) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”;

(B) in paragraph (2), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”; and

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General” each place such term appears; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by striking “Attorney General” and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security or the” before “Attorney General”.

**SEC. 1211. REQUIREMENT FOR PROCEDURES RELATING TO CERTAIN ASYLUM APPLICATIONS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall establish procedures to expedite the adjudication of asylum applications for aliens—

(1) who are subject to removal proceedings under section 240 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1229a); and

(2) who are nationals of a Western Hemisphere country sanctioned by the United States, as described in subsection (b), as of January 1, 2023.

(b) WESTERN HEMISPHERE COUNTRY SANCTIONED BY THE UNITED STATES DESCRIBED.—Subsection (a) shall apply only to an asylum application filed by an alien who is a national of a Western Hemisphere country subject to sanctions pursuant to—

(1) the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996 (22 U.S.C. 6021 note);

(2) the Reinforcing Nicaragua's Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021 or the RENACER Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 note); or

(3) Executive Order 13692 (80 Fed. Reg. 12747; declaring a national emergency with respect to the situation in Venezuela).

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall only apply to an alien who files an application for asylum after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**Subtitle B—Border Safety and Migrant Protection****SEC. 1221. INSPECTION OF APPLICANTS FOR ADMISSION.**

Section 235 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in clauses (i) and (ii), by striking “section 212(a)(6)(C)” inserting “subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6)”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“(iv) INELIGIBILITY FOR PAROLE.—An alien described in clause (i) or (ii) shall not be eligible for parole except as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), or for parole or release pursuant to section 236(a).”; and

(ii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in clause (ii), by striking “asylum.” and inserting “asylum and shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”; and

(II) in clause (iii)(IV)—

(aa) in the header by striking “DETENTION” and inserting “DETENTION, RETURN, OR REMOVAL”; and

(bb) by adding at the end the following: “The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) by striking “Subject to subparagraphs (B) and (C),” and inserting “Subject to subparagraph (B) and paragraph (3).”; and

(II) by adding at the end the following:

“The alien shall not be released (including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5)) other than to be removed or returned to a country as described in paragraph (3).”; and

(ii) by striking subparagraph (C);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (5); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following:

“(3) RETURN TO FOREIGN TERRITORY CONTIGUOUS TO THE UNITED STATES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Homeland Security may return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

“(B) MANDATORY RETURN.—If at any time the Secretary of Homeland Security cannot—

“(i) comply with its obligations to detain an alien as required under clauses (ii) and (iii)(IV) of subsection (b)(1)(B) and subsection (b)(2)(A); or

“(ii) remove an alien to a country described in section 208(a)(2)(A),

the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, without exception, including pursuant to parole or release pursuant to section 236(a) but excluding as expressly authorized pursuant to section 212(d)(5), return to a foreign territory contiguous to the United States any alien arriving on land from that territory (whether or not at a designated port of entry) pending a proceeding under section 240 or review of a determination under subsection (b)(1)(B)(iii)(III).

“(4) ENFORCEMENT BY STATE ATTORNEYS GENERAL.—The attorney general of a State, or other authorized State officer, alleging a violation of the detention, return, or removal requirements under paragraph (1), (2), or (3) that affects such State or its residents, may bring an action against the Secretary of Homeland Security on behalf of the residents of the State in an appropriate United States district court to obtain appropriate injunctive relief.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT INTRODUCTION OF CERTAIN ALIENS.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security determines, in his discretion, that the prohibition of the introduction of aliens who are inadmissible under subparagraph (A) or (C) of section 212(a)(6) or under section 212(a)(7) at an international land or maritime border of the United States is necessary to achieve operational control (as defined in section 2 of the Secure Fence Act of 2006 (8 U.S.C. 1701 note)) of such border, the Secretary may prohibit, in whole or in part, the introduction of such aliens at such border for such period of time as the Secretary determines is necessary for such purpose.”.

**SEC. 1222. OPERATIONAL DETENTION FACILITIES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than September 30, 2023, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall take all necessary actions to reopen or restore all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities that were in operation on January 20, 2021, that subsequently closed or with respect to which the use was altered, reduced, or discontinued after January 20, 2021. In carrying out the requirement under this subsection, the Secretary may use the authority under section 103(a)(11) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1103(a)(11)).

(b) SPECIFIC FACILITIES.—The requirement under subsection (a) shall include at a minimum, reopening, or restoring, the following facilities:

(1) Irwin County Detention Center in Georgia.

(2) C. Carlos Carreiro Immigration Detention Center in Bristol County, Massachusetts.

(3) Etowah County Detention Center in Gadsden, Alabama.

(4) Glades County Detention Center in Moore Haven, Florida.

(5) South Texas Family Residential Center.

(c) EXCEPTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraphs (2) and (3), the Secretary of Homeland Security is authorized to obtain equivalent capacity for detention facilities at locations other than those listed in subsection (b).

(2) LIMITATION.—The Secretary may not take action under paragraph (1) unless the capacity obtained would result in a reduction of time and cost relative to the cost and time otherwise required to obtain such capacity.

(3) SOUTH TEXAS FAMILY RESIDENTIAL CENTER.—The exception under paragraph (1) shall not apply to the South Texas Family Residential Center. The Secretary shall take all necessary steps to modify and operate the South Texas Family Residential Center in the same manner and capability it was operating on January 20, 2021.

(d) PERIODIC REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every 90 days thereafter until September 30, 2027, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a detailed plan for and a status report on—

(1) compliance with the deadline under subsection (a);

(2) the increase in detention capabilities required by this section—

(A) for the 90 day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

(B) for the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(3) the number of detention beds that were used and the number of available detention beds that were not used during—

(A) the 90 day period immediately preceding the date such report is submitted; and

(B) the period beginning on the first day of the fiscal year during which the report is submitted, and ending on the date such report is submitted;

(4) the number of aliens released due to a lack of available detention beds; and

(5) the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to comply with the requirements under this section.

(e) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall notify Congress, and include with such notification a detailed description of the resources the Department of Homeland Security needs in order to detain all aliens whose detention is mandatory or nondiscretionary under the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.)—

(1) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 90 percent of capacity;

(2) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach 95 percent of capacity; and

(3) not later than 5 days after all U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement detention facilities reach full capacity.

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

(1) the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives;

(2) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives;

(3) the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate; and

(4) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

**Subtitle C—Preventing Uncontrolled Migration Flows in the Western Hemisphere**  
**SEC. 1231. UNITED STATES POLICY REGARDING WESTERN HEMISPHERE COOPERATION ON IMMIGRATION AND ASYLUM.**

It is the policy of the United States to enter into agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding with countries in the Western Hemisphere, the purposes of which are to advance the interests of the United States by reducing costs associated with illegal immigration and to protect the human capital, societal traditions, and economic growth of other countries in the Western Hemisphere. It is further the policy of the United States to ensure that humanitarian and development assistance funding aimed at reducing illegal immigration is not expended on programs that have not proven to reduce illegal immigrant flows in the aggregate.

**SEC. 1232. NEGOTIATIONS BY SECRETARY OF STATE.**

(a) **AUTHORIZATION TO NEGOTIATE.**—The Secretary of State shall seek to negotiate agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding between the United States, Mexico, Honduras, El Salvador, Guatemala, and other countries in the Western Hemisphere with respect to cooperation and burden sharing required for effective regional immigration enforcement, expediting legal claims by aliens for asylum, and the processing, detention, and repatriation of foreign nationals seeking to enter the United States unlawfully. Such agreements shall be designed to facilitate a regional approach to immigration enforcement and shall, at a minimum, provide that—

(1) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept the rapid entrance into Mexico of nationals of countries other than Mexico who seek asylum in Mexico, and process the asylum claims of such nationals inside Mexico, in accordance with both domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(2) the Government of Mexico authorize and accept both the rapid entrance into Mexico of all nationals of countries other than Mexico who are ineligible for asylum in Mexico and wish to apply for asylum in the United States, whether or not at a port of entry, and the continued presence of such nationals in Mexico while they wait for the adjudication of their asylum claims to conclude in the United States;

(3) the Government of Mexico commit to provide the individuals described in paragraphs (1) and (2) with appropriate humanitarian protections;

(4) the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala each authorize and accept the entrance into the respective countries of nationals of other countries seeking asylum in the applicable such country and process such claims in accordance with applicable domestic law and international treaties and conventions governing the processing of asylum claims;

(5) the Government of the United States commit to work to accelerate the adjudication of asylum claims and to conclude removal proceedings in the wake of asylum adjudications as expeditiously as possible;

(6) the Government of the United States commit to continue to assist the governments of countries in the Western Hemisphere, such as the Government of Honduras, the Government of El Salvador, and the Government of Guatemala, by supporting the enhancement of asylum capacity in those countries; and

(7) the Government of the United States commit to monitoring developments in hemispheric immigration trends and regional

asylum capabilities to determine whether additional asylum cooperation agreements are warranted.

(b) **NOTIFICATION IN ACCORDANCE WITH CASE-ZABLOCKI ACT.**—The Secretary of State shall, in accordance with section 112b of title 1, United States Code, promptly inform the relevant congressional committees of each agreement entered into pursuant to subsection (a). Such notifications shall be submitted not later than 48 hours after such agreements are signed.

(c) **ALIEN DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “alien” has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101).

**SEC. 1233. MANDATORY BRIEFINGS ON UNITED STATES EFFORTS TO ADDRESS THE BORDER CRISIS.**

(a) **BRIEFING REQUIRED.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and not less frequently than once every 90 days thereafter until the date described in subsection (b), the Secretary of State, or the designee of the Secretary of State, shall provide to the appropriate congressional committees an in-person briefing on efforts undertaken pursuant to the negotiation authority provided by section 1232 to monitor, deter, and prevent illegal immigration to the United States, including by entering into agreements, accords, and memoranda of understanding with foreign countries and by using United States foreign assistance to stem the root causes of migration in the Western Hemisphere.

(b) **TERMINATION OF MANDATORY BRIEFING.**—The date described in this subsection is the date on which the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, determines and certifies to the appropriate congressional committees that illegal immigration flows have subsided to a manageable rate.

(c) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

**Subtitle D—Ensuring United Families at the Border**

**SEC. 1241. CLARIFICATION OF STANDARDS FOR FAMILY DETENTION.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **CONSTRUCTION.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, the detention of any alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child shall be governed by sections 217, 235, 236, and 241 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1187, 1225, 1226, and 1231). There is no presumption that an alien child who is not an unaccompanied alien child should not be detained.

“(2) **FAMILY DETENTION.**—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall—

“(A) maintain the care and custody of an alien, during the period during which the charges described in clause (i) are pending, who—

“(i) is charged only with a misdemeanor offense under section 275(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325(a)); and

“(ii) entered the United States with the alien’s child who has not attained 18 years of age; and

“(B) detain the alien with the alien’s child.”

(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the amendments in this sec-

tion to section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) are intended to satisfy the requirements of the Settlement Agreement in *Flores v. Meese*, No. 85–4544 (C.D. Cal.), as approved by the court on January 28, 1997, with respect to its interpretation in *Flores v. Johnson*, 212 F. Supp. 3d 864 (C.D. Cal. 2015), that the agreement applies to accompanied minors.

(c) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act and shall apply to all actions that occur before, on, or after such date.

(d) **PREEMPTION OF STATE LICENSING REQUIREMENTS.**—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, judicial determination, consent decree, or settlement agreement, no State may require that an immigration detention facility used to detain children who have not attained 18 years of age, or families consisting of one or more of such children and the parents or legal guardians of such children, that is located in that State, be licensed by the State or any political subdivision thereof.

**Subtitle E—Protection of Children**

**SEC. 1251. FINDINGS.**

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Implementation of the provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children has incentivized multiple surges of unaccompanied alien children arriving at the southwest border in the years since the bill’s enactment.

(2) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 that govern unaccompanied alien children treat unaccompanied alien children from countries that are contiguous to the United States disparately by swiftly returning them to their home country absent indications of trafficking or a credible fear of return, but allowing for the release of unaccompanied alien children from noncontiguous countries into the interior of the United States, often to those individuals who paid to smuggle them into the country in the first place.

(3) The provisions of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 governing unaccompanied alien children have enriched the cartels, who profit hundreds of millions of dollars each year by smuggling unaccompanied alien children to the southwest border, exploiting and sexually abusing many such unaccompanied alien children on the perilous journey.

(4) Prior to 2008, the number of unaccompanied alien children encountered at the southwest border never exceeded 1,000 in a single year.

(5) The United States is currently in the midst of the worst crisis of unaccompanied alien children in our nation’s history, with over 350,000 such unaccompanied alien children encountered at the southwest border since Joe Biden became President.

(6) In 2022, during the Biden Administration, 152,057 unaccompanied alien children were encountered, the most ever in a single year and an over 400 percent increase compared to the last full fiscal year of the Trump Administration in which 33,239 unaccompanied alien children were encountered.

(7) The Biden Administration has lost contact with at least 85,000 unaccompanied alien children who entered the United States since Joe Biden took office.

(8) The Biden Administration dismantled effective safeguards put in place by the Trump Administration that protected unaccompanied alien children from being abused by criminals or exploited for illegal and dangerous child labor.

(9) A recent New York Times investigation found that unaccompanied alien children are

being exploited in the labor market and “are ending up in some of the most punishing jobs in the country.”

(10) The Times investigation found unaccompanied alien children, “under intense pressure to earn money” in order to “send cash back to their families while often being in debt to their sponsors for smuggling fees, rent, and living expenses,” feared “that they had become trapped in circumstances they never could have imagined.”

(11) The Biden Administration’s Department of Health and Human Services Secretary Xavier Becerra compared placing unaccompanied alien children with sponsors, to widgets in an assembly line, stating that, “If Henry Ford had seen this in his plant, he would have never become famous and rich. This is not the way you do an assembly line.”

(12) Department of Health and Human Services employees working under Secretary Xavier Becerra’s leadership penned a July 2021 memorandum expressing serious concern that “labor trafficking was increasing” and that the agency had become “one that rewards individuals for making quick releases, and not one that rewards individuals for preventing unsafe releases.”

(13) Despite this, Secretary Xavier Becerra pressured then-Director of the Office of Refugee Resettlement Cindy Huang to prioritize releases of unaccompanied alien children over ensuring their safety, telling her “if she could not increase the number of discharges he would find someone who could” and then-Director Huang resigned one month later.

(14) In June 2014, the Obama-Biden Administration requested legal authority to exercise discretion in returning and removing unaccompanied alien children from non-contiguous countries back to their home countries.

(15) In August 2014, the House of Representatives passed H.R. 5320, which included the Protection of Children Act.

(16) This subtitle ends the disparate policies of the Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 by ensuring the swift return of all unaccompanied alien children to their country of origin if they are not victims of trafficking and do not have a fear of return.

**SEC. 1252. REPATRIATION OF UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 235 of the William Wilberforce Trafficking Victims Protection Reauthorization Act of 2008 (8 U.S.C. 1232) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—  
(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) by amending the heading to read as follows: “RULES FOR UNACCOMPANIED ALIEN CHILDREN.—”;

(ii) in subparagraph (A)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “who is a national or habitual resident of a country that is contiguous with the United States”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting “and” at the end;

(III) in clause (ii), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(IV) by striking clause (iii); and  
(iii) in subparagraph (B)—

(I) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.) may—” and inserting “(8 U.S.C. 1101 et seq.—”;

(II) in clause (i), by inserting before “permit such child to withdraw” the following: “may”; and

(III) in clause (ii), by inserting before “return such child” the following: “shall”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)(D)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “, except for an unaccompanied alien child from a contiguous country subject to exceptions under subsection (a)(2),”

and inserting “who does not meet the criteria listed in paragraph (2)(A)”;

(ii) in clause (i), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “, which shall include a hearing before an immigration judge not later than 14 days after being screened under paragraph (4)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (A), by inserting before the semicolon the following: “believed not to meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (B), by inserting before the period the following: “and does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A)”;

(B) in paragraph (3), by striking “an unaccompanied alien child in custody shall” and all that follows, and inserting the following: “an unaccompanied alien child in custody—

“(A) in the case of a child who does not meet the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), shall transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services not later than 30 days after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who does not meet such criteria; or

“(B) in the case of a child who meets the criteria listed in subsection (a)(2)(A), may transfer the custody of such child to the Secretary of Health and Human Services after determining that such child is an unaccompanied alien child who meets such criteria.”;

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (3), by inserting at the end the following:

“(D) INFORMATION ABOUT INDIVIDUALS WITH WHOM CHILDREN ARE PLACED.—

“(I) INFORMATION TO BE PROVIDED TO HOMELAND SECURITY.—Before placing a child with an individual, the Secretary of Health and Human Services shall provide to the Secretary of Homeland Security, regarding the individual with whom the child will be placed, information on—

“(I) the name of the individual;

“(II) the social security number of the individual;

“(III) the date of birth of the individual;

“(IV) the location of the individual’s residence where the child will be placed;

“(V) the immigration status of the individual, if known; and

“(VI) contact information for the individual.

“(ii) ACTIVITIES OF THE SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—Not later than 30 days after receiving the information listed in clause (i), the Secretary of Homeland Security, upon determining that an individual with whom a child is placed is unlawfully present in the United States and not in removal proceedings pursuant to chapter 4 of title II of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1221 et seq.), shall initiate such removal proceedings.”; and

(B) in paragraph (5)—

(i) by inserting after “to the greatest extent practicable” the following: “(at no expense to the Government)”;

(ii) by striking “have counsel to represent them” and inserting “have access to counsel to represent them”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any unaccompanied alien child (as such term is defined in section 462(g) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g))) apprehended on or after the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

**SEC. 1253. SPECIAL IMMIGRANT JUVENILE STATUS FOR IMMIGRANTS UNABLE TO REUNITE WITH EITHER PARENT.**

Section 101(a)(27)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1101(a)(27)(J)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “, and whose reunification with 1 or both of the immigrant’s parents is not viable due to abuse, neglect, abandonment, or a similar basis found under State law”;

(2) in clause (iii)—

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

(B) in subclause (II), by inserting “and” after the semicolon; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

“(III) an alien may not be granted special immigrant status under this subparagraph if the alien’s reunification with any one parent or legal guardian is not precluded by abuse, neglect, abandonment, or any similar cause under State law.”

**SEC. 1254. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**

Nothing in this subtitle shall be construed to limit the following procedures or practices relating to an unaccompanied alien child (as defined in section 462(g)(2) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 279(g)(2))):

(1) Screening of such a child for a credible fear of return to his or her country of origin.

(2) Screening of such a child to determine whether he or she was a victim of trafficking.

(3) Department of Health and Human Services policy in effect on the date of the enactment of this Act requiring a home study for such a child if he or she is under 12 years of age.

**Subtitle F—Visa Overstays Penalties**

**SEC. 1261. EXPANDED PENALTIES FOR ILLEGAL ENTRY OR PRESENCE.**

Section 275 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1325) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by inserting after “for a subsequent commission of any such offense” the following: “or if the alien was previously convicted of an offense under subsection (e)(2)(A)”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “at least \$50 and not more than \$250” and inserting “not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by inserting after “in the case of an alien who has been previously subject to a civil penalty under this subsection” the following: “or subsection (e)(2)(B)”;

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) VISA OVERSTAYS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—An alien who was admitted as a nonimmigrant has violated this paragraph if the alien, for an aggregate of 10 days or more, has failed—

“(A) to maintain the nonimmigrant status in which the alien was admitted, or to which it was changed under section 248, including complying with the period of stay authorized by the Secretary of Homeland Security in connection with such status; or

“(B) to comply otherwise with the conditions of such nonimmigrant status.

“(2) PENALTIES.—An alien who has violated paragraph (1)—

“(A) shall—

“(i) for the first commission of such a violation, be fined under title 18, United States Code, or imprisoned not more than 6 months, or both; and

“(ii) for a subsequent commission of such a violation, or if the alien was previously convicted of an offense under subsection (a), be fined under such title 18, or imprisoned not more than 2 years, or both; and

“(B) in addition to, and not in lieu of, any penalty under subparagraph (A) and any

other criminal or civil penalties that may be imposed, shall be subject to a civil penalty of—

“(i) not less than \$500 and not more than \$1,000 for each violation; or

“(ii) twice the amount specified in clause (i), in the case of an alien who has been previously subject to a civil penalty under this subparagraph or subsection (b).”.

#### Subtitle G—Immigration Parole Reform

##### SEC. 1271. IMMIGRATION PAROLE REFORM.

Section 212(d)(5) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)) is amended to read as follows:

“(5)(A) Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C) and section 214(f), the Secretary of Homeland Security, in the discretion of the Secretary, may temporarily parole into the United States any alien applying for admission to the United States who is not present in the United States, under such conditions as the Secretary may prescribe, on a case-by-case basis, and not according to eligibility criteria describing an entire class of potential parole recipients, for urgent humanitarian reasons or significant public benefit. Parole granted under this subparagraph may not be regarded as an admission of the alien. When the purposes of such parole have been served in the opinion of the Secretary, the alien shall immediately return or be returned to the custody from which the alien was paroled. After such return, the case of the alien shall be dealt with in the same manner as the case of any other applicant for admission to the United States.

“(B) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien who—

“(i) is present in the United States without lawful immigration status;

“(ii) is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

“(iii) is not otherwise inadmissible or removable; and

“(iv) is the spouse or child of a member of the Armed Forces serving on active duty.

“(C) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to any alien—

“(i) who is a national of the Republic of Cuba and is living in the Republic of Cuba;

“(ii) who is the beneficiary of an approved petition under section 203(a);

“(iii) for whom an immigrant visa is not immediately available;

“(iv) who meets all eligibility requirements for an immigrant visa;

“(v) who is not otherwise inadmissible; and

“(vi) who is receiving a grant of parole in furtherance of the commitment of the United States to the minimum level of annual legal migration of Cuban nationals to the United States specified in the U.S.-Cuba Joint Communiqué on Migration, done at New York September 9, 1994, and reaffirmed in the Cuba-United States: Joint Statement on Normalization of Migration, Building on the Agreement of September 9, 1994, done at New York May 2, 1995.

“(D) The Secretary of Homeland Security may grant parole to an alien who is returned to a contiguous country under section 235(b)(3) to allow the alien to attend the alien's immigration hearing. The grant of parole shall not exceed the time required for the alien to be escorted to, and attend, the alien's immigration hearing scheduled on the same calendar day as the grant, and to immediately thereafter be escorted back to the contiguous country. A grant of parole under this subparagraph shall not be considered for purposes of determining whether the alien is inadmissible under this Act.

“(E) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), an urgent humanitarian reason shall be limited to circumstances in which the alien establishes that—

“(i)(I) the alien has a medical emergency; and

“(II)(aa) the alien cannot obtain necessary treatment in the foreign state in which the alien is residing; or

“(bb) the medical emergency is life-threatening and there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(ii) the alien is the parent or legal guardian of an alien described in clause (i) and the alien described in clause (i) is a minor;

“(iii) the alien is needed in the United States in order to donate an organ or other tissue for transplant and there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(iv) the alien has a close family member in the United States whose death is imminent and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to see such family member alive if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(v) the alien is seeking to attend the funeral of a close family member and the alien could not arrive in the United States in time to attend such funeral if the alien were to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process;

“(vi) the alien is an adopted child with an urgent medical condition who is in the legal custody of the petitioner for a final adoption-related visa and whose medical treatment is required before the expected award of a final adoption-related visa; or

“(vii) the alien is a lawful applicant for adjustment of status under section 245 and is returning to the United States after temporary travel abroad.

“(F) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), a significant public benefit may be determined to result from the parole of an alien only if—

“(i) the alien has assisted (or will assist, whether knowingly or not) the United States Government in a law enforcement matter;

“(ii) the alien's presence is required by the Government in furtherance of such law enforcement matter; and

“(iii) the alien is inadmissible, does not satisfy the eligibility requirements for admission as a nonimmigrant, or there is insufficient time for the alien to be admitted to the United States through the normal visa process.

“(G) For purposes of determining an alien's eligibility for parole under subparagraph (A), the term ‘case-by-case basis’ means that the facts in each individual case are considered and parole is not granted based on membership in a defined class of aliens to be granted parole. The fact that aliens are considered for or granted parole one-by-one and not as a group is not sufficient to establish that the parole decision is made on a ‘case-by-case basis’.

“(H) The Secretary of Homeland Security may not use the parole authority under this paragraph to parole an alien into the United States for any reason or purpose other than those described in subparagraphs (B), (C), (D), (E), and (F).

“(I) An alien granted parole may not accept employment, except that an alien granted parole pursuant to subparagraph (B) or (C) is authorized to accept employment for the duration of the parole, as evidenced by an employment authorization document issued by the Secretary of Homeland Security.

“(J) Parole granted after a departure from the United States shall not be regarded as an admission of the alien. An alien granted parole, whether as an initial grant of parole or parole upon reentry into the United States,

is not eligible to adjust status to lawful permanent residence or for any other immigration benefit if the immigration status the alien had at the time of departure did not authorize the alien to adjust status or to be eligible for such benefit.

“(K)(i) Except as provided in clauses (ii) and (iii), parole shall be granted to an alien under this paragraph for the shorter of—

“(I) a period of sufficient length to accomplish the activity described in subparagraph (D), (E), or (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

“(II) 1 year.

“(ii) Grants of parole pursuant to subparagraph (A) may be extended once, in the discretion of the Secretary, for an additional period that is the shorter of—

“(I) the period that is necessary to accomplish the activity described in subparagraph (E) or (F) for which the alien was granted parole; or

“(II) 1 year.

“(iii) Aliens who have a pending application to adjust status to permanent residence under section 245 may request extensions of parole under this paragraph, in 1-year increments, until the application for adjustment has been adjudicated. Such parole shall terminate immediately upon the denial of such adjustment application.

“(L) Not later than 90 days after the last day of each fiscal year, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate and the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and make available to the public, a report—

“(i) identifying the total number of aliens paroled into the United States under this paragraph during the previous fiscal year; and

“(ii) containing information and data regarding all aliens paroled during such fiscal year, including—

“(I) the duration of parole;

“(II) the type of parole; and

“(III) the current status of the aliens so paroled.”.

##### SEC. 1272. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subsection (b), this subtitle and the amendments made by this subtitle shall take effect on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), each of the following exceptions apply:

(1) Any application for parole or advance parole filed by an alien before the date of the enactment of this Act shall be adjudicated under the law that was in effect on the date on which the application was properly filed and any approved advance parole shall remain valid under the law that was in effect on the date on which the advance parole was approved.

(2) Section 212(d)(5)(J) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as added by section 1271, shall take effect on the date of the enactment of this Act.

(3) Aliens who were paroled into the United States pursuant to section 212(d)(5)(A) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1182(d)(5)(A)) before January 1, 2023, shall continue to be subject to the terms of parole that were in effect on the date on which their respective parole was approved.

##### SEC. 1273. CAUSE OF ACTION.

Any person, State, or local government that experiences financial harm in excess of \$1,000 due to a failure of the Federal Government to lawfully apply the provisions of this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle shall have standing to bring a civil action against the Federal Government in an appropriate district court of the United States for appropriate relief.

**SEC. 1274. SEVERABILITY.**

If any provision of this subtitle or any amendment by this subtitle, or the application of such provision or amendment to any person or circumstance, is held to be unconstitutional, the remainder of this subtitle and the application of such provision or amendment to any other person or circumstance shall not be affected.

**Subtitle H—Legal Workforce****SEC. 1281. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(b)) is amended to read as follows:

“(b) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PROCESS.—

“(1) NEW HIRES, RECRUITMENT, AND REFERRAL.—The requirements referred to in paragraphs (1)(B) and (3) of subsection (a) are, in the case of a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States, the following:

“(A) ATTESTATION AFTER EXAMINATION OF DOCUMENTATION.—

“(i) ATTESTATION.—During the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), the person or entity shall attest, under penalty of perjury and on a form, including electronic format, designated or established by the Secretary by regulation not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, that it has verified that the individual is not an unauthorized alien by—

“(I) obtaining from the individual the individual’s social security account number or United States passport number and recording the number on the form (if the individual claims to have been issued such a number), and, if the individual does not attest to United States nationality under subparagraph (B), obtaining such identification or authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary of Homeland Security may specify, and recording such number on the form; and

“(II) examining—

“(aa) a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (i); or

“(bb) a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (iii) and a document relating to the individual presenting it described in clause (iv).

“(ii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION AND ESTABLISHING IDENTITY.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual’s—

“(I) unexpired United States passport or passport card;

“(II) unexpired permanent resident card that contains a photograph;

“(III) unexpired employment authorization card that contains a photograph;

“(IV) in the case of a nonimmigrant alien authorized to work for a specific employer incident to status, a foreign passport with Form I-94 or Form I-94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary specifying the alien’s nonimmigrant status as long as the period of status has not yet expired and the proposed employment is not in conflict with any restrictions or limitations identified in the documentation;

“(V) passport from the Federated States of Micronesia (FSM) or the Republic of the Marshall Islands (RMI) with Form I-94 or Form I-94A, or other documentation as designated by the Secretary, indicating nonimmigrant admission under the Compact of Free Association between the United States and the FSM or RMI; or

“(VI) other document designated by the Secretary of Homeland Security, if the document—

“(aa) contains a photograph of the individual and biometric identification data from the individual and such other personal identifying information relating to the individual as the Secretary of Homeland Security finds, by regulation, sufficient for purposes of this clause;

“(bb) is evidence of authorization of employment in the United States; and

“(cc) contains security features to make it resistant to tampering, counterfeiting, and fraudulent use.

“(iii) DOCUMENTS EVIDENCING EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—A document described in this subparagraph is an individual’s social security account number card (other than such a card which specifies on the face that the issuance of the card does not authorize employment in the United States).

“(iv) DOCUMENTS ESTABLISHING IDENTITY OF INDIVIDUAL.—A document described in this subparagraph is—

“(I) an individual’s unexpired State issued driver’s license or identification card if it contains a photograph and information such as name, date of birth, gender, height, eye color, and address;

“(II) an individual’s unexpired United States military identification card;

“(III) an individual’s unexpired Native American tribal identification document issued by a tribal entity recognized by the Bureau of Indian Affairs; or

“(IV) in the case of an individual under 18 years of age, a parent or legal guardian’s attestation under penalty of law as to the identity and age of the individual.

“(v) AUTHORITY TO PROHIBIT USE OF CERTAIN DOCUMENTS.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security finds, by regulation, that any document described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) as establishing employment authorization or identity does not reliably establish such authorization or identity or is being used fraudulently to an unacceptable degree, the Secretary may prohibit or place conditions on its use for purposes of this paragraph.

“(vi) SIGNATURE.—Such attestation may be manifested by either a handwritten or electronic signature.

“(B) INDIVIDUAL ATTESTATION OF EMPLOYMENT AUTHORIZATION.—During the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), the individual shall attest, under penalty of perjury on the form designated or established for purposes of subparagraph (A), that the individual is a citizen or national of the United States, an alien lawfully admitted for permanent residence, or an alien who is authorized under this Act or by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be hired, recruited, or referred for such employment. Such attestation may be manifested by either a handwritten or electronic signature. The individual shall also provide that individual’s social security account number or United States passport number (if the individual claims to have been issued such a number), and, if the individual does not attest to United States nationality under this subparagraph, such identification or authorization number established by the Department of Homeland Security for the alien as the Secretary may specify.

“(C) RETENTION OF VERIFICATION FORM AND VERIFICATION.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—After completion of such form in accordance with subparagraphs (A) and (B), the person or entity shall—

“(I) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during a period beginning on the date of the recruiting or referral of the individual, or, in the case of the hiring of an individual, the date on which the verification is completed, and ending—

“(aa) in the case of the recruiting or referral of an individual, 3 years after the date of the recruiting or referral; and

“(bb) in the case of the hiring of an individual, the later of 3 years after the date the verification is completed or one year after the date the individual’s employment is terminated; and

“(II) during the verification period (as defined in subparagraph (E)), make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of an individual.

“(ii) CONFIRMATION.—

“(I) CONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If the person or other entity receives an appropriate confirmation of an individual’s identity and work eligibility under the verification system within the time period specified, the person or entity shall record on the form an appropriate code that is provided under the system and that indicates a final confirmation of such identity and work eligibility of the individual.

“(II) TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If the person or other entity receives a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual’s identity or work eligibility under the verification system within the time period specified, the person or entity shall so inform the individual for whom the verification is sought. If the individual does not contest the nonconfirmation within the time period specified, the nonconfirmation shall be considered final. The person or entity shall then record on the form an appropriate code which has been provided under the system to indicate a final nonconfirmation. If the individual does contest the nonconfirmation, the individual shall utilize the process for secondary verification provided under subsection (d). The nonconfirmation will remain tentative until a final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided by the verification system within the time period specified. In no case shall an employer terminate employment of an individual because of a failure of the individual to have identity and work eligibility confirmed under this section until a nonconfirmation becomes final. Nothing in this clause shall apply to a termination of employment for any reason other than because of such a failure. In no case shall an employer rescind the offer of employment to an individual because of a failure of the individual to have identity and work eligibility confirmed under this subsection until a nonconfirmation becomes final. Nothing in this subclause shall apply to a rescission of the offer of employment for any reason other than because of such a failure.

“(III) FINAL CONFIRMATION OR NONCONFIRMATION RECEIVED.—If a final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided by the verification system regarding an individual, the person or entity shall record on the form an appropriate code that is provided under the system and that indicates a confirmation or nonconfirmation of identity and work eligibility of the individual.

“(IV) EXTENSION OF TIME.—If the person or other entity in good faith attempts to make an inquiry during the time period specified and the verification system has registered that not all inquiries were received during such time, the person or entity may make an inquiry in the first subsequent working day in which the verification system registers that it has received all inquiries. If the verification system cannot receive inquiries at all times during a day, the person or entity merely has to assert that the entity attempted to make the inquiry on that day for the previous sentence to apply to such an inquiry, and does not have to provide any additional proof concerning such inquiry.

“(V) CONSEQUENCES OF NONCONFIRMATION.—“(aa) TERMINATION OR NOTIFICATION OF CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT.—If the person or other entity has received a final nonconfirmation regarding an individual, the person or entity may terminate employment of the individual (or decline to recruit or refer the individual). If the person or entity does not terminate employment of the individual or proceeds to recruit or refer the individual, the person or entity shall notify the Secretary of Homeland Security of such fact through the verification system or in such other manner as the Secretary may specify.

“(bb) FAILURE TO NOTIFY.—If the person or entity fails to provide notice with respect to an individual as required under item (aa), the failure is deemed to constitute a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) with respect to that individual.

“(VI) CONTINUED EMPLOYMENT AFTER FINAL NONCONFIRMATION.—If the person or other entity continues to employ (or to recruit or refer) an individual after receiving final nonconfirmation, a rebuttable presumption is created that the person or entity has violated subsection (a)(1)(A).

“(D) EFFECTIVE DATES OF NEW PROCEDURES.—

“(i) HIRING.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a person or other entity hiring an individual for employment in the United States as follows:

“(I) With respect to employers having 10,000 or more employees in the United States on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, on the date that is 6 months after such date of enactment.

“(II) With respect to employers having 500 or more employees in the United States, but less than 10,000 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, on the date that is 12 months after such date of enactment.

“(III) With respect to employers having 20 or more employees in the United States, but less than 500 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, on the date that is 18 months after such date of enactment.

“(IV) With respect to employers having one or more employees in the United States, but less than 20 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, on the date that is 24 months after such date of enactment.

“(ii) RECRUITING AND REFERRING.—Except as provided in clause (iii), the provisions of this paragraph shall apply to a person or other entity recruiting or referring an individual for employment in the United States on the date that is 12 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024.

“(iii) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—With respect to an employee performing agricultural labor or services, this paragraph shall not apply with respect to the verification of the employee until the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘agricultural labor or services’ has the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Agriculture in regulations and includes agricultural labor as defined in section 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, agriculture as defined in section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or horticultural

commodity in its unmanufactured state, all activities required for the preparation, processing or manufacturing of a product of agriculture (as such term is defined in such section 3(f)) for further distribution, and activities similar to all the foregoing as they relate to fish or shellfish facilities. An employee described in this clause shall not be counted for purposes of clause (i).

“(iv) EXTENSIONS.—

“(I) ON REQUEST.—Upon request by an employer having 50 or fewer employees, the Secretary shall allow a one-time 6-month extension of the effective date set out in this subparagraph applicable to such employer. Such request shall be made to the Secretary and shall be made prior to such effective date.

“(II) FOLLOWING REPORT.—If the study under section 1284 of the Secure the Border Act of 2024 has been submitted in accordance with such section, the Secretary of Homeland Security may extend the effective date set out in clause (iii) on a one-time basis for 12 months.

“(v) TRANSITION RULE.—Subject to paragraph (4), the following shall apply to a person or other entity hiring, recruiting, or referring an individual for employment in the United States until the effective date or dates applicable under clauses (i) through (iii):

“(I) This subsection, as in effect before the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024.

“(II) Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect before the effective date in section 1287(c) of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024.

“(III) Any other provision of Federal law requiring the person or entity to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), as in effect before the effective date in section 1287(c) of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, including Executive Order 13465 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note; relating to Government procurement).

“(E) VERIFICATION PERIOD DEFINED.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(I) In the case of recruitment or referral, the term ‘verification period’ means the period ending on the date recruiting or referring commences.

“(II) In the case of hiring, the term ‘verification period’ means the period beginning on the date on which an offer of employment is extended and ending on the date that is three business days after the date of hire, except as provided in clause (iii). The offer of employment may be conditioned in accordance with clause (ii).

“(ii) JOB OFFER MAY BE CONDITIONAL.—A person or other entity may offer a prospective employee an employment position that is conditioned on final verification of the identity and employment eligibility of the employee using the procedures established under this paragraph.

“(iii) SPECIAL RULE.—Notwithstanding clause (i)(II), in the case of an alien who is authorized for employment and who provides evidence from the Social Security Administration that the alien has applied for a social security account number, the verification period ends three business days after the alien receives the social security account number.

“(2) REVERIFICATION FOR INDIVIDUALS WITH LIMITED WORK AUTHORIZATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), a person or entity shall make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek reverification of the identity and employ-

ment eligibility of all individuals with a limited period of work authorization employed by the person or entity during the three business days after the date on which the employee’s work authorization expires as follows:

“(i) With respect to employers having 10,000 or more employees in the United States on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, beginning on the date that is 6 months after such date of enactment.

“(ii) With respect to employers having 500 or more employees in the United States, but less than 10,000 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, beginning on the date that is 12 months after such date of enactment.

“(iii) With respect to employers having 20 or more employees in the United States, but less than 500 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, beginning on the date that is 18 months after such date of enactment.

“(iv) With respect to employers having one or more employees in the United States, but less than 20 employees in the United States, on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, beginning on the date that is 24 months after such date of enactment.

“(B) AGRICULTURAL LABOR OR SERVICES.—With respect to an employee performing agricultural labor or services, or an employee recruited or referred by a farm labor contractor (as defined in section 3 of the Migrant and Seasonal Agricultural Worker Protection Act (29 U.S.C. 1801)), subparagraph (A) shall not apply with respect to the reverification of the employee until the date that is 36 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024. For purposes of the preceding sentence, the term ‘agricultural labor or services’ has the meaning given such term by the Secretary of Agriculture in regulations and includes agricultural labor as defined in section 3121(g) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986, agriculture as defined in section 3(f) of the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 (29 U.S.C. 203(f)), the handling, planting, drying, packing, packaging, processing, freezing, or grading prior to delivery for storage of any agricultural or horticultural commodity in its unmanufactured state, all activities required for the preparation, processing, or manufacturing of a product of agriculture (as such term is defined in such section 3(f)) for further distribution, and activities similar to all the foregoing as they relate to fish or shellfish facilities. An employee described in this subparagraph shall not be counted for purposes of subparagraph (A).

“(C) REVERIFICATION.—Paragraph (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to reverifications pursuant to this paragraph on the same basis as it applies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1), except that employers shall—

“(i) use a form designated or established by the Secretary by regulation for purposes of this paragraph; and

“(ii) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the reverification commences and ending on the date that is the later of 3 years after the date of such reverification or 1 year after the date the individual’s employment is terminated.

“(3) PREVIOUSLY HIRED INDIVIDUALS.—

“(A) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR CERTAIN EMPLOYEES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, an employer shall make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of any individual described in clause (i) employed by the employer whose employment eligibility has not been verified under the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note).

“(ii) INDIVIDUALS DESCRIBED.—An individual described in this clause is any of the following:

“(I) An employee of any unit of a Federal, State, or local government.

“(II) An employee who requires a Federal security clearance working in a Federal, State, or local government building, a military base, a nuclear energy site, a weapons site, or an airport or other facility that requires workers to carry a Transportation Worker Identification Credential (TWIC).

“(III) An employee assigned to perform work in the United States under a Federal contract, except that this subclause—

“(aa) is not applicable to individuals who have a clearance under Homeland Security Presidential Directive 12 (HSPD 12 clearance), are administrative or overhead personnel, or are working solely on contracts that provide Commercial Off The Shelf goods or services as set forth by the Federal Acquisition Regulatory Council, unless they are subject to verification under subclause (II); and

“(bb) only applies to contracts over the simple acquisition threshold as defined in section 2.101 of title 48, Code of Federal Regulations.

“(B) ON A MANDATORY BASIS FOR MULTIPLE USERS OF SAME SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBER.—In the case of an employer who is required by this subsection to use the verification system described in subsection (d), or has elected voluntarily to use such system, the employer shall make inquiries to the system in accordance with the following:

“(i) The Commissioner of Social Security shall notify annually employees (at the employee address listed on the Wage and Tax Statement) who submit a social security account number to which more than one employer reports income and for which there is a pattern of unusual multiple use. The notification letter shall identify the number of employers to which income is being reported as well as sufficient information notifying the employee of the process to contact the Social Security Administration Fraud Hotline if the employee believes the employee's identity may have been stolen. The notice shall not share information protected as private, in order to avoid any recipient of the notice from being in the position to further commit or begin committing identity theft.

“(ii) If the person to whom the social security account number was issued by the Social Security Administration has been identified and confirmed by the Commissioner, and indicates that the social security account number was used without their knowledge, the Secretary and the Commissioner shall lock the social security account number for employment eligibility verification purposes and shall notify the employers of the individuals who wrongfully submitted the social security account number that the employee may not be work eligible.

“(iii) Each employer receiving such notification of an incorrect social security account number under clause (ii) shall use the verification system described in subsection (d) to check the work eligibility status of the

applicable employee within 10 business days of receipt of the notification.

“(C) ON A VOLUNTARY BASIS.—Subject to paragraph (2), and subparagraphs (A) through (C) of this paragraph, beginning on the date that is 30 days after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, an employer may make an inquiry, as provided in subsection (d), using the verification system to seek verification of the identity and employment eligibility of any individual employed by the employer. If an employer chooses voluntarily to seek verification of any individual employed by the employer, the employer shall seek verification of all individuals employed at the same geographic location or, at the option of the employer, all individuals employed within the same job category, as the employee with respect to whom the employer seeks voluntarily to use the verification system. An employer's decision about whether or not voluntarily to seek verification of its current workforce under this subparagraph may not be considered by any government agency in any proceeding, investigation, or review provided for in this Act.

“(D) VERIFICATION.—Paragraph (1)(C)(ii) shall apply to verifications pursuant to this paragraph on the same basis as it applies to verifications pursuant to paragraph (1), except that employers shall—

“(i) use a form designated or established by the Secretary by regulation for purposes of this paragraph; and

“(ii) retain a paper or electronic version of the form and make it available for inspection by officers of the Department of Homeland Security, the Department of Justice, or the Department of Labor during the period beginning on the date the verification commences and ending on the date that is the later of 3 years after the date of such verification or 1 year after the date the individual's employment is terminated.

“(4) EARLY COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) FORMER E-VERIFY REQUIRED USERS, INCLUDING FEDERAL CONTRACTORS.—Notwithstanding the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and (2), beginning on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, the Secretary is authorized to commence requiring employers required to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), including employers required to participate in such program by reason of Federal acquisition laws (and regulations promulgated under those laws, including the Federal Acquisition Regulation), to commence compliance with the requirements of this subsection (and any additional requirements of such Federal acquisition laws and regulation) in lieu of any requirement to participate in the E-Verify Program.

“(B) FORMER E-VERIFY VOLUNTARY USERS AND OTHERS DESIRING EARLY COMPLIANCE.—Notwithstanding the deadlines in paragraphs (1) and (2), beginning on the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, the Secretary shall provide for the voluntary compliance with the requirements of this subsection by employers voluntarily electing to participate in the E-Verify Program described in section 403(a) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) before such date, as well as by other employers seeking voluntary early compliance.

“(5) COPYING OF DOCUMENTATION PERMITTED.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the person or entity may copy a document presented by an individual pursuant to this subsection and may retain the

copy, but only (except as otherwise permitted under law) for the purpose of complying with the requirements of this subsection.

“(6) LIMITATION ON USE OF FORMS.—A form designated or established by the Secretary of Homeland Security under this subsection and any information contained in or appended to such form, may not be used for purposes other than for enforcement of this Act and any other provision of Federal criminal law.

“(7) GOOD FAITH COMPLIANCE.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as otherwise provided in this subsection, a person or entity is considered to have complied with a requirement of this subsection notwithstanding a technical or procedural failure to meet such requirement if there was a good faith attempt to comply with the requirement.

“(B) EXCEPTION IF FAILURE TO CORRECT AFTER NOTICE.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply if—

“(i) the failure is not de minimus;

“(ii) the Secretary of Homeland Security has explained to the person or entity the basis for the failure and why it is not de minimus;

“(iii) the person or entity has been provided a period of not less than 30 calendar days (beginning after the date of the explanation) within which to correct the failure; and

“(iv) the person or entity has not corrected the failure voluntarily within such period.

“(C) EXCEPTION FOR PATTERN OR PRACTICE VIOLATORS.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to a person or entity that has engaged or is engaging in a pattern or practice of violations of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2).

“(8) SINGLE EXTENSION OF DEADLINES UPON CERTIFICATION.—In a case in which the Secretary of Homeland Security has certified to the Congress that the employment eligibility verification system required under subsection (d) will not be fully operational by the date that is 6 months after the date of the enactment of subtitle H of title II of the Secure the Border Act of 2024, each deadline established under this section for an employer to make an inquiry using such system shall be extended by 6 months. No other extension of such a deadline shall be made except as authorized under paragraph (1)(D)(iv).”

(b) DATE OF HIRE.—Section 274A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DEFINITION OF DATE OF HIRE.—As used in this section, the term ‘date of hire’ means the date of actual commencement of employment for wages or other remuneration, unless otherwise specified.”

#### SEC. 1282. EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.

Section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) is amended to read as follows:

“(d) EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION SYSTEM.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Patterned on the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note), the Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish and administer a verification system through which the Secretary (or a designee of the Secretary, which may be a nongovernmental entity)—

“(A) responds to inquiries made by persons at any time through a toll-free electronic media concerning an individual's identity and whether the individual is authorized to be employed; and

“(B) maintains records of the inquiries that were made, of verifications provided (or

not provided), and of the codes provided to inquirers as evidence of their compliance with their obligations under this section.

“(2) INITIAL RESPONSE.—The verification system shall provide confirmation or a tentative nonconfirmation of an individual’s identity and employment eligibility within 3 working days of the initial inquiry. If providing confirmation or tentative nonconfirmation, the verification system shall provide an appropriate code indicating such confirmation or such nonconfirmation.

“(3) SECONDARY CONFIRMATION PROCESS IN CASE OF TENTATIVE NONCONFIRMATION.—In cases of tentative nonconfirmation, the Secretary shall specify, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, an available secondary verification process to confirm the validity of information provided and to provide a final confirmation or nonconfirmation not later than 10 working days after the date on which the notice of the tentative nonconfirmation is received by the employee. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, may extend this deadline once on a case-by-case basis for a period of 10 working days, and if the time is extended, shall document such extension within the verification system. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall notify the employee and employer of such extension. The Secretary, in consultation with the Commissioner, shall create a standard process of such extension and notification and shall make a description of such process available to the public. When final confirmation or nonconfirmation is provided, the verification system shall provide an appropriate code indicating such confirmation or nonconfirmation.

“(4) DESIGN AND OPERATION OF SYSTEM.—The verification system shall be designed and operated—

“(A) to maximize its reliability and ease of use by persons and other entities consistent with insulating and protecting the privacy and security of the underlying information;

“(B) to respond to all inquiries made by such persons and entities on whether individuals are authorized to be employed and to register all times when such inquiries are not received;

“(C) with appropriate administrative, technical, and physical safeguards to prevent unauthorized disclosure of personal information;

“(D) to have reasonable safeguards against the system’s resulting in unlawful discriminatory practices based on national origin or citizenship status, including—

“(i) the selective or unauthorized use of the system to verify eligibility; or

“(ii) the exclusion of certain individuals from consideration for employment as a result of a perceived likelihood that additional verification will be required, beyond what is required for most job applicants;

“(E) to maximize the prevention of identity theft use in the system; and

“(F) to limit the subjects of verification to the following individuals:

“(i) Individuals hired, referred, or recruited, in accordance with paragraph (1) or (4) of subsection (b).

“(ii) Employees and prospective employees, in accordance with paragraph (1), (2), (3), or (4) of subsection (b).

“(iii) Individuals seeking to confirm their own employment eligibility on a voluntary basis.

“(5) RESPONSIBILITIES OF COMMISSIONER OF SOCIAL SECURITY.—As part of the verification system, the Commissioner of Social Security, in consultation with the Secretary of Homeland Security (and any designee of the Secretary selected to establish and administer the verification system), shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the

time periods specified under paragraphs (2) and (3), compares the name and social security account number provided in an inquiry against such information maintained by the Commissioner in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided regarding an individual whose identity and employment eligibility must be confirmed, the correspondence of the name and number, and whether the individual has presented a social security account number that is not valid for employment. The Commissioner shall not disclose or release social security information (other than such confirmation or nonconfirmation) under the verification system except as provided for in this section or section 205(c)(2)(I) of the Social Security Act.

“(6) RESPONSIBILITIES OF SECRETARY OF HOMELAND SECURITY.—As part of the verification system, the Secretary of Homeland Security (in consultation with any designee of the Secretary selected to establish and administer the verification system), shall establish a reliable, secure method, which, within the time periods specified under paragraphs (2) and (3), compares the name and alien identification or authorization number (or any other information as determined relevant by the Secretary) which are provided in an inquiry against such information maintained or accessed by the Secretary in order to validate (or not validate) the information provided, the correspondence of the name and number, whether the alien is authorized to be employed in the United States, or to the extent that the Secretary determines to be feasible and appropriate, whether the records available to the Secretary verify the identity or status of a national of the United States.

“(7) UPDATING INFORMATION.—The Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall update their information in a manner that promotes the maximum accuracy and shall provide a process for the prompt correction of erroneous information, including instances in which it is brought to their attention in the secondary verification process described in paragraph (3).

“(8) LIMITATION ON USE OF THE VERIFICATION SYSTEM AND ANY RELATED SYSTEMS.—

“(A) NO NATIONAL IDENTIFICATION CARD.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to authorize, directly or indirectly, the issuance or use of national identification cards or the establishment of a national identification card.

“(B) CRITICAL INFRASTRUCTURE.—The Secretary may authorize or direct any person or entity responsible for granting access to, protecting, securing, operating, administering, or regulating part of the critical infrastructure (as defined in section 1016(e) of the Critical Infrastructure Protection Act of 2001 (42 U.S.C. 5195c(e))) to use the verification system to the extent the Secretary determines that such use will assist in the protection of the critical infrastructure.

“(9) REMEDIES.—If an individual alleges that the individual would not have been dismissed from a job or would have been hired for a job but for an error of the verification mechanism, the individual may seek compensation only through the mechanism of the Federal Tort Claims Act, and injunctive relief to correct such error. No class action may be brought under this paragraph.”

**SEC. 1283. RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.**

(a) ADDITIONAL CHANGES TO RULES FOR RECRUITMENT, REFERRAL, AND CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT.—Section 274A(a) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1)(A), by striking “for a fee”;

(2) in paragraph (1), by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) to hire, continue to employ, or to recruit or refer for employment in the United States an individual without complying with the requirements of subsection (b).”; and

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “after hiring an alien for employment in accordance with paragraph (1),” and inserting “after complying with paragraph (1).”.

(b) DEFINITION.—Section 274A(h) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)), as amended by section 1281(b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) DEFINITION OF RECRUIT OR REFER.—As used in this section, the term ‘refer’ means the act of sending or directing a person who is in the United States or transmitting documentation or information to another, directly or indirectly, with the intent of obtaining employment in the United States for such person. Only persons or entities referring for remuneration (whether on a retainer or contingency basis) are included in the definition, except that union hiring halls that refer union members or nonunion individuals who pay union membership dues are included in the definition whether or not they receive remuneration, as are labor service entities or labor service agencies, whether public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit, that refer, dispatch, or otherwise facilitate the hiring of laborers for any period of time by a third party. As used in this section, the term ‘recruit’ means the act of soliciting a person who is in the United States, directly or indirectly, and referring the person to another with the intent of obtaining employment for that person. Only persons or entities referring for remuneration (whether on a retainer or contingency basis) are included in the definition, except that union hiring halls that refer union members or nonunion individuals who pay union membership dues are included in this definition whether or not they receive remuneration, as are labor service entities or labor service agencies, whether public, private, for-profit, or nonprofit that recruit, dispatch, or otherwise facilitate the hiring of laborers for any period of time by a third party.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, except that the amendments made by subsection (a) shall take effect 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act insofar as such amendments relate to continuation of employment.

**SEC. 1284. GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.**

Section 274A(a)(3) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(a)(3)) is amended to read as follows:

“(3) GOOD FAITH DEFENSE.—

“(A) DEFENSE.—An employer (or person or entity that hires, employs, recruits, or refers (as defined in subsection (h)(5)), or is otherwise obligated to comply with this section) who establishes that it has complied in good faith with the requirements of subsection (b)—

“(i) shall not be liable to a job applicant, an employee, the Federal Government, or a State or local government, under Federal, State, or local criminal or civil law for any employment-related action taken with respect to a job applicant or employee in good-faith reliance on information provided through the system established under subsection (d); and

“(ii) has established compliance with its obligations under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) and subsection (b) absent a showing by the Secretary of Homeland Security, by clear and convincing evidence, that the employer had knowledge that an employee is an unauthorized alien.

“(B) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(1), if an employer proves by a preponderance of the evidence that the employer uses a reasonable, secure, and established technology to authenticate the identity of the new employee, that fact shall be taken into account for purposes of determining good faith use of the system established under subsection (d).

“(C) FAILURE TO SEEK AND OBTAIN VERIFICATION.—Subject to the effective dates and other deadlines applicable under subsection (b), in the case of a person or entity in the United States that hires, or continues to employ, an individual, or recruits or refers an individual for employment, the following requirements apply:

“(i) FAILURE TO SEEK VERIFICATION.—

“(I) IN GENERAL.—If the person or entity has not made an inquiry, under the mechanism established under subsection (d) and in accordance with the timeframes established under subsection (b), seeking verification of the identity and work eligibility of the individual, the defense under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to apply with respect to any employment, except as provided in subclause (II).

“(II) SPECIAL RULE FOR FAILURE OF VERIFICATION MECHANISM.—If such a person or entity in good faith attempts to make an inquiry in order to qualify for the defense under subparagraph (A) and the verification mechanism has registered that not all inquiries were responded to during the relevant time, the person or entity can make an inquiry until the end of the first subsequent working day in which the verification mechanism registers no nonresponses and qualify for such defense.

“(ii) FAILURE TO OBTAIN VERIFICATION.—If the person or entity has made the inquiry described in clause (i)(I) but has not received an appropriate verification of such identity and work eligibility under such mechanism within the time period specified under subsection (d)(2) after the time the verification inquiry was received, the defense under subparagraph (A) shall not be considered to apply with respect to any employment after the end of such time period.”

#### SEC. 1285. PREEMPTION AND STATES' RIGHTS.

Section 274A(h)(2) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(h)(2)) is amended to read as follows:

“(2) PREEMPTION.—

“(A) SINGLE, NATIONAL POLICY.—The provisions of this section preempt any State or local law, ordinance, policy, or rule, including any criminal or civil fine or penalty structure, insofar as they may now or hereafter relate to the hiring, continued employment, or status verification for employment eligibility purposes, of unauthorized aliens.

“(B) STATE ENFORCEMENT OF FEDERAL LAW.—

“(i) BUSINESS LICENSING.—A State, locality, municipality, or political subdivision may exercise its authority over business licensing and similar laws as a penalty for failure to use the verification system described in subsection (d) to verify employment eligibility when and as required under subsection (b).

“(ii) GENERAL RULES.—A State, at its own cost, may enforce the provisions of this section, but only insofar as such State follows the Federal regulations implementing this section, applies the Federal penalty structure set out in this section, and complies with all Federal rules and guidance concerning implementation of this section. Such State may collect any fines assessed under this section. An employer may not be subject to enforcement, including audit and investigation, by both a Federal agency and a State for the same violation under this sec-

tion. Whichever entity, the Federal agency or the State, is first to initiate the enforcement action, has the right of first refusal to proceed with the enforcement action. The Secretary must provide copies of all guidance, training, and field instructions provided to Federal officials implementing the provisions of this section to each State.”

#### SEC. 1286. REPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title IV of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is repealed.

(b) REFERENCES.—Any reference in any Federal law, Executive order, rule, regulation, or delegation of authority, or any document of, or pertaining to, the Department of Homeland Security, Department of Justice, or the Social Security Administration, to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 404 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 (8 U.S.C. 1324a note) is deemed to refer to the employment eligibility confirmation system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act, as amended by section 1282.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—This section shall take effect on the date that is 30 months after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in section 1(d) of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996, is amended by striking the items relating to subtitle A of title IV.

#### SEC. 1287. PENALTIES.

Section 274A of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (e)(1)—

(A) by striking “Attorney General” each place such term appears and inserting “Secretary of Homeland Security”; and

(B) in subparagraph (D), by striking “Service” and inserting “Department of Homeland Security”;

(2) in subsection (e)(4)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), in the matter before clause (i), by inserting “, subject to paragraph (10),” after “in an amount”;

(B) in subparagraph (A)(i), by striking “not less than \$250 and not more than \$2,000” and inserting “not less than \$2,500 and not more than \$5,000”;

(C) in subparagraph (A)(ii), by striking “not less than \$2,000 and not more than \$5,000” and inserting “not less than \$5,000 and not more than \$10,000”;

(D) in subparagraph (A)(iii), by striking “not less than \$3,000 and not more than \$10,000” and inserting “not less than \$10,000 and not more than \$25,000”; and

(E) by moving the margin of the continuation text following subparagraph (B) two ems to the left and by amending subparagraph (B) to read as follows:

“(B) may require the person or entity to take such other remedial action as is appropriate.”;

(3) in subsection (e)(5)—

(A) in the paragraph heading, strike “PAPERWORK”;

(B) by inserting “, subject to paragraphs (10) through (12),” after “in an amount”;

(C) by striking “\$100” and inserting “\$1,000”;

(D) by striking “\$1,000” and inserting “\$25,000”; and

(E) by adding at the end the following: “Failure by a person or entity to utilize the employment eligibility verification system as required by law, or providing information to the system that the person or entity knows or reasonably believes to be false, shall be treated as a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A).”;

(4) by adding at the end of subsection (e) the following:

“(10) EXEMPTION FROM PENALTY FOR GOOD FAITH VIOLATION.—In the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (4)(A) with respect to a violation of subsection (a)(1)(A) or (a)(2) for hiring or continuation of employment or recruitment or referral by person or entity and in the case of imposition of a civil penalty under paragraph (5) for a violation of subsection (a)(1)(B) for hiring or recruitment or referral by a person or entity, the penalty otherwise imposed may be waived or reduced if the violator establishes that the violator acted in good faith.

“(11) MITIGATION ELEMENT.—For purposes of paragraph (4), the size of the business shall be taken into account when assessing the level of civil money penalty.

“(12) AUTHORITY TO DEBAR EMPLOYERS FOR CERTAIN VIOLATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a person or entity is determined by the Secretary of Homeland Security to be a repeat violator of paragraph (1)(A) or (2) of subsection (a), or is convicted of a crime under this section, such person or entity may be considered for debarment from the receipt of Federal contracts, grants, or cooperative agreements in accordance with the debarment standards and pursuant to the debarment procedures set forth in the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(B) DOES NOT HAVE CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such a person or entity does not hold a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall refer the matter to the Administrator of General Services to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

“(C) HAS CONTRACT, GRANT, AGREEMENT.—If the Secretary of Homeland Security or the Attorney General wishes to have a person or entity considered for debarment in accordance with this paragraph, and such person or entity holds a Federal contract, grant, or cooperative agreement, the Secretary or Attorney General shall advise all agencies or departments holding a contract, grant, or cooperative agreement with the person or entity of the Government’s interest in having the person or entity considered for debarment, and after soliciting and considering the views of all such agencies and departments, the Secretary or Attorney General may refer the matter to any appropriate lead agency to determine whether to list the person or entity on the List of Parties Excluded from Federal Procurement, and if so, for what duration and under what scope.

“(D) REVIEW.—Any decision to debar a person or entity in accordance with this paragraph shall be reviewable pursuant to part 9.4 of the Federal Acquisition Regulation.

“(13) OFFICE FOR STATE AND LOCAL GOVERNMENT COMPLAINTS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security shall establish an office—

“(A) to which State and local government agencies may submit information indicating potential violations of subsection (a), (b), or (g)(1) that were generated in the normal course of law enforcement or the normal course of other official activities in the State or locality;

“(B) that is required to indicate to the complaining State or local agency within five business days of the filing of such a complaint by identifying whether the Secretary will further investigate the information provided;

“(C) that is required to investigate those complaints filed by State or local government agencies that, on their face, have a substantial probability of validity;

“(D) that is required to notify the complaining State or local agency of the results of any such investigation conducted; and

“(E) that is required to report to the Congress annually the number of complaints received under this paragraph, the States and localities that filed such complaints, and the resolution of the complaints investigated by the Secretary.”; and

(5) by amending paragraph (1) of subsection (f) to read as follows:

“(1) CRIMINAL PENALTY.—Any person or entity which engages in a pattern or practice of violations of subsection (a) (1) or (2) shall be fined not more than \$5,000 for each unauthorized alien with respect to which such a violation occurs, imprisoned for not more than 18 months, or both, notwithstanding the provisions of any other Federal law relating to fine levels.”.

**SEC. 1288. FRAUD AND MISUSE OF DOCUMENTS.**

Section 1546(b) of title 18, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in paragraph (1), by striking “identification document,” and inserting “identification document or document meant to establish work authorization (including the documents described in section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act),”; and

(2) in paragraph (2), by striking “identification document” and inserting “identification document or document meant to establish work authorization (including the documents described in section 274A(b) of the Immigration and Nationality Act),”.

**SEC. 1289. PROTECTION OF SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION PROGRAMS.**

(a) FUNDING UNDER AGREEMENT.—Effective for fiscal years beginning on or after October 1, 2023, the Commissioner of Social Security and the Secretary of Homeland Security shall enter into and maintain an agreement which shall—

(1) provide funds to the Commissioner for the full costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 1282, including—

(A) acquiring, installing, and maintaining technological equipment and systems necessary for the fulfillment of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under such section 274A(d), but only that portion of such costs that are attributable exclusively to such responsibilities; and

(B) responding to individuals who contest a tentative nonconfirmation provided by the employment eligibility verification system established under such section;

(2) provide such funds annually in advance of the applicable quarter based on estimating methodology agreed to by the Commissioner and the Secretary (except in such instances where the delayed enactment of an annual appropriation may preclude such quarterly payments); and

(3) require an annual accounting and reconciliation of the actual costs incurred and the funds provided under the agreement, which shall be reviewed by the Inspectors General of the Social Security Administration and the Department of Homeland Security.

(b) CONTINUATION OF EMPLOYMENT VERIFICATION IN ABSENCE OF TIMELY AGREEMENT.—In any case in which the agreement required under subsection (a) for any fiscal year beginning on or after October 1, 2023, has not been reached as of October 1 of such fiscal year, the latest agreement between the Commissioner and the Secretary of Homeland Security providing for funding to cover the costs of the responsibilities of the Commissioner under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)) shall be deemed in effect on an in-

terim basis for such fiscal year until such time as an agreement required under subsection (a) is subsequently reached, except that the terms of such interim agreement shall be modified by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget to adjust for inflation and any increase or decrease in the volume of requests under the employment eligibility verification system. In any case in which an interim agreement applies for any fiscal year under this subsection, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than October 1 of such fiscal year, notify the Committee on Ways and Means, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance, the Committee on the Judiciary, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate of the failure to reach the agreement required under subsection (a) for such fiscal year. Until such time as the agreement required under subsection (a) has been reached for such fiscal year, the Commissioner and the Secretary shall, not later than the end of each 90-day period after October 1 of such fiscal year, notify such Committees of the status of negotiations between the Commissioner and the Secretary in order to reach such an agreement.

**SEC. 1290. FRAUD PREVENTION.**

(a) BLOCKING MISUSED SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program in which social security account numbers that have been identified to be subject to unusual multiple use in the employment eligibility verification system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 1282, or that are otherwise suspected or determined to have been compromised by identity fraud or other misuse, shall be blocked from use for such system purposes unless the individual using such number is able to establish, through secure and fair additional security procedures, that the individual is the legitimate holder of the number.

(b) ALLOWING SUSPENSION OF USE OF CERTAIN SOCIAL SECURITY ACCOUNT NUMBERS.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program which shall provide a reliable, secure method by which victims of identity fraud and other individuals may suspend or limit the use of their social security account number or other identifying information for purposes of the employment eligibility verification system established under section 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 1282. The Secretary may implement the program on a limited pilot program basis before making it fully available to all individuals.

(c) ALLOWING PARENTS TO PREVENT THEFT OF THEIR CHILD'S IDENTITY.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security, shall establish a program which shall provide a reliable, secure method by which parents or legal guardians may suspend or limit the use of the social security account number or other identifying information of a minor under their care for the purposes of the employment eligibility verification system established under 274A(d) of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1324a(d)), as amended by section 1282. The Secretary may implement the program on a limited pilot program basis before making it fully available to all individuals.

**SEC. 1291. USE OF EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PHOTO TOOL.**

An employer who uses the photo matching tool used as part of the E-Verify System

shall match the photo tool photograph to both the photograph on the identity or employment eligibility document provided by the employee and to the face of the employee submitting the document for employment verification purposes.

**SEC. 1292. IDENTITY AUTHENTICATION EMPLOYMENT ELIGIBILITY VERIFICATION PILOT PROGRAMS.**

Not later than 24 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security, after consultation with the Commissioner of Social Security and the Director of the National Institute of Standards and Technology, shall establish by regulation not less than 2 Identity Authentication Employment Eligibility Verification pilot programs, each using a separate and distinct technology (the “Authentication Pilots”). The purpose of the Authentication Pilots shall be to provide for identity authentication and employment eligibility verification with respect to enrolled new employees which shall be available to any employer that elects to participate in either of the Authentication Pilots. Any participating employer may cancel the employer's participation in the Authentication Pilot after one year after electing to participate without prejudice to future participation. The Secretary shall report to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate the Secretary's findings on the Authentication Pilots, including the authentication technologies chosen, not later than 12 months after commencement of the Authentication Pilots.

**SEC. 1293. INSPECTOR GENERAL AUDITS.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall complete audits of the following categories in order to uncover evidence of individuals who are not authorized to work in the United States:

(1) Workers who dispute wages reported on their social security account number when they believe someone else has used such number and name to report wages.

(2) Children's social security account numbers used for work purposes.

(3) Employers whose workers present significant numbers of mismatched social security account numbers or names for wage reporting.

(b) SUBMISSION.—The Inspector General of the Social Security Administration shall submit the audits completed under subsection (a) to the Committee on Ways and Means of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Finance of the Senate for review of the evidence of individuals who are not authorized to work in the United States. The Chairmen of those Committees shall then determine information to be shared with the Secretary of Homeland Security so that such Secretary can investigate the unauthorized employment demonstrated by such evidence.

**SEC. 1294. AGRICULTURE WORKFORCE STUDY.**

Not later than 36 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Department of Homeland Security, in consultation with the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, shall submit to the Committee on the Judiciary of the House of Representatives and the Committee on the Judiciary of the Senate, a report that includes the following:

(1) The number of individuals in the agricultural workforce.

(2) The number of United States citizens in the agricultural workforce.

(3) The number of aliens in the agricultural workforce who are authorized to work in the United States.

(4) The number of aliens in the agricultural workforce who are not authorized to work in the United States.

(5) Wage growth in each of the previous ten years, disaggregated by agricultural sector.

(6) The percentage of total agricultural industry costs represented by agricultural labor during each of the last ten years.

(7) The percentage of agricultural costs invested in mechanization during each of the last ten years.

(8) Recommendations, other than a path to legal status for aliens not authorized to work in the United States, for ensuring United States agricultural employers have a workforce sufficient to cover industry needs, including recommendations to—

- (A) increase investments in mechanization;
- (B) increase the domestic workforce; and
- (C) reform the H-2A program.

**SEC. 1295. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FURTHER IMPLEMENTATION.**

It is the sense of Congress that in implementing the E-Verify Program, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall ensure any adverse impact on the Nation's agricultural workforce, operations, and food security are considered and addressed.

**SEC. 1296. REPEALING REGULATIONS.**

The rules relating to "Temporary Agricultural Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in the United States" (87 Fed. Reg. 61660 (Oct. 12, 2022)) and to "Adverse Effect Wage Rate Methodology for the Temporary Employment of H-2A Nonimmigrants in Non-Range Occupations in the United States" (88 Fed. Reg. 12760 (Feb. 28, 2023)) shall have no force or effect, may not be reissued in substantially the same form, and any new rules that are substantially the same as such rules may not be issued.

**SA 1384.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

**SEC. \_\_\_\_ . PROHIBITION ON FOREIGN ASSISTANCE TO THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OR ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GOVERNING ENTITY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.**

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) On October 7, 2023, the terrorist organization Hamas conducted a brutal attack against Israel, killing some 1,200 innocent men, women, and children, and taking approximately 250 people hostage.

(2) At least 33 United States citizens lost their lives in the October 7, 2023, attack.

(3) At least 6 United States citizens remain unaccounted for and presumed taken captive by Hamas.

(4) Hamas continues to fire rockets indiscriminately toward Israel.

(5) Hamas was designated as a foreign terrorist organization by the United States in October 1997.

(6) On November 26, 2023, a spokesperson for the Israel Defense Forces said that 770 "terrorism events" were carried out by Palestinians in the West Bank since October 7, 2023, including shootings and hurling stones and Molotov cocktails.

(7) The United States provided more than \$7,600,000,000 in bilateral assistance to Palestinians in the West Bank and Gaza since 1993.

(8) The United States obligated more than \$280,000,000 to the West Bank and Gaza in 2023.

(9) The Department of State's West Bank and Gaza 2022 Human Rights Report identified significant human rights issues with respect to the Palestinian Authority, including credible reports of unlawful or arbitrary killings by Palestinian Authority officials, torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishments by Palestinian Authority officials, arbitrary arrest or detention of political prisoners and detainees, and significant problems with the independence of the judiciary.

(10) The report identified the Palestinian Authority committing arbitrary or unlawful interference with privacy; serious restrictions on freedom of expression and media, including violence, threats of violence, unjustified detentions and prosecutions of journalists, and censorship; and serious restrictions on internet freedom.

(11) The report identified the Palestinian Authority committing substantial interference with the freedom of peaceful assembly and freedom of association, including harassment of nongovernmental organizations, serious and unreasonable restrictions on political participation, including no national elections since 2006, and serious government corruption.

(12) The report found that the Palestinian Authority did not adequately investigate or hold accountable gender-based violence, and crimes, violence, and threats of violence motivated by anti-Semitism.

**(b) PROHIBITION ON ASSISTANCE TO PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY AND OTHER GOVERNING ENTITIES IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided under paragraph (2) and notwithstanding any other provision of law, no amounts may be obligated or expended to provide any direct United States assistance, loan guarantee, or debt relief to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

(2) EXCEPTION.—The prohibition under paragraph (1) shall have no effect for a fiscal year if the President certifies to Congress during that fiscal year that—

(A) the Palestinian Authority, or other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza, has—

- (i) formally recognized the right of Israel to exist as a Jewish state;
- (ii) publicly recognized the state of Israel;
- (iii) renounced terrorism;
- (iv) purged all individuals with terrorist ties from security services;
- (v) terminated funding of anti-American and anti-Israel incitement;
- (vi) publicly renounced Hamas and the October 7, 2023, attacks perpetrated by Hamas on Israel; and
- (vii) honored previous diplomatic agreements; and

(B) all hostages abducted on October 7, 2023, and held in territory governed by the Palestinian Authority or other Palestinian governing authority have been released.

**(c) REQUEST FOR INFORMATION ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES BY THE PALESTINIAN AUTHORITY OR ANY OTHER PALESTINIAN GOVERNING ENTITY IN THE WEST BANK AND GAZA.—**

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 30 days after the date of the adoption of this resolution, the Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor and the Office of the Legal Adviser, shall submit to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the human rights practices of the Palestinian Authority, or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) all available credible information concerning alleged violations of internationally recognized human rights by the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza, including—

(i) the denial of the right to life to Israeli citizens, Jewish individuals, women and girls, or any other minority group; and

(ii) the use of torture or cruel, inhumane, or degrading treatment or punishment, prolonged detention without charges and trial, causing the disappearance of persons by the abduction and clandestine detention of those persons, and other flagrant denial of the right to life, liberty, or the security of person;

(B) a description of the steps that the United States Government has taken to—

(i) promote respect for and observance of human rights as part of the activities of the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza;

(ii) discourage any practices that are inimical to internationally recognized human rights; and

(iii) publicly or privately call attention to, and disassociate the United States and any foreign assistance provided for the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza from, any practices described in clause (ii);

(C) a description of the intended uses of all foreign assistance provided by the United States to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza; and

(D) a list of international organizations that—

(i) accept financial contributions from the United States Government; and

(ii) provide assistance of any kind to the Palestinian Authority or any other Palestinian governing entity in the West Bank and Gaza.

**SA 1385.** Mr. PAUL submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 1381 proposed by Mrs. MURRAY to the bill H.R. 2872, of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

On page 4, between lines 13 and 14, insert the following:

**SEC. 102. TWENTY-FIVE PERCENT REDUCTION IN CONTINUING FUNDING EXCEPT FOR DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE, MILITARY CONSTRUCTION, AND DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS AND RESCISSION OF IRS ENFORCEMENT FUNDS.**

Division A of the Continuing Appropriations Act, 2024 and Other Extensions Act (Public Law 118-15), as amended by section 101 of this division, is further amended by adding after section 148 the following:

"SEC. 149. (a) Except as provided in subsection (b), the rate for operations provided by section 101 of this division is hereby reduced by 25.0 percent.

"(b) The rate for operations shall not be reduced under subsection (a) with respect to the appropriation Act described in section 101(3) (relating to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act, 2023) or the appropriation Act described in section 101(10) (relating to the Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2023).

"SEC. 150. Of the unobligated balances of amounts appropriated or otherwise made available for enforcement activities of the

Internal Revenue Service by section 10301(1)(A)(ii) of Public Law 117-169 (commonly known as the "Inflation Reduction Act of 2022") as of the date of enactment of this Act, \$30,000,000,000 are hereby rescinded."

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NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to S. 835, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to reaffirm the importance of, and include requirements for, works incorporated by reference into law, and for other purposes, dated January 17, 2024.

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AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have four 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 au-

thorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

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, January 17, 2024, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

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, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, January 17, 2024, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY,  
JANUARY 18, 2024

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 18; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of H.R. 2872.

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

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ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M.  
TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. 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 9:10 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, January 18, 2024, at 11 a.m.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

### RECOGNIZING JENNY SNELL

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jenny Snell of the Wheelie Bean for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Rising Star Award.

The Rising Star Award is given to a member of the Wheat Ridge business community who has shown growing leadership through the year. Ms. Snell is a thriving small business owner who also gives back to her community through numerous boards, committees, and associations. She has shown incredible dedication to Wheat Ridge and continues to find ways to make Wheat Ridge a great place to live and work.

Congratulations to Ms. Snell on her many accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for her continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

### RECOGNIZING JEFFREY S. RAMER

#### HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Jeffrey S. Ramer for his contributions to the Town of Greenwich and service on the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET).

Jeff has been a trusted member of the Greenwich community for over 50 years. As a Board Member, Jeff spent countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Town of Greenwich. He served for 16 years on the BET, including 10 years on the Budget Committee as well as time on the Audit Committee, Law Committee and Policies & Procedures Committee.

Jeff's work on behalf of Greenwich included bringing the original federal court action to shut down the Cos Cob Power Plant. These efforts ultimately led to the Town's purchase of the property and the creation of Cos Cob Park that provides access to recreation and entertainment for all in the community.

Jeff has served as a distinguished public servant and member of the community. Outside of Town government, Jeff served on the Board of Directors of the Greenwich United Way twice over the course of 30 years and was a trustee of Greenwich Library, president of the Riverside Association, a PTA president twice and served on committees at First Congregational Church.

As Congressman for Connecticut's Fourth District, I have had the pleasure of working with Jeff and have seen firsthand how he has served as a leader and advocate for the people of Greenwich. As Jeff moves on from the BET, I thank him for all that he has done to improve our community for generations to come.

### HONORING TEMPLE ISRAEL OF PALM BEACH

#### HON. LOIS FRANKEL

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Temple Israel of Palm Beach County on its 100th anniversary. The Temple is the oldest Jewish organization in Palm Beach County and the only Reform synagogue in West Palm Beach. Formerly known as Temple Beth Israel, six Jewish families came together to create the synagogue in 1923 with a commitment to the ideals of Progressive Judaism.

In 2012, Temple Israel made history by hiring the first female congregational Rabbi in Palm Beach County. Her successors, Rabbi Carlie Daniels, Rabbi Ryan Daniels and Rabbi Howard Shapiro, continue to shine a bright light on Temple Israel's legacy; by encouraging social activism, being actively involved in events that concern social justice, while continuing to embrace and empower those of interfaith and LGBTQIA families and individuals.

Temple Israel's commitment to providing our community with a House of prayer, study, and gathering and their service to our community is remarkable. I congratulate them on 100 years of service and wish them continued success.

### RECOGNIZING PAUL SULLIVAN

#### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Paul Sullivan, owner of Esters Pub for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Paul Sullivan for his contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

### CONGRATULATING THE COCOA TIGERS ON THEIR 6TH STATE CHAMPIONSHIP WIN

#### HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate the Cocoa High School football team on their sixth state championship win. On December 8th, the

Cocoa Tigers clinched the victory and ended the game with a score of 20–6 against Bradford High School.

This win was the second state championship win in a row for the Tigers, having defeated Florida High last year with a score of 38–31. The Cocoa Tigers also won state championships in 2008, 2009, 2010, and 2016.

Bradford High had come into the game having been undefeated in their season with a 14–0 record. Cocoa High finished its season with a 14–1 record. However, The Cocoa Tigers outscored their opponents in the playoffs by a 184–30 margin.

Bradford High scored the first touchdown of the game against Cocoa, taking a 6–0 lead with only just over six minutes left in the opening quarter.

However, the Cocoa Tigers didn't let an early lead startle them, returning with a 36-yard touchdown two minutes later, gaining a 7–6 lead.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in congratulating the Cocoa High School Tigers football team on their remarkable season. We continue to wish them luck in keeping up this momentum for next year while they aim to clench the title for the third year in a row. Let's go Tigers.

### COMMENDING RUTGERS UNIVERSITY-CAMDEN FOR MEMPHIS PIPELINE PROJECT

#### HON. STEVE COHEN

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. COHEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commend Rutgers University, the State University of New Jersey, and Rutgers-Camden Chancellor Antinio B. Tillis, for their commitment to creating opportunities for Memphis students in my district, which is Mr. Tillis' former hometown. Tillis, a 1983 graduate of Central High School, Vanderbilt University and later a Fulbright Scholar, has dedicated Rutgers-Camden to what he calls the Memphis Pipeline Project. The original Rutgers was founded in 1766 at New Brunswick, New Jersey, and is routinely considered one of the nation's premiere national universities. The "pipeline" has brought 13 Memphis high school students to Rutgers-Camden in the past year and Tillis is focused on bringing more from the city's Hamilton and Westwood High Schools. Just the existence of the pipeline opportunity has inspired students who might not have considered going to college at all, a side benefit of the project, I want to thank Chancellor Tillis, his dedicated staff, and the counselors at Memphis high schools inspired to realize the ambitions of their students, and wish them all every success.

• 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.

RECOGNIZING MESTIZO BREW  
CANTINA

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mestizo Brew Cantina for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Mestizo Brew Cantina for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

HONORING AND RECOGNIZING  
MONTANA STATE TROOPER  
LEWIS JOHNSON

**HON. MATTHEW M. ROSENDALE, SR.**

OF MONTANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. ROSENDALE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the heroic actions of Montana Highway Patrol Trooper, Mr. Lewis Johnson. Through his time serving the Treasure State, Trooper Johnson has demonstrated extraordinary courage and resilience despite enduring life-threatening challenges.

Born in 1987, Trooper Johnson grew up in Chester, Montana. After graduating from the Montana Law Enforcement Academy in 2014, Trooper Johnson and his wife Kate chose to dedicate their lives to protecting and serving the people of Montana as State Troopers. Both stationed in Eureka, Montana, Trooper Johnson is known by his community as a devoted husband, a loving father, and a friend to many.

Unfortunately, on February 16, 2023, Trooper Johnson was severely injured in a tragic accident involving a fleeing suspect. Trooper Johnson experienced numerous injuries, including a punctured lung, damaged liver, head injury, broken ribs, broken arm, broken leg, and severe spinal trauma. Despite sustaining severe life-threatening injuries, Trooper Johnson's remarkable endurance and unwavering support from his family and loved ones has led him down the path to recovery. After many months in the hospital, countless hours of rehabilitation, and medical treatments, Montana celebrates his successful recovery and his reunification with his wife, children, and community.

Trooper Johnson has demonstrated unwavering courage and continues to embody Montana values as he encourages and inspires Montanans and Americans across the country through his story. It is a privilege to recognize and honor Trooper Johnson's selfless commitment to protecting the people of Montana and his remarkable journey toward recovery today.

COMMEMORATING THE LIFE OF  
MRS. DELMARIE MORRIS

**HON. MARC A. VEASEY**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Mrs. Delmarie Morris.

Mrs. Delmarie Morris was born to Leola Jefferson on April 15, 1939, in Waldo, Arkansas. She attended and graduated from Westside School in Waldo, Arkansas. Mrs. Morris accepted Jesus Christ at an early age and was truly a woman who served God. After moving to Dallas in 1957, she joined Marsalis Church of Christ and served as a dedicated choir member and loved singing. Years later she joined the True Light Church, Dallas, Texas. At the True Light Church, she was a dedicated and faithful Sunday School Teacher. Mrs. Morris maintained a firm faith in God and was often seen studying her bible.

Mrs. Morris continued her passion of serving others through her work as a Nursing Assistant at Parkland Hospital and then a Physical Therapist Assistant at Launey Medical Clinic.

As the matriarch of the family, Mrs. Morris was a devoted wife, mother, grandmother, great grandmother and great-great grandmother. She served her family with honor, devotion and steadfast values that will endure the family for generations.

Mrs. Morris was an avid cook and shared her skills with family and friends. My thoughts and prayers are with all those who knew and loved Mrs. Delmarie Morris.

RECOGNIZING LINDSAY REINHART

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lindsay Reinhart of Intermountain Healthcare for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Member of the Year Award.

The Member of the Year Award is given to an individual who exemplifies exceptional leadership and commitment to the community. Ms. Reinhart embodies the meaning of selfless service and is always inclusive and welcoming. She is known by everyone who meets her to be helpful, well-organized, and willing to collaborate. She attends nearly every Wheat Ridge Business Association event and supports the community wholeheartedly.

Congratulations to Ms. Reinhart on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for her continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. DANNY K. DAVIS**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. DAVIS of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to cast votes on January 12, 2024, due

to both a family matter and the need to attend a memorial service for a member of my staff who recently died.

Had I been present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted Aye on:

Roll Call No. 9, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, H.R. 839—China Exchange Rate Transparency Act of 2023, as amended.

Had I been present for Roll Call votes, I would have voted No on:

Roll Call No. 10, On Passage of H.J. Res. 98—A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the National Labor Relations Board relating to a "Standard for Determining Joint Employer Status."

I strongly oppose the Republican effort to repeal the National Labor Relations Board Joint Employer standard. This rule protects millions of workers in subcontracted work, helping them bargain for higher wages, better benefits, and safer conditions. The joint-employer doctrine ensures that companies cannot evade their responsibilities to negotiate with workers. Workers are the backbone of American success, and these workers deserve fair opportunities to collectively-bargain for good wages and safe working conditions. The final rule applies joint employer's bargaining obligations only to terms and conditions under a business's control. I oppose this Republican effort to nullify or weaken the final rule that protects workers.

HONORING SHARP'S CANDIES

**HON. ANDY BARR**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a unique business, Sharp's Candies, which is located in Lexington, Kentucky. The business celebrated its 50th anniversary in 2023.

Bob and Becky Sharp opened Sharp's Candies on Harrodsburg Road in 1973. The business grew, and in 1991 they moved to their present location on Regency Road. Their son Rob and his wife Lisa took over the business in 1991. A uniquely decorated gingerbread house, featuring brown stucco, painted lollipops, and a giant candy cane, is home to Sharp's Candies. The kitchen, where all their candy is freshly made, is found right behind the showroom. All their candy is made by hand, using family recipes and methods learned from their parents. Rob and Lisa take great pride in producing high quality homemade candy and in providing personal service to their loyal customers.

Running a successful small business is increasingly challenging. Rob and Lisa Sharp are to be commended for the success of their business over 50 years. As Sharp's Candies celebrates its 50th anniversary, I congratulate them and wish them a bright future. I am honored to recognize this company before the United States Congress.

RECOGNIZING KING OF WINGS

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize King of Wings for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to King of Wings for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

CONGRATULATING CHAD KNAUS ON HIS INDUCTION INTO THE NASCAR HALL OF FAME

**HON. BILL POSEY**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. POSEY. Mr. Speaker, I would like to take a moment to congratulate Mr. Chad Knaus who will be formally inducted into the NASCAR Hall of Fame on January 20, 2024. For twenty years. Mr. Knaus was one of the greatest crew chiefs in NASCAR history, winning seven championships in his tenure.

Having been a racer, owned a racetrack, and as a Chairman of the Congressional Motorsports Caucus. I've enjoyed racing from almost every perspective. I know NASCAR Championships require nothing short of perfection, hard work, and relentless attention to detail.

Chad Knaus began his career as a teenager, leading his father to multiple championships. Eventually, he got his start with NASCAR, working as an assistant in the Hendrick Motorsports body shop where he learned under Ray Evernham—a fellow Hall of Famer.

In 2002, Knaus was paired with Jimmie Johnson, a rookie driver, on a fourth Hendrick team. With Johnson, Knaus won a record-setting five championships in a row, bringing his total to seven won championships.

As crew chief for Johnson, Knaus won 81 races over 19 seasons, including the Daytona 500 in 2013, two Southern 500s, four Coca-Cola 600s, and four Brickyard 400s. Knaus won his 82nd and final race as crew chief for William Byron in 2020, placing him in 3rd place for all-time wins by a crew chief. Currently, Chad Knaus serves as the Vice President of Competition for Hendrick Motorsports.

I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join with me in congratulating Chad Knaus on his induction into the NASCAR Hall of Fame. This honor is well deserved for such a distinguished career and winning record.

HONORING THE EXTRAORDINARY LIFE OF SERVICE OF REAR ADMIRAL BRIAN DAVIES

**HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN**

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. SLOTKIN. Mr. Speaker, today I honor a dear friend, a former colleague, a devoted public servant, and a true American hero. Rear Admiral Brian Davies was not only one of the kindest people I have ever known, he was the epitome of valor, honor, and dedication. He bravely navigated the challenges of both a distinguished career in the United States Navy and a battle with cancer, and in doing so left a lasting legacy.

When a young Brian Davies enrolled at the United States Naval Academy, he didn't do so with the goal of earning accolades or climbing the ranks; he simply wanted to use his talents in the service of his nation. And that service was extraordinary, proof that there is no limit to what a person can accomplish in the rare instance when a brilliant mind, a humble spirit, and a leader's heart come together.

Much can be said about Rear Admiral Davies' remarkable career: his service on both fast attack and ballistic missile submarines, his six strategic deterrent patrols, his deployments to the Arctic, Western Pacific, North Atlantic and Indian Ocean. Much can also be said about his long list of awards and decorations, including a Distinguished Service medal, the Defense Superior Service medal, five Legion of Merit awards, three Meritorious Service medals, four Navy Commendation medals, three Navy Achievement medals, and various campaign, unit, and service awards. There are even awards and circumstances we can't discuss in detail, like those surrounding the prestigious Presidential Unit Citation he and his entire team received for their top secret work when he commanded the USS *Jimmy Carter*.

But what should never be lost in the litany of awards, honors, and accolades he so rightly earned was his profound humanity. I came to know him as Captain Davies when we served together at the Pentagon; he was the Special Military Assistant when I was Principal Deputy Undersecretary of Defense for Policy. Despite his rank and resume, he was approachable and humble in ways that belied his many accomplishments, and someone who went out of his way to uplift and encourage all those around him. Never the loudest voice in the room, and despite his challenging responsibilities, Rear Admiral exemplified kindness in every interaction.

His profound impact extended far beyond the military or the office, as he was a devoted family man whose love for and pride in his daughter radiated through all he did. I will always remember how he went out of his way to support another colleague through the challenges of her husband's deployment, and the way he treated every person he encountered with dignity and respect. His commitment to the principles of "not self, but county," will forever stand as a beacon for all who worked and served with him and those who had the privilege of learning from him. May his memory be a blessing and a source of inspiration for generations to come.

Fair winds and following seas to Rear Admiral Brian Davies. His legacy lives on in the

hearts of those who knew and loved him, and here, in the United States House of Representatives.

RECOGNIZING HUNTER OWEN

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Hunter Owen for receiving the Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's 2023 Volunteer of the Year Award.

The Wheat Ridge Chamber of Commerce's Volunteer of the Year Award recognizes a member of the Wheat Ridge community for their outstanding volunteer service and contribution to their local community. Mr. Owen is the recipient of this year's award due to his unmatched willingness and dedication to answer the call of his community. He is a proud member of Wheat Ridge Kiwanis, the Rotary Club, and serves on the Chamber of Commerce Board as Member Chair. His tireless work ethic and dedication to the Wheat Ridge Community is tremendous.

Congratulations to Mr. Owen on his many accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for his continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING ELIZABETH M. GONZALEZ

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the exceptional career of Elizabeth M. Gonzalez, Chief of Congressional Affairs at U.S. Southern Command (SOUTHCOM), and a dear friend with whom I have had the privilege of working with for many years.

Elizabeth was born in Hialeah, Florida to her loving Cuban American parents, German and Celia Gonzalez. Having been forced out of Cuba by Fidel Castro's regime in 1960, her parents instilled in her from a young age a deep appreciation for the sacrifices they made, the value of freedom from communist oppression, and an unshakeable pride in her Cuban heritage.

Known for her drive and pursuit of academic excellence, Elizabeth graduated from Hialeah Senior High as the Valedictorian of her class, later graduating with honors from Harvard University with a Bachelor of Arts in Government and a Master of Education in Administration, Planning, and Social Policy. Propelled then by her tenacity and heart for service, Elizabeth stepped into what would be a remarkable career in service to our great Nation.

Elizabeth began working in 2002 at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration (NASA) Headquarters as a Presidential Management Intern (PMI), where she developed and managed a distance learning science program for bilingual children that aired internationally on over 30 television stations. She quickly rose in the ranks at NASA, working as a Legislative Specialist and finishing her tenure in the Office of the NASA Administrator as

a Policy Analyst focused on NASA's space exploration mission.

Upon returning to South Florida in 2005, Elizabeth served as the Deputy Director of Congressional Affairs at SOUTHCOM, directly advising the Commander on legislative matters. While in this position, she would hone her policy-making skills that she would later demonstrate throughout the rest of her career. In 2009, Elizabeth then pursued an opportunity to serve as Advisor to the Supreme Allied Commander, Europe and Director of Congressional Affairs for U.S. European Commander at Supreme Headquarters Allied Powers Europe (SHAPE) Headquarters in Belgium. After serving two years in this role, Elizabeth returned to Miami to serve as the Chief of Congressional Affairs at SOUTHCOM, a role she has since executed with such excellence as to merit two awards. Elizabeth was hailed by her own colleagues as the "driving force behind Southern Command's outsized success and stellar reputation on our Nation's Capitol Hill," and has been venerated for her "visionary leadership, [and] exceptional strategic guidance".

Among her many hard-earned achievements, accolades, and awards, Elizabeth remains especially proud of her role as a loving mother to her son, Jake. She looks forward now to spending more time with her son and family enjoying white corn dinners after her many years of dedicated public service.

Mr. Speaker, I am honored to commend Elizabeth Gonzalez for her tremendous service to our Nation and our shared enthusiasm. I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing this remarkable individual.

HONORING MIKE MADDUX FROM  
THE TEXAS RANGERS

**HON. VERONICA ESCOBAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. ESCOBAR. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize the achievements of former University of Texas at El Paso (UTEP) baseball player, Mike Maddux, for his success and contribution as the professional pitching coach of the 2023 World Series-winning Texas Rangers.

Coach Maddux, an Ohio native, was drafted by the Cincinnati Reds in the 36th round of the 1979 Major League Baseball (MLB) draft. However, he chose to pursue his education at UTEP, where he excelled as the star pitcher for the 1985 UTEP National Collegiate Athletic Association (NCAA) baseball team. Following his graduation, Coach Maddux enjoyed a 15-year career in the MLB, playing for nine teams and concluding his playing days with the Houston Astros in 2000. Subsequently, he transitioned to a coaching role in the MLB starting in 2003. Over the years, Coach Maddux contributed his coaching expertise to four MLB teams: the Milwaukee Brewers (2003 through 2008), Texas Rangers (2009 through 2015), Washington Nationals (2016 through 2017), and St. Louis Cardinals (2018 through 2022). Notably, he returned to the Texas Rangers as their pitching coach in 2022.

During his initial tenure with the Rangers from 2009 to 2015, Coach Maddux oversaw a remarkable period of organizational success.

The team achieved four consecutive seasons with a team Earned Run Average (ERA) below 4.00 from 2010 to 2013. Building on this legacy, Coach Maddux helped guide the Rangers to a resounding and overwhelming 4–1 series victory in the 2023 MLB World Series, securing their first championship in franchise history.

Today, it is my privilege to join the University of Texas at El Paso, and many others, in honoring Coach Mike Maddux for his work in helping the Texas Rangers win their first World Series and making El Paso Proud.

RECOGNIZING HABITAT FOR  
HUMANITY

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Habitat for Humanity for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Special Recognition Award.

The Special Recognition Award is given to a person or organization in Wheat Ridge who exemplifies outstanding service, leadership, and participation in the community and aims to recognize them for their achievement. Habitat for Humanity brings people together to build homes, communities, and hope. Habitat works with low- and middle-income families to build affordable homes. This year, Habitat began construction on 8 units in the Fruitdale neighborhood, bringing in 8 new families to Wheat Ridge.

We are grateful to Habitat for Humanity for their continued contributions to the Wheat Ridge community.

HONORING DR. JOAQUÍN GARCÍA

**HON. LOIS FRANKEL**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the legacy of Dr. Joaquín García, an esteemed medical professional of Palm Beach County. January 12, 2024, has been officially declared as Dr. Joaquín García Day. Dr. García is the first notable Hispanic in Palm Beach County to have a High School named after him to honor his memory and community contributions.

As a Cuban native, Dr. García continuously strived towards progressing immigrant members of the community in collaboration with the Hispanic Chamber of Commerce and other various Hispanic-affiliated groups. As a founding member and chairman of the Hispanic Education Coalition of Palm Beach County (HEC), Dr. García avidly promoted the education of children through his support for dual-language programs in the community. Beyond his role at the HEC, Dr. García was deeply involved in an array of advocacy groups including the Homeless Coalition of Palm Beach County, Compass, International AIDS Education Foundation, Cycle for The Cause, and the Palm Beach County Sheriff's Health Education Outreach.

Dr. García once stated, "I did not have any natural children, but I consider the tens of

thousands of students in the district to be my children and my responsibility."

Mr. Speaker, Dr. Joaquín García's dedication to advocacy on behalf of children and his service to the people of South Florida is truly admirable. May his legacy be honored by the success of the students of Dr. Joaquín García High School.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. HAROLD ROGERS**

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky. Mr. Speaker, I was unable to vote on January 11, 2024 and January 12, 2024.

Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 4; "yea" on rollcall No. 5; "nay" on rollcall No. 6; "yea" on rollcall No. 7; "yea" on rollcall No. 8; "yea" on rollcall No. 9; and "yea" on rollcall No. 10.

RECOGNIZING STYLUS AND CRATE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Stylus and Crate of Wheat Ridge, Colorado for receiving the City of Wheat Ridge's Business of the Year Award.

Stylus and Crate is an example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful community. They bring together coffee, art, and music enthusiasts alike, while also giving back to the community and doing their part to protect the environment. Stylus and Crate generously donates 3.33 percent of their revenue to charitable causes, often giving and beyond their set goal.

Congratulations to Stylus and Crate on the accomplishments that led to this prestigious award. We are grateful for their continued contribution to the Wheat Ridge community.

RECOGNIZING THE CONTRIBUTIONS OF  
LYNNETTE R. BUFFINGTON

**HON. DEREK KILMER**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lynnette R. Buffington for her years of public service to our community. As the CEO of Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. Ms. Buffington has demonstrated unparalleled leadership and advocacy for the Grays Harbor community.

Ms. Buffington started at Greater Grays Harbor, Inc., the regional economic development council and chamber of commerce, at a tumultuous time: the summer of 2020. Even amidst the challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic, Ms. Buffington rose to the occasion and led Grays Harbor County to greater economic prosperity.

Since taking the helm, Ms. Buffington and Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. have secured millions in grants and investments into rural communities and projects across Grays Harbor,

with nearly \$800,000 of that being directly allocated to support small businesses and business development programming.

Ms. Buffington has been a staunch advocate for public funding of major infrastructure projects, increased access to childcare facilities, and overall economic growth in a county that desperately needs it. And this advocacy has led to record levels of public investment, including over \$100 million in federal support for the Aberdeen–Hoquiam Flood Protection Project.

The impact of Ms. Buffington's work has been profound and will have lasting impacts. In fact, work is underway for Greater Grays Harbor, Inc. to join a larger, regional EDA-recognized Economic Development District, and her legislative organizing at both the state and federal level has better positioned Grays Harbor County communities to address their needs.

Ms. Buffington was also critical in securing \$500,000 in strategy development grant funds as part of the Distressed Area Recompete Pilot Program. These funds are designed to better position both Grays Harbor and Pacific counties to create and connect people to good jobs and renew economic opportunity in rural communities that have too long been forgotten. These funds will significantly increase local coordination and planning activities and serve as an investment in readiness and local capacity-building.

Mr. Speaker, I have been encouraged by Ms. Buffington's community leadership and I applaud her for her successes in our district. Ms. Buffington's leadership and passion for revitalizing rural Grays Harbor County has forever impacted the future of the communities she served. Her advocacy and energy will be sorely missed.

For these reasons, I am pleased to recognize Ms. Lynnette R. Buffington in the United States Congress.

#### RECOGNIZING LAURA ERICKSON

### HON. JAMES A. HIMES

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Laura Erickson for her contributions to the Town of Greenwich and service on the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET).

Laura has been a trusted member of the Greenwich community for over 30 years. As a Board Member, she spent countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Town of Greenwich. Laura has served on the BET since 2019, where she was a member of the Budget and Audit Committees and served as the BET's liaison to the Department of Public Works, the Nathaniel Witherell skilled nursing facility, and information technology/cybersecurity.

Laura has long been a distinguished public servant committed to expanding educational opportunities for all. Prior to her time on the BET, she served on the Greenwich Board of Education for four years from November 2013 to November 2017, a tenure that included being Chair of the Board during two budget cycles. While on the Board of Education, Laura served on the New Lebanon School and MISA Building Committees and chaired both the Superintendent Search Committee and the

Budget Committee. Laura is currently a board member of the Norwalk Community College Foundation and has previously served as a board member of the Greenwich Alliance for Education and the Greenwich United Way.

As Congressman for Connecticut's Fourth District, I have had the pleasure of working with Laura and have seen firsthand her leadership and advocacy for our community. As Laura moves on from the BET, I thank her for her dedication and public service.

#### RECOGNIZING SUZANNE SMITH

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Suzanne Smith, owner of Food for Thought, for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Mayor's Partnership Award.

The Mayor's Partnership Award, selected by Mayor Bud Starker, recognizes an outstanding member of the community. Suzanne Smith is a life-long Wheat Ridge resident and has served the Denver metro area for over 30 years. What started as two parents providing hot lunches for school kids once a month for six years, has turned into Ms. Smith's full-service catering company that continues to serve the community to this day. She is committed to providing a wide-range of delicious dishes through her catering business Food for Thought, as well as to her neighbors and friends. Her hardwork and dedication to the Wheat Ridge Community is tremendous.

I thank Suzanne Smith for her outstanding leadership, going above and beyond to make a positive impact. She is an example of what makes Wheat Ridge such a wonderful place to live and work.

#### HONORING DR. MICHAEL BRANTLEY

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life of Dr. Michael Brantley. Dr. Brantley passed away on January 6, 2024 after a life filled with countless personal and professional achievements.

A U.S. Army veteran, Dr. Brantley honorably served our country, serving as a Captain and a Chief Laboratory Officer. In addition to answering the call to national service, Dr. Michael Brantley was a dedicated public servant and community leader of his hometown of Neptune and the surrounding area. As a member of the Neptune Township Committee (including terms as Mayor and Deputy Mayor), Chairman of the Neptune Township Police Oversight Committee, and a member of the Wesley Lake Commission, Dr. Brantley continually gave back to his community.

A graduate of Morgan State College and Meharry Medical College School of Dentistry, Dr. Brantley was also a prominent dentist, operating his own dental practice in Asbury Park for more than 35 years, and shared his knowl-

edge and experience through leadership positions at various medical facilities. His passion for healthcare and his commitment to the community and public service have been widely recognized. Among many other honors, Dr. Brantley was inducted into the Neptune High School Hall of Fame and received the Health Care Service Award from Brookdale Community College.

Dr. Brantley leaves behind his loving family and friends, including his beloved wife of 37 years, Jacqueline. His generous spirit was a joy to everyone he met, and he will be remembered fondly by all those whose lives he impacted.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope that my colleagues will join me in honoring Dr. Michael Brantley for his leadership and dedication to his community and our nation.

#### RECOGNIZING CAROL ROBERTS ON HER 46-YEAR CAREER WITH THE BAY COUNTY CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

### HON. NEAL P. DUNN

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize an exceptional leader in the Bay County, Florida community. Mrs. Carol Roberts is the President and CEO of the Bay County Chamber of Commerce. On January 31, 2024, Carol will retire from her 46-year career with the Bay County Chamber of Commerce.

In 1977, when she was just 20 years old, Carol began her career with the Chamber as a receptionist. Between 1977 and 2001, Carol held every job at the Chamber until the time she was ultimately named President and CEO. For the past 22 years, Carol has led the Chamber with grit, determination, and grace. Throughout her career, Carol has never shied away from being a guiding force for Bay County through difficulty and hardship, as well as through the wonderful days of exciting change and growth.

I congratulate Carol on an exceptional career. I thank her for serving with her whole heart and working each day to make Bay County a great place to live, work, and play. I wish her only the best in her retirement.

#### APPRECIATING THE SERVICE OF MAJOR DAVID MARK BARRERAS II

### HON. JOHN R. CARTER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, January 17, 2024*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as the proud Co-Chair of the Army Caucus, I extend my deepest gratitude for the service of Major David Mark Barreras II to the United States Congress.

As both my Defense Fellow and an Army Legislative Liaison, Major Barreras made innumerable contributions to the citizens of Central Texas and the Nation.

I extend my best wishes as he transitions to a new assignment and express profound thankfulness to him and his family for their service to our great Nation.

HONORING THE LIFE OF L.M.  
"BUDDY" PREUSS, III

**HON. MICHAEL T. McCAUL**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, on Friday, January 5, 2024, my district lost a pillar of our community. While we mourn the loss of L.M. "Buddy" Preuss, III, we know his legacy will live on for years to come in Giddings, Texas, and beyond.

Born and raised in Giddings, Buddy was hired as the editor for the Giddings News at just 19 years old. He went on to own and operate the Giddings Times and News, providing a reliable news service to the citizens of his county for more than five decades.

Buddy's life is a true inspiration. A member of the Giddings chamber of commerce, he constantly sought ways to contribute to his community's welfare. Buddy was also a remarkable husband to the love of his life, Louise, and father to his five children. And above all, Buddy was a man of sincere faith. He held on to hope and his love for the Lord, even during his battle with cancer. While he is missed, I find comfort in knowing he is rejoicing in the presence of God, finally pain free.

Buddy was so much more than a reporter, businessman, and community leader—he was a dear friend to many, including myself. My stops in Giddings certainly won't be the same without him. Rest in peace, Buddy.

RECOGNIZING MIRIAM KREUZER

**HON. JAMES A. HIMES**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. HIMES. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize Miriam Kreuzer for her contributions to the Town of Greenwich and her service on the Board of Estimate and Taxation (BET).

Miriam has been a trusted member of the Greenwich community for over 13 years. As a Board Member, Miriam spent countless volunteer hours on behalf of the Town of Greenwich. She served for four years on the BET, where she was a part of the Investment Advisory and Human Resources Committees and served on the First Selectman's Havemeyer Committee, the Hamill Rink RFP Committee and as a liaison to Parks and Recreation.

Throughout her time as a distinguished public servant, she applied her deep knowledge of the financial markets to various important roles in Town government, including six years as liaison to the Retirement Board and 18 months as a member of the Town's Other Post-Employment Benefits Board, which oversees investments for the health care plan for municipal retirees.

As Congressman for Connecticut's Fourth District, I have had the pleasure of working with Miriam and I have seen firsthand how she has served as an advocate and leader for the people of Greenwich. As she moves on from the BET, I thank her for all that she has done to strengthen our community.

HONORING CATHY GERAGHTY, A  
FORCE OF NATURE

**HON. MIKE QUIGLEY**

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Mr. QUIGLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to join the Chicago Wilderness Alliance in honoring Ms. Cathy Geraghty, a 2023 recipient of the Dr. George B. Rabb Force of Nature Award. This award commends outstanding work in the field of conservation.

Cathy is a true champion of biodiversity. Through her work as the Director of External and Strategic Initiatives with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Cathy has worked tirelessly to protect the environment. When she isn't working, she spends her free time serving as a proud member of the Chicago Wilderness Alliance Steering Committee. During her two-decade long career with the Forest Preserves of Cook County, Cathy has pushed the organization forward in tackling conservation issues, particularly with her drafting of the Next Century Conservation Plan. The Forest Preserves of Cook County is the first forest preserve district in the United States, and this ambitious plan continues our legacy as leader in the space of forest preservation and restoration. With an implementation strategy that includes volunteer outreach, tying the preserves to the economic future of Chicago, restoring 30,000 acres to full health, and leading with transparency, this plan will continue to improve our forest preserves and increase the community that supports them.

Cathy is truly a force of nature, and I could not be prouder of the work my friend has done to support our environment. Mr. Speaker, please join me and all our colleagues in the House of Representatives in recognizing Ms. Geraghty's service and congratulating her on receiving the Force of Nature Award.

RECOGNIZING QUEEN CITY  
COLLECTIVE COFFEE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, January 17, 2024

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Queen City Collective Coffee for receiving the Wheat Ridge Business Association's 2023 Reinvestment Award.

The Reinvestment Award recognizes businesses that have demonstrated their commitment and investment in making Wheat Ridge a wonderful place to live, work, and play.

Congratulations to Queen City Collective Coffee for their contribution to the Wheat Ridge community and for receiving this award.

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, January 18, 2024 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JANUARY 23

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Melissa Griffin Dalton, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of the Air Force, Douglas Craig Schmidt, of Tennessee, to be Director of Operational Test and Evaluation, and April Joy Ericsson, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine the Patent Eligibility Restoration Act, focusing restoring clarity, certainty, and predictability to the U.S. patent system.

SD-226

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Spending Oversight

To hold hearings to examine improving export controls enforcement.

SD-562

JANUARY 24

10 a.m.

Committee on the Budget

To hold hearings to examine how the climate crisis threatens ocean industries.

SD-608

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Toxic Substances Control Act amendments implementation.

SD-406

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine AI in criminal investigations and prosecutions.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine succession planning, focusing on opportunities to build wealth and keep jobs in local communities.

SR-428A

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration  
To hold hearings to examine the use of  
Artificial Intelligence at the Library of

Congress, Government Publishing Of-  
fice, and Smithsonian Institution.

SR-301 10 a.m.

JANUARY 25

Special Committee on Aging  
To hold hearings to examine assisted liv-  
ing facilities, focusing on under-  
standing long-term care options for  
older adults.

SD-106

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S125–S174*

**Measures Introduced:** Fourteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3595–3608, and S. Res. 525–526. **Pages S146–147**

#### Measures Passed:

***Congratulating the University of Michigan Wolverines Football Team:*** Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 520, congratulating the University of Michigan Wolverines football team for winning the 2024 National Collegiate Athletic Association College Football National Championship, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S141**

***National Co-Op Month:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 525, expressing support for the designation of October 2023 as “National Co-Op Month” and commending the cooperative business model and the member-owners, businesses, employees, farmers, ranchers, and practitioners who use the cooperative business model to positively impact the economy and society. **Page S141**

***Flowers in the Senate Chamber:*** Senate agreed to S. Res. 526, repealing standing orders relating to flowers in the Senate Chamber. **Page S141**

#### Measures Considered:

**Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act—Agreement:** Senate began consideration of H.R. 2872, to amend the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act of 2013 to allow the Secretary of the Interior to issue electronic stamps under such Act, after agreeing to the motion to proceed, and taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Page S140**

Pending:

Schumer (for Murray) Amendment No. 1381, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S141**

A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that the only amendments in order to the bill be the following: Paul Amendment No. 1384, Marshall motion to commit, Braun Amendment No. 1382, and Murray Amendment No. 1381; that at

12:30 p.m., on Thursday, January 18, 2024, Senate vote on adoption of the amendments in the order listed, with each subject to 60 affirmative votes required for adoption, with the exception of the Marshall motion to commit and Murray Amendment No. 1381; that there be two minutes for debate equally divided prior to each vote; and that upon disposition of Braun Amendment No. 1382, Murray Amendment No. 1381, as amended, if amended, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60 affirmative votes required for passage of the bill, without intervening action or debate. **Pages S140–141**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, January 18, 2024. **Page S140**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S145–146**

**Petitions and Memorials:** **Page S145**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S145**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S147–149**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S149–150**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S142–145**

**Amendments Submitted:** **Pages S151–174**

**Notices of Intent:** **Page S174**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S174**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 11:00 and adjourned at 9:10 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, January 18, 2024. (For Senate’s program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today’s Record on page S174.)

### Committee Meetings

*(Committees not listed did not meet)*

#### CLOSING CORPORATE LOOPHOLES

***Committee on the Budget:*** Committee concluded a hearing to examine closing corporate loopholes that reward offshoring jobs and profits, after receiving testimony from Kimberly A. Clausing, University of

California, Los Angeles; Roy Houseman, United Steel, Paper and Forestry, Rubber, Manufacturing, Energy, Allied Industrial and Service Workers International Union, and John Arensmeyer, Small Business Majority, both of Washington, D.C.; James R. Hines Jr., University of Michigan, Ann Arbor; and Mindy Herzfeld, University of Florida Levin College of Law, Gainesville.

### 2024 TAIWAN ELECTIONS

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee received a closed briefing on strategic implications for cross-straits relations of the 2024 Taiwan elections from Daniel J. Kritenbrink, Assistant Secretary for East Asian and Pacific Affairs, and Brett M. Holmgren, Assistant Secretary for Intelligence and Research, both of the Department of State.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Cathy Ann Harris, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member, both of the Merit Systems Protection Board, Suzanne Elizabeth Summerlin, of Florida, to be General Counsel of the Federal Labor Relations

Authority, Jeff Rezmovic, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Department of Homeland Security, and Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel.

### CYBER SAFETY REVIEW BOARD

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the Cyber Safety Review Board, focusing on expectations, outcomes, and enduring questions, after receiving testimony from Tarah Wheeler, Red Queen Dynamics, Seattle, Washington; and John S. Miller, Information Technology Industry Council, and Trey Herr, Atlantic Council, both of Washington, D.C.

### FIRST STEP ACT

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine five years of the First Step Act, focusing on reimagining rehabilitation and protecting public safety, after receiving testimony from Ja’Ron Smith, former Deputy Assistant for Domestic Policy, Washington, D.C.; Steve Markle, Council of Prison Locals, Rockville, Indiana; J. Charles Smith III, National District Attorneys Association, Frederick, Maryland; and Matthew Charles, Nashville, Tennessee.

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# House of Representatives

## Chamber Action

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 27 public bills, H.R. 7002–7028; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 82; and H. Res. 970–971, were introduced. **Pages H187–188**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H189–190**

**Report Filed:** A report was filed today as follows:

H. Res. 969, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6914) to require institutions of higher education to disseminate information on the rights of, and accommodations and resources for, pregnant students, and for other purposes; providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 6918) to prohibit the Secretary of Health and Human Services from restricting funding for pregnancy centers; and providing for consideration of the resolution (H. Res. 957) denouncing the Biden administration’s open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration’s open-borders policies (H. Rept. 118–350).

**Page H164**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Estes to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H149**

**Journal:** The House agreed to the Speaker’s approval of the Journal by voice vote. **Page H165**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:32 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H152**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 1:02 p.m. and reconvened at 1:30 p.m. **Page H164**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 3:18 p.m. and reconvened at 4:30 p.m. **Page H175**

**Suspensions:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measure:

*Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2023:* H.R. 3058, amended, to amend parts B and E of title IV of the Social Security Act to improve foster and adoptive parent recruitment and retention, by a  $\frac{2}{3}$  yeas-and-nays vote of 403 yeas to 9 nays, Roll No. 12. **Pages H173–174**

Denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies: The House agreed to H. Res. 957, denouncing the Biden administration's open-borders policies, condemning the national security and public safety crisis along the southwest border, and urging President Biden to end his administration's open-borders policies, by a ye-and-nay vote of 225 yeas to 187 nays, Roll No. 13.

Page H176

H. Res. 969, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 6914) and (H.R. 6918) and the resolution (H. Res. 957) was agreed to by a ye-and-nay vote of 198 yeas to 194 nays, Roll No. 11.

Pages H164–165

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** Three ye-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages S164–165, S175–176, and S176.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:57 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### STRENGTHENING AMERICAN COMMUNICATIONS LEADERSHIP WITH OPEN RADIO ACCESS NETWORKS

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Strengthening American Communications Leadership with Open Radio Access Networks”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### A THREAT TO EVERY COMMUNITY: ASSESSING THE SAFETY, HEALTH, AND ECONOMIC CONSEQUENCES OF PRESIDENT BIDEN'S BORDER POLICIES

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “A Threat to Every Community: Assessing the Safety, Health, and Economic Consequences of President Biden's Border Policies”. Testimony was heard from Inna Vernikov, Councilwoman, New York City Council, New York; and public witnesses.

### INTERNATIONAL FINANCING OF NUCLEAR ENERGY

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on National Security, Illicit Finance, and International Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “International Financing of Nuclear Energy”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### EXAMINING THE FLOW OF U.S. MONEY INTO CHINA'S MILITARY MIGHT

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Examining the Flow of U.S. Money into China's Military Might”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### PROTECTING EMERGING TECHNOLOGIES FOR PEACE AND STABILITY IN THE INDO-PACIFIC

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on the Indo-Pacific held a hearing entitled “Protecting Emerging Technologies for Peace and Stability in the Indo-Pacific”. Testimony was heard from Nathaniel Fick, Ambassador at Large, Bureau of Cyber-space and Digital Policy, Department of State; C.S. Eliot Kang, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of State; and Thea D. Rozman Kendler, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of International Security and Nonproliferation, Department of Commerce.

### SAFEGUARDING DISSIDENT VOICES: ADDRESSING TRANSNATIONAL REPRESSION THREATS TO HOMELAND SECURITY

*Committee on Homeland Security:* Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Law Enforcement, and Intelligence held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding Dissident Voices: Addressing Transnational Repression Threats to Homeland Security”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 1246, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for land held in trust for federally recognized Indian tribes; H.R. 2950, the “Coastal Habitat Conservation Act of 2023”; H.R. 5482, the “Energy Poverty Prevention and Accountability Act of 2023”; H.R. 5770, the “Water Data Improvement Act”; H.R. 5874, to amend the United States-Mexico Transboundary Aquifer Assessment Act to reauthorize the United States-Mexico transboundary aquifer assessment program; H.R. 6443, the “Jamul Indian Village Land Transfer Act”; H.R. 6474, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to expedite geothermal exploration and development in previously studied or developed areas; and H.R. 6492, the “EXPLORE Act”. H.R. 1246, H.R. 6443, and H.R. 6474 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 2950, H.R. 5482, H.R. 5770, H.R. 5874, and H.R. 6492 were ordered reported, as amended.

### THE BIDEN ADMINISTRATION'S REGULATORY AND POLICYMAKING EFFORTS TO UNDERMINE U.S. IMMIGRATION LAW

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Biden Administration’s Regulatory and Policymaking Efforts to Undermine U.S. Immigration Law”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### TOWARD AN AI-READY WORKFORCE

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Information Technology, and Government Innovation held a hearing entitled “Toward an AI-Ready Workforce”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### RETURNING TO THE MOON: KEEPING ARTEMIS ON TRACK

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics held a hearing entitled “Returning to the Moon: Keeping Artemis on Track”. Testimony was heard from Catherine Koerner, Associate Administrator, Exploration Systems Development Mission Directorate, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; William Russell, Director, Contracting and National Security Acquisitions, Government Accountability Office; George A. Scott, Acting Inspector General, National Aeronautics and Space Administration; and a public witness.

### THE STATE OF TRANSPORTATION

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The State of Transportation”. Testimony was heard from Stephen A. Edwards, Chief Executive Officer and Executive Director, Virginia Port Authority; Roger Millar, Secretary of Transportation, Washington State Department of Transportation; and public witnesses.

### VA REVOLVING FUNDS: ARE VETERANS BEING SHORTCHANGED

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “VA Revolving Funds: Are Veterans Being Shortchanged”. Testimony was heard from Teresa Riffel, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Financial Management Business Transformation, Financial Management Business Transformation Services, Department of Veterans Affairs; and Julie Matta, Deputy General Counsel, Government Accountability Office.

### PATHWAYS TO INDEPENDENCE: SUPPORTING YOUTH AGING OUT OF FOSTER CARE

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Subcommittee on Work and Welfare held a hearing entitled “Pathways to Independence: Supporting Youth Aging Out of Foster Care”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

### AFFORDABLE HOUSING

*Joint Economic Committee:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine policy approaches to increasing the supply of affordable housing, focusing on rebuilding the American Dream, after receiving testimony from Jenn Lopez, Project Moxie, Durango, Colorado; Jenny Schuetz, Brookings Metro, and Tobias J. Peter, American Enterprise Institute, both of Washington, D.C.; and Salim Furth, George Mason University Mercatus Center, Arlington, Virginia.

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## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JANUARY 18, 2024

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

### Senate

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine national security challenges, focusing on outpacing China in emerging technology, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* business meeting to consider S. 1863, to require the Secretary of Energy to conduct a study and submit a report on the greenhouse gas emissions intensity of certain products produced in the United States and in certain foreign countries, S. 2781, to promote remediation of abandoned hardrock mines, S. 3412, to redesignate the Richard H. Poff Federal Building located at 210 Franklin Road Southwest in Roanoke, Virginia, as the “Reuben E. Lawson Federal Building”, S. 3570, to designate the United States courthouse located at 500 West Pike Street in Clarksburg, West Virginia, as the “Irene M. Keeley United States Courthouse”, and S. 3577, to designate the Federal building located at 300 E. 3rd Street in North Platte, Nebraska, as the “Virginia Smith Federal Building”, 10:30 a.m., SD-406.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* to receive a closed briefing from the Secretary of State, 1:45 p.m., SVC-217.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine addressing long COVID, focusing on advancing research and improving patient care, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on the Judiciary*: business meeting to consider the nominations of Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Nicole G. Berner, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Joshua Paul Kolar, of Indiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit, Adeel Abdullah Mangi, of New Jersey, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit, Jacquelyn D. Austin, to be United States District Judge for the District of South Carolina, Amy M. Baggio, and Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, both to be a United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Jacqueline Becerra, Melissa Damian, and David Seymour Leibowitz, each to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Florida, Cristal C. Brisco, and Gretchen S. Lund, both to be a United States District Judge for the Northern District of Indiana, Edward Sunyol Kiel, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Sarah French Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, Kirk Edward Sherriff, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, Julie Simone Sneed, to be United States District Judge for the Middle District of Florida, Joseph Albert Laroski, Jr., of Maryland, and Lisa W. Wang, of the District of Columbia, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of International Trade, Ramona Villagomez Manglona, to be Judge for the District Court for the Northern Mariana Islands, and Deborah Robinson, of New Jersey, to be Intellectual Property Enforcement Coordinator, Executive Office of the President, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

### House

*Committee on the Budget*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 5779, the “Fiscal Commission Act of 2023”; H.R. 6952, the “Fiscal State of the Nation Act”; and H.R. 6957, the “Debt-to-GDP Transparency and Stabilization Act”, 10 a.m., 210 Cannon.

*Committee on Education and Workforce*, Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary, and Secondary Education, hearing entitled “Preparing Students for Success in the Skills-Based Economy”, 10:15 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Committee on Energy and Commerce*, Subcommittee on Energy, Climate, and Grid Security, hearing entitled “Fueling America’s Economy: Legislation to Improve Safety and Expand U.S. Pipeline Infrastructure”, 10 a.m., 2322 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Innovation, Data, and Commerce, hearing entitled “NIL Playbook: Proposal to Protect Student Athletes’ Dealmaking Rights”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn.

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Oversight of the SEC’s Proposed Climate Disclosure Rule: A Future of Legal Hurdles”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn.

*Committee on Foreign Affairs*, Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, hearing entitled “The Myth of the New

Cuban Entrepreneurs: An Analysis of the Biden Administration’s Cuba Policy”, 2 p.m., 2200 Rayburn.

*Committee on Homeland Security*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Voices for the Victims: The Heartbreaking Reality of the Mayorkas Border Crisis”, 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, markup on Ratification of Subcommittee Assignments; H.R. 5736, the “Federal Accountability in Interviews Reform Act”; H.R. 1508, the “Traveler’s Gun Rights Act”; H.R. 1709, the “Tribal Firearm Access Act”; H.R. 5585, the “Agent Raul Gonzalez Officer Safety Act”; H.R. 6976, the “Protect Our Communities from DUIs Act”; H.R. 6678, the “Consequences for Social Security Fraud Act”; and H.R. 6679, the “No Immigration Benefits for Hamas Terrorists Act”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled “Reporting for Duty: Examining the Impacts of the Department of the Interior’s Remote and Telework Policies”, 10:15 a.m., 1334 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Water, Wildlife and Fisheries, hearing on H.R. 897, the “Alabama Underwater Forest National Marine Sanctuary and Protection Act”; H.R. 3925, the “Youth Coastal Fishing Program Act of 2023”; H.R. 5441, the “Long Island Sound Restoration and Stewardship Reauthorization Act of 2023”; and H.R. 6235, the “Harmful Algal Bloom and Hypoxia Research and Control Amendments Act of 2023”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

Subcommittee on Indian and Insular Affairs, hearing on H.R. 6062, to restore the ability of the people of American Samoa to approve amendments to the territorial constitution based on majority rule in a democratic act of self-determination, as authorized pursuant to an Act of Congress delegating administration of Federal territorial law in the territory to the President, and to the Secretary of the Interior under Executive Order 10264, dated June 29, 1951, under which the Constitution of American Samoa was approved and may be amended without requirement for further congressional action, subject to the authority of Congress under the Territorial Clause in article IV, section 3, clause 2 of the United States Constitution; and H.R. 6273, the “Guam Host Community Compensation Act”, 2 p.m., 1324 Longworth.

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability*, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs, hearing entitled “The Next Generation: Empowering American Nuclear Energy”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn.

*Committee on Small Business*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Unleashing Main Street’s Potential: Examining Avenues to Capital Access”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure*, Subcommittee on Railroads, Pipelines, and Hazardous Materials, hearing entitled “Oversight and Examination of Railroad Grade Crossing Elimination and Safety”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Thursday, January 18

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

10 a.m., Thursday, January 18

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 2872, Amending the Permanent Electronic Duck Stamp Act (the legislative vehicle for the Continuing Resolution).

At 12:30 p.m., Senate will vote on or in relation to Paul Amendment No. 1384, Marshall motion to commit, and Braun Amendment No. 1382, with each subject to 60-affirmative votes required for adoption, with the exception of the Marshall motion to commit.

Following disposition of the amendments and motion listed, Murray Amendment No. 1381, in the nature of a substitute, be agreed to, and Senate vote on passage of the bill, as amended, if amended, with 60-affirmative votes required for passage.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.R. 6914—Pregnant Students' Rights Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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