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No. 197

## House of Representatives

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

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
November 30, 2023.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MARCUS J. MOLINARO to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

### REALITIES AND NECESSITIES OF WAR

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Mr. Speaker, the attack on Israel by Hamas on October 7 was an unprovoked act of barbarity and butchery that targeted innocent civilians and broke every rule of war dating back to medieval times.

The sinister nature of this attack and the genocidal character of the government behind it should shock the

conscience of every man and woman of good will on this planet.

As the Nazis were systemically murdering 6 million Jews, the civilized nations of the world took up arms in defense of the defenseless, annihilated the scourge of Hitler and Hitlerism, and vowed to never allow such crimes to be permitted again.

To assure this objective, these United Nations restored the Jewish state to the Jewish homeland, whose roots in Israel trace back to the dawn of human history.

Never again. Israel exists today to maintain and uphold that sacred vow of mankind.

Never again. The generation that survived those times knew how vital that declaration is and how essential the existence of Israel is to fulfill it.

Yet, the genocidal hatred that produced the Holocaust was never completely extinguished. It has now morphed into a more virulent strain of Nazism that came on full display on October 7. Shockingly, we are seeing support for that ideology in the riots unfolding on our streets and on our campuses, and it has even seeped into the Halls of Congress.

Now, I oppose punishing anyone for their opinions, even vicious opinions, but they should be denounced at every opportunity, and the destructive policies they advocate should be decisively defeated; which brings me to the folly of the Biden administration.

Now, Hamas is the popularly elected government of Gaza. When it attacked, Israel responded the only way it morally could, by waging war with all of its might and resources.

Gaza was not provoked by Israel. Quite the contrary: In 2006, Israel granted the people of Gaza the right of self-government, and they promptly responded by electing Hamas. Last week, a poll of Palestinians found overwhelming support for that government and the atrocities that it has com-

mitted. There is no moral equivalency here. Israel has practiced tolerance toward all its Arab neighbors while Hamas is dedicated to the annihilation of Israel.

War is hell on Earth. A nation forced into it has a moral obligation to put all of its resources behind its soldiers and to achieve unconditional victory as quickly as possible, and then to resolutely destroy the government and culture that unleashed it.

The demands for a cease-fire by the Biden administration, the provision of so-called humanitarian aid to Hamas-controlled Gaza, and demands for proportionality are utterly self-destructive to all involved because their practical effect is to prolong the conflict indefinitely.

In war, you don't want a proportional response; you want the most disproportional response you can muster. The more disproportional it is, the sooner it is ended.

Humanitarian aid is what you send after the enemy has unconditionally surrendered and not a moment before. Can you imagine sending food and fuel into Nazi Germany during World War II? That is lunacy.

The fountainhead of this problem is Iran. It is funding the most extensive terrorist network in history. The sanctions against Iran were producing a growing popular resistance to that regime, yet each time it was about to boil over, Obama, and later Biden, took billions of dollars owned by the Iranian people and instead turned it over to their oppressors in Iran.

Biden's refusal to enforce sanctions has meant an estimated \$30 billion of revenues to Iran. It was about to release another \$6 billion when the attack on Israel embarrassed them into temporarily backing down.

When President Biden releases money to Iran or relaxes sanctions, he is funding the very terrorist operations unleashed against Israel. When he

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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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leaves our borders wide-open, he is creating an open pathway for terrorists into our country. When he sends aid to Hamas-controlled Gaza, he gives aid and comfort to the very forces that unleashed such terror upon Israel and aspire to unleash it against America.

For our own sake, and for the sake of humanity, America must stand unconditionally with Israel, cutting off any resources to its adversaries and providing the arms, ammunition, and moral support it desperately needs.

This is the only way to restore the full force of civilization behind these two sacred words "never again."

#### ISRAEL AND UKRAINE NEED SUPPLEMENTAL AID

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

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, we have less than 3 weeks scheduled in the remainder of this year for us to act.

We have less than 3 weeks to secure aid for Israel and Ukraine before we return to our districts in December.

They cannot afford that time. Each day we wait, winter grows colder in Ukraine. Each day we sit on our hands, American and Israeli hostages in Gaza become more fearful that they have been forgotten, as do their families.

Each day we idle, our allies sacrifice more lives in their fight against tyranny and terror. Each day we fail to act, America's reputation as the world's greatest defender of freedom and democracy decays.

Inaction suggests to our friends and foes alike that our Congress chooses doubt over determination, reluctance over resolve, and contention over conviction. We embolden those assaulting democracy in Israel, Ukraine, and elsewhere to set their sights on the rest of the free world, including our own shores.

We must not project uncertainty in our willingness to oppose despots and international terrorists. Securing this supplemental aid without condition and without delay needs to be this House's priority.

I have served in Congress for over 42 years, including 28 years in the leadership. In that time, I have seen Democrats and Republicans work together to defend democracy and further freedom.

Earlier this year, I went with former Speaker McCarthy to meet with Israeli leaders to reaffirm our vital U.S.-Israel relationship. I worked with him to preserve the overwhelming bipartisan support our Congress has had for Israel for the past 75 years, just as I did with past Republican leaders.

Now, Mr. Speaker, we come together in solidarity as Vladimir Putin threatens freedom, democracy, international law, and the lives of Ukrainians.

A few years ago, I stood with Republicans in Kyiv's Independence Square to lay wreaths for the prodemocracy protesters who were gunned down there

during the Revolution of Dignity in 2014. Republicans also joined me on my codet to Ukraine's border just last year.

When I met with President Zelenskyy and House leaders on both sides of the aisle in September in this House, we expressed our unanimous commitment to Ukraine's cause, to America's cause, to freedom's cause.

We saw that same bipartisanship on the House floor in recent weeks when some 75 percent of us voted to approve additional funding for Ukraine. All seven times, perhaps eight times if you count a couple of bills, that issue came up for consideration, 75 percent of us voted for Ukraine's funding.

We ought to act on the strong consensus that exists in this body to deliver aid for Israel and Ukraine now, today, perhaps tomorrow, but certainly very soon.

Neither dysfunction nor disagreement ought to undermine that effort. Victory is our objective; delay is our enemy.

I have spoken with Israeli and Ukrainian leaders. I have met with officials from NATO partners and other allies. I have talked with the families of American hostages held captive by Hamas and Gaza. Their question is the same: Is America still willing to pay the price of freedom? Our answer, Mr. Speaker, and the answer of America must be yes. Now.

We must send a deafening message to our friends and to the enemies of freedom and democracy. We will defend our allies and our shared values, not only in the next few days, but in all the days to come.

Mr. Speaker, it is time to act. It is time to act without condition. Ukraine needs us, Israel needs us, and freedom, democracy, and international law need us.

Let us act now.

#### HONORING EXCEPTIONAL AMERICAN HEROES FOR THEIR SELFLESS COMMITMENT TO SERVING OUR NATION

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to lay out that this House has passed an Israel supplemental bill, \$14.3 billion. Today, I call on the Senate to pass this aid to Israel forthwith.

Mr. Speaker, I rise this morning to recognize our veterans by honoring exceptional American heroes and their selfless commitment to serving our Nation and their communities. It is a moment to acknowledge those who have sacrificed much and devoted all to safeguard our country.

This year, Texas' Third District is saluting the brave veterans who have exhibited remarkable service, leadership, integrity, and dedication. These veterans represent true role models within our community, deserving our utmost respect, acknowledgment, and honor.

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The veterans from Texas' Third Congressional District receiving the 2023 Congressional Veteran Commendation Award are as follows:

Lieutenant Colonel James Angelino, U.S. Army;

Commander Paul Chabot, U.S. Navy; Command Sergeant Major Shane Chapman, U.S. Army;

Sergeant Dave Cornette, U.S. Army; Colonel William George, U.S. Army;

Colonel Larry Greene, U.S. Army;

Sergeant Michael Karson, U.S. Army;

Lieutenant Colonel Shawn Keefe,

U.S. Marine Corps;

Staff Sergeant Casey McEuin, U.S.

Army;

Sergeant James Owsley, U.S. Army;

Lance Corporal Ramil Paredes, U.S.

Marine Corps;

Petty Officer 1st Class Anthony Rulli, U.S. Navy;

Sergeant First Class Ruben Tobar,

U.S. Army.

I salute these 13 veterans. God bless them, and God bless America.

#### CELEBRATING TOLUCA LAKE'S CENTENNIAL

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to celebrate the centennial of a beautiful neighborhood that has contributed to the rich culture of the San Fernando Valley, Toluca Lake.

Prior to the first Europeans' arrival, the Tongva people were the first inhabitants of Toluca Lake. They established their homes on the banks of the Los Angeles River there.

In 1889, General Charles Forman purchased the territory on which modern-day Toluca Lake lies and, by 1893, applied for the first post office and named the town Toluca Ranch, which he claimed was a Paiute Indian word for beautiful and fertile valley.

Just like the rest of the San Fernando Valley at the time, Toluca Lake was lined with crops of satsuma plums, cling peaches, Moorpark apricots, and much more.

The lake in Toluca Ranch, which has starred in many movies, was very attractive for movie producers, which in turn resulted in the movie industry beginning to develop there. In 1915, Carl Laemmle built Universal Studios in the area, after which several other studios, like Warner Bros. Studios and others, started flooding into the community.

After the general's death in 1919, the ranch was sold to a group of investors, who tried to build a bedroom community around the studios and named the area Toluca Lake Park. By 1923, another group of investors purchased the property and built a housing community, which is now called Toluca Lake.

Toluca Lake has been home to many famous American artists and celebrities, such as Frank Sinatra, Bob

Hope, Bing Crosby, Bette Davis, Steve Carell, Andy Garcia, Melissa McCarthy, Amelia Earhart, and many more. President Ronald Reagan and his wife, Nancy Reagan, even had their wedding reception in Toluca Lake.

Today, Toluca Lake is a key community of the entertainment industry, where working families can pursue the American Dream and tell stories to the world. Toluca Lake is a place of work for many below-line workers, such as hairdressers, painters, carpenters, and caterers.

One person I would like to acknowledge was an immigrant. He came from Jalisco, Mexico, and worked at Toluca Lake's famous diner, Patys, for over 10 years. His name is Santos Padilla, the father of our U.S. Senator ALEX PADILLA.

Like Santos, thousands of people can provide for their families there in Toluca Lake, and some even make it their home. Many of these hardworking people are a part of organizations such as Toluca Lake Homeowners Association, Toluca Lake Chamber of Commerce, Toluca Lake Garden Club, Greater Toluca Lake Neighborhood Council, Toluca Lake Beautification Partners, and even a magazine called Toluca Lake Magazine.

They have volunteered thousands of hours for the community. They have organized countless community clean-ups, holiday parades, and farmers markets. Each organization is committed to addressing the diverse needs of residents, property owners, businesses, and local stakeholders.

With its rich culture and diverse constituents, Toluca Lake continues to be an extraordinary part of the San Fernando Valley. There are many communities named Toluca—in Mexico, Montana, Illinois, and North Carolina—but there is only one Toluca Lake.

Congratulations to Toluca Lake on its 100-year anniversary.

#### REMEMBERING MANUEL "MANNY" FIGUERAS

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor Manuel "Manny" Figueras, an amazing public servant who spent his entire life improving the lives of many people from the city of Los Angeles and the San Fernando Valley.

Manny was born on New Year's Eve in 1961 in Banes, Cuba. Just like many Cuban families, the Figuerases left Cuba in 1968 to pursue their dream of liberty and freedom here in the United States. The Figuerases immigrated first to Miami, Florida, and then came to Los Angeles, California.

Manny attended Roosevelt Middle School and Hoover High School in Glendale and finished his education at Glendale College with a degree in business administration.

Manny began his career in public service working for Councilmember Richard Alarcon. I saw Manny's love for and commitment to his constituents firsthand. As a field deputy, he was the first person a constituent saw when they were trying to solve a difficult issue in their community.

Manny had a special talent for helping mom-and-pop businesses. His ability to listen compassionately and then develop a plan to cut through the red tape of government made a difference in the lives of many businessowners and families.

Even after Manny moved on from his life of service in the Los Angeles City Council, constituents had his personal phone numbers and would always call him, and he was always there to help. In his trademark calm and caring manner, Manny would advocate for constituents in communities in North Hollywood, Mission Hills, Sylmar, and beyond.

We lost Manny on October 11, 2023. He was surrounded by family and friends. Manny is survived by his mother, Ana Figueras; his brother, Juan Figueras; his sister-in-law, Dora Figueras; his nephew, Andrew Figueras; his niece, Ariana LaBorico; and his nephew-in-law, Dylan LaBorico.

We miss Manny very much.

#### CONGRATULATING CULLEN TALTON ON HIS RETIREMENT

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 achievements of Cullen Talton, the longest-serving active sheriff in the Peach State, the State of Georgia.

After 51 years of serving his community, Mr. Talton has decided to complete his final term serving Houston County before retiring. Sheriff Cullen Talton was elected in 1972, and he served as a commissioner before becoming a sheriff. He is known for being a trusted, respectable, and devoted servant of the community.

To honor his many years of service and dedication, local leaders, community members, and his family gathered at the Houston County Annex before the commissioners meeting to celebrate the longtime sheriff.

I congratulate Sheriff Talton on his remarkable achievements and well-deserved retirement. His dedication and years of service are admirable and greatly appreciated.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL HOMELESSNESS AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize November as National Homelessness Awareness Month.

In Georgia, over 10,000 people do not have housing. This includes fathers, mothers, and nearly 700 veterans.

During this month of recognition, many groups across the country are putting on events designed to help people struggling with homelessness. Oliver Maner LLP in Savannah is one of the many groups helping to fight homelessness during this month of recognition. Events such as Oliver Maner's Donation Drive and the Homeless Veterans Stand Down event are essential to highlighting and helping to fight this critical issue.

This month is a time when we come together as a community and as a nation to reflect on the issue of homelessness and its impact on countless lives. By raising awareness, we can show our support and help those who need it the most because every family, especially veterans, deserves a safe and stable home.

#### REMEMBERING BILL MILTIADES

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in remembrance of Bill Miltiades, who passed away on August 31, 2023.

Bill was a knowledgeable and committed Realtor. For many years, he had been dedicated to the success of the Savannah Area Realtors Association. He served on countless boards and received many awards in both his work and personal lives. This past year was Bill's 24th year as a member of the Distinguished Sales Society.

Bill received his bachelor's degree at the University of Georgia and his master's at the Institute of Textile Technology in Charlottesville, Virginia. He started Bill Miltiades Management in 2011 and then became a broker of his own realty company in 2018.

Bill was loved by many, including but not limited to his devoted sister, Marta; brother-in-law, Sean; and his favorite person in the world, his niece, Starlyn. He will always be remembered as a genuine soul with endless kindness and care for the people around him. Bill was very proud of his family, his country, his church, his friends, and his community.

#### CONGRATULATING CONNOR DANIEL

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Connor Daniel, who won sixth place at the Junior World FITASC Championship this summer.

FITASC is a unique and difficult shooting sport. It requires participants to keep their guns still until the shooting clay they are targeting becomes visible.

This summer, Connor joined Team Beretta USA, an honor in its own right. From there, he traveled and competed in the 2023 World FITASC Sporting Championship Finale Beretta World Cup in Hungary. Connor said that he is honored to have joined Team Beretta, and his results show that he has represented them and his country well.

I again congratulate Connor on winning sixth place. I look forward to seeing his sporting career continue to flourish.

#### PROMOTING HOUSING ACCESS

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

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, we face a housing crisis in our country. In metro Detroit, there are three extremely low-income renter households for each unit that is both affordable and available.

In response, State and local public developers are using innovative policy

tools to build new housing developments that are financially sustainable and affordable.

That is why I co-led the introduction of the Public Housing for the 21st Century Act, which provides public housing authorities and housing finance agencies with the latest best practices for mixed-income public housing.

While Federal subsidies have long been insufficient to address the housing crisis in our country, Mr. Speaker, the Public Housing for the 21st Century Act would ensure that communities have access to the latest models and policy options, creating a pathway for real affordable housing.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please join me in promoting housing access in every single district across our Nation by cosponsoring this bill.

RHETORIC INCITES VIOLENCE AGAINST  
PALESTINIANS

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, Hisham, Kinnan, and Tahseen are all Palestinian college students who were shot while wearing a keffiyeh and speaking Arabic on their way to a family dinner in Vermont.

Just weeks ago, a 6-year-old Palestinian-American child, Wadea, was stabbed 26 times in a hate crime in Illinois. They had to take the knife out of his body.

Mr. Speaker, the constant dehumanization of Palestinians has real consequences. It is fueling anti-Palestinian racism and violence. The dehumanization and rhetoric repeated by many elected officials, many in this Chamber, is inciting violence against Palestinians.

My heart goes out to every family affected by violence, Islamophobia, anti-Palestinian racism, and any form of hate.

One of the Palestinian victims who was shot in Burlington, Hisham, wrote: "This hideous crime did not happen in a vacuum. As much as I appreciate and love every single one of you here today, I am but one casualty in this much wider conflict.

"Had I been shot in the West Bank, where I grew up, the medical services that saved my life here would likely have been withheld by the Israeli Army. The soldier who shot me would go home and never be convicted. . . . Any attack like this is horrific, be it here or in Palestine.

"That is why when you say your wishes and light your candles today, your mind should not just be focused on me as an individual but, rather, as a proud member of a people being oppressed."

When I talk about Hisham, Kinnan, and Tahseen, I think of my two Palestinian boys living right here in the United States.

REMEMBERING WILLIAM "BILL" GOODMAN

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, today I recognize my friend William "Bill" Goodman, a true people's lawyer who never wavered in his pursuit of justice.

I met Bill over 15 years ago when he was president of the Maurice and Jane

Sugar Law Center for Economic and Social Justice. He was a mentor of mine and so many movement lawyers and a hero to those who sought justice.

Over the course of his career, Bill sought to focus his work on the protection of civil liberties, holding the powerful accountable to the Constitution, and fighting for the working class at home and around the world. He was always ready and willing to fight for the most vulnerable among us.

Bill was a pioneering people's lawyer, both in private practice in Detroit and leading the Center for Constitutional Rights and the National Lawyers Guild.

□ 1030

He was proud of representing the Attica prisoners, the Guantanamo Bay detainees, the Vietnam survivors of Agent Orange, and so many victims of police violence and corrupt persecution.

It speaks to Bill's character that one of the most important lawyers in American history will best be remembered by those close to him and for his endless jokes and bottomless love for his children and comrades. Please join me in honoring Bill Goodman and remembering his life and legacy.

HONORING ALBERT BURR "A.B."  
MCCALL

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a one-of-a-kind man, father, husband, businessowner, U.S. veteran, and a great friend of mine, Mr. Albert Burr McCall, or A.B., as many called him.

Mr. McCall passed away on September 13, 2023, at the grand age of 94. Living to that age is obviously quite a feat, but in A.B.'s case, the real feat was the full life he lived and the accomplishments he achieved.

A.B. was a man of faith, a loving and loyal family man, a proud and patriotic American. He was an unwavering believer in the preservation of the freedoms we enjoy as Americans, and he contributed generously to those causes that shared his convictions.

He saw the importance of hard work at a young age when he worked at the general store his grandparents started in 1896. That entrepreneurial spirit would prove to run in the family.

A.B. graduated from Smith County High School in Carthage, Tennessee, and later earned an undergraduate college degree in agriculture from my alma mater, Tennessee Tech. He then earned a master's degree in animal nutrition from the University of Missouri.

Mr. McCall started his professional career as a teacher, but after only 1 year, he found himself answering the Nation's call to serve in the military in the Korean war from 1952 to 1954. He was later discharged with the rank of

first lieutenant after being wounded in combat by enemy fire.

When he returned to the States, A.B. headed back to the classroom to teach agriculture to World War II veterans at an Iowa high school. While holding down that job and four others, he also worked toward a Ph.D. at Iowa State University, and most importantly, he met his wife, Virginia.

They wed just 9 months after their first meeting and soon thereafter moved to Smith County, Tennessee, where he would buy into his father's furniture and appliance business and eventually open D.T. McCall & Sons, which is still thriving today in the Smith County town of Carthage and surrounding middle Tennessee towns and cities.

A.B.'s success in business is attributable in no small part to his uncanny ability to sense a profitable opportunity when it came along. In 1958, he learned that a local cheese company was changing the way it made its product, which he realized would in turn require approximately 1,700 Tennessee dairy farmers to obtain a new type of industrial cooler in order to keep supplying milk.

A.B. did some digging and found a surplus of these coolers in North Carolina that were perfect to fill the needs of dairy farmers in Tennessee. After several trips east, he bought approximately 1,000 of these coolers to sell to Tennessee dairy farmers. He even stopped in South Carolina on the way home, filling one of the coolers with peaches to sell back in Carthage.

Mr. McCall clearly had an eye for finding deals and passing savings on to his customers, but he was also a marketing genius. He is still known throughout middle Tennessee from his days as a regular on Nashville's "The Ralph Emery Show." Thousands would tune in to watch him list all the deals he had on furniture because he made them laugh while doing it. He ended his live television ads by holding up his right hand and fist and saying, "hey," which became an unofficial trademark of his.

According to Home Furnishings Daily, D.T. McCall & Sons is ranked in the country's top 50 independently owned furniture dealers today. In terms of warehouse and sales floor footage, it is the largest furniture and appliance store in the United States.

Albert and Virginia McCall leave behind two children, A.J. McCall and Menda McCall Holmes, four grandchildren, and two great-grandchildren. Menda and her husband Howard are with us in the gallery today.

D.T. McCall & Sons continues to be a family business, something in which A.B. took great pride. Mr. Speaker, A.B. McCall's life is a lesson for us all—that while a long life is a wonderful blessing, having a life well lived is the superior goal. Albert McCall did both.

My prayers go out to all of his family and friends as they continue to mourn

the passing of their loved one and this great Tennessee man. Mr. Speaker, with that, I say "hey."

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

#### HONORING DR. JAMES WEST

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

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor Dr. James West, a revered Wake County commissioner and a true champion for the people of North Carolina. It is with deep sorrow that we mark his passing but with immense gratitude that we celebrate his legacy.

His journey, from protesting segregation in the sixties along with Jesse Jackson to serving as a Raleigh City councilman and Wake County commissioner, was marked by a relentless commitment to justice and equality.

Dr. West's legacy is not just in the numerous programs he initiated or the pivotal policies he championed but in the countless lives that he touched, mine included, the community leaders he inspired, and the unquantifiable impact of his vision and compassion.

We remember Dr. West for his Dr. West-isms, his wisdom, and his unwavering faith in the power of community.

As we mourn Dr. James West's passing, we also celebrate his extraordinary life, a life dedicated to service, equality, and the betterment of Wake County and its people.

#### CELEBRATING MR. IRA DAVID WOOD III

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor and celebrate an icon of North Carolina's cultural landscape, Mr. Ira David Wood III, as we celebrate the 50th anniversary of his legendary portrayal of Ebenezer Scrooge in Ira David Wood's "A Christmas Carol."

Mr. Wood's unique and comedic adaptation of this Christmas classic has become a beloved holiday tradition for the Raleigh community.

His visionary leadership in theater, coupled with his remarkable talents as an actor, author, singer, and playwright, has left a profound impact on the arts in North Carolina.

As the founder and executive director of Theatre in the Park in Raleigh, Mr. Wood has been a cornerstone of Raleigh's vibrant art scene since 1972.

His leadership and vision have earned him prestigious recognitions, including two Medal of Arts awards and The Order of the Long Leaf Pine, the highest civilian honor in North Carolina.

As we celebrate this milestone, let's applaud Mr. Wood's extraordinary contributions not only to the arts but to the heart and soul of North Carolina.

Please join me in congratulating Mr. Wood on this remarkable achievement and wishing him continued success.

#### SCHOOL SAFETY

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, last week I visited the site of the 2018 Marjory

Stoneman Douglas school shooting in Parkland, Florida. Meeting the victims' families was a heartbreaking experience that I will never forget.

There is no way to describe what it felt like to see the bullet-riddled, bloodstained classrooms and hallways that remain frozen in time.

We owe it to each victim and family impacted by this tragedy to stop the epidemic of gun violence plaguing our Nation.

Just this week, another act of senseless violence rocked my district when a student was tragically killed and another seriously injured at Southeast Raleigh Magnet High School. My thoughts are with the victims' families and loved ones affected by this unspeakable tragedy.

I am sure a lot more details will be released in the coming days, but for now our mission remains clear: We can and must do more to keep our kids safe in school.

I remain committed to working with anyone on solutions to protect our kids.

#### STANDING WITH ISRAEL

Mr. NICKEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act.

For years, the Iranian regime has aided and abetted terrorist organizations, including Hamas.

On October 7, we saw Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists carry out a brutal and barbaric assault against the Jewish people and the State of Israel.

Both Iran and Hamas seek to destroy democracy, and we must hold them accountable for their actions.

I am proud to support this bill coming to the floor today that will ensure that not a single dollar of this funding, whether directly or indirectly, goes to support Hamas or its efforts to destroy Israel.

We must continue to stand with Israel and ensure they have the funding and resources to disarm and dismantle Hamas and every Iranian-backed terrorist threat.

#### HONORING DR. AMBROUS OLIVER "BUTCH" FINDLEY, JR.

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor and celebrate the life of Dr. Ambrous Oliver Findley, Jr., affectionately known as "Butch," who recently passed and is survived by his loving wife, Wanda, and his children, grandchildren, sister, nephews, and dear friends.

Butch's life was filled with tremendous acts of service. After obtaining a bachelor's in psychology from the University of South Florida, Butch's commitment to the well-being of others led him to the U.S. Navy where he selflessly served as a hospital corpsman. A man of diverse talents and interests, Butch then returned to the University

of South Florida and obtained a bachelor's in biology and premed.

Butch's devotion to the medical profession later led him to attend the West Virginia School of Osteopathic Medicine and complete his residency at the General Hospital in Pinellas Park, Florida. After this pivotal chapter, Butch once again answered the call of duty, this time as a physician in the United States Army where he served at the rank of captain in Fort Stewart, Georgia.

For 42 years, Butch then dedicated himself to the well-being of Georgians in Rabun County, leaving an indelible mark on the northeast Georgia community that he served—first at Ridgecrest Hospital and later at MedLink Rabun. He was not merely a physician; he was a beacon of hope and healing, touching countless lives.

Beyond the stethoscope, Butch reveled in the simple joys of life. Whether exploring new adventures or finding solace in the comfort of home, he cherished precious moments with his family and friends.

Butch's kindness, compassion, and profound sense of duty will forever resonate in the hearts of those who knew him. As we bid farewell to a beloved husband, father, grandfather, brother, and friend, we find peace knowing that he is now with our Heavenly Father.

Georgia's Ninth District will always remember and honor the incredible legacy that Dr. Butch Findley, Jr. left behind.

#### 15TH ANNUAL INDUSTRY APPRECIATION LUNCHEON

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor Hall County's top industries for 2023. Earlier this month, the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce held its 15th Annual Industry Appreciation Luncheon at Lanier Technical College in Gainesville. On behalf of the Ninth District, I would like to recognize this year's winners.

First, congratulations to Mar-Jac Poultry for receiving the Top Large Employer award for 2023. Based in Gainesville, the poultry capital of the world, Mar-Jac Poultry plays a pivotal role in our community's economic prosperity.

With the help of its 1,400 dedicated employees, Mar-Jac Poultry processes 2.4 million birds per week with plans to expand capacity by 50 percent and create 100 new jobs. I am proud to recognize Mar-Jac Poultry for this exciting award, and I thank the company for investing in our community.

This year's top Medium Sized Employer award is Corporate Storage, a successful third-party logistics provider with 56 hardworking employees.

Over the years, Corporate Storage has evolved from the initial moving and storage company, Adams Transfer Company, which was founded in Athens back in 1903, into a thriving business that provides commercial warehousing, records management, and logistic services.

Corporate Storage recently completed a \$15 million expansion to improve service for manufacturing, healthcare, and food processing customers throughout north Georgia. Congratulations, Corporate Storage, for this well-deserved recognition.

Last but not least, I would like to honor the Top Small Employer, pdblowers, Incorporated, which employs 28 Georgians at its headquarters in Gainesville.

Founded in 1990, pdblowers is a custom manufacturer of positive displacement blower systems, including fabrication, design, and systems integration. The business has built an outstanding reputation as a leading distributor in its field due to years of exceptional customer service, innovative solutions, and on-time delivery. Congratulations, pdblowers, Incorporated.

Additional companies honored by the Greater Hall County Chamber of Commerce include: Carroll Daniel Construction for workforce development, Performance Foodservice for workforce excellence, Marel for safety performance, ZF for corporate responsibility, and Harris Products Group for environmental responsibility.

Congratulations to Hall County's 2023 top industry winners. I thank each of the recognized companies for investing in our community, driving innovation, and fostering economic growth in Hall County.

□ 1045

#### END HUNGER NOW

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

Mr. MCGOVERN. Mr. Speaker, this holiday season, I am thankful for the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts for once again organizing a 43-mile march through Western Massachusetts to raise awareness about hunger and fundraise for families in need.

I am proud to announce that this year's march, the 14th annual, raised \$500,000. I couldn't be more grateful to all the marchers, fundraisers, and community organizers who made this happen.

I was so proud to join them on November 20 and 21 as we walked sunup to sundown, traveling from Springfield to Greenfield. We stopped at crucial community centers that work hard to feed anyone who is hungry.

A huge thank you to our fearless leader, radio personality Monte Belmonte, who has been the inspiration for the march for the past 14 years. He pushed an empty shopping cart all 43 miles and stopped to pose with roaring crowds every chance he could. He is a true local icon and hero.

We were joined by dozens of hunger advocates who marched on against freezing Massachusetts winds but kept their heads up the whole way. We were fed by the brand-new Holyoke Culinary

Arts food truck, Wake the Dead Donuts, Berkshire Brewing, Richardson's Candy, and, finally, a hot meal from pay-what-you-can Stone Soup Cafe. Of course, there were countless volunteers who made sure we had plenty of Dunkin'.

We peeked into community action centers like Lorraine's Soup Kitchen in Chicopee, Kate's Kitchen of Holyoke, and Amherst Survival Center.

I also thank the rest stops set up by the MLK Family Services Center, Fame of Holyoke, the WRSI and NEPM radio stations, Adventure East, Hawks and Reed, and Home Depot.

I thank Congressman Richie Neal for joining us at the kickoff. I thank Congressman JOE KENNEDY for keeping me company for several hours on Route 116, and Governor Maura Healey for being the first-ever Governor to join this incredible event.

I was proud of the many State legislators who joined the march, including State senators, Jo Comerford and Jake Olivera; and representatives Natalie Blais, Mindy Domb, Dan Carey, and Lindsay Sabadosa.

Special thanks to Andrew Morehouse, the executive director of the Food Bank of Western Massachusetts; Tim Garvin with the United Way; the Franklin County Chamber of Commerce; Dr. Dave; Jamie Hoag, and the amazing staff at Attorney General Andrea Campbell's office, who marched with us; as well as District Attorney Dave Sullivan, and so many more.

Although the march was hard, we all know being hungry is harder. Across the country, 44 million people are food insecure. In Massachusetts, one in five families don't have reliable access to affordable, nutritious food. That is a disgrace.

As I say every week on this floor, hunger is a political condition.

In this Congress, we have seen House Republicans attack antihunger programs every chance they get, from advocating for onerous—and let me just say, ineffective—work requirements, to slashing programs that feed hungry moms, infants, and children. It appears this extreme MAGA majority will stop at nothing to turn the clock back on the progress we have made to fight hunger.

That is why the March for the Food Bank in Western Massachusetts is so critical. It is a display of care and generosity, in spite of the fact that some here in Washington are hell-bent on taking food from people who need it most.

With the half a million dollars that these volunteers raise, the food bank will serve 1.5 million meals, but charity alone will not address the root causes that plunge people into hunger.

Food banks are a Band-Aid, but we in Congress should be pressing for deeper, enduring solutions. People shouldn't have to turn to a food bank every month. They should just have enough money to be able to buy groceries.

Programs like SNAP, the Supplemental Nutrition Assistance Program,

keep hardworking families from having to choose between buying food and paying rent. SNAP gives participants the dignity of shopping for their own food.

We ought to fund, not cut, these programs. By the way, even if you don't agree with me that ending hunger is a moral imperative, you ought to still get on board because it saves us money in the long run.

SNAP lifted 2.8 million Americans out of poverty in 2021 and can generate almost double the economic output for each dollar invested in it.

Why do so many on the other side insist on cutting it every chance they get?

Let us instead choose to invest in SNAP, in WIC, and in our whole antihunger safety net. Instead of cutting services for those in need, we need to invest in our people, in our communities, and in our country.

We can end hunger now. What we need is the political will, and the people who marched with me on November 20 and 21 have the political will. They are counting on us here in Congress to live up to the promise of our country and make sure that nobody, absolutely nobody goes hungry.

If we do that, we can end hunger now.

#### PROTECT OUR COUNTRY BY SECURING OUR BORDERS

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

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government's primary role is to protect the country by securing our borders.

The Biden administration has allowed, even facilitated, an invasion of more than 8 million foreign nationals led by drug cartels, terrorists, and human traffickers.

Joe Biden has created a fentanyl crisis, a national security crisis, and a child trafficking disaster, making the U.S. vulnerable in every way. In addition, this invasion costs taxpayers billions of dollars every year.

Cartels are bringing unaccompanied minors across the border, and these taxpayer dollars are being used to fly unaccompanied children across the country on secret flights.

Secretary Mayorkas has lost track of 85,000 children, and he must be held accountable through impeachment.

Americans miss President Trump. He made border security his top priority. In Congress, I will always defend children and fight for strong borders.

#### GUN HOMICIDES

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, while gun deaths in the United States far outpace those of other countries and now are the leading cause of death among children under 18, recent CDC

data shows a glimmer of hope: Gun homicides are down slightly from 2021.

We have seen this reduction in places like Philadelphia and Chester as a host of community violence prevention programs, funded by the American Rescue Plan and the Bipartisan Safer Communities Act, take hold.

Tragically, the data also shows gun suicides reached a record high last year with nearly 27,000 people across the United States dying from gun suicide. More than half of gun deaths in Pennsylvania alone were from suicides last year.

We have ways to reduce gun suicide in this country, red flag laws, safe storage, and waiting periods, all of which have been proven to reduce gun suicide, but the NRA and extremist Republicans continue to block these commonsense constitutional measures which can save lives.

When we speak about gun violence, we often say there are solutions, research-based solutions. We don't have to live this way. Today, I will add that in the case of gun suicide, we should also be mindful that people don't have to die this way.

By creating legal space between a person in crisis and access to a firearm, more people will live and more families will be spared the immeasurable pain of losing a loved one. We need Congressional action now.

#### ELECTION MISINFORMATION CONTINUES

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, election misinformation continues to plague our country as leaders who know better repeat or fail to contradict baseless conspiracy theories and lies about the integrity of our elections. Not only do these lies and conspiracy theories undermine public faith in our democracy and elections, they cost taxpayer dollars.

Since the 2020 election, in the county where I live, we have seen multiple baseless lawsuits filed seeking to overturn or audit election results. None of them have produced evidence of misconduct or inaccurate results. What they have done is cost taxpayer dollars in legal fees, court resources, and time and effort by county employees and election officials that have to be diverted to defending these groundless suits.

I am proud of the professional administrators and volunteers who work so diligently every election to safeguard our democracy and make it work, but it is also important that leaders from across the political spectrum step up and stand up for our democratic processes and call out those who are trying to undermine them, as well as call out those who are wasting taxpayer dollars.

#### SABINO HIGH SCHOOL STATE CHAMPIONSHIP

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

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Sabino High

School football team, who recently won the Arizona's 3A Division State Championship defeating their opponent 68-46.

This win holds special significance in my district because this is the first time in 8 years that a Tucson-area high school clinched the football State title.

I also recognize Head Coach Ryan McBrayer and his staff. Coach McBrayer has a record of 57 wins and only 19 losses throughout his coaching career. This title is a testament to the dedication of the players and the coaches, an incredible accomplishment they won't soon forget.

I am confident that the lessons of determination, teamwork, and perseverance will stay with these young players for a lifetime.

Congratulations again to the Sabino Sabercats for their successful 2023 season. This victory is a true reflection that hard work does pay off.

#### HONORING DEBI AND MARK HALL FOR ADVOCATING AGAINST ALZHEIMER'S DISEASE

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to honor the remarkable efforts of Debi and Mark Hall for their activism and their fight against Alzheimer's disease.

Earlier this year, I had the privilege of sitting down and speaking with the Halls, as well as participating in this year's Walk to End Alzheimer's.

Debi, who spent 40 years as a nurse, was diagnosed with this devastating disease at the age of 65 in 2020. Her diagnosis spurred the couple's mission to raise money and support efforts to find a cure for Alzheimer's.

Now, they are known as tireless advocates in the fight to raise awareness, find a cure, and support those who suffer from Alzheimer's and their loved ones.

I have to tell you, I have been around Debi and Mark a few times, and their love and support for each other is unmatched. It is lovely to see the way they look at each other, support each other, and, yes, even dance with each other. It is something amazing to see.

Our community and the fight against Alzheimer's are stronger because of the work of the Halls in Southern Arizona.

As we conclude Alzheimer's Awareness Month, I extend my heartfelt gratitude to them for the dedication and compassion that they bring to Arizona's Sixth Congressional District.

#### REMEMBERING AND HONORING THE LIFE OF FREDDY ORTIZ

Mr. CISCOMANI. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Freddy Ortiz, a devoted CBP agent who tragically lost his life in the line of duty.

On November 13, Agent Ortiz was responding to reports of illegal border activity when he was involved in a fatal ATV crash in Douglas, Arizona.

Agent Ortiz dedicated his life to service to our country, serving in the U.S. Navy before spending the last 13 years in CBP.

The loss of Freddy Ortiz underscores a harsh reality: Our law enforcement and Border Patrol put their lives on the line every day when they wake up and put on their uniforms.

As we gather with family and friends this holiday season, I encourage you all to remember families like the Ortizes who will be missing a loved one at their table because he made the ultimate sacrifice.

Freddy's service, sacrifice, and legacy will never be forgotten. It will never be forgotten.

□ 1100

#### REMEMBERING SAUNDRA GRAHAM

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to remember three generational leaders who have earned the honor of being eulogized in this great Chamber and in perpetuity in our CONGRESSIONAL RECORD: Saundra Graham, Pearline James, and Mukiya Baker-Gomez, three incredible Black women whose love for community was manifest in their historic achievements and legacy they invite us all to aspire to.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to mark the passing of Ms. Saundra Graham. Saundra Graham's contributions to Cambridge and the Commonwealth far outpace her impressive and well-earned list of titles: first woman of color elected to the Cambridge City Council, the first woman of color to be the vice mayor, six-term State representative, secretary to the National Black Caucus of Local Elected Officials, founder of the Massachusetts Childcare Coalition, co-founder of the Riverside Cambridgeport Community Development Corporation, among others.

Saundra Graham truly was a trailblazer on a mission to do good along the way, and she wasn't afraid to make good trouble in the name of justice both inside and outside of politics.

She was a tenacious truth-teller, and I count myself amongst those who will miss her righteous reprimands. Her impact is an indelible one which will endure throughout our Commonwealth and in her loving family, which I know was her greatest legacy as she was a proud mother, grandmother, great-grandmother, and great-great-grandmother.

May she rest in peace and power.

#### PAYING TRIBUTE TO PEARLINE JAMES

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to an incredible woman of faith, Pearline James. In church, I grew up singing a song, "They Will Know We Are Christians by Our Love." Indeed, Mrs. James was God's love in action.

Pastor Pearline James served God and her community as an associate pastor at Full Life Gospel Center in Dorchester. She did this with love, dedication, and compassion for all God's children.



It is no surprise, as one of 21 siblings and the second eldest, that she was a mother and nurturer to many. She brought life and love to every child and family that passed through her and her beloved husband Evans' childcare center in their home, J.P. Family Childcare, in the 1970s. She was passionate about education, and at the age of 60, she returned to school, earning a degree and graduating with a 3.8 GPA.

While Mrs. James laid in hospice, the true impact of the love she imparted to the city was on full display, and nurses were quoted saying she had no less than 300 visitors.

Her daughter Denella said her mother often would invoke the lyrics of "It Is Well With My Soul," a gospel hymn whose words include: "Whatever my lot, Thou has taught me to say, it is well, it is well with my soul."

She is survived by the great love of her life, Evan, by her daughters, Denella, Rosemarie, and Debby, and 10 grandchildren and 15 great-grandchildren.

#### HONORING MUKIYA BAKER-GOMEZ

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise to pay tribute to a woman, leader, mentor, and brilliant strategist on whose shoulders so many electoral firsts stand on, including myself, Mukiya Baker-Gomez.

In 2018, I became the first person of color to represent the Commonwealth of Massachusetts in the House of Representatives in the Commonwealth's 230-year history. That foundation, that possibility, the literal electoral blueprint to winning elections in Boston and building coalitions, began with Mukiya Baker-Gomez. Her political acumen and shrewd counsel were enviable, and her commitment to community unwavering and unshakeable, especially to Black people.

Her every move and impact outside of politics has been even greater. She played a key role in an inclusive economy, fighting to ensure that contractors of color would be prioritized. She was a historymaker, although she never chased a title.

It was important to me to eulogize her because I will not have her contributions erased or unacknowledged.

I thank Mukiya for everything. I love and miss her.

She is survived by the love of her life, Kevin; her loving children, Talisha and Kenyatta; her siblings; and a host of family by blood and by bond.

I thank Mukiya for her sacrifice and tenacity and for always speaking truth to power.

#### STANDING STRONG IN SUPPORT OF JAPAN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. WILLIAMS) for 5 minutes.

Mr. WILLIAMS of New York. Mr. Speaker, for over 70 years, the United States and Japan have been bound together by a steadfast and loyal alli-

ance. Our nations have come together in decades of peace and cooperation.

Today, however, our Japanese allies are facing mounting threats. China is ramping up its expansionist efforts, and the tyrannical regime of North Korea continues to develop its arsenal of nuclear weapons and intermediate-range ballistic missiles, which pose a direct threat to the civilian population of Japan.

In this increasingly unstable and bellicose environment, it has never been more important for the United States to stand strong in support of Japan.

North Korea, in particular, is guilty of grave human rights abuses against Japanese citizens. Since the 1970s, North Korea has covertly abducted 17 Japanese citizens from the homeland islands, some while they slept in their beds. In addition to these 17 officially recognized abductees, there are numerous other cases of missing Japanese citizens for whom the possibility of having been abducted and taken to North Korea simply can't be ruled out. The agony of not knowing haunts these families, and the fear of abductions in the night from the sea has haunted coastal communities in Japan for decades.

Every single one of these abductions is a horrific tragedy that has caused untold suffering. Perhaps even more disturbing is North Korea's heartless and transparent deception concerning the status of these victims. For example, while North Korea claims eight of these abductees have died from causes like suicide, heart attacks, and traffic accidents inside North Korea, the regime has never produced any objectively verifiable evidence of their deaths to the families who just want to know.

The North Koreans have conveniently claimed that the remains of some of the abductees were washed away in floods. They have even handed over alleged abductee remains to Japan only for the DNA testing to later show that these alleged remains do not match the identities of the abducted victims. It is unimaginably cruel.

North Korea's treatment of Japan and its citizens is nothing short of evil and an inhuman crime. America doesn't allow its allies to be bullied. That is why I introduced H. Res. 620, a resolution that seeks to carry out justice for the Japanese citizens abducted by North Korea. This resolution accomplishes three major goals.

First, it provides official congressional recognition of the horrific abductions of Japanese citizens by the North Koreans. This includes an acknowledgment that North Korea has violated the basic human rights of these Japanese citizens and that only 5 of the 17 officially recognized abductees have been returned to Japan.

Second, this resolution urges North Korea to take action on rectifying these abuses. It calls upon North Korea to release all foreign abducted nationals, including those from Japan. It also

urges North Korea to return the remains of all deceased abductees, provide information about their demise, and make reparations for these crimes.

Lastly, the resolution reaffirms Congress' commitment to our alliance with Japan and to American strength abroad. When America is weak, our enemies are empowered; our allies are endangered; and our national security is put at risk. When America is strong, we hold our enemies accountable for their actions; we defend our allies; and we keep our country safe.

The alliance with Japan is the bedrock of America's influence in Asia and our security. Strong and unapologetic support for Japan is an essential component of American foreign policy. We in Congress must all speak as one and stand with Japan. We will not let such a faithful and crucial ally be pushed around by a tyrannical and rogue regime.

I am incredibly proud to introduce this resolution. I thank Congresswoman TOKUDA for co-leading this bipartisan effort.

Stop for a moment and remember the suffering of these families who have had their family members taken from them without any knowledge of their well-being.

#### HISTORY OF CIVIL RIGHTS ABUSES AT THE DEPARTMENT OF AGRICULTURE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. DUARTE). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) for 5 minutes.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to introduce my first piece of legislation, the JUST Act.

When the United States Department of Agriculture was established by President Lincoln in 1862, it reflected a recognition of the strategic importance of agriculture in the Nation's development. It aimed to address the needs of farmers, promote scientific advancements in agriculture, and contribute to rural development. However, racism perpetuated by the rules and the laws of Jim Crow remained strong.

This was in the early years of the Civil War. Sixty-one years later, we remember in 1923 the massacre, the removal of Black, prosperous farmers in Rosewood, Florida, where Black farmers were taken off of their land.

In the 1920s, 30 percent of America's families lived in rural America on farmlands. The USDA was created to provide a safety net for America's farmers, ranchers, and growers, which included assistance for struggling industries, disaster assistance, crop insurance, technical assistance, access to credit, and help for producers to implement conservation practices.

For decades, the USDA has had an unfortunate and checkered history regarding civil rights, manifesting most notably in discriminatory lending practices, unequal program access, civil rights violations, land loss, and



limited representation. Reports dating back to the 1960s have found discrimination at the USDA in both program delivery and the treatment of its employees of African-American descent.

Today, USDA continues to be the subject of a number of lawsuits brought by minority farmers and ranchers alleging discrimination. This reputation is so pervasive that the USDA has been called the last plantation on numerous occasions.

When Secretary Tom Vilsack began his tenure as Secretary of Agriculture in 2009, he promised a new era of civil rights at the USDA. I applaud him for his recognition, honesty, candor, and willingness to confront a very hard truth, not fixing the blame but trying to fix the problem to make sure that America's agricultural access, resources, and industry would be open to all.

At that time, there were over 14,000 unresolved discrimination complaints in the Department of Agriculture. The discrimination perpetuated through USDA's farm lending programs, undermining Black farmers' ability to continue their operations during the 20th century, resulting in over 900,000 Black farmers losing their lands from the people who were originally the custodians of this land. African Americans who had been kidnapped, captured, and enslaved and who made cotton king. When they had the opportunity to farm, the USDA had turned their back on these family farmers.

Between 1920 and 1997, African-American farmers had declined by 98 percent because of government policy. Right here, down Pennsylvania Avenue, in 1925, we remember when the Ku Klux Klan was a mainstream organization. We remember that when President Harding died in Indiana, there was a Klan rally at the fairgrounds commemorating his death. That ghost still lingered on.

Contemporary data shows that African Americans still account for only 1.4 percent of the country's 3.4 million producers. Equity issues remain in program delivery to this very day.

An NPR analysis most recently found that, in 2022, only 36 percent of Black farmers received direct loans from USDA while their White counterparts received 72 percent loan acceptance. Perhaps some of the biggest gaps in the loan demographics can also be seen in the rejection numbers, where 16 percent of Black farmers are rejected. The highest corresponding figure for White farmers was 4 percent. Forty-eight percent of Black farmers withdrew their applications in frustration, and that number corresponds with Asian Americans, compared to only 24 percent of those identifying as Caucasian.

□ 1115

While efforts are underway to address this current crisis through the Inflation Reduction Act, and other measures, there must be a process in place to clarify and bolster civil rights protections at the USDA.

The Just USDA Standards and Transparency Act of 2023, 100 years after Rosewood, would correct this.

GOD REST YE MERRY,  
GENTLEMEN

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

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, as Christmastime approaches, I rise to share the history of one of the most beloved carols—and there are more to come.

"God Rest Ye Merry, Gentlemen."

The first line means, gentlemen, may God keep you in good spirits—a blessing.

Immensely popular throughout its history, this carol even merits a mention by Charles Dickens in his famous tale, "A Christmas Carol." It is also a very old carol and was almost certainly sung by wandering groups of singers called waits. In Merrie Olde England, music was an important part of everyday life. Minstrels carried the news of the day from town to town and were often handsomely rewarded for their efforts.

In many towns, the waits played the role of town criers, singing the hours of the day and reporting local happenings. Christmastime kept them especially busy. As they strolled through the snowy streets, they told the story of the nativity in song, adding to the festive atmosphere. Townspeople would show their appreciation by giving the singers money or food.

These are the words of that famous carol:

God rest ye merry, gentlemen; let nothing you dismay.

Remember, Christ our Savior was born on Christmas Day.

To save us all from Satan's power, when we were gone astray.

○tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

○tidings of comfort and joy.

In Bethlehem, in Israel, this blessed babe was born,

And laid within a manger upon this blessed morn;

The which His mother Mary did nothing take in scorn.

○tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

○tidings of comfort and joy.

From God our Heavenly Father, a blessed angel came;

And unto certain shepherds brought tidings of the same;

How that in Bethlehem was born the Son of God by name.

○tidings of comfort and joy, comfort and joy.

○tidings of comfort and joy.

I hope that you keep this history in mind of this beautiful song as you celebrate during the holiday season.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the people of central Texas, I wish you all a Merry Christmas and a happy holiday.

EXPULSION OF REPRESENTATIVE  
GEORGE SANTOS

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

Mr. IVEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on this solemn occasion to urge my colleagues to take the rare step of exercising the expulsion clause of the United States Constitution.

Congressman GEORGE SANTOS has failed to uphold the principles of scrupulous, selfless public service. He has violated the law and he has violated this body's ethics rules.

As a member of the Ethics Committee, I can report that the evidence against him is substantial and damning. I can also report that there was no rush to judgment.

During the course of our investigation, the Ethics Committee authorized 37 subpoenas, issued 43 requests for information, obtained and reviewed over 172,000 pages of documents, interviewed over 40 witnesses, and reviewed relevant public information, including the Federal indictments in the criminal case in New York.

Our bipartisan investigation revealed that he laundered \$50,000 of his campaign donors' money through two personal accounts and spent it on himself on designer clothes, a car payment, a credit card, and personal debts.

He cheated the government out of \$24,000 in unemployment benefits during the pandemic when he was earning a salary of \$120,000 from an investment firm.

He lied and said he loaned his unsuccessful campaign for Congress over \$80,000, and repaid himself for the fictitious loan, netting a personal profit of \$27,000.

In the second—this time successful campaign for Congress—he lied again, this time to the tune of \$500,000.

He also transferred and hid from the FEC a sum of \$50,000 from his congressional campaign to his State Political Action Committee. He spent over \$40,000 of campaign funds on personal expenses, like expensive travel and meals, casino stays, an adult website, and cosmetic procedures, personally enriching himself at his donors' expense—all of this on top of his constant lying about his resume and his family history.

There are charges of fraud, identity theft, credit card skimming, and swindling a disabled veteran.

In short, the evidence of criminal and ethical violations is extensive and overwhelming.

Mr. SANTOS has complained that he has not received due process. He also suggested that he was unaware of the fraud and misconduct, apparently trying to shift the blame to his treasurer and others.

Mr. SANTOS worked closely with his treasurer, who pled guilty just last month to her role in this scheme. The text messages they exchanged about the fake loans show that he was a knowing and active participant in the misconduct.

The campaign staffers we interviewed as part of our investigation also made clear that he was certainly aware of the campaign's financial abuses.

In addition, his campaign consultants gave him a 141-page vulnerability report that detailed many of his frauds and lies. They demanded that he drop out of the race. When he refused—just like he is doing today—three of his staffers quit in protest.

The Ethics Committee also offered Mr. SANTOS a chance to meet with us for an interview or deposition to explain his side. He has done countless interviews and gave a press conference just a few feet from here earlier this morning, but somehow he never found time to meet with us. Somehow he never even tried to offer a plausible explanation for his conduct. In fact, all he said today was that he would address our report at a later time.

He said something over the weekend that stuck with me. He said he would wear expulsion as a badge of honor. When all this is over, I am afraid he won't be wearing a badge of honor, he will be wearing an orange jumpsuit.

This is a historic moment. The House has only expelled five Members in our entire history.

The Constitution is clear that we don't have to wait until Mr. SANTOS is remanded to the Bureau of Prisons before we can vote to expel him from the House of Representatives.

The Constitution is also clear in the safeguards it provides to ensure that the power to expel a duly elected Member was not abused. The Framers—in their wisdom—set the high bar of a two-thirds vote.

Unlike some of the rushed motions to censure that we have seen here on this floor just in the past year, Mr. SANTOS received a full and extensive investigation, and a detailed report from the Ethics Committee. The evidence of criminal and ethical misconduct is extensive, overwhelming, and undisputed.

Finally, the Ethics Committee's investigation and report was bipartisan, and its findings were unanimous.

Given all of these safeguards and all of this evidence, now is the time to hold Mr. SANTOS accountable. Now is the time to show the American people that we can hold ourselves to at least a minimal standard of conduct. Now is the time to vote to expel GEORGE SANTOS from the United States House of Representatives.

#### COMMEMORATING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF MRS. SUE NELL BOENKER

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

Mr. FALLON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the life and service of Mrs. Sue Nell Boenker of Fort Worth, Texas, who passed away October 16, 2021.

Mrs. Boenker was a dedicated mother, grandmother, and a stalwart Christian. She was married to a dear friend of mine, Al Boenker, who is really one of the most magnificent human beings I have ever had the good fortune to encounter.

Mrs. Boenker was born on April 27, 1949, in Hot Springs, Arkansas. On December 5, 1970, she married Al Boenker, and they lived together and had a very happy marriage for over a half century.

Sue Boenker personified the American Dream. In 1998, she started her own Allstate Insurance Agency firm and quickly became one of the largest firms in the State of Texas. She continued to operate it successfully for many years. Without a doubt, she was an inspirational role for many people and many entrepreneurs, in particular, in the north Texas area and beyond.

Mrs. Boenker was also an exemplary member of her community and a leader in the business world. She was a devoted woman of faith, who never hesitated to pray for the health and well-being of others. She was very selfless. Those that knew her knew that she was incredibly gracious and very generous with her wealth, but also—and far more importantly—her time.

Beyond that of a familial nature, she was dedicated to human service. She will forever be remembered in the hearts and minds of those individuals that she cared for and served.

Mr. Speaker, I requested that a U.S. flag be flown over our Nation's Capitol to recognize the wonderful American life that Sue Boenker led. She always put God first. She put her country first. She put her family first. She put her friends first.

Mr. Speaker, I know that she has been sorely missed. Al Boenker lost his soulmate 2 years ago.

Al is a great salesman and is a self-made guy. He has done incredibly well and is very generous. The reason for his success was Sue and the virtues that they shared, which were honesty, integrity, and loyalty.

Do you know what we are all striving for in our lives?

It doesn't matter if it is personal, political, professional, we are searching and striving for authenticity and for people to be genuine. That is one of the reasons why so many people do succeed in business, you have to have these virtues in place. Al Boenker has those. He touches the lives of the folks that he encounters in such a tremendous and magnificent way.

For me, he is not only a dear friend, a mentor, and really an inspiration to recognize and make sure you put family first and to make sure you represent, as a Member of this august Chamber, 767,000 people. You have to serve them. That is what Al Boenker did. That is why he was so successful. Not only did he make great commercials, but he gave great rates and helped people a little bit more when they needed home, auto, or life insurance. He was there and people trusted him.

□ 1130

I just wanted to take this moment, Mr. Speaker, to recognize the loss that Al Boenker suffered when his wife, Sue, left the surly bonds of this Earth.

I think the greatest compliment any one of us can pay to another person is to look them in the eye and say, the world is a better place because you are in it.

The world was certainly a better place when Sue Boenker was in it, and the world is a better place because Al is still with us.

Mr. Speaker, God bless the Boenker family, and God bless Texas.

#### ISRAEL'S RIGHT TO EXIST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, it is a little over 1 month now, 1½ months, since October 7 and the horrific things that happened to the good and peaceful people of Israel.

Many, many deaths and unspeakable demonic actions were taken by Hamas against innocent Israeli citizens attending a festival or other events in their neighborhoods. I can't begin to speak about how ugly some of these things are. The rape, the murder, and the beheadings are beyond polite company. Maybe we need to be a little less polite in talking about just what kind of horrific activity Hamas has been up to. Even the Gazan people are subject to the terrorism of not being able to make a move or make a change in that area they are trying to live in.

Nonetheless, Israelis have bent over backwards for decades in so-called land-for-peace deals and so-called two-state solutions. Yet when Israel gives 99 percent of what they asked for to the Palestinian Authority, previously to Arafat, and to Hamas, they aren't really there at the table to negotiate. They are not there to acknowledge the State of Israel as a Jewish state or its right to exist. They want it eliminated.

When they talk about "from the river to the sea," there is no room for compromise with them for acknowledging a Jewish state and a Jewish people in the State of Israel.

So why are we pussyfooting around saying, cease-fire, more land for peace, more two-state solution?

They do not want the existence of Israel.

That is the first question we should ask any of them when we sit down: Okay, do you want this solution?

Do you want that solution?

Do you agree that there should be the existence of the State of Israel as a Jewish state?

They will turn away from the table because there is not a negotiation. There is not an agreement. They do not care to have peace. They care to wipe Israel off the face of the map.

So what does that mean right now in the short term?

Yes, it looks like a seventh day of cease-fire, at least in the Gaza area, but when you squeeze that balloon, Mr. Speaker, then you get other problems like the violence in Jerusalem, on the

West Bank, and others that will pop up. Whether it is Hamas here one day or Hezbollah in another area up north, we still know that Iran is sponsoring this terrorism and that Qatar is happy to help finance it.

It is time to get very real about this. What Israel really needs to be able to do is to root out the problems, the corruption, and the deep problems that exist within Gaza. Many, many miles of tunnels go sometimes 200 feet underground, the shafts go up inside houses, inside mosques, and inside hospitals and they use the innocent citizens there as shields. All those areas Hamas happily hides behind so they can try to make Israel look bad when they surgically go in and try to remove these evil terrorists.

There is a dramatic difference in the two sides even though our universities and the media are duping our young people into waving their Palestinian flags. There is a dramatic difference in the two sides. One seeks peace, one seeks existence, and the other seeks to wipe Israel off the map. They don't want peace. They don't want existence.

So I call upon the Biden administration to stand behind Israel in a real way and in a meaningful way. The IDF needs to be able to do what it needs to get the job done in northern Gaza and to finish the job of wiping out the existence of Hamas who will continue to launch rockets and commit terrorism against Israel and even its so-called own people.

Allow Israel to finish the job instead of us duplicitously saying, oh, we need to have a cease-fire.

That is because there wouldn't be a fire to cease to begin with had not Hamas started, really, with the first moments of deeding the Gaza strip over to that side years ago when the rockets were launched even before the ink was dry on the agreement.

That is what we need to have done. The Biden administration needs to show it is firmly behind Israel and what needs to get done instead of these half measures.

Israel has a right to exist. Israel needs us as a firm ally. We need to get off our backsides and get the aid to them that they really need that we passed in this House.

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#### ENERGY INDEPENDENCE

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to highlight the critical point that we, as Americans, stand at with our domestic energy supply. We are living in a self-created energy crisis because of bad energy policy. It is unacceptable that many hardworking Americans are struggling to make ends meet because this administration refuses to utilize the abundant resources that we, as a Nation, are blessed with.

Pennsylvania is key to restoring American energy independence. Before President Biden took office, America was the largest energy producer in the world. In just over 3 years, the Biden administration has effectively waged war on our domestic energy production and kneecapped innovation in our oil and gas industries. As a result, American consumers are seeing increased demand and higher prices for conventional fuels.

By utilizing the Commonwealth's resources, we can provide jobs and invest directly into our communities that have suffered at the hand of the Biden administration's antienergy policies. Thankfully, my colleagues and I in the House have passed several bills that will put America back on top as the global leader in energy production.

For example H.R. 1, the Lower Energy Costs Act, will allow our energy producers to remain market-responsive by removing bureaucratic red tape and streamline the production of our critical energy resources. We also updated the flexible air permitting rule, a Federal air emissions permit, by ensuring that operators can have changes made to their production approved up front, without having to wait for subsequent reviews of the changes. This flexibility allows owners and operators to act quickly and without government regulation slowing down the production of critical energy resources.

In my fight to restore energy independence, I was proud to cosponsor the Natural Gas Tax Repeal Act which will eliminate President Biden's plan to increase burdensome fees and taxes on energy companies. This bill will prevent further cost increases for consumers, a burden that falls most heavily on lower-income Americans.

House Republicans also led on a number of permitting reforms that were included in the Fiscal Responsibility Act. Most notably, we passed the first significant reforms to the National Environmental Policy Act, NEPA, that removed burdensome environmental consideration requirements and reduced redundancies within Federal agencies to end the delays to critical energy infrastructure projects.

Mr. Speaker, another key aspect of unleashing American domestic energy is that we need to invest in renewable energy to counteract high gas prices and global volatility. No amount of talk of electric vehicles or speaking in platitudes about a green economy will change the fact that everyday Americans are paying an unnecessary price at the pump. We cannot go electric overnight. However, we can unleash American energy production in the short term and allow our producers to fill both domestic and global demand. The United States has an abundance of clean-burning natural gas, especially in Pennsylvania, which is the second largest producer of natural gas in the United States. Unleashing domestic production of energy can only add certainty to the United States energy supply.

It is my hope that with our continued work here in the House, we can ultimately return to our status as a leading producer of energy.

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#### 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 11 and 38 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

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□ 1200

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

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#### PRAYER

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

Holy God, we approach Your eternal light with humble hearts, in hope that we will use the opportunities You give us this day to reflect Your divine goodness. Shine forth in the work we do and in the words we speak, the kindness, gentleness, forbearance, and love You offer to all people.

But who are we to be bearers of such immeasurable grace? Who are we to be so bold in our anointing as messengers of Your mercy?

As if to answer us in our hesitation, You set before us countless individual men and women whose lives have proven remarkably influential. Remind us that You use the singular impact of people, such as the controversial yet competent Henry Kissinger and the kind and compassionate Rosalynn Carter, to demonstrate the difference one person can make.

Even as we pay tribute this week to their contributions on both the global and domestic fronts, remind us once again that You call each one of us to live, likewise, into the time and place to which You have called us.

May we have the courage to let the light You shine through us to shine forth to others. May we do nothing that would attempt to defeat Your most gracious purpose, but when our days are done, may You be glorified.

We pray in the name of the one in whom we live and move and have our being.

Amen.

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#### THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER. The Chair has examined the Journal of the last day's proceedings and announces to the House the approval thereof.

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

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#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON)

come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania 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

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

#### CONGRATULATING EMMA ZACHERL

(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 to congratulate Emma Zacherl, a student at Clarion-Limestone, for her award-winning artwork.

Emma is a talented artist who continues to wow teachers and professionals alike. At the Laurel Festival in Brookville this past summer, she earned the best of show for her watercolor of Till Lindemann, a German singer and songwriter.

During Clarion's Autumn Leaf Festival this year, the teenager earned third place in the professional category. Zacherl competed in that division because she was commissioned to do illustrations in "The Iron Furnaces of the Cove!" That is a book by her relative, Byron Smail.

Earlier this year in Clarion, during Summerfest, Zacherl won in her age group with her chalk drawing of Batman. She has also received recognition for her work of the Juniata furnace.

Mr. Speaker, Emma continues to pursue her passion while also maintaining straight A's, being a member of her local Girl Scout troop, playing on her high school volleyball team, and being a member of a band.

I congratulate Emma on her art awards. I wish her the best of luck as she continues to pursue her dreams.

#### RECOGNIZING MILTON "RUSS" BULLOCK

(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. Madam Speaker, I am glad to join the residents back home in honoring the service of Milton "Russ" Bullock.

Milton Bullock, born in Princeville, North Carolina, is widely known for his tenor voice as a singer in the legendary group The Platters, with Billboard hits like "(You've Got) The Magic Touch" and "Only You."

While he has captivated many worldwide, it is his impact in his hometown that I wish to applaud.

After touring with The Platters, Milton Bullock returned to eastern North

Carolina, where he ran for office and has been a dedicated community leader. As a commissioner on the Princeville Town Council, he has served as a role model for youth, helped with disaster assistance, and preserved the rich history of Princeville, which is the first African-American settlement in the Nation.

Milton Bullock has been on many stages. However, we are glad he didn't forget home.

Milton, "Only You."

#### CONGRATULATING UBLY BEARCATS FOOTBALL

(Mrs. McCLAIN asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mrs. McCLAIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of the Uby High School varsity football team for winning the Michigan Division 8 State championship.

The Bearcats from Uby High School took home their first-ever State championship in football, winning 21-6 and capping off their undefeated season as champions.

I congratulate Coach Sweeney and all the young men on the varsity team for their remarkable accomplishment. They have made Michigan's Ninth District proud, and I hope they cherish this memory for the rest of their lives.

Again, I congratulate Uby High School.

Go Bearcats.

#### RECOGNIZING JENNIFER KUMIYAMA

(Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Jennifer Kumiyama, a talented performer, advocate, and constituent from Long Beach, California.

I am so proud that she was cast as the voice of Dahlia in the new Disney movie "Wish."

Jennifer was born with arthrogryposis and uses a wheelchair. She broke barriers when she became the first person in a wheelchair to actually perform on a Disney stage.

In addition to her career as a performer, she does vital work every day as the accessibility coordinator for the city of Long Beach.

In "Wish," her character, Dahlia, is a courageous leader who also uses a wooden crutch to help her walk. This is a huge deal for representation. People with disabilities remain dramatically underrepresented in the media. Despite over 25 percent of American adults having some type of disability, movie and TV shows that feature people with disabilities or hire folks with disabilities are few and far between. I think we can all agree that this representation, especially for young people, is so important.

We couldn't be more proud of Jennifer for breaking barriers all across her life and for this latest performance.

#### REMEMBERING CASEY HATCHER

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, earlier this month, we marked 5 years since the 2018 Camp fire struck Paradise and surrounding areas of northern California. It was the deadliest and most destructive wildfire in California history.

Recovery has not been easy and will take continued coordination of all levels of government and, importantly, also the citizens. One of the most instrumental people in the recovery efforts was Casey Hatcher, who sadly passed away just days before the anniversary.

I especially want to recognize Casey, who was the deputy chief administrative officer for Butte County. We are all grateful for her fantastic work. Ms. Hatcher served in Butte County's emergency operations center during many activations, including the 2017 Oroville Dam spillway crisis, the Wall and Ponderosa fires, the 2017 La Porte and Cherokee fires, the 2018 Camp fire, the 2020 North Complex fire, and the 2021 Dixie fire. There is a theme here of fire.

She served Butte County diligently as the Camp fire recovery director, working closely with the California Office of Emergency Services and FEMA. Her dedication, perseverance, and leadership have been paramount to the recovery of the entire region. We would not have gotten this far without her or in as timely a fashion.

As I remember the 5 years since the Camp fire, I am also remembering Casey Hatcher, her dedication, and her caring and compassionate approach to helping her neighbors. God bless her and her family.

#### RECOGNIZING NATIONAL ADOPTION MONTH

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

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Madam Speaker, this month is National Adoption Month. As the proud dad of six and a foster parent, adoption is personal to me.

On April 5 of this year, my wife, Kelly, and I were blessed to adopt our two foster kids and our two youngest daughters, Jayna and Aliya. These two sweet sisters complete our family and bring us so much joy together.

The journey of adopting opened my eyes to the challenges families across America face through the adoption process. In honor of my daughters and so many Iowa families in the same boat, we are fighting to simplify the adoption process right here in America and make it easier for every child to join their forever family.

That is why, in Congress, I have introduced the Fight for Families Act to

make adoption more affordable for low- and middle-income families as well as grandparents and seniors on fixed incomes.

Every child in America deserves a loving home, and this forever opportunity I will fight for every day and refuse to let a D.C. bureaucracy get in the way of that. I look forward to joining my friends on both sides of the aisle to make this a reality.

#### HONORING KEVIN FUHR

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

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the commitment of a devoted central Washington public servant, Kevin Fuhr.

Formerly the chief of police for Moses Lake, Chief Fuhr has concluded an illustrious 32-year career in law enforcement and is now ready to move on to the next chapter of his life.

While other regions of Washington had trouble hiring new police officers, Chief Fuhr's leadership drew people to his department in the pursuit of working with him. Chief Fuhr's force also spearheaded an exceptional outreach program, and his leadership on my Central Washington Fentanyl Task Force has fostered a remarkable level of trust within our communities.

When most folks retire, they look forward to all the spare time they will have. Not Chief Fuhr, as he has recently been hired as the city manager for Moses Lake, underscoring his unwavering dedication to central Washington.

I have known Kevin for a long time and am proud to call him a dear friend. His leadership, integrity, and commitment to the prosperity of our region have resulted in a wonderful career with so much to show for it. It has been a pleasure working with him, and I am looking forward to that continuing in his new role.

#### HONORING PACE ROBINSON

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I appreciate you and the great work you do.

I rise to honor my good friend, Pace Robinson, who recently passed away at the age of 65. My buddy Steven Rosen called me the other day and gave me the bad news. They had been playing golf just the day before, and things seemed to be going really well.

Pace grew up in Knoxville and was a family man through and through. He worked with his dad, Mitchell, at the Modern Supply until Mitchell passed away, and Pace became the company's president until he retired in 2017.

He met the love of his life, Karen, at the 1982 World's Fair, and they were married for 38 great years. They had

two sons together, Eli and Asher, and he loved them dearly. He also had a granddaughter, Poppy, and he loved her with all his heart.

Pace was a respected leader in his community. He helped lead the Knoxville Jewish Federation, The Knoxville Jewish Alliance, the Webb School of Knoxville, and many other groups over the years.

He was also a great businessman. He was respected by his employees. He loved his regular poker game where, for over 30 years, the stakes were still at a quarter a chip.

I have known Pace for a long time, Madam Speaker, and he and his family supported me through my career, even though they didn't always agree with me on every issue.

I send my condolences, especially to his wonderful family: Karen, Eli, Asher, Poppy, and all the friends and family that knew and loved him.

I will never forget what a good friend he was to me. I know next year when I go to that first UT football game, and I walk up to the tailgate and not see him there, it will be a big void there. He was quite a man.

#### ACHIEVING THE AMERICAN DREAM

(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. Madam Speaker, sadly, under Biden, only 36 percent of voters said the American Dream is achievable—that is, if you work hard, you will get ahead, especially with equality and not being held back by forced equity sameness. This is according to a recent Wall Street Journal national opinion poll.

This gruesomely indicates it has been reduced from 53 percent 10 years ago to where it is now at 36 percent. Even "CBS News" reports with the failing Biden economy:

The typical American household must spend an additional \$11,443 annually just to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed in January of 2021.

That is before inflation even soared to 40-year highs.

Republicans, led by Speaker MIKE JOHNSON, will continue to fight and push for legislation to reduce inflation and create jobs.

We send our sympathy and appreciation for the life of Secretary of State Henry Kissinger, who served with President Richard Nixon. He is beloved in South Carolina because he became a naturalized citizen in our State at Camp Croft in Spartanburg.

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 that there will be more 9/11s across America imminent in our country.

#### CONGRATULATING WISCONSIN STATE CHAMPIONS

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

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate all the young athletes from Wisconsin's Seventh District that took home a State championship title this fall sports season.

These winners include: Nora Gremban from Northland Pines High School in Eagle River; Autumn Michalski of Chequamegon High School for girls' cross country; the Rhinelander Hodags girls' swim and dive team; the St. Croix Falls Saints girls' volleyball team; and the Edgar, Florence, Stratford, and Rice Lake football teams.

Congratulations to each and every one of these State champions.

Madam Speaker, let us all wish them the best of luck in their future seasons.

#### HONORING JIM HOESSELE

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise to recognize Vietnam war veteran Jim Hoessle. Since 2016, Jim has served on the board of the Medina County Veterans Service Commission.

Jim has spent 10 years as a member of the Honor Guard team for both VFW Post 5137 and American Legion Post 202.

He also serves as a mentor in the Medina County Valor Court where he assists veterans who have run into difficulties with the law.

Jim even serves the youth in Medina County where he works closely with the juvenile detention center, selecting opportunities for teens to provide community service.

For the last 8 years, Jim has spent each summer at Buckeye Boys State, mentoring high school juniors in local, county, and State government.

Jim's love and service to country has never wavered. His life and work for the people of my district, our district, the State of Ohio, and our country make a better America.

Madam Speaker, let us thank Jim Hoessle for his service.

#### NOTICE OF INTENTION TO OFFER RESOLUTION RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. SANTOS. Madam Speaker, pursuant to clause 2(a)(1) of rule IX, I rise to give notice of my intention to raise a question of the privileges of the House.

The form of the resolution is as follows:

In the matter of Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN from New York;

Whereas, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN is a Member of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas, on September 30, 2023, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN knowingly and willingly gave a false fire alarm in the Cannon House Office Building;

Whereas, on October 26, 2023, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN pleaded guilty to one count of falsely pulling the alarm; and

Whereas, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN's actions caused the closing of the Cannon House Office Building and resulted in the disruption of an official proceeding in the Congress.

Now, therefore, be it resolved that pursuant to Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, Representative JAMAAL BOWMAN, be and he hereby is, expelled from the House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. LETLOW). Under rule IX, a resolution offered from the floor by a Member other than the majority leader or the minority leader as a question of the privileges of the House has immediate precedence only at a time designated by the Chair within 2 legislative days after the resolution is properly noticed.

Pending that designation, the form of the resolution noticed by the gentleman from New York will appear in the RECORD at this point.

The Chair will not at this point determine whether the resolution constitutes a question of privilege. That determination will be made at the time designated for consideration of the resolution.

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

A message in writing from the President of the United States was communicated to the House by Ms. Deidre Kelly, one of his secretaries.

#### COMMUNICATION FROM THE HONORABLE SHRI THANEDAR, MEMBER OF CONGRESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TIFANY) laid before the House the following communication from the Honorable SHRI THANEDAR, Member of Congress:

CONGRESS OF THE UNITED STATES,  
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2023.

Hon. MIKE JOHNSON,  
Speaker, House of Representatives,  
Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. SPEAKER: This is to notify you formally, pursuant to Rule VIII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, that I, the Honorable Shri Thanedar, U.S. Representative for the 13th Congressional District of Michigan, have been served with a third-party subpoena to testify in litigation before the 36th District Court for the State of Michigan.

After consultation with the Office of General Counsel, I have determined that compliance with the subpoena is inconsistent with the rights and privileges of the House.

Sincerely,

SHRI THANEDAR,  
Member of Congress.

#### NO FUNDS FOR IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MCCAUL. 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 in the RECORD for H.R. 5961.

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

There was no objection.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 891 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill, H.R. 5961.

The Chair appoints the gentlewoman from Louisiana (Ms. LETLOW) to preside over the Committee of the Whole.

□ 1224

##### IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the consideration of the bill (H.R. 5961) to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes, with Ms. LETLOW in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the bill is considered read the first time. General debate shall be confined to the bill and shall not exceed 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the Chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), each will control 30 minutes.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, we are here today because the Biden administration cut a dangerous, reckless hostage deal that puts a price on every American head all over the world. We have a responsibility to the American people to repair this damage.

First, let me say that I am relieved that Americans held hostage by Iran are safely at home. They have been through a terrible ordeal and should never have been imprisoned in the first place.

As part of this deal, the administration dropped charges against five Iranian criminals charged with endangering our national security, including by aiding Iran's nuclear program.

At Iran's request, the administration waived sanctions on \$6 billion of Iranian funds, which have been frozen in South Korea to allow that that money be transferred and funneled to a bank account in Doha, Qatar—an undisclosed bank, Madam Chair.

Under this deal, Iran is getting access to \$1.2 billion per blue passport, per American citizen. It is obvious that this agreement incentivizes more hostage taking.

The administration is claiming this money can only be used for humanitarian purchases like food and medicine.

We all know that Iran has a long history of sanctioned evasion and money laundering. It means that we cannot truly know where the funds end up or how they will be used.

If we had any doubt about Iran's intentions, look no further than DOJ's 2019 indictment under the previous administration against a Turkish bank.

This bank played a central role in facilitating billions of dollars' worth of fraudulent Iranian transactions.

These transactions were manipulated to look like humanitarian expenses when, in fact, no such purchases took place.

This is nothing new, but let's look at Iran's own words. Iran's President Raisi bragged to the world that Iran would spend the \$6 billion "wherever we need it."

What more evidence do we need, Madam Chair, than that? This is not going for humanitarian purposes. It is going toward terrorism—wherever we need it.

Money is fungible, as everybody knows. Given Iran's access to these funds for any purpose frees up money for its malign activities, including its support to proxies like we saw on October 7 to Hamas.

Blocking money to Iran is the most consequential thing we can do here in this Congress to stop Iran's financing of terrorism to Hamas and other proxies to help keep our troops safe who are now under fire from Iran-backed militias.

After Hamas' brutal October 7 massacre of over 1,200 innocent people in Israel, the largest attack on Jewish people since the Holocaust, Madam Chair, and over 70 attacks on our forces by Iran-backed proxies this fall, no one can deny Iran's role as the world's leading state sponsor of terror.

Put simply, the Middle East is on fire, and Iran's proxies are becoming more aggressive every day with increasing attacks, threatening to throw the Middle East into complete destabilization.

Now Iran's destabilization influence extends beyond the Middle East. They continue to supply deadly drones to Russia, supporting their unprovoked war of aggression in Ukraine.

□ 1230

Iran is going to keep throwing tens of millions of dollars to Hamas and other terror groups propping them up with our adversaries, like China, Russia, and North Korea, with weapons. We need to take every measure possible to stop Iran from giving its proxies another dime.

Madam Chair, after the October 7 attack by Hamas in which they took 240 hostages, it is absolutely undeniable this hostage deal was a catastrophic mistake.

Madam Chair, we met with some of the families yesterday, and it was one



of the most horrific experiences to hear what their loved ones are going through right now in Gaza. Americans held hostage, who we have still not been able to get out, they are in absolute hell right now, in darkness.

The narrative was something before October 7. Now, after October 7, they are trying to hide from this deal because they know what they did was wrong, and they know what they are doing is funding terror in the Middle East.

This body, this Congress needs to repair that damage. That is why my bill, the No Funds For Iranian Terrorism Act, imposes new sanctions to permanently prevent the transfer of \$6 billion in Iranian funds covered under the 2023 hostage deal; which, by the way, Madam Chair, I haven't seen this deal. The administration says there is a deal. They have not provided that deal to me nor to my colleagues, to my knowledge.

One thing is clear, this is a moment of moral clarity. With such instability in the region, the last thing we need to do is to give Iran access to \$6 billion to be diverted to more Iranian-sponsored terrorism. We must sanction anyone who enables the transfer or processing of transactions of these funds, period.

Put very simply and succinctly, I can't imagine how anybody can vote against this bill. How can anybody support \$6 billion going into Iran when we know, both in classified space, which we can't talk about here, but in the declassified space, exactly who was behind October 7.

Iran is the head of the snake, and the snake had its tentacles all throughout the Middle East: in Gaza with Hamas; in Yemen with the Houthi rebels; and in Iran and Syria with Iran-backed militias, who, by the way, Madam Chair, are hitting our troops every day. They are under fire by Iran. We are going to give them \$6 billion?

Now, the other side will say that is Iran's money. It is sanctioned money. This administration chose to lift the sanctions on the \$6 billion.

My bill says, no, Mr. President. We, in the Congress, say no to this policy. We are going to put sanctions on the money so Iran cannot get access to this to fund more terrorism, more killing of innocent Jewish people. I don't have to go into graphic detail of what happened on October 7, but we all saw the Hamas video and the gruesomeness of it.

I, Madam Chair, will not sit by idly and allow this to happen while Americans are under fire and the Jewish people are being killed by these terrorists.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me first start off by saying the President of the United States did the right thing. It is easy to say why we should vote against this bill.

My good friend, the chairman, has talked about October 7 over and over.

Our committee has had several family members come before our committee where we have vowed to do everything we can to get their family members back home.

For me, it has been very personal. Yesterday, we talked to a group of family members. We told them we will not stop until we get their family members back home.

Negotiating to bring our hostages home is hard because you have to do it with bad people.

Guess what? Hamas committed the heinous acts on October 7, but who are we negotiating with to get the hostages home? Hamas. It is not easy, but we vowed in front of these witnesses.

I wonder what we would say to those five individuals and families, who are now safe at home, before they were released? Would we have promised them and didn't we promise them we would do everything we could to get them back home?

Yes, President Biden did the right thing. He brought five Americans home who were rotting in Iran's notorious Evan prison.

Every Member of Congress—I repeat, every Member of this Congress who was aware of these cases wanted our fellow citizens to come home. Now, they are saying they should not have come home.

This was done, wanting them to come home, with a bipartisan voice. President Biden thus succeeded in doing what his predecessors could not. He got them home.

Iran, of course, as is Hamas, is a murderous and corrupt regime. They are not pleasant, and this isn't easy. Thanks to this agreement, five American families are now whole again, and Iran has lost the leverage of holding these American hostages.

Now, H.R. 5961 would sanction parties that carry out the financial terms of the hostage agreement in question. These include three European commercial banks and the Central Bank of Qatar, who, by the way, has been very instrumental in working with us to get hostages home that were taken on October 7, but let's really talk about the facts.

Yes, I have been in classified sessions and nonclassified sessions and have heard it, as all of us have. Let's talk about the facts.

Billions of Iran's own profits from oil sales were sitting in a restricted account in South Korea. It was done by the prior administration. It was established by the Trump administration for Iran to make approved humanitarian purchases. This wasn't done by the Biden administration. It was sitting in South Korea, by the Trump administration, for humanitarian purchases.

The United States had no control over that account while it was sitting there. The agreement moved that \$6 billion from the restricted account in South Korea, converted it to euros, and relocated it into the restricted account in Qatar, which now the United States

has visibility over—not a single penny—facts, not conjecture, facts.

I don't think anyone can refute the fact that not a single penny has moved into Iran. Not one. Not a penny, much less a dime. Not a penny has moved into Iran.

Under the terms of the agreement, Iran can use the money in Qatar to make approved humanitarian purchases to acquire medicine, medical equipment, agricultural goods, and food. Iran's government physically will never touch this money. The entirety of the transaction occurs outside of Iran, and Iran only receives the vetted humanitarian goods.

By the way, that is consistent with our values, and that is why we, in all of this, are talking about humanitarian concerns for people who are just victimized by bad people.

Thus far, Iran has not made any requests of the humanitarian fund, and nothing has been gained by Iran. All of the money remains in the account, an account that the United States can watch.

We have leverage over that account due to our relationship with the correspondent banks in Europe that would help process any transactions. In other words, we know we now have more control over this money than we did when it was sitting in South Korea. In fact, this account provides us with leverage, not the other way around.

Furthermore, following the horrific attacks in Israel on October 7, the United States and Qatar froze the humanitarian fund, so it is frozen now in Qatar. No humanitarian purchases will be approved any time soon. Again, nothing has changed.

The money remains in the account and we continue to have leverage. Nothing has changed from when the money was sitting in South Korea.

The only thing that has changed is five American citizens are no longer sitting in an Iranian prison. They are back home with their families.

Madam Chair, if H.R. 5961 is passed into law, that leverage will be gone. It will disappear. We will also lose our ability to conduct diplomacy with Iran and others in the future. If we blow up this agreement by passing this bill, we, the United States, will be the ones breaking yet another sensitive negotiated agreement.

Our word and integrity will no longer be good in negotiations, whether it is with Iran or any other parties. The United States must continue to address—and here is where I think we agree—no one is saying that the United States needs to continue to address Iran's backing of groups like Hezbollah and Hamas.

The Iranian-supported Hamas terrorists unleashed pure evil when they broke a cease-fire in the attacks on October 7. The population of Gaza would not be engulfed in war right now if it were not for Hamas. But we must also remain sober and serious about the challenge of Iran's nefarious nuclear



program. None of the bad options we possess to stop Iran's nuclear ambitions are better than the diplomatic track, which has already proven successful.

It was the United States who actually violated the JCPOA, not Iran. Pulling out of this hostage agreement will be the second time we violate an agreement with Iran's leaders. Passage of this bill would mean potentially slamming the door closed on future diplomacy, leaving us only with dangerous and highly risky options of confronting Iran's nuclear program.

We all agree, Iran must not ever have a nuclear weapon, but guess what, since we pulled out of JCPOA, they are closer to getting a nuclear weapon than had we been in there.

Madam Chair, the prisoner swap confirms to the Iranian regime that the United States is a reliable negotiating partner, just as we see taking place right now.

As we bring the hostages home from Gaza, they have to deal with Hamas. Both sides have to keep their word. We have warned Israel, who is a strong, diplomatic, honest country moving forward, fighting for its existence but have to deal with Hamas. They made an agreement, and they are living by that agreement. Hostages are coming home, and we want that to continue for each and every one of them. They are not just simply being released, Israel is giving something back in return.

In our case, Iran is actually not getting anything because they are not getting a dime to be utilized for their nefarious purposes.

Madam Chair, let me conclude with this: The agreement has freed five Americans—I repeat, five American citizens—who were suffering in an Iranian prison, who we all, in a bipartisan way, said we would do anything to get them home. We wanted them to be home.

It shifted Iran's own money from an account in Korea that we did not control, to one where we play a role and have control that we didn't in South Korea.

□ 1245

Not a single penny has left the account. I don't think anybody can refute that. Not a single penny has left the account. Not a single penny has entered Iran. Not a single U.S. taxpayer dollar has been involved.

This fund remains frozen indefinitely by the United States in Qatar, which has been working closely with us and Israel.

There is no reason to jeopardize future negotiations or further inflame an already dangerous situation by passing this bill. The fact of the matter is, I don't see why we would want to pass this bill. We know that diplomacy is the first thing we need to move forward in bringing our people home.

Lastly, let me just say this because I want to be absolutely clear: I don't want Iran's leaders to benefit from our

actions in any shape, fashion, or form. This hostage agreement that stands today, they have not benefited from it and will not benefit from it.

Unfortunately, this legislation will shoot American global credibility in the foot without even touching Iranian regime leaders. We encourage this House not to rush into passing this bill. Let's keep the door open for diplomacy.

This stands as an example with Iran and others because we have adversaries, but you always have to deal with those adversaries and negotiate and talk to try to figure out how we can live in a better place.

Let's think ahead. Let's not play checkers. Let's play chess. That is what this is all about.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SELF), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. SELF. Madam Chair, I rise today in support of Chairman MCCAUL's bill to ensure no funding for Iranian terrorism. While I am stunned by what I heard from my colleague across the aisle, I will try to bring clarity to this.

In August, President Biden surrendered access to \$6 billion to Iran—make no mistake about it—for five hostages. Once again, he demonstrated weakness to our adversaries. In doing so, he signaled to Hamas that his administration is willing to reward hostage taking.

The policy of the United States for years was no negotiations with terrorists or with hostage takers. We knew at that time that precedent was powerful. Now, weak precedent is dangerous.

In October, Hamas official Ali Baraka said of the \$6 billion deal: "The U.S. conducts prisoner swaps. Only recently, it did one with Iran. Why wouldn't it conduct a prisoner swap with us?"

Now, Hamas is holding the West hostage, the entire West hostage, as they fortify their defenses while Israeli hostages are traded for Palestinian prisoners, including terrorists.

There is only one language that is understood by our adversaries, and that is strength.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill and send a message that we will not fund the radical jihadist agenda.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me just say that I keep hearing this demonstrates weakness. The Biden administration demonstrated strength in being willing to stand with your enemies and negotiate.

I can recall, for me, even in our own country, what I learned to live by. Many folks were thinking that when Dr. King was moving forward with non-violence, he was demonstrating weakness and that we should go back and fight. He demonstrated strength. Sometimes when dealing and negotiating, that is where strength comes

from, and if you just go out swinging, you demonstrate weakness.

What Joe Biden has done was kept his word, number one. He said that he would bring, whenever he could, American hostages home. This body has said to American families that we would do everything and anything to bring their families home. We should keep our word.

President Biden kept his word to those five American hostages, and the United States House of Representatives should keep its word and not challenge the agreement that the President made to return those five American hostages.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. MIKE GARCIA), a member of the Committee on Armed Services.

Mr. MIKE GARCIA of California. Madam Chair, it should not take an act of Congress to stop our President, the President of the United States, from sending \$6 billion to Iran. Iran is the world's most prolific sponsor of terrorism, but here we are, having to go through this.

This administration has said that this money is to be used for humanitarian purposes only. Madam Chair, that is like giving money to a junkie and expecting them to buy food with it. You can tell them to buy food with it, and they can promise you that they will buy food with it. We all know he ain't buying food with it.

In this case, Iran will not use this money for humanitarian assistance. Even if they did, it would just free up other cash so they could fund their international terror organizations and nuclear ambitions. Now that we have control of these assets, let's not let this money be weaponized against us, our allies, and especially Israel.

Madam Chair, I urge support of the bill.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Again, I haven't heard a reply. Not one penny has gone to Iran. If I am wrong, then someone tell me. Not one cent. The money is frozen in Qatar. Not one penny.

None of this could have been used by Hamas, Iran, or anyone for October 7. They didn't have a dime.

The money was there already, put there for humanitarian purposes by the Trump administration. It was in South Korea, but we didn't have any control over it.

I didn't hear anybody talk about that when the Trump administration was there, that he should not have sent the money to South Korea. This should not be something that we are playing politics on.

The money shifted from South Korea and was changed into euros and sent to Qatar, where we have now more visibility than ever. Not a dime is going to Iran. We have five American hostages home, and then we are going to question the deal.

Madam Chair, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Chair, this is a preemptive effort. Why fight so hard? If a single penny has not been cut loose yet, good. That means we are taking action here that is going to prevent that. Had the Biden administration not cut loose the \$6 billion in frozen assets to begin with, we wouldn't have to do this.

Why do we have a nonsensical effort to allow Iran to have the option? That is why we need to head this off at the pass with H.R. 5961, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act.

We saw a sophisticated attack launched in Gaza by Hamas, and we are continuing this process to allow Iran to be the biggest state sponsor of terror in the world. We need to head it off at the pass, as I said.

It is ridiculous that we have to fight so hard to have this preemptive effort. I just don't understand it. I don't understand a lot of things coming out of the Middle East with the pro-Palestinian efforts all over this country and all over the world when Israel is simply a country that seeks peace.

Yes, we got five wrongfully detained American hostages in exchange for these frozen assets, but the President must impose sanctions on the foreign financial institutions involved in processing the transfer of these funds. Head it off at the pass. Don't allow it to happen. Why would we be in the business of helping Iran to destroy Israel?

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM), the chair of the Committee on Foreign Affairs' Subcommittee on Indo-Pacific.

Mrs. KIM of California. Madam Chair, I thank Chairman MCCAUL for yielding.

Madam Chair, I rise in strong support of H.R. 5961, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, to keep Iran from accessing the \$6 billion in assets that were unfrozen in September.

This bill imposes sanctions on international financial institutions that process, participate in, or facilitate transactions using or involving the \$6 billion in unfrozen Iranian assets that were transferred from South Korea to Qatar in exchange for five hostages kept in Iran in September.

While I am glad the hostages came back to their homes, we cannot incentivize more hostage taking by the Islamic Republic of Iran.

The administration claims that this funding could be used only for humanitarian purposes, but Iranian President Raisi has countered that the Islamic Republic of Iran can use the assets "wherever we need it." Those are his words.

Allowing Iran to access these funds would be foolish. Hamas' October 7 at-

tack on Israel showed the world how much destruction Iran is capable of through its illicit finance of terrorist organizations.

We also now see Iran's proxy militia and terrorist organizations carrying out attacks on U.S. troops and military assets in Syria and Iraq.

Congress must take strong action to bolster our sanctions policy and stop Iran from accessing assets that it can use to carry out its terrorist agenda across the Middle East.

Madam Chair, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Let me say this: The United States has values. What is taking place and what took place in Israel and is taking place in Gaza right now is why we are fighting so hard to make sure that we have a supplemental that includes humanitarian aid.

We know that there are people in Gaza, Palestinians, who are not part of Hamas. Everyone wants to make sure, as we are doing in this pause, that humanitarian aid is getting to them. It shows the best of who we are as Americans.

It is also so in Iran. Every Iranian is not part of the regime. In fact, the regime is cruel and does not provide humanitarian aid to many of its citizens.

We don't want to be like the regime. We want to show our humanity. Yes, when human beings are suffering, we want to make sure that we get in humanitarian aid so that we can take care of them. That is what is happening right now. That is why we are having the pause in the Middle East, in Gaza.

Doing the hostage exchange, bringing people home, is what we should be doing. What we are also doing is bringing in humanitarian aid to those individuals who Hamas would never aid.

So people around the world will respect and know who we are, we should never give up on our values. The money that we are talking about is not going to be used or getting into the hands of the Iranian regime. We are talking about trying to show that we have care and humanity for those who are the victims of the regime.

□ 1300

Humanitarian aid. That is who we should be. We should be proud of the fact that we want to try to take care of those who are a part, unfortunately, of dictators and authoritarian regimes who will not take care of their people. That is not who we are.

If, in the future, through the constraints that we have and the approval that needs to take place we can help somebody that has been victimized, I think that is the right thing to do.

To say that we don't care is the wrong thing to do. I just wonder if we would invite those five families of those who have now returned home, what would we say to them?

We wish your folks would have stayed in the prison because the Presi-

dent should not have made this deal because of humanitarian aid?

What would we say to them?

What can we say to them now? They are listening to us.

We should renege on the deal and let their loved ones stay in prison?

Thank God President Biden understands being a humanitarian, bringing our folks home, and at the same time having a hard line against Iran and Hamas and its affiliates.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Chairman I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CARTER).

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I know it is hard to believe, and I know that my friends across the other side of the aisle find it hard to believe, but the Iranian regime is not our friend. They are no friend to the U.S., nor to our allies.

It is not that we don't care. Yes, we do care. The Iranian regime is one of the world's leaders in state sponsored terrorism, and they cannot be appeased. We know that. That is why it was alarming when President Biden freed up \$6 billion in previously frozen funds for Iran in September. I am glad that this was later refrozen due to the pushback from my colleagues and I—who don't trust Iran any further than we can pick them up and throw them—to use that money responsibly.

The expectation of receiving the funds no doubt contributed to the uptick in terror we have seen in the Middle East. I think everyone would agree with that.

According to our intelligence community, Iran provides \$1 million a year to foreign terrorist organizations, including Hamas and Hezbollah.

On October 7, Iranian-backed Hamas terrorists brutally attacked Israel, killing 1,400 people and taking over 200 hostages. This legislation, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act, places immediate and mandatory sanctions on foreign financial institutions that facilitate the transfer of the restricted Iranian funds covered under President Biden's deal.

It is imperative that the \$6 billion remains permanently off-limits to the Iranian regime.

So long as President Biden and his administration continue to weaken our country on the world stage, House Republicans stand ready to respond with strength.

Mr. Chair, I look forward to voting for this legislation, and I urge my colleagues to pass this vital legislation.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, one question that I think remains unanswered to my colleagues on the other side: Are you willing to go and tell the family members of those five hostages that are now home that they should still be in that prison?

Are you willing to tell them that we should not have worked out a deal with the \$6 billion frozen for humanitarian

concern and that we should renege on the deal and they should go back to prison?

The one thing that is missing is that we got these hostages home, and that can't be held over our heads by Iran anymore.

I don't hear an answer to that.

What do you say to those families?

We have talked to families who have loved ones that are hostages. What do you say to them? You should still be there? We should not have made the deal?

Is that what you are saying? I think that what I am hearing is that this deal should not have been made and those American hostages should still be sitting in that Iranian prison?

I ask my colleagues on the other side: What do you say to those five families?

Do we renege on the deal?

Do you tell them they should not be home, so we should not have made the deal?

We have hostages before us all the time. What do you say to them?

I know what I am going to say to them. I am glad their family members are home and I am glad Joe Biden made the deal to get them home. He is not threatening and not using any U.S. dollars. There is no threat from Iran in regard to that \$6 billion to be utilized for any aggression on their part.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I am ready to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, let me just say this. First, the debate on the House floor today is a rare moment where the House Foreign Affairs Committee is debating legislation under a rule, rather than under suspension.

For those who don't know what that means, it signifies that this bill is not bipartisan. That is in contrast to the great majority of legislation that comes out of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

This is the first primary Foreign Affairs bill this year that we are debating under a rule this Congress. In the previous two Congresses, under the Democratic leadership, we debated a total of one bill under a rule.

One thing I will say, as I have talked throughout this debate, one thing that is a fact is that Mr. McCAUL is my friend. We always try to reach an agreement on all bills. There is no question about that. I am not questioning that at all. We are frequently, as we did yesterday, very successful.

We had a completely bipartisan markup, including on a potentially game-changing bill that would codify an outbound investment regime to protect our economy and our national security. I would say that that is the way I do believe this committee is ran, and we work very closely together.

On this bill is one of those times where I do fundamentally disagree with the arguments put forward by the ma-

majority. I submitted an amendment that would have added a national security waiver to the legislation. Such a waiver is a very restrictive standard. The President can only waive the sanctions if it was vital to the national security of the United States. He could not waive the sanctions for trivial reasons, nor even for an important economic reason. He could only waive the sanctions to protect our national security. Of course, that amendment was not made in order.

Every major sanctions bill over the last 20 years has had basic exemptions and waivers, like the amendment I offered to this bill. This history includes numerous Republican sanctions, bills targeting Iran. By moving a bill today without those very basic guardrails, we are undermining bipartisan practices that have been held for decades. We are also forfeiting leverage to promote American interests and undercutting our credibility around the world.

As such, I oppose this legislation. It is the wrong time for this legislation. It is improper. It will hurt down the road. We need to look and have a vision for down the road because, for me, what we do is not just about today. It is about—I have three granddaughters, and I say this everywhere—it is about 5, 2, and 6 months, so it is about what takes place and what opportunities might be available 60 years from now.

As we look back at prior history, things that were done by prior Congresses had an effect 50 and 60 years later. People that are our allies now, 60 years ago were our enemy. Time changes things. People who were our enemies 60 years ago are now our allies.

Let's think forward. Let's vote this bill down—at least we should have the waivers in there. I must oppose this legislation, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do the same.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, let me say to my dear friend from New York, I have great admiration and respect for him. He is right, we do work things out. Of all the committees, we are the most bipartisan committee, and it is important that we speak with one voice as a Nation to the world.

However, as we also have agreed, there are times we just can't get to an agreement. This is one of those times. I just can't in good faith support the administration's position on this.

The gentleman asked a couple questions about why didn't this pass on suspension, and that is always our goal. The fact is that five Members on his side of the aisle voted in support of this bill. I think what we are going to find on the vote on this floor today is you are going to have more than five Members vote for this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I admire him and his support for the President. I would probably do the same in his case, but I have to, with all due respect, disagree.

What would I say to the five American families?

I would say: Thank God your loved ones are home. I would say: We are with you. I don't think this is just about the five American hostages. There is something else going on that just doesn't make sense.

Mr. Chairman, you have five innocent Americans exchanged for five indicted Iranians on charges related to national security. That alone is a bad deal. We talk about negotiations—that is not a good negotiation.

Mr. Chairman, if you throw \$6 billion on top of this—what is that all about?

I have to ask the question: Why was this money that was frozen in a South Korean bank transferred to an undisclosed Doha bank account to then be made available for humanitarian purposes to Iran?

What they will say is: Well, it is still frozen.

Why was the money transferred to an undisclosed Doha bank account? If it was for humanitarian purposes, why couldn't the South Korean bank transfer it?

I will tell you why it was transferred to the Doha bank account—and we don't even know the name of the bank, Mr. Chairman. It was transferred at the request of the Islamic Republic of Iran.

Why did they want that?

They know that they can get access to the Doha bank account. They know that in Qatar they are going to be more friendly to them than the South Koreans. This didn't happen by accident, it happened by design. That is precisely why the money was money laundered to this other bank account to funnel into Iran.

For what purpose, humanitarian?

□ 1315

I get that. I don't doubt my good friend from New York's heart and sincerity. He believes this. Nevertheless, facts are stubborn things.

Under the previous administration, a bank was prosecuted for the same scheme that this administration is perpetuating. A Turkish bank—this is from the Department of Justice Public Affairs Office—was facilitating transactions to appear to be purchases of food and medicine by Iranian customers in order to appear to fall within the so-called humanitarian exception.

Mr. Chair, don't take my word for this. Take the President of Iran's word for this: I will do whatever I want with the money.

Let's be clear-eyed and sober about this. Let's not be naive about putting \$6 billion into Iran at this critical time, Mr. Chairman, after October 7, the bloodiest day of killing Jews since the Holocaust. This is why their narrative is changing.

Now, it is like: But the President of Iran hasn't asked for the money yet. And by the way, it is frozen.

Then why did you transfer it to the Doha Bank account?

Mr. Chairman, I will tell you why. It is because Iran requested it. The idea that Iran is not going to ask for this money, I have to say, with all due respect, is incredulous. Of course, they want this money.

The question is: Why hasn't it been transferred already?

Do you know what, Mr. Chairman? The answer is October 7. That is why it hasn't been transferred. They got caught with their pants down. Now, they realize: Oh, my God, we can't transfer this money. Think of the optics here. This is going to look really bad.

There is another thing that is very nefarious going on here. There is some deal going on, Mr. Chairman, that we don't know about, and we have every right of oversight. They won't call things treaties because the Senate won't confirm them. They call them deals.

What is going on? It is not just about the hostages, and thank God they are home. Let me tell the families: God bless them.

Nevertheless, there is something else going on here. There is an undercurrent of another deal going on, and it is the JCPOA, the Iran nuclear agreement. That is why the money was transferred. In my judgment, it is to facilitate another deal with Iran.

The irony of all ironies, Mr. Chairman, is the Special Envoy for Iran is now under investigation by the FBI for violations of his security clearance. The very man negotiating the JCPOA, the Iran deal, is under investigation by the FBI for violating his national security clearance.

You can't make this up, Mr. Chairman. You really can't make this up.

He talked about the Presidential waiver. We said that the whole point of this bill is to ensure they cannot use the \$6 billion unless they do two things: one, cease their support for international terrorism, and, two, stop their nuclear weapons and weapons of mass destruction programs.

This bill doesn't undercut our leverage; it turns this money into leverage to stop their most dangerous activities.

I think this is a bad deal. I think that the underlying intent is something more secretive.

Mr. Chairman, I have to ask the question: Has any Member of Congress seen this deal that we are talking about? Has the gentleman from New York seen this hostage deal with Iran?

I haven't seen it. I haven't seen it, classified or not. Where is the deal? Why won't the administration present the deal to the Congress pursuant to our oversight responsibilities?

That is transparency. That is why we introduced the bill because Congress has every right on behalf of the American people, before the \$6 billion was transferred into Iran, to see what the deal is.

We met with these hostage families yesterday, and it is brutal. I was in the kibbutz at the Gaza border in southern

Israel, Kfar Azza. They went into the daycare center and killed the children I saw there. They decapitated them, and they killed everybody I met in the kibbutz.

I can't look at these families of the victims or the families of the hostages in good faith. I cannot look them in the eye and say: Do you know what? I support your efforts to get your loved ones home. But guess what? I also support this deal that the President has decided to do to put \$6 billion into the Islamic Republic of Iran, the largest state sponsor of terror and the very country responsible for the Hamas attacks killing more Jews than I have seen in my lifetime.

My father was a bombardier on a B-17 in World War II. He bombed the Nazis. He saw the Holocaust in his lifetime. I never thought I would see anything like that in my lifetime, but guess what, Mr. Chairman? This is the largest killing since the Holocaust.

I can't look those families in the eye, Mr. Chairman, and tell them that I am going to support this deal to add additional money for terrorism, especially \$6 billion.

This is not about the five Americans. We released five Iranians guilty of espionage, in my judgment. This is about the undercurrent of a deal that we don't know about. They are secretive about it, and they need to come forward to the American people through the Congress and let us know what that deal was.

Nevertheless, I, for one, will not sit here in this Chamber and allow this to happen. That is why if they won't do it, then we will. Congress will stop this money from going into Iran not just for politics and not even for the American people but for the victims of terrorism around the world, especially the people of Israel.

Mr. Chairman, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. VALADAO). All time for general debate has expired.

Pursuant to the rule, the bill shall be considered for amendment under the 5-minute rule.

In lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs, printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118-14, modified by the amendment printed in part B of House Report 118-280, shall be considered as adopted. The bill, as amended, shall be considered as an original bill for purpose of further amendment under the 5-minute rule and shall be considered as read.

The text of the amendment in the nature of a substitute is as follows:

H.R. 5961

*Be it enacted by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,*

**SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.**

*This Act may be cited as the "No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act".*

**SEC. 2. FINDINGS.**

*Congress makes the following findings:*

(1) On October 7, 2023, Iran-backed Hamas terrorists launched a massive, unprovoked war on Israel by air, land, and sea, in which they engaged in the brutal murder of over 1,300 people and kidnapped 130 people who are now being held hostage.

(2) Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hezbollah have all been designated by the United States as Foreign Terrorist Organizations pursuant to section 219 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1189).

(3) According to an unclassified United States government assessment, "Iran has historically provided up to \$100 million annually in combined support to Palestinian terrorist groups, including Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad (PIJ), and the Popular Front for the Liberation of Palestine-General Command."

(4) As National Security Advisor Jake Sullivan stated on October 10, 2023, "Iran is complicit in this attack in a broad sense because they have provided the lion's share of the funding for the military wing of Hamas, they have provided training, they have provided capabilities, they have provided support, and they have provided engagement and contact with Hamas over years and years."

(5) President Biden reached an agreement with the Iranian regime to bring home Siamak Namazi, Morad Tahbaz, Emad Shargi, and two additional American hostages all of whom were wrongfully detained in Iran.

**SEC. 3. IMPOSITION OF SANCTIONS WITH RESPECT TO COVERED IRANIAN ASSETS.**

(a) *IN GENERAL.*—On and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall impose the sanction described in subsection (c) with respect to each foreign financial institution that the President determines engages in an activity described in subsection (b).

(b) *ACTIVITIES DESCRIBED.*—A foreign financial institution engages in an activity described in this subsection if the institution processes, participates in, or facilitates a transaction using or involving covered Iranian funds.

(c) *BLOCKING OF PROPERTY.*—The sanction described in this subsection is the exercise of all of the powers granted to the President under the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1701 et seq.) to the extent necessary to block and prohibit all transactions in property and interests in property of a foreign financial institution described in subsection (a) if such property and interests in property are in the United States, come within the United States, or are or come within the possession or control of a United States person.

(d) *PENALTIES.*—The penalties provided for in subsections (b) and (c) of section 206 of the International Emergency Economic Powers Act (50 U.S.C. 1705) shall apply to a person that violates, attempts to violate, conspires to violate, or causes a violation of this section or any regulations promulgated to carry out this section to the same extent that such penalties apply to a person that commits an unlawful act described in section 206(a) of that Act.

(e) *TERMINATION OF SANCTIONS.*—The President shall not be required to impose sanctions under this section with respect to a foreign financial institution or international financial institution described in subsection (a) if the President certifies in writing to the appropriate congressional committees that the Government of Iran—

(1) no longer repeatedly provides support for international terrorism as determined by the Secretary of State pursuant to—

(A) section 1754(c)(1)(A) of the Export Control Reform Act of 2018 (50 U.S.C. 4318(c)(1)(A));

(B) section 620A of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2371);

(C) section 40 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2780); or

(D) any other provision of law; and

(2) has ceased the pursuit, acquisition, and development of, and verifiably dismantled its, nuclear, biological, and chemical weapons and ballistic missiles and ballistic missile launch technology.

#### SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.**—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate.

(2) **COVERED IRANIAN FUNDS.**—The term “covered Iranian funds” means any funds transferred from accounts in the Republic of Korea to Qatar pursuant to or under the authority or guaranty of a waiver, license, assurance letter, or other guidance issued pursuant to or in furtherance of the waiver determination made pursuant to sections 1244(i) (22 U.S.C. 8803(i)) and 1247(f) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8806(f)) and section 1245(d)(5) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 (22 U.S.C. 8513a(d)(5)) that is the subject of the document entitled “Waiver of Sanctions with Respect to the Transfer of Funds from the Republic of Korea to Qatar” and was transmitted to Congress in September 2023.

(3) **FOREIGN FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “foreign financial institution” has the meaning given such term under section 561.308 of title 31, Code of Federal Regulations.

(f) **EXCEPTION RELATING TO IMPORTATION OF GOODS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The authorities and requirements to impose sanctions authorized under this Act shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods.

(2) **GOOD DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or man-made substance, material, supply, or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

The Acting CHAIR. No further amendment to the bill, as amended, shall be in order except those printed in part C of House Report 118-280. Each such further amendment may be offered only in the order printed in the report, by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report, equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. All points of order against such further amendments are waived.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR.  
FITZPATRICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 1 printed in part C of Report 118-280.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, after line 15, insert the following:

(3) Hamas, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and associated terrorist organizations backed by Iran routinely and unabashedly use civilians as “human shields” to shield their weapons and terrorist militants from legitimate military engagement, a contravention of inter-

national humanitarian law and a heinous violation of the rights and dignity of civilian noncombatants.

(4) Only the cessation of Hamas’ operations, the unconditional surrender of Hamas, and the immediate dismantlement of Hamas and all other Iran-backed terrorist organizations that participated in the massacre of Israelis on and since October 7, 2023, will ensure that innocent Israeli and Palestinian civilian lives are saved.

Page 1, line 16, strike “(3)” and insert “(5)”.

Page 2, line 5, strike “(4)” and insert “(6)”.

Page 2, line 13, strike “(5)” and insert “(7)”.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Pennsylvania.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chairman, I rise today in favor of my amendment to H.R. 5961, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act.

Mr. Chair, this Congress has a responsibility to unequivocally denounce the cruelty and inhumanity perpetrated by the terrorist organizations funded by Iran, especially Hamas.

As we work to prohibit further funds from being used by the ruthless Iranian regime to prop up terrorists and subsidize terror attacks, we must also ensure that we swiftly and clearly condemn the criminal acts already carried out by Iran’s agents of terror.

The deliberate use of innocent civilians as humanitarian infrastructure by Hamas and other Iran-backed terrorist groups to shield themselves, their weapons, and their operations is entirely unconscionable.

Their unabashed and irredeemable disregard for human life is equally outrageous. Hamas and other terrorist organizations are placing innocent, non-combatant women, children, elderly, and other vulnerable individuals in harm’s way. This must stop.

This is a blatant contravention of international humanitarian law.

Beyond all of that, Mr. Chair, it is a fundamental violation of human dignity.

My amendment ensures that the United States emphatically condemns these actions of Iran-backed terrorist organizations. It further demands the immediate and unconditional surrender of Hamas and other terrorist organizations so that innocent civilian lives may be saved in both Israel and Palestine.

This has not and should not be a partisan issue. This Congress and this government must continue to be united in our condemnation of terror and terrorists.

Anything less is a betrayal of our obligation as a global leader for human rights, human dignity, and human freedom.

Mr. Chairman, I urge the adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS.  
CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 2 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Redesignate section 4 as section 5.

Insert after section 3 the following:

#### SEC. 3. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the terrorist-funding, human rights-violating Iranian regime should receive no additional funds but that basic humanitarian assistance for the people of Iran is important.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment.

I am offering my amendment to H.R. 5961 to reaffirm what I hope should be a bipartisan principle: Our problem lies with the Iranian regime, not the Iranian people.

Innocent Iranians have suffered at the hands of cruel authoritarian leaders who have zero regard for human rights. The Ayatollah and his regime have racked up a laundry list of gross abuses.

Iranian security forces and prison personnel torture and sexually assault detainees. The country sees staggering levels of repression, without any room for peaceful dissent. Iranian authorities disable the internet during protests to mask their human rights violations. Women and girls are treated as second-class citizens and without any form of basic dignity.

We must cut off any source of funding for the terrorist-supporting, human rights-violating Iranian regime, but not at the expense of basic humanitarian assistance. The Iranian people are suffering enough. Any attempt to restrain the flow of aid would exacerbate this pain.

Let me also emphasize that there are robust safeguards on the funds currently in Qatar.

First, the Biden administration has made it abundantly clear that the funds are going nowhere anytime soon. There are guardrails to ensure that food and medicine and similar goods alone can be purchased. No other transactions will be approved. Iran does not have access to this money currently, nor will they in the future. They can only contract with third-party suppliers to receive the goods. Those suppliers will work with financial institutions to process the payments.

In other words, it is humanitarian aid or nothing at all.

My amendment emphasizes that we should support humanitarian aid for the Iranian people. All of us can take issue with Iran's tyrannical leaders, but we cannot penalize Iranian citizens who have been forced to endure a harsh and repressive regime.

A threat to the Iranian people is a threat to all of us. As Americans, we must uphold our responsibility as world leaders and stand with the Iranian people.

Mr. Chair, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and remember that the duality of our great leadership is in our strength and our compassion and not in further exacerbating any pain or oppression but in ensuring that we stand as world leaders and support humanitarian aid while continuing to fight the authoritarian regime.

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

□ 1330

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York, Ranking Member MEEKS.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I strongly support this amendment.

The United States must stand for humanitarian aid and must stand for helping the people of Iran, even while we condemn the Iranian governing regime. The regime's medieval views on women's rights and religious freedom and their depraved agenda of financing terrorists around the region are separate from the people of Iran.

This amendment simply separates the government from the people, and I encourage all of my colleagues to vote for this very good and humanitarian amendment.

Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK. Mr. Chair, I close by encouraging all of my colleagues to vote in support of this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MR. GOTTHEIMER  
The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 3 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 1, line 10, strike "130 people" and insert "at least 230 people".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Mr. Chair, I rise today in support of my amendment to correct the number of hostages that Hamas terrorists took when they attacked Israel on October 7. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

That day, Hamas terrorists brutally murdered, raped, burned alive, and decapitated more than a thousand innocent babies, children, women, men, and elderly, including dozens of Americans.

Let me be very clear: More than 230 people were abducted and taken hostage by Hamas, a terrorist organization, including nearly a dozen Americans. Again, Americans were killed. Americans remain hostage.

There are some people who equivocate about Hamas, a foreign terrorist organization. There should be no equivocation. They are designated by the United States of America as a foreign terrorist organization. They are terrorists, and anybody who spent time looking at images of the barbaric, heinous, and unthinkable acts that took place on October 7, like I have, knows what Hamas is capable of. We will never unsee it. I know the ranking member was there, as well, and has seen it.

We cannot forget that Hamas is an evil terrorist organization. Their charter advocates jihad against the Jewish people and the destruction of the Jewish state.

In the region, militarily, beyond their support for Hamas, Iran is backing proxies that have attacked American troops in Iraq and Syria. We have seen an uptick in skirmishes between Hezbollah and Israel near the Lebanese border.

President Biden has been phenomenal with his resolve and unwavering support for our key ally Israel, which is critical to America's national security and the fight against terror and is the democracy in the region.

The President has taken action in Syria in response to attacks by Iranian-backed proxies on American personnel, regular attacks. We have seen them in Syria. We have seen it in Iraq. We have seen it from the Houthis.

The President understands that you have to actually hold terrorists who commit atrocities against our country accountable, or they will strike again and be stronger. Hamas terrorists, their leadership, have even made it clear that they will not back down and are committed to "a second, third, and fourth" October 7 against Israel.

The President has continued to demonstrate strength, resolve, and leadership to get hostages home. Thankfully,

in recent days, groups of hostages have been rescued, including 4 year old Abigail, an American citizen.

As of today, there are still nearly 160 hostages, including Americans. Forty American citizens were slaughtered by Hamas, and other terrorists have been living in horrifying fear and uncertainty at the hands of terrorists for more than 50 days. It blows my mind that this isn't talked about every single day in our country that Americans remain hostage.

Americans were killed and are still suffering in Gaza. May all their memories be a blessing.

This should be the beginning and end of the argument of why we must crush Hamas and stop Iranian-backed terrorist proxies. These terrorists continue to attack Israel and American personnel around the globe.

The names and ages of the Americans still held hostage by the terrorists in Gaza are as follows: Gad Haggai, 73 years old; Judith Weinstein, 70 years old; Keith Samuel Siegel, 64 years old; Sagui Dekel-Chen, 35 years old; Hersh Goldberg-Polin, 23 years old; Omer Neutra, 22 years old; Itay Chen, 19 years old.

The eighth American still held hostage is 19-year-old Edan Alexander from Tenafly, New Jersey, in my district. Here is Edan. He is a wonderful, wonderful person. I have met with his family. They are phenomenal.

After Edan graduated from Tenafly High School in 2022, he began serving with the Israel Defense Forces. He grew up in northern New Jersey, became a swimmer, and went to the prom. I have seen all the photos.

Since day one, I have been in constant contact with the Alexander family. Their unimaginable strength in the face of unfathomable pain gives all of us hope. I don't know how they do it.

It is time to get our Americans and all of the hostages home. It is in America's interest and critical to our national security to ensure that October 7 can never and must never happen again. Our objectives are clear: to stand by Israel, our key ally, the democracy in the region, our partner in the fight against terror; to get all of the Americans and all the hostages home; to crush the terrorists and provide much-needed humanitarian aid to innocent Palestinian civilians being used by Hamas as human shields.

Mr. Chair, you will notice that Hamas does not allow any of the innocent Palestinians to go underground to be protected. There is no protection for them. They use them as human shields. Israel must eliminate every single terrorist responsible from Hamas for the atrocities committed on October 7.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

The amendment was agreed to.



AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MR. NORMAN

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 4 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Page 4, line 6, after "committees" insert "not later than 45 days before the termination of such sanctions".

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina.

Mr. NORMAN. Mr. Chair, what my amendment does is allow a 45-day waiting period between certification and removal of sanctions.

I heard my good friend, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, mention how this administration is the best friend Israel has. If that is the case, why is he wanting to give \$6 billion to Iran which is the sponsor of terror? If he is so interested in protecting Americans, why does he have our border wide open for people to come illegally from every country around the world?

This amendment is in response to an administration that has done anything but be on the side of Israel.

Mr. Chair, I applaud the work of Chairman MCCAUL and the Foreign Affairs Committee for this commonsense legislation that effectively freezes the \$6 billion of Iranian funds by imposing immediate and mandatory sanctions on financial institutions attempting to engage in transactions with these funds.

Despite claims by the administration to the contrary, the \$6 billion handed over to Iran by the Biden administration—to the country that is the leading sponsor of terror that has taken all of the hostages in that he shows pictures of—this money is fungible and Iran is complicit in the attacks launched on October 7 that killed close to 1,500 innocent people, some of which were at a music festival.

I wholeheartedly support this legislation. However, I have one concern. Section 3 of this legislation contains language that allows President Biden to terminate sanctions if the President simply certifies in writing that Iran no longer provides support for terrorism and has ceased the development of nuclear weapons.

This President simply will not do that. That is why he is letting the money go.

As currently written, this legislation provides no opportunity for Congress to exercise oversight. The President can simply terminate sanctions if he thinks Iran meets certain requirements.

In September 2023, the Biden administration waived sanctions to allow the \$6 billion in Iranian funds in South Ko-

rean banks to be transferred to banks in Qatar in exchange for the release of five hostages.

No matter what the Biden administration says, money is fungible. This deal gave Iran access to more money to fund its terrorist activities, including support for regional proxies like Hamas and Hezbollah.

Just 1 month after this deal, Hamas launched its brutal attack on Israel, killing innocent civilians and taking dozens of hostages. We have seen what happens when we give too much authority to this executive branch. Their actions speak louder than their words. I don't want this to happen again.

This is why my amendment would require a 45-day waiting period between Presidential certification and removal of sanctions to provide an opportunity for congressional oversight. The President shouldn't be doing this anyway. To not have a 45-day waiting period to try to correct and let Congress deal with what his actions are is incomprehensible to me.

Mr. Chair, in closing, let me say I named some things that this President is doing. The purpose of my amendment is because of the \$6 billion that is going to the leading sponsor of terror that the Biden administration is okaying.

I will add another thing that has not been widely publicized. We have a sitting Member of Congress, CORY MILLS, from Florida, who had to charter his own airplane to rescue hostages. When he contacted the Biden administration for support, they gave him no support. The Biden administration gave no support to rescue the hostages. The pictures were shown by my good friend, JOSH GOTTHEIMER. This is a wayward administration that is lawless.

This amendment simply builds in additional time for Congress to conduct proper oversight of executive branch certifications. We should not continue to further delegate legislative authority derived from Article I of the Constitution to the executive branch.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 5 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. \_\_. SENSE OF CONGRESS.**

It is the sense of Congress that all United States allies in the Middle East should publicly and unequivocally condemn the anti-Semitism displayed by Iranian-backed terrorist groups, including Hamas.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, the unprovoked assault on Israel on October 7 shocked millions around the world and demonstrated the unrelenting brutality of Hamas.

While many countries around the world supported Israel as it confronted this single deadliest day for the Jews since the Holocaust, many did not. Many of the countries that pointedly refused to condemn Hamas are located in the Middle East.

Mr. Chairman, my amendment expresses a sense of Congress that all U.S. allies in the Middle East should publicly and unequivocally condemn the anti-Semitism displayed by the Iranian-backed terror groups, including Hamas.

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

□ 1345

Mr. Chairman, Kuwait, a country that American soldiers liberated from Saddam Hussein, expressed its grave concern and blamed Israel for the blatant attacks. Kuwait further urged the international community to stop the provocative practices by the occupation.

Talk about victim blaming, Mr. Chairman, especially when the guilty party, Hamas, has proudly taken responsibility for attacking and raping Jewish civilians.

Lebanon, a country which at this point is effectively controlled by the terrorist group Hezbollah, congratulated the resisting Palestinian people. Hezbollah hailed Hamas for its large-scale heroic operation, an operation that saw an 8-year-old girl have her hands cut off and then being left to bleed to death.

Tunisia declared its full and unconditional solidarity with the Palestinian people following Hamas' brutality on October 7, an attack that saw a pregnant woman have her mouth duct-taped and her baby cut out of her stomach. In no uncertain terms, the country, a listed major non-NATO ally, maintained their position to fully stand by the Palestinian people until they recover their entire land.

Qatar, a country whose state-controlled media outlet, Al Jazeera, which should also be known as the Qatari news network, is the mouthpiece of Hamas terrorists and blamed Israel for being solely responsible for the ongoing escalation and stressed their unwavering stance on the justice of the Palestinian cause and for the international community to compel Israel to cease its blatant violation of international law. These attacks saw women bound, gang-raped, and then murdered, attacks that saw a baby put in an oven and baked alive, the father's eyes gouged out and the mother raped.



On November 1, the Kingdom of Jordan, a country which was given well over half a billion in taxpayer dollars in this last year's omnibus, recalled its Ambassador to Israel.

Other countries, including Oman, Turkiye, and Egypt, choose to equivocate instead of condemning Hamas.

Wherever you are on the political spectrum, the attack was inhumane. It was brutal. It was blatant, and those culpable should be punished.

The international community, including many of the Arab states that I have mentioned, should join with the international community in condemning Hamas and should speak for the innocent.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 6 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. . PROHIBITION ON FUNDS.**

No federal funds may be used to make any funds (as such term is defined in section 2339C(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code) available to Iran.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, most Americans would be surprised and disgusted to learn that Iran has been given approximately \$50 billion in a sanctions relief package by the Biden administration.

More to the point, it was done in exchange for a promise from Iran that they wouldn't produce weapons-grade uranium. That is it. That is all we apparently got.

Think about the implications of this deal. The Ayatollah, who embraces chants of "Death to America" and "Death to Israel," can produce even more deadly long-range missiles, but that is fine by Joe Biden. How about highly enriched uranium? Somewhere in Foggy Bottom, Antony Blinken is nodding his head: Sure, why not?

The Ayatollah can put his country on the cusp of the nuclear threshold and

hold it over us as a constant threat. He can continue to pocket billions of taxpayer dollars made available by the so-called adults in charge at our State Department.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment is counterproductive. The House has voted in a bipartisan manner to support general licenses to Iran to allow open internet access to the protesters against the regime of Iran. That could violate this vaguely drafted amendment. In the recent past, the United States has spent very small sums of money to promote civil society and democratic ideals in Iran, and that could violate this amendment.

This amendment, I believe, with all due respect, is carelessly drafted and unvetted. Therefore, I must oppose it.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, civil. On October 7, Iran sponsored the murder, rape, and torture of innocent civilians.

Civil. I do not trust Iran with nuclear material.

Civil. They raped little girls.

Civil. I should think not.

This is a no-brainer, Mr. Chairman. This administration—whether due to side deals, incompetence, or just selling out America—is bringing the world's most grievous, grotesque sponsor of state terrorism closer to nuclear capabilities.

Mr. Chairman, I am from the South. You can put lipstick on a pig, but it is still a pig.

Iran should be punished for what happened in Israel. Hamas should be driven into the sea. Respectfully to my colleague, we should take extraordinary measures to send a message to the world that this will never happen again.

Iran must pay and pay dearly. This is but a first step.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, the world is in a precarious place. We see the CCP making moves in the Pacific against Taiwan. Russia has made a move against Ukraine. Iranian-backed terrorists killed innocent civilians.

There should be no relief for Iran. There should be no sanctions relief for Iran, for they are not civil. They do not belong at a seat at the table with the rest of the world. They need to be driven into the stone age, where they belong and how they behave.

Mr. Chairman, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 7 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON QATAR.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Government of Qatar should publicly condemn Hamas, turn Hamas leadership over to the United States or Israeli control, and pledge never to facilitate the transfer of any covered Iranian funds to Iran or any agency or instrumentality of Iran.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, while Hamas terrorists were brutalizing Israeli citizens, Hamas' top leadership was celebrating from a penthouse in Doha.

Qatar claims to be our ally. They want to hold a special place with the United States. We have a forward operating base there.

While they are claiming to be our friend, they are literally housing, aiding, and abetting terrorists from Hamas, roughly a dozen who are worth billions, flying on private jets, drinking champagne, and partying while Israeli citizens are being slaughtered.

Qatar has the opportunity to stand with the United States, stand with the innocent people of Israel who were murdered.

This sense of Congress simply urges that Qatar should condemn Hamas, turn over Hamas leadership to U.S. and Israeli custody, and pledge never to facilitate the transfer of covered Iranian funds to Iran.

Mr. Chairman, there is a direct link between the money that was wired to Doha and terrorism. Iran has said they will use the money however they see fit. It is time for our allies or so-called allies to be our allies.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment targets Qatar, the most

important partner of the United States in freeing Americans and Israelis held hostage by Hamas.

Passage of this amendment and, in my opinion, this overall bill would jeopardize sensitive, ongoing diplomacy related to the hostage crisis in Gaza and further endanger Americans and Israelis in harm's way. Israel's National Security Adviser publicly praised Qatar's role as crucial to ongoing efforts to facilitate humanitarian solutions.

Furthermore, it was reported in late October that Qatar's Emir told Secretary of State Blinken that his government was open to reconsidering the presence of Hamas in Qatar once the hostage crisis is resolved.

I agree that Hamas' continued presence in Qatar and Turkiye is problematic. These terrorist leaders are living a life of luxury while their people suffer in Gaza. They should be held accountable, but this is not the way to go about it.

Let's free our hostages. Then, we can talk and work with Qatar to hold Hamas' leadership in Doha accountable.

This amendment is simply grandstanding and not the best way to deal with this issue, and certainly, it is being offered at the worst possible time.

□ 1400

Diplomacy is very important. If we challenge or damage these diplomatic channels, it further endangers Americans.

We can't pass this legislation. We should not pass this legislation. I ask my colleagues to please join me in voting "no" on this amendment. We shouldn't even need the bill.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, a thief that robs your house, then 2 days later mows your lawn, is still a thief. A country that houses terrorists is still an accomplice. It is a fact.

While they are giving over or assisting with the release of the hostages, they have the opportunity to give over the Hamas leaders who planned and orchestrated the attack, but will they do it? Of course not, because they are guilty.

Qatar reportedly gives Hamas between \$360 million and \$480 million per year. To my friend, I wonder how many of those dollars from Qatar given to Hamas bought bullets, bought antitank mines, paid for the training of the soldiers that raped children.

I wonder how many of those millions of dollars built the training camps in Gaza. When the militants, the terrorists went in, they were well armed. They were well trained. I wonder how many of the millions of dollars Qatar gave Hamas to pay for that. Al Jazeera, the terrorist news network, has praised the attack. It is controlled by Qatar.

If my child or children that I love stick their hand in the cookie jar, just

because I love them doesn't mean that they will escape punishment.

Qatar may claim to be our friend, but they just got caught with their hand in the cookie jar, and perhaps they should be punished.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOODEN).

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I appreciate the spirit of this amendment. I appreciate my colleague. I appreciate this bill, which I am supporting. I agree that Hamas is a terrorist organization, and I want nothing more than for them to be taken down. What I have not heard from my colleague within my party is all the good that has happened thanks to Qatar's efforts in the last few weeks.

There is a whole lot of bad to talk about, but I didn't hear anything about the hostage negotiations that would not be happening without the people of Qatar, without the leadership there. I thank the Qatari leadership for helping us get those hostages out.

A couple weeks ago, I had a family member of a 12-year-old boy in my office that said, Congressman, will you do anything you can? We are trying to get these hostages out. The people of Israel want them out, and we are not making any progress. What can you do?

You know what I did? I went down to the Qatari Embassy. I sent someone down and said, I want to speak to you guys. We need some action. We need more efforts. We need more results.

In the last week, what we have seen are hostages coming out of the Gaza strip.

Now, there are those that say we shouldn't negotiate with terrorists. The people of Israel—and I defer to the Israelis on this matter because they are the ones living among these folks. They are saying they want these hostages back. They are saying they want to work with the Qataris in bringing them back. They have thanked them for their efforts.

The other thing I haven't heard from my colleague within my party—and frankly, I am disappointed some of my colleagues within my party have not spoken up against this amendment in particular—is about the great, fantastic United States Air Force base that we have in Qatar.

If they are such accomplices to terror, if they are such bad folks over there running the Qatari Government, why do we have an Air Force base there?

This amendment is badly timed.

I agree with the concepts in this amendment. I agree that I would love everyone on Earth to condemn Hamas.

This amendment right now does not help us achieve our goal, and that is to bring these hostages back. That is what our friends in Israel want. They want these hostages back.

If you don't want these hostages back, if you don't want a United States

Air Force presence over in the Middle East, then go ahead and vote for this amendment.

What you are saying to the Qataris is we want you to cease efforts. We want you to turn over whoever it is that you have that you are negotiating with.

By the way, the American Government, we are the ones that asked them to keep this channel open with Hamas. We are the ones, the United States, that said Hamas needs to be close and able to be accessible.

The Acting CHAIR. The time of the gentleman has expired.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I yield an additional 1 minute to the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Mr. Chair, I ask colleagues and staffers that are watching this amendment debate back in the office to go back to your boss, especially if you are Republican, and say, you know what? We have a Member from our own party saying this is a bad idea because we have hostage negotiations that are happening right now that will not be helped if this amendment is passed.

Everyone in this Chamber knows this amendment is going nowhere if it gets on the bill, but that doesn't matter.

The concept of giving the middle finger to the one group in the Middle East that is actually helping us achieve some hostage releases, and that is the Qataris, I think is a bad policy, and I urge opposition to this amendment.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, with respect to Qatar's recent activities on the world stage, I will just say this: Qatar should not get a pass whenever it decides to stop playing law breaker in order to start playing first responder.

I think it is a misnomer to think that without Qatar, that somehow negotiations wouldn't take place. The reality of the situation on the ground is the reason why Hamas is negotiating, because Israel is kicking their butt and is going to continue to do so. These negotiations would happen with or without Qatar.

Qatar benefits from our Air Force base there.

If my colleague from my own party thinks giving money to Qatar so that Hamas can rape little girls, then that is his choice, not mine.

You can't pretend to be our friend when you are funding an organization that attacks and brutalizes innocent civilians. You can't have it both ways. It just doesn't work that way. You can't have your network praising the attacks.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I will just simply say, very briefly, when you hear from Israel, its leaders, Israel's national security advisor publicly praising Qatar's role as crucial, and when I visited Israel and talked to the head of their defense, talked to Prime Minister

Netanyahu, all said that Qatar was crucial to this negotiation.

Let's not do this. It is the wrong time.

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

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. MOOLENAAR). The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 8 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. . SENSE OF CONGRESS ON THE HOUTHIS.**

It is the sense of Congress that the Houthis, an Iran-backed terrorist group which has hijacked a Japanese-operated cargo ship, kidnapped and tortured United States citizens, and supports Hamas' ongoing war against Israel, continues to benefit from the Biden Administration's failure to unequivocally condemn it.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Tennessee.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, if I were to describe to you a group that has just seized a cargo ship and what Israel has since referred to as an Iranian act of terrorism, you might come to the conclusion that perpetrators can't distinguish between civilians and military targets.

If I were to also tell you that the same group just earlier this week shot two ballistic missiles at a U.S. warship, you might come to the conclusion that these perpetrators are the enemies of the United States.

Finally, if I told you that this group is guilty of kidnapping and torturing U.S. citizens, you might come to the conclusion that we need to wipe these people off the face of the Earth.

You might think that the Biden administration would agree, but apparently it does not, and that is to the detriment of our national security.

This is a sense of Congress that the Houthis continue to benefit from the Biden administration's unwillingness to unequivocally condemn.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I rise to claim the time in opposition.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from New York is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, this amendment is needless and simply not rooted in fact. The sponsor bases his claims for this amendment on the assertion that the administration has not condemned Houthi militants for their vio-

lent actions and continued destabilizing behavior. This simply is not accurate.

The Biden administration has repeatedly called out the violence of Houthi militants that they have perpetuated against civilians, including recent missile launches toward Israel, as well as our Gulf partners.

In fact, as recently as this past Tuesday, November 28, the State Department called out the violence of Iranian proxies across the region as well, and especially called on the Houthis to immediately cease attacks.

The United States led other G-7 nations in this public effort, which follows other similar statements. These statements include the State Department's condemnation of Houthi militants seizing the cargo ship *Galaxy Leader* on November 20.

Spokesperson Matt Miller called such actions flagrant violations of international law and demanded the immediate release of the ship and its crew.

The administration made similar statements earlier this year and last, calling out Houthi abuses against Yemeni civilians, missile launches against Gulf partners, and more.

I, along with many of my colleagues, have and will continue to call out abuses, escalatory actions, and violence throughout the region, just as the administration has.

This amendment is an unnecessary and ill-conceived attempt to misrepresent the facts, so I must oppose it, and I encourage all of my colleagues to do so as well.

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

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. SCALISE).

Mr. SCALISE. Mr. Chairman, I thank my colleague for yielding. I support his amendment, and I support the underlying bill.

Mr. Chairman, if you look at this piece of legislation, both the bill and the underlying amendment, if you go back to when this \$6 billion swap for \$6 billion in cash was initially negotiated earlier this year, many could argue, me included, that it was an ill-advised negotiation back then, and this was prior to the invasion of Israel by Hamas.

I think it is important to understand the context. Everybody in the world knows that Iran is the world's largest state sponsor of terrorism, including funding Hamas.

The idea that you can just take Hamas and keep it separate from Iran has always been a farce. Iran funds Hamas, and everybody knows it.

The idea that you would be negotiating in August or September to help Iran get \$6 billion boggles the mind prior to the invasion and attacks on Israel. After the attacks, the administration should be joining us in supporting this bill.

□ 1415

The administration should be standing there saying: We are not giving them the money anymore.

Who is the money going to? The President of Iran has already told you what he is going to do with the \$6 billion.

You have the Biden administration saying, don't worry, it is all about humanitarian aid. The problem is that the people that are getting the \$6 billion aren't saying that.

Mr. Chairman, the President of Iran himself went on TV, 60 Minutes, and said: This money belongs to the Islamic Republic of Iran. And naturally, we will decide, the Islamic Republic of Iran will decide, to spend it wherever we need it.

They can give it to Hamas tomorrow if they got this money, and the President of Iran said so.

I don't care what John Kerry says when he flies around over there, or what Joe Biden might even say. Once the President of Iran gets the \$6 billion, it is his money, and he said he is going to do whatever he wants with it.

Why would we give it to him today? We shouldn't have even thought about giving it to him prior to the attacks by Hamas in October. We surely shouldn't be thinking about it today.

Thank goodness in this House we are going to take a vote, and we are going to pass this bill. Hopefully, it is an overwhelming bipartisan vote to send it to the Senate and help wake up our Senate friends to say that this is a position that we should be vocal on, as they still haven't figured out what to do with funding for Iran.

We passed a bipartisan bill to help Israel get the funding that they need to push back on the attacks, to go get more hostages, as we are seeing.

We are hearing senators talking about a permanent cease-fire, or more conditions. We ought to be all coming together to support Israel on whatever tools they need.

This House has been vocal in a pretty bipartisan way almost every step of the way to do that. Today can be another one of those moments where we don't just stand up to Hamas, but we stand up to the group who funds Hamas, as well.

Everybody knows who funds Hamas. It is Iran; \$6 billion going to the President, who said he is going to take the money for whatever purposes he wants.

They shouldn't get the money. Let's keep it.

Let's continue to support our great ally in that region at the time they need it the most. We will be there with Israel every step of the way, with all the tools they need to be successful at destroying this terrorist organization, Hamas, and anybody else who wants to join with them in helping embolden terrorism against the Jews, against the anti-Semitism we see growing not just in the Middle East, but here in this country as well.

We all ought to be vocal with one united voice against it. It is wrong. Let's stand with Israel. Let's stand with our friends, and let's stand against anybody who wants to support terrorism around the world.

Let's pass this amendment, let's pass the bill, and let's get the Senate to put this bill on the President's desk.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I urge adoption of my amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, let me just say this.

Joe Biden has been one of the staunchest Israel supporters of any President of the United States.

You are going to take the word of the Ayatollah over the word of the President of the United States?

The President of the United States has said not a penny will get to the Ayatollah, but yet you want to take the side or believe in that brutal authoritarian dictator.

I think that the American people know better than that. I think that the American people understand better than that. I think that the American people can look at the facts and see what side Joe Biden is on, as he talks on a regular basis with the leadership of Israel, almost every day since October 7.

I wouldn't trust or believe anything that the Ayatollah says, but I do believe in Joe Biden.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. OGLES).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 9 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Redesignate section 4 as section 5.

Insert after section 3 the following:

**SEC. 4. LIMITATION OF APPLICABILITY OF CERTAIN LICENSES.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, on and after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may not—

(1) exercise the waiver authority described in section 1245(d)(5) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012 and sections 1244(i) and 1247(f) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 permitting the Government of Iran or any Iranian person access to any account established or maintained pursuant to or in accordance with section 1245(d)(4)(D)(ii)(II) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012; or

(2) issue a general or specific license, frequently asked question, or any other licensing action or guidance permitting the Government of Iran or any Iranian person access to or to benefit directly or indirectly from

any account established pursuant to or in accordance with any account described in 1245(d)(4)(D)(ii)(II) of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2012.

(b) IMPORTATION OF GOODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The exercise of the authorities and requirements under paragraph (1) or (2) of subsection (a)—

(A) shall not include the authority or requirement to impose sanctions on the importation of goods; and

(B) shall not apply to any procurement sanctions.

(2) GOOD DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term “good” means any article, natural or manmade substance, material, supply or manufactured product, including inspection and test equipment, and excluding technical data.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

On October 7, the world watched in horror as Hamas brutally attacked innocent civilians inside Israel, and I am glad to see that we have bipartisan agreement on standing with Israel, standing firm against Hamas.

However, I have major concerns when it comes Iran. Iran, the world's largest state sponsor of terror globally, use fanaticism and extremism to stoke instability in the Middle East to expand their influence and threaten the existence of Israel and to threaten the United States. So far dozens and dozens of attacks since October 7 have been carried out at the behest of Iranian proxies in the Middle East toward U.S. troops.

The only currency that is recognized by the Iranian regime is strength, something that the administration has not shown.

This attack, and Israel's valid defense of its sovereignty in the wake of this barbaric invasion, is a wake-up call to the threats Iran-backed terrorist groups pose, not just to the Middle East but also to the rest of the world. This is a watershed moment and it demands a resolute response.

The United States must increase pressure on the Iranian regime by denying it the access to the funds abroad. Deterrence is the name of the game.

In August and September of 2023, the Biden administration facilitated Tehran's access to \$6 billion in oil revenues, sanctions that had previously been placed on Iran as a signal of strength, waivers that had been moved by the Biden administration.

As currently written, in H.R. 5961 the only thing that is being frozen is the \$6 billion of Iranian funds currently in Qatar. It does not freeze other Iranian-sanctioned funds, such as the sanctions waiver announced by the Biden administration last week which would allow Iraq to send \$10 billion to Iran.

The Founders intended us to have a system of checks and balances, and that is exactly what my amendment would do.

My amendment would freeze all Iranian-sanctioned funds, not just the \$6 billion in Qatar. Additionally, it would prohibit the President from using any sort of waiver authority, including licenses, guidance, or FAQs to lift the sanctions.

As we have seen, we cannot trust this administration to hold fast, to have a strong deterrent policy, and to send the Iranian regime a strong signal.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York for 5 minutes.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, this amendment would be counterproductive to America's interest.

No President, whether he be Democratic or Republican, has used this waiver for anything but the most pressing reasons.

Rescinding this waiver would likely prevent the administration from waiving sanctions that allow Iraq to pay for electricity imports from Iran. Without this waiver, Iraq likely will be unable to import electricity from Iran, leading to electricity outages and instability across Iraq.

We have seen what instability in Iraq looks like over the past decade: the decay of central governance, the rise of ISIS, and a growing terrorist ideology that struck America and Europe in numerous deadly attacks.

America has many interests in the Middle East, and this waiver is important for ensuring that this administration or any future administration has the flexibility it needs to promote American interests.

It is important for the Presidents, this one and those in the future, to have that flexibility. Thereby, I oppose my good friend from Texas' amendment.

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

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chairman, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), my good friend.

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I rise today in strong support of this amendment offered by my colleague from Texas, Representative PFLUGER.

It will strengthen H.R. 5961 by unequivocally blocking sanctioned Iranian funds from potentially being unfrozen and keeping these dollars out of the hands of the world's leading state sponsor of terror.

This amendment will close troubling loopholes that allow President Biden to abuse waiver or license authorities to release billions in frozen Iranian assets.

Enough is enough. We cannot continue policies that enrich Iran, embolden terrorists like Hamas, and put American troops in harm's way.

Representative PFLUGER's amendment also aligns with and reaffirms the goal of my bill, the Standing Against

Houthi Aggression Act, because the Houthis are also proxy terrorists for Iran.

His amendment prevents Iranian funds from being used against our national security interests and limits President Biden's ability to circumvent Congressional oversight.

Mr. Chair, I applaud Representative PFLUGER for his work on this critical amendment, and as a cosponsor of it, I urge all Members to support it.

We must stand united in stopping Iran from financing terrorists and in protecting American troops and allies abroad.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Iowa (Mr. NUNN), my good friend and fellow Air Force veteran.

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Chair, I begin by thanking a fellow combat veteran for leading this effort to hold the terrorist group Hamas accountable by cutting off its number one funding source, that coming from Iran. This extends to Hezbollah, it extends to the IRGC, and it extends to Houthi rebels throughout the region.

In the last week alone, we have seen attack after attack threatening American forces, including those of our friends still serving in uniform today.

The effort that I am proud to co-lead with Congressman PFLUGER highlights revoking Iran's funding act, an effort that the administration has taken a first step on—without a firm plan by Congress to prevent this waiver from going forward—which has time and time again been exploited by the President of Iran.

The \$20 billion that came out of the Turk Bank, the funding, illicitly, of money coming through on this side for frozen assets needs to be stopped.

Congress must act. I applaud my friend for leading this charge, and I am proud to cosponsor it going forward.

Mr. Chair, I urge the support of the entire body.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 30 seconds remaining.

Mr. PFLUGER. Mr. Chair, the failed strategy of appeasement has not worked. Deterrence is what is needed.

President Biden must reverse course on his policy toward Iran to stop terrorism from impacting us here. The system is blinking red.

My amendment strengthens this bill. It puts deterrence at the forefront of the global stage. It restricts any money from going to Iran that they would use to foment terrorism and chaos throughout not only the Middle East but also here in our home.

Mr. Chair, our Homeland Security depends on this amendment and depends on passage of this bill. I urge all of my colleagues across the aisle here on the Republican side to support this amendment and to pass this bill.

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

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. — REPORT ON POLICY RELATING TO HUMAN RIGHTS, NUCLEAR PROLIFERATION, BALLISTIC MISSILES, AND REGIONAL TERRORISM IN IRAN.**

Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to Congress a report (which may contain a classified annex) outlining the policy of the United States with respect to human rights, nuclear proliferation, the ballistic missile program, and regional terrorism in Iran.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, the Iranian regime is a danger to international security and democratic order everywhere.

The regime has funded terrorism across the Middle East for years, enabling groups like Hamas to attack Israel and commit other atrocities. The Iranian regime doesn't stop with supporting regional terrorism. It commits its own atrocities, consistently and brutally cracking down on its own citizens fighting for basic freedoms.

□ 1430

If all that weren't enough, the Iran regime further refuses to abandon its pursuit of nuclear weapons, putting the world at risk.

Challenges like these require Congress to make policy that meets the moment, but we can only do that if Members of Congress and the people we represent can do oversight and fully understand our administration's policy toward Iran.

Americans will benefit from more information on how our Nation is approaching preventing Iran from developing a nuclear weapon and ending Iran's support for terrorist networks. Congress will also benefit from this information so that we can better legislate on Iran, consistent with the secu-

rity interests and values of the United States.

Under President Obama's administration, the United States Government issued periodic reports on its evolving policy in Syria. This set a model for the executive branch sharing information with lawmakers and the public regarding United States foreign policy toward countries of concern.

In Congress, we know that the details of our Nation's Iran policy are complex and fluid, but precedent exists for our administration to provide a more complete window into its foreign policy objectives in specific countries.

This bipartisan amendment would commission a detailed report on United States policy with regard to Iran with regard to human rights, nuclear proliferation, the ballistic missile program, and regional terrorism.

We don't need talking heads force-feeding us conclusions about this administration's Iran policy. Let's get an oversight report about what that policy is and let everyone draw their own conclusions. Then, lawmakers on both sides of the aisle can better make policy that addresses the challenges we face operating from a shared platform of information.

Mr. Chair, let's trust the American people and each other with information. I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the ayes appeared to have it.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California will be postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 11 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. — REPORT ON IRANIAN INTERNET CENSORSHIP.**

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State shall jointly submit to Congress a report regarding Iranian internet censorship and applicable United States licensing requirements. Such report shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the Iranian Government's ability to impose internet shutdowns, censor the internet, and track Iranian dissidents, labor organizers, political activists, or human rights defenders inside Iran through targeted digital surveillance or other digital means.

(2) An assessment of the impact of General License D-2, issued on September 23, 2022, on

the availability of private communications tools inside Iran, including encryption tools to assist the people of Iran in circumventing targeted digital surveillance by the Iranian Government.

(3) A determination of whether additional updates to General License D-2 or other licenses are needed to keep up with the pace of technology and ensure that United States restrictions do not unintentionally inhibit the flow of vital communication tools to the people of Iran, including cloud technology, hardware, software, and services incident to personal communications, including set-top boxes (STB), satellites, and web developer tools.

(4) A strategy to ensure that resources are available for digital rights experts to study Iran's online repression and identify opportunities to counter it.

(5) A strategy to prevent the Government of Iran from acquiring or developing tools that could be exploited against activists, including facial recognition software.

(b) FORM.—The report required pursuant to subsection (a) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may include a classified annex if such annex is provided separately from such unclassified version.

(c) DEFINITION.—In this section, the term “targeted digital surveillance” means the use of items or services that enable an individual or entity (with or without the knowing authorization of the product's owner) to detect, monitor, intercept, collect, exploit, preserve, protect, transmit, retain, or otherwise gain access to the communications, sensitive or protected information, work product, browsing data, research, identifying information, location history, or online or offline activities of other individuals, organizations, or entities.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Chair, in Iran, we see a familiar pattern. Iranians are standing up, demanding change for themselves, their families, and their country. Then, the Iranian regime cracks down, arresting protesters and journalists and unleashing violence against its own people. Instead of giving its people the freedoms they seek, the regime limits freedoms, including restricting internet access.

For authoritarian governments like the Iranian regime, restricting internet access couldn't be more crucial as a tool in repressing their own citizens. The internet is a portal to information about human rights, democratic order, economic prosperity, and thriving civil society. These things support freedom, and freedom is exactly the opposite of what the Iranian regime wants.

To give Iranians a better future, we need to support them in having real access to the internet, and that means the internet without censorship, without digital surveillance, and without online repression. My amendment will help us do that.

First, the amendment will require an assessment of the ways the Iranian Government shuts down, censors, and weaponizes the internet. Then, it will commission an assessment of whether

United States policy is currently best supporting the flow of communication tools to the Iranian people.

Finally, it will require the United States to develop strategies to counter Iran's online repression and prevent the Iranian regime from using tools of digital repression.

Iranians have struggled for decades against threats to their basic freedoms. The more the Iranian people have tools like real internet access, the better position they will be in to fight the repression of the Iranian regime. That is why Members on both sides of the aisle who care deeply about creating a better future for the Iranian people have supported and collaborated with me on this amendment.

Mr. Chair, I urge all of my colleagues to support this amendment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PORTER).

The amendment was agreed to.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 12 printed in part C of House Report 118-280.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I have an amendment at the desk.

The Acting CHAIR. The Clerk will designate the amendment.

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

**SEC. 5. SUNSET.**

This Act shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to House Resolution 891, the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Illinois.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I rise today to speak on my amendment, amendment No. 12 to H.R. 5961, the No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act.

My amendment is simple. It adds a 5-year sunset provision. My amendment is in line with the majority leader's floor protocols for the 118th Congress. Specifically, the majority leader's floor protocols on legislation call for sunset requirements to advance the policies “originally outlined in the Pledge to America to adopt a requirement that programs end or ‘sunset’ by a date certain.” That should include new sanction authorities, as well.

It is important for Congress to maintain its Article I powers over foreign policy, and it does that by including a sunset provision. If we are going to be consistent with the floor protocols that the majority has established for new programs, if we want to reclaim our Article I powers, this act should not go into force without a sunset provision.

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

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I rise in opposition to the amendment.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, this bill already contains behavior-based termination criteria for the sanctions described. Our sanctions on Iran should not disappear on an arbitrary date. Our sanctions need to remain in place until Iran stops threatening the United States, as already described in the bill.

Iran has been a state sponsor of terrorism for over 40 years under, I might add, the same terrorist administration in Iran. If we put a 5-year sunset on this bill, Iran and its terrorist proxies will think they can just wait us out.

After October 7, it became clear that we need to take every possible measure available to deter Iran and its proxies. The best way to project American strength is to make it absolutely clear that our sanctions will remain in place until Iran no longer poses a threat to the United States.

Therefore, I oppose this amendment to add an arbitrary sunset, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Chair, I rise in strong support of the Jackson amendment.

The world in 2023 does not look like the world in 2018. Russia has invaded Ukraine. Hamas has attacked Israel. The Burmese partial democracy has collapsed in a coup.

On the positive side of the ledger, NATO is more united than divided. The AUKUS pact has fortified our relationship with our closest allies. Japan and Korea are cooperating with each other like never before.

In 2018, most of us were unfamiliar with the term “coronavirus.” In 2023, many of us are trying to forget it. The point here is that the world can change dramatically in just 5 years.

Congress does itself a disservice when we lock into policies without oversight or a chance to reconsider. Mr. JACKSON's amendment would fix that flaw in the bill, and I strongly support his amendment.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Chair, I rise today to oppose Representative JACKSON's amendment to add a 5-year sunset period. We cannot risk funds going to terrorism ever, certainly not now and certainly not in 5 years.

Additionally, the only thing standing in the way of \$14.3 billion going to support Israel's eradication of Hamas is Joe Biden and CHUCK SCHUMER. The House has done its job. The Senate and the President have so far done nothing but be a roadblock. Yes, we are witnessing a Biden-Schumer roadblock, a B-S roadblock, and it is totally unacceptable. It is a dangerous state of affairs, and Biden and Schumer are the problem.



How can we support our closest ally in the Middle East when the President and the Senate stand in the way?

The House has done its job. It is now time for the President and Mr. SCHUMER to clear their B-S roadblock.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, may I inquire as to the time remaining.

The Acting CHAIR. The gentleman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, deterrence is based on strength and the willingness to use it.

In my time in the Middle East, I understood that our adversaries there, including Iran and its proxies, understand only strength. If we put an arbitrary sunset clause in this bill, it will be demonstrating weakness and not strength.

Mr. Chair, I oppose this amendment. I encourage my colleagues to vote against it, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The Acting CHAIR. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON).

The question was taken; and the Acting Chair announced that the noes appeared to have it.

Mr. JACKSON of Illinois. Mr. Chair, I demand a recorded vote.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, further proceedings on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Illinois will be postponed.

Mr. SELF. Mr. Chair, I move that the Committee do now rise.

The motion was agreed to.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. SELF) having assumed the chair, Mr. CLYDE, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration the bill (H.R. 5961) to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes, had come to no resolution thereon.

□ 1445

#### RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House and offer the resolution that was previously noticed.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. MOOLENAAR). The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 878

Whereas Representative George Santos is a Member of the United States House of Representatives;

Whereas soon after his election in November 2022, Representative Santos' background came under public scrutiny;

Whereas, on February 28, 2023, the Committee on Ethics of the House unanimously voted to impanel an Investigative Subcommittee (hereinafter in this resolution referred to as the "ISC") to review whether Representative Santos may have engaged in

unlawful activity with respect to his 2022 congressional campaign, failed to properly disclose required information on statements filed with the House, violated Federal conflict of interest laws in connection with his role in a firm providing fiduciary services, and engaged in sexual misconduct towards an individual seeking employment in his congressional office;

Whereas the ISC met nine times and, over the course of its investigation, authorized 37 subpoenas and 43 voluntary requests for information (RFIs) leading to its receipt of over 172,000 pages of documents, contacted or interviewed over 40 witnesses, and reviewed materials received from the Office of Congressional Ethics and relevant court records;

Whereas the ISC determined in its investigation that there was substantial evidence of violations of Federal law, the Rules of the House, and other applicable standards related to many of the allegations charged in the indictment, and substantial evidence of additional unlawful and unethical conduct not charged in the indictment;

Whereas these additional violations relate to falsely reported loans reportedly received by his 2020 campaign and leadership political action committee, GADS PAC, improper loan repayments to himself, systemic reporting errors in his 2020 and 2022 campaign's Federal Election Commission filings, and substantial evidence that campaign funds were converted to personal use;

Whereas the ISC also identified additional errors and omissions in his 2020 and 2022 Financial Disclosure Statements, as well as violations of Federal law and the Rules of the House related to his unfiled 2021 and 2023 Financial Disclosure Statements, which were not charged in the indictment;

Whereas the ISC also found that Representative Santos failed to meet his duty of candor with respect to the ISC's investigation, and instead presented the ISC with misrepresentations and delay tactics;

Whereas, on May 10, 2023, Representative Santos was charged in Federal court in the Eastern District of New York with wire fraud in connection with a fraudulent political contribution scheme, unlawful monetary transactions in connection with the wire fraud allegations, theft of public money in connection with his alleged receipt of unemployment benefits, fraudulent application for and receipt of unemployment benefits, and false statements in connection with his 2020 and 2022 House of Representatives Financial Disclosure Statements;

Whereas Nancy Marks, who served as Treasurer to Representative Santos' campaign, pleaded guilty to conspiracy to commit wire fraud, falsifying records, and identity theft in connection with the Santos campaign;

Whereas a superseding indictment was filed on October 10, 2023, charging Representative Santos with additional violations related to his 2022 campaign, including allegations of falsifying Federal Election Commission reports in connection with a \$500,000 personal loan that was never made, falsifying the names of contributors to his campaign, engaging in aggravated identity theft and access device fraud, and enriching himself through a fraudulent contribution scheme;

Whereas Sam Miele, who served as a fundraiser to Representative Santos' campaign, pleaded guilty to a Federal wire fraud charge after impersonating a senior congressional aide for the purposes of soliciting funds;

Whereas the ISC that was established to review the allegations against Representative Santos adopted a report of its findings and submitted the report to the full committee;

Whereas the Committee on Ethics of the House unanimously voted to adopt the ISC report based upon the investigation providing substantial evidence that Representative Santos—

(1) knowingly caused his campaign committee to file false or incomplete reports with the Federal Election Commission, used campaign funds for personal purposes, engaged in fraudulent conduct in connection with RedStone Strategies LLC, and engaged in knowing and willful violations of the Ethics in Government Act as it relates to his Financial Disclosure Statements filed with the House;

(2) was a knowing and active participant in the wrongdoing; and

(3) was given an opportunity, pursuant to Committee Rule 17(b), to submit a signed written statement responding to the allegations raised in a complaint filed by his fellow Members but did not do so;

Whereas the ISC—

(1) requested that Representative Santos provide all documents and information responsive to its Request for Information, but he did not do so;

(2) asked Representative Santos to voluntarily testify, but he did not do so; and

(3) provided Representative Santos the opportunity, pursuant to Committee Rule 19(b)(3), to provide a statement under oath, but he did not do so;

Whereas as a Member of the United States House of Representatives, Representative Santos must be held accountable to the highest standards of conduct in order to safeguard the public's faith in this institution;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States charges the House with policing the behavior of its own Members, and the House should take action against Representative Santos commensurate with his violations of Federal law and the Rules of the House; and

Whereas given his egregious violations, Representative George Santos is not fit to serve as a Member of the United States House of Representatives: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That pursuant to article I, section 5, clause 2 of the Constitution of the United States, Representative George Santos, be, and he hereby is, expelled from the United States House of Representatives.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule IX, the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) each will control 30 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO).

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are here this afternoon at a point that none of us wanted to ever be at. The Ethics Committee of the House of Representatives has filed their report, which revealed a complex web of illegal activities that involved Representative GEORGE SANTOS' campaign, his personal finances, and business finances.

SANTOS tried to exploit every aspect of his candidacy for personal financial gain. Records subpoenaed by the Committee on Ethics show that Congressman SANTOS stole from his campaign by deceiving donors into providing contributions that were actually payments for his personal benefit.

SANTOS also reported fictitious loans to his political committees to induce



donors in party committees to contribute more to his campaign, keeping the elaborate scheme moving forward.

GEORGE SANTOS is a liar; in fact, he has admitted to many of them. He has used his position of public trust to personally benefit himself from day one.

SANTOS now faces 23 criminal charges in connection with his long list of misdeeds. We have already seen two former SANTOS staffers, including his former treasurer, plead guilty to Federal charges in connection with SANTOS' corrupt campaign.

Despite blaming others, including his former treasurer for the numerous campaign violations, all signs point toward Mr. SANTOS that he knowingly and actively participated in a widespread misconduct of his campaign. In fact, the Ethics Committee records demonstrate this to a tee.

GEORGE SANTOS has continuously said that he has not received his due process. I ask my colleagues: If we do not take the Ethics Committee and their results seriously, then why even have the committee in the first place?

Through the ISC investigation, SANTOS has been awarded due process, and has been provided ample opportunity to be heard during both the investigation by the House Committee on Ethics and throughout the expulsion process.

Even after being offered multiple opportunities to present his side of the story, Mr. SANTOS refused to engage with the Ethics Committee in good faith and refused to cooperate with those tasked with leading the investigation.

The ISC report notes that he failed to submit a written response to the allegations. He failed to provide numerous documents requested. He refused to testify voluntarily. He failed to provide a statement under oath.

SANTOS also informed the committee that if he was subpoenaed, he would plead the Fifth Amendment.

We continually hear that the expulsion of Congressman SANTOS would set a new precedent. Mr. Speaker, it would.

To my colleagues that have said that it would start a new precedent and to those that are here with us in this institution in this great Chamber today that are arguing about precedent, I would simply say this: The American people expect us to do the right thing. The American people are watching for us to do the right thing.

Mr. Speaker, if we have an opportunity in this great institution to start a new precedent, one that means we hold Members of the House of Representatives to a higher standard, I am pretty confident that the American people would applaud that. I am pretty confident that the American people expect that.

Mr. Speaker, I hope tomorrow in this great Chamber we set that precedent. I hope we set a precedent that we, as Members of America's oldest institution, are held to a higher standard.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, every Member expelled in the history of this institution has been convicted of crimes or were Confederate turncoats guilty of treason. Neither of those apply to me, but here we are.

On what basis does this body feel that precedent must be changed for me?

Mr. Speaker, I am an American citizen, duly elected, and elected to represent the Third District of New York. I have been convicted of no crimes.

My loyalty to this country that gave me life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness is true and unquestionable. I stand here today debating for the second time in less than a month for the same exact reasons that were brought up last time.

The difference is that one can say I have been indicted once more by the findings of the Ethics Committee—a process that, by the admission of the chair himself, was not complete and conclusive because they didn't want to put more time into it, as if this committee runs on a schedule that, quite frankly, is in a rush.

Mr. Speaker, some Members have been under investigation for over 5 years. Some leave while still under investigation. I am not trying to be arrogant or spiteful or disrespectful of the committee, but I am curious to know: What is the schedule of the Ethics Committee?

Why rush this? To deliver a predetermined outcome sought out by some Members of our Conference or some Members of this body?

This is what it looks like to me. It is a predetermined necessity for some Members in this body to engage in this smear campaign to destroy me. I will not stand by quietly. If they want me out of this body—the people of the Third District of New York sent me here—if they want me out, they are going to have to go silence those people and take the hard vote.

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

□ 1500

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I am not sure how a predetermined outcome happens from a committee reviewing 170,000 pages of documents, numerous subpoenas, and weeks and months of investigation. I am not sure how a predetermined outcome is generated from that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST), who is the chairman of the House Ethics Committee.

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, GEORGE SANTOS has built his persona, his personal and his political life, on a foundation of lies. Many of those lies are well-documented. We know that Mr. SANTOS lied about his education, both graduate and postgraduate, claiming that he attended universities where he was never

enrolled and claiming that he obtained degrees that he did not earn.

We know that Mr. SANTOS lied about his employment when he claimed that he worked for two prestigious financial institutions, Citigroup and Goldman Sachs.

We know that Mr. SANTOS lied about his religious faith when he said he was Jewish and then later, when called out, said he meant to say he was Jew-ish.

We know Mr. SANTOS lied when he said that he had four employees who were killed in a mass shooting in Florida.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, those lies, while troubling, did not justify his removal from this body. However, these and other misleading statements reflect directly on Mr. SANTOS' credibility.

In May, Mr. Speaker, GEORGE SANTOS said that he looked forward to seeing the ethics process play out and that if the committee finds reason to remove him, then that is the process.

Today, Mr. Speaker, GEORGE SANTOS would have you believe that the process that he endorsed in May is fatally flawed and that he, instead, is the subject of a political witch hunt.

Mr. SANTOS has described the report issued by the Ethics Committee as slanderous. He said that if there was a single ounce of ethics in the Ethics Committee then they would not have released the biased report. He referred to the report as a political hit piece.

Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you that in March of this year, GEORGE SANTOS promised to fully cooperate with the ethics investigation. Just weeks ago, Mr. SANTOS said: I have been very cooperative since the investigation started, and I have no plans to change that.

Nonetheless, Mr. Speaker, the record of the investigation reveals otherwise. The report of the Ethics Committee noted these things, Mr. Speaker: first, that Mr. SANTOS failed to submit a written response to the allegations filed by his fellow Members; that Mr. SANTOS failed to provide many of the documents requested by the investigative subcommittee; that when given an opportunity to provide a statement under oath that Mr. SANTOS declined to do so; and that when asked to voluntarily testify, Mr. SANTOS refused.

The committee learned through his counsel that if the investigative subcommittee were to subpoena Mr. SANTOS that he would plead the Fifth Amendment and not give any testimony for fear that it may incriminate him.

So while Mr. SANTOS has failed to speak with the committee, Mr. Speaker, he has spoken freely to the media. Just this past weekend, he was participating in a 3-hour X Livestream Podcast with Monica Matthews.

In that 3-hour interview, he said:

I have made it very clear, I am not running for reelection, not because this was a damning report. I am not running for reelection because I don't want to work with a bunch of

hypocrites. It is gross. I have colleagues who are more worried about getting drunk every night with the next lobbyist that they are going to screw and pretend none of us know what is going on, and sell off the American people, not show up to vote because they are too hungover or whatever the reason is or not show up to vote at all and just give their card out like candy for someone else to vote for them.

He went on to say regarding the Ethics report:

It is flawed. It was designed to smear me. It was designed to force me from my seat. That was the intention of the report. This wasn't a finding of fact.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to talk a few minutes about the report of the investigative subcommittee and the report of the Ethics Committee and the work that they did over an 8-month period. I will tell you that the findings of the committee were shocking.

We know that the Ethics Committee authorized 37 subpoenas, they issued 43 requests for information, they interviewed 40 witnesses, they reviewed 172,000 pages of documents, and they issued a 56-page investigation report.

In addition to this 56-page investigation report, Mr. Speaker, these are the exhibits that they attached to the investigative report. The 50-plus page report goes into great detail, and it paints a picture of the fraud committed by Mr. SANTOS. In many cases it also tracks the allegations for which Mr. SANTOS has been indicted in the Eastern District of New York.

Mr. Speaker, if you look at the language of the report, the language of the report says, the investigative subcommittee revealed a complex web of unlawful activity involving Representative SANTOS' campaign, personal, and business finances.

It says that Representative SANTOS sought to fraudulently exploit every aspect of his House candidacy for his own personal profit.

The report says that he blatantly stole from his campaign and that he deceived donors into providing what they thought were contributions to his campaign, but they were, in fact, payments for his personal benefit.

The report goes on to say that he reported fictitious loans to his political committees to induce donors and party committees to make further contributions to his campaign.

Then later the report said that despite SANTOS' efforts to blame his former treasurer for the numerous campaign violations, the ISC's record demonstrates that Representative SANTOS knowingly and actively participated in the misconduct.

Mr. Speaker, through records that were subpoenaed by the Ethics Committee, we learned that Mr. SANTOS spent campaign-related funds on personal rent, on personal credit card payments, and on ATM withdrawals. We know that he made luxury designer purchases at at least two high-end stores, that he spent money on payments made at OnlyFans, and that Mr. SANTOS spent almost \$3,000 on Botox

treatments, in addition to questionable expenses involving travel expenses for trips to Atlantic City; Las Vegas, Nevada; and The Hamptons.

Mr. Speaker, in addition to this, there was additional fraud that was uncovered and contained in this report issued by the Ethics Committee.

The Ethics Committee found in 2020 that bank records indicate that Mr. SANTOS was repaid over \$29,000 for fictitious loans that he never made to his campaign.

The report goes on to say that in 2021 he falsely reported loaning his campaign \$580,000, and he falsely reported loaning an additional \$25,000 to his leadership PAC.

The report goes on to document that the committee found, according to bank records, that Mr. SANTOS transferred \$200,000 from RedStone Strategies and they were found to be an unregistered super PAC controlled by Mr. SANTOS, and that he transferred in 2022 alone over \$200,000 into his personal account.

Mr. Speaker, I know that some Members of this body have expressed concern about due process. They believe that Mr. SANTOS was not given due process, therefore that this should not go forward.

Mr. Speaker, I want to address the argument of due process. Mr. Speaker, you are well aware that due process was referred to in the Fifth and 14th Amendments. In the Fifth Amendment it says no person shall be deprived of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

We know the 14th Amendment then applies the Fifth Amendment to the States where it says no State shall deprive any person of life, liberty, or property without due process of law.

Then as you are also well aware, Mr. Speaker, the Sixth Amendment talks about criminal proceedings and the rights that attach to a criminal proceeding.

Mr. Speaker, we are not here today on a criminal proceeding. The rights of the Sixth Amendment do not apply, but due process under the Fifth and 14th Amendments do apply here at these proceedings, and so it is important to talk about due process.

The due process that is contained in the Fifth and 14th Amendments, if you study due process, Mr. Speaker, you will know that there are two subsections; two components, if you will; two legs upon which due process must stand.

That first subsection, that first leg, is substantive due process.

What is substantive due process?

Substantive due process asks this question: Is there a right to bring the action in question?

Mr. Speaker, I say that there is. We know that that right exists because that right is found in the United States Constitution. The expulsion clause, which is found in Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution says this, Mr. Speaker: Each

House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of a two-thirds vote, expel a Member.

So, Mr. Speaker, I tell you that as it relates to substantive due process, clearly substantive due process applies in this case. Nonetheless, that second leg of the stool of due process, is procedural due process.

Procedural due process is a process that governs the fairness of the proceedings.

There are three primary requirements, three primary tenets of procedural due process.

Those requirements are, first, was adequate notice given?

Mr. Speaker, I hold in this case that adequate notice was given. Adequate notice was given by the fact that the investigative subcommittee notified Mr. SANTOS in February that the investigation was going to be ongoing. It actually had contact with him and his office well before that in January shortly after he was sworn in.

I would argue that Mr. SANTOS had notice of this hearing because the motion was filed 2 weeks ago, the resolution was filed to expel him from this body. So, clearly, Mr. SANTOS has been given proper notice.

The second requirement of due process says: Did Mr. SANTOS have an opportunity to be heard?

Mr. Speaker, I will tell you that he has had an opportunity to be heard. He had an opportunity repeatedly to be heard by the Ethics Committee. He had the opportunity to submit a written statement, but he refused to do so. He had an opportunity to submit a statement under oath. He refused to do so. He had an opportunity to come in and testify, and he declined to do so.

Even when faced with a subpoena, he was planning to come in before the Ethics Committee and exercise his Fifth Amendment right not to testify.

So, Mr. Speaker, I hold that he has had ample opportunity to be heard by the investigative subcommittee, and he has been, once again, presented the opportunity here today, before this body and before the American people, he has the opportunity today to rebut the findings of the Ethics Committee. He has the opportunity to point out any errors or omissions that he claims are in the report.

So, clearly, Mr. Speaker, Mr. SANTOS has had the opportunity to be heard.

Then finally, the third and final point is the opportunity to have a fair tribunal. We are following the Constitution which says that the body of other elected Members, this body as a whole, must be the body that conducts a vote in this case.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to remind you of a statement I earlier referenced, that statement made by Mr. SANTOS in May, that statement where he said that he looked forward to seeing the ethics process play out and that if the Ethics Committee finds a reason to remove him, then that is the process.

□ 1515

Mr. Speaker, the Ethics Committee found substantial evidence—this is language taken directly from the report: Substantial evidence that Representative SANTOS knowingly caused his campaign to file false or incomplete reports with the Federal Election Commission.

The Investigative Subcommittee found substantial evidence that he used campaign funds for personal purposes. It found substantial evidence that he engaged in fraudulent conduct in connections with RedStone Strategies, LLC. It found substantial evidence that Mr. SANTOS did knowingly and willfully engage in violations of the Ethics and Government Act.

Mr. Speaker, I ask in accordance with Article I, Section 5, Clause 2 of the United States Constitution, that all Members vote to support the expulsion of Representative SANTOS.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, we hear a lot about process. We hear a lot about findings. Before I yield some time to my colleague from Texas, I just want to point out in the resolution that the distinguished chairman from Mississippi (Mr. GUEST) filed, he states that I engaged in sexual misconduct when his own report states otherwise. That is just a clear evidence of how this process has been skewed, how this process is sloppy, and how it is contradictory to the core.

The fact that in the report it states that that was not the case, but they still bring it to the floor of the House of Representatives shows you the lack of respect for one's reputation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. NEHLS).

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, we are in unchartered waters. The swamp water is very murky and it is deep, and you try to navigate those treacherous waters. Every once in a while you try to find that safe lily pad to land on, but for GEORGE SANTOS there doesn't appear to be a safe lily pad.

The United States' House of Representatives is attempting to expel a Member of Congress who has not been convicted of a crime. In the history of our country, Mr. Speaker, only five Members have been expelled from Congress.

In 1861, John Clark, John Reid, and Henry Burnett were expelled on the grounds of treason for supporting the Confederate rebellion. In 1980, Michael Myers was convicted of bribery involving an FBI sting that led to the convictions of seven Members of Congress.

Six Members resigned, and Myers was expelled on a vote of 376–30.

Then in 2002, James Traficant was convicted on 10 counts, including bribery, conspiracy to defraud the United States, corruption, and obstruction of justice.

All five of these men had one thing in common: They were all convicted under Federal law and then rightfully expelled from Congress.

Kicking out Mr. SANTOS is setting a very dangerous precedent. Never before has Congress expelled a Member based on indictments. Indictments require nothing more than probable cause. An indictment is not a conviction.

Then why today would we remove a Member from this House based on an indictment? It has never been done before. It shouldn't happen today.

In this country, I thought everyone is presumed innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. I do not and have not and will not support the removal of Representative SANTOS, and I encourage my colleagues to agree.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. WILD), the ranking member of the Ethics Committee.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, as ranking member of the Committee on Ethics, I rise in support of H. Res. 878, which seeks to expel GEORGE SANTOS from the House of Representatives.

One of our most basic obligations as Members of Congress is to adhere to the principle that public office is a public trust. As the Ethics Committee's report lays out in thorough detail, Mr. SANTOS has repeatedly, egregiously, and brazenly violated the public's trust. Mr. SANTOS is not a victim; he is a perpetrator of a massive fraud on his constituents and the American people.

In fewer than 9 months, and despite Mr. SANTOS' noncooperation and numerous attempts to mislead the committee, the Ethics Committee compiled a staggering factual record against him. My colleague, Chairman GUEST, has already outlined all of the subpoenas and pages of documents and witnesses, and I am not going to go through that again.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania.

Ms. WILD. Mr. Speaker, this achievement owes to the superb work of the committee's nonpartisan attorneys and investigative staff who I would like to sincerely thank for their efforts and dedicated service to the House. I just want to remind everyone that the Ethics Committee is the only committee in Congress that is completely bipartisan, an equal number of Democrats and Republicans, and this was a unanimous decision.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, many times in the course of my life as a military police officer and civilian police officer, I have had occasion to say: Calm down, son. I have heard your argument. I feel your passion. I understand your position, but you are about to go too far. Just calm down and step back.

This is what I advise my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do. One of

my brothers here, whom I love and respect, he is the man seated here, is making a mistake.

Mr. Speaker, one of the gentleman said we should be held to a higher standard. We are talking about the removal of a Member of Congress. Do we want the American people to believe that the opinions of Congressmen is a higher standard than the deliberate vote of the American people? Is a report from a committee a higher standard than the 2-year election cycle as established by our Founding Fathers and enshrined in our Constitution?

Let's calm down.

Mr. Speaker, I have spoken for 7 years to this body here, and very rarely have I had a prepared statement, nor do I today, but I am going to read a letter that I distributed to my Republican colleagues for the benefit of my Democratic colleagues that did not receive a copy of the letter. Perhaps, I am wrong for that. I considered sending you all this letter. I did not, and I apologize for that. The media has gotten it. It is out there. It reads as follows:

"Although I completely respect the work of our colleagues on the Ethics Committee, I have serious concerns about the way this particular case is being handled, and I'll oppose the GEORGE SANTOS expulsion.

"In the 7 years I've been a Member of Congress, many Members have been subject to campaign expenditure ethics investigations. To my recollection, Members have always had the opportunity to settle the matter by restitution, even if they disagreed with the Ethics Committee conclusions. Further, in many prior instances of allegations of misconduct, I recall no massive media release from the Ethics Committee. After a bit of a whispered brush fire, the matter just went away. Maybe the Member left Congress, maybe the Member didn't leave Congress, but they weren't publicly crucified and expelled. The very fact that we have all read the 'investigative report' indicates a level of public character assassination that I have not witnessed through four terms of congressional service. It's troubling to me, that a Republican-led Ethics Committee would present itself as so judgmental. Previous Ethics Committee investigations have always been conducted quietly, reflective of our constitutional standards of innocent until proven guilty in a court of law. Reports of similar allegations of campaign finance violations like family vacations overseas and cosmetic dental procedures and sexual adventures of every sort have not historically been released to the public. This particular Ethics Committee investigation seems to be quite public, and I am not seeing any allowance for the Member to make restitution of alleged campaign finance violations. Full media disclosure, combined with intention to move straight to expulsion, appears weaponized to me.

"Colleagues, you can believe what you like, but the 56-page 'Investigative

Subcommittee Report' is most certainly not written within the parameters normally found in an unbiased, impartial investigative report. It's filled with conjecture, opinion, and pejorative language that no professional investigative report should include, no experienced cop would present to a D.A., and no impartial D.A. would ever present to a court as unbiased. You may accept this report as grounds for expulsion from Congress, but I say no. It's not right, the totality of circumstance appears biased, it stinks of politics, and I'll oppose this action in every way. Perhaps my colleagues should step back from expulsion, look in the mirror, reflect upon the long established historical record of congressional behavior, consider the Founders' intent, and let we the people of New York determine their Representative. This report is posing as an objective presentation of fact, yet it is most certainly written with notable disregard for professional objectivity, and it is wrapped in a media incensed public disclosure that any reasonable man can see is the congressional equivalent of a public crucifixion. I'm stunned that Members would cheer for this public shaming and expulsion. It's like witnessing an otherwise fair and compassionate village gather to celebrate the burning of an alleged witch.

"Since the Civil War, only two Members of Congress have been expelled, and both had been convicted in court of Federal crimes. That's the standard, and the House of Representatives should not deviate from that standard. I'm a solid no on expulsion, and I encourage every Member to carefully consider what kind of precedent we are setting."

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate this opportunity to encourage my colleagues sincerely on both sides of the aisle to step back from this expulsion.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I fully respect my friend from Louisiana and have much love for him. I want to reassure: No one is cheering for this Ethics report.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LALOTA), a fellow Long Islander and friend.

Mr. LALOTA. Mr. Speaker, I would like to address three issues in hopes of persuading my colleagues from both sides of the aisle who at this time are either against or undecided about expelling GEORGE SANTOS to ultimately vote "yes." Those three issues are: fraud, due process, and election integrity.

Regarding fraud, Mr. Speaker, both Federal and State laws would require jail time or a monetary fine or both for any of our constituents who tricked another person into an agreement to another American's disadvantage.

Here, in the 2022 election, by his own admission, GEORGE SANTOS induced New York voters and donors throughout the Nation to support him by fraudulently creating an entire new

person that donors and voters would support. SANTOS did this intentionally, figuring the uneducated, underemployed, and person of simple means he actually is could not earn the support of voters and donors.

□ 1530

The facts of GEORGE SANTOS' fraud are not in dispute. GEORGE SANTOS is not the person he offered to voters. He didn't work where he said he did. He didn't go to school where he said he did. He is far from rich. He is not Jewish. His mother was not in the South Tower during 9/11.

Therefore, the argument that New Yorkers voted GEORGE SANTOS in and that we should wait until November 2024 for voters to decide his fate is inherently flawed since voters weren't given a fair chance to determine who they were actually voting for, Mr. Speaker.

While our constituents would go to jail or be fined for similar lies, one question we have before us today is whether we are going to hold GEORGE SANTOS to the same standard to which our constituents are held or a lesser one.

Regarding due process, Mr. Speaker, we should clear up some things. It has been a while since I took Professor Sample's civil procedures class or Professor Ku's constitutional law class, but the due process clauses in our Fifth and 14th Amendments do not apply to House proceedings.

Rather, the constitutional proceeding which does apply here is Article I, Section 5, Clause 2, which states clearly and simply: "Each House may determine the rules of its proceedings, punish its Members for disorderly behavior, and, with the concurrence of two-thirds, expel a Member." It is that simple, Mr. Speaker.

While constitutional due process does not apply here, GEORGE SANTOS has actually been afforded every single element of it through the bipartisan Ethics Committee process. Due process requires notice and opportunity to be heard and a decision by a fair and impartial tribunal.

First, SANTOS got his notice when the Ethics Committee informed him of the probe into his conduct.

Second, SANTOS had every opportunity to be heard when the Ethics Committee invited him to confront the accusations against him, an invitation SANTOS rejected.

Finally, his tribunal is us, the House of Representatives, whose collective impartiality is proven every day by the partisan fights we have day in and day out.

Mr. Speaker, while this proceeding is not covered by the Due Process Clause, GEORGE SANTOS has indeed been afforded much more process than a person in his shoes deserves.

Mr. Speaker, let me speak on the matter of election integrity. Before I came to the House, I was my county's elections commissioner for 7 years,

where I fought for more integrity in our elections. As elections commissioner, I fought for removing deceased voters from our rolls, for voter ID, against fraudulently submitted absentee ballots, and against voters being registered in two different places.

Following the 2016 and 2020 elections, Members of Congress from both sides of the aisle voted not to certify those elections, stating the results were not reliable.

Tomorrow, by voting "yes" to expulsion, Republicans and Democrats can stand for election integrity and against voter fraud because there is no more provable case of election fraud before this Congress than GEORGE SANTOS' 2022 election fraud.

Mr. Speaker, I offer that New Yorkers from Queens and Nassau Counties deserve better than GEORGE SANTOS, a total fraud and serial liar, representing them in Congress. Each day that Mr. SANTOS is allowed to remain a Member of Congress, my New York neighbors to the west are being denied real representation in these Halls. That is because their Representative is incapable of getting a bill passed, a project funded, or even sitting on a committee because he lacks the minimum amount of trust necessary to be a Member of Congress.

Today, the best way to support my fellow New Yorkers and overcome GEORGE SANTOS' fraud is to expel GEORGE SANTOS from the House of Representatives.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I do not believe that the Long Island crew is acting in bad faith, just exceedingly bad judgment. Here is why. Since the beginning of this Congress, there are only two ways you get expelled: You get convicted of a crime, or you participated in the Civil War. Neither apply to GEORGE SANTOS.

I rise not to defend GEORGE SANTOS, whoever he is, but to defend the very precedent that my colleagues are willing to shatter.

Let's speak to due process. Mr. SANTOS hasn't been convicted of anything, but we haven't even moved to expel the people who have.

Mr. BOWMAN pled guilty to a misdemeanor for his little fire alarm stunt weeks ago. While the Ethics Committee is marching to throw GEORGE SANTOS out of Congress, they take no action as to someone who actually pled guilty to a crime? What is that all about?

Then, there is all this talk about, well, he could have testified to the Ethics Committee, and he didn't, so he had his due process. That belies the fact that he faces a trial. Had Mr. SANTOS testified before the Ethics Committee, an argument could have been made that he waived any of his rights that he would have had at trial, that any American would enjoy. It was a procedural double bind that shouldn't be held against Mr. SANTOS as some sort of adverse inference.

Let's also talk about this precedent. The fact pattern as to Mr. SANTOS is remarkably similar to the fact pattern of former Representative Duncan Hunter. Duncan Hunter used campaign money on girlfriends, trips, home improvements, and all sorts of personal lavishes. He was indicted for those crimes and continued to serve in Congress. He pled guilty to a number of those crimes and continued to serve in Congress. He was in Congress for, like, an additional pay period after having pled guilty to the very same things that Mr. SANTOS has been indicted for.

I think it is persuasive to me that Mr. HIGGINS and Mr. NEHLS, two law enforcement officials with sterling reputations, are here not necessarily to defend Mr. SANTOS but to defend this precedent and this due process that is being shattered.

I was struck when the author of this resolution said the quiet part out loud. He didn't try to shoehorn the expulsion of GEORGE SANTOS into some existing construct or precedent. He said, yep, we are making a whole new precedent, and we are making whole new rules right now. However, he defends that by saying that the new rules are better, that it is a higher standard, so we should just throw away everything that has happened from the First Congress to the 118th because the new precedent is more robust. The problem is, it is a lower standard for due process without merit.

Mr. Speaker, whatever Mr. SANTOS did with Botox or OnlyFans is far less concerning to me than the indictment against Senator MENENDEZ, who is holding gold bars inscribed with Arabic on them from Egypt while he is still getting classified briefings today. He is not getting thrown out of the Senate. He is getting classified briefings. He is under indictment for bribery, but because SANTOS was buying Botox and OnlyFans, we have to throw him out?

If GEORGE SANTOS is convicted, he ought to be expelled. Until then, it is an incredibly dangerous thing for people in Washington, D.C., to substitute their judgment for the judgment of voters.

Winston Churchill said that in a democracy people get the government that they deserve. Well, the people of Mr. SANTOS' district elected him. This is not some district in rural Mississippi with, like, one newspaper. This is New York City, and GEORGE SANTOS rolls in there, wins, and do you know what? It is between him and his voters, him and the justice system.

The fact that the Ethics Committee has done this incredible violation of precedent will do grave damage to this institution for many years to come because now there is no requirement for any conviction. There is a departure from the precedent from the Duncan Hunter matter and many others, and I fear that may indicate what lies ahead for the future of due process in the House of Representatives.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from California (Mr. ROBERT GARCIA).

Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California. Mr. Speaker, truth and justice are crucial components of a healthy and strong democracy. It speaks to the public trust we hold and the dignity of this institution.

As a freshman Member of Congress, I take the oath very seriously. I love this country deeply, and we should all have intentions to defend it.

That is why I rise today to defend the integrity of the House and to support the expulsion of Representative SANTOS. I wish no personal harm to the Representative from New York, and I imagine it is a difficult moment for him and for the institution. However, I believe strongly that he must be held accountable for his actions as well as his lies.

He fabricated his qualifications and his background. He lied to the FEC and participated in unemployment fraud. That is why he is under a serious 23-count indictment.

The bipartisan report is out. It is damning. It should convince all Members to vote for this expulsion.

People want better from Congress. They want good and ethical government. They deserve the truth.

I once again ask the Representative from New York to resign and save himself and the country from this vote. If not, I encourage a "yes" vote to restore integrity to the body and to expel Representative SANTOS.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, you know, I hear a lot the lines, "I encourage Representative SANTOS to resign," and, "Do the right thing," which is resign. What I hear is people don't want to take this vote.

I am just here. I am willing to take the vote. Take the vote, guys. I am okay with it. This is your time. This is what they have all built up to all year.

The most damning feature of this farce is the total perversion of the priorities of this body and this Conference, which ran on the Commitment to America.

Yes, witch hunting GEORGE SANTOS is great. Right there, I remember that on the top line of the Commitment to America.

This Conference has failed to pass four different appropriations bills, Mr. Speaker. It had rules fail on the floor. We had Members weaponizing the Rules Committee because it didn't do what they wanted. Our borders are wide open. It is a no man's land being run by NGOs.

Yet, this Congress has now taken three measures and the insurmountable amount of time that goes behind them to expel a Member duly elected by the people of the Third District of New York.

I didn't think that my tenure in Congress would be this way, Mr. Speaker. I came here to do work. I came here to pass and work on conservative legislation. I have a stellar conservative

record that I am proud of. The work I have done in this body I am proud of. The votes I have taken in this body I am proud of. Every vote that I have taken that might have been against leadership, I stand by those votes not because I disrespect leadership but because I want a more conservative agenda for our country.

Now, I can't say the same thing about some of my colleagues, especially the ones most adamant to remove me, almost as if we remove him, there is no comparison. It is that much simpler. They can go home and say they are conservative. They won't know what a real conservative will look like on Long Island. That is just the reality. The votes are there.

Now, let's talk about the fact of due process that everybody seems to say that I have taken and have received. You know, it is no secret in this body that, obviously, I have an ongoing process with the DOJ. I was given a deadline, an unrealistic deadline, to testify before the committee the same day that I had to go to court. They gave us a hard-line, yes or no answer. They wouldn't settle for anything else.

That was the deadline. I could not surpass that date, which means it was either I go to New York City to adhere to my DOJ case or go to the Ethics Committee. No disrespect to the committee—I have incurred over \$200,000 of legal fees that have been predominantly paid for, so to suggest that I have not complied with them is yet another lie.

They have received every document they have asked for. Documents we did not have, we have told them that we don't have them. We don't have access to what you are asking for. They persisted and insisted in inventing documents, communication between myself and people that did not exist—thus, communication. We informed them. This was all on the record.

However, I rise and question again to the chairman: Will he set the record straight that his expulsion resolution contradicts the findings of his report? Which one is it? Am I guilty of a sexual harassment claim, or am I not? The report says I am not. His filing on this expulsion resolution says I am. That is a very serious allegation, one that I sought to see the end of where the Office of Congressional Ethics sent a referral to the investigative subcommittee saying that they did not suggest further investigation into the matter because it lacked credibility, yet it sits on their expulsion resolution.

□ 1545

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

Mr. Speaker, I call that hypocrisy, more lying, more swamp behavior from this body, the same reason that Americans have no trust in this body because unfortunately, far too often too many of our colleagues here will speak from both sides of their mouths without regard to who it might hurt.

As it is said, people in this town will hurt people a whole lot so they can benefit just a little bit.

I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) has 2 minutes remaining.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MOLINARO).

Mr. MOLINARO. Dear God, Mr. Speaker, my future former colleague is divorced from reality. He has manufactured his entire life to defraud the voters of his district of an honest choice for a Member of Congress.

He has lied to donors and to colleagues, taking advantage of election law, using campaign funds to personally benefit himself, and he has defamed not only his office but the institution itself.

I was not elected, nor any of us, to defend a precedent. I was elected to defend the United States Constitution. My colleague, in the most truthful thing he said today, said, we don't want to be compared to him. My colleague is damn right. I do not want to be compared to him.

The voters that sent me here expect an independent voice, expect us to use the rules of the House, and expect us to stand up for the very decency and laws of this country in protecting the Constitution.

He has lost the right to serve in this House, and I will vote to expel him.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) has 1 minute remaining.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 45 seconds to the gentleman from New York (Mr. LAWLER).

Mr. LAWLER. Mr. Speaker, of all the lies that GEORGE SANTOS told, two are the most jarring: that his mother perished in 9/11—was in the building, got cancer from 9/11, or that his parents or grandparents fled the Holocaust. In both instances, Mr. SANTOS used tragic events in history to try and propel himself to public office.

Worse than that, he not only defrauded the voters of the Third District, he also defrauded donors, stealing their money for personal gain.

The facts and the evidence are clear. He can defend himself in a court of law, but for the purposes of this body, he has to go. It is time to expel GEORGE SANTOS.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. SANTOS) has 8 minutes remaining.

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

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. May I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from New York (Mr. D'ESPOSITO) has 15 seconds remaining.

Mr. D'ESPOSITO. Mr. Speaker, I yield 15 seconds to my friend from Ohio (Mr. MILLER).

Mr. MILLER of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I will keep this very brief.

I, myself, have been a victim of GEORGE SANTOS, as well as other Members of Congress, in terms of defrauding through public donations.

I received an ethics complaint from the FEC for which I had to spend tens of thousands to defend myself.

You, sir, are a crook.

I know I should direct my comments to the Chair.

Mr. SANTOS. Mr. Speaker, I move to have the gentleman from Ohio's words stricken from the record, please.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is not timely. I would remind Members to direct their remarks to the Chair.

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

Mr. Speaker, hypocrisy, as I mentioned. My colleague wants to come up here and call me a crook, the same colleague who is accused of being a woman beater.

Are we really going to ignore the fact that we all have pasts, and we all have the media coming out against us on a daily basis?

Every last one of us has struggled with every little ounce of what happens in public service. I can go and read about all my colleagues.

I am not going to stand here to smear them. I am not going to stand here and use the time I have to say ill things about my colleagues. I refuse to stoop to that level.

The only thing I want to make clear is if tomorrow when this vote is on the floor, it is in the conscience of all my colleagues that they believe that this is the correct thing to do, so be it.

Take the vote. I am at peace. Whether I get expelled or I don't, I have accepted that I cannot control that fate, Mr. Speaker.

I have done the best I can to serve in this body and to deliver the best I can in my campaign promises to vote as a conservative voice in this body. I stand by that.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. HIGGINS).

Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana. Mr. Speaker, what I ask of my colleagues, again, very respectfully on both sides of the aisle, is to just step back from this moment and reflect upon the sacred right of the American people to determine their representation in our representative Republic. This is not a right that has been enumerated for this Congress.

The American people run this thing. I believe the people of the Third District of New York are quite capable of removing Representative SANTOS if they choose to do so.

In the history of our Nation, we have never done what we are poised to do. Since the Civil War, two Members of Congress have been removed by expulsion, both having been convicted of Federal crimes. The people of these United States own the sacred right to remove their Representative.

This is reflective of our oath. I say this sincerely to my beloved colleagues, to step back from this egregious act that you have threatened.

Reflect upon the American people that we serve, the oath that we have sworn, and allow the people of New York to cast their vote as they see fit.

Mr. Speaker, I am prayerful that righteousness will, indeed, touch the heart of every Member of Congress in this consideration, just as I am prayerful that righteousness touches the heart as voting Americans across the country determine who their Representative will be.

I have faith that this anointed Nation, touched by the hand of God as our Constitution was debated and developed and the writ thereof was determined, I have faith in that document, and I am prayerful that my colleagues Republican and my colleagues Democrat will grant that sacred right as determined by our Constitution to the people to whom it belongs—in this case, the people of the Third District of New York.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all Members to oppose the expulsion of Representative GEORGE SANTOS.

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

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the previous question is ordered on the resolution.

There was no objection.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

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

#### NO FUNDS FOR IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 891 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5961.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1553

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole



House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5961) to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes, with Mr. STEUBE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole rose earlier today, amendment No. 12, offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON) had been postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, proceedings will now resume on those amendments printed in part C of House Report 118–280 on which further proceedings were postponed, in the following order:

Amendment No. 1 by Mr. FITZPATRICK of Pennsylvania.

Amendment No. 5 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 6 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 8 by Mr. OGLES of Tennessee.

Amendment No. 9 by Mr. PFLUGER of Texas.

Amendment No. 10 by Ms. PORTER of California.

Amendment No. 12 by Jackson of Illinois.

The Chair will reduce to 2 minutes the minimum time for any electronic vote after the first vote in this series.

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. FITZPATRICK

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 1, printed in part C of House Report 118–280 offered by the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. FITZPATRICK), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 412, noes 11, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 680]

AYES—412

Adams	Beatty	Buchanan
Aderholt	Bentz	Buck
Aguilar	Bera	Bucshon
Allen	Bergman	Budzinski
Allred	Beyer	Burchett
Amo	Bice	Burgess
Amodei	Biggs	Burlison
Armstrong	Bilirakis	Calvert
Arrington	Bishop (GA)	Cammack
Auchincloss	Bishop (NC)	Caraveo
Babin	Blumenauer	Carbajal
Bacon	Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas
Baird	Boebert	Carey
Balderson	Bonamici	Carl
Balint	Bost	Carson
Banks	Boyle (PA)	Carter (GA)
Barr	Brecheen	Carter (LA)
Barragán	Brown	Carter (TX)
Bean (FL)	Brownley	Cartwright

Case	Graves (MO)	McGovern
Casten	Green (TN)	McHenry
Castor (FL)	Greene (GA)	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Griffith	Menendez
Chavez-DeRemer	Grijalva	Meng
Cherfilus-	Grothman	Meuser
McCormick	Guthrie	Mfume
Chu	Guthrie	Miller (IL)
Ciscomani	Hageman	Miller (OH)
Clark (MA)	Harder (CA)	Miller (WV)
Clarke (NY)	Harris	Miller-Meeks
Cleaver	Harshbarger	Mills
Cline	Hayes	Molinaro
Cloud	Hern	Moolenaar
Clyburn	Higgins (LA)	Mooney
Clyde	Higgins (NY)	Moore (AL)
Cohen	Hill	Moore (UT)
Cole	Himes	Moran
Collins	Hinson	Morelle
Comer	Horsford	Moskowitz
Connolly	Houchin	Moulton
Correa	Houlahan	Moylan
Courtney	Hoyer	Mrvan
Craig	Hoyle (OR)	Mullin
Crane	Hudson	Murphy
Crawford	Huffman	Nadler
Crenshaw	Huizenga	Napolitano
Crockett	Hunt	Neal
Crow	Issa	Neguse
Cuellar	Ivey	Nehls
Curtis	Jackson (IL)	Newhouse
D'Esposito	Jackson (NC)	Nickel
Dauids (KS)	Jacobs	Norcross
Davidson	James	Norman
Davis (IL)	Jayapal	Norton
Davis (NC)	Jeffries	Nunn (IA)
De La Cruz	Johnson (GA)	Obenrolte
Dean (PA)	Johnson (SD)	Ogles
DeGette	Jordan	Owens
DeLauro	Joyce (OH)	Pallone
DelBene	Joyce (PA)	Palmer
Deluzio	Kamlager-Dove	Panetta
DeSaulnier	Kaptur	Pappas
DesJarlais	Kean (NJ)	Pascrell
Diaz-Balart	Keating	Payne
Dingell	Kelly (IL)	Peltola
Doggett	Kelly (MS)	Pence
Donalds	Khanna	Perez
Duarte	Kiggans (VA)	Perry
Duncan	Kildee	Peters
Dunn (FL)	Kiley	Petersen
Edwards	Kilmer	Pfluger
Ellzey	Kim (CA)	Pingree
Emmer	Kim (NJ)	Plaskett
Escobar	Krishnamoorthi	Pocan
Eshoo	Kuster	Porter
Espallat	Kustoff	Posey
Estes	LaHood	Quigley
Evans	LaLota	Raskin
Ezell	LaMalfa	Reschenthaler
Fallon	Lamborn	Rodgers (WA)
Feenstra	Landsman	Rogers (AL)
Ferguson	Langworthy	Rogers (KY)
Finstad	Larsen (WA)	Rose
Fischbach	Larson (CT)	Rosendale
Fitzgerald	Latta	Ross
Fitzpatrick	LaTurner	Rouzer
Fleischmann	Lawler	Roy
Fletcher	Lee (CA)	Ruiz
Flood	Lee (FL)	Ruppersberger
Foster	Lee (NV)	Rutherford
Foushee	Leger Fernandez	Ryan
Fox	Lesko	Salinas
Frankel, Lois	Letlow	Sánchez
Franklin, Scott	Levin	Sarbanes
Frost	Lieu	Scalise
Fry	Lofgren	Scanlon
Fulcher	Loudermilk	Schakowsky
Gaetz	Lucas	Schiff
Gallagher	Luetkemeyer	Schneider
Gallego	Luna	Scholten
Garamendi	Luttrell	Schrier
Garbarino	Lynch	Schweikert
Garcia (TX)	Mace	Scott (VA)
Garcia, Mike	Magaziner	Scott, Austin
Garcia, Robert	Malliotakis	Scott, David
Jimenez	Maloy	Self
Golden (ME)	Mann	Sessions
Goldman (NY)	Manning	Sewell
Gomez	Mast	Sherman
Gonzales, Tony	Matsui	Sherrill
Gonzalez,	McBath	Simpson
Vicente	McCaul	Slotkin
Good (VA)	McClain	Smith (MO)
Gooden (TX)	McClellan	Smith (NE)
Gosar	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Gottheimer	McCollum	Smith (WA)
Granger	McCormick	Smucker
Graves (LA)	McGarvey	Sorensen

Soto	Tiffany	Waltz
Spanberger	Timmons	Wasserman
Spartz	Titus	Schultz
Stansbury	Tokuda	Waters
Stanton	Tonko	Watson Coleman
Stauber	Torres (CA)	Weber (TX)
Steel	Torres (NY)	Webster (FL)
Stefanik	Trahan	Wenstrup
Steil	Trone	Westerman
Steube	Turner	Weston
Stevens	Underwood	Wild
Strickland	Valadao	Williams (GA)
Strong	Van Drew	Williams (NY)
Swalwell	Van Ouyne	Williams (TX)
Sykes	Van Orden	Wilson (FL)
Takano	Vargas	Wittman
Tenney	Vasquez	Womack
Thanedar	Veasey	Yakym
Thompson (CA)	Velázquez	Zinke
Thompson (MS)	Wagner	
Thompson (PA)	Walberg	

NOES—11

Bowman	Green, Al (TX)	Pressley
Bush	Lee (PA)	Ramirez
Casar	Massie	Tlaib
Garcia (IL)	Omar	

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—16

Alford	Kelly (PA)	Radewagen
Costa	McCarthy	Sablan
González-Colón	Moore (WI)	Salazar
Jackson (TX)	Ocasio-Cortez	Wilson (SC)
Jackson Lee	Pelosi	
Johnson (OH)	Phillips	

□ 1625

Messrs. SCOTT of Virginia and JOHNSON of Georgia changed their vote from “no” to “aye.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated for:

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted “aye” on rollcall No. 680.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 5, printed in part C of House Report 118–280 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 422, noes 1, answered “present” 1, not voting 16, as follows:

[Roll No. 681]

AYES—422

Adams	Bacon	Bice
Aderholt	Baird	Biggs
Aguilar	Balderson	Bilirakis
Alford	Balint	Bishop (GA)
Allen	Banks	Bishop (NC)
Allred	Barragán	Blumenauer
Amo	Bean (FL)	Blunt Rochester
Amodei	Beatty	Boebert
Armstrong	Bentz	Bonamici
Arrington	Bera	Bost
Auchincloss	Bergman	Bowman
Babin	Beyer	Boyle (PA)

Brecheen Frost  
Brown Fry  
Brownley Fulcher  
Buchanan Gaetz  
Buck Gallagher  
Bucshon Gallego  
Budzinski Garamendi  
Burchett Garbarino  
Burgess Garcia (IL)  
Burlison Garcia (TX)  
Bush Garcia, Mike  
Calvert Garcia, Robert  
Cammack Gimenez  
Caraveo Golden (ME)  
Carbajal Goldman (NY)  
Cárdenas Gomez  
Carey Gonzales, Tony  
Carl Good (VA)  
Carson Gooden (TX)  
Carter (GA) Gosar  
Carter (LA) Gottheimer  
Carter (TX) Granger  
Cartwright Graves (LA)  
Casar Graves (MO)  
Case Green (TN)  
Casten Green, Al (TX)  
Castor (FL) Greene (GA)  
Castro (TX) Griffith  
Chavez-DeRemer Grijalva  
Cherfilus-McCormick Grothman  
Chu Guest  
Ciscomani Guthrie  
Clark (MA) Hageman  
Clarke (NY) Harder (CA)  
Cleaver Harris  
Cline Harshbarger  
Cloud Hayes  
Clyburn Hern  
Clyde Higgins (LA)  
Cohen Higgins (NY)  
Cole Hill  
Collins Himes  
Comer Hinson  
Connolly Horsford  
Correa Houchin  
Costa Houlihan  
Courtney Hoyer  
Craig Hoyle (OR)  
Crane Hudson  
Crawford Huffman  
Crenshaw Huizenga  
Crockett Hunt  
Crow Issa  
Cuellar Ivey  
Curtis Jackson (IL)  
Davids (KS) Jackson (NC)  
Davidson Jackson (TX)  
Davis (IL) Jacobs  
Davis (NC) James  
De La Cruz Jayapal  
Dean Jeffries  
DeGette Johnson (GA)  
DeLauro Johnson (SD)  
DelBene Jordan  
Deluzio Joyce (OH)  
DeSaulnier Joyce (PA)  
DesJarlais Kamlager-Dove  
Diaz-Balart Kaptur  
Dingell Kean (NJ)  
Doggett Keating  
Donalds Kelly (IL)  
Duarte Kelly (MS)  
Duncan Khanna  
Dunn (FL) Kiggans (VA)  
Edwards Kildee  
Ellzey Kilmer  
Emmer Kim (CA)  
Escobar Kim (NJ)  
Eshoo Krishnamoorthi  
Espallat Kuster  
Estes Kustoff  
Evans LaHood  
Ezell LaLota  
Fallon LaMalfa  
Feenstra Lamborn  
Ferguson Landsman  
Finstad Langworthy  
Fischbach Larsen (WA)  
Fitzgerald Larson (CT)  
Fitzpatrick Latta  
Fleischmann LaTurner  
Fletcher Lawler  
Flood Lee (CA)  
Foster Lee (FL)  
Foushee Lee (NV)  
Foxy Lee (PA)  
Frankel, Lois Leger Fernandez  
Franklin, Scott Lesko

Letlow Rutherford  
Levin Ryan  
Lieu Salinas  
Lofgren Sánchez  
Loudermilk Sarbanes  
Lucas Scalise  
Luetkemeyer Scanlon  
Luna Schakowsky  
Luttrell Schiff  
Lynch Schneider  
Mace Scholten  
Magaziner Schrier  
Malliotakis Schweikert  
Maloy Scott (VA)  
Mann Scott, Austin  
Manning Scott, David  
Mast Self  
Matsui Sessions  
McBath Sherman  
McCaul Sherrill  
McClain Simpson  
McClellan Slotkin  
McClintock Smith (MO)  
McCollum Smith (NE)  
McCormick Smith (NJ)  
McGarvey Smith (WA)  
McGovern Smucker  
McHenry Sorensen  
Meeks Soto  
Menendez Spanberger  
Meng Spartz

Stansbury Van Drew  
Stanton Van Doyne  
Stauber Van Orden  
Steel Vargas  
Stefanik Vasquez  
Steil Veasey  
Steube Velázquez  
Stevens Wagner  
Strickland Walberg  
Strong Walz  
Swalwell Wasserman  
Sykes Schultz  
Takano Waters  
Tenney Watson Coleman  
Thanedar Weber (TX)  
Thompson (CA) Webster (FL)  
Thompson (MS) Wenstrup  
Thompson (PA) Westerman  
Tiffany Wexton  
Timmons Wild  
Titus Williams (GA)  
Traib Williams (NY)  
Tokuda Williams (TX)  
Tonko Wilson (FL)  
Torres (CA) Wilson (SC)  
Torres (NY) Wittman  
Trahan Womack  
Trone Yakym  
Turner Zinke  
Underwood  
Valadao

Bishop (NC) Grothman  
Boebert Guest  
Bost Guthrie  
Brecheen Hageman  
Buchanan Harder (CA)  
Buck Harris  
Bucshon Harshbarger  
Burchett Hern  
Burgess Higgins (LA)  
Burlison Hill  
Calvert Hinson  
Cammack Houchin  
Caraveo Hoyer  
Carey Hudson  
Carl Huizenga  
Carter (GA) Hunt  
Carter (TX) Issa  
Castor (FL) Jackson (TX)  
Chavez-DeRemer James  
Ciscomani Johnson (SD)  
Cline Jordan  
Cloud Joyce (OH)  
Clyde Joyce (PA)  
Cole Kaptur  
Collins Kean (NJ)  
Comer Kelly (MS)  
Crane Kiggans (VA)  
Crawford Kiley  
Crenshaw Kim (CA)  
Cuellar Kustoff  
Curtis LaHood  
D'Esposito LaLota  
Davidson LaMalfa  
Davis (NC) Lamborn  
De La Cruz Landsman  
DesJarlais Langworthy  
Diaz-Balart Latta  
Donalds LaTurner  
Duarte Lawler  
Duncan Lee (FL)  
Dunn (FL) Lee (NV)  
Edwards Lesko  
Ellzey Letlow  
Emmer Loudermilk  
Estes Lucas  
Ezell Luetkemeyer  
Fallon Luna  
Feenstra Luttrell  
Ferguson Mace  
Finstad Malliotakis  
Fischbach Maloy  
Fitzgerald Mann  
Fitzpatrick Manning  
Fleischmann Massie  
Flood Mast  
Foxy McCaul  
Franklin, Scott McClain  
Fry McClintock  
Fulcher McCormick  
Gaetz McHenry  
Gallagher Meuser  
Garbarino Mfume  
Garcia, Mike Miller (IL)  
Gimenez Miller (OH)  
Golden (ME) Miller (WV)  
Goldman (NY) Mooney  
Gonzales, Tony Miller-Meeks  
Gomez Mills  
Good (VA) Molinaro  
Gooden (TX) Moolenaar  
Gosar Mooney  
Gottheimer Moore (AL)  
Granger Moore (UT)  
Graves (LA) Moore (WI)  
Graves (MO) Moran  
Green (TN) Morelle  
Greene (GA) Moskowitz

NOES—1  
Massie  
ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1  
Santos  
NOT VOTING—16  
Barr Johnson (OH)  
D'Esposito Kelly (PA)  
Gonzalez, Vicente McCarthy  
González-Colón Ocasio-Cortez  
Jackson Lee Omar  
Pelosi Sewell

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1629  
So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.  
Stated for:  
Mr. BARR. Mr. Chair, had I been present, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 681.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. OGLE  
The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 6, printed in part C of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLE), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.  
The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.  
The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE  
The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.  
A recorded vote was ordered.  
The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.  
The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 241, noes 181, answered "present" 1, not voting 17, as follows:

[Roll No. 682]  
AYES—241  
Aderholt Babin  
Alford Bacon  
Allen Baird  
Amodei Balderson  
Armstrong Banks  
Arrington Barr

Phillips Radewagen  
Sablan Salazar  
Sewell  
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)

NOES—181  
Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-McCormick  
Beatty  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleaver  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Davids (KS)

Garcia, Robert	McBath	Schiff	Babin	Golden (ME)	Moore (AL)	Goldman (NY)	Massie	Schakowsky
Goldman (NY)	McClellan	Schneider	Bacon	Gonzales, Tony	Moore (UT)	Gomez	Matsui	Schiff
Gomez	McCullum	Scholten	Baird	González-Colón	Moran	Gonzalez,	McBath	Schneider
Green, Al (TX)	McGarvey	Schrier	Balderson	Good (VA)	Moskowitz	Vicente	McClellan	Scholten
Grijalva	McGovern	Scott (VA)	Banks	Gooden (TX)	Moylan	Gottheimer	McCullum	Schrier
Hayes	Meeks	Sewell	Barr	Gosar	Murphy	Green, Al (TX)	McGarvey	Scott (VA)
Higgins (NY)	Menendez	Sherman	Bean (FL)	Granger	Nehls	Grijalva	McGovern	Sewell
Himes	Meng	Sherrill	Bentz	Graves (LA)	Newhouse	Harder (CA)	Meeks	Sherman
Horsford	Moore (WI)	Slotkin	Bergman	Graves (MO)	Norman	Hayes	Menendez	Sherrill
Houlahan	Moskowitz	Smith (WA)	Bice	Green (TN)	Nunn (IA)	Higgins (NY)	Meng	Slotkin
Hoyle (OR)	Moulton	Sorensen	Biggs	Greene (GA)	Obernolte	Himes	Mfume	Smith (WA)
Huffman	Mrvan	Soto	Bilirakis	Griffith	Ogles	Horsford	Moore (WI)	Sorensen
Ivey	Mullin	Spanberger	Bishop (NC)	Grothman	Owens	Houlahan	Morelle	Soto
Jackson (IL)	Nadler	Stansbury	Boebert	Guest	Palmer	Hoyer	Moulton	Spanberger
Jackson (NC)	Napolitano	Stanton	Boest	Guthrie	Pappas	Hoyle (OR)	Mrvan	Stanton
Jacobs	Neal	Strickland	Brecheen	Hageman	Peltola	Huffman	Mullin	Stansbury
Jayapal	Neguse	Swalwell	Buchanan	Harris	Pence	Ivey	Nadler	Stanton
Jeffries	Nickel	Sykes	Buck	Harshbarger	Perez	Jackson (IL)	Napolitano	Stevens
Johnson (GA)	Norcross	Takano	Bucshon	Hern	Perry	Jackson (NC)	Neal	Strickland
Kamlager-Dove	Norton	Thompson (CA)	Burchett	Higgins (LA)	Pflugger	Jacobs	Neguse	Swalwell
Keating	Panetta	Thompson (MS)	Burgess	Hill	Posey	Jayapal	Nickel	Sykes
Kelly (IL)	Pascrell	Titus	Burlison	Hinson	Reschenthaler	Jeffries	Norcross	Takano
Khanna	Payne	Tlaib	Calvert	Houchin	Rodgers (WA)	Johnson (GA)	Norton	Thanedar
Kildee	Pettersen	Tokuda	Cammack	Hudson	Rogers (AL)	Kamlager-Dove	Omar	Thompson (CA)
Kilmer	Pingree	Tonko	Caraveo	Huizenga	Rogers (KY)	Kaptur	Pallone	Thompson (MS)
Kim (NJ)	Pocan	Torres (CA)	Carey	Hunt	Rose	Keating	Panetta	Titus
Krishnamoorthi	Porter	Torres (NY)	Carl	Issa	Rosendale	Kelly (IL)	Pascrell	Tlaib
Kuster	Pressley	Trahan	Carter (GA)	Jackson (TX)	Rouzer	Khanna	Payne	Tokuda
Larsen (WA)	Quigley	Trone	Carter (TX)	James	Roy	Kildee	Peters	Tonko
Larson (CT)	Ramirez	Underwood	Chavez-DeRemer	Johnson (SD)	Rutherford	Kilmer	Pettersen	Torres (CA)
Lee (CA)	Raskin	Vargas	Ciscomani	Joyce (OH)	Salazar	Kim (NJ)	Pingree	Torres (NY)
Lee (PA)	Ross	Vasquez	Cline	Joyce (PA)	Scalise	Krishnamoorthi	Plaskett	Trahan
Leger Fernandez	Ruiz	Velázquez	Cloud	Kean (NJ)	Schweikert	Kuster	Pocan	Trone
Levin	Ryan	Wasserman	Clyde	Kelly (MS)	Scott, Austin	Leadsman	Porter	Underwood
Lieu	Salinas	Schultz	Cole	Kelly (NE)	Scott, David	Larsen (WA)	Quigley	Vargas
Lofgren	Sánchez	Watson Coleman	Collins	Kiggans (VA)	Self	Larson (CT)	Ramirez	Vasquez
Lynch	Sarbanes	Wexton	Comer	Kiley	Sessions	Lee (CA)	Raskin	Veasey
Magaziner	Scanlon	Williams (GA)	Crane	Kim (CA)	Simpson	Lee (PA)	Ross	Velázquez
Matsui	Schakowsky	Wilson (FL)	Crawford	Kustoff	Smith (MO)	Leger Fernandez	Ruiz	Wasserman
			Crenshaw	LaHood	Smith (NE)	Levin	Ruppersberger	Wasserman
			Curtis	LaLota	Smith (NJ)	Lieu	Schultz	Ryan
			D'Esposito	LaMalfa	Smucker	Lofgren	Salinas	Watson Coleman
			Davidson	Lamborn	Spartz	Lynch	Sánchez	Wexton
			Davis (NC)	Langworthy	Staubert	Magaziner	Sarbanes	Wild
			De La Cruz	Lafta	Steel	Manning	Scanlon	Williams (GA)
			DeJarlais	LaTurner	Stefanik			
			Diaz-Balart	Lawler	Steil			
			Donalds	Lee (FL)	Steube			
			Duarte	Lesko	Strong			
			Duncan	Letlow	Tenney			
			Dunn (FL)	Loudermilk	Thompson (PA)			
			Edwards	Lucas	Tiffany			
			Ellzey	Luetkemeyer	Timmons			
			Emmer	Luna	Turner			
			Estes	Luttrell	Valadao			
			Ezell	Mace	Van Drew			
			Fallon	Malliotakis	Van Dуйne			
			Feenstra	Maloy	Van Orden			
			Ferguson	Mann	Wagner			
			Finstad	Mast	Walberg			
			Fischbach	McCaul	Waltz			
			Fitzgerald	McClain	Weber (TX)			
			Fitzpatrick	McClintock	Webster (FL)			
			Fleischmann	McCormick	Wenstrup			
			Flood	McHenry	Westerman			
			Foxx	Meuser	Williams (NY)			
			Franklin, Scott	Miller (IL)	Williams (TX)			
			Fry	Miller (OH)	Wilson (SC)			
			Fulcher	Miller (WV)	Wittman			
			Gaetz	Miller-Meeks	Womack			
			Gallagher	Mills	Yakym			
			Gallagher	Molinaro	Zinke			
			Garbarino	Mooleenaar				
			Garcia, Mike	Mooney				
			Gimenez					

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

## NOT VOTING—17

Carson  
Gonzalez,  
Vicente  
González-Colón  
Griffith  
Jackson Lee

Johnson (OH)  
Kelly (PA)  
McCarthy  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Omar  
Pelosi

Phillips  
Plaskett  
Radewagen  
Sablan  
Salazar  
Waters

## ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1633

Mr. PETERS and Ms. LEE of Nevada changed their vote from "no" to "aye." So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

## AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. OGLES

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 8, printed in part C of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 226, noes 199, answered "present" 1, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 683]

AYES—226

Aderholt  
Alford

Allen  
Amodei

Armstrong  
Arrington

Adams  
Aguilar  
Allred  
Casar  
Case  
Casten  
Castor (FL)  
Castro (TX)  
Cherfilus-  
McCormick  
Chu  
Clark (MA)  
Clarke (NY)  
Cleave  
Clyburn  
Cohen  
Connolly  
Correa  
Costa  
Courtney  
Craig  
Crockett  
Crow  
Cuellar

## NOES—199

Carter (LA)  
Cartwright  
Davis (IL)  
Dean (PA)  
DeGette  
DeLauro  
DelBene  
Deluzio  
DeSaulnier  
Doggett  
Escobar  
Eshoo  
Española  
Evans  
Fletcher  
Foster  
Foushee  
Frankel, Lois  
Frost  
Gallego  
Garamendi  
Garcia (IL)  
Garcia (TX)  
Garcia, Robert

## ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

## NOT VOTING—14

Dingell  
Jackson Lee  
Johnson (OH)  
Kelly (PA)  
Lee (NV)

McCarthy  
Ocasio-Cortez  
Pelosi  
Phillips  
Pressley

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR  
The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1636

So the amendment was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. CHAIR, had I been present, I would have voted "no" on rollcall No. 683, Ogles No. 8.

## AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MR. PFLUGGER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 9, printed in part C of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. PFLUGGER), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

## RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 231, noes 198, answered "present" 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 684]

AYES—231

Aderholt Garcia, Mike Molinaro  
 Alford Gimenez Moolenaar  
 Allen Gonzales, Tony Mooney  
 Amodei González-Colón Moore (AL)  
 Armstrong Good (VA) Moore (UT)  
 Arrington Gooden (TX) Moran  
 Babin Gosar Moskowitz  
 Bacon Gottheimer Moylan  
 Baird Granger Murphy  
 Balderson Graves (LA) Nehls  
 Banks Graves (MO) Newhouse  
 Barr Green (TN) Norman  
 Bean (FL) Greene (GA) Nunn (IA)  
 Bentz Griffith Obernolte  
 Bergman Grothman Ogles  
 Bice Guest Owens  
 Biggs Guthrie Pallone  
 Bilirakis Hageman Palmer  
 Bishop (NC) Harris Peltola  
 Boebert Harshbarger Pence  
 Bost Hern Perez  
 Brecheen Higgins (LA) Perry  
 Buchanan Hill Pfluger  
 Buck Hinson Posey  
 Bucshon Houchin Reschenthaler  
 Burchett Hudson Rodgers (WA)  
 Burgess Huizenga Rogers (AL)  
 Burlison Hunt Rogers (KY)  
 Calvert Issa Rose  
 Cammack Jackson (NC) Rosendale  
 Carey Jackson (TX) Rouzer  
 Carl James Roy  
 Carter (GA) Johnson (LA) Rutherford  
 Carter (TX) Johnson (SD) Salazar  
 Chavez-DeRemer Jordan Scalise  
 Ciscomani Joyce (OH) Schweikert  
 Cline Joyce (PA) Scott, Austin  
 Cloud Kean (NJ) Scott, David  
 Clyde Kelly (MS) Self  
 Cole Kiggans (VA) Sessions  
 Collins Kiley Simpson  
 Comer Kim (CA) Smith (MO)  
 Crane Kustoff Smith (NE)  
 Crawford LaHood Smith (NJ)  
 Crenshaw LaLota Smucker  
 Curtis LaMalfa Spartz  
 D'Esposito Lamborn Stauber  
 Davidson Landsman Steel  
 Davis (NC) Langworthy Stefanik  
 De La Cruz Latta Steil  
 DesJarlais LaTurner Steube  
 Diaz-Balart Lawler Stevens  
 Donalds Lee (FL) Strong  
 Duarte Lee (NV) Tenney  
 Duncan Lesko Thanedar  
 Dunn (FL) Letlow Thompson (PA)  
 Edwards Loudermilk Tiffany  
 Ellzey Lucas Timmons  
 Emmer Luetkemeyer Turner  
 Estes Luna Valadao  
 Ezell Luttrell Van Drew  
 Fallon Mace Van Duyne  
 Feenstra Malliotakis Van Orden  
 Ferguson Maloy Wagner  
 Finstad Mann Walberg  
 Fischbach Mast Waltz  
 Fitzgerald McCaul Weber (TX)  
 Fitzpatrick McClain Webster (FL)  
 Fleischmann McClintock Westrup  
 Flood McCormick Westernman  
 Foxx McHenry Williams (NY)  
 Franklin, Scott Meuser Williams (TX)  
 Fry Miller (IL) Wilson (SC)  
 Fulcher Miller (OH) Wittman  
 Gaetz Miller (WV) Womack  
 Gallagher Miller-Meeks Yakym  
 Garbarino Mills Zinke

NOES—198

Adams Brownley Clark (MA)  
 Aguilar Budzinski Clarke (NY)  
 Allred Bush Cleaver  
 Amo Caraveo Clyburn  
 Auchincloss Carbajal Cohen  
 Balint Cárdenas Connolly  
 Barragán Carson Correa  
 Beatty Carter (LA) Costa  
 Bera Cartwright Courtney  
 Beyer Casar Craig  
 Bishop (GA) Case Crockett  
 Blumenauer Casten Crow  
 Blunt Rochester Castor (FL) Cuellar  
 Bonamici Castro (TX) Davids (KS)  
 Bowman Cherfilus-Davis (IL)  
 Boyle (PA) McCormick Dean (PA)  
 Brown Chu DeGette

DeLauro Kuster Ruiz  
 DelBene Larsen (WA) Ruppertsberger  
 Deluzio Larson (CT) Ryan  
 DeSaulnier Lee (CA) Salinas  
 Dingell Lee (PA) Sánchez  
 Doggett Leger Fernandez Sarbanes  
 Escobar Levin Scanlon  
 Eshoo Lieu Schakowsky  
 Espallat Lofgren Schiff  
 Evans Lynch Schneider  
 Fletcher Magaziner Scholten  
 Foster Manning Schrier  
 Foushee Massie Scott (VA)  
 Frankel, Lois Matsui Sewell  
 Frost McBeth Sherman  
 Gallego McClellan Sherrill  
 Garamendi McCollum Slotkin  
 García (IL) McGarvey Smith (WA)  
 García (TX) McGovern Sorensen  
 García, Robert Meeks Soto  
 Golden (ME) Menendez Spanberger  
 Goldman (NY) Meng Stansbury  
 Gomez Mfume Stanton  
 Gonzalez, Vicente Moore (WI) Strickland  
 Green, Al (TX) Moulton Swalwell  
 Grijalva Mullin Takano  
 Harder (CA) Nadler Thompson (CA)  
 Hayes Napolitano Thompson (MS)  
 Higgins (NY) Neal Titus  
 Himes Neguse Tlaib  
 Horsford Nickel Tokuda  
 Houlihan Norcross Tonko  
 Hoyer Norton Torres (CA)  
 Hoyle (OR) Omar Torres (NY)  
 Huffman Pannetta Trahan  
 Ivey Pappas Trone  
 Jacobs Pascrell Underwood  
 Jayapal Payne Vargas  
 Jeffries Peters Vasquez  
 Johnson (GA) Petterson Veasey  
 Kamlager-Dove Pingree Velázquez  
 Kaptur Plaskett Wasserman  
 Keating Pocan Schultz  
 Kelly (IL) Porter Waters  
 Khanna Pressley Watson Coleman  
 Kildee Quigley Wexton  
 Kilmer Ramirez Wild  
 Kim (NJ) Raskin Williams (GA)  
 Krishnamoorthi Ross Wilson (FL)

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—11

Jackson (IL) McCarthy Phillips  
 Jackson Lee Mrvan Radewagen  
 Johnson (OH) Ocasio-Cortez Sablan  
 Kelly (PA) Pelosi

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1639

So the amendment was agreed to.  
 The result of the vote was announced  
 as above recorded.

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MS. PORTER

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished  
 business is the demand for a recorded  
 vote on amendment No. 10, printed in  
 part C of House Report 118–280 offered  
 by the gentlewoman from California  
 (Ms. PORTER), on which further pro-  
 ceedings were postponed and on which  
 the ayes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the  
 amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amend-  
 ment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote  
 has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-  
 minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
 vice, and there were—ayes 399, noes 28,  
 answered “present” 1, not voting 12, as  
 follows:

[Roll No. 685]

AYES—399

Adams DesJarlais Kaptur  
 Aderholt Diaz-Balart Kean (NJ)  
 Aguilar Dingell Keating  
 Allred Doggett Kelly (IL)  
 Allen Donalds Kelly (MS)  
 Allred Duarte Khanna  
 Amo Duncan Kiggans (VA)  
 Amodei Dunn (FL) Kildee  
 Armstrong Edwards Kiley  
 Auchincloss Emmer Kilmer  
 Bacon Escobar Kim (CA)  
 Baird Eshoo Kim (NJ)  
 Balderson Espallat Krishnamoorthi  
 Balint Estes Kuster  
 Banks Evans Kustoff  
 Barr Ezell LaHood  
 Barragán Feenstra LaLota  
 Beatty Ferguson Lamborn  
 Bentz Finstad Landsman  
 Bera Fischbach Langworthy  
 Bergman Fitzgerald Larsen (WA)  
 Beyer Fitzpatrick Larson (CT)  
 Bice Fleischmann Latta  
 Biggs Fletcher LaTurner  
 Bilirakis Flood Lawler  
 Bishop (GA) Foster Lee (CA)  
 Blumenauer Foushee Lee (FL)  
 Blunt Rochester Foxx Lee (PA)  
 Boebert Frankel, Lois Leger Fernandez  
 Bonamici Franklin, Scott Lesko  
 Bost Frost Letlow  
 Bowman Fry Levin  
 Boyle (PA) Gaetz Lieu  
 Brecheen Gallagher Lofgren  
 Brown Gallego Lucas  
 Brownley Garamendi Luetkemeyer  
 Buchanan Garbarino Luna  
 Bucshon García (IL) Luttrell  
 Budzinski García (TX) Lynch  
 Burchett García, Mike Mace  
 Burgess García, Robert Magaziner  
 Bush Gimenez Malliotakis  
 Calvert Golden (ME) Maloy  
 Cammack Goldman (NY) Mann  
 Caraveo Gomez Manning  
 Carbajal Gonzales, Tony Massie  
 Cárdenas Gonzalez, Mast  
 Carey Vicente Matsui  
 Carl González-Colón McBeth  
 Carson Good (VA) McCaul  
 Carter (GA) Gooden (TX) McClain  
 Carter (LA) Gottheimer McClellan  
 Carter (TX) Granger McClintock  
 Cartwright Graves (LA) McCollum  
 Casar Graves (MO) McCormick  
 Case Green (TN) McGarvey  
 Casten Green, Al (TX) McHenry  
 Castor (FL) Greene (GA) McGovern  
 Castro (TX) Griffith Meeks  
 Chavez-DeRemer Grijalva Menendez  
 Cherfilus-Grothman Meng  
 McCormick Guest Meuser  
 Chu Guthrie Mfume  
 Ciscomani Hageman Miller (IL)  
 Clark (MA) Harder (CA) Miller (OH)  
 Clarke (NY) Harshbarger Miller (WV)  
 Cleaver Hayes Miller-Meeks  
 Cline Hern Molinaro  
 Cloud Higgins (LA) Moolenaar  
 Clyburn Higgins (NY) Mooney  
 Cohen Hill Moore (AL)  
 Cole Himes Moore (UT)  
 Comer Hinson Moore (WI)  
 Connolly Horsford Moran  
 Correa Houchin Morelle  
 Costa Houlihan Moskowitz  
 Courtney Hoyer Moulton  
 Craig Hoyle (OR) Moylan  
 Crane Hudson Mrvan  
 Crenshaw Huffman Mullin  
 Crockett Huizenga Murphy  
 Crow Issa Nadler  
 Cuellar Ivey Napolitano  
 Curtis Jackson (IL) Neal  
 D'Esposito Jackson (NC) Neguse  
 Davids (KS) Jackson (TX) Nehls  
 Davidson Jacobs Newhouse  
 Davis (IL) James Nickel  
 Davis (NC) Jayapal Norcross  
 De La Cruz Jeffries Norman  
 Dean (PA) Johnson (GA) Norton  
 DeGette Johnson (SD) Nunn (IA)  
 DeLauro Jordan Obernolte  
 DelBene Joyce (OH) Ogles  
 Deluzio Joyce (PA) Owens  
 DeSaulnier Kamlager-Dove Pallone

Palmer	Schneider	Timmons
Panetta	Scholten	Titus
Pappas	Schrier	Tlaib
Pascrell	Schweikert	Tokuda
Payne	Scott (VA)	Tonko
Peltola	Scott, Austin	Torres (CA)
Pence	Scott, David	Torres (NY)
Perez	Sewell	Trahan
Peters	Sherman	Trone
Pettersen	Sherrill	Turner
Pfleger	Slotkin	Underwood
Pingree	Smith (MO)	Valadao
Plaskett	Smith (NE)	Van Drew
Pocan	Smith (NJ)	Van Dуйne
Porter	Smith (WA)	Van Orden
Pressley	Smucker	Vargas
Quigley	Sorensen	Vasquez
Ramirez	Soto	Veasey
Raskin	Spanberger	Velázquez
Reschenthaler	Spartz	Wagner
Rodgers (WA)	Stansbury	Walberg
Rogers (AL)	Stanton	Wasserman
Rogers (KY)	Stauber	Schultz
Rose	Steel	Waters
Ross	Stefanik	Watson Coleman
Rouzer	Steil	Webster (FL)
Ruiz	Steube	Wenstrup
Ruppersberger	Stevens	Westerman
Rutherford	Strickland	Wexton
Ryan	Strong	Wild
Salazar	Swalwell	Williams (GA)
Salinas	Sykes	Williams (NY)
Sánchez	Takano	Williams (TX)
Sarbantes	Tenney	Wilson (FL)
Scalise	Thanedar	Wilson (SC)
Scanlon	Thompson (CA)	Wittman
Schakowsky	Thompson (MS)	Womack
Schiff	Thompson (PA)	Yakym

NOES—28

Babin	Fulcher	Roy
Bean (FL)	Gosar	Self
Bishop (NC)	Harris	Sessions
Buck	Hunt	Simpson
Burlison	Lee (NV)	Tiffany
Clyde	Mills	Waltz
Collins	Omar	Weber (TX)
Crawford	Perry	Zinke
Ellzey	Posey	
Fallon	Rosendale	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—12

Arrington	LaMalfa	Pelosi
Jackson Lee	Loudermilk	Phillips
Johnson (OH)	McCarthy	Radewagen
Kelly (PA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Sablan

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1643

Ms. LEE of Nevada changed her vote from "aye" to "no."

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Ms. LEE of Nevada. Mr. Chair, during Roll Call votes on amendments to H.R. 5961, two of my votes were not recorded correctly. On Ogles No. 8, I intended to vote "aye". On Porter No. 10, I intended to vote "aye". Had my vote been recorded correctly, I would have voted "aye" on rollcall No. 683 and "aye" on rollcall No. 685.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MR. JACKSON OF ILLINOIS

The Acting CHAIR. The unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 12, printed in part C of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. JACKSON), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 194, noes 236, answered "present" 1, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 686]

AYES—194

Adams	Gaetz	Norcross
Aguilar	Gallego	Norton
Allred	Garamendi	Omar
Amo	Garcia (IL)	Panetta
Auchincloss	Garcia (TX)	Pascrell
Balint	Garcia, Robert	Payne
Barragán	Goldman (NY)	Perez
Beatty	Gomez	Pettersen
Bera	Green, Al (TX)	Pingree
Beyer	Griffith	Plaskett
Bishop (GA)	Grijalva	Pocan
Blumenauer	Harder (CA)	Porter
Blunt Rochester	Hayes	Pressley
Bonamici	Higgins (NY)	Quigley
Bowman	Himes	Ramirez
Boyle (PA)	Horsford	Raskin
Brown	Houlihan	Ross
Brownley	Hoyer	Ruiz
Budzinski	Hoyle (OR)	Ruppersberger
Burchett	Huffman	Salinas
Bush	Ivey	Sánchez
Caraveo	Jackson (IL)	Sarbantes
Carbajal	Jacobs	Scanlon
Cárdenas	Jayapal	Schakowsky
Jeffries	Schiff	Scholten
Johnson (GA)	Scholten	Schrier
Kamlager-Dove	Schwartz	Schweikert
Kaptur	Keating	Scott (VA)
Keating	Kelly (IL)	Scott, David
Kelly (IL)	Khanna	Sewell
Castor (FL)	Kildee	Sherman
Castro (TX)	Kilmer	Sherrill
Cherfilus-	Kim (NJ)	Slotkin
McCormick	Krishnamoorthi	Smith (WA)
Chu	Kuster	Sorensen
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Spanberger
Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Spartz
Cleaver	Lee (CA)	Stansbury
Clyburn	Lee (PA)	Stanton
Cohen	Levin	Stevens
Connolly	Lofgren	Strickland
Correa	Lynch	Swalwell
Costa	Magaziner	Sykes
Courtney	Massie	Takano
Crockett	Matsui	Thanedar
Crow	McBath	Thompson (CA)
Davids (KS)	McClellan	Thompson (MS)
Davis (IL)	McCollum	Titus
Davis (NC)	McGovern	Tlaib
Dean (PA)	McGuire	Tokuda
DeGette	Meeks	Tonko
DeLauro	Menendez	Torres (CA)
DelBene	Meng	Trahan
Deluzio	Mfume	Trone
DeSaulnier	Moore (WI)	Underwood
Dingell	Morelle	Vargas
Doggett	Moulton	Veasey
Escobar	Mrvan	Velázquez
Eshoo	Mullin	Waters
Españillat	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Evans	Napolitano	Wexton
Fletcher	Neal	Wild
Foster	Neguse	Williams (GA)
Foushee	Nickel	Wilson (FL)
Frost		

NOES—236

Aderholt	Bentz	Burlison
Alford	Bergman	Calvert
Allen	Bice	Cammack
Amodei	Biggs	Carey
Armstrong	Bilirakis	Carl
Arrington	Bishop (NC)	Carter (GA)
Babin	Boebert	Carter (TX)
Bacon	Bost	Chavez-DeRemer
Baird	Brecheen	Ciscomani
Balderson	Buchanan	Cline
Banks	Buck	Cloud
Barr	Bucshon	Clyde
Bean (FL)	Burgess	Cole

Collins	Hunt	Owens
Comer	Issa	Pallone
Craig	Jackson (NC)	Palmer
Crane	Jackson (TX)	Pappas
Crawford	James	Peltola
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Pence
Cuellar	Jordan	Perry
Curtis	Joyce (OH)	Peters
D'Esposito	Joyce (PA)	Pfluger
Davidson	Kean (NJ)	Posey
De La Cruz	Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler
DesJarlais	Kiggans (VA)	Rodgers (WA)
Diaz-Balart	Kiley	Rogers (AL)
Donalds	Kim (CA)	Rogers (KY)
Duarte	Kustoff	Rose
Duncan	LaHood	Rosendale
Dunn (FL)	LaLota	Rouzer
Edwards	LaMalfa	Roy
Ellzey	Lamborn	Rutherford
Emmer	Landsman	Ryan
Estes	Langworthy	Salazar
Ezell	Latta	Scalise
Fallon	LaTurner	Schneider
Feenstra	Lawler	Scott, Austin
Ferguson	Lee (FL)	Self
Finstad	Lee (NV)	Sessions
Fischbach	Leger Fernandez	Simpson
Fitzgerald	Lesko	Smith (MO)
Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Smith (NE)
Fleischmann	Lieu	Smith (NJ)
Flood	Loudermilk	Smucker
Foxx	Lucas	Soto
Frankel, Lois	Luetkemeyer	Stauber
Franklin, Scott	Luna	Steel
Fry	Luttrell	Stefanik
Fulcher	Mace	Steil
Gallagher	Malliotakis	Steube
Garbarino	Maloy	Strong
Garcia, Mike	Mann	Tenney
Gimenez	Manning	Thompson (PA)
Golden (ME)	Mast	Tiffany
Gonzales, Tony	McCaul	Timmons
Gonzalez,	McClain	Torres (NY)
Vicente	McClintock	Turner
González-Colón	McCormick	Valadao
Good (VA)	McHenry	Van Drew
Gooden (TX)	Meuser	Van Dуйne
Gosar	Miller (IL)	Vasquez
Gottheimer	Miller (OH)	Wagner
Granger	Miller (WV)	Walberg
Graves (LA)	Miller-Meeks	Waltz
Graves (MO)	Mills	Wasserman
Green (TN)	Molinaro	Schultz
Greene (GA)	Moolenaar	Weber (TX)
Grothman	Mooney	Webster (FL)
Guest	Moore (AL)	Wenstrup
Guthrie	Moore (UT)	Westerman
Hageman	Moran	Williams (NY)
Harris	Moskowitz	Williams (TX)
Harshbarger	Moylan	Wittman
Hern	Murphy	Womack
Higgins (LA)	Nehls	Yakym
Hill	Newhouse	Zinke
Hinson	Norman	
Houchin	Nunn (IA)	
Hudson	Oberholte	
Huizenga	Ogles	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—9

Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Phillips
Johnson (OH)	Ocasio-Cortez	Radewagen
Kelly (PA)	Pelosi	Sablan

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. BERGMAN) (during the vote). There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1647

So the amendment was rejected. The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to the rule, the committee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose; and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. STEUBE) having assumed the chair, Mr. BERGMAN, Acting Chair of the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union, reported that that Committee, having had under consideration

the bill (H.R. 5961) to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, and for other purposes, and, pursuant to House Resolution 891, he reported the bill, as amended by that resolution, back to the House with sundry further amendments adopted in the Committee of the Whole.

Under the rule, the previous question is ordered.

Is a separate vote demanded on any amendment reported from the Committee of the Whole? If not, the Chair will put them en gros.

The amendments were agreed to.

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

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

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 307, nays 119, answered “present” 1, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 687]

YEAS—307

Adams	Clyde	Golden (ME)
Aderholt	Cole	Gonzales, Tony
Aguilar	Collins	Gonzalez,
Alford	Comer	Vicente
Allen	Costa	Good (VA)
Allred	Courtney	Gooden (TX)
Amodi	Craig	Gosar
Armstrong	Crane	Gottheimer
Arrington	Crawford	Granger
Babin	Crenshaw	Graves (LA)
Bacon	Cuellar	Graves (MO)
Baird	Curtis	Green (TN)
Balderson	D’Esposito	Greene (GA)
Banks	Daids (KS)	Griffith
Barr	Davidson	Grothman
Bean (FL)	Davis (NC)	Guest
Bentz	De La Cruz	Guthrie
Bera	Deluzio	Hageman
Bergman	DesJarlais	Harder (CA)
Bice	Diaz-Balart	Harris
Biggs	Donalds	Harshbarger
Bilirakis	Duarte	Hayes
Bishop (NC)	Duncan	Hern
Boebert	Dunn (FL)	Higgins (LA)
Bost	Edwards	Hill
Boyle (PA)	Ellzey	Hinson
Brecheen	Emmer	Horsford
Brownley	Espaillat	Houchin
Buchanan	Estes	Hoyer
Buck	Ezell	Hoyle (OR)
Bueshon	Fallon	Hudson
Budzinski	Feenstra	Huizenga
Burchett	Ferguson	Hunt
Burgess	Finstad	Issa
Burlison	Fischbach	Ivey
Calvert	Fitzgerald	Jackson (NC)
Cammack	Fitzpatrick	Jackson (TX)
Caraveo	Fleischmann	James
Carbajal	Flood	Jeffries
Carey	Foxx	Johnson (LA)
Carl	Frankel, Lois	Johnson (SD)
Carter (GA)	Franklin, Scott	Jordan
Carter (TX)	Fry	Joyce (OH)
Cartwright	Fulcher	Joyce (PA)
Case	Gaetz	Kaptur
Castor (FL)	Gallagher	Kean (NJ)
Chavez-DeRemer	Gallego	Keating
Ciscomani	Garbarino	Kelly (MS)
Cline	Garcia, Mike	Kiggans (VA)
Cloud	Jimenez	Kiley

Kilmer	Morelle
Kim (CA)	Moskowitz
Kuster	Mrvan
Kustoff	Murphy
LaHood	Nehls
LaLota	Newhouse
LaMalfa	Nickel
Lamborn	Norcross
Landsman	Norman
Langworthy	Nunn (IA)
Larsen (WA)	Obernolte
Latta	Ogles
LaTurner	Owens
Lawler	Pallone
Lee (FL)	Palmer
Lee (NV)	Pappas
Leger Fernandez	Peltola
Lesko	Pence
Letlow	Perez
Levin	Perry
Lieu	Peters
Loudermilk	Petterson
Lucas	Pfluger
Luetkemeyer	Porter
Luna	Posey
Luttrell	Reschenthaler
Mace	Rodgers (WA)
Magaziner	Rogers (AL)
Malliotakis	Rogers (KY)
Maloy	Rose
Mann	Rosendale
Manning	Ross
Mast	Rouzer
McCaul	Roy
McClain	Ruiz
McClintock	Ruppersberger
McCormick	Rutherford
McHenry	Ryan
Menendez	Salazar
Meng	Salinas
Meuser	Scalise
Mfume	Schiff
Miller (IL)	Schneider
Miller (OH)	Scholten
Miller (WV)	Schrier
Miller-Meeks	Schweikert
Mills	Scott, Austin
Mollnaro	Scott, David
Moolenaar	Self
Mooney	Sessions
Moore (AL)	Sewell
Moore (UT)	Sherman
Moran	Sherrill

NAYS—119

Amo	Eshoo
Auchincloss	Evans
Balint	Fletcher
Barragán	Foster
Beatty	Foushee
Beyer	Frost
Bishop (GA)	Garamendi
Blumenauer	Garcia (IL)
Blunt Rochester	Garcia (TX)
Bonamici	Garcia, Robert
Bowman	Goldman (NY)
Brown	Gomez
Bush	Green, Al (TX)
Cárdenas	Grijalva
Carson	Higgins (NY)
Carter (LA)	Himes
Casar	Houlahan
Casten	Huffman
Castro (TX)	Jackson (IL)
Cherfilus-	Jacobs
McCormick	Jayapal
Chu	Johnson (GA)
Clark (MA)	Kamlager-Dove
Clarke (NY)	Kelly (IL)
Cleaver	Khanna
Clyburn	Kildee
Cohen	Kim (NJ)
Connolly	Krishnamoorthi
Correa	Larson (CT)
Crockett	Lee (CA)
Crow	Lee (PA)
Davis (IL)	Lofgren
Dean (PA)	Lynch
DeGette	Massie
DeLauro	Matsui
DeBene	McBath
DeSaulnier	McClellan
Dingell	McCollum
Doggett	McGarvey
Escobar	McGovern

ANSWERED “PRESENT”—1

Santos

Simpson
Slotkin
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Sorensen
Soto
Spanberger
Spartz
Stanton
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stevens
Strickland
Strong
Sykes
Tenney
Thanedar
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany
Timmons
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trone
Turner
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Dуйne
Van Orden
Vargas
Vasquez
Veasey
Wagner
Walberg
Waltz
Wasserman
Schultz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Wild
Williams (NY)
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack
Yakym
Zinke

NOT VOTING—8

Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Phillips
Mrvan (OH)	Ocasio-Cortez	Swalwell
Kelly (PA)	Pelosi	

□ 1655

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER changed her vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Ms. PETERSEN changed her vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PROTECTING OUR COMMUNITIES FROM FAILURE TO SECURE THE BORDER ACT OF 2023

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CURTIS). Pursuant to House Resolution 891 and rule XVIII, the Chair declares the House in the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill, H.R. 5283.

Will the gentleman from Florida (Mr. STEUBE) kindly take the chair.

□ 1700

IN THE COMMITTEE OF THE WHOLE

Accordingly, the House resolved itself into the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union for the further consideration of the bill (H.R. 5283) to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal land management agencies, with Mr. STEUBE (Acting Chair) in the chair.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The Acting CHAIR. When the Committee of the Whole House rose on Wednesday, November 29, 2023, a request for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2 printed in part A of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ) had been postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MS. VELÁZQUEZ

The Acting CHAIR. Pursuant to clause 6 of rule XVIII, the unfinished business is the demand for a recorded vote on amendment No. 2, printed in part A of House Report 118-280 offered by the gentleman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the noes prevailed by voice vote.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

RECORDED VOTE

The Acting CHAIR. A recorded vote has been demanded.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The Acting CHAIR. This will be a 2-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—ayes 206, noes 223, answered “present” 1, not voting 10, as follows:



[Roll No. 688]

AYES—206

Adams Goldman (NY) Pallone  
 Aguilar Gomez Panetta  
 Allred Gonzalez, Pappas  
 Amo Vicente Pascrell  
 Auchincloss Gottheimer Payne  
 Balint Green, Al (TX) Peters  
 Barragan Grijalva Petteersen  
 Beatty Harder (CA) Pingree  
 Bera Hayes Plaskett  
 Beyer Higgins (NY) Pocan  
 Bishop (GA) Himes Porter  
 Blumenauer Horsford Pressley  
 Blunt Rochester Houlihan  
 Bonamici Hoyer Quigley  
 Bowman Hoyle (OR) Ramirez  
 Boyle (PA) Huffman Raskin  
 Brown Ivey Ross  
 Brownley Jackson (IL) Ruiz  
 Budzinski Jackson (NC) Ruppertsberger  
 Bush Jacobs Ryan  
 Caraveo Jayapal Salinas  
 Carbajal Jeffries Sánchez  
 Cárdenas Johnson (GA) Sarbanes  
 Carson Kamlager-Dove Scanlon  
 Carter (LA) Kaptur Schiffo  
 Casar Keating Schneider  
 Case Kelly (IL) Scholten  
 Casten Khanna Schrier  
 Castor (FL) Kildee Scott (VA)  
 Castro (TX) Kilmer Scott, David  
 Cherfilus-McCormick Kim (NJ) Sewell  
 Chu Krishnamoorthi Sherman  
 Clark (MA) Kuster Sherrill  
 Clarke (NY) Landsman Slotnick  
 Cleaver Larsen (WA) Smith (WA)  
 Clyburn Larson (CT) Sorenson  
 Cohen Lee (CA) Soto  
 Connolly Lee (NV) Spanberger  
 Correa Lee (PA) Stansbury  
 Costa Leger Fernandez Stanton  
 Courtney Levin Stevens  
 Craig Lofgren Strickland  
 Crockett Lynch Swailwell  
 Crow Magaziner Sykes  
 Cuellar Manning Takano  
 Davids (KS) Matsui Thanedar  
 Davis (IL) McBath Thompson (CA)  
 Davis (NC) McClellan Thompson (MS)  
 Dean (PA) McCollum Titus  
 DeGette McGarvey Tlaib  
 DeLauro McGovern Tokuda  
 DelBene Meeks Tonko  
 Deluzio Menendez Torres (CA)  
 DeSaulnier Meng Torres (NY)  
 Dingell Mfume Trahan  
 Doggett Moore (WI) Trone  
 Escobar Morelle Underwood  
 Eshoo Moskowitz Vargas  
 Espallat Vasquez Moulton  
 Evans Mrvan Veasey  
 Fletcher Mullin Velázquez  
 Foster Nadler Wasserman  
 Foushee Napolitano Schultz  
 Frankel, Lois Neal Waters  
 Frost Neguse Watson Coleman  
 Garamendi Nickel Wexton  
 Garcia (IL) Norcross Wild  
 Garcia (TX) Norton Williams (GA)  
 Garcia, Robert Omar Wilson (FL)

NOES—223

Alford Burchett De La Cruz  
 Allen Burgess DesJarlais  
 Amodei Burlison Diaz-Balart  
 Armstrong Calvert Donalds  
 Arrington Cammack Duarte  
 Babin Carey Duncan  
 Bacon Carl Dunn (FL)  
 Baird Carter (GA) Edwards  
 Balderson Carter (TX) Ellzey  
 Banks Cartwright Emmer  
 Barr Chavez-DeRemer Estes  
 Bean (FL) Ciscomani Ezell  
 Bentz Cline Fallon  
 Bergman Cloud Feenstra  
 Bice Clyde Ferguson  
 Biggs Cole Finstad  
 Bilirakis Collins Fischbach  
 Bishop (NC) Comer Fitzgerald  
 Boebert Crane Fitzpatrick  
 Bost Crawford Fleischmann  
 Brecheen Crenshaw Flood  
 Buchanan Curtis Foxx  
 Buck D'Esposito Franklin, Scott  
 Bucshon Davidson Fry

Fulcher Latta  
 Gaetz LaTurner  
 Gallagher Lawler  
 Gallego Lee (FL)  
 Garbarino Lesko  
 Garcia, Mike Letlow  
 Gimenez Loudermilk  
 Golden (ME) Lucas  
 Gonzales, Tony Luetkemeyer  
 González-Colón Luna  
 Good (VA) Luttrell  
 Gooden (TX) Mace  
 Gosar Malliotakis  
 Granger Maloy  
 Graves (LA) Mann  
 Graves (MO) Massie  
 Green (TN) Mast  
 Greene (GA) McCaul  
 Griffith McClain  
 Grothman McClintock  
 Guest McCormick  
 Guthrie McHenry  
 Hageman Meuser  
 Harris Miller (IL)  
 Harshbarger Miller (OH)  
 Hern Miller (WV)  
 Higgins (LA) Miller-Weeks  
 Hill Mills  
 Hinson Molinaro  
 Houchin Moolenaar  
 Hudson Mooney  
 Huizenga Moore (AL)  
 Hunt Moore (UT)  
 Issa Moran  
 Jackson (TX) Moylan  
 James Murphy  
 Johnson (SD) Nehls  
 Jordan Newhouse  
 Joyce (OH) Norman  
 Joyce (PA) Nunn (IA)  
 Kean (NJ) Obernolte  
 Kelly (MS) Ogles  
 Kiggans (VA) Owens  
 Kiley Palmer  
 Kim (CA) Peltola  
 Kustoff Pence  
 LaHood Perez  
 LaLota Perry  
 LaMalfa Pfluger  
 Lamborn Posey  
 Langworthy Reschenthaler

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—10

Aderholt McCarthy Radewagen  
 Jackson Lee Ocasio-Cortez Sablan  
 Johnson (OH) Pelosi  
 Kelly (PA) Phillips

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE ACTING CHAIR

The Acting CHAIR (during the vote).  
 There is 1 minute remaining.

□ 1700

So the amendment was rejected.  
 The result of the vote was announced  
 as above recorded.

The Acting CHAIR (Mr. WILLIAMS of  
 New York). There being no further  
 amendment, under the rule, the Com-  
 mittee rises.

Accordingly, the Committee rose;  
 and the Speaker pro tempore (Mr.  
 STEUBE) having assumed the chair, Mr.  
 WILLIAMS of New York, Acting Chair of  
 the Committee of the Whole House on  
 the state of the Union, reported that  
 that Committee, having had under con-  
 sideration the bill (H.R. 5283) to pro-  
 hibit the use of Federal funds to pro-  
 vide housing to specified aliens on any  
 land under the administrative jurisdic-  
 tion of the Federal land management  
 agencies, and, pursuant to House Reso-  
 lution 891, he reported the bill back to  
 the House with an amendment adopted  
 in the Committee of the Whole.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under  
 the rule, the previous question is or-  
 dered.

The question is on the amendment.

The amendment was agreed to.

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

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

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

RECORDED VOTE

Mr. GRIJALVA. Mr. Speaker, I de-  
 mand a recorded vote.

A recorded vote was ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. This is a  
 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic de-  
 vice, and there were—ayes 224, noes 203,  
 answered "present" 1, not voting 7, as  
 follows:

[Roll No. 689]

AYES—224

Aderholt	Fleischmann	Malliotakis
Alford	Flood	Maloy
Allen	Foxx	Mann
Amodei	Franklin, Scott	Massie
Armstrong	Fry	Mast
Arrington	Fulcher	McCaul
Babin	Gaetz	McClain
Bacon	Gallagher	McClintock
Baird	Garbarino	McCormick
Balderson	Garcia, Mike	McHenry
Banks	Gimenez	Meuser
Barr	Golden (ME)	Miller (IL)
Bean (FL)	Gonzales, Tony	Miller (OH)
Bentz	Gonzalez,	Miller (WV)
Bergman	Vicente	Miller-Weeks
Bice	Good (VA)	Mills
Biggs	Gooden (TX)	Molinaro
Bilirakis	Gosar	Moolenaar
Bishop (NC)	Granger	Mooney
Boebert	Graves (LA)	Moore (AL)
Bost	Graves (MO)	Moore (UT)
Brecheen	Green (TN)	Moran
Buchanan	Greene (GA)	Murphy
Buck	Griffith	Nehls
Bucshon	Grothman	Newhouse
Burchett	Guest	Norman
Burgess	Guthrie	Nunn (IA)
Burlison	Hageman	Obernolte
Calvert	Harris	Ogles
Cammack	Harshbarger	Owens
Carey	Hern	Palmer
Carl	Higgins (LA)	Peltola
Carter (GA)	Hill	Pence
Carter (TX)	Hinson	Perez
Chavez-DeRemer	Houchin	Perry
Ciscomani	Hudson	Pfluger
Cline	Huizenga	Posey
Cloud	Hunt	Reschenthaler
Clyde	Issa	Rodgers (WA)
Cole	Jackson (TX)	Rogers (AL)
Collins	James	Rogers (KY)
Comer	Johnson (LA)	Rose
Crane	Johnson (SD)	Rosendale
Crawford	Jordan	Rouzer
Crenshaw	Joyce (OH)	Roy
Cuellar	Joyce (PA)	Rutherford
Curtis	Kean (NJ)	Salazar
D'Esposito	Kelly (MS)	Scalise
Davidson	Kiggans (VA)	Schweikert
Davis (NC)	Kiley	Scott, Austin
De La Cruz	Kim (CA)	Self
DesJarlais	Kustoff	Sessions
Diaz-Balart	LaHood	Simpson
Donalds	LaLota	Smith (MO)
Duarte	LaMalfa	Smith (NE)
Duncan	Lamborn	Smith (NJ)
Dunn (FL)	Lamborn	Smucker
Edwards	Langworthy	Spartz
Ellzey	Latta	Stauber
Emmer	LaTurner	Steel
Estes	Lawler	Stefanik
Ezell	Lee (FL)	Steil
Fallon	Lesko	Steube
Feenstra	Letlow	Strong
Ferguson	Loudermilk	Tenney
Finstad	Lucas	Tenney
Fischbach	Luetkemeyer	Thompson (PA)
Fitzgerald	Luna	Tiffany
Fitzpatrick	Luttrell	Timmons
	Mace	Turner

Valadao	Waltz	Williams (TX)
Van Drew	Weber (TX)	Wilson (SC)
Van Duyne	Webster (FL)	Wittman
Van Orden	Wenstrup	Womack
Wagner	Westerman	Yakym
Walberg	Williams (NY)	Zinke

NOES—203

Adams	Garcia, Robert	Panetta
Aguilar	Goldman (NY)	Pappas
Allred	Gomez	Pascrell
Amo	Gottheimer	Payne
Auchincloss	Green, Al (TX)	Peters
Balint	Grijalva	Pettersen
Barragán	Harder (CA)	Pingree
Beatty	Hayes	Pocan
Bera	Higgins (NY)	Porter
Beyer	Himes	Pressley
Bishop (GA)	Horsford	Quigley
Blumenauer	Houlihan	Ramirez
Blunt Rochester	Hoyer	Raskin
Bonamici	Hoyle (OR)	Ross
Bowman	Huffman	Ruiz
Boyle (PA)	Ivey	Ruppersberger
Brown	Jackson (IL)	Ryan
Brownley	Jackson (NC)	Salinas
Budzinski	Jacobs	Sánchez
Bush	Jayapal	Sarbanes
Caraveo	Jeffries	Scanlon
Carbajal	Johnson (GA)	Schakowsky
Cárdenas	Kamlager-Dove	Schiff
Carson	Kaptur	Schneider
Carter (LA)	Keating	Scholten
Cartwright	Kelly (IL)	Schrier
Casar	Khanna	Scott (VA)
Case	Kildee	Scott, David
Casten	Kilmer	Sewell
Castor (FL)	Kim (NJ)	Sherman
Castro (TX)	Krishnamoorthi	Sherrill
Cherfilus-	Kuster	Slotkin
McCormick	Landsman	Smith (WA)
Chu	Larsen (WA)	Sorensen
Clark (MA)	Larson (CT)	Soto
Clarke (NY)	Lee (CA)	Spanberger
Cleaver	Lee (NV)	Stansbury
Clyburn	Lee (PA)	Stanton
Cohen	Leger Fernandez	Stevens
Connolly	Levin	Strickland
Correa	Lieu	Swalwell
Costa	Lofgren	Sykes
Courtney	Lynch	Takano
Craig	Magaziner	Thanedar
Crockett	Manning	Thompson (CA)
Crow	Matsui	Thompson (MS)
Dauids (KS)	McBath	Titus
Davis (IL)	McClellan	Tlaib
Dean (PA)	McCollum	Tokuda
DeGette	McGarvey	Tonko
DeLauro	McGovern	Torres (CA)
DelBene	Meeeks	Torres (NY)
Deluzio	Menendez	Trahan
DeSaulnier	Meng	Trone
Dingell	Mfume	Underwood
Doggett	Moore (WI)	Vargas
Escobar	Morelle	Vasquez
Eshoo	Moskowitz	Veasey
Espallat	Moulton	Velázquez
Evans	Mrvan	Wasserman
Fletcher	Mullin	Schultz
Foster	Nadler	Waters
Foushee	Napolitano	Watson Coleman
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Wexton
Frost	Neguse	Wild
Gallego	Nickel	Williams (GA)
Garamendi	Norcross	Wilson (FL)
Garcia (IL)	Omar	
Garcia (TX)	Pallone	

ANSWERED "PRESENT"—1

Santos

NOT VOTING—7

Jackson Lee	McCarthy	Phillips
Johnson (OH)	Ocasio-Cortez	
Kelly (PA)	Pelosi	

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (during the vote). There are 2 minutes remaining.

□ 1707

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

REPORT ON FRAUD RELATING TO CERTAIN COVID-19 LOANS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The unfinished business is the question on suspending the rules and passing the bill (H.R. 4666) to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID-19 loans, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

RETURNING ERRONEOUS COVID LOANS ADDRESSING ILLEGAL AND MISAPPROPRIATED TAXPAYER FUNDS ACT

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. 4667) to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue guidance and rules for lenders and the Small Business Administration on handling amounts of Paycheck Protection Loans returned by borrowers, and for other purposes, 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 Texas (Mr. WILLIAMS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AUTHORIZING THE CLERK TO MAKE CORRECTIONS IN ENGROSSMENT OF H.R. 5961, NO FUNDS FOR IRANIAN TERRORISM ACT

Mr. JACKSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5961, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering, and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings.

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

There was no objection.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 972

Mr. WENSTRUP. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent to remove the gen-

tlewoman from Illinois (Ms. KELLY) from cosponsorship of H.R. 972.

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

There was no objection.

□ 1715

AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR TECHNOLOGY—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 118-86)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. JAMES) laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to the subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement").

I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of the Republic of the Philippines with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the non-proliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States of America.

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive nuclear technology. Any special fissionable material transferred could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Republic of the Philippines would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support the supply of reactors, material, and equipment in order to ensure a reliable supply of low enriched uranium fuel to the Republic of the Philippines.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated by either party upon providing 1 year's advance written notice. In the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key nonproliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components subject to the Agreement remain in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Republic of the Philippines has an excellent track record on nonproliferation and has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation. Through its constitution, the Republic of the Philippines has adopted and pursued a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Republic of the Philippines was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Republic of the Philippines' domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to,

the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2023.

#### CELEBRATING THE ACHIEVEMENTS OF SHERIFF CULLEN TALTON

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the achievements of Cullen Talton, the longest-serving active sheriff in the State of Georgia.

After 51 years of serving his community, Mr. Talton has decided to complete his final term serving Houston County before retiring.

Sheriff Cullen Talton was elected in 1972, where he served as a commissioner before becoming a sheriff. He is known for being a trusted, respectable, and devoted servant of his community.

To honor his many years of service and dedication, local leaders, community members, and his family gathered at the Houston County Annex before the commissioners meeting to celebrate the longtime sheriff.

I congratulate Sheriff Talton on his remarkable achievements and well-deserved retirement. His dedication and years of service are admirable and greatly appreciated.

#### CELEBRATING HUDSON RIVER TUNNEL GROUNDBREAKING

(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 celebrate the groundbreaking of the country's most important infrastructure project, the Hudson River Tunnel.

Officials are about to start construction of a new Tonnelles Avenue Bridge. It will help connect New Jersey to a new Hudson River Tunnel.

The benefits of the Hudson River Tunnel project are numerous. It will create more than 72,000 jobs, generate more than \$87 million per month for local communities, and utilize American suppliers and manufacturers through the Buy America requirement.

It will increase opportunities for minority-, women-, and veteran-owned businesses on the project. In addition, it will create a faster, more effective means of transportation for 200,000 daily commuters.

I fought to include \$66 billion for projects such as this one in the bipartisan infrastructure law, and I am proud that my work will finally result in a new Hudson River Tunnel.

#### HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF CHIEF BRADLEY HAAS

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

Ms. KUSTER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life and bravery of New Hampshire's own Bradley Haas, who was killed in the line of duty while protecting the staff and patients at New Hampshire Hospital on November 17, preventing what likely would have been a tragic mass shooting in our psychiatric hospital.

There is no doubt that Chief Haas' courage saved countless lives. Our community, our State, and our country owe him and his family a debt that can never be repaid.

Throughout his life of service, Chief Haas always devoted himself to working for others. He will be remembered as many things: a hero, a patriot, a community leader, and, most of all, a friend. May he rest in peace.

#### CONGRATULATING BARB ICKES ON HER RETIREMENT

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

Mr. SORENSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a journalist who, through hard work and determination, brought the news to the people of Illinois' 17th Congressional District. Barb Ickes has been in newspaper storytelling for more than 30 years. She has broken countless news stories, exposed corruption, and helped Quad-City Times readers through record floods, tough economic times, and monumental political events.

She helped us navigate crossing the Mississippi River with her "bridge beat" and took us to her "off-limits places." Barb has seen it all, and she has shared it with our community.

As Barb retires from her position as managing editor with the Quad-City Times, we recognize her accomplishments and the legacy that she leaves for the next generation of news reporters.

I am honored to wish her the best as she turns the page to her next chapter.

#### TYING ASYLUM CHANGES TO AID FOR ALLIES

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

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Mr. Speaker, when I helped clients win asylum cases as a young law student, I heard the tragic stories of how they fled their countries, carrying with them fear and pain but little else.

It is already very hard to win asylum. You must first show that you have a credible fear of being persecuted in your home country. Asylum seekers must later prove their claims in an administrative or court process.

There are many things wrong with our immigration system, but showing credible fear is the right first step. Now, we are seeing major permanent proposed changes to our asylum law as a condition for emergency funding for Ukraine, Israel, and the Indo-Pacific.

I stand in strong support of this emergency aid. It is essential, but just as it was wrong to tie Israeli aid to gutting the IRS' ability to go after tax cheats, it is wrong to tie harmful, significant, and permanent changes to asylum law to passing essential aid for our allies.

Instead, we need comprehensive immigration reform. We need to protect our Dreamers, and we need to support our allies. Our Latino communities, our asylum seekers, and our allies abroad deserve better.

#### CELEBRATING THE BLESSING OF OSCAR ORTIZ IN OUR LIVES

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

Mrs. RAMIREZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my friend and constituent, Oscar Ortiz, a devoted champion for educational equity.

Oscar was a visionary. He believed that education was a powerful tool to realize our collective potential and dreams. As a teacher, "el maestro," "teacher," Ortiz helped the students find their power and joy in learning. As an organizer with the Chicago Teachers Union, he energized our community to advance social justice and equity through education.

Oscar committed his time on Earth to building a future for everyone. His passion and optimism were infectious. I am going to miss him dearly, and I know countless others will, too.

To his family and loved ones, know you are in my heart and prayers. Together, let's celebrate the blessing he was in our lives and the mark he has left in our city of Chicago. A bullhorn will never be the same after Oscar Ortiz. May his passion for change and love of community always guide us.

Rest in power, Oscar Ortiz. We love you.

#### LOURDES UNIVERSITY LEADS THE WAY

(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 rise today to recognize and applaud Lourdes University of Sylvania, Ohio, and its new president, William Bisset, who held a vital convening last week as part of the university's Courage Conversations Town Hall series. It focused on the Israel-Palestine conflict, with dozens of students, staff, and faculty taking part.

University President Bisset and Professor Mary Robinson, who chairs the history, geography, and political science departments at Lourdes, said their goal was to offer a historical perspective to develop an understanding of the past history of Israel and Palestine to help people grasp the full scope of what is taking place in that war-torn region. They hope the conversations will help provide a better understanding of a longstanding conflict in which world leaders have long sought a true path toward a lasting peace and a two-state solution.

Thoughtful discussions in which history is examined, as was done at Lourdes University last week, is the way a breakthrough for peace and reconciliation will come about. May other organizations follow the lead of Lourdes University.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a copy of an editorial from the Toledo Blade that recognizes this event and its important contribution to human understanding.

[From The Blade, Nov. 25, 2023]

EDITORIAL: LOURDES LEADS

(By The Blade Editorial Board)

Kudos to Lourdes University for showing us the way forward on the future of Palestine and Israel.

Not afraid to tackle probably the most emotionally fraught topic of our day, the university last week offered a "town hall" on the topic of the Israeli-Hamas War.

Would that others who have taken to the streets shouting chants and waving signs and issuing orders to U.S. Rep. Marcy Kaptur (D., Toledo) would show some of the same awareness of how complicated this problem is.

The university in Sylvania devoted its Courageous Conversations Town Hall to the topic.

Conscious of the ethnic and religious tensions, there was security stationed at the door, but it wasn't needed.

About 40, including administration staff, faculty members, and students, attended.

"My goal was to offer this from a historical perspective because I think the more people understand the past and the history, the better understanding they will have of the subject and be able to better understand both sides of the story," said Mary Robinson, associate professor of history and department chairman of history, geography, and political science at Lourdes.

President William Bisset said, "We needed to start with a conversation that explained that this has been a very, very complicated part of the world for many, many years, that leaders throughout the world have tried to figure out.

"We felt that it was important, especially for our students, but also for our community members to start the conversation [about Israel and Palestine] with a historical perspective," Mr. Bisset said.

Israel and the Palestinian people, and the armed guerilla groups, Hamas and Hezbollah,

who nurture the bitterness of the Palestinians over their displacement from the land that officially became Israel in 1948, are at an impasse, with both sides claiming ownership of the land between Jordan River and the Mediterranean Sea.

But yet, there have been instances under at least two U.S. presidents, Jimmy Carter and Bill Clinton, that the Palestinian people came close to securing a Palestinian state.

Among the Arab states of the Middle East, there appears to be a willingness to once again take up the possibility of a so-called two-state solution.

It's not going to happen, though, if Hamas remains in power in the Gaza Strip. Whether by Israel's current invasion of Gaza or through the diplomatic intervention of Arab leaders in the neighboring Islamic countries, Hamas and Hezbollah have to be neutralized.

Calm discussion in which the history is examined, as was done in Lourdes University's Courageous Conversations Town Hall last week, is the way a breakthrough will come about.

□ 1730

#### PROGRESS IN NORTH CAROLINA

(Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. JACKSON of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to represent Mecklenburg and Gaston Counties and just want to report back on some bipartisan progress we have had lately.

We have a huge problem with fentanyl across the State, as we do across the country, but we have new funding both to prevent overdoses and to crack down on the organized crime that is trafficking fentanyl into our communities.

We also got bipartisan support to close the weather radar gap which exists in Charlotte. We have the largest weather radar gap in the country. We are working on new technology to make sure we have more accurate forecasts to keep people safe.

We are also working on the Junk Fee Prevention Act to save your family money and prevent all of those fees that attach as we make purchases online. It is a solid bipartisan start with more work to do. I will keep you posted.

#### REMEMBERING TRINIDAD "TRINI" GARZA

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

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the extraordinary life of Trinidad Garza, better known in our community as "Trini."

Trini was just a tremendous individual, a great person. I cannot say enough about this man. He loved trying to help kids when it came to education in the community. He was an incredible businessman. He served our country in the U.S. Navy. He did so much for the city of Dallas. I love the Oak Cliff neighborhood that he lived in.

He was just such a tremendous leader. He was part of the city's first Mexican-American Leadership Conference.

He was also educated here in the north Texas area.

He was the first Hispanic member of the board of trustees at one of our local colleges. He was also appointed as a regional director of the U.S. Department of Education under President Clinton.

The life and legacy of Trini Garza just goes on and on and on. He is going to be deeply missed by so many because of everything he has done and accomplished. Everything that is going to be said about him and how it will be commemorated will be well deserved.

Great job, Trini. Please rest in peace. My condolences to his entire family.

#### THE AMERICAN DREAM

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

##### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. ROY. 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 Texas?

There was no objection.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, we are sitting here on the precipice of entering December, a month in which those of us who profess the Christian faith and belief in Jesus Christ as our Lord and Savior, celebrate his birth into this world to give the world, and each and every one of us in it, hope for eternal life and eternal salvation.

We are immeasurably blessed to live in a country where we can carry out our faith and exercise our beliefs.

It is critically important that we just came out of the weekend of Thanksgiving. At Thanksgiving, of course, we are thankful to live in a country in which we have In God We Trust emblazoned over the dais on which the Speaker sits in front of the American flag.

The Wall Street Journal eloquently prints every Wednesday before Thanksgiving "The Desolate Wilderness" editorial that has run in that paper for—I don't know—probably some 60 years.

It eloquently lays out all of the hardships that faced those Europeans who came to the North American Continent, and what it was like, and what they experienced going out into the desolate wilderness, and what that meant for mankind throughout the world.

I am always struck at how often we, as Americans in this generation and in this day and age, are too often either actually apologetic or forced to be apologetic or taught to be apologetic for being American, for our existence as Americans because of both actual and, frankly, perceived or taught past wrongs.

I started this talking about my Christian faith. My colleagues and con-

stituents and people across this country who share that faith know that we are taught in Romans that we all fall short of the glory of God for we are all sinners.

That is inherently true. It is true in the United States. It is true in Great Britain. It is true in Russia and China and throughout the world. We are all sinners and fall short of the glory of God.

The thing that is unique about this country is that we have set up a system that is designed to protect us against the worst impulses of man in terms of the centralization of power in the hands of a few to be used tyrannically against the many.

That is the great gift that we have inherited from our forefathers who bled, died, and fought so that we could live here and live free, so that we could exercise our conscience, so that we could live according to the dictates of our conscience.

That is why I am thankful. That is what I was thankful for over Thanksgiving because that is what it is supposed to be about.

It is not just about the football game. It is not just about the turkey. It is not just about Friendsgiving or whatever people talk about these days.

It is a specific holiday about our thankfulness as Americans and why that is so critically important to the ethos of being an American because you aren't an American simply because of DNA or blood.

You are an American because of the idea that is embodied in this Chamber, in the people's House. It is for that reason that I came to the House floor on the Thursday before we adjourned for Thanksgiving week, after this body had passed by a suspension of the rules—that is, without the normal debate process, without the regular order that was such a central part of the debates last year in this body—we passed through suspension of the rules some \$400 billion to \$500 billion of additional spending up and through late January and early February of 2024.

I found that then, and I continue to find it to be repulsive, that that is how we would conduct business, that that is how we would carry out the business of the people's House.

I made clear then that I thought that it was destructive and that it was carrying on the continued policies of the previous regime passed last December over the loud objections of my colleagues on this side of the aisle to pass a \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill chock full of leftist priorities that are destroying the American Dream—nothing short of that.

A Wall Street Journal poll from this month found that only 36 percent of voters said the American Dream still holds true.

The American Dream is dying because Americans' government is failing them. It is actively working against them, and our people feel it.

Our country, our society, our culture, our people, the people we represent, are

in deep despair. \$11,400. According to "CBS News," the typical American household must spend an additional \$11,434 annually just to maintain the same standard of living they enjoyed in January of 2021.

That is a problem. The average American family in this country is hurting. I watched the Democrat White House press secretary walk up to the microphone and just dismiss it and just pretend that the average American family is totally fine and can walk right out and go buy their Thanksgiving dinner, and there is no harm, no foul. They are all good. The Biden administration policies and the Democrat policies, they are having no negative effect. Ignore these numbers. Ignore the cost of goods and buying food. Ignore the cost of housing. Ignore the cost of car ownership. That is what this administration wants the American people to do.

Our constituents are literally being priced out of the American Dream of owning a home. My staff, making decent money relative to some people in the world, come to me and say, I don't know how to buy a house. I don't know how I can possibly ever buy a house, certainly not in the Nation's Capitol.

Housing prices have nearly doubled since 2010. In the second quarter of 2023, the median home price was \$416,100. In 2010, it was \$219,500.

In May of 2023, median mortgage payments hit an all-time high of \$2,165 a month. According to The Wall Street Journal, the buyer of a typical home faces a monthly principal and interest payment of nearly \$2,200, more than double the level of early 2021. Goldman Sachs' Housing Affordability Index hit a new record low in August.

That is just homes. What about cars, kind of the second biggest expense? Americans can't even afford to purchase a car because of the efforts of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and this administration to ban the internal combustion engine in pursuit of unicorn energy policies that are going to do nothing to actually reduce CO<sub>2</sub>, and they are driving the American people into bankruptcy with an inability to afford an automobile to go about their lives and their jobs.

A new car costs \$50,000, nearly double the cost just 10 years ago. Electric vehicles are piling up on the lots of dealers across this country because the American people know they can't work for them. They can't afford them. They can't stop to charge like the Secretary of Energy did when she showed up and made a pregnant woman and her family get out of the way for a photo op while she charged her EV driving across the country.

That is the truth. The truth of this administration and my Democratic colleagues is they are perfectly content, as they have admitted to me in the Rules Committee and on this floor, to drive the American family into bankruptcy so they can pursue climate change reform.

That is absolutely a dereliction of duty on the part of the leadership of this country. When we have 250 coal-fired plants in this country and China has 1,100, and they are building two a week and we are building none, and we think we are going to dent CO<sub>2</sub> by forcing American families into expensive electric vehicles, the batteries for which are produced by our enemies in China with elements that are mined by child labor across the world, that is what this Democratic Party stands for.

They are bankrupting American families, empowering our enemies, undermining our national security, and exploiting child labor, all in pursuit of things cooked up by radical leftists and universities, all enriching, by the way, through the so-called Inflation Reduction Act massive billion-dollar corporations with subsidies from taxpayers. That is the truth.

We are destroying the American Dream through the policies specifically chosen by my Democratic colleagues in the White House, in this body, and in the Senate.

This administration's EPA has issued a rule to make two-thirds of new vehicles electric by 2032. That is in a mere 8 years.

This body didn't vote on that. The administration could do it by fiat. That is not how this is supposed to work.

That was my point in the opening of this speech. This country is designed to protect against power resting in the hands of a few being exploited against the many.

There are 330 million people in this country whose lives are getting decimated and destroyed while this administration tyrannically uses its power in the bureaucratic and executive branch to level the American Dream.

□ 1745

The average EV costs \$16,000 more than an internal combustion engine equivalent.

When I asked my colleagues on the other side of the aisle in the Rules Committee: Well, do you think that is worth it? They say yes. They say yes.

They want every American family to have to cough up another \$16,000 for an imperceptible, ineffective, alleged reduction in CO<sub>2</sub> production. Meanwhile, we haven't done anything to produce nuclear power, which is actually reliable.

The American people fully recognize that their lives have been upended. They are not 100 percent sure why, although I think they are starting to figure it out as they watch the President of the United States dawdling along, completely unaware of what is going on, while the bureaucrats in the administration are cooking up all these schemes to use their bureaucratic powers to undermine the American Dream and drive up the price of cars; drive up the price of oil; vehicles; drive up the goods and services; drive up the price of houses; spend money we don't have; rising interest rates.

The Federal Government spent \$2 trillion more than it took in in fiscal year 2023. We spent a total of \$4.4 trillion in 2019. In 2023, we spent over \$6 trillion. Our national debt is somewhere around \$33.865 trillion, and we are doing nothing about it.

Earlier this week, my friend JODEY ARRINGTON, the chairman of the Budget Committee had a hearing on debt commissions. It is important and it is good that we have those hearings and figure out what we are going to do on a bipartisan basis. However, I have to be very honest, if we cannot in this body figure out how to limit even just the discretionary spending being used to fund bureaucrats and laws and regulations that are undermining our freedom—driving up the price of cars; driving up the price of houses; funding a Department of Justice to go target a guy like Scott Smith, a dad in Loudon County; funding an EPA to go shut down people's livelihoods; arrest a guy on his ranch for building a pond; funding a DOJ to go after some of my colleagues—if we can't reduce that spending as Republicans, then how in God's green earth are we going to sit down and stare an elderly American in the face and tell them that we are going to do something with their Social Security benefits or Medicare benefits.

We are not. I have to be honest, we have been profoundly unserious in this body, on both sides of the aisle, about spending and about the abuse of power that we fund with taxpayer dollars and borrowed dollars to fund a bureaucracy that is at war with the American people and at war with the American Dream. That is the truth.

In my Thursday speech just prior to adjourning for the Thanksgiving recess, I noted fairly explicitly and pointedly that we had not produced a significant win for the American people in this Chamber this Congress.

I asked the question: What have we done? And all of my colleagues that are sitting around the complex, I asked then and I ask now: Come to the floor and come tell me what we have been able to do through this body, the Senate, and the White House. What have we been able to do in the last year to make the lives of the American people better, to make them more free, to secure their border, to make their country more secure, or to make their military more focused on its mission rather than social engineering?

I know what we have done here on the Republican side. We have passed a lot of good stuff through the hard work of my colleagues unifying around passing a strong National Defense Authorization bill that undoes the abortion tourism, the transgender surgery, the DEI, the critical race theory that is destroying the mission and the soul and the culture of the United States military, driving down recruiting and making us less safe and secure.

We passed the strongest border security bill we have ever passed. We did that here united as Republicans. We

passed seven appropriations bills. We are on the precipice of passing more appropriations bills to take the power out of the hands of a few and return it to the body.

We have done a number of great things fighting here as Republicans, but they don't mean a thing if we are not willing to sit down at the negotiation table and look at our Democratic colleagues in the Senate and look at the President of the United States and tell him: This is how it is going to be done or you are not going to get your funding. This is how it is going to be done or don't even think about another dollar for Ukraine.

That is my message to my Republican colleagues who, frankly, are getting a little too wound up at that question I asked: What have we done?

The simplest solution to your frustration about that question being asked is to have an answer.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY), my friend, and wonder if he might agree.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, I do agree. Whether it is in your personal life, your business life, your family life—anything at all—your family, the people, your colleagues around you, the people that you work around demand some deliverable. Deliverable might be showing up on time with a good attitude, but at least you delivered something.

I remember that speech from my good friend, the gentleman from Texas, because I watched it. He started out and he said: What the hell is wrong with this country?

Well, nothing is wrong with this country. The problem is with this place.

There are a lot of good people on this side of the aisle, and maybe we haven't produced a deliverable, but I would also say this: There has been no help, no help at all from the other side of the building, the other side of the aisle or down the street at the White House; no help at all.

I have car manufacturers now coming to see me and they are saying: Well, we are forced to build these electric cars; nobody wants them. Then when they don't have anything else to buy, they buy them. And then they don't work, so they bring them back in and they trade them in for something else, and then they sit there and we can't sell them. Congressman, what are you going to do for me?

My goodness, Joe Biden is the President.

The regulators, every single day another rule, another regulation, they just keep coming and coming.

Members of Congress, I don't know that we are irrelevant, but if we are not willing to stop funding these agencies that keep on prevailing against the American people, well that is what we are going to be.

The Founders made each body to jealously guard its own power. Instead of jealously guarding our power, we



have given it to bureaucrats; nameless, faceless people that have an agenda that pass rules with the force of law. These rules that spend all this money make your Thanksgiving dinner more expensive.

My mom went out to get a turkey for our family. My mom makes a turkey for our family and we all get together. She called her son up to say that the turkey costs \$70.

Mr. Speaker, from lettuce to lumber, people can't afford in America just to live their lives. They can't afford their bills; they can't afford groceries; they can't afford gas in their car; they can't afford their credit card payments while they try and just live the life that they have lived.

As the slide or the poster over there shows, their bills have gone up that much. They are paying, between the government and the increased cost, an extra month of their pay; every year an extra month for things that they didn't have to just 3 years ago.

This body is the only one that has the power of the purse. This is the only body that can control the spending that is driving up every single cost, every single cost. It starts here.

If we don't have the courage—we can have the conviction—people vote for their Member saying: Well, this guy said when he goes to Washington, he is going to fight the swamp. He is going to fight the bureaucracy. He is going to fight the spending. However, when the bill shows up on the floor and we see the amendment up there, oh, my goodness, every single time you get 100 votes, 150 votes.

Mr. Speaker, it takes 217 to pass these amendments to cut spending. If you said you are going to cut spending at home, then your opportunity happens right here on the floor. If you are not going to do it here, if you are not going to vote that way, don't go home to your constituents and say, I am sorry you can't afford lettuce and a holiday turkey. I am sorry you can't afford your bills: your car payment, your home payment, your insurance payment, your heating bill. I am sorry you can't afford it—because I didn't do anything to help you. Your opportunity, the leverage, the moment is here. It is now.

We have been working on spending bills for months, and the reason that we can't pass them here is because we are spending too much.

Oh, by the way, that is a fight among this side of the aisle that actually some of us want to do something to save our constituents from this overbearing weight of the Federal Government and the regulatory agencies—and I have to say this to my good friend from Texas—with no help whatsoever from the other side of the aisle. No help.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, my friend from Pennsylvania is 100 percent correct. This was a point that I made in the remarks I made right before Thanksgiving, which is what are we

going to say that we have accomplished, other than to say that we are less bad than Democrats.

That is my question here for my Republican colleagues. When we are getting zero help from our Democrat colleagues, who are intent on spending money we don't have to fund bureaucrats; to undermine our freedom; our way of life; our ability to afford our lives; our ability to have jobs; our ability to have a secure border; our ability to have secure streets; our ability to have education that is controlled by parents and not by leftist bureaucrats; our ability to have a military that can defend our country rather than being woke and socially engineered, we get zero help from our colleagues on the other side of the aisle.

Which means what? It means that this Republican majority has to unite and ensure that we are going to force Senate Democrats and the President to come to the table using the leverage that we have for the things that they want.

The Senate majority leader has professed a desire that we continue to fund a proxy war in Ukraine. It is very well documented. The President of the United States, the Senate majority leader, CHUCK SCHUMER, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle in this Chamber, want us to continue to fund a proxy war in Ukraine.

Now, we can have that debate on the floor of the House. We can debate the merits of it. We can debate how much it should be lethal aid versus not. We can debate how to make it more transparent; debate how to make it more focused, or whether to do it at all, but a fundamental and core question that ought to be asked: Why would we ever debate giving another dollar to Ukraine when our borders are wide open, Americans are being killed and endangered by cartels and fentanyl and violence and terrorists and gang members that come across our border, and this administration refuses to do a thing about it?

Why, to my friend from Pennsylvania, would we even utter the word Ukraine on the floor of the House ever again until we have H.R. 2, the strong border security bill that we passed, signed into law by the President of the United States, metrics guaranteeing and demonstrating that we do not have continued flow and automatic entry and releases into the United States?

Why would we do that?

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, there is no reason that we should do it. There is not a person in this Chamber on that side of the aisle or this side of the aisle that agrees with Vladimir Putin, the Russian Federation, the invasion of Ukraine, the atrocities that have been committed there. There is not one person that agrees with it.

At the same time, our country is under assault, our country is being invaded, and our country can't afford its bills.

Before we have the audacity, the temerity to demand, under force of law,

that our citizens get up in the morning, go to work, and pay their taxes to pay for the pensions and the salaries of government workers in Ukraine—my goodness, are we tone deaf to the fact that the people in this country, the people in the gentleman from Texas' communities, and the people that I represent, can't afford to pay their bills? They can't afford to pay their bills.

None of us agree with what is happening overseas in regard to Ukraine, but we have a duty. We were not elected by Ukrainian citizens. We were elected by United States citizens, American citizens that are paying their taxes under penalty of law.

They will be thrown in jail if they don't pay their taxes. It is the height of insult and injury to tell them you have to pay your taxes and you can't afford a holiday meal, but you can rest assured that that money is going to go over to Ukraine to pay for their salaries and their pensions.

The American people are sick of it. They sent us here to do something about it, and every time we have an opportunity, every single time we have an opportunity, we need to seize that opportunity.

Quite honestly, it just comes down to this, Mr. ROY, when the Senate demands this, when the President demands it, the Speaker of House, this Republican majority, respectfully, just says no.

□ 1800

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I agree with my friend from Pennsylvania.

While he is still on the floor, I will close with a couple of questions.

I assume that the gentleman from Pennsylvania, my friend, when he ran for Congress, and when he has run every term since, he ran under a promise to fight to reduce and cut Federal spending. I assume that is correct.

Mr. PERRY. That is correct.

Mr. ROY. To my friend from Pennsylvania, do you think that it is a fulfillment of your promise and pledge to work here to try to cut spending to pass continuing resolutions that fund government at the preceding year's astronomically high spending levels, particularly that of NANCY PELOSI's \$1.7 trillion omnibus spending bill? Does my friend think that gets it done?

Mr. PERRY. Of course not. My constituents, my bosses, just like your bosses, were vehemently opposed to that last December's cram-down of all this money to all kinds of things, omnibus spending, everything in there. They didn't want it, and as a signal to what we would do if we governed, Republicans, every single one, voted against it.

Now, 9 or 10 months later, we are supposed to act like, well, we didn't get our work done so we are just going to continue that, but don't worry about it. Forget about what happened 9 or 10 months ago.

The American people have not forgotten. Do you know how I know they

have not forgotten? Because I was at the grocery store on Monday before I came here, and a woman came up to me with her grocery cart. She recognized me and said: Don't the people that you work with grocery shop? Don't they know how much this costs?

She knows, and she demands that we do better and that I be accountable and not vote for things I voted against 9 months ago and just act like they are okay. They are not okay 9 months later.

Mr. ROY. That woman, your constituent, recognizes the impact from the policies of this current administration and, frankly, I must say, the policies that are perpetuated by this body, including some on both sides of the aisle that have resulted in families having to spend \$11,400 more just to break even to where they were at the beginning of this administration.

The question is, what are we going to do about it? I mean, I think that is the fundamental question. Did your constituents send you here to file bills, to file amendments, to simply vote, and then say: Oh, isn't it so great that we voted and passed something out of committee? Do your constituents know when we pass something out of committee, as a general matter? Do they know how many bills you have filed? Do they know whether or not you got some amendment inserted in whatever unless you tell them? Or are they looking for results? Do they want the border to actually be secure? Do they want spending to actually go down so there is less inflation and they can afford to live?

Do they want us to have a military that is focused rather than woke? Do they want us to deliver results, or do they just want us to sit up here and pound our chest about how we got certain bills introduced and I got some vote on some measure on the floor of the House?

Mr. PERRY. I imagine my district is just like yours.

I visited a local construction company with 400 hardworking Americans. Men and women come in. They have steel-toed boots on, jeans, jackets with stains on them. They come in out of the cold. They don't have time to worry about what amendment or bill you got passed through the House but there was no signature.

Here is what they worry about, to my friend from Texas, and I think your bosses feel the same way: We sent you to Washington to make our lives better. My prices are going up. My selections are going down, and my choices are going down. The government is imposing itself on me about whether I want to install a gas stove in my home or whether I want to speak out about my political views and not end up on some list, or if I want to go deer hunting today and worry that I got the wrong ammunition or that my gun isn't configured so that the Federal Government doesn't come arrest me.

They say: We are counting on you to do this, so don't come home and talk to

us about amendments and bills and "I had a meeting with," because it doesn't affect my life. All the things that are happening to me every day from this administration are affecting my life. I am sick of it, and I am sending you down there to stop it.

Mr. ROY. I assume your constituents, like mine, totally understand that we don't have both Chambers and the White House. They know that we can't move all the mountains. Nevertheless, they want us not to just shrug and give up and send a bill over to the Senate and say, "Sorry, we don't have the Senate. Blame CHUCK SCHUMER," and then go campaign.

Even when we had the majority in the House, had a majority in the Senate, and had the White House, how many times did you hear the excuse: "Oh, I am sorry, Congressman PERRY. We don't have 60 votes in the Senate." Did you ever hear that one?

Mr. PERRY. There is always some excuse. When we have the House or the Senate, or we have both and the Presidency, there is always some excuse for why it can't be done.

I will tell you this. There is no excuse for the radical march of the left creeping into everybody's life, into every decision that you make, into everything you do. It just keeps happening.

Our bosses are not down here in Washington, D.C. They don't understand committee rules and the process here on the floor. What they understand is that they are getting up in the morning when it is dark outside, packing their lunch, and kissing their kids good-bye before they get on the school bus, and they don't know why this is happening to them, but they sure know it is happening.

They think about the extra costs every single week when they are trying to manage their budget. They are like: "We are making more money, but we still can't afford to live the way we did. We can't afford our food. We can't afford, heaven forbid, if the car breaks down." No, they don't understand why.

What they demand, to the good gentleman from Texas, is results, is some product. They don't care about why it can't be done. They are not asking for everything to change overnight. They know we didn't get here overnight, but they want something, some win, to show them some light at the end of this tunnel, but there isn't any. I haven't seen one yet.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the good gentleman from Pennsylvania. He is a good friend, and I am honored to serve with him. I agree with him.

I will say that our constituents don't send us to Washington to campaign. They don't send us to Washington to run around trying to figure out how we are going to score some political victory and set up votes so we can run against our colleagues.

Our constituents recognize that our colleagues on the other side of the aisle are continuing to leave them behind

and ignore them in pursuit of fantasy energy policies, woke ideology, and radical leftist views of open borders that empower our enemies and endanger Americans. They fully get that.

They expect us to stand up and fight for them. They expect us to do the right thing and then let the voters decide.

I would submit that it is a critical juncture in this country, that we are facing existential threats, that it is critical that the 200 and however many Republicans we have right now unite together and go over to the Senate to tell the Senate that we have to solve problems for the American people, secure borders, strengthen our military, reduce spending, get inflation down, make the American people believe that the American Dream exists again.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, before I go, I will say that the gentleman from Texas is right. We have to unite so that we can be effective against these forces of evil that are destroying the American Dream. It is not uniting for the sake of uniting. It is uniting around a purpose.

Our bosses are very forgiving. They are very gracious. They understand if you fight the good fight and you lose. What they will not accept, what they cannot accept, and what they should not accept is not fighting at all or surrendering before the fight even begins.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate that. I know my colleague is about to leave. I know that he appreciates and we share our faith in the good Lord and our faith in Jesus Christ. He will appreciate the words of Paul in 2 Timothy: I have fought the good fight. I have finished my course. I have kept the faith. Henceforth there is laid up for me the crown of righteousness, which the Lord, the righteous judge, will award to me on that day, and not only to me but also to all who have loved him appearing.

That is obviously a spiritual reference and speaking in spiritual terms, but they are the kind of words that I think my friend agrees with me should be inspiring us as Members of this body, regardless of party, that we advance, that we move forward, that we defend this country.

Mr. PERRY. Mr. Speaker, that is our job. Our job is to defend this Constitution. My constituents, my bosses, know I carry one with me every day.

It is a piece of paper, Mr. Speaker. It cannot defend itself. It relies on the integrity, fortitude, courage, and conviction of good people willing to come here to serve and fight on its behalf, like the good gentleman from Texas.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my friend from Pennsylvania. When I started this speech, I talked about The Wall Street Journal poll from this month finding that only 36 percent of voters said the American Dream still holds true and that our country, our society, is in deep despair and needs help. I talked about the \$11,400, according to CBS, that the typical American

household must spend additionally every year just to maintain the same standard of living that they enjoyed in January 2021.

The fact of the matter is, the American people are suffering. We in this body know it, yet we are doing nothing about it. All we are doing is making it worse by spending more money we don't have, indebting our children and grandchildren.

We are now \$34 trillion in debt, and all I get from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle is lip service about taxes when we have been bringing in revenue to the Treasury at the top level we have ever done in the history of this country, 19.2 percent. We have plenty of revenue. What we refuse to do is deal with our spending problem, promises that we have made but cannot honestly deliver on without printing money.

I talked about the extent to which the average American family can no longer afford a car. A new car costs \$50,000, nearly double what it cost 10 years ago. Why? Because of absurd regulations and mandates coming out of this administration unilaterally, through bureaucrats, backed up by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle passing legislation to mandate EVs that are piling up on the lots of dealerships that people can't afford and that don't allow them to do their job. Debt is piling up. Interest rates are going up. Houses are unaffordable.

With healthcare, Americans are expected to spend \$6,500 for a family policy and \$1,400 for an individual. They are expecting 2024 premiums to increase 8 percent for group rates. Healthcare is completely unaffordable for the average American.

All this is happening as Big Healthcare gets richer, and the Federal Government continues to flood more money into the market. Big Insurance revenue is \$1.25 trillion. The CBO estimates Federal subsidies to health insurance for Americans under 65 will reach \$1 trillion.

Nobody in America knows what these numbers mean. What they mean is you can't afford healthcare, can't go to the doctor, and can't choose the doctor of your choice.

We are enriching bureaucrats and healthcare companies. We are enriching bureaucrats, pharma, hospitals, and Big Insurance. We are doing it through crony capitalism that was inflated under ObamaCare.

I have a constituent who came up to me last week who is on ObamaCare and can't go to MD Anderson for the cancer that is killing her, yet my colleagues on the other side of the aisle pat themselves on the back for coverage.

I would like to know if any of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle want to call up my constituent and congratulate her for having coverage she can't use. She can't use it to go get healthcare while we enrich the insurance companies at levels they were never enriched before, while we dev-

astate them. She literally can't go get the care she needs under the coverage of ObamaCare, while healthcare companies are rolling in money.

I can't go back to MD Anderson, if my cancer comes back, on the plan that I would have under ObamaCare as a Member of Congress. That is the truth.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle pretend that it is not devastating the American family that we are driving up the cost of healthcare, making it impossible to get the doctor of your choice, making it impossible for people to live and enjoy the American Dream.

On the southern border in Texas, my constituents text and call me every single day—every day. I have constituents and friends in south Texas calling me about the devastation being wrought in south Texas.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't care. They don't care about the little girls getting sold into the sex trafficking trade, the almost 1,000 migrants who died along the Rio Grande and southern border last year. They don't care about the fentanyl pouring into Texas that is killing my constituents. Last year, I had six kids die in the school district I live in from fentanyl poisoning. It is pouring into our communities through wide open borders, and everybody knows it.

Mayorkas goes down to the border and won't even apologize to the Border Patrol agents he accused of whipping people, which didn't happen.

□ 1815

Mr. Speaker, there have been 6.6 million illegal aliens since January 21 and 1.7 million known got-aways. That is bigger than the entire population of San Antonio, Texas, which I represent and is the seventh largest city. We don't know who they are.

I had members of the Texas legislature showing me videos of people they saw over Thanksgiving weekend in south Texas, single adult males running away from Border Patrol. If you are running away from Border Patrol in 2023, I assure you it is because you are up to no good.

The entire world knows that if you come here and you go up to Border Patrol and you say the word asylum, you are going to get released into the United States.

Texas is under siege. We spent \$12.5 billion of our own money to do the job the Federal Government refuses to do, while my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, Secretary Mayorkas, President Biden, Senate Democrats, and CHUCK SCHUMER ignore the crisis and pretend that sending more money down to process more people will make a damn difference. It won't.

Texas would be well within its rights to tell this Federal Government to go straight to hell. Stop sending any tax receipts and do what we need to do to secure Texas. Frankly, Governor Abbott should do that. Shut off the flow

across the border because this Federal Government refuses to do it.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle don't care. The fact of the matter is, this current Democrat administration and my Democratic colleagues are all too fine while the American family suffers, losing the American Dream. They have \$11,000 of additional costs every year under this administration. Kids die in their schools from fentanyl. People pour into communities in Texas and Arizona and throughout the country. They are piling up in New York, so bad that they had to cut a deal to move them onto military installations and Federal properties.

All of our streets are unsafe because DAs refuse to enforce the laws—funded by George Soros—DAs in Texas and throughout this country. Literally, the DA in San Antonio, it was just reported, has dismissed more than 6,000 criminal cases in the first 3 months of 2023. That is a 50 percent rise in dismissed cases.

One of these dismissed cases led career criminal Michael Kirkland to be free to shoot at police officers and motorists in San Antonio while evading arrest, leading to an officer being injured this past August. Those are the policies of this Democrat regime and of Democrats across this country.

Violent crime is surging, borders are open, fentanyl is pouring into our schools, inflation is up, interest rates are up, and life expectancy is down.

The fact of the matter is, Republicans have a duty to check this administration and my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. It is why I demand and implore my Republican colleagues that we answer the question: What have we done?

I can assure you my Democratic colleagues—the answer to what they have done is destroy the Republic by passing legislation that bankrupts the American family, pursuing unicorn energy policies, forcing EVs to pile up on dealership lots, driving families into bankruptcy, and now they are unable to afford houses.

Democrats are actively doing that. Republicans basically say, well, we got elected, we are at least stopping that. We are at least stopping the passage of really bad bills, like the so-called Inflation Reduction Act or the American Rescue Plan. These bills all spend money we don't have. It is driving us into debt, funding and enriching White, elitist liberals in their big, supposedly, green corporations.

Every time Republicans run for office we make a lot of promises about things like cutting spending, shrinking bureaucracy, or securing the border. That is what you do when you run for office, you make a lot of promises. You make a lot of pledges.

We don't have the luxury of grading ourselves on our intentions. The road to hell is paved with good intentions. The American people, the history books, and the good Lord are going to

judge based on the actions we take and the results we deliver and whether or not we deliver for the American people.

To deliver for the American people, Republicans must force the Senate Democratic leadership, Majority Leader SCHUMER, and President Biden, to understand a handful of very key truths. Under no circumstances should we give another dollar to Ukraine. No bills should come to the House floor until H.R. 2 is signed by the President and the flow stops across our southern border.

That ought to be the very clear message that is sent to the President and Majority Leader SCHUMER. If my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and the Senate want to choose to refuse to secure the border, then they can call up Mr. Zelenskyy and the people of Ukraine and explain why.

They can explain that it is more important to keep open borders in America and undermine our sovereignty and our security and our well-being. They can call up Israel and explain to Israel that they refuse to actually fund support for Israel because they are more interested in funding Internal Revenue Service bureaucrats to go after the American people.

That is what our Democratic colleagues in the Senate have chosen to do, and they know it. They know it. We pass a bipartisan bill that chooses to move dollars that were allocated to expand the IRS to go after the American people, take those dollars and give it to our friends from Israel. Our Democratic colleagues in the Senate, on a party-line vote, voted no.

They refused to fund our friends in Israel because they were more committed to the leftist makeover of this country. They are more committed to open borders than they are to securing the communities of the American people and allowing us to have a full and open debate about Ukraine and how we can proceed to fund our government.

Mr. Speaker, the American people are sick of excuses. They want us to do our job. I understand the difficulty of dealing with a razor-thin majority with colleagues on the other side of the aisle who have no interest in doing the things that we want to do to secure the United States, secure our border, reduce spending, reduce inflation, focus the military on what it needs to be focused on, and to do our job under the Constitution in our limited powers. I understand the difficulty of that.

We have done a great job and we have been united as a Republican Party to send good bills over to the Senate. Now we should hold the Senate accountable to doing the work of the American people to follow up on what we have already done. To send a border security bill, H.R. 2, that would do the job of securing the border. Sending a National Defense Authorization bill that would restore our military to its mission rather than social engineering.

There are seven appropriations bills, and others that are ready to go if our

Democratic colleagues on the other side of the Capitol in the Senate will sit down with us to actually reduce spending year over year from 2023 to 2024. We can constrain spending. We can constrain inflation. We can constrain the bureaucrats that are interfering with the lives of the American people and undermining their freedom and their ability to produce and prosper according to their God-given talents.

Voters are watching what we are doing. They are watching whether we are going to stand up and actually do our job, and whether or not we are going to deliver for them rather than engaging in lip service. I think we need to do our job.

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

#### ISRAELI HOSTAGE CRISIS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material in the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to lead my colleagues in a Special Order hour.

On October 7, Hamas launched a horrific attack against Israeli civilians, murdering over 1,400 people and taking hostage more than 244 women, children, families, and the elderly. Hamas spared no one.

The hostage crisis has left hundreds of families desperate and searching for answers on the health and safety of their loved ones. This past month has been gut-wrenching. I have never felt this magnitude of pain, shock, and anger burning in the hearts of the Jewish people.

The intentional, genocidal violence inflicted on Israeli civilians and the unconscionable apathy of many nations is a sobering reminder of the fact that Israel remains surrounded by hostility and danger.

For me, and for so many of us, this goes beyond our belief in the survival of the Jewish State. It rises far above politics as usual. It is a moment in history that begs for humanity, unity, and solidarity with Israel.

I am wrecked by how quickly people in this country have forgotten the hostages still being held in Gaza by Hamas. I find myself having to reiterate over and over again that Israel was attacked by a terrorist organization whose mission is the eradication of Israel and the Jewish people.

We must all remember not only the horrifying statistic of 240 captured, but who they are as people. These are real human beings. That is why we are here tonight.

We will continue to come to this floor to call attention to all of the human beings who are brutally being held captive by Hamas in Gaza, until every last one of them is released.

Each of my colleagues who are joining me will speak about a hostage or family of hostages, show their beautiful faces, and remind all of us not to forget these victims who are suffering under terrorist brutality.

Thankfully, Israel has welcomed home many children and some women this week. I am extremely grateful for President Biden's efforts to help make that possible. We cannot and we will not stop until all hostages are reunited with their families.

Tonight, I will be sharing the story of the Bibas family, parents Shiri and Yarden, 4-year-old Ariel, and 10-month-old Kfir from Kibbutz Nir Oz. Look at this beautiful family.

Kfir, the youngest hostage, was just 9 months old on October 7. He had just learned to crawl when he was abducted. His family is worried Kfir doesn't have access to formula. Look at Kfir's beautiful face. How could anyone justify kidnapping and taking hostage a 9-month-old.

As a Jewish mother, I remember when my babies were that age. I remember nursing them. I remember holding them in my arms and being joyful about their first crawling, their first steps, and looking forward to the beauty of their lives unfolding.

Looking at Kfir and Ariel's faces is heartbreaking and is deeply personal. Many of us have had the opportunity to meet with the families of these hostages. Yesterday, Hamas claimed that Shiri, Ariel, and Kfir were killed in Gaza. I pray with all my heart that that is false. The barbarism and cruelty of Hamas knows no bounds.

The Bibas family would never have been in harm's way in Gaza if Hamas did not launch its murderous attack on Israel and take children as leverage on October 7.

□ 1830

On that fateful day, Shiri, Yarden, and their boys were hiding in a safe room when militants fired semiautomatic weapons outside the family's window as Yarden texted relatives: "I love you all." One-half hour later, he texted, "They are coming in," just before communication ceased.

Since then, the world has seen a distressing video of Shiri holding her two young boys wrapped in a blanket close to her chest while surrounded by Hamas militants. Another video depicts Yarden with a head injury forcibly being taken away on a motorcycle.

On Monday, the IDF announced the Bibas family was transferred by Hamas to another Palestinian terror group in Gaza as if they were a commodity to

give leverage to another terrorist organization.

While we know the facts about October 7 and have seen the family's pictures and videos, it is important to remember the light and love of this family. Shiri is described by loved ones as a woman who touches everyone's heart, gentle and full of tenderness, which you can clearly see when she was trying to shield her children and the terror on her face. She was reborn with her two little sons. They were the light that filled her life. Under her loving wing, they were growing up happily.

Ariel loves anything with wheels and a motor. He dreams of superheroes and dresses up as Batman.

Yarden is a sensitive and loving father and husband. Ofri says that while her brother looks big and strong, inside he is the most sensitive and gentle person she knows.

Shiri's cousin Yifat said in an interview about her family: "I can only hope they are together. I hope they didn't separate her from her children. I try not to think about the worst. This is the only thing that keeps me going. But every day that goes by, we can't go the same path anymore. Things need to be changed. Israel is going to be changed after this. We are all traumatized, okay? This touched every family that is involved in Israel."

My heart goes out to Ofri, Yifat, and their whole family. Make no mistake, Hamas will be held responsible.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. HOYER).

Mr. HOYER. Mr. Speaker, this is a time of sadness, of wrenching pain, of anger, and of determination.

It is my solemn duty, Mr. Speaker, to speak on this floor today about a courageous, talented, and generous young man, Itay Chen. His family is in the gallery. I had the opportunity to speak to them just a few minutes ago. As any family would be, knowing that their child is at great risk and not knowing his present welfare, they are grieving but determined.

Itay is an American-Israeli dual citizen bravely serving his nation in the IDF.

That is probably incorrect. This is his nation. IDF is the land of his forebears and of his ancestors and a land that offers sanctuary and safety to the Jewish people who have been savaged, hated, killed, and maligned for millennia.

On October 7, Itay was taken hostage during Hamas' brutal criminal and savage attack on Israel and on innocent civilians in the land that is not contested by anybody.

Itay is only 19 years old. Mr. Speaker, I have not met Itay, though I hope to do so in person in the near future. However, I met with his father, Ruby, who is with us in the gallery today, as I said, and his mother, Hagit, is joining us, as well.

Mr. Speaker, everything I have heard about their son has only reinforced my resolve to help bring Itay home and the other hostages home, as well.

Itay was raised in New York City, the city in which I was born, Mr. Speaker. He was always a precocious kid and a kindhearted young man. Like his dad, he is an avid lover of basketball. Unlike his dad, however, he is a diehard Lakers fan. So, there is a little conflict in the family, but that has not affected the deep love and concern that his family has for Itay.

I want to assure them, Mr. Speaker, that is shared by the 435 Members of this body. It is not a partisan issue but a human issue.

Itay may not have inherited his father's basketball loyalties, Mr. Speaker, but he did inherit his New York grit. Itay also developed a calling for service at a very young age, participating in Boy Scouts and serving his community. That commitment to serving others drove Itay to join the IDF.

I know his experience in captivity, as awful as it is. Very frankly, Mr. Speaker, the Red Cross has seen the horror of how these hostages are being kept, and they ought to tell the world that truth. Nevertheless, we know that his experience will not break his generous spirit nor his dedication to the sacred Jewish principle of tikkun olam, repairing the world and doing good so that others may do better.

His parents, Ruby and Hagit; his brothers, Roy and Alon; and the rest of his family and friends continue to show tremendous resilience and courage. We can do no less in the Congress, no less in America than make sure we bring this American home alive and healthy.

I think, Mr. Speaker, how I would feel if one of my three daughters or one of my three grandchildren or one of my four great-grandchildren were in some tunnel or crevice illegally and criminally. I would do everything I could to get them back, and we must do everything to get back not only Itay but all those pictures that we will see of innocent people killed, maimed, and taken hostage by a criminal group we call Hamas.

I want Itay and his loved ones to know that we are going to make sure this Congress does everything it can to bring him and the other hostages home as quickly as possible. Mr. Speaker, as a symbol of that promise, I am wearing a dog tag that Ruby gave me just weeks ago.

Until they return safely to our shores, we will continue to stand strong with their families. Their grief is our grief. Their hope is our hope, and that hope grows with every hostage released. It will not end until they are all home, safe in the arms of their families and loved ones.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for taking this Special Order and for yielding to me.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Maryland for his poignant remarks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER).

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Mr. Speaker, I thank Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ for this Special Order.

I rise tonight, Mr. Speaker, because, on October 7, Hamas terrorists attacked Israel and abducted more than 230 people, including many Americans. Hamas brutally murdered, raped, burned alive, and decapitated more than 1,000 innocent babies, children, women, men, and the elderly. It was the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust.

Mr. Speaker, 40 American citizens were slaughtered by Hamas, and 9 have been living in horrifying fear at the hands of terrorists for more than 50 days. It blows my mind that this isn't talked about every single day in this country, that Americans were killed and Americans remain hostages.

Hamas killed Americans, and terrorists still hold American hostages inside Gaza. That should be the beginning and end of the argument of why we must crush and kill Hamas.

Thankfully, because of President Biden's resolve and strong leadership, groups of hostages have been rescued, including 4-year-old Avigail, an American citizen. Nevertheless, as of today, there are still 160 hostages.

One of the eight American hostages is Edan Alexander, a 19-year-old from Tenafly in my district in northern New Jersey. You can see him in this photo that was shared with me by his family, his mom.

I have spent time with his family. They are phenomenal people and just such wonderful, warm people. His sister is at Tenafly High School. After graduating from Tenafly High School in 2022, Edan began serving in the Israel Defense Forces.

Edan is the type of person who would regularly call his mother to check in, and his sister considers him to be her best friend. He is devoted to his friends and is always there for his family. He swam in high school. I have seen pictures of him at the prom. He is just like any other American kid we know.

Since day one, I have been in constant contact with the Alexander family and the State Department. Their unimaginable strength in the face of unfathomable pain gives us all great hope.

It is time to get all of these hostages home.

There are some people who equivocate about Hamas. There should be no equivocation. They are designated by the United States of America as a foreign terrorist organization, and anybody who has spent time looking at images that many of us saw in the videos of barbaric, heinous, and unthinkable acts that took place on October 7 knows what Hamas is capable of.

Look what they are doing to innocent Palestinian civilians every single day. Are they welcoming them underground and giving them safe haven? No. They take no responsibility. They use innocent people as human shields. That is what Hamas does.

Hamas' charter advocates jihad against the Jewish people and the elimination of the Jewish state. Israel

is surrounded by terror groups that want to kill their people, including Arab Israelis.

Israel is and remains the only vibrant, progressive, and inclusive democracy in the region. They are our key ally because they are critical to our national security and stand up for values that we share, strong democratic values. They are key to our fight against terror in the region, against Hezbollah, Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and Hamas.

In Israel, Arab parties serve in the Knesset; women serve at the highest levels of military; and the country remains an oasis for LGBTQ people in a region hostile toward the community.

It sickens me that some people are trying to romanticize Hamas. They should be reminded that in Gaza, under Hamas rule, same-sex relations are outlawed. Make no mistake, Mr. Speaker, your life would be at risk every day if you were openly gay in Gaza or the West Bank.

Additionally, Hamas' 1988 charter states that Muslim women are important because they "manufacture men." Hamas even enforces what women wear in public. There is also no law in Gaza that criminalizes violence against women within the family, including sexual violence.

□ 1845

Hamas allows honor killings, the murder of women and girls accused of what they call "immoral sexual conduct."

Yet, it took U.N. women a month and a half to recognize that women and girls were raped in Israel, and, even then, they still refused to mention Hamas.

Do they not believe the fact that Hamas terrorists committed horrifying and unspeakable acts against innocent girls and women, including many that we have seen images of? As you see all of these hostages being released, you can't imagine what they have been through; and I think, of course, of the images we are seeing this evening, those who are still hostages.

Thankfully, President Biden has been phenomenal, as I said, with his unwavering support for the State of Israel and the Jewish people. The President understands that you have to actually hold terrorists who commit atrocities accountable or they will strike again and be stronger.

Hamas terrorists have made it clear that they will not back down and are committed to "a second, third, and fourth" October 7 against Israel.

Mr. Speaker, let me conclude by saying: We must stand by our key ally to get all hostages home, crush the terrorists, and provide humanitarian aid to innocent Palestinian civilians being used by Hamas as human shields.

Israel must eliminate every single terrorist responsible for the atrocities committed on October 7, and we must get these hostages home.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Debbie for her leadership. I thank all of my colleagues for being here this evening.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for his words.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Maryland (Mr. TRONE).

Mr. TRONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call for the release of Abraham Munder, who was taken hostage by Hamas during their brutal attack on October 7.

Mr. Munder is a 78-year-old father and grandfather. Who does that? He has been in captivity for 54 days and counting.

Abraham and his wife, Ruti, lived and raised their family in Kibbutz Nir Oz for nearly 60 years. They built a home. They built a life. It is all gone. Nir Oz was one of the hardest hit by Hamas on October 7, almost a quarter of their population was murdered or kidnapped.

The Munder family has endured unspeakable hardship and tragedy in these weeks. That day, Abraham and Ruti's daughter, Keren, was visiting her parents with her son, Ohad. They were all taken hostage by Hamas. Ohad spent his ninth birthday as a hostage in Gaza.

A few weeks ago, I had the solemn honor of meeting with the hostages' family members in my Capitol office, including Keren's cousin Meirav and her son, Itay.

All they wanted was for the hostages to be brought home, for the world to not forget about their loved ones. Many of us here in Congress took these meetings, and we all pledged we would do all we could to bring them home.

For the last 54 days, Abraham has been held separately and was feared dead by his family. For the last 54 days, he hasn't known that his son was murdered in the attacks. For the last 54 days, he hasn't known that his wife and his daughter and grandson survived and were taken hostage.

As a grandfather and a parent myself, I can't begin to imagine the nightmare. By the grace of God, Ruti, Keren, and Ohad were returned to Israel on November 24 as part of the negotiated cease-fire and hostage exchange.

Today, we call for Abraham to be brought home. Let him grieve and heal with his family. We continue to call for Hamas to release all the hostages. We must bring them all home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his participation.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. NADLER).

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

Mr. Speaker, on October 7, the State of Israel was treacherously attacked by the terrorist group Hamas. They murdered 1,200 peaceful people, many of them at a musical festival, some from Kibbutz Nir Oz near the border. They kidnapped 250 people illegally, of course, and took them into Gaza.

We know that some of them have been released in a deal that was made, one of them was an American Israeli

named Abigail, just 4 years old. She was kept together with three other hostages and was given one piece of pita, Middle East bread, for the four of them per day. When they came home, they had to be deloused. Their hair and their clothes were full of lice, and they said that if they had to go to the bathroom, they had to wait 2 hours.

Mr. Speaker, Hamas has said over and over again, they will attack over and over again, again and again until Israel is no more. When people demand a cease-fire, we should think what we would have thought about people demanding a cease-fire 7 or 8 weeks after Pearl Harbor. A cease-fire would simply permit Hamas to regroup and to attack Israel again and again and again, which they have told us they would do.

By the way, there had been cease-fires. There have been four cease-fires, every one of which Hamas broke, including breaking a cease-fire on October 7.

One of the hostages who was taken was a fellow named Danny Elgarat, brother of Yitzhak Elgarat. I want to read what Danny said about that.

He said, "My name is Danny, Danny Elgarat. Around 10:30 a.m., my brother calls me, my brother, Yitzhak Elgarat. He lives in Kibbutz Nir Oz. He tells me that his hand is crushed, flooded with blood. He was hysterical and stressed, and I didn't quite understand what was going on with him, and I tried to guide him how to apply a tourniquet to stop the blood.

"Suddenly, while I am still trying to guide him, I hear screams in the background and shouts. Then Itzik, my brother Itzik, shouts 'Danny, it's the end. It's the end,' and our call is cut off.

"Afterwards we checked the matter of Itzik's phone, the location of the phone. We found out that his phone is located in Gaza, the center of the city of Gaza.

"When he would come back to us, we would sit in the porch with a good glass of Whiskey and we would say it was just a bad dream."

Mr. Speaker, I pray for Yitzhak and all the remaining hostages who were so barbarically taken from their families. Bring them home and defeat Hamas so they can't do this again and again and again.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. FRANKEL).

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Mr. Speaker, on October 7, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, Hamas terrorists took over 200 hostages from Israel—men, women, children, the elderly, and the young, including dozens of IDF soldiers who Hamas has refused to release. I want to tell you about one of them.

That beautiful young lady is Naama Levy. She is the second of four children. She is an athlete, loves soccer, the triathlon. During her summer in high school, she was a participant in the Hands of Peace project in the



United States working toward peace between Israelis and Palestinians.

After she graduated high school, like other Israeli youth, she completed her coursework to be an observation soldier, and she began her military service on October 5 at the Nahal Oz base. It was 2 days later, on October 7 at 6:32 a.m., she woke to red alerts and went into a safe room with her friends. She then texted her mom. There is the text:

Mom, we are in the safe room. I have never heard anything like this.

Her mother says:

What is happening, my darling?

What her mother then saw on a video loop over and over was her daughter being dragged off by her hair by Hamas into the back of a truck.

Her mom lives the same nightmare as the other families of the hostages. She thinks about her every day. Where is her daughter now? What kind of life is she living? Where does she sleep? Does she have water? Does she have air? Is she being treated well?

Mr. Speaker, look at this young lady, just starting her life with hopes and dreams. Let's bring her back.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. NORCROSS).

Mr. NORCROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Debbie and all my colleagues for being here today.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak on behalf of Aviv Atzili. I was supposed to be here speaking about him being held hostage by Hamas and the need to bring him home safely and without delay.

Instead, I am sadly here to speak about the memory of Aviv. Aviv was a dedicated family man, who just hours ago it was confirmed that he was killed by Hamas.

According to his father-in-law, a New Jerseyan, Aviv bravely fought back against terrorists, but they had not heard anything since that day in October. The news of his death comes hours after his wife, Liat, an American, was released from captivity after 54 days.

While we are grateful for her release, we mourn the loss of Aviv as he leaves behind Liat and her three children.

We are keeping friends, family, and certainly his community in our prayers, but, unfortunately, Aviv's story is one of thousands, many that you will hear tonight about American citizens, many who have been killed or taken hostage by Hamas terrorists.

When I traveled with Debbie in a bipartisan group just 2 days after the attack when we were in Israel, we heard the stories from the families. We listened as two children talked about how their mother and father hid in that shelter until they broke through and took her father away while she hid, and we are still waiting to hear what happened there. It is impossible to try to fathom exactly the pain that they are going through, to watch and to hear what happened as they are hiding.

Many Israelis continue to live that dark day and they are waiting to hear

about those who have been taken away. It is time to bring them all home. The images, the videos of the reuniting children and families bring that joy to our heart in such time of pain. It is a reminder that we must bring all the remaining hostages home without delay.

I am proud to join with my colleagues here today to highlight our commitment to bring every single one of them home. We cannot and we will not be silent until all those held by that terrorist organization are reunited with their families.

As a father and grandfather, it breaks my heart to listen to the pain of those families and what they are going through, and I cannot fathom what the Atzili family across Israel had to live through since its brutal attack.

Mr. Speaker, Aviv and Liat's story is a reminder that every single hostage and Israeli loss is a son, daughter, mother, father, brother, or sister. May Aviv's memory be a blessing to his family and to all of us.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey so much for his words, and I can say it was so incredibly moving and meaningful to be able to join him and Mr. PANETTA from California and Senator ERNST just days after those horrific attacks.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. GOLDMAN).

Mr. GOLDMAN of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida for organizing this very important Special Order hour, and I thank you, Mr. Speaker, for giving us the time to do this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise tonight to shine a light on the Metzger family from Kibbutz Nir Oz, which suffered the unimaginable loss of 38 members of the kibbutz, and from where a shocking 75 innocent people were taken captive by Hamas. That is almost one-third of the innocent hostages who were abducted by Hamas on October 7.

Two of those abducted were Tamar Metzger, age 78, and her husband Yoram, age 80. They are grandparents.

Mrs. Metzger was released 2 days ago, after 52 days in captivity.

My family had an opportunity to spend some time with the Metzger's son, Nir, and his two children, Ran and Omer, this week in New York.

According to Nir, the Hamas terrorists, teenagers, dragged his mom out of her bathroom, bashed her face in with a rifle, and severely injured her knees and legs as they violently took a 78-year-old woman to the tunnels of Gaza.

□ 1900

In Gaza, both Metzgers were kept in a tiny, dark, and moist room in an underground tunnel, where there were 12 mattresses on the floor for the 2 of them and 10 other hostages from Kibbutz Nir Oz.

There was essentially nowhere for them to walk or move. They were not allowed to speak. If they did speak, the terrorists would beat them. This hap-

pened to a number of them, including 78-year-old Mrs. Metzger at least one time.

Yoram remains held captive in that dank darkness underground, unable to move, unable to speak, under constant fear of being beaten by Hamas terrorists.

We cannot allow another day to go by before these innocent civilians are released back to their homes in Israel. We cannot stop pushing and pressing Hamas to release them and putting pressure on allies and other countries in the Middle East—in Qatar, in Egypt—to put pressure on Hamas to release the illegally abducted civilians who are kept captive in the tunnels of Gaza without any light, without food, and without any ability to move around.

It is time to bring them home. It is time to bring them all home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. STEVENS), who is the co-chair of the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad.

Ms. STEVENS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for her leadership in the House of Representatives during this incredibly sobering and trying moment.

When the Congressional Task Force on American Hostages and Americans Wrongfully Detained Abroad was created, we never envisioned a moment like the one that we found ourselves in on October 7.

As Americans, as Members of the House of Representatives, we don't just call for the release of the American hostages in Gaza, but we call for the release of all the hostages, for what took place on October 7 was an attack on innocent people. It was an attack on all of humanity, an attack on those living freely and peacefully, going about their daily business in free society.

They were attacked by terrorists. They were attacked by those who seek to do evil. They were attacked because of what Israel means to the world. That cannot stand.

Behind me is a picture of a woman, Karina Arieve, age 19, a surveillance soldier who was taken captive on October 7 when Hamas terrorists attacked the base at Nahal Oz, where she was stationed. Her family is still eagerly waiting for her release, including her parents and her 24-year-old sister, Sasha.

Sasha's plea for the return of her sister has been heard around the world. As I join my colleagues this evening in bringing attention to the individuals like Karina and the remaining hostages, it is incredibly sobering.

Sasha's words, which I would like to read, about her beloved sister are as follows:

"She called us in the morning [of October 7], and she said that the base had been raided and attacked. She basically called to tell us good-bye. And so, if she won't live, she asked us to continue our life. The last message was: 'The terrorists, they are here.'

"A few hours later, we identified her in a video. This was a video that the terrorists took and then published on their Telegram channels. This is our last confirmation that she is alive. She is alive on the video, but we don't know what is going on now.

"We know that they probably took her. She was in their jeep, with other girls. We went to the police to show them the video and to say that we identify my sister so they can do something.

"The same evening, military officers came to our door, and they said to us that my sister, Karina, is held in the hands of a terror organization. From this moment, we do not know any other information.

"We sit, watch TV, and hope for the best."

She continues: "She is all I have, you know. I love my parents and all, but she is the one my heart belongs to. She is the only one I love in this world and the only one I want to be with me. She always comforts me.

"Even [though] she is my little sister, I can always come to her, and she will be logical with me and make me come together. She is very lovely. She is very innocent. She is very childish, although she is now a teenager. She likes to decorate her room. She likes stickers and the fluffy dolls of the animals. She loves to paint. She loves cosmetics; she is always doing my make-up. I do not understand anything about it.

"I remember the day she was born because the gap between us is 5 years. I was in the hospital, and I saw her. All this life, since the moment she was born till now, is just rolling in my head like a film."

Hamas, release the hostages now. Bring Karina home to her family.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her poignant remarks and her dedication to this cause.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. TORRES).

Mrs. TORRES of California. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Florida for bringing us together to bring awareness and to never forget the folks who still need to be returned home.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to demand the immediate release and safe return of the remaining hostages in Gaza held by Hamas terrorists.

I am grateful for President Biden's leadership that has led to the release of hostages. However, many remain captive, including 22-year-old Omer Neutra.

Omer was born in the United States and is the son of Ronen and Orna and now has spent over 50 days in captivity. He grew up in Long Island, where he was the regional president of the United Synagogue Youth and captain of many sports teams.

His friends and family describe Omer as a natural-born leader known for his compassion, seeing the best in people,

and bringing communities together, a peaceful soul. His kindness and sense of duty led him to defer his future at Binghamton University to defend his grandparents' land with the hope of bringing communities together. Putting his future on hold to serve others, that is Omer.

His drive to lead and to serve now puts him last in line to be released from captivity. His family, who are with us here this evening, have been in agony for the past 7 weeks with no word if Omer is even alive. We will continue to pray for him.

As the mother of an Air Force veteran, I can only imagine their agony. This is something that no parent, no mother, no father, no grandparent could ever imagine would happen to their loved one.

I join my colleagues in calling for the immediate release of hostages held by Hamas, and I urge the administration to continue to do everything in their power to help free hostages like Omer and ensure their safe return home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. MANNING), the co-chair of the Bipartisan Taskforce for Combating Anti-Semitism.

Ms. MANNING. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Congresswoman WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for putting this evening together and for meeting with me and so many other of our Members with hostage families for week after week.

On October 7, we woke in horror to Hamas' brutal and despicable terrorist attacks, invading Israel, firing rockets at innocent civilians, going house to house, murdering babies, executing parents in front of their children, and massacring 250 young people at a music festival.

As if killing 1,200 people was not enough, Hamas took an estimated 240 innocent civilians hostage in Gaza, including elderly women, babies, young children, and Holocaust survivors.

Like many of my colleagues, I have spent the past 7 weeks meeting with the families of hostages, hostages including Keith Siegel from Chapel Hill, North Carolina, and his wife Aviva, who were kidnapped from Kibbutz Kfar Aza.

I met with Keith's sister, Lucy, and his niece, Emily, who spoke so lovingly of their family members.

Keith and Aviva are the parents of four children and the proud grandparents of five grandchildren. Keith grew up in my home State of North Carolina. He moved to Israel as a young man, where he met Aviva, who was born in South Africa and had moved to Israel at the age of 8. Keith and Aviva have lived happily in Kibbutz Kfar Aza for 40 years.

On the morning of October 7, Keith and Aviva were having a quiet day at home when they were brutally attacked and abducted by Hamas terrorists, who drove them into Gaza in their own car.

After 51 days of grueling captivity, Aviva was finally released earlier this week as part of a temporary cease-fire. Keith is still being held hostage. I can't even imagine what Aviva has gone through or the agony the entire family is going through waiting for their beloved Keith to be freed from captivity.

I have met with other hostage families and learned about their loved ones. I realized that just like the stories of Holocaust survivors, each story about a hostage is unique. Each story is heartbreaking because each of these hostages has loving family members whose lives have been torn apart, who are living the agony of not knowing what has become of their loved ones: Are they okay? Are they healthy? Are they injured? Are they alive? Will they ever see them again?

I have heard stories that have brought me to tears, that haunt my dreams, and that should make all of us redouble our efforts to bring those hostages home. I have met with several of these families so often that I feel like they are my own extended family members.

Over the past few days, we have seen some of the hostages released and brought home to their families, and I thank President Biden and this administration, along with Israelis and our regional partners who have worked to ensure that the agreed-upon hostage exchanges took place, but there is still much more work to do.

□ 1915

There are still more than 130 people being held hostage, and we have only begun to learn about the terrible circumstances of their captivity. This has told us we have absolutely no time to waste.

Earlier this week, I was proud to help lead the debate on the House floor on a bipartisan resolution that we passed unanimously demanding the release of the hostages, but passing a resolution is not enough. We must do more.

Hamas has still not allowed the International Red Cross to visit the hostages. This is unacceptable. Our country and countries around the world must join together and demand the immediate release of all the remaining hostages: the children, the women, the men, the civilians, and the soldiers. We have no time to waste.

I look forward to rejoicing with the Siegel family when Keith is finally released, and I look forward to bringing all the hostages home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from North Carolina for her remarks, and I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS).

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for her leadership on this issue.

I rise today to tell the story of Ofer Kalderon. On October 7, the deadliest day for the Jewish people since the Holocaust, Ofer, along with his children Sahar, 16, and Erez, 12, was taken

hostage by Hamas from the Nir Oz Kibbutz close to the Gaza Strip.

During that brutal attack, 29 of Kibbutz Nir Oz's 400 residents were murdered, and 80 were taken captive. These are not just numbers. Those residents who were murdered were individuals with hopes now extinguished, with lives now cut short.

Those taken hostage are living in unimaginable terror, and their families are waiting, hoping for good news and fearing the worst.

Ofer is a father of four, a carpenter. He loves to build and to rebuild engines, to travel, to take family camping trips, to race and ride dirt bikes, to help cook Shabbat dinner for his family.

When asked about Ofer, his family describes his easygoing energy and a huge smile.

We cannot lose sight of the fact that there is a family and a story like this one behind each one of these names of those murdered and of those taken hostage. Ofer is one of them.

Ofer's children have thankfully been returned, but their family will not be made whole again until Ofer is released, as well. His relatives are my constituents, and my office is providing any support that we can, but the ultimate responsibility is on Hamas to release Ofer and all hostages immediately and unconditionally.

I urge those terrorists to salvage a shred of humanity by releasing him and by releasing all the others held hostage, but I understand also that the hopes of finding a shred of humanity within Hamas are close to nil, which is why I remind my colleagues here today that we cannot handcuff Israel with calls for a unilateral cease-fire as they work to achieve their primary shared goal we all have: bringing all of the hostages home.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Massachusetts for his remarks, and I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. RYAN).

Mr. RYAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Florida for the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise on behalf of my Hudson Valley community to honor the memories of the community members we lost on October 7 and to plead and to demand the safe return of all of the Hudson Valley families and friends still held hostage by Hamas.

Judith and Gadi Haggai, who you can see behind me, are both dual American and Israeli citizens, Judith was born in the Hudson Valley in Goshen, New York, in Orange County.

On October 7, Judith and Gadi were on their usual morning walk around Kibbutz Nir Oz when they were ambushed by Hamas, shot, and the last location of their phone was traced to Gaza.

Judith and Gadi are not combatants or soldiers. They are a schoolteacher and a musician. They are peace-loving people whose only crime was being Jewish.

Their niece, Ofri, took a one-way flight to the United States, came to my office, and made two powerful requests: Never allow our country to forget her aunt and her uncle and to fight with everything that we have to bring them back. I promised her I would do that, and I stand here today to honor that commitment.

Mr. Speaker, I served 27 months in combat. Our rule was that we never leave a fallen sister or brother behind.

I ask all to not forget Judith and Gadi, and I refuse, and I know my fellow Americans refuse to leave behind our Hudson Valley brothers and sisters.

Tragically, the Haggais are not the only Hudson Valley family grieving. Maurice Shnaider of Kingston, New York, my hometown, lost his sister, Margit, and his brother-in-law, Yosi, in these barbaric attacks.

While we honor their loss, it is impossible to mourn properly while the fate of their daughter, Shiri, and their grandsons, Ariel and Kfir, hang in the balance—Ariel, 4, Kfir, 10 months old.

My children, my two boys, Theo and Cameron, are 4 and 1. I cannot think every night as I put my boys to bed of anything other than the faces of the Bibas family.

These are not prisoners of war. These are children, babies ripped away from their home and taken hostage by Hamas terrorists. This is pure, unadulterated evil.

To the Haggai family, the Bibas family, to their friends, to my whole community, to every Jewish person worried about their safety amidst the historic rise in anti-Semitism, know this: We are here for you, we see you, and we will not give up until every single hostage comes home safely.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his remarks, and I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. PANETTA), who I also had the privilege of traveling with to Israel in the days after the attacks.

Mr. PANETTA. Mr. Speaker, Representative WASSERMAN SCHULTZ and I were in the Middle East on October 7 of this year. We were part of a congressional delegation trip led by Senator JONI ERNST, and we went there to talk about peace. Unfortunately, due to the bloodthirsty attack by Hamas, we left the region talking about war.

Despite the change in the tone of our trip, we became the first congressional delegation to visit Israel in the aftermath of the October 7 attack.

While we were in country, though, we met with family members of victims of that attack, including David and Noam Peri, a brother and sister whose 79-year-old father, Haim Peri, was kidnapped by Hamas from his home in the Kibbutz Nir Oz, a peaceful agricultural town whose name means meadow of strength in Hebrew, a town whose 400 citizens probably could be seen prior to the attack taking to the streets to peacefully protest the prime minister's rightwing government.

On the morning of October 7, that town was anything but peaceful as the

Hamas attack left it smashed up and smoldering with one in four of its residents either murdered or kidnapped.

That day, Hamas lived up to its definition as a genocidal terrorist organization as it attacked Israel to kill Jews, to kill the Jewish society, and to kill peace.

As part of that goal, Hamas attacked Nir Oz and murdered 27 of its inhabitants and took 73 hostages to Gaza.

At the time of the attack, Haim was not only the leader in that community, he was also a long-time peace activist for the Israeli-Palestinian issues.

He is the type that would drive sick Palestinians from Gaza into Israel to be cared for at Israeli hospitals.

A father of five and grandfather of 13, Haim is now most likely isolated in the dungeons of the Gazan tunnels.

Although Noam Peri describes her father as strong and brave, she also admits that he is not young. A metalworker by trade, Haim has had two heart surgeries and now has been without his heart medication for 7 weeks.

I will never forget when we met them. All that Noam was concerned about was that he didn't have his medication to survive.

Mr. Speaker, it is going to be tough going forward. We hope that the hostages are released and that there are more pauses in the conflict.

We hope to pass and provide meaningful support and humanitarian assistance so that Israel can continue to defend itself from the existential and constant threat of Hamas.

Mr. Speaker, although things may never be the same for Nir Oz, for Haim, and for the family, we do know that because of its determination to survive and succeed, the same determination it has shown for over 75 years in its existence, Israel will continue to be that meadow of strength in the Middle East for peace, for prosperity, and for democracy.

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his poignant words.

Mr. Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining?

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

#### THE STATE OF QATAR

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 9, 2023, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. BERGMAN) for 30 minutes.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. SCHNEIDER).

Mr. SCHNEIDER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for organizing this hour. I thank the Speaker for his indulgence and attention as we have gone through a long list typical of conversations talking about the hostages. I thank my friend from Michigan, General BERGMAN, for the time.

We should not have to be here tonight. We should not be forced to talk

about some of the 250 people brutally kidnapped and taken hostage on October 7.

It should not be necessary to call for the immediate, unconditional release of these hostages. We should not be here because Hamas should not be holding hostages.

I am grateful that more than 100 hostages have been released and returned to Israel, but 143 hostages remain in captivity, held by Hamas, by the Palestinian Islamic Jihad, and by others in Gaza.

The families don't know the status of their loved ones. They don't know where their loved ones are. They don't know when they will be coming home.

I will talk tonight about one hostage, Hersh Goldberg-Polin. Hersh's parents, Rachel and Jon, are from Chicago. I have been friends with his aunt, Abby, for more than 30 years. I know his grandmother Leah. Hersh's family is now my family.

Hersh was born in northern California. His family moved to Virginia when Hersh was 4 and to Israel when he was 7. That was in 2008. Hersh grew up in Jerusalem, reached adulthood, and was known widely as a kind, gentle mensch.

On Friday, October 6, of this year, Hersh was with his family in Jerusalem. It was the evening of the Sabbath, Shabbat, and the holiday of Simchat Torah.

The family went to synagogue and then went to dinner at a friend's house with two other families. After dinner, Hersh grabbed his backpack and left to meet his friend Aner. They later learned that Hersh and his friend were going to a concert in the south, a music festival.

That was on Saturday, October 7. I will read at length some of the words of Hersh's father, Jonathan Polin, published in *Time* magazine.

He says, describing his circumstance on Sunday, having learned that Hersh was taken hostage on Saturday, at some time—I think it was Sunday morning—a picture started to circulate online that was from an outdoor bomb shelter. They are not uncommon in the south of Israel.

Our son was in the picture, as was Aner. Through social media, we started to search for other families of people who were in the shelter and to try to piece together a story.

What we have subsequently pieced together, based on conversations with the three witnesses who were in the shelter with him, is the following: Sometime around 7:30 Saturday morning, those in the bomb shelter came under heavy gunfire. Grenades were being tossed into the shelter.

Hersh's friend Aner, who was by the entrance of the bomb shelter, is responsible for the lives of anybody who is still alive—he was picking up grenades and tossing them back out and taking control of the situation. But it was total chaos. At least 11 grenades were thrown into the shelter. Aner picked

up eight and threw them back out. Three exploded inside.

□ 1930

People were critically wounded. What we next know from witnesses is that at roughly 9 a.m., gunmen came into the shelter calmly, not shooting, and they said anybody who can get on their feet and walk out, walk out of here. And our son was one of the small number to walk out.

That was 55 days ago: Seven Shabbat dinners with an empty seat in the Hersh Goldberg family; seven weeks of uncertainty not knowing where Hersh is; seven weeks of not knowing how Hersh is doing; seven weeks of not knowing when Hersh is coming home.

Tonight, we have heard about so many of these hostages, 143 of the 250-plus hostages taken still are in captivity. The IRC must be able to see Hersh in every one of the other hostages.

Hersh and all the other hostages must come home. Not someday, not soon, but now. We owe it to these hostages to bring them home. We owe it to our families, and we must make sure that Hamas can never take hostages, can never attack Israel ever again.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ).

Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman, my friend from Michigan, General Bergman, for his indulgence and his generosity.

Mr. Speaker, I close by reminding the American public the names and faces you saw tonight are only a fraction of those who remain held hostage in Gaza by cowardly terrorists, by Hamas.

I hope every American understands that Israel is fighting to protect her citizens from this diabolic terrorist organization and to rescue her hostages.

There is only one culprit to blame for this war, and that is Hamas. Their singular goal is to destroy Israel and kill Jews.

Mr. Speaker, this Chamber has always and will always continue to stand strong with Israel and work to release these victims from terrorist tyranny and support, preventing an attack like this from being perpetrated against Israel by Hamas ever again.

"Am Yisrael Chai," "The people of Israel live."

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. LANDSMAN) as he provides his statement.

Mr. LANDSMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and to my colleague, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, for bringing us all together today.

I would just say a word or two about Doris Liber, who I met a few weeks ago. She came to the Capitol with other families who have loved ones who were taken hostage. Her son, Guy, was taken hostage by Hamas on October 7; 26 years old.

He was at a festival with his friends, and terror took over. He was shot in the arm and called his mother. That was the last time she heard his voice. We hope and pray that he is alive and that he will be released.

Every single one of these hostages must be released. Hamas must release every single hostage, and they must surrender.

They can end this nightmare, and they can end this war.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Michigan has 22 minutes remaining.

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and submit extraneous materials for the RECORD.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, the State of Qatar poses the gravest and most profound threat to the national security interest of the United States in the Middle East.

This was true before October 7, but it is now undeniable in the aftermath of the unspeakable horrors of that day, where at least 32 Americans were brutally murdered, and another 12 Americans were taken hostage.

Qatar poses a threat to the U.S. not through its military. Nor does Qatar threaten the U.S. by training and directly equipping terrorist groups the same way that the Ayatollah and the mullahs from Iran do.

Qatar threatens the U.S. even though it does not call Israel the Little Satan, nor does it call the United States the Great Satan. It is true that Qatar does not loudly proclaim that it wants to wipe Israel off the map, just as it does not publicly chant "death to America." But it is precisely because Qatar does not espouse extremism so boldly and brazenly that this tiny but wealthy emirate is so dangerous to our national security interests.

The nature of this threat is best understood by comparing and contrasting the two main state sponsors of Hamas—Qatar and Iran.

Qatar has access to the corridors of power and the ability to mingle with world elites. Iran, on the other hand, simply does not have the ability to influence our glad-hand Western leaders.

Iran does not get involved and invited to the G20. Qatar does.

Iran does not attend Davos. Qatar does.

Iran does not host the forward headquarters of CENTCOM, Central Command. Qatar does.

The Iranian Ayatollah can't simply get President Biden on the phone for a friendly call, but the Qatari Emir can, and does.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in its current form run by the mullahs would

never be designated as a major non-NATO ally. Yet just last year, President Biden bestowed this prestigious designation on the State of Qatar.

Qatar has used its enormous influence with the West to help terrorist groups, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban. Qatar's singularly unique support for Hamas has proved invaluable for the bloodthirsty terrorist group.

Hamas leaders not only planned the unprecedented error campaign from luxury villas and penthouse suites in Doha, provided to them by the State of Qatar, but they have been allowed to promote blood libels daily since October 7 on Al Jazeera, the propaganda outlet owned and ultimately controlled by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

For years and continuing to this day, Qatar has promoted and whitewashed Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban, among other terrorist groups, including with fawning coverage on Al Jazeera. Qatar also effectively serves as the diplomatic arm for these terrorist groups, including when they claim to act as mediators with the terrorists from the West. And, of course, Qatar also funds these and other terrorist groups, sometimes overtly and sometimes quietly.

But Qatar has also provided direct and material support to Hamas here in the United States, such as aggressively protecting the terrorist group by successfully killing legislation that was to enact harsh sanctions on the state sponsors of Hamas.

As I will soon explain in more detail, the State of Qatar was single-handedly responsible for killing the Hamas Sanctions Bill, which was first introduced in 2017 by my friend and colleague, Congressman BRIAN MAST.

The State of Qatar not only killed the Hamas Sanctions Bill in the 115th Congress, but after it was reintroduced in 2019, the emirate once again killed the legislation in the 116th Congress.

While it is impossible to know for sure, it is distinctly possible that if Qatar had not gone to such extraordinary lengths to protect Hamas from sanctions, that the atrocities of October 7 might never have happened.

Almost the entire Beltway foreign policy establishment, not just Democrats but also Republicans, have gotten Qatar wrong for the past 25-plus years. The establishment's conventional wisdom is that although almost all outward indicators show that Qatar is firmly aligned with Iran, Islamists, and jihadists, the supposed truth is that they are secretly moderate and pro-America.

Unfortunately, our foreign policy elites have chosen to cling to the illusion of who the Qataris privately claim to be, while ignoring the harsh reality of who they actually are.

It is simply not true that Qataris are reluctantly close with Iran, Islamists, and jihadists, engaging with these malign actors out of necessity or to help the United States and the West.

The overwhelming evidence shows that, in fact, the Qataris are true believers.

Qatar's apologists claim that the emirate only has dealings with Iran because they jointly own the North Field, the world's largest natural gas reserve.

Yet time and again, Qatar acts in sync with Iran across the Middle East, where both regimes just so happen to try and destabilize the same governments, especially those that are strong allies of the United States. And Qatar and Iran both sponsor some of the same terrorist groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah.

There is no support for Ambassador Al Thani's allegation. The most generous interpretation for the emirate is that Qatar wanted to serve as the home for Hamas headquarters and its leaders, and that it convinced the Obama administration to allow them to become joined at the hip with this bloodthirsty terrorist group.

Similarly, Qatar is also no reluctant supporter of Hamas. Qatar's Ambassador to America, Meshal Al Thani, implied in a Wall Street Journal op-ed earlier this month that the United States essentially requested Doha to host Hamas' world headquarters and to provide sanctuary to the terrorist group's leaders.

The best evidence that Qatar genuinely supports Hamas and generally shares the same world view and goals as the terrorist organization is what you see when Hamas leaders, such as Ismail Haniyeh or Khaled Mashaal, meet with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani.

As you can see in photos of their meetings, the Emir warmly embraces Mashaal, terrorists with blood on their hands, and the Emir clearly demonstrates with his smile and body language that he considers these Hamas thugs to be his close, personal friends.

There are two other powerful indicators that Qatar agrees with the radicals who hate America.

The first is the ruling Al Thani family's close relationship with the long-time spiritual leader of the International Muslim Brotherhood, Yusuf Al-Qaradawi. The other is something available for anyone to see for themselves, the stomach-turning content of Al Jazeera, the Qatari state-owned propaganda outlet.

Until Yusuf Al-Qaradawi died last year at the age of 96, he was not only the top religious cleric for the Muslim Brotherhood, but also for the ruling Al Thani family.

The Qatar Foundation, which is actually a private company owned by the Emir of Qatar and his parents, worked closely with Qaradawi for decades, spending hundreds of millions of dollars to export and promote Qaradawi's deranged brand of Islam.

To understand just how much of an extremist Qaradawi was, all you would have to do is watch the old broadcasts of his show on Al Jazeera. Over the years, Qaradawi used his platform to

endorse violent jihad against the West, and he specifically advocated for terrorist attacks on Israel, as well as attacks on U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Qaradawi also praised the Holocaust and repeatedly used his show to promote the mass murder of Jews.

On his Al Jazeera show in 2011, Qaradawi proclaimed that Allah used Adolf Hitler to wreak the Holocaust upon the Jews as divine punishment, and he praised Hitler for putting Jews in their place.

Qaradawi was also well known for praising Hamas during the Al Jazeera broadcasts. Unfortunately, the entirety of Al Jazeera is now well known for praising Hamas.

Al Jazeera has served as an unabashed cheerleader for Hamas for years, and especially since October 7. The broadcasts of state-owned Al Jazeera have been rife with explicit cheerleading for Hamas and spreading blood libels about the Jewish State.

Not only does Al Jazeera reveal its repugnant biases in hailing Hamas as the resistance and casting Israel as the occupiers, but among its earliest reporting on Hamas' October 7 terrorist attack was a story praising the brutal kidnapping as "humanitarian," under the headline, "Activists praise the resistance's humanitarian treatment of an Israeli woman and her children."

In the time since, Qatar's propaganda outlet has continued to interview top Hamas leaders, often in-studio in Doha, allowing them to promote dangerous falsehoods designed to incite viewers against not just Israel, but also America and the West.

For years, Hamas has tried to sell the West a fiction, the idea that there is an armed wing and a political wing of the terrorist organization. Well, it is safe to say that since October 7, Al Jazeera has become the media wing of Hamas.

If someone wants to know about Qatar's true foreign policy positions, all they need to do is check out Al Jazeera's Arabic language coverage.

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That way, it wouldn't be a surprise to anyone that Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on October 7 that holds Israel solely responsible for the mass murder of 1,200 innocents and the kidnapping of another 200-plus.

Earlier this month, at a Gulf Cooperation Council gathering, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani doubled down on this position when he had the audacity to condemn the world for allowing Israel supposedly to be above the law, as if a nation should not be allowed to defend itself from mass murders at its border, even as the Emir himself very much treats the Hamas leaders as above the law by refusing to arrest them.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. OGLES).

Mr. OGLES. Mr. Speaker, if Americans knew that the Biden administration was treating a state sponsor of

terrorism like a major ally, they would be infuriated, but that is exactly what is going on with Qatar, a tiny but very wealthy country in the Persian Gulf.

Qatar is a friend to anti-Semites. As the general stated, clearly, they must hate Israel and the Jewish people. They are one of the largest sponsors of state terrorism in the world. They regularly play host to leaders of Hamas and the Taliban. In fact, Qatar provided Hamas leadership with a venue to celebrate the horrific atrocities of October 7.

Only in a world where Joe Biden is President would we be supporting a terrorist country as part of our foreign policy. Last year, President Biden designated Qatar as a Major Non-NATO Ally, a special designation given to about 20 countries, like Taiwan and Israel, and an honor meant to highlight an extremely close bilateral relationship. In a sense, we do have a close relationship with Qatar, far too close.

Qatar has given over \$5 billion—that is b as in bravo—to U.S. colleges, which makes them the number one foreign donor to our very own educational institutions. Researchers at the Institute for the Study of Global Antisemitism and Policy have presented a strong link between the funding of U.S. universities by Doha and the active presence of anti-Semitic groups on those campuses.

Needless to say, we should be extremely wary about the impact of these donations on our young people. For decades, Congress has allowed these donations to flow into our universities without any supervision or meaningful disclosure requirements.

Meanwhile, American Jews are harassed on campuses or compelled not to reveal their Jewish heritage. Since the start of the October 7 war, 73 percent of Jewish students in the U.S. have been victims or witnesses to on-campus anti-Semitism.

Qatar has the honor of hosting a major airbase outside of Doha. The presence of that airbase all but ensures their safety and that they will never be attacked. You would hope, at the very least, Qatar would try hard to ensure that it is not spreading anti-Semitism or supporting anti-American sentiments, but we have seen this anti-Semitism. We have seen it alive and well on Qatar's state-owned media outlet, Al Jazeera, or, as I like to say, AJTN, Al Jazeera terrorist network.

Unfortunately, criticisms of Qatar come in muted in this town. Doha has certainly poisoned the well, purchasing the loyalties of university elites, influential think tanks, some of the best lobbyists that money can buy, and even politicians, which is why so many D.C. institutions whitewash Qatar's support for terrorism.

On top of this, as I mentioned earlier, Qatar lets the leaders of Hamas and the Taliban stay at the most expensive hotels in Doha and provides up to \$480 million, half a billion dollars, to Hamas to keep their military afloat.

Qatar will tell you that this is going to nonmilitary uses, but we have heard

throughout testimony today that money flowing to Qatar, flowing to Iran, is fungible.

As the former chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ms. Ros-Lehtinen, once put it, in Qatar, there are three buckets: terror financed by the government, terror financed through Qataris, and terror financing that Qatar doesn't stop.

That is the former chairwoman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee commenting on something that has been known for decades, known in this town, that Qatar openly and actively supports terrorism.

Let's look at a few more examples. In 2003, Congress was informed of Qatar's funding to charities that support al-Qaida, including the bin Laden-endorsed charity, the Qatar Charity. The same year, The New York Times also reported that Khalid Sheikh Mohammed, the mastermind of 9/11 and one of the terrorists responsible for murdering 3,000 Americans, fled to Qatar from Kuwait in order to avoid apprehension.

We also know that Qatar has provided support for al-Qaida's affiliate in Syria, al-Nusrah Front. Qatar has provided support to numerous terrorist groups, including the Taliban, the Muslim Brotherhood, and, of course, its most visible beneficiary, Hamas.

What would you call a group that supports terrorists or a country that supports terrorist groups like al-Qaida, al-Nusrah, the Taliban, the Muslim Brotherhood, and Hamas? You would call them a state sponsor of terrorism.

That is what this administration needs to do. It needs to remove Qatar's Major Non-NATO Ally status until such time that Qatar denounces terrorism and any support for terrorism or terrorist groups. If they don't, maybe it is time to label them as a state sponsor of terrorism.

Earlier today, this House passed, in a unanimous fashion, my amendment to call on Qataris to condemn Hamas, turn over Hamas leadership to the U.S. or Israeli custody, and prevent Iran from receiving any funds.

If the Emir of Qatar were here on the House floor, I would tell him to pick a side. Either you are with us, or you are with the terrorists. Enough equivocating.

Let me be clear. I do not wish ill on Qatar. In fact, I am open to dialogue.

To the people of Qatar, I wish them well, but I want to ensure that my country has partners it can trust. Qatar has demonstrated time and again its unwillingness to abandon its two-faced approach toward relations with the United States and with terrorists.

Mr. Speaker, regarding the atrocities, what does Qatar have to say when a mom and her 10- to 12-year-old daughter were brutally raped, left naked, and murdered in their home?

What does Qatar have to say when a baby was put into an oven, the father murdered, and the wife brutally raped? What does Qatar have to say?

When women were being gang-raped, their breasts cut off, and the terrorists were playing with them, tossing them around like toys, what does Qatar have to say?

When they were sexually abusing men and cutting off their genitals, what does Qatar have to say?

When the pregnant mom, her mouth gagged, was being held while they cut the baby out of her womb, what does Qatar have to say?

They blame Israel.

They need to pick a side. For too long, they have been on the wrong side.

Let me make one final note on Qatar, and it is in reference to a comment made earlier by my colleague from Texas. He mentioned Qatar's role in helping to release hostages from the clutches of the Hamas dogs, the terrorists of Hamas. Most Americans taken by Hamas on October 7 are still in custody. What has Qatar done?

Many people, Israeli and otherwise, are still in Hamas custody. What has Qatar done?

I would say they are stalling for time to allow Hamas to regroup, to flee, and to rebuild. It is time that families and children be reunited. We want every hostage released now.

We pose a question to you: Do you think Qatar is the best intermediary for releasing hostages? I don't think they are.

I am grateful for every hostage that has been released, but while Qatar is helping to release some hostages, they are also ensuring Hamas' preservation.

I said earlier today that someone who robs your home and then offers to cut your grass 2 days later is still a thief. It does not change who they are.

Given the level of financing Qatar provides Hamas on an annual basis, they could have at least compelled the release of all Americans.

Let me mention briefly, Mr. Speaker, my Trust But Verify Act, which would delist Qatar's MNNA status, Major Non-NATO Ally status, until the President certifies that they are no longer providing support for international terrorism, and the President must recertify this every 90 days.

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, time is finite because once a minute is gone, it is lost forever.

I have countless examples here of how Qatar's influence is so deep in Washington, D.C. That includes hacking. That includes targeting committee chairmen. Most importantly, the biggest example that is read, The Gray Lady, The New York Times, is a business partner, to an extent, with Hamas.

It is time that we stop treating Hamas' benefactors and the government as an ally. The time is now for the U.S. to force Qatar to choose between the U.S. and Hamas. They cannot embrace both. If they choose to continue embracing Hamas, we must treat them as we treat any other state sponsor of terrorist groups that murder Americans.



Mr. Speaker, the State of Qatar poses the gravest and most profound threat to the national security interests of the United States in the Middle East.

This was true before October 7th, but it is now undeniable in the aftermath of the unspeakable horrors of that day—where at least 32 Americans were brutally murdered and another 12 Americans were taken hostage.

Qatar poses a threat to the U.S. not through its military. Nor does Qatar threaten the U.S. by training and directly equipping terrorist groups the same way that the Ayatollah and the Mullahs from Iran do.

Qatar threatens the U.S., even though it does not call Israel the Little Satan, nor does it call the United States the Great Satan. And it is true that Qatar does not loudly proclaim that it wants to wipe Israel “off the map,” just as it does not publicly chant, “Death to America.”

But it is precisely because Qatar does not espouse extremism so boldly and brazenly that this tiny but wealthy emirate is so dangerous to our national security interests.

The nature of this threat is best understood by comparing and contrasting the two main state sponsors of Hamas—Qatar and Iran.

Qatar has access to the corridors of power and the ability to mingle with world elites. Iran, on the other hand, simply does not have the ability to influence or glad-hand Western leaders.

Iran does not get invited to the G-20—Qatar does.

Iran does not attend Davos—Qatar does. Iran does not host the forward headquarters of CENTCOM—Qatar does.

The Iranian Ayatollah can't simply get President Biden on the phone for a friendly call.

But the Qatari Emir can—and does.

The Islamic Republic of Iran in its current form run by the mullahs would never be designated as a “Major Non-NATO Ally.” Yet just last year, President Biden bestowed this prestigious designation on the State of Qatar.

Qatar has used its enormous influence with the West to help terrorist groups, such as Hamas, Hezbollah, and the Taliban. Qatar's singularly unique support for Hamas has proved invaluable for the bloodthirsty terrorist group.

Hamas leaders not only planned the unprecedented terror campaign from luxury villas and penthouse suites in Doha—provided to them by the State of Qatar—but they have been allowed to promote blood libels daily since October 7th on Al Jazeera, the propaganda outlet owned and ultimately controlled by the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamnad Al Thani.

For years and continuing to this day, Qatar has promoted and whitewashed Hamas, Hezbollah and the Taliban—among other terrorist groups—including with fawning coverage on Al Jazeera. Qatar also effectively serves as the diplomatic arm for these terrorist groups, including when they claim to act as “mediators” with the terrorists for the West.

And of course, Qatar also funds these and other terrorist groups, sometimes overtly and sometimes quietly.

But Qatar has also provided direct and material support to Hamas here in the United States, such as aggressively protecting the terrorist group by successfully killing legislation that was intended to enact harsh sanctions on state sponsors of Hamas.

As I will soon explain in more detail, the State of Qatar was single-handedly respon-

sible for killing the Hamas Sanctions Bill, which was first introduced in 2017, by my friend and colleague, Congressman BRIAN MAST.

The State of Qatar not only killed the Hamas Sanctions Bill in the 115th Congress, but after it was reintroduced in 2019, the emirate once again killed the legislation in the 116th Congress.

And while it is impossible to know for sure, it is distinctly possible that if Qatar had not gone to such extraordinary lengths to protect Hamas from sanctions, that the atrocities of October 7th might never have happened.

Almost the entire Beltway foreign policy establishment—not just Democrats, but also Republicans—have gotten Qatar wrong for the past 25-plus years. The establishment's conventional wisdom is that although almost all outward indicators show that Qatar is firmly aligned with Iran, Islamists and jihadists, the supposed “truth” is that they are secretly moderate and pro-America.

Unfortunately, our foreign policy elites have chosen to cling to the illusion of who the Qataris privately claim to be, while ignoring the harsh reality of who they actually are.

It is simply not true that the Qataris are “reluctantly” close with Iran, Islamists and jihadists, engaging with these malign actors out of necessity or to “help” the United States and the West. The overwhelming evidence shows that, in fact, the Qataris are true believers.

Qatar's apologists claim that the emirate only has dealings with Iran because they jointly own the North Field, the world's largest natural gas reserve.

Yet time and again, Qatar acts in sync with Iran across the Middle East, where both regimes just so happen to try and destabilize the same governments—especially those that are strong allies of the United States. And Qatar and Iran both sponsor some of the same terrorist groups, including Hamas and Hezbollah.

But there is no support for Ambassador Al Thani's allegation.

The most generous interpretation for the emirate is that Qatar wanted to serve as the home for Hamas headquarters and its leaders, and that it convinced the Obama Administration to allow them to become joined at the hip with the bloodthirsty terrorist group.

Similarly, Qatar is also no “reluctant” supporter of Hamas. Qatar's Ambassador to America, Meshal Al Thani, implied in a Wall Street Journal op-ed earlier this month that that the United States essentially requested Doha to host Hamas' world headquarters and to provide sanctuary to the terrorist group's leaders.

The best evidence that Qatar genuinely supports Hamas and shares the same worldview and goals as the terrorist organization is what you see when Hamas leaders, such as Ismail Haniyeh or Khaled Mashaal, meet with the Emir of Qatar, Sheikh Tamim bin Hamnad Al Thani.

As you can see in photos of their meetings, the Emir warmly embraces Haniyeh and Mashaal—terrorists with blood on their hands—and the Emir clearly demonstrates with his smile and body language that he considers these Hamas thugs to be his close, personal friends.

There are two other powerful indicators that Qatar agrees with the radicals who hate America.

The first is the ruling Al Thani family's close relationship with the longtime “spiritual leader” of the International Muslim Brotherhood, Yusuf Al-Qaradawi.

The other is something available for anyone to see for themselves—the stomach-turning content of Al Jazeera, the Qatari state-owned propaganda outlet.

Until Yusuf Al-Qaradawi died last year at age 96, he was not only the top religious cleric for the Muslim Brotherhood, but also for the ruling Al Thani family.

The Qatar Foundation, which is actually a private company owned by the Emir of Qatar and his parents, worked closely with Qaradawi for decades, spending hundreds of millions of dollars to export and promote Qaradawi's de-ranked brand of Islam.

To understand just how much of an extremist that Qaradawi was, all you would have to do is watch the old broadcasts of his show on Al Jazeera. Over the years, Qaradawi used his Al Jazeera platform to endorse violent jihad against the West, and he specifically advocated for terrorist attacks on Israel, as well as attacks on U.S. soldiers in Iraq.

Qaradawi also praised the Holocaust, and repeatedly used his show to promote the mass murder of Jews.

On his Al Jazeera show in 2011, Qaradawi proclaimed that “Allah” used Adolf Hitler to wreak the Holocaust upon the Jews as “divine punishment,” and he praised Hitler for “putting (Jews) in their place.”

Qaradawi was well-known for praising Hamas during his Al Jazeera broadcasts. Unfortunately, the entirety of Al Jazeera is now also well-known for praising Hamas.

Al Jazeera has served as an unabashed cheerleader for Hamas for years, and especially since October 7th. The broadcasts of state-owned Al Jazeera have been rife with explicit cheerleading for Hamas and spreading blood libels about the Jewish state.

Not only does Al Jazeera reveal its repugnant biases in hailing Hamas as the “resistance” and casting Israel as the “occupiers,” but among its earliest reporting on Hamas' October 7th terrorist attack was a story praising the brutal kidnappings as “humanitarian,” under the headline, “Activists praise the resistance's humanitarian treatment of an Israeli woman and her children.”

In the time since, Qatar's propaganda outlet has continued to interview top Hamas leaders, often in-studio in Doha—allowing them to promote dangerous falsehoods designed to incite viewers against not just Israel, but also America and the West.

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That way, it wouldn't be a surprise to anyone that Qatar's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement on October 7th that it holds “Israel solely responsible” for the mass murder of 1,200 innocents and the kidnapping of another 200-plus.

Earlier this month at a Gulf Cooperation Council gathering, Qatar's Emir Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani doubled down on this position, when he had the audacity to condemn



the world for allowing Israel supposedly to be “above the law”—as if a nation should not be allowed to defend itself from mass murderers at its border—even as the Emir himself very much treats the Hamas leaders as “above the law” by refusing to arrest them.

Qatar has been able to hoodwink the State Department and the foreign policy “elites” for years through a two-tiered, carrot-and-stick approach.

They lavish money in all directions to purchase “friends” and supporters. And when they encounter the principled few who can’t be bought off, Qatar has used its considerable espionage capabilities to target those critics it views as harmful to their interests.

In short, Qatar’s influence strategy can be summed up in three words—buy or destroy.

The “visible” portion of Qatar’s strategy has been to spread billions and billions of dollars across the U.S. Here’s a small sampling of Qatar’s largesse inside the U.S.:

A total of \$6 billion given to our universities, which doesn’t include the millions it gives to radical, anti-American campus groups, such as Students for Justice in Palestine.

An unknown dollar amount, but probably hundreds of millions of dollars in total, to think tanks.

Millions and millions of dollars to The New York Times—yes, the “Gray Lady”—in the form of co-hosting dubious “Art for Tomorrow” conferences in Doha, as well as sponsoring other New York Times junkets, such as its “Oil and Money” conferences.

Since 2017, Qatar has engaged at least 75 lobbying and PR firms, according to the FARA website, and it has paid these firms approximately \$225 million, for an average of \$3 million paid to each registered FARA agent.

And most recently, Qatar’s sovereign wealth fund, the Qatar Investment Authority, or QIA, “invested” \$200 million dollars to purchase 5 percent of Monumental Sports Entertainment, founded and run by Ted Leonsis, and which is the parent company of the NBA and NHL franchises right here in Washington, D.C., the Wizards and the Capitals.

Qatar’s lavish spending habits on lobbyists and now for sportswashing have garnered at least some media attention. But the dirty secret is that it is the darker side of Qatar’s “buy-or-destroy” approach that has probably been even more effective.

Qatar has engaged in hacking operations to intercept the communications of Americans whom the wealthy emirate believes to be harmful to its interests, reportedly by hiring firms such as Global Risk Advisors, founded and owned by former CIA agent Kevin Chalker, to plan and orchestrate these so called “hack-and leak” operations.

In recent years, Qatari espionage activities have used hacked materials to smear a long list of powerful and influential figures, including both former and current U.S. government officials.

Here are a few examples of the American critics of Qatar that the emirate went after through targeted dissemination of hacked materials to friendly media outlets:

the former Homeland Security Advisor to the President, Fran Townsend;

a former U.S. Ambassador to the United Nations, Mark Wallace;

the former Deputy National Security Advisor, Elliott Abrams;

the former acting head of the Central Intelligence Agency, Michael Morell; and

the then-sitting Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee, Ed Royce.

The decision to target Chairman Royce is as stunning as it was brazen. But here is the cold, hard reality: a foreign government that sponsors numerous terrorist organizations used American citizens and others to intimidate and neutralize one of the most powerful U.S. government officials in matters of foreign policy, who at that time was the Chairman of this body’s Foreign Affairs Committee.

Although Qatar has never publicly stated why they unleashed their espionage forces on Chairman Royce, the reason seems obvious. It was to protect Hamas.

In late 2017, Chairman Royce’s committee unanimously passed the Hamas Sanctions Bill, whose findings mentioned two state sponsors of Hamas—Iran and Qatar. It was no secret at that time that Qatar’s top priority was killing the legislation, and Qatari lobbyists were swarming Capitol Hill, desperately attempting to halt the bill.

Just a few months later, in early 2018, Qatar’s high-priced PR agents worked in cahoots with media outlets, including The New York Times, to smear Chairman Royce—a good man, known and loved by many in this body—with splashy “news” stories that created false narratives through the use of hacked materials.

What makes the whole operation to smear Chairman Royce even more outrageous is the very significant ethical conflict of the primary media outlet that relied on hacked materials to do Qatar’s bidding—The New York Times.

What the “Gray Lady” did not mention in any of the many stories it published based on emails hacked by Qatar is that The New York Times was in business with Qatar.

In fact, Qatar and Brookfield had reached an agreement to purchase 42 percent of the New York Times Building in Times Square by January 2018.

The New York Times also neglected to mention in these stories placed by Qatar’s Intelligence services that Qatar had been lining the pockets of The New York Times for at least several years by this time, with untold millions of dollars for “sponsoring” junkets hosted by The New York Times.

So when the tiny but wealthy emirate needed to “teach a lesson” to any other Congressman or Senator thinking of criticizing Qatar—or even Hamas—the State of Qatar turned for help to its own business partner, The New York Times, which dutifully published a hit piece smearing the then-current Chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Committee.

The hit pieces that Qatar generated had the desired effect.

Even though the Hamas Sanctions Bill, H.R. 2712, had been unanimously passed by the Foreign Affairs Committee in November 2017 and was expected to easily pass a Floor vote in this body.

But after the Qataris successfully weaponized hacked materials to smear Chairman Royce, the Hamas Sanctions bill died a quiet death, never even making it to a Floor vote.

Could anyone imagine the Chairman Royce scenario playing out the same way, but with different countries or a different target?

For example, if Russia had targeted a Democratic Congressman or Senator that same way, does anyone doubt that the media and foreign policy “elites” would have been up in arms?

Or if it had been Iran smearing a Democratic Congressman or Senator with hacked materials? This is yet another example of the unique threat posed by Qatar.

There’s no other nation that would be so daring as to intercept the communications of prominent Americans—let alone high-ranking U.S. government officials—that also has a cozy relationship with top media outlets or that has financial ties to a wide array of prominent and influential Americans.

Who in academia would dare step up to criticize Qatar for openly targeting American critics, including U.S. government officials?

Not likely someone affiliated with Harvard, which has received at least \$17 million from Qatar.

Probably not anyone affiliated with Northwestern University, which has raked in over \$600 million from Qatar.

The same goes for anyone affiliated with Georgetown University—which has received over \$800 million in Qatari cash—or Cornell University, which Qatar has paid a staggering \$2 billion.

The top ranks of the think tank world are also surprisingly reluctant to criticize Qatar—which is no surprise given the millions upon millions of dollars that Qatar spreads to think tanks.

And in case you might think that major law firms would be outraged at a foreign government hacking the communications of its American critics and then weaponizing those hacked materials, that has certainly not happened with Qatar.

Among the law firms retained by Qatar is Covington, a law firm that acts as personal counsel to President Biden.

Three Covington partners serve as the trustees of Biden’s Vice Presidential Archives.

Covington partner Dana Remus was the first White House Counsel in this Administration, and before that, she was the general counsel for the Biden 2020 Presidential campaign.

Another Covington partner, Robert Lenhard, served as the lead outside counsel for the Biden 2020 Presidential campaign.

And Lenhard’s wife, Viveca Novak, was an editor at McClatchy News when that outlet was publishing stories based on materials hacked by Qatar in 2017–2018.

Even with its tentacles everywhere in American society, the State of Qatar is looking to extend its influence operations into one of the last areas in the U.S. that has been immune from foreign influence—American professional sports.

The Qatar Investment Authority has purchased 5 percent of Monumental Sports Entertainment, the parent company of the NBA and NHL franchises right here in Washington, D.C.—the Wizards and the Capitals.

Over the past month, I have sent multiple letters about QIA’s proposed investment to the NBA, the NHL, and Monumental Sports.

All three of them responded to my initial letters with dismissive replies, and then the NBA and Monumental ignored my following-up letters sent two weeks ago, which included straightforward questions that would shed light on some of the basic details regarding this business deal that is obviously of significant importance to the American public.

There should be no doubt that Qatar’s sole motivation for its investment into the Washington Wizards and the Washington Capitals is to give it a uniquely powerful tool for further

cementing its death grip on our Nation's capital.

Congress must investigate this business arrangement. And because Monumental's President, Ted Leonsis, is seeking \$600 million in taxpayer money to pair with Qatar's \$200 million "investment" in order to renovate the Verizon Center, Congress has a duty to investigate.

As my time comes to a close, let me conclude by saying that it is of paramount importance that the United States immediately begin to reassess its relationship with the State of Qatar.

The only path forward is to pressure Qatar. It is unconscionable that Hamas is holding as hostages nine Americans and almost 200 others, while Hamas leaders live freely—and luxuriously—in Doha, just miles from the United States Air Base at Al Udeid.

We owe it to the memory of the 32 Americans murdered on October 7. And we owe it to the American people, whose government should not be treating Hamas' benefactors as an "ally."

The time is now for the U.S. to force Qatar to choose between the U.S. and Hamas. They cannot embrace both. And if they choose to continue embracing Hamas, we must treat them as we treat any other state sponsor of terrorist groups that murder Americans.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 7 o'clock and 57 minutes p.m.), the House adjourned until tomorrow, Friday, December 1, 2023, at 9 a.m.

#### EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2439. A letter from the Under Secretary, Acquisition and Sustainment, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Explosives Safety Board 2022 Report to Congress, pursuant to Public Law 116-283, Sec. 354(a); (134 Stat. 3545); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2440. A letter from the Supervisory Workforce Analyst, Employment and Training Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's final rule — Wagner-Peyser Act Staffing [Docket No.: ETA-2022-0003] (RIN: 1205-AC02) received November 24, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

EC-2441. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of final rules — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No. 6] received November 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2442. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-

wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's Small Entity Compliance Guide — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2024-01 [Docket No.: FAR-2023-0051, Sequence No. 6] received November 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2443. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation; Technical Amendments [FAC 2024-01; Item II; Docket No.: FAR-2023-0052; Sequence No. 5] received November 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2444. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: New Designated Country — North Macedonia [FAC 2024-01, FAR Case 2023-019, Item I; Docket No.: 2023-0019; Sequence No. 1] (RIN: 9000-A067) received November 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

EC-2445. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel/Rules Administrator, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's interim rule — Federal Tort Claims Act—Technical Changes [BOP-1180-I] (RIN: 1120-AB80) received November 21, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-2446. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — General Technical, Organizational, Conforming, and Correcting Amendments to the Federal Motor Carrier Safety Regulations [Docket No.: FMCSA-2023-0174] (RIN: 2126-AC60) received November 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-2447. A letter from the Chief, Regulatory Development Division, Federal Motor Carrier Safety Agency, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Broker and Freight Forwarder Financial Responsibility [Docket No.: FMCSA-2016-0102] (RIN: 2126-AC10) received November 22, 2023, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

#### PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. CAREY (for himself, Mr. MORELLE, and Mr. STEIL):

H.R. 6513. A bill to amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. ALFORD (for himself, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. FINSTAD):

H.R. 6514. A bill to require agencies to notify the Archivist of the date on which a

final rule is submitted to Congress and the Government Accountability Office; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6515. A bill to combat illegal deforestation by prohibiting the importation of products made wholly or in part of certain commodities produced on land undergoing illegal deforestation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Financial Services, Oversight and Accountability, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia (for himself, Ms. MANNING, Ms. STEFANIK, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. MOOLENAAR):

H.R. 6516. A bill to reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Ms. JACOBS):

H.R. 6517. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress annual reports on civilian casualties caused by certain operations of foreign governments, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina (for himself and Mr. NUNN of Iowa):

H.R. 6518. A bill to require the Secretary of Labor to take initiatives to measure the impact of automation on the workforce in order to inform workforce development strategies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. DINGELL (for herself, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Ms. KUSTER):

H.R. 6519. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to ban the use of intentionally added perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances in cosmetics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. DUNCAN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. NEHLS, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, Mr. PALMER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. ROSE):

H.R. 6520. A bill to exclude individuals who are not citizens of the United States from the number of persons used to determine the apportionment of Representatives and the number of electoral votes; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH (for herself, Mr. STAUBER, and Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana):

H.R. 6521. A bill to authorize a Law Enforcement Education Grant program to encourage students to pursue a career in law enforcement; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. LAMBORN, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. HAGEMAN, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. LATURNER, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. STEFANIK, Mrs. LUNA, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr.

FLEISCHMANN, Ms. FOXX, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mr. HUNT, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6522. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to fingerprint noncitizen minors entering the United States who are suspected of being victims of human trafficking, to require the Secretary to publicly disclose the number of such minors who are fingerprinted by U.S. Customs and Border Protection (CBP) officials and the number of child traffickers who are apprehended by CBP, to impose criminal penalties on noncitizen adults who use unrelated minors to gain entry into the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, 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 Mrs. HINSON (for herself, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. EDWARDS, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. CISCOMANI, Mrs. BICE, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. HUNT, Mrs. HOUCHIN, Mr. SESSIONS, and Mr. WEBER of Texas):

H.R. 6523. A bill to require the Department of Homeland Security to publish various publications and reports regarding the number of aliens seeking entry along the southern border of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Homeland Security, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOULAHAN (for herself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mrs. BICE, and Mr. MOULTON):

H.R. 6524. A bill to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Education and the Workforce, Oversight and Accountability, and Veterans' Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon (for herself, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SCHIFF, and Ms. STANSBURY):

H.R. 6525. A bill to provide mandatory funding for hazardous fuels reduction projects on certain Federal land, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. HUDSON (for himself and Ms. SCHRIER):

H.R. 6526. A bill to facilitate the efficient licensing and deployment of advanced civilian nuclear technologies; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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 con-

sideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois (for himself, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. COHEN, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. TRONE, and Mr. FROST):

H.R. 6527. A bill to enhance civil rights accountability and enforcement in the Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota (for himself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. HINSON, and Mr. GIMENEZ):

H.R. 6528. A bill to encourage State and local governments to prohibit certain investment activities in the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. KUSTER (for herself, Mr. SMUCKER, and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 6529. A bill to establish a national registry to provide for the linking of State and tribal responsible father registries to facilitate the timely notification of adoption proceedings to out-of-State possible biological fathers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce.

By Mr. LAMBORN (for himself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 6530. A bill to amend the Energy Act of 2020 to provide for energy parity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, 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. PAPPAS (for himself and Mr. VAN ORDEN):

H.R. 6531. A bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to develop a training program for certain senior executives and supervisors employed by the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. PASCRELL (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 6532. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide credits for the production of renewable chemicals and investments in renewable chemical production facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. RUIZ (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mr. COLE, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 6533. A bill to amend title XIX of the Social Security Act to require a Federal medical assistance percentage of 100 percent for urban Indian organizations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SALINAS (for herself and Mrs. HARSHBARGER):

H.R. 6534. A bill to establish a home-based telemental health care demonstration program for purposes of increasing mental health and substance use services in rural medically underserved populations and for individuals in farming, fishing, and forestry occupations; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 6535. A bill to provide for an emergency response by the Department of Homeland Security to migration surges, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committees on Ways and Means, Transportation and Infrastructure, and the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. SOTO (for himself, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. FROST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN):

H.R. 6536. A bill to provide that local governments may receive grants to carry out HOMES rebate programs and high-efficiency electric home rebate programs in States in which the applicable State energy office is not carrying out such a program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 6537. A bill to waive General Schedule qualification standards related to work experience for nurses at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 6538. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for a definition of "establishment, determination, or adjustment of employee compensation" for purposes of the collective bargaining of certain Department of Veterans Affairs employees; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Ms. TITUS (for herself and Mr. BUCHANAN):

H.R. 6539. A bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ (for herself and Ms. SALAZAR):

H.R. 6540. A bill to realign L-29 at full Federal expense for the Miccosukee Tribe to expand the area for the Tigertail camp, which is a residential area; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. WENSTRUP (for himself and Ms. BROWN):

H.R. 6541. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain entries of steel and aluminum products retroactively approved for exclusion from certain duties; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania (for himself and Mr. AUCHINCLOSS):

H. Res. 897. A resolution expressing support for the goals of November National Lung Cancer Awareness Month and for the early detection and treatment of lung cancer; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H. Res. 898. A resolution recognizing November 2023 as "National Family Caregivers Month"; to the Committee on Education and the Workforce, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARBARINO (for himself, Mr. RYAN, Mr. SELF, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, and Ms. TENNEY):

H. Res. 899. A resolution recognizing the Suicide Awareness and Remembrance Flag; to the Committee on Armed Services, and in addition to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs, 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. GRIJALVA (for himself, Mrs. PELTOLA, Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas, Mr. COLE, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio):

H. Res. 900. A resolution recognizing National Native American Heritage Month and celebrating the heritages and cultures of Native Americans and the contributions of Native Americans to the United States; to the Committee on Oversight and Accountability.

By Mr. MCCORMICK (for himself and Mr. KILDEE):

H. Res. 901. A resolution expressing support for democracy and human rights in Pakistan; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY AND  
SINGLE SUBJECT STATEMENTS

Pursuant to clause 7(c)(1) of rule XII and Section 3(c) of H. Res. 5 the following statements are submitted regarding (1) the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution and (2) the single subject of the bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 6513.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Sections 4 and 5

The single subject of this legislation is:

To amend the Help America Vote Act of 2002 to confirm the requirement that States allow access to designated congressional election observers to observe the election administration procedures in congressional elections.

By Mr. ALFORD:

H.R. 6514.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To require agencies to notify the Archivist of the date on which a final rule is submitted to Congress and the Government Accountability Office.

By Mr. BLUMENAUER:

H.R. 6515.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Clause 3 of Article Section 8 of Article I of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

By Mr. CARTER of Georgia:

H.R. 6516.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

To reauthorize the Director of the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum to support Holocaust education programs, and for other purposes.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 6517.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To direct the Director of National Intelligence to submit to Congress annual reports on civilian casualties caused by certain operations of foreign governments.

By Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina:

H.R. 6518.

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 require the Secretary of Labor to take initiatives to measure the impact of automation on the workforce in order to inform workforce development strategies.

By Mrs. DINGELL:

H.R. 6519.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To ban the use of intentionally added PFAS in cosmetics.

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 6520.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

“Regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Excludes individuals who are not citizens of the United States from the number of persons used to determine the apportionment of Representatives and the number of electoral votes.

By Mrs. FISCHBACH:

H.R. 6521.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Providing educational assistance to students pursuing a career in law enforcement.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6522.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Allows DHS and Customs and Border Protection the authority to fingerprint non-citizens under the age of 14 in order to combat trafficking and child recycling, and criminalizes child recycling.

By Mrs. HINSON:

H.R. 6523.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18

The single subject of this legislation is:

Requires DHS to issue reports detailing the total number of illegal immigrants encountered at the Southern Border and released into the country.

By Ms. HOULAHAN:

H.R. 6524.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Strengthening cyber workforce

By Ms. HOYLE of Oregon:

H.R. 6525.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Wildfire

By Mr. HUDSON:

H.R. 6526.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Section 8 of Article I of the Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy

By Mr. JACKSON of Illinois:

H.R. 6527.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Sec. 8.

The single subject of this legislation is:

To enhance civil rights accountability and enforcement in the U.S. Department of Agriculture, and for other purposes.

By Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota:

H.R. 6528.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 10

The single subject of this legislation is:

To encourage state and local governments to prohibit certain investment activities in the People's Republic of China.

By Ms. KUSTER:

H.R. 6529.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Under Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution, Congress has the power “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for

carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Adoption

By Mr. LAMBORN:

H.R. 6530.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section VIII of the US Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Energy production fees oversight

By Mr. PAPPAS:

H.R. 6531.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution states that “Congress shall have the authority to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.”

The single subject of this legislation is:

Veterans

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 6532.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Taxation

By Mr. RUIZ:

H.R. 6533.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution, to provide for the general welfare and make all laws necessary and proper to carry out the powers of Congress.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill would apply a Federal Medical Assistance Percentage (i.e., the federal matching rate under Medicaid) of 100% with respect to amounts expended as medical assistance for services received through an Urban Indian organization under a grant or contract with the Indian Health Service.

By Ms. SALINAS:

H.R. 6534.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The single subject of this legislation is:

Telemental Health Care

By Ms. SLOTKIN:

H.R. 6535.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

The single subject of this legislation is:

This bill authorizes the President to declare an extraordinary migration event that is of such magnitude that the existing infrastructure, including Department of Homeland Security (DHS) staffing levels and relevant government resources, is unable to provide an appropriate government response. Such a declaration authorizes DHS to take various actions to respond to the migration event, such as (1) utilizing the capabilities of the Southwest Border Coordination Center (2) reassigning US Citizenship and Immigration Services asylum officers and

By Mr. SOTO:

H.R. 6636.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is: HOMES energy rebate program.

By Ms. STRICKLAND:

H.R. 6537.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

To address nursing staff shortages in the Department of Defense

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 6538.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

The single subject of this legislation is:

Government Reform

By Ms. TITUS:

H.R. 6539.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress enacts this bill pursuant to

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Foreign trade

By Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ:

H.R. 6540.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to Article I, Section 8, Clause 3 relating to the power of Congress to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

The single subject of this legislation is:

Authorizes the Army Corp of Engineers to design and construct modifications to the L-29 Levee component of the Central and Southern Florida Project.

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 6541.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution

The single subject of this legislation is:

Trade

#### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 16: Ms. MCCLELLAN.

H.R. 211: Mr. SMUCKER and Mr. CALVERT.

H.R. 291: Mr. EDWARDS.

H.R. 308: Mr. AMO, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. CLEAVER, Mr. COHEN, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. FOUSHEE, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. IVEY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. JEFFRIES, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. KILDEE, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MFUME, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. PETERSEN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VEASEY, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Ms. ROSS, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. FROST, Ms. JACOBS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. PLASKETT, Mr. POCAN, Mr. THANEDAR, and Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 345: Mr. CASAR.

H.R. 358: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 431: Mr. LOUDERMILK.

H.R. 435: Mr. BURLISON.

H.R. 529: Mr. BEAN of Florida, Mr. POSEY, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, and Mr. DONALDS.

H.R. 537: Mr. RASKIN.

H.R. 618: Mr. OWENS.

H.R. 703: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 807: Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. BANKS.

H.R. 830: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 903: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 967: Mr. SARBANES.

H.R. 1087: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 1097: Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 1102: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 1111: Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1118: Ms. CRAIG and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 1250: Mr. DUARTE.

H.R. 1262: Mr. NEHLS.

H.R. 1380: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 1403: Ms. CARAVEO.

H.R. 1406: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 1413: Ms. CRAIG.

H.R. 1437: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 1468: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1477: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 1491: Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 1536: Mr. CUELLAR.

H.R. 1540: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 1619: Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. TRONE, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 1624: Mr. IVEY, Mr. PHILLIPS, and Mr. MENENDEZ.

H.R. 1627: Ms. LEE of Florida.

H.R. 1705: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 1737: Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania and Mr. FINSTAD.

H.R. 1774: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 1833: Ms. SPANBERGER and Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 2377: Mrs. FOUSHEE.

H.R. 2423: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 2426: Mr. ESTES, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 2474: Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. CHU, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. BABIN, Mr. PASCARELL, Mr. EVANS, Ms. SÁNCHEZ, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. LEVIN, Mr. KEAN of New Jersey, Mrs. BICE, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 2530: Ms. STANSBURY and Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 2720: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 2748: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 2830: Mr. GOLDEN of Maine.

H.R. 2851: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon and Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 2889: Ms. PINGREE.

H.R. 2891: Mr. HORSFORD.

H.R. 2923: Mr. LAMALFA.

H.R. 2949: Mr. LAWLER.

H.R. 2952: Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 3005: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 3058: Mr. NUNN of Iowa.

H.R. 3090: Mr. MENENDEZ and Mr. GARAMENDI.

H.R. 3139: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3176: Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 3258: Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Ms. MCCLELLAN, and Mr. CARSON.

H.R. 3325: Mr. GARBARINO.

H.R. 3333: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 3375: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 3381: Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. WALBERG, and Ms. ADAMS.

H.R. 3413: Mrs. SYKES.

H.R. 3425: Mr. STEIL.

H.R. 3433: Mr. NORMAN, Ms. BLUNT ROCH-ESTER, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Mr. MOULTON.

H.R. 3611: Mrs. KIM of California.

H.R. 3649: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 3713: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 3781: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 3842: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 3847: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 3851: Mrs. HAYES.

H.R. 3874: Mr. MOYLAN.

H.R. 3910: Mr. FITZGERALD.

H.R. 3946: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 3955: Mr. SORENSEN.

H.R. 4127: Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina.

H.R. 4157: Mr. WALTZ.

H.R. 4293: Mr. PAPPAS.

H.R. 4315: Mr. WALBERG, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 4326: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mrs. SYKES, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 4333: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. BEAN of Florida.

H.R. 4335: Mr. DELUZIO.

H.R. 4438: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 4583: Mr. VASQUEZ.

H.R. 4682: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 4758: Mrs. KIM of California and Ms. WILD.

H.R. 4851: Mr. PAPPAS and Mrs. RAMIREZ.

H.R. 4878: Mr. BACON.

H.R. 4891: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 4937: Mrs. HOUCHIN.

H.R. 4968: Ms. MANNING.

H.R. 4974: Mr. MOLINARO.

H.R. 4995: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 5003: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 5073: Mr. DUNCAN.

H.R. 5074: Mr. MOORE of Utah.

H.R. 5077: Mr. KILMER.

H.R. 5085: Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 5141: Mr. MAGAZINER and Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5155: Mrs. FLETCHER and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 5266: Mr. D'ESPOSITO and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 5287: Mr. ROSENDALE.

H.R. 5302: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.

H.R. 5333: Mr. ALFORD.

H.R. 5399: Mr. MEUSER.

H.R. 5401: Mr. PALLONE.

H.R. 5455: Mr. WESTERMAN.

H.R. 5547: Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 5578: Ms. STANSBURY.

H.R. 5601: Mr. BEYER, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, and Mr. MORELLE.

H.R. 5631: Ms. SALINAS, Mr. CASE, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 5641: Mr. CLOUD.

H.R. 5644: Mr. TRONE, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mrs. MCBATH, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.

H.R. 5749: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 5779: Mr. THOMPSON of California and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5785: Ms. SCHOLTEN and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 5790: Mr. DUARTE.

H.R. 5799: Mr. BABIN and Mrs. GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 5867: Mr. DIAZ-BALART.

H.R. 5871: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 5879: Mr. VAN ORDEN and Mr. KEAN of New Jersey.

H.R. 5896: Mr. GRIJALVA.

H.R. 5983: Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CHU, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 5985: Ms. PELOSI, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. LOFGREN, and Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE.

H.R. 5995: Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 6013: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 6020: Mr. WILSON of South Carolina.

H.R. 6023: Ms. HOYLE of Oregon.

H.R. 6046: Mr. BRECHEEN.

H.R. 6053: Ms. BONAMICI and Ms. JACOBS.

H.R. 6063: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 6076: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 6090: Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H.R. 6103: Mr. KHANNA.

H.R. 6163: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 6172: Ms. NORTON, Mr. TONKO, Mr. FROST, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. THANEDAR, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. CROCKETT, Ms. BALINT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. PORTER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. TRONE, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. IVEY, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. CASAR, Mr.

DELUZIO, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. RASKIN, and Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 6203: Mr. ROBERT GARCIA of California.

H.R. 6301: Mr. ALLRED, Ms. BROWNLEY, and Mr. PANETTA.

H.R. 6323: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 6335: Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 6349: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 6373: Mr. HUIZENGA.

H.R. 6377: Mr. CÁRDENAS, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. SALINAS, Mr. SMITH of Washington, and Mr. CASTEN.

H.R. 6380: Mrs. LUNA.

H.R. 6438: Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H.R. 6455: Mr. HUFFMAN and Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 6467: Ms. TOKUDA.

H.R. 6493: Mr. WEBER of Texas and Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 6508: Mr. BACON.

H.J. Res. 97: Mr. SELF and Mr. OGLES.

H.J. Res. 98: Mr. BALDERSON.

H.J. Res. 99: Mr. BOST and Mr. CALVERT.

H.J. Res. 103: Mr. WILLIAMS of Texas.

H. Con. Res. 38: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. ESPAILLAT.

H. Con. Res. 75: Mr. MFUME and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Con. Res. 76: Mrs. FOUSHEE, Mr. MFUME, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H. Res. 195: Mr. CROW, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. TRONE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Ms. TITUS, and Mrs. HAYES.

H. Res. 627: Ms. ROSS and Mr. VEASEY.

H. Res. 806: Mr. DUNN of Florida.

H. Res. 817: Mrs. BEATTY.

H. Res. 874: Ms. CRAIG, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. HAYES, and Mr. KILMER.

H. Res. 881: Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. NORTON, Ms. TOKUDA, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. TAKANO.

H. Res. 886: Mr. CARSON and Mrs. HAYES.

H. Res. 889: Mr. GARBARINO.

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#### DELETION OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were deleted from public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 972: Ms. KELLY of Illinois.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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WASHINGTON, THURSDAY, NOVEMBER 30, 2023

No. 197

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia.

### PRAYER

Today's opening prayer will be offered by our guest Chaplain, Capt. Volodymyr Marius Steliac. He is the installation chaplain for the Air National Guard Readiness Center, Joint Base Andrews, and pastor of St. Andrew Ukrainian Orthodox Cathedral, Silver Spring, MD.

The guest Chaplain offered the following prayer:

Almighty God, we come before You today, humbly seeking Your guidance and wisdom as we gather in the Halls of the U.S. Senate. We recognize the importance of this esteemed institution and the impact it has on the lives of millions of people, both within this Nation and around the world.

We are grateful for the principles of freedom, justice, and democracy the United States represents. We acknowledge this Nation's role as a beacon of hope and a force for good in the world.

We lift up in our prayers the Senators and all those who serve in this honorable Chamber. May You grant them the insight to make decisions that align with Your divine will, decisions that promote life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness.

We also pray for the continued pursuit of peace, freedom, and dignity for all people. We thank You for the compassion and solidarity shown by this Nation under Your leadership, indivisible, with liberty and justice for all.

Almighty God, bless and guide this Senate session. May it be conducted with integrity, wisdom, and a commitment to the common good. May Your presence be felt in every deliberation, and may the decisions made here be in accordance with Your divine plan.

I offer this prayer in Your Holy Name, for Yours is the glory now and forever. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mrs. MURRAY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, November 30, 2023.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable RAPHAEL G. WARNOCK, a Senator from the State of Georgia, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATTY MURRAY,  
President pro tempore.

Mr. WARNOCK 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.

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive ses-

sion to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Shanlyn A.S. Park, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii.

### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

### ANTI-SEMITISM

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, yesterday, I spoke here on the Senate floor about a subject that is highly personal and yet of immense importance: the rise of anti-Semitism in America. I spoke out because as the highest Jewish elected official in the country and in American history, I felt an obligation to say aloud what is felt within the hearts of so many Jewish people across the country and around the world.

After October 7, Jewish Americans are feeling singled out, targeted, and isolated. In many ways, we feel alone. The solidarity that Jewish Americans initially received from many of our fellow citizens was quickly drowned out by other voices.

I want to be clear. I believe most Americans who are criticizing Israeli's policies are not anti-Semitic, nor that the vast majority of criticism of Israel's policies is inherently anti-Semitic per se. But it cannot be denied that in too many instances, anti-Semites are taking advantage of the pro-Palestinian movement to espouse hatred and bigotry toward the Jewish people. Similarly, on the hard right, the poison of anti-Semitism has reached levels over these past few years we have not witnessed perhaps ever in America.

All Americans share a responsibility and an obligation to fight against anti-Semitism. We have an obligation to fight back against all forms of bigotry, be it Islamophobia or racism against

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Black Americans or demonizing the immigrant. Whether it comes from the left or from the right, anti-Semitism is an evil that must be condemned.

So, as I said yesterday, Americans ask, how can we help combat that? As I said yesterday, my plea to the American people of all creeds and backgrounds is this:

First, learn the history of the Jewish people, who have been abandoned repeatedly by their fellow countrymen—left isolated and alone to combat anti-Semitism, with disastrous results. I talked about this issue at some length in the speech I gave yesterday, and I would urge all Americans to read it.

Second, reject the illogical and double standard that is once again being applied to the plight of Jewish victims and hostages, to some of the actions of the Israeli Government, and even to the existence of a Jewish State. The glaring double standard where so many support nationhood for so many other peoples but not for the Jews must be condemned.

Third, understand why Jewish people defend Israel—not because we wish harm on Palestinians but because we fear a world where Israel is forced to tolerate the existence of groups like Hamas that want to wipe out all Jewish people from the planet. We fear a world where Israel—the place of refuge for Jewish people—will no longer exist. If there is no Israel, there will be no place for the Jewish people to go when they are persecuted in other countries.

I want to thank my colleagues for taking the time to listen, not just to my remarks yesterday but to all Jewish Americans speaking out against the rise of anti-Semitism.

I would like to thank the Republican leader for his gracious words after my remarks and the so many Members in this Chamber, Democrat and Republican, who made comments to me that they so respected my speech. Many said it had to be given. I agree with that.

Both parties have an obligation to work together to eliminate the poison of anti-Semitism and all forms of intolerance wherever we see it, regardless of who says it. I hope we can continue working together in this Chamber to advance that very noble goal.

#### SUPPLEMENTAL FUNDING

Mr. President, now on the supplemental, talks on finding a way to pass a much needed national security supplemental package continue here in the Senate.

In our supplemental, we must deliver aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, humanitarian assistance to innocent civilians in Gaza, and fund military capabilities in the Indo-Pacific. All these national security issues are related and should move together.

Yesterday, I spoke directly to both Leader MCCONNELL and Speaker JOHNSON and made clear that if Republicans don't work with us in a bipartisan way on the border, passing a supplemental is going to be very difficult.

I was deeply troubled by reports yesterday that Speaker JOHNSON joined Senate Republicans and made a push to inject more H.R. 2 provisions into the Senate supplemental. That is precisely the kind of thing that undermines the entire supplemental, including aid to Israel, aid to Ukraine, and humanitarian aid to Gaza.

We all know the border is a problem that we should deal with, but it is not related to Ukraine or to Israel or to the Indo-Pacific. It has been put in there by Republicans, and that means there is an onus on them to make sure it is bipartisan.

Democrats are willing to work with Republicans on commonsense, realistic border security, but we can't have the hard right essentially say it is H.R. 2 or nothing. If Speaker JOHNSON or, for that matter, the negotiators feel they have to listen to what JOHNSON can pass just among his caucus, we will never get anything done. Democratic votes are going to be needed in the House to pass this legislation. We all know that. So this "H.R. 2 or nothing" or something close to "H.R. 2 or nothing" is a proposal that could not pass the Senate or the House.

Democrats—the solution for passing the supplemental is bipartisan compromise, and we have shown that we are willing to do it. The wrong answer is to let Ukraine aid, let Israel aid, let aid to civilians in Gaza all get bungled because the hard right wanted H.R. 2 or something close to it.

I urge my Republican colleagues not to let that happen because at the end of the day, what is holding this up is not the issues of Israel, Ukraine, humanitarian aid, or the Indo-Pacific; it is border, and that was injected by our Republican colleagues. Please, they should work with us to fix it in a bipartisan way or we won't get anything done.

#### MILITARY PROMOTIONS

Mr. President, on Senator TUBERVILLE, anger is reaching a boiling point in the Senate over the immense damage Senator TUBERVILLE has done to our military by holding up hundreds of critical military nominations. Soon, we will act to bring these holds to an end.

A few weeks ago, the Rules Committee passed a resolution that would enable the Senate to quickly confirm all the nominees currently on hold. The resolution is carefully tailored to solve the current impasse.

Now it sounds like Senator TUBERVILLE has told Republicans he is trying to find a way out of the mess he has created, although he has not yet provided many details. We are willing to give our Republican colleagues a chance to solve this problem on their own. But let me be clear: If Republicans are not able to get Senator TUBERVILLE to stand down quickly, we are going to hold a vote on our resolution to confirm these nominees before we leave this year. These reckless military holds must come to an end.

#### JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. President, on nominations, today on the floor, the Senate will proceed with the nominations of two extraordinary judicial nominees. We will first confirm Shanlyn Park to serve as a district judge for the District of Hawaii. Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the only Native Hawaiian woman on the Federal bench.

Later this afternoon, we will move forward with the nomination of Irma Ramirez to serve as a circuit judge for the Fifth Circuit. Judge Ramirez is an accomplished and well-respected litigator who would bring over 30 years of legal experience to the Fifth Circuit. If confirmed, Judge Ramirez will be the first Latina to serve on the Fifth Circuit and the only active Latino judge on the court.

I will enthusiastically support both nominees today, and this Senate majority will continue to prioritize judges moving forward.

#### ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

Mr. President, on AI and our insight forums, yesterday, the Senate held our seventh bipartisan AI Insight Forum. We had an enlightening and informative discussion, and I want to thank my Senate colleagues who stopped by to listen and learn from the experts.

Our discussion focused on a few of the most critical issues we face with AI: transparency, explainability, intellectual property, and copyright. We had a consensus on a few important points: We must create and enforce protections for creators to maintain their identities in the age of AI. We must protect American companies' IP and make sure America sets the international standard for IP. We must make sure AI systems are transparent and that the public can understand why AI systems produce the answers they do. And we must do all this while continuing to prioritize our North Star when it comes to AI: innovation.

Thanks again to Senators ROUNDS, YOUNG, and HEINRICH for helping organize these AI Insight Forums.

#### U.S. SUPREME COURT

Mr. President, on the Judiciary Committee's actions today, the words etched on the front of the Supreme Court read "Equal Justice Under Law." But when ultrarich ideologues can use their wealth to potentially leapfrog to the front of the line of justice, the promise of equal justice is violated, and the result is a crisis of confidence in the integrity of our courts.

So, today, the Senate Judiciary Committee is taking an important step to restore Americans' confidence in the Supreme Court by voting to authorize subpoenas to Harlan Crow and Leonard Leo, who have both used their power and wealth to gain undisclosed access to Supreme Court Justices.

I support the Judiciary Committee's vote to authorize these subpoenas because, frankly, the American people are tired of seeing reports of Supreme Court Justices accepting lavish gifts and vacations from billionaires and

MAGA extremists. And then these same Justices turn around and gut affirmative action, block student debt relief for millions of Americans, greenlight discrimination against the LGBTQ community, and so much else. The hypocrisy is undeniable, and the American people see right through it. These very same billionaires who are pushing cases through the Court having the ability to travel on jets and go to resorts and buy them gifts is just outrageous.

So, today, Senate Democrats are taking action to look under the hood and make sure we increase transparency, which these subpoenas would do.

Once again, I support the Senate Judiciary's vote to authorize these subpoenas. I thank Chairman DURBIN and my colleagues on the committee for their work.

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. MCCONNELL. 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 MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

#### REMEMBERING HENRY A. KISSINGER

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, the past hundred years have seen few, if any, strategic thinkers shape world events as profoundly as Henry Kissinger. Few academics have had such deep experience in the practice of foreign policy. Few political appointees have had such bureaucratic savvy. Few senior government officials have carried such intellectual heft.

Who else could claim to have advised more than one-fourth of all U.S. Presidents, to have taken a seat across from every Chinese head of state since Chairman Mao?

Yesterday marked the end of the extraordinary Kissinger century.

If you consider just the early chapters of this remarkable life, you might expect Henry Kissinger to be the quintessential idealist. But by the age of 30, he had escaped Nazi brutality for America, returned home a decorated veteran of the campaign to defeat Hitler, and launched a successful career as an Ivy League academic.

Of course, instead of an idealist, this made-for-Hollywood origin story produced one of the world's staunchest realists. The Kissinger calculus was grounded in pragmatic assessments of national interest, the use of military force, and diplomatic compromise; and, by extension, so were decades of American foreign policy.

Several years ago, one particularly apt assessment of Henry Kissinger's legacy pointed out that he didn't believe "the arc of history makes house calls." In other words, if the free world waits passively for its noble convic-

tions to be vindicated, we will be waiting quite a while.

Instead, Henry Kissinger knew that the organizing principle for American strategy must be American interests, and he left no room for wondering what this approach looked like in practice. His careful negotiations ushered in a period of detente with America's greatest 20th century rival, and his bold diplomacy opened the door to a relationship with China that rebalanced Cold War dynamics in America's favor.

Of course, the enduring relevance of Dr. Kissinger's work is due in no small part to his prolific participation in public discourse on foreign policy and grand strategy, up until the very end. The author of 21 books confounded scholars half his age with the pace and the volume of his brilliant scholarship on topics ranging from the history of diplomacy to artificial intelligence.

In perhaps the truest expression of both his intellectual horsepower and understanding of power, he remains the only American statesman to have served as Secretary of State and National Security Advisor at the very same time.

Today, the world Henry Kissinger leaves behind bears his indelible mark. The Nation he served—the global superpower he helped create—owes him our gratitude.

Elaine and I, along with so many of Dr. Kissinger's friends in the Senate, send our condolences to his wife Nancy, his children David and Elizabeth, and to the entire Kissinger family as they mourn a great American.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. President, now, on another matter, a good way to size up leaders at home and abroad is to look at how they treat borders.

Good leaders recognize sovereignty as the bedrock of national security. As a result, peaceful nations both respect the inviolability of other nations' borders as well as vigorously defend their own.

The world is awash in examples of this fundamental reality. Putin has spent years trampling the sovereignty of his European neighbors. But the people of Ukraine are enduring occupation and torture and giving their lives to restore their homeland's lawful borders.

Iran's network of proxies violates the sovereignty of Israel and its Arab neighbors with horrific terrorist bloodlust. But the people of Israel respond with unwavering resolve to restore security.

President Xi is pouring unprecedented investments into Chinese military power with the express purpose of shattering a sovereign democracy and undermining regional order, but Taiwan and America's other Asian partners are steeling themselves to deter aggression.

The United States has a direct interest in helping our friends maintain their sovereignty—from Europe to the Middle East and the Indo-Pacific. According to a survey published just

today by the Reagan Institute, that is exactly how overwhelming majorities in this country see it.

By this latest account, 65 percent of Americans support U.S. assistance to Taiwan, 67 percent support assistance to Ukraine, and 71 percent support assistance to Israel. In other words, a full two-thirds of the country recognizes the scope of America's interests and responsibilities as a global superpower.

At the same time, vast majorities continue to affirm that national security begins at home. Recent polling shows that even a majority of Democrats say that they are at least very concerned about the state of American border security on President Biden's watch.

Over 9,000 illegal aliens arrive at our Nation's southern border every day. And thanks to a profoundly broken system of asylum and parole, they know that the vast majority will be waved on through to settle in the interior. The consequences of this crisis touch every corner of our country. The overwhelming task facing Border Patrol personnel is drawing Federal law enforcement personnel off of other important missions to help contend with the surging arrivals at ports of entry.

As the senior Senator from Missouri revealed yesterday, some officers charged with protecting Federal buildings are being sent instead to ferry illegal aliens to and from the hospital. The vast stretches of border in between are seeing massive flows of lethal drugs like fentanyl on their way to poisoning Americans in States across the interior.

Across the country, even progressive mayors of self-described "sanctuary cities" are at wit's end contending with the human wave heading north.

The Biden administration's failure to secure our southern border is an embarrassing and dangerous policy failure. Here in the Senate, Democrats are making an embarrassing misjudgment of their own. The Democratic leader would like us to believe that the defense of sovereign borders is an urgent and noble cause when it takes place overseas but an "extraneous" distraction here at home. Some of our colleagues apparently think America can profess to stand for the rule of law without enforcing it on our own soil.

The Senate has 2 weeks—2 weeks—to pass supplemental legislation to meet urgent national security priorities. That means time is running out for our Democratic colleagues to recognize that national security begins here at home.

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. 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, before I begin, there is something I want to address today. I just want to make an observation about this discussion we are having on our southern border. I would reiterate what I have been saying now for some time, and that is that it is no longer just a humanitarian crisis. It is every bit of that, but it is a national security crisis.

We see the numbers on a daily basis, the number of people who are apprehended at the southern border trying to come into the country illegally. In the last 3 days—the last 3 days—that is over 9,000 per day—over 9,000 per day, and that doesn't include the "got-aways" or the unknowns. That is the people who are apprehended coming across the border illegally. And we now know that, in the month of September, for example, there were a significant number of people—18, actually—apprehended coming across the southern border, who are on the Terrorist Watchlist.

People coming from all over the world have figured out that, if you want a portal, if you want to get into the United States, just come to the southern border, and we will wave you in, which is essentially what is happening today.

And the question I would ask is, In what universe does that make any sense?

I said this yesterday: We are a nation of immigrants. We have been a very welcoming country. We have ways of bringing people into this country legally, and we do that on an annual basis.

But we are a nation of laws, first and foremost. The rule of law is what distinguishes our country from many other countries around the world, and yet, at our southern border, that doesn't mean a thing.

Over 9,000 a day—annualize that. Think about what that means. That is 3 million people a year. And we have people who want to turn a blind eye and a deaf ear to it.

We have an opportunity in this national security supplemental bill that will be on the floor perhaps as early as next week. It will deal with issues like Ukraine, issues like Israel—what is happening there—and the Indo-Pacific, where we have national security interests at stake. We have to deal with the national security crisis at our southern border.

This is insanity. I don't understand it. I don't understand the administration. I don't understand some of my colleagues here in the Senate who feel like this isn't something that we need to be dealing with or addressing. This is a national security crisis on a daily basis—over 9,000 the last 3 days in a row—and, again, some of which we know, because they are catching them, are people on the Terrorist Watchlist.

In what universe does what is being done at our southern border make sense to anybody, to any rational person?

It doesn't make sense to the mayor of New York City or the mayor of Chicago, where, as migrants arrive there, they are having to divert resources to address that. The mayor of New York City said he was going to freeze hiring police officers in New York City. That seems like that would be a problem, if I were a New York City resident. He said he was going to have to close libraries and cut funding for education.

That is what we are talking about. This is not just an issue that affects communities on the southern border, although I have been down there a number of times, and, believe me, they are profoundly affected. This is an issue where every State becomes a border State, as literally thousands of people on a daily basis are released into the interior of the United States—waved by, with no regard or respect for our heritage as a nation of laws in a country that is built upon a foundation of the rule of law.

It has to be fixed. It has to be done, and it needs to be done now, and I hope my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and our folks at the White House understand that. We can't wait any longer. This is out of control.

## PHEASANT SEASON

Mr. President, on another subject, there are some things that are timeless, that are cherished by every generation, things that never get old, no matter how long they have been going on. In South Dakota, one of those things is our pheasant hunting tradition. It has been a part of South Dakota's way of life for over a century.

Over the years, as the pheasant population grew, so did the State's reputation as the "Pheasant Capital of the World." Today, hunters come from all over to participate in the annual hunting season, and the season opener, which falls on the third Saturday in October, is all but an official State holiday.

Pheasant hunting is a tradition in a lot of South Dakota families, including my own. I can't remember a time when I didn't look forward to the start of the pheasant season. We call it pheasant opener.

My dad would take my siblings and me out hunting. He taught us how to bag a rooster and work together as a team in the field. He wasn't one to miss a pheasant season, even into his late nineties.

Over the years, I have enjoyed sharing this tradition with my daughters and, later, with their husbands, and I am looking forward to passing it on to the next generation, when my grandchildren are old enough.

I was able to get out pheasant hunting over the Thanksgiving holiday, and I can say that there is nothing like a crisp fall day in South Dakota spent in our great outdoors with friends and family. I think that is what keeps so many hunters coming back every year. Of course, they also come for the challenge of the hunt and, hopefully, to limit out—in other words, to get a limit—on pheasants, roosters.

Like I said, folks come from all over for South Dakota's ringnecks. Last year, if you look at the actual number of people who came into South Dakota who hunt pheasants, there were 127,000 hunters who got licenses, came through our State, and bagged over a million roosters, and this year looks like it is going to be another great hunting season.

There is no shortage of satisfied hunters in South Dakota this time of year, but pheasant season's benefits go far beyond the hunters. For communities in the heart of pheasant country, the hunting season has a significant economic impact. In just over 100 days of hunting, pheasant season contributes hundreds of millions of dollars to our State's economy, and folks in a lot of these small towns, these small communities—places like the one I am from—always make sure that out-of-State hunters feel welcome. It is just part of who we are in South Dakota.

There could hardly be so many satisfied hunters each fall without the conservation efforts of so many landowners and agricultural producers in South Dakota. The size of our famed pheasant population is thanks, in no small part, to land conservation efforts that provide quality habitat for birds to roost.

A good hunting season in the fall depends on the spring nesting season and the ability of pheasants to hide their nests to protect their brood. And South Dakota's farmers and ranchers make sure there is habitat for that nesting.

A lot of the conservation efforts in our State are supported by the Conservation Reserve Program, which is the cornerstone of Federal conservation programs. It plays a critical role in South Dakota by supporting farmers who take environmentally sensitive land out of production.

Taking this land out of production protects against soil erosion, improves water quality, and provides habitat—including for pheasants—and it includes an economical alternative for farmers, who would otherwise have to invest in expensive fertilizers and other inputs to keep this land in production.

I have been a longtime supporter of the CRP, and I am working to make sure this program is strengthened and supported in the next farm bill so that more farmers and ranchers can access its benefits and, of course, so that future pheasant seasons are as good as seasons past.

It might seem that pheasant season is the pride of South Dakota, and we are certainly proud of that. But the pride of our State is really our way of life. It is our values, and it is our work ethic.

From the plains to the ponderosa pines and the Black Hills, there is so much to appreciate about our State and its people. South Dakotans cherish our freedoms, and we love our country, and we recognize that with freedom comes responsibility. We recognize that sometimes you have got to step up

and do the work and that you need to help your neighbors when they are in need.

These values have been forged in our small towns, the kind of places where everyone knows each other and everyone does their part. These are the timeless treasures that make life in South Dakota so good. They are a big part of what makes me proud to serve our State here in the U.S. Senate, and they are the values that my wife Kimberley and I have tried to instill in our daughters and that I am confident the next generation of South Dakotans will continue to uphold.

Whether gathered around a meal of fresh pheasant in our great outdoors or gathered around the Thanksgiving turkey, there is a lot to be thankful for as a South Dakotan, and I am grateful—very grateful—to be a son of our great State.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. LUJÁN). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

The Senator from Oregon.

(The remarks of Mr. WYDEN pertaining to the introduction of S. 3367 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. WYDEN. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Ms. CANTWELL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

NOMINATION OF SHANLYN A.S. PARK

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Shanlyn A.S. Park to the U.S. District Court for the District of Hawai'i.

Born in Honolulu, HI, Judge Park received her B.A., cum laude, from Chaminade University in 1991 and her J.D. from the University of Hawai'i William S. Richardson School of Law in 1995. After graduating from law school, Judge Park served as a law clerk to the Honorable Francis I. Yamashita, magistrate judge for the District of Hawai'i. From 1996 to 1997, Judge Park worked on civil matters as an associate attorney at Hisaka Stone & Goto.

For the next two decades, Judge Park served as an assistant federal public defender and later as senior litigator in the Office of the Federal Public Defender for the District of Hawai'i. In these roles, Judge Park tried 10 felony jury trials and 10 misdemeanor bench trials to verdict. She also represented defendants through appeals

and argued several cases before the Ninth Circuit Court of Appeals.

Prior to joining the bench, Judge Park worked in private practice as of counsel at Gallagher Kane Amai & Reyes and as partner and of counsel at McCorrison Miller Mukai MacKinnon LLP. At both firms, her practice centered on a variety of civil matters including commercial disputes, contested probate matters, real property disputes, and third-party insurance defense.

Since joining the State of Hawai'i's First Circuit Court in 2021, Judge Park has issued more than 100 written opinions and presided over 21 jury trials—17 in the family court criminal division and four in the circuit court criminal division.

The American Bar Association unanimously rated Judge Park as "qualified," and her nomination is strongly supported by her home State Senators, Mr. SCHATZ and Ms. HIRONO.

Once confirmed, Judge Park will become the first Native Hawai'i woman to serve on the Federal bench. I am proud to support this historic nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

VOTE ON PARK NOMINATION.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All postcloture time has expired.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Park nomination?

Ms. CANTWELL. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER).

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 324 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Brown	Kelly	Schumer
Butler	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cardin	Luján	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Van Hollen
Coons	Merkley	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warnock
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Graham	Padilla	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	

NAYS—45

Barrasso	Capito	Daines
Blackburn	Cassidy	Ernst
Boozman	Cornyn	Fischer
Braun	Cotton	Grassley
Britt	Crapo	Hagerty
Budd	Cruz	Hawley

Hoever	Moran	Scott (FL)
Hyde-Smith	Mullin	Scott (SC)
Johnson	Paul	Sullivan
Kennedy	Ricketts	Thune
Lankford	Risch	Tillis
Lee	Romney	Tuberville
Lummis	Rounds	Vance
Marshall	Rubio	Wicker
McConnell	Schmitt	Young

NOT VOTING—2

Cramer	Fetterman
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The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KING). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

SENATE LEGISLATIVE AGENDA

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, we are nearly halfway through the 118th Congress—you know, it is hard to believe. And despite the challenges that confront this Chamber, working with the House and the President to get legislation passed, the Senate has managed to advance some great bipartisan bills this year.

All of this attention the media gives tends to focus on where we disagree. And there is no question there are a lot of disagreements. But there are areas where we have found the chance to work together to do important things.

While some of the bills I have talked about actually passed this Chamber unanimously and will have a positive impact on our constituents in communities from Maine to Texas to Nebraska and while a number of these bills have been signed into law, many are still awaiting action in the House. And I would like to provide a few examples.

Project Safe Childhood is a bill that I introduced with Senator KLOBUCHAR, the Senator from Minnesota, to provide greater protection for our children online. The anonymity and accessibility afforded in the digital realm have allowed predators to infiltrate our homes and target our children. This, of course, is the dark side of the internet, and it has been a problem since the advent of the digital age.

But it gets worse. Last year, the National Center for Missing and Exploited Children received 32 million reports—32 million reports—of suspected child sexual exploitation, an alltime record.

One of our most valuable tools for combating these crimes is the Project Safe Childhood Program at the Department of Justice.

This program was created in 2006 to bolster law enforcement efforts and to

invest in education and prevention strategies. Since its inception, the number of cases and defendants prosecuted by the U.S. Attorney's Offices has increased by 40 percent.

This is a positive sign we are moving in the right direction despite the dismal facts that I have recounted here, but it is clear more needs to be done.

This bill reauthorizes and strengthens this program by modernizing the investigation and prosecution of these crimes. It will provide law enforcement with additional tools they need to bring more predators to justice.

This bill passed the Senate unanimously last month, but it is currently awaiting action in the House. I have been proud to work with Representatives WESLEY HUNT and DEBBIE WASSERMAN SCHULTZ—Republican and Democrat alike—on this legislation. Again, this is bipartisan consensus legislation that just needs a vote in the House.

Another example is Project Safe Neighborhoods. This bill reauthorizes this program at the Department of Justice. Now, at a time when we are all concerned about violent crime in our neighborhoods, this is one of the most efficient, one of the most effective ways of combating violent crime in our neighborhoods that we have devised.

It is inspired by a successful program that I appropriated when I was attorney general of Texas that started in Richmond, VA, called Project Exile. What they realized is that if they targeted the most violent criminals, the ones who, in violation of the law, possessed and used firearms in the commission of a crime—that if they were prosecuted under mandatory minimums, that this would prove as a big deterrent for people using firearms to commit crimes or carrying firearms when they are prohibited by law.

Since this nationwide program was launched in 2013, we have seen more than a 13-percent decrease in violent crime in cities with a high rate of program participation. This is a partnership between State, local, and Federal. Today, the American people are increasingly concerned about crime, more concerned here in the Nation's Capital where the number of carjackings have gone through the roof, including some of our colleagues in the House of Representatives who have been a victim of carjacking.

A Gallup poll earlier this month found that 63 percent of Americans view crime as either an "extremely" or "very" serious problem, marking a new record for the poll. So it is clear we need to focus on crime and violence reduction strategies like Project Safe Neighborhood, but, again, this legislation passed the Senate unanimously after being voted out of the Judiciary Committee and is awaiting action in the House.

Finally, I want to mention another critical piece of legislation that is stuck in purgatory—at least, hopefully, temporarily—and that is the Debbie

Smith Act. Years ago, we learned that 400,000 rape kits were sitting in evidence lockers or at forensic labs and had gone untested.

This, unfortunately, is the evidence that has to be collected from the victim of a sexual assault, and using DNA technology we are able to figure out, with basically certitude, who the perpetrator was. But 400,000 of them were sitting in lockers and untested.

Now, Debbie Smith is a heroic figure. She has made it her life's work to eliminate this rape kit backlog, and her work is directly responsible for the testing of hundreds of thousands of rape kits and locking up countless violent criminals.

Her advocacy was born of a personal tragedy. She was raped at home in 1989 and immediately reported the crime to police and went to the emergency room for a sexual assault forensic exam. That is the rape kit. But she said while waiting for answers, she was overcome by fear. She was terrified for herself and her family and even became suicidal. It wasn't until 6½ years later that Debbie finally received the answer she desperately wanted from this rape kit test. And it happened when a DNA hit revealed the identity of her rapist because what they can do is take that information, match it against CODIS, which is an FBI-maintained database, to identify the perpetrator.

She later said in an interview that DNA gave her her life back, and she chose to harness her pain and use it to prevent others from facing years of fear and uncertainty like that that controlled her. So she is the namesake of the Debbie Smith Act originally signed into law in 2004.

As a result, more than 860,000 DNA cases have been prosecuted—860,000. It is hard to imagine how one person can make more of a difference than Debbie Smith has, in terms of bringing closure and making sure that the guilty are investigated and prosecuted. But 860,000 cases have been processed. Sadly, we are still facing a 90,000-case backlog. Each of those hold the key and an answer to bringing a violent criminal to justice.

The Senate, again, unanimously has passed the Debbie Smith Act reauthorization, and, unfortunately, the House recently took it up and passed a version of the bill that inadvertently deauthorized existing funds for the Debbie Smith Act. I encourage the House to take whatever action they need to swiftly take up and pass the Senate version to reauthorize the Debbie Smith Program for a full 5 years without jeopardizing any existing funds that are being used by law enforcement to take violent criminals off the street.

So these are just a few examples of bipartisan legislation that has enjoyed nearly unanimous support here in the Senate that is simply waiting for the House to act.

I know we are coming up on the end of the year, and there is not a lot of

time, but my suspicion is, if the Speaker would put these bills on the floor of the House, that they would pass overwhelmingly, but we can't get these bills to the President to actually sign into law until the House acts.

So my wish, my request, my prayer is that the House simply take up these bipartisan bills and act.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Nebraska.

#### LONG-TERM CARE

Mrs. FISCHER. Mr. President, across the country, over 1.2 million Americans live in nursing homes. Many of our own parents, grandparents, and other loved ones are among them. Nursing facilities provide specialized attentive care to seniors in critical need of their services.

Long-term care facilities are especially indispensable in small towns and rural areas like much of my home State of Nebraska. In those areas, a larger percentage of the population is over 65.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration has released a rule this fall that could force many nursing facilities around the country to close their doors. The new rule, introduced in September by the Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, mandates new minimum staffing standards for long-term care facilities. It requires each facility to staff a registered nurse on site 24/7 and would require staff to provide each resident with at least 3 hours of direct care per day. The administration believes this rule would improve the quality of care in our nursing homes.

Unfortunately, the rule, as written, would simply force many facilities to shut down, denying care to seniors entirely.

According to CMS, 75 percent of nursing homes would have to increase staffing to comply with these proposed standards, but across our country, these homes already face historic staffing shortages. According to Federal labor statistics, nursing homes lost more than 200,000 workers from February of 2020 to December of 2022. The industry is still rebuilding its workforce after a devastating pandemic.

Under this rule, nursing homes would be forced to go to great lengths to find staff in the midst of these overwhelming shortages. If they failed, they would likely need to shut their doors and deprive seniors of care.

Even one nursing home closure could be detrimental to seniors in certain rural communities. Highly populated urban areas may host several long-term care facilities, a lot of different options are available, but for these facilities in rural areas, they are few and far between. If one facility closes, the next closest one could be many miles or even hours away. It might not be feasible for every senior to move so far from their home.

So this mandate from CMS, it would devastate facilities across Nebraska, across rural America, and across this

country. It would devastate families who are relying on these facilities to serve their loved ones, and it would devastate the seniors who urgently need care.

After the release of this proposed rule in September, I joined the rest of the Nebraska Federal delegation in sending a letter to CMS Administrator Chiquita Brooks-LaSure opposing these new standards. We have never received a response.

So I plan to introduce legislation that would prevent these misguided standards from going into effect. My bill would also establish an advisory panel on the nursing home workforce. The panel would host members representing various stakeholders, including members from rural areas and underserved areas.

The Biden administration must hear from voices outside the big cities on the coasts. This proposed rule is a one-size-fits-all attempt at a solution, but the so-called solution simply doesn't fit. It is a misguided mandate that will prove destructive for communities that most need the care.

I am going to keep fighting for our rural communities and for the seniors who rely on long-term care facilities, and I encourage my colleagues to do the same by joining me in support of this legislation to protect nursing homes and to protect the Americans they serve.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. PETERS). The majority leader.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 263.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 263, Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard Blumenthal, Margaret Wood Hassan, Mark Kelly, Jack Reed, John W. Hickenlooper, Elizabeth Warren, Tammy Duckworth, Jeff Merkley, Richard J. Durbin, Jeanne Shaheen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Mazie Hirono, Tina Smith, Edward J. Markey, Tim Kaine, Tammy Baldwin.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

#### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 144.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 144, Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Benjamin L. Cardin, Christopher Murphy, Richard Blumenthal, Jeanne Shaheen, Alex Padilla, Tim Kaine, Richard J. Durbin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Sheldon Whitehouse, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Debbie Stabenow, Raphael G. Warnock, Tammy Duckworth.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, November 30, be waived.

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

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, the United States has a long history of standing for freedom and self-determination.

From the 1940s through the 2010s, under President Trump, our Nation has stood with Israel, in defense of Israel. We were there in 1948 when Israel became a country. We stood with them through the Six-Day War and the Yom Kippur War, the Camp David peace talks, negotiations with the PLO, two intifadas, and multiple attempts to implement a two-state solution.

Under President Reagan, we fought the spread of communism across multiple continents because we understand that the unchecked spread of Marxist influence will threaten our very survival. This wasn't just ideological saber rattling. The Soviets had a staggering number of nuclear warheads at their disposal. It was important to eliminate as many of those as we could. Reagan was remarkably clear-eyed about this.

Again, it wasn't a question of politics. It was a matter of recognizing the danger and then finding a way to neutralize that danger. We accepted that it was our duty to protect global security because no one else had the power or the resolve to do that.

And since Russia invaded Ukraine in 2014, the United States has been a leading provider of aid to the Ukrainians because Vladimir Putin has the same propensity toward violence and conquest that motivated his predecessors.

This is also why we have fought so hard to provide our partners in Taiwan with the weapons and funding they need to defend themselves against communist Chinese aggression.

Over the past 3 years, our reputation—our Nation's reputation—as a champion of freedom has become tarnished by Joe Biden's foreign policy and his policy of appeasement. Nothing has been more damaging than his refusal to protect our sovereignty here at home. A strong border is the most basic element of our national defense. It is what guarantees our right to exist as a country, and Joe Biden has abandoned it entirely.

When he took office and declared law and order obsolete, he didn't just invite millions of migrants across our border; he invited the new axis of evil—Russia, China, Iran, North Korea—to declare open season on their neighbors. China became more aggressive toward Taiwan. Putin invaded Ukraine. And Hamas violated a ceasefire and slaughtered Israelis in their beds.

The Biden administration's response has only made things worse. They exploited the plight of the Ukrainians as



a distraction from their own terrible policies. They have all but ignored China's human rights violations. And, to date, they put more pressure on Israel than on Hamas to lay down arms.

Joe Biden's attempts to curry favor with the new axis of evil won't keep us safe because these nations aren't here to make friends. Their goal—the goal of that axis of evil—is to exploit our weaknesses until it becomes impossible for us to fight back.

This is a battle over borders, and, if we want to win, we need to lead by example and reassert our right to exist as a sovereign nation. We should start by securing our very own border.

In fiscal year 2023, the Border Patrol recorded more than 3.2 million enforcement actions along our southern border. In addition, we caught 151 known and suspected terrorists trying to illegally enter our country.

The Senate will have an opportunity to address this before the year ends, but I fear my Democratic colleagues will block those efforts or, worse, offer a half-baked solution and call it a job well done.

The majority leader insists that the issue of border security is just too partisan, and the majority whip insists that since we let the issue of border security go unattended for 30-plus years, we can afford to let it go just a little bit longer.

This is absolutely nonsense. I think it is also dangerous. If Joe Biden refuses to defend the sovereignty of his own country, our adversaries will assume they can act as aggressively as they want without any meaningful resistance from the United States.

If we refuse to defend ourselves, how can we be effective in defending Israel, our strongest ally in the Middle East?

Israel's sovereignty has been established across thousands of years of history, and still Hamas denies Israel's right to exist. That is how they justified violating the ceasefire and declaring war on the world's Jewish community, and it is frightening to see so many people in this country defending that decision. Every one of those individuals should watch the videos that we have watched from the GoPro cameras of those Hamas terrorists. It is revolting.

No peace plan is possible until Hamas is eliminated and the Palestinians recognize Israel's right to exist. To make this happen, we need to set an example by securing our own borders and then passing a stand-alone and straightforward aid package to help Israel do the same.

We all know that giving humanitarian aid to Gaza at this point means letting it go to terrorists. I would ask the majority leader and my Democratic colleagues to give Israel this funding without attaching dangerous conditions that will force them to undermine their own security.

Ensuring a free and sovereign Ukraine is also an important element of our foreign policy, but how can we

speak with any real authority about Ukrainian self-determination while holding ourselves to a lower standard?

When Putin attacked, the United States backed Ukraine with our words and our actions because we knew that if we didn't, millions of people would pay the price for our appeasement. We have a historic obligation to Ukraine, and continuing to send aid will serve as a powerful deterrent.

The American people understand how important it is to maintain that pressure on Russia and Vladimir Putin, but they don't think they should have to sacrifice their own security to do it. They also are very concerned about the total lack of transparency surrounding these aid packages.

Here is a stat. Since February of 2022, the United States has approved \$113 billion in total aid responding to Putin's war. This includes defense items sent via the Presidential draw-down authority, with no oversight. It is imperative that we have oversight and transparency around every single dollar that is going into Ukraine.

The reason? Right now Americans can't afford to spend even one more cent on gas or groceries, thanks to Joe Biden's Bidenomics. So they need to see that their money is actually going to be accounted for and that it is actually going to make a difference. We owe them a full accounting of how their money is being spent in Ukraine, how long we will maintain the flow of aid, and when they can expect to see us match those efforts here at home with our own border security plan. They also want to know: What is the strategy, and how are we going to make certain that Vladimir Putin does not win?

Joe Biden's actions speak much louder than his words. For 3 years now, he has projected nothing but weakness. He has sent a parade of diplomats to legitimize relations with the Chinese Communist Party. He has enabled Iran and its terrorist proxies—Hamas, Hezbollah, the Houthis, ISIS Iraq, ISIS in Syria—and he has sent billions upon billions of dollars in security aid overseas without giving a second thought to securing our own border.

At the height of the Cold War, Reagan said:

[I]f history teaches anything, it teaches that simpleminded appeasement or wishful thinking about our adversaries is folly. It means the betrayal of our past [and] the squandering of our freedom.

There is a lot of wisdom in that. We need to think about that history. Thousands of innocent people have already paid the ultimate price because Joe Biden has refused to heed that warning.

It is time to abandon this failed strategy of appeasement. It is time to project strength and resolve. It is time for our allies to know that they are our allies, that they can count on us. It is time for our enemies to fear us. It is time for us to make certain that we get an aid package—an aid package—to Israel. It is time for us to secure our

southern border. It is time for us to know who is coming into this country and why they are coming into this country.

If Joe Biden doesn't act to secure our border and defend our right to exist as a free and independent country, we are going to see the violence that threatens the sovereignty of Israel, Ukraine, and Taiwan bleed onto American soil, and no level of negotiation or appeasement will be able to stop it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the recorded vote begin immediately.

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

#### CLOTURE MOTION

Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The assistant bill clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 223, Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Christopher A. Coons, Alex Padilla, Mazie Hirono, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard Blumenthal, Sheldon Whitehouse, Peter Welch, Michael F. Bennet, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jeanne Shaheen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Tina Smith, Ben Ray Lujan, Jack Reed, Gary C. Peters.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) and the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 80, nays 17, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 325 Ex.]

#### YEAS—80

Baldwin	Capito	Cruz
Barrasso	Cardin	Duckworth
Bennet	Carper	Durbin
Blumenthal	Casey	Ernst
Booker	Cassidy	Fischer
Boozman	Collins	Gillibrand
Brown	Coons	Graham
Budd	Cornyn	Grassley
Butler	Cortez Masto	Hagerty
Cantwell	Cotton	Hassan



Heinrich	Moran	Shaheen
Hickenlooper	Murkowski	Sinema
Hirono	Murphy	Smith
Hyde-Smith	Murray	Stabenow
Johnson	Ossoff	Tester
Kaine	Padilla	Tillis
Kelly	Peters	Van Hollen
Kennedy	Reed	Vance
King	Romney	Warner
Klobuchar	Rosen	Warnock
Lankford	Rounds	Warren
Luján	Rubio	Welch
Manchin	Sanders	Whitehouse
Markey	Schatz	Wicker
McConnell	Schumer	Wyden
Menendez	Scott (FL)	Young
Merkley	Scott (SC)	

## NAYS—17

Blackburn	Hoeben	Ricketts
Braun	Lee	Risch
Britt	Lummis	Schmitt
Crapo	Marshall	Sullivan
Daines	Mullin	Thune
Hawley	Paul	

## NOT VOTING—3

Cramer	Fetterman	Tuberville
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(Ms. KLOBUCHAR assumed the Chair.)

(Mr. PETERS assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. BUTLER). On this vote, the yeas are 80, the nays are 17.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Mississippi.

## CHINA AND RUSSIA

Mr. WICKER. Madam President, this is a difficult topic for me to discuss because it is so serious and because the United States has so much catching up to do. Two years ago, Congress created the bipartisan Congressional Commission on the Strategic Posture of the United States. We gave it the job of examining the strengths and weaknesses of our national security position.

The Commission report was released just last month. The report comments on an array of military issues, but its findings can be distilled to a single alarming fact: China and Russia are increasingly able to match our military might. And if we do not act now, the consequences will be seismic. Not only could we fail to deter a war, we might actually lose the next war.

The report finds that we are not prepared for what is coming. And here is what is coming: For the first time, we must stand up to the ambitions of two nuclear-armed peer adversaries in multiple regions of the world at the same time. That stunning conclusion means this report should be required reading for each of my colleagues.

And so I directed my staff to deliver a copy of this bipartisan report personally to every Senator, and I hope we take its message to heart.

The American military, in particular, our nuclear deterrent, has been one of the principal guarantors of global security—not just American security but global security—since the late 1940s. Our power crested at the end of the 20th century when the Berlin Wall crumbled, and we emerged as the world's sole superpower. But regrettably, instead of maintaining that competitive edge, we have allowed it to slip away in both conventional and strategic deterrents.

China and Russia watched as we shuttered our shipyards and ammunition plants, as we let our ships rust, and as we neglected to replace our aging Cold War nuclear arsenal. Then, as successive Presidential administrations let defense assets deteriorate, China and Russia poured more funds into their weapons stores. They built the kind of weapons needed to take us on in a conventional fight and keep us at bay in a strategic one.

This is not one Senator saying this; this is the bipartisan Commission that we tasked with investigating this thoroughly. The autocrats who ruled China and Russia began paying attention to more than our guns and ships. When our satellites and next-generation communications capabilities gave us an unbeatable edge in the Gulf war, these enemies, adversaries of ours, took notice.

We could see, communicate, and shoot from farther away than anyone else. When we deployed these tools, we inaugurated new ways to protect ourselves, cutting-edge technology, not mere masses of metal, would win the final argument of nations. But the leaders of Russia and China soon came to recognize this also. They began to meet our advances and ensure we could never do to them what we had done to Saddam Hussein's military in 1991.

Among the bipartisan Commission's direst findings is the fact that China and Russia have largely succeeded. China has built strike complexes of their own that make the prospect of war increasingly perilous. Their fleet of anti-satellite weapons and cyber warfare capabilities could render our military blind, deaf, and mute in a potential conflict over Taiwan.

U.S. victory, and, therefore, deterrence, was once a fait accompli, but today we risk war that would shake the foundations of everyday American life and the foundations of global peace.

The consequences of our negligence, together with the Chinese and Russian investment, are most acute when it comes to our nuclear position, which has been the foundation of our deterrence capability. Russian submarines are becoming much more advanced, and China is rapidly bringing missile silos online. Meanwhile, our Air Force personnel are still using floppy disks to operate missiles that are older than their parents, and they are flying bombers that are older than their grandparents.

Our nuclear submarines—the crown jewels of U.S. military power—are having to remain at sea longer as our fleet shrinks. Workforce problems and maintenance delays hold the fleet back from its potential. The AUKUS agreement is a tremendous diplomatic achievement that can be a game changer, but it must be implemented correctly. And right now, we are short of the attack submarines needed.

China and Russia now clearly realize that, by joining forces, they can help each other reach their goals. China wants to occupy Taiwan, and their

leader has said they need to be ready to do that as soon as 2027. Russia wants to puncture NATO's iron wall, and they want to help each other to do both. Their sinister intent and increasing capabilities make this the most dangerous national security moment we have faced in 75 years.

Paul Nitze, the Pentagon official whose strategic wisdom helped us win the Cold War, once said:

Our fundamental purpose is more likely to be defeated from lack of the will to maintain it, than from any mistakes we may make.

In other words, the future is ours to lose, but the future is still ours. This report recommends several policies that can help us end the damaging defense cuts of the past three decades and begin making investments we need.

The Commission's first recommendation is that we rebuild and expand the defense industrial base, including the National Nuclear Security Administration's nuclear weapons production infrastructure. In particular, Congress should partner with the administration and the Navy to establish a third public shipyard to conduct submarine maintenance. Again, this is the recommendation of a completely bipartisan Commission of experts.

The second proposal builds on the first. We need educational institutions and a talent pipeline to bring skilled tradesmen to this industrial base. These high-paying, stable, and long-term jobs do not require master's or bachelor's degrees. They can advance both national security and expand economic opportunity.

Finally, the report recommends a series of products we should prioritize. We need more conventional forces, and we should increase procurement of strategic nuclear capabilities like the B-21 and the *Columbia*-class submarine. We need improved missile defenses and rapidly deployable theater nuclear forces like the sea-launched cruise missile. Delivering these products would put our adversaries on notice and reassure our allies at the same time.

Of course, these actions come with a price tag, but we have always found our defense investments to be both expensive and priceless. It will cost money to deter China and Russia and Iran from threatening us, but it will cost much, much more—in money and in lives—if we do not. In the words of former Secretary of Defense Jim Mattis, "America can afford survival."

The good news is that we have done this before. In the late 1970s, the Pentagon sowed the seeds of our defense technological revival, even as the Carter administration shrank from the world stage. But then in 1979, the Soviet Union invaded Afghanistan. That attack was a wake-up call. It taught Washington there is no substitute for superior military might.

Again, Paul Nitze helped form an organization that educated Congress, the Carter administration, and the American people about the Soviet Union's threat. The result was the Reagan defense buildup that won the Cold War.

We can do that again, but we must abandon the status quo and start thinking big again. The shocking warnings in this report should spur us to abandon our inertia and take bold actions that will lead us into the next American century.

I thank the members of this Commission for their years of hard work, and I urge my colleagues in both the House and Senate to take note.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate consider the following nominations: All nominations placed on the Secretary's desk in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force; that the nominations be confirmed, en bloc; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to any of the nominations; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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

The nominations considered and confirmed en bloc are as follows:

#### NOMINATIONS PLACED ON THE SECRETARY'S DESK

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

PN907 AIR FORCE nomination of Cole-Christian L. Holinaty, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 27, 2023.

PN908 AIR FORCE nomination of Vincent W. Flory, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of July 27, 2023.

PN1119 AIR FORCE nomination of Kirsten H. Thompson, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1138 AIR FORCE nomination of Michael D. McCarthy, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1140 AIR FORCE nomination of Benjamin T. Fedeles, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1141 AIR FORCE nomination of Ashly C. Ruf, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1142 AIR FORCE nomination of Brandon L. Sanders, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1143 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning Li ZHAO MUECKAY, and ending ALEXANDER T. PARMATER, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1144 AIR FORCE nominations (2) beginning ZARI N. COFIELD, and ending JOSHUA

D. FORSYTH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

##### IN THE ARMY

PN1107 ARMY nomination of Samuel J. Nirenberg, which was received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of October 24, 2023.

PN1120 ARMY nominations (12) beginning THOMAS T. BOOTH, JR., and ending EAN P. WHITE, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1121 ARMY nominations (3) beginning MOISES A. CASTILLO, and ending TRUMAN L. TINSLEY, IV, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

PN1145 MARINE CORPS nominations (144) beginning AGUR S. ADAMS and ending CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

##### IN THE NAVY

PN1146 NAVY nominations (3) beginning JOHN R. BARACHIE, and ending SARA A. ZANITSCH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

PN1147 NAVY nominations (27) beginning MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR., and ending ERIC J. YOUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 6, 2023.

##### IN THE SPACE FORCE

PN1122 SPACE FORCE nominations (74) beginning KELLY N. ALEXANDER, and ending NICHOLAS Y. YEUNG, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1123 SPACE FORCE nominations (48) beginning BRANDON P. ALFORD, and ending MATTHEW C. WROTEN, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1124 SPACE FORCE nominations (80) beginning MATTHEW GUY ADAMS, and ending SHAWN WOODALL, JR., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1125 SPACE FORCE nominations (113) beginning ELIZABETH A. AGNEW, and ending LUKE G. WUNDERLICH, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

PN1126 SPACE FORCE nominations (82) beginning ALEXANDER R. ALLARD, and ending TYLER T. WILLIAMS, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record of November 1, 2023.

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. KAINE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session to be in a period of morning business with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

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

#### NOMINATION OF LIEUTENANT GENERAL TIMOTHY HAUGH

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I must regretfully object to the promotion of Lt. Gen. Timothy Haugh to the grade of general and, consequently, to be the Director of the National Security Agency—NSA—and Commander of U.S. Cyber Command.

In January of 2021, I made public an unclassified memo I received from the Defense Intelligence Agency revealing that it was purchasing, retaining, and using location data revealing the movements of Americans. After receiving that information, I pressed the Department of Defense to identify which other Agencies within the Department are buying Americans' personal data, including location data and web browsing records.

The Department provided me with that information in March of 2021, but marked the information "Controlled Unclassified Information"—CUI—a made-up designation with no basis in law. The administration is abusing the C-U-I designation to keep this unclassified information from the American public. In May of 2021, I wrote to Secretary of Defense Austin to urge him to remove the restrictions on that information, so that the American people can be told which Agencies are buying their information without court oversight and so that Congress can conduct appropriate oversight. In August of 2021, I received a response letter from the Under Secretary of Defense for Intelligence and Security, declining to clear the information for public release.

In connection with Lieutenant General Haugh's pending promotion to lead the NSA, I narrowed my request. I asked that the American people simply be provided yes or no answers as to whether the NSA is buying their location data and web browsing records. Unfortunately, intelligence officials have been unwilling to release even that basic information.

The American people have a right to know whether the NSA is conducting warrantless domestic surveillance of Americans in a manner that circumvents the Fourth Amendment to the Constitution. Particularly as Congress is currently debating extending section 702 of the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act, Congress must be able to have an informed public debate about the scope of the NSA's warrantless surveillance of Americans.

Until the NSA publicly releases the information described above, I must object to the Senate proceeding with the Haugh nomination.

##### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

#### RECOGNIZING THE UNIVERSITY OF MISSISSIPPI

• Mr. WICKER. Madam President, today I congratulate the leadership, faculty, staff, and students of my alma

mater, the University of Mississippi. Military Times, a publication that provides news and resources related to our military services, recently highlighted the ways Ole Miss honors our Nation's veterans. It placed Ole Miss in prominent positions on its "Best for Vets" lists, ranking it as the top Southeastern Conference—SEC—school and fifth-best university in the Nation. The Best for Vets list is the largest and most comprehensive ranking of schools for military servicemembers and veterans. It is compiled from a survey of 325 higher education institutions around the Nation, gathering information on their resources, opportunities, and success rates for veteran students.

The University of Mississippi is committed to student veterans and our Nation's military. The university established its first student veteran organization in 1920, following World War I. Over 1,900 Ole Miss students—more than 10 percent of the student body—have military service connections or are veterans. Ole Miss provides focused and dedicated support resources for veterans on campus, including the Office of Veteran and Military Services, which sits in the George Street House at the heart of campus. This office was opened in 2013 to support Global War on Terror veterans, and it has become a critical stop for student veterans. It helps them access G.I. Bill and Veterans Affairs benefits, study resources, and scholarship applications.

Ole Miss has set the standard for veteran healthcare support. It created the Veteran Treatment Team to allow student veterans to access healthcare directly on campus. Now, these students do not have to commute to full-scale Veterans Affairs clinics and medical centers for routine treatments. Professionals at the university's mental health clinics are trained in specific military-related mental health issues and lead peer support group meetings and workshops for veterans. This reduces the load on the Veterans Affairs system and supports deeper veteran integration into the student body. The university even added a staff counselor focused on veterans and active military issues, bringing mental health resources directly to student veterans.

I commend the Military Times for recognizing and honoring Ole Miss' good work. I am certain that the university will continue these efforts in the years to come, seeing and supporting the needs of student veterans from this new generation of military servicemembers.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Mrs. Stringer, one of his secretaries.

#### EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

In executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages

from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT

#### TEXT OF AN AGREEMENT FOR COOPERATION BETWEEN THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA AND THE GOVERNMENT OF THE REPUBLIC OF THE PHILIPPINES CONCERNING PEACEFUL USES OF NUCLEAR ENERGY—PM 32

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

*To the Congress of the United States:*

I am pleased to transmit to the Congress, pursuant to subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, as amended (42 U.S.C. 2153(b), (d)) (the "Act"), the text of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy (the "Agreement").

I am also pleased to transmit my written approval, authorization, and determination concerning the Agreement and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement (NPAS) concerning the Agreement. In accordance with section 123 of the Act, a classified annex to the NPAS, prepared by the Secretary of State, in consultation with the Director of National Intelligence, summarizing relevant classified information, will be submitted to the Congress separately. The joint memorandum submitted to me by the Secretaries of State and Energy and a letter from the Chair of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission stating the views of the Commission are also enclosed. An addendum to the NPAS containing a comprehensive analysis of the export control system of the Republic of the Philippines with respect to nuclear-related matters, including interactions with other countries of proliferation concern and the actual or suspected nuclear, dual-use, or missile-related transfers to such countries, pursuant to section 102A(w) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3024(w)), is being submitted separately by the Director of National Intelligence.

The Agreement has been negotiated in accordance with the Act and other applicable law. In my judgment, it meets all applicable statutory requirements and will advance the nonproliferation and other foreign policy interests of the United States of America.

The Agreement contains all of the provisions required by subsection 123 a. of the Act. It provides a comprehensive framework for peaceful nuclear cooperation with the Republic of the Philippines based on a mutual commitment to nuclear nonproliferation. It would permit the transfer of material, equipment (including reactors), components, and information for peaceful nuclear purposes. It would not permit the transfer of Restricted Data or sensitive nuclear technology. Any special fissionable material transferred could only be in the form of low enriched uranium, with the exception of small quantities of material for use as samples, standards, detectors, or targets, or for such other purposes as the parties may agree.

Through the Agreement, the Republic of the Philippines would affirm its intent to rely on existing international markets for nuclear fuel services rather than acquiring sensitive nuclear technology (i.e., for enrichment and reprocessing), and the United States would affirm its intent to support the supply of reactors, material, and equipment in order to ensure a reliable supply of low enriched uranium fuel to the Republic of the Philippines.

The Agreement has a term of 30 years, although it can be terminated by either party upon providing 1 year's advance written notice. In the event of termination or expiration of the Agreement, key nonproliferation conditions and controls will continue in effect as long as any material, equipment, or components subject to the Agreement remain in the territory of the party concerned or under its jurisdiction or control anywhere, or until such time as the parties agree that such material, equipment, or components are no longer usable for any nuclear activity relevant from the point of view of safeguards.

The Republic of the Philippines has an excellent track record on nonproliferation and has consistently reiterated its commitment to nonproliferation. Through its constitution, the Republic of the Philippines has adopted and pursued a policy of freedom from nuclear weapons in its territory. It is a party to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons and has concluded a Comprehensive Safeguards Agreement and Additional Protocol with the International Atomic Energy Agency. The Republic of the Philippines was also among the early sponsors of and is a State Party to the Treaty on the Southeast Asia Nuclear Weapon-Free Zone. A more detailed discussion of the Republic of the Philippines' domestic civil nuclear activities and its nuclear nonproliferation policies and practices is provided in the NPAS and its classified annex.

I have considered the views and recommendations of the interested departments and agencies in reviewing the Agreement and have determined that its performance will promote, and will not constitute an unreasonable risk to,

the common defense and security. Accordingly, I have approved the Agreement and authorized its execution and urge that the Congress give it favorable consideration.

This transmission shall constitute a submittal for purposes of both subsections 123 b. and 123 d. of the Act. My Administration is prepared to begin immediately consultations with the Senate Foreign Relations Committee and the House Foreign Affairs Committee, as provided in subsection 123 b. Upon completion of the 30 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 b., the 60 days of continuous session review provided for in subsection 123 d. shall commence.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.  
THE WHITE HOUSE, November 30, 2023.

### REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 2219. A bill to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace (Rept. No. 118-115).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title:

S. 1332. A bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-116).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments:

S. 2256. A bill to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-117).

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2283. A bill to prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS (Rept. No. 118-118).

S. 2291. A bill to establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 118-119).

### EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. DURBIN for the Committee on the Judiciary.

Eumi K. Lee, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California.

Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, of Oregon, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon.

Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit.

Edward Sunyol Kiel, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Sarah French Russell, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

### 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. LUJÁN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. 3364. A bill to amend the SUPPORT for Patients and Communities Act to authorize the use of certain grants to prevent suicide or overdose by children, adolescents, and young adults, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WYDEN:

S. 3365. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that low alcohol by volume kombucha is exempt from any excise taxes and any regulations under chapter 53 of such Code which are imposed on alcoholic beverages; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. ROUNDS (for himself, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. THUNE, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. CRAMER, and Mrs. HYDE-SMITH):

S. 3366. A bill to require the Environmental Protection Agency and the Corps of Engineers to use a certain definition for the term "prior converted cropland", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as "buy, borrow, die", to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. CARDIN):

S. 3368. A bill to promote United States-Mongolia trade by authorizing duty-free treatment for certain imports from Mongolia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HEINRICH (for himself, Mr. KING, Mr. KELLY, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 3369. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to restrict the possession of certain firearms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, and Ms. BALDWIN):

S. 3370. A bill to reauthorize the program on prenatal and postnatal health of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3371. A bill to combat illegal deforestation by prohibiting the importation of prod-

ucts made wholly or in part of certain commodities produced on land undergoing illegal deforestation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PAUL:

S. 3372. A bill to amend the Foreign Intelligence Surveillance Act of 1978 to prohibit the use of authorities under such Act to surveil United States persons and to prohibit the use of information acquired under such Act in any criminal, civil, or administrative proceeding or as part of any criminal, civil, or administrative investigation; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. CASEY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. FETTERMAN):

S. 3373. A bill to require the Federal Energy Regulatory Commission to extend the time period during which licensees are required to commence construction of certain hydropower projects; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BUDD):

S. 3374. A bill to waive General Schedule qualification standards related to work experience for nurses at military medical treatment facilities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3375. A bill to establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. BROWN (for himself and Mr. VANCE):

S. 3376. A bill to provide for the liquidation or reliquidation of certain entries of steel and aluminum products retroactively approved for exclusion from certain duties during the COVID-19 pandemic; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3377. A bill to provide for disadvantaged business enterprise supportive services programs at modal administrations of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WELCH:

S. 3378. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to improve the Rural Energy for America Program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. WARREN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. WELCH):

S. 3379. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to direct the Secretary of Education to issue guidance and recommendations for institutions of higher education on removing criminal and juvenile justice questions from their application for admissions process; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Ms. SMITH, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. WELCH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BOOKER, and Ms. WARREN):

S. 3380. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish an Office of Prison Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina):

S. 3381. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 3382. A bill to amend the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 to protect ranchers from out-of-state regulation that interferes with interstate livestock production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. SCHMITT (for himself and Mr. BRAUN):

S. 3383. A bill to reform the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, limit the scope of public health authorities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. KING):

S. 3384. A bill to combat illicit cross-border financial activity and to improve the Trade Transparency Unit program of U.S. Immigration and Customs Enforcement, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CASEY:

S. Res. 480. A resolution recognizing November 2023 as "National Family Caregivers Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 481. A resolution expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 482. A resolution commemorating and supporting the goals of World AIDS Day; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 610

At the request of Ms. SINEMA, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 610, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 815

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) 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. 1332

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1332, a bill to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, and for other purposes.

S. 1514

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1514, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 2016

At the request of Mr. SCHATZ, the names of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) and the Senator from Missouri (Mr. SCHMITT) were added as cosponsors of S. 2016, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to expand access to telehealth services, and for other purposes.

S. 2026

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2026, a bill to provide support for programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs relating to the coordination of maternity health care, and for other purposes.

S. 2195

At the request of Mr. CARPER, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2195, a bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to reauthorize the diesel emissions reduction program.

S. 2258

At the request of Mr. BENNET, the name of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2258, a bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to permit supplemental nutrition assistance program benefits to be used to purchase additional types of food items.

S. 2555

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2555, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to expand and improve the enforcement capabilities of the Attorney General, and for other purposes.

S. 2598

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2598, a bill to amend the Federal Crop Insurance Act to modify whole farm revenue protection, and for other purposes.

S. 2695

At the request of Ms. CANTWELL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2695, a bill to amend the Indian Law Enforcement Reform Act to provide for advancements in public safety services to Indian communities, and for other purposes.

S. 2839

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) 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. 2879

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2879, a bill to provide targeted funding for States and other eligible entities through the Social Services Block Grant program to address the increased burden that maintaining the health and hygiene of infants and toddlers, medically complex children, and low-income adults or adults with disabilities who rely on adult incontinence materials and supplies place on families in need, the resultant adverse health effects on children and families, and the limited child care options available for infants and toddlers who lack sufficient diapers and diapering supplies, and for other purposes.

S. 2888

At the request of Mr. KING, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN) was added as a cosponsor 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 preseparation counseling under the Transition Assistance Program of the Department of Defense, and for other purposes.

S. 2984

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. REED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2984, a bill to establish uniform accessibility standards for websites and applications of employers, employment agencies, labor organizations, joint labor-management committees, public entities, public accommodations, testing entities, and commercial providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3235

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the names of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 3235, a bill to require a strategy to counter the role of the People's Republic of China in evasion of sanctions imposed by the United States with respect to Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 3340

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3340, a bill to establish the Global Climate Change Resilience Strategy, to authorize the admission of climate-displaced persons into the United States, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 333

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) 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.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED  
BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. WYDEN (for himself, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. BROWN, Mr. CASEY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. WARREN, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. FETTERMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. WELCH, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 3367. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to eliminate tax loopholes that allow billionaires to defer tax indefinitely through planning strategies such as “buy, borrow, die”, to modify over 30 tax provisions so that billionaires are required to pay taxes annually, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. WYDEN. Madam President, I am going to spend a few minutes discussing the three words on this chart next to me: buy, borrow, and die. These three little words are allowing billionaires across America to legally get away with paying little or nothing in taxes for years and years on end.

Here is how it works: A billionaire buys and holds assets, like works of art, more houses than they can possibly live in, stocks and bonds, you name it. They increase in value untaxed.

The billionaire then borrows against these assets to support a lavish lifestyle, and they can borrow at a fraction of the consumer rate due to the enormous holdings of these valuable assets. That loan is untaxed. The billionaire’s assets appreciate at a higher rate than the interest on the loan—that is not hard to do. So the billionaire can, essentially, do all of this until they die, and then their kids can start all over again.

So let’s now contrast buy, borrow, and die with the tax system in America for firefighters and nurses. Nurses and firefighters, for example, living in Philomath, OR, are required to pay taxes out of every paycheck. Working people don’t get to play by these billionaire rules. They don’t get to call up an army of high-priced lawyers and accountants every time they don’t feel like paying their taxes.

Right now, the average billionaire can wriggle their way into a low 8 percent tax rate while a nurse or a firefighter making \$45,000 is paying a 22 percent tax on their wages. Now, here is the gut punch for everybody who is following this and works for a wage: Current buy, borrow, and die practices under our tax law are perfectly legal. That is a pretty sickening reality. Tax laws simply don’t apply to billionaires in the same way they do to firefighters and nurses.

Nurses, firefighters have mandatory tax rules. The billionaires can pretty much pay what they want, when they want to. How is that fair? Americans overwhelmingly believe it is not. So it is time to look to solutions that restore fairness to the Tax Code while still rewarding success. After all, that

is what our country was founded on. We believe deeply in success and the ethic of giving everybody a chance to get ahead.

Luckily, there is a solution that achieves both fairness and economic growth. Today, I, along with 15 other Members of the Senate, am introducing the first comprehensive Billionaires’ Income Tax that would finally end buy, borrow, and die. This is going to put a stop to one of the most common schemes billionaires can use to pay little or no taxes for years and years on end.

Now, as to implementation of our bill, there is a way already on the tax books that allows you to do it. In the Tax Code there are mark-to-market rules and policies.

Now, for the tax wonks out there, people who think tax policy and its root-canal-like pain are enjoyable, here are the sections: Mark to market is in section 475, it is in section 877A, it is in section 1256, and it is in section 1296. So there is your model. That is how you do it. You use rules and policies that are on the books today, a blueprint right in front of us to use as a model for taxing billionaires fairly.

Mark to market under the Billionaires’ Income Tax would require billionaires to pay taxes every year, just like those firefighters and nurses. It is time to close the loopholes and make sure that everybody at the very top is paying taxes on their income as it is earned, and our Billionaires’ Income Tax is the way to do it.

This Congress, our staff on the Finance Committee and I have investigated a number of tax schemes that the very wealthy, with the help of armies of tax lawyers and accountants, use to pay virtually no Federal tax. The Finance Committee has investigated crooked Swiss bankers hiding wealthy Americans’ income; \$34 billion in unpaid taxes from the very wealthy, who won’t even file a tax return—we are not even talking about schemes, they won’t even file a return; unpaid taxes for millionaires; tax-dodging schemes between Leon Black and the notorious Jeffrey Epstein; and Supreme Court Justice Clarence Thomas’s wealthy buddy secretly forgiving a massive private loan. Billionaires looking to dodge their taxes are thriving today under the current tax laws.

So I want a tax policy, as chairman of the Finance Committee, that gives everybody in America the chance to get ahead. Our friend, our former colleague, Senator Bradley from New Jersey—has a better jump shot than I do—that is what he talked about, is opportunity, giving everybody a chance to get ahead. Unfortunately, the flawed tax policies that billionaires take advantage of promote wealth building in the hands of a fortunate few.

This is leaving a lot of people behind. Over one-third of families in America don’t have the cash on hand to pay for a \$400 emergency if they had to. Meanwhile, during the pandemic, when fami-

lies were forced make tough choices between paying rent and buying groceries, billionaires increased their wealth by over \$1 trillion.

We have big needs in this country—obviously, the Medicare solvency crisis. We have seniors at the risk of losing the Medicare guarantee unless there is a way forward for paying for it. If Medicare becomes financially insolvent, seniors and Americans who counted on those guaranteed health benefits need look no further than billionaires, tax cheats, and their Republican allies who refuse to say that the billionaires could pay their fair share.

The Billionaires’ Income Tax raises an estimated \$557 billion over 10 years. If the ultra-wealthy started paying their fair share under my Billionaires’ Income Tax proposal, we could be on our way to making Medicare financially sound, protecting the Medicare guarantee for millions of Americans.

I am going to close with this: The Billionaires’ Income Tax is not an attack on success; it is a fundamental strike for fairness. We want a successful economy, and to have a successful economy, you have to have a Tax Code that ensures that everybody in America gets a fair shake, and treats everybody fairly.

It is time, in my view, to close the gap between the billionaires at the top and everybody else, and our Billionaires’ Income Tax is a way to make that happen.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 3375. A bill to establish a program so that business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals may achieve proficiency to compete, on an equal basis, for contracts and subcontracts in Department of Transportation projects, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. PADILLA (for himself and Mr. WARNOCK):

S. 3377. A bill to provide for disadvantaged business enterprise supportive services programs at modal administrations of the Department of Transportation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I rise to speak in support of the Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Expansion Act and the Accelerating Small Business Growth Act, which I reintroduced today.

The unprecedented investments provided by the bipartisan infrastructure law offers a major opportunity to leverage Federal resources to help develop women-owned, minority-owned, and disadvantaged businesses.

President Biden set an ambitious goal of increasing the share of Federal contracts going to small, disadvantaged businesses by 50 percent by 2025, which would translate to an additional \$100 billion for these businesses.

Established in 1970, the Federal Highway Administration’s Disadvantaged



Business Enterprise Supportive Services Program already provides training, assistance, and services to minority- and women-owned businesses to help them develop into self-sufficient organizations that viably compete for federally assisted highway project contracts. Unfortunately, Congress has not allowed this program to keep up with the needs of our underserved businesses.

The Disadvantaged Business Enterprise Supportive Services Expansion Act would increase this program's annual funding cap for the first time in 50 years from \$10 million to \$25 million. Additionally, the bill would create similar programs at the Federal Aviation Administration and the Federal Transit Administration.

Local, regional, and State agencies have also been leaders in developing innovative programs to prioritize disadvantaged businesses, invest in efforts to create equitable competition, and promote diverse economic development initiatives.

The Accelerating Small Business Growth Act would create a new grant program to help transportation agencies across our Nation carry out these innovative programs to help underserved businesses grow and achieve proficiency to compete on an equal basis for contracts and subcontracts in federally funded transportation projects. Agencies that receive funding through this grant program would be required to submit reports to the Department of Transportation evaluating the effectiveness of their activities, which would help inform future Federal procurement policymaking.

I want to thank Representatives PETE AGUILAR and JIMMY GOMEZ for co-leading these bills with me, and I hope our colleagues will join us in support of this legislation to help minority-owned, women-owned, and disadvantaged businesses compete for contracts to develop and build Federal infrastructure projects funded by the bipartisan infrastructure law.

#### SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 480—RECOGNIZING NOVEMBER 2023 AS “NATIONAL FAMILY CAREGIVERS MONTH”

Mr. CASEY submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 480

Whereas, in 2020, 53,000,000 family caregivers in the United States provide essential care to millions of people each year, providing unpaid care worth an estimated \$600,000,000,000 annually;

Whereas family caregivers play a vital role in the healthcare system of the United States, supporting loved ones who have chronic illnesses, disabilities, and are aging;

Whereas family caregivers, who are disproportionately women of color, often face significant challenges including financial

strain, physical and emotional exhaustion, and social isolation; and

Whereas “National Family Caregivers Month” is an opportunity to recognize and appreciate the contributions of family caregivers and to advocate for policies that support family caregivers: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes November 2023 as “National Family Caregivers Month”;

(2) commends the 53,000,000 family caregivers in the United States who provide essential care to their loved ones and chosen family each day;

(3) encourages Federal agencies, States, and the private sector to swiftly implement the steps described in the 2022 National Strategy to Support Family Caregivers;

(4) urges investment in policies that support family caregivers, including—

(A) economic tax credits;

(B) paid family and medical leave;

(C) respite care;

(D) home and community-based services; and

(E) access to quality healthcare; and

(5) encourages all people of the United States to learn more about family caregiving and to support their loved ones and neighbors who are providing care.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 481—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. CARDIN, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 481

Whereas stomach cancer, also known as gastric cancer, is 1 of the most difficult cancers to detect in the early stages of the disease, which contributes to high mortality rates;

Whereas stomach cancer occurs when cancer cells develop in the lining of the stomach;

Whereas stomach cancer is the fifth most commonly diagnosed type of cancer worldwide;

Whereas, in 2023, an estimated—

(1) 26,500 cases of stomach cancer will be diagnosed in the United States; and

(2) 11,130 individuals in the United States will die from stomach cancer;

Whereas the estimated 5-year survival rate for stomach cancer is only 35.7 percent, and the 5-year survival rate is just 6.6 percent when diagnosed at a late, or distant, stage;

Whereas, in the United States, stomach cancer is more prevalent among racial and ethnic minorities;

Whereas the initial diagnosis of stomach cancer is often delayed because up to 80 percent of patients are asymptomatic during early stages;

Whereas increased awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among patients and health care providers could improve timely recognition of stomach cancer symptoms;

Whereas more research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer is needed; and

Whereas November 2023 is an appropriate month to observe Stomach Cancer Awareness Month: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month;

(2) supports efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, stomach cancer among the general public of the United States;

(3) recognizes the need for additional research into early diagnosis, screening, and treatment for stomach cancer; and

(4) encourages States, territories, and localities of the United States to support the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

##### SENATE RESOLUTION 482—COMMEMORATING AND SUPPORTING THE GOALS OF WORLD AIDS DAY

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 482

Whereas, as of the end of 2022, an estimated 39,000,000 people were living with human immunodeficiency virus (referred to in this preamble as “HIV”) or acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this preamble as “AIDS”), including 1,700,000 children;

Whereas, in the United States, more than 770,000 people with AIDS have died since the beginning of the HIV epidemic, including over 19,000 deaths among people with diagnosed HIV in 2021, with the disease disproportionately affecting communities of color;

Whereas, in 2021, over 35,000 people became newly diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas communities of color are disproportionately affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas, in order to address the HIV epidemic in the United States, on August 18, 1990, Congress enacted the Ryan White Comprehensive AIDS Resources Emergency Act (Public Law 101-381; commonly referred to as the “Ryan White CARE Act”) to provide primary medical care and essential support services for people living with HIV who are uninsured or underinsured;

Whereas the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Program provides services and support for over half of all people diagnosed with HIV in the United States;

Whereas, to further focus attention on the HIV/AIDS epidemic among minority communities in the United States, in 1998 the Minority AIDS Initiative was established to provide funds to State and local institutions and organizations to best serve the health care costs and support the needs of racial and ethnic minorities living with HIV;

Whereas the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals established a global target to end AIDS as a public health threat by 2030;

Whereas, in order to further address the global HIV/AIDS epidemic, in 2003, Congress and the White House created the President's Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief (referred to in this preamble as “PEPFAR”);

Whereas the United States PEPFAR program remains the largest commitment in history by any country to combat a single disease;

Whereas 25,000,000 lives have been saved through PEPFAR;

Whereas, as of September 30, 2022, PEPFAR has supported treatment for more than 20,000,000 people, and has enabled 5,500,000 infants of mothers living with HIV to be born HIV-free;

Whereas, in fiscal year 2021, PEPFAR directly supported HIV testing and counseling for 64,700,000 people;

Whereas the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria was launched in 2002, and, as of 2022, has helped provide antiretroviral therapy to approximately 24,500,000 people living with HIV/AIDS and to



710,000 pregnant women to prevent the transmission of HIV/AIDS to their children, saving an estimated 59,000,000 lives;

Whereas the United States is the largest donor to the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and every \$1 contributed by the United States leverages an additional \$2 from other donors, as required by law;

Whereas, with United States leadership, global partners pledged record amounts to combat infectious diseases at the seventh replenishment of the Global Fund to Fight AIDS in September 2022;

Whereas considerable progress has been made in the fight against HIV/AIDS, including a nearly 40-percent reduction in new HIV infections, a nearly 60-percent reduction in new HIV infections among children, and a 50-percent reduction in the number of AIDS-related deaths between 2010 and 2022;

Whereas approximately 29,800,000 people had access to antiretroviral therapy in 2022, compared to only 7,800,000 people who had access to such therapy in 2010;

Whereas research funded by the National Institutes of Health found that HIV treatment not only saves the lives of people living with HIV, but people living with HIV on effective antiretroviral therapy and who are durably virally suppressed cannot sexually transmit HIV, proving that HIV treatment is prevention;

Whereas it is estimated that, without treatment, half of all infants living with HIV will die before their second birthday;

Whereas, despite the remarkable progress in combating HIV, significant challenges remain;

Whereas there were approximately 1,300,000 new HIV infections in 2022 globally, structural barriers continue to make testing and treatment programs inaccessible to highly vulnerable populations, and an estimated 5,400,000 people living with HIV globally still do not know their HIV status;

Whereas the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention reports that over 35,000 people were diagnosed with HIV in the United States in 2021 and 13 percent of the 1,200,000 people in the United States living with HIV are not aware of their HIV status;

Whereas men who have sex with men (referred to in this preamble as “MSM”), particularly young MSM of color, are the population most affected by HIV in the United States;

Whereas southern States bear the greatest burden of HIV in the United States, accounting for 52 percent of new infections in 2021;

Whereas people living with HIV are frequently susceptible to other infections, such as hepatitis B and C and tuberculosis;

Whereas the opioid and heroin epidemics have led to increased numbers of new HIV infections among people who inject drugs, and the crisis has disproportionately affected nonurban areas, where HIV prevalence rates have been low historically and have limited services for HIV prevention and treatment and substance use disorder treatment;

Whereas 2023 marked the 20th anniversary of the PEPFAR program, an initiative launched by President George W. Bush with bi-partisan support that has become the primary policy instrument of the United States to address HIV/AIDS in the developing world;

Whereas December 1 of each year is internationally recognized as “World AIDS Day”; and

Whereas, in 2023, commemorations for World AIDS Day recognize the essential role of communities in the global HIV/AIDS response: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the goals and ideals of World AIDS Day, including the goal to achieve zero new human immunodeficiency virus (re-

ferred to in this resolution as “HIV”) infections, zero discrimination, and zero acquired immunodeficiency syndrome (referred to in this resolution as “AIDS”)-related deaths;

(2) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS through the Ryan White HIV/AIDS Treatment Extension Act, the Minority HIV/AIDS Initiative, the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, the National Institutes of Health, the Substance Abuse and Mental Health Services Administration, the Office of Minority Health, and the Office of the Secretary of Health and Human Services;

(3) commends achievements in combating HIV/AIDS made by the President’s Emergency Plan for AIDS Relief, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, and the Joint United Nations Programme on HIV/AIDS;

(4) supports efforts to end the HIV epidemic in the United States and around the world by 2030;

(5) supports continued funding for prevention, care, and treatment services, and research programs for communities impacted by HIV and people living with HIV in the United States and globally;

(6) urges, in order to ensure that an AIDS-free generation is achievable, rapid action by all countries toward further expansion and scale-up of antiretroviral treatment programs, including efforts to reduce disparities and improve access for children to life saving medications;

(7) encourages the scaling up of comprehensive prevention services, including biomedical and structural interventions, to ensure inclusive access to programs and appropriate protections for all people at risk of contracting HIV, especially in communities disproportionately impacted;

(8) calls for greater focus on the HIV-related vulnerabilities of women and girls, including women and girls at risk for or who have survived violence or faced discrimination as a result of the disease;

(9) supports continued leadership by the United States in domestic, bilateral, multilateral, and private sector efforts to fight HIV;

(10) encourages input from civil society in the development and implementation of domestic and global HIV policies and programs that guide the response;

(11) encourages and supports greater degrees of ownership and shared responsibility by developing countries in order to ensure the sustainability of the domestic responses to HIV/AIDS by those countries; and

(12) urges other members of the international community to sustain and scale up their support for and financial contributions to efforts around the world to combat HIV.

#### NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator RON WYDEN, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Lt. Gen. Timothy D. Haugh for appointment in the United States Air Force to the grade of general, dated November 30, 2023.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. KAINÉ. 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 ENERGY AND NATURAL RESOURCES

The Committee on Energy and Natural Resources is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### COMMITTEE ON HOMELAND SECURITY AND GOVERNMENTAL AFFAIRS

The Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

#### COMMITTEE ON BANKING, HOUSING, AND URBAN AFFAIRS

The Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Thursday, November 30, 2023, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE GOALS OF STOMACH CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 481, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 481) expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. KAINÉ. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 481) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ORDERS FOR MONDAY, DECEMBER 4, 2023

Mr. KAINÉ. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 4; that following the prayer and pledge, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the morning hour be deemed expired, the

time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Ramirez nomination postcloture and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m.; finally, that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL MONDAY,  
DECEMBER 4, 2023, AT 3 P.M.

Mr. KAINE. 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 3:08 p.m., adjourned until Monday, December 4, 2023, at 3 p.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JUAN CARLOS ITURREGUI, OF MARYLAND, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DOMINICAN REPUBLIC.

##### UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION

DEVEN J. PAREKH, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF DIRECTORS OF THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION FOR A TERM OF THREE YEARS. (REAPPOINTMENT)

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate November 30, 2023:

##### THE JUDICIARY

SHANLYN A.S. PARK, OF HAWAII, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF HAWAII.

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF COLE-CHRISTIAN L. HOLINATY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF VINCENT W. FLORY, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF KIRSTEN H. THOMPSON, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF MICHAEL D. MCCARTHY, TO BE COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BENJAMIN T. FEDELES, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF ASHLY C. RUF, TO BE MAJOR.

AIR FORCE NOMINATION OF BRANDON L. SANDERS, TO BE LIEUTENANT COLONEL.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH LI ZHAO MUECKAY AND ENDING WITH ALEXANDER T. PARMATER, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

AIR FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ZARI N. COFIELD AND ENDING WITH JOSHUA D. FORSYTH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

##### IN THE ARMY

ARMY NOMINATION OF SAMUEL J. NIRENBERG, TO BE COLONEL.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH THOMAS T. BOOTH, JR. AND ENDING WITH EAN P. WHITE, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

ARMY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MOISES A. CASTILLO AND ENDING WITH TRUMAN L. TINSLEY IV, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

MARINE CORPS NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH AGUR S. ADAMS AND ENDING WITH CHRISTINA F. ZIMMERMAN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

##### IN THE NAVY

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH JOHN R. BARACHIE AND ENDING WITH SARA A. ZANITSCH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

NAVY NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MICHAEL W. BARBER, JR. AND ENDING WITH ERIC J. YOUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 6, 2023.

##### IN THE SPACE FORCE

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH KELLY N. ALEXANDER AND ENDING WITH NICHOLAS Y. YEUNG, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH BRANDON P. ALFORD AND ENDING WITH MATTHEW C. WROTEN, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH MATTHEW GUY ADAMS AND ENDING WITH SHAWN WOODALL, JR., WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ELIZABETH A. AGNEW AND ENDING WITH LUKE G. WUNDERLICH, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

SPACE FORCE NOMINATIONS BEGINNING WITH ALEXANDER R. ALLARD AND ENDING WITH TYLER T. WILLIAMS, WHICH NOMINATIONS WERE RECEIVED BY THE SENATE AND APPEARED IN THE CONGRESSIONAL RECORD ON NOVEMBER 1, 2023.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

AOWYN SIELER

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Aowyn Sieler for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Aowyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Aowyn, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Aowyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada West High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Aowyn Sieler on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

### HONORING THE SERVICE OF REBECCA "BECKY" BOYD

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and service of Rebecca "Becky" Boyd. Becky has dedicated her life to the citizens of Rankin County through her 32 years of service. Having served three consecutive terms as Rankin County's Circuit Clerk, she will officially retire on December 29, 2023.

Born in Louisiana, Becky learned the value of hard work at an early age as sales representative at Morgan & Lindsey. She graduated from Southeastern Louisiana University with a degree in Business Education. While in college she met Bill Boyd, and they married in 1973.

Together Bill and Becky had three sons: BJ, Randy, and Buddy. Raising her family was important to Becky, and she spent many years navigating motherhood and her career. Becky spent her early motherhood years teaching GED classes to adults who desired to continue their education after dropping out of high school. Her passion was to see students pursue their dreams, regardless of their backgrounds.

In 1987, Becky and Bill moved to Rankin County, Mississippi. There, Becky was introduced to the Circuit Clerk, Phillip Warren, who was looking for an assistant to help with the Census. Becky started her job "literally on the ground floor" by reading Census maps with a magnifying glass.

Due to her dedication and hard work, Becky was hired full-time after the Census to work in the Circuit Clerk's office. She assisted in all aspects of the office and learned the ins-and-outs of how the office operated. She said the

best part about her job assisting the Circuit Clerk was knowing she helped people each day.

Becky was elected to the position herself and made her mark on the County by working to modernize the office's technology and equipment. Her commitment to the people of Rankin County has been shown throughout her years of dedicated service. I am proud to honor her faithful work today and remind Rankin County of Becky's famous advice to find someone to help every day.

### RECOGNIZING THE 35TH ANNIVERSARY OF ST. STEPANOS ARMENIAN CHURCH

### HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to rise today to recognize the 35th anniversary of the consecration of St. Stepanos Armenian Church in Long Branch, New Jersey and the 65th anniversary of the formation of the Armenian parish in the Elberon section of Long Branch. I would also like to join with the church community in welcoming His Grace Bishop Mesrop Parsamyan, Primate of the Eastern Diocese, to New Jersey for this auspicious occasion.

The Armenian parish began in Elberon in 1956, with 25 members worshipping during summer services as St. Mary Armenian Church. Seeing the growing Armenian population in the area and their aging worship building, Mr. and Mrs. Kevork and Sirvart Hovnanian proposed construction of a new church. The new sanctuary, parish hall, and school was constructed on the site of the former St. Mary Church and consecrated in 1987. Its architecture mirrors that of ancient Armenian churches, paying homage to its history. The 12-sided pyramid-shaped dome represents the twelve apostles and its patron saint is depicted in a stained-glass mural at the entrance of the nave.

Today, the church is led by Rev. Fr. Daniel Karadjian, who has served as Pastor at St. Stepanos since 2013. Rev. Fr. Karadjian is supported by the Parish Council who together oversee a community of approximately 500 members. The clergy, staff, and members of St. Stepanos Armenian Church endeavor to carry on its mission and ensure a viable future.

St. Stepanos provides a welcoming place for the Armenian community to learn, pray, and connect with others. Committed to supporting and enriching the lives of its members St. Stepanos offers several organizations, as well as social and cultural activities, including the Women's Guild, Sunday School, holiday celebrations, and bake sales.

Mr. Speaker, once again, it is my privilege to pay tribute to St. Stepanos Armenian Church. St. Stepanos continues to serve as a

place of worship and inspiration and its commitment to faith and service to the Armenian community is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. JOYCE BEATTY

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 673.

### BRANDYN POTTER

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Brandyn Potter for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Brandyn has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Brandyn, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Brandyn's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Brandyn Potter on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

### HONORING THE MEMORY OF LT. COL. CRAIG HAYES MANDEVILLE

### HON. J. LUIS CORREA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the memory and legacy of a true American hero, Lieutenant Colonel Craig H. Mandeville, U.S. Army (Retired), who passed away at the age of 83. Lt. Col. Mandeville was not only a decorated Vietnam War veteran, but also a dedicated advocate for the valor and sacrifice of those who served alongside him.

Lt. Col. Mandeville distinguished himself as a two-tour Vietnam veteran, earning two Silver Stars and four Purple Hearts for his extraordinary courage and commitment to duty. His service during the An Loc battle, where he

• 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.

served as an advisor alongside Colonel Ho Ngoc Can and Brigadier General Tran Van Nhut, played a pivotal role in securing victory. Even in the face of adversity, Lt. Col. Mandeville exemplified resilience and unwavering dedication.

During the An Loc battle, when American forces attempted to extract Lt. Col. Mandeville, he refused evacuation and chose to stand shoulder-to-shoulder with his Vietnamese comrades, continuing to fight with the people he had proudly served alongside. His selflessness and determination in the midst of danger embodies the highest ideals of military service and camaraderie.

Lt. Col. Mandeville's contributions extended beyond the battlefield. In the aftermath of the Vietnam War, he played a crucial role in the creation of the Vietnam War Memorial in Freedom Park, located in the City of Westminster. His commitment to preserving the memory of those who served and sacrificed, both American and Vietnamese, reflects his deep sense of duty and compassion.

As we mourn the passing of Lt. Col. Craig H. Mandeville, we also celebrate his life and the enduring impact he has had on our nation. A great man has left us, but his legacy will live on forever within the hearts and minds of those who knew him and in the collective memory of a grateful nation.

May Lt. Col. Mandeville rest in peace, and may his family find solace in the knowledge that his contributions to our country will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING PHIL FARCO'S 45  
YEARS OF LEADERSHIP IN THE  
CONSTRUCTION INDUSTRY

**HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Phil Farco for his 45 years of leadership in the construction industry. Mr. Farco's company, Mason-Dallas, provides a variety of services by selling market-leading brands of acoustic and vibration isolation components and through custom fabricating solutions for unique installations.

Mason-Dallas was founded on October 23, 1978, initially a small family business that was founded as a single-source manufacturer's representative dedicated exclusively to providing sound and vibration isolation that prevented large HVAC units and related equipment from disrupting the offices and tenants on the floors below. Phil Farco took his business beyond just a manufacturer's representative, entering the custom manufacturing sector by fabricating unique solutions for specific acoustic and vibration projects. Mr. Farco's vision and hard work led Mason-Dallas to grow beyond its original scope, earning the company a reputation as an industry leader for innovative manufactured solutions.

Thanks to Mr. Farco's leadership, Mason-Dallas is a trailblazer in the industry, providing state-of-the-art solutions for a wide variety of venues. Among its portfolio of premier facilities are iconic landmarks such as the AT&T Stadium in Arlington, renowned as the home of the Dallas Cowboys, and the corporate offices of American Airlines. The Charles Schwab

DFW Corporate Campus in Westlake, DFW International Airport Terminals D and E, and the distinguished George H.W. Bush Presidential Library at Texas A&M University also bear the imprint of Mason-Dallas's cutting-edge expertise. Furthermore, the Texas Rangers' Globe Life Field, the Toyota North American Headquarters in Plano, the TCU School of Music, the Texas A&M College of Dentistry, and the Winspear Opera House in Dallas all stand as a testament to the company's commitment to facilitating optimal functionality across diverse and prestigious venues.

It is an honor to join the many congratulating Phil Farco on his 45 years of leadership and innovation at the helm of Mason-Dallas.

CELEBRATING THE RETIREMENT  
OF SALADO, TX CITY MANAGER  
DON FERGUSON

**HON. JOHN R. CARTER**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. CARTER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I'm honored to celebrate Salado, TX City Manager Don Ferguson as he embarks on his richly deserved retirement after decades of devoted public service. He leaves behind a noble legacy of accomplishment and will remain an example of excellence for all who follow.

City Managers are the unsung heroes of local government. Responsible for planning, directing, managing, and reviewing all activities and operations of towns large and small, they are committed to ensuring financial integrity as well as providing policy advice and administrative support to the Mayor and City Council. With his "can do" spirit, Don embraced these challenges and served Salado with integrity, honesty, and transparency.

During his tenure as the Salado Village Administrator, Don oversaw the creation of a centralized wastewater system, the Main Street beautification project that included sidewalks, decorative streetlights, landscape and drainage, and additional street and drainage improvements across the Village. He worked tirelessly to guide the village through rapid growth and other challenges such as COVID, wildfires, tornadoes, ice storms, hailstorms, and drought. Under his leadership, Salado saw steadily increasing sales tax revenues and property values, low crime rates, and managed growth. His work has been essential to making Salado a great place to work and call home.

While Don isn't tired of the privilege of public service, he knows that everything has its season. But stepping away from work won't give him much idle time as looks forward to watching Salado's growth and spending time with his beloved wife Stephanie and their family.

Retirement marks not the end of a career, but the beginning of a new adventure. As Don Ferguson embarks on this new chapter in life, I thank him for his exceptional work, remain grateful for our friendship, and wish him the very best.

ISABEL RICE

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Isabel Rice for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Isabel has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Isabel, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Isabel's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Arvada High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Isabel Rice on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING HOWARD W. SMITH III

**HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. BEYER. Mr. Speaker, I seek to recognize Mr. Howard W. Smith III, who is retiring after a remarkable 43 years of dedicated service at Walker & Dunlop Inc.

Howard's journey began in Alexandria, Virginia, where he graduated as a proud alumnus of Episcopal High School in '76 and later from Washington and Lee University in '80.

Howard started his career at Walker & Dunlop in 1980 and now serves as the company's President. Over his 43 years, Howard has been a successful loan originator and rose through the leadership ranks at W&D as COO and a member of the Board of Directors. As President, Howard oversees the company's entire nationwide loan origination and investment sales operations. Howard has mentored dozens of colleagues at W&D and has been integral to the growth and success of the company throughout his distinguished career. I know his colleagues and fellow board members will deeply miss his sage advice, his humor and his vast knowledge of the industry.

In addition to his accomplished W&D career, Howard is deeply engaged with his community and alma maters. He actively contributes to the academic landscape as a member of the advisory board to the Williams School of Commerce, Economics, and Politics at Washington and Lee University. He also served as a Former Trustee and Finance Committee Chair of Episcopal High School and as the Former Senior Warden of Christ Church Georgetown.

Howard is the proud husband of Page Lane Smith; together they have built a family in the heart of Washington D.C. with their five children Martha Macon Ashburner Smith, Marion Hungerford Smith, Howard "Worth" Smith IV, Anne de Graffenried Smith, and Elizabeth "Syndey" Smith.

I am honored to congratulate Howard as he retires from an extensive and accomplished career, and I wish him the best of luck in this new chapter of his life.

RECOGNIZING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF PORTUGUESE SPORTING CLUB OF PERTH AMBOY

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, it is my honor to recognize the Portuguese Sporting Club of Perth Amboy on its centennial anniversary and join its leadership, members, and the community in celebrating the inauguration of a plaque designating Pulaski Street in Perth Amboy, New Jersey as "PSC Place."

The Portuguese Sporting Club is a mainstay of the Perth Amboy community. For 100 years, its members have upheld the organization's mission to support the physical and character development of its members. Through cultural, educational, and recreational programs and events, the Portuguese Sporting Club encourages civic involvement and good citizenship, fosters relationships, and honors and celebrates the Portuguese heritage.

Since its establishment, the organization has provided an outlet for socialization and fellowship, and opportunities for its neighbors to share in the rich traditions of Portugal. Its work to preserve and promote the Portuguese culture, and its support of the community are commendable.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating the Portuguese Sporting Club of Perth Amboy on its 100th anniversary and recognizing its efforts to enrich the Perth Amboy community.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL  
E. JABALEY, M.D.

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor the life of Michael Ellis Jabaley, M.D., beloved husband of Mary Galbreath Jabaley, who died on his 88th birthday, July 12, 2022. He was born in Copperhill, Tennessee, on July 12, 1934, the son of John and Elizabeth (Solomon) Jabaley. He graduated from The Baylor School in Chattanooga in 1953 and from Vanderbilt University in 1957. Mike was the first person in his family to go to college, and only the second person from Copperhill to attend Vanderbilt. At Vanderbilt he was a member of Sigma Alpha Epsilon, the leadership fraternity ODK, and Phi Beta Kappa. He played halfback on the football team and was a member of the 1955 Gator Bowl championship squad. It was at Vanderbilt that he met Mary Abbey Galbreath, whom he married in 1959. It was also at Vanderbilt that a faculty member suggested he might want to apply to Johns Hopkins Medical School. His acceptance started him on a trajectory that influenced the rest of his life.

At Johns Hopkins, the highlights were meeting (and competing with) bright students from all over the country, making lasting friendships in the Pithotomy Club, and developing his sur-

gical skills with Vivien Thomas, legendary assistant to Dr. Alfred Blalock. A surgical internship at Hopkins, a four-year surgical residency at Massachusetts General Hospital in Boston, and a two year stint as a plastic surgery resident back at Hopkins gave him an opportunity to be with "the best of the best" surgeons and clinicians and to hone his surgical skills. Throughout this training, the U.S. Army had been patiently waiting to draft him. Now Major Jabaley, he was sent to William Beaumont hospital in El Paso and then to Vietnam. There he worked at the Vietnamese hospital Cong Hoa and also at the Third Field Hospital—both in Saigon. As a fully-trained plastic surgeon, he was able to concentrate on head, neck, and hand injuries among the soldiers—but also operated on many Vietnamese children with cleft lips and palates and other birth deformities.

After his military service and a stint back at Hopkins as assistant professor of plastic surgery, he was recruited by Dr. James Hardy of the University of Mississippi Medical Center to be the chief of the Plastic Surgery program at UMMC. He and Mary made the big move with their five children, never expecting they would stay in Jackson. But gradually the "temporary" move became permanent, as they raised their children here, found a church home at St. Richard's, and made good friends.

In 1979, Dr. Jabaley left UMMC and went into private practice, at first solo and later as a founding member of Plastic and Hand Surgery Associates. He operated at St. Dominic's and other area hospitals for over thirty years, always accompanied by his invaluable surgical assistant—and friend—Frankie Charleston. Over the years, his practice more and more emphasized hand surgery. He founded the Hand Clinic at St. Dominic Hospital. He became known as an international expert in Dupuytren's contracture and in carpal tunnel surgery.

He was always active as a writer and teacher. He produced almost 100 scientific papers, one of the earliest to receive the Robert Ivy award for the "best scientific paper" at the American Society of Plastic Surgeons Annual Meeting in 1976, and selected as the "best paper of the year" by the Journal of Hand Surgery in 2001. He edited several medical journals, and co-wrote the book "Stable Fixation of the Hand and Wrist" with his good friends Alan Freeland and Tim Ilughes. He was chosen Clinician and Teacher of the Year by the American Association of Hand Surgeons in 2002 and received the Kenneth Pickrell Award for teaching excellence from the Southeastern Society of Plastic and Reconstructive Surgeons in 2006. In 2009 Mike was honored by The Baylor School as Distinguished Alumnus.

In addition to his tenure as president of the Mississippi Chapter of the American College of Surgeons, Dr. Jabaley was on the boards of many national organizations. He was most proud of his service as an examiner for and vice-president of the American Board of Plastic Surgery; as president of the American Society of Surgery of the Hand; as president of the American Association of Plastic Surgeons; and as president of the Sunderland Society, a peripheral nerve study group.

Mike was preceded in death by his parents; his brothers, Dr. Fred Jabaley of Cumming, GA, and Chuck Jabaley of Cleveland, TN; and

his brothers-in-law, Dr. Joseph Fisher and Percy Galbreath of Memphis. He is survived by Mary, his wife of 63 years; his sister, Theresa Jabaley of Chicago; his sisters-in-law, Patsy Jabaley of Cumming, GA, Becky Jabaley of Cleveland, TN, and Anne Fisher and Loraine Galbreath of Memphis, and many beloved nieces and nephews. His children and their spouses are: Mary-Powel and Randall Thomas of Brooklyn, NY; Rear Adm (ret) Michael and Nicole Jabaley of Annandale, VA; Dr. Liza Jabaley Johnson and the Rt. Rev. Alston Johnson of Shreveport, LA; John Jabaley and Erika Zucker of New Orleans; and Kate and Tom Neylon of Dallas.

KYLA COOPER

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Kyla Cooper for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Kyla has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Kyla, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Kyla's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Kyla Cooper on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

CONGRATULATING THE CENTER  
FOR EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION  
ON ITS 40TH ANNIVERSARY

**HON. NEAL P. DUNN**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. DUNN of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the Center for Excellence in Education (CEE) on its 40th anniversary.

I am pleased to serve as an Honorary Trustee for this fine organization. Since its founding in 1983, CEE has done tremendous work in preparing students to meet the growing needs of a STEM-ready workforce. The talented alumni of CEE's programs have made outstanding contributions to help ensure that the United States remains a leader in the fields of science, technology, engineering, and mathematics.

I am pleased to recognize CEE's many accomplishments over the past four decades. Joann DiGennaro has done excellent work stewarding this organization since she co-founded it with the late Admiral H.G. Rickover.

Congratulations to the Center for Excellence in Education on its 40th anniversary and I extend my best wishes for much success in coming years.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF  
LYNNE WASSERMAN

**HON. TED LIEU**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. LIEU. Mr. Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Ms. Lynne Wasserman, a generous philanthropist in California's 36th Congressional District, who passed away on October 25, 2023.

Ms. Wasserman was born on October 18, 1940, to Lew and Edith "Edie" Wasserman and was raised in Beverly Hills, California. After graduating from Beverly Hills High School, Ms. Wasserman pursued a degree in law. During her career, Ms. Wasserman worked at Salomon Brothers Investment Bank in New York and later became General Counsel to Jerry Weintraub's production company.

Ms. Wasserman spent her retirement years as a philanthropist. Through her family's foundation, Ms. Wasserman proudly supported LA's Best, an after-school program that benefited children's social, emotional, and academic needs in the Los Angeles public school system. Ms. Wasserman was committed to electing more women to office and believed participating in the political process was an obligation to fulfill one's citizenship. While our country experienced political divisions, Ms. Wasserman always believed there was a candidate on the horizon somewhere who could bring unity and normalcy back to our country.

Ms. Wasserman was a sports enthusiast and was not shy about expressing her allegiance to the Los Angeles Dodgers, Lakers, and UCLA basketball and football. Ms. Wasserman is survived by her husband, Michael Powell, son, Casey Wasserman, daughter, Carol Leif, and three grandchildren. May her memory be a blessing to all who know her.

CONGRATULATING AGOSTINA  
"STINA" D'UVA FOR 22 YEARS  
OF SERVICE AS PRESIDENT &  
CEO OF THE WEST ORANGE  
CHAMBER OF COMMERCE

**HON. DANIEL WEBSTER**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. WEBSTER of Florida. Mr. Speaker, it is with sincere appreciation that I recognize Agostina "Stina" D'Uva for her leadership and service to the West Orange Chamber of Commerce. After more than 22 years of service, Stina will retire at the end of this year in December 2023.

In December 2001, Stina became the President and CEO of the West Orange Chamber of Commerce. For the past 22 years she has led the West Orange Chamber of Commerce to support the business community through advocacy, networking opportunities, educational programs, and economic development which have impacted our community for the better. Her endeavors have enabled the West Orange Chamber of Commerce to grow into one of the strongest, most respected Chambers in the state of Florida.

Under Stina's direction, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce has created and orga-

nized many events for members and the community including Best Fest—The Taste of West Orange, Celebrating Extraordinary Women, the Tour de Chamber bicycle event, and Brewing Up Business. She has also been a catalyst with the Chamber in supporting children and their education for many years. The Chamber has been recognized by Orange County Public Schools for its commitment with several awards including Student of Achievement and Renown (SOAR) and the West Orange Program for Tomorrow's Entrepreneurs (WOPE).

Throughout her leadership, the West Orange Chamber of Commerce has garnered many local and statewide certifications and honors, including Florida Association of Chamber Professionals Chamber of the Year in 2009, 2012 and 2015. Individually, she received recognition in September 2023 as the Florida Association of Chamber Professionals Executive of the Year.

Stina has been an integral leader throughout the Central Florida community for decades. She has served her community in many capacities including as a Planning & Zoning Commissioner for Orange County, on the Orange County Charter Review Commission, and as Chairwoman of the Health Central Foundation Board. Additionally, in 2007, she was recognized as Orange County District 1 Citizen of the Year and was awarded the 2013 Central Florida Women's League Heart of Florida Woman Award. In 2014, she was elected to and continues to serve on the MetroWest Master Association Board of Directors. As a parent, she was the President of both the MetroWest Elementary School PTA and the Gotha Middle School PTSA and was also a founding member and President of the Olympia High School PTSA.

It is a privilege to congratulate and applaud my friend Stina on her hard work and many contributions to the Central Florida community and wish her a well-deserved retirement. May her commitment to excellence, leadership and service inspire others to follow in her footsteps.

**MAIVE McCORMICK**

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Maive McCormick for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Maive has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Maive, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Maive's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Maive McCormick on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING NEIL THOMAS  
PROTO ON THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY  
OF UNITED STATES OF  
AMERICA V. STUDENTS CHALLENGING  
REGULATORY AGENCY  
PROCEDURES

**HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO**

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. DELAURO. Mr. Speaker, fifty years ago, the Supreme Court of the United States decided *United States of America v. Students Challenging Regulatory Agency Procedures (SCRAP)*. Issuing a groundbreaking decision granting standing to five law students from George Washington Law School to sue the United States Government under Article III of the Constitution to challenge a nationwide railroad freight rate increase approved by the Interstate Commerce Commission (ICC). With a nearly unanimous decision written by the oft described strict constitutionalist, Justice Potter Stewart, SCRAP was the first full-court consideration of the National Environmental Policy Act (NEPA).

What is perhaps most interesting about SCRAP is that it was wholly taken on by law students. Professor John F. Banzhaf, to the consternation of traditionalists in legal education, encouraged students to identify problematic corporate and regulatory agency relationships and to engage and challenge them in practical, real terms on their own turf. Led by then 3rd-year law student and New Haven native, Neil Thomas Proto, the five law students began their journey in December 1971 with the filing of a petition in the ICC that sought a one billion dollar refund for the failure of the commission to comply with NEPA in approving a twenty percent rate increase that SCRAP claimed discriminated against the movement of recyclable materials by favoring the movement of raw materials.

I have had the good fortune to know Neil Proto for many years. Following the successful litigation of SCRAP, Neil went on to a distinguished career in law. In his later years he has also taught, lectured and written about his experiences. In 2006, he authored *To A High Court, Five Bold Law Students Challenge Corporate Greed and Change the Law* in which he provides a first-person account of what he and his classmates dared to take on. It should come as no surprise that some on the Court have sought to water down and at time outright overturn this precedent setting decision. Just this year, in conjunction with the 50th anniversary of this landmark decision, Neil has published a revised and updated anniversary edition. This new edition has been recently recognized as a "Gold Winner" by the Nonfiction Author's Association.

There are some stories that are worth repeating—and repeating often. The story of SCRAP is one of them as it provides important lessons, not only for students of law but for policymakers and advocates alike. I am honored to have this opportunity to congratulate Neil Thomas Proto on this triumph and extend my very best wishes for continued success.

HONORING THE LIFE OF MICHAEL  
W. DALY

**HON. NICOLE MALLIOTAKIS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. MALLIOTAKIS. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the following proclamation.

Whereas: On November 25, 2023, hero firefighter Michael W. Daly of Staten Island succumbed to 9/11 related cancer.

Whereas: Michael W. Daly, who was born on May 21, 1967, in Brooklyn, New York is the proud father to Mason, Madison, and Logan and loving husband to his wife Jessica.

Whereas: Michael W. Daly courageously served as a firefighter with the New York Fire Department's Ladder 87 in Annadale, Staten Island, from 1999 to 2008.

Whereas: Michael W. Daly bravely served the City of New York in the aftermath of the September 11th attacks at Ground Zero.

Whereas: Due to his work at Ground Zero following the September 11th Attacks, sadly contracted two types of 9/11 related cancers.

Whereas: After retiring from the FDNY, Michael W. Daly graciously continued to give back to his community by supporting various charitable causes. These include the March of Dimes, dedicated to saving premature babies, and the American Cancer Society, where he raised awareness of 9/11-related illnesses by serving as the keynote speaker at the 2015 Celebration of Hope Gala.

Whereas: The people of the City of New York and Staten Island are thankful for his years of service to the community in the face of the worst attack on our nation.

It is my sincere pleasure to honor the life and legacy of Michael W. Daly in recognition and grateful appreciation of his invaluable service to our community and country.

Our Nation is forever indebted to him and offers its sincerest gratitude.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 675.

MARIELLE LINK

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marielle Link for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Marielle has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Marielle, who strive to

make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Marielle's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Oberon Middle School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Marielle Link on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING KEVIN FUHR

**HON. DAN NEWHOUSE**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. NEWHOUSE. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to recognize the commitment of a devoted Central Washington public servant, Kevin Fuhr. Formerly the Chief of Police for Moses Lake, Chief Fuhr has concluded an illustrious 32-year career in law enforcement and is now ready to move on to the next chapter of his life.

While other regions of Washington State had trouble hiring new police officers, Chief Fuhr's leadership drew people to Moses Lake Police Department in the pursuit of working underneath him. Chief Fuhr's force also spearheaded an exceptional outreach program, and his leadership on my Central Washington Fentanyl Taskforce has fostered a remarkable level of trust within our communities.

When most folks retire, they look forward to all the spare time they will have. However, the call to public service continues to ring for Chief Fuhr, as he has recently been hired as the city manager of Moses Lake, underscoring his unwavering dedication to Central Washington.

I have known Kevin for a long time, and I am proud to call him a dear friend. His leadership, integrity, and commitment to the prosperity of our region has resulted in a wonderful career with more than enough to show for it. It has been a pleasure working with him, and I am looking forward to continuing our collaboration in his new role.

CELEBRATING THE AZTECA  
WEDDING PLAZA

**HON. RUBEN GALLEG0**

OF ARIZONA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. GALLEG0. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate over 70 years of the Azteca Wedding Plaza as the Torrez family heads into retirement. Founded in 1950 by Adolfo and Kay Torrez, their children, grandchildren, and great grandchildren have kept the family business thriving over the decades.

Family has been at the center of everything at Azteca. For generations, the Torrezes have proudly served Phoenix families through quinceañeras, weddings, and many other special moments. To be part of memorable occasions and serve their community has been their motivation and constant goal throughout the years.

Prolific entrepreneurs, Adolfo and Kay's first business was Mexican restaurant in downtown

Phoenix. From there, they opened a bar, flower shop, furniture store, and eventually grew into Azteca Wedding Plaza—an entire city block dedicated to the bridal industry. Azteca has been a mainstay in Phoenix's Latino community, providing a welcoming environment for generations of brides and grooms.

Now, as a family, they have determined it is time to retire Azteca. Reaching this conclusion has not been easy, but their decision was fueled by one factor—family. Now, their plan is to spend more time with friends and family and to watch their community grow and prosper.

I would like to congratulate the Torrez family on over 70 years of business and wish them all the best in their future endeavors.

HONORING RON MANESS FOR HIS  
MANY YEARS OF DEDICATED  
SERVICE TO THE PEOPLE OF  
MOORE COUNTY

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Ron Maness on his retirement as Moore County Airport Director.

A native of Moore County, Maness displayed a deep passion for the skies throughout his entire career. After graduating from UNC Chapel Hill as a member of the Air Force ROTC, Maness joined the United States Air Force and flew the premier interceptor jet of his time, the supersonic F-106. As his Air Force career progressed, he was promoted to the Air Force precision flight squadron, the Thunderbirds, one of the highest honors an Air Force Pilot can receive.

After his time in the military ended, Maness served as a pilot to U.S. Airways (now American Airlines) for 22 years. Much like his time in the Air Force, Maness' commitment to service and skilled leadership continued during his civilian career. Maness first became Moore County Airport Director in 2004 and would go on to serve in this role on four separate occasions. Each time, Maness set aside everything to answer the call to serve his community. Maness' dedication to service and constant willingness to step up when needed is commendable and inspiring. It has been an honor serving the people of Moore County alongside him.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in congratulating Ron Maness on his retirement and thanking him for his decades of dedicated service to Moore County and our entire Nation.

HONORING COTATI POLICE CHIEF  
MICHAEL PARISH

**HON. MIKE THOMPSON**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the retirement of Police Chief Michael Parish and his 37 years of service with local law enforcement throughout the state of California, including nearly 13 years as police chief for the city of Cotati.



Chief Parish graduated from California State University Stanislaus with a Bachelor of Arts in Criminal Justice and then attended graduate school at California State University, Long Beach, earning a Master of Science Degree in Emergency Services Administration. From there, he graduated from the Federal Bureau of Investigations National Academy and went on to serve in the California Army National Guard 1st 184th Infantry (Air Assault) Division.

Chief Parish began his career in law enforcement at the Merced County Sheriffs Department, serving as a deputy sheriff for 19 years, before leaving as a sergeant. While at the Merced County Sheriff's Department, Chief Parish was the tactical commander of the Regional S.W.A.T. and the coordinator of the Sheriffs Department Citizen Search and Rescue Team. Chief Parish then moved to the University of California (UC), Merced, where he was second in command as a lieutenant with the UC Merced Police Department. Over the course of five years, Chief Parish was instrumental in building up the new police department with an emphasis on creating connections with his community.

Chief Parish had an illustrious career in Sonoma County, becoming one of the longest serving police chiefs in the state of California. In 2010, he began to serve as the police chief for the city of Cotati. As Chief, he paved the way in California with innovations in modern policing. Chief Parish led the first department in Sonoma County to fully deploy body worn cameras on all officers, worked to support regional response to wildfires in Sonoma County, and served on the Sonoma County Public Safety Consortium to promote unified police and fire dispatch. In addition, Chief Parish helped the Cotati Police Department in the transition to become one of the first police departments in California to deploy fully outfitted electric patrol cars.

When he was not busy on the job, Chief Parish developed a passion for collecting antique road signs and is a loyal Raider football fan. The Chief can now finish fixing up his 1953 Studebaker truck and spend more time with his beloved wife Laura, and his two daughters, Chloe and Kennedy.

Mr. Speaker, we thank Chief Michael Parish for his selfless service and commitment to the people of Cotati and Sonoma County. His efforts have made Cotati a more dynamic, safe, and prosperous city. It is therefore fitting and proper that we honor him here today.

HONORING THE LIFE OF LILLY  
LOISE CULP HOGAN

**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lilly Loise Culp Hogan, age 103 who died on November 19, 2023.

Lilly Loise Culp Hogan was born February 5, 1920, to Lilly Maude and James Monroe Culp in Obion County, TN, and was the tenth of eleven children. She grew up in the community, excelling in her studies and living through the Great Depression on the family farm.

After high school, Loise worked in Union City, TN, where she met her husband, Reed

Blanchard Hogan. Both enlisted in the Navy during World War II. Reed served in the South Pacific as a Marine Raider. Loise became a Wave and was assigned to Naval Intelligence as a Cryptologist, where she helped break Japanese codes. When the war ended, they both attended the University of Tennessee in Knoxville. Loise went on to graduate with a degree in Business Education.

After marrying the love of her life in 1944, the couple lived in Union City, TN, and then in Clarksdale, MS, where they had four children. After Reed's sudden death in 1964, Loise raised her children as a single mom. She instilled in her children the importance of faith and education. Today, two are medical doctors, one has a Ph.D., and one is a lawyer.

Loise later lived in Jackson, MS, to be near her children and grandchildren before entering the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport in 1993. She genuinely enjoyed the AFRH, finding a wonderful community of veterans, dedicated staff, and many friends. Loise entertained AFRH residents and staff by saying the alphabet backwards and often sang, painted, and dominated bingo and shuffleboard. She enjoyed her longtime friend and companion Andy Pelkofer, who was also her dance partner.

Loise was predeceased by her parents, all siblings, and her beloved husband Reed. She is survived by her children, Mary Beth Hogan of Fayetteville, NC; Reed Blanchard Hogan II of Jackson, MS; Jeannie Hogan Sansing of Oxford, MS; and Kimberly Hogan Pesaniello of Snow Hill, MD. She also adored her seven grandchildren and 15 great grandchildren, as well as many nieces, nephews, and extended family members.

CONGRATULATING DR. BART  
SCHMITT

**HON. YADIRA CARAVEO**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. CARAVEO. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Dr. Bart Schmitt on his well-deserved retirement from Children's Hospital Colorado.

During his more than 50-year long career, he provided a significant contribution to our state and to our pediatrics community, and I am deeply thankful for all that he has achieved.

His accomplishments, dedication, and tireless labors in pursuit of child health care, will be remembered fondly for years to come. Throughout his tenure, Dr. Schmitt has committed himself to healing and nurturing the children of our community and for that he has my eternal gratitude. From his programming on ambulatory pediatrics to his authorship of telephone triage guidelines, he has made monumental contributions to the field of pediatric medicine and I'm forever grateful for his efforts. Dr. Schmitt's achievements are numerous, and he is an inspiration to those who wish to follow in his footsteps.

As he enters a new phase of his life, I wish him the best in all his future endeavors.

ANGELINA CHERNENKO

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelina Chernenko for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angelina has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angelina, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angelina's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Three Creeks K-8 School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angelina Chernenko on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

RECOGNIZING SASHA  
"TAQWŠ·BLU" LaPOINTE

**HON. MARILYN STRICKLAND**

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. STRICKLAND. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Sasha "taqwš·blu" LaPointe, a Coast Salish poet, essayist, and educator whose work illuminates Native identities, historical memories, and heritages found throughout the United States.

Centered on themes of trauma and resilience, Sasha's poetry and memoirs touch on topics such as PTSD and sexual violence, her great grandmother's efforts to revitalize the Lushootseed language, and personal reflections on her own mixed heritage.

A graduate of the Institute of American Indian Arts with a Master of Fine Arts, Sasha now teaches creative writing as part of the Native Pathways Program at Evergreen State College and is a mentor for Seattle's Youth Poet Laureate program.

I'm proud to shine a spotlight on Sasha, who enriches our South Sound community through her exemplary craft, as our Constituent of the Month.

RECOGNIZING CREDIT UNIONS FOR  
WORKING TO MAKE ADOPTION  
AFFORDABLE

**HON. ZACHARY NUNN**

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. NUNN of Iowa. Mr. Speaker, this month is National Adoption Month—a source of joy to so many families. This year, my wife Kelly and I have been blessed to welcome two adorable sisters into our family through adoption.

In Congress, I'm determined to make that same joy Kelly and I have experienced a reality for other families in Iowa and across the country. Unfortunately, the financial cost can be a significant barrier to adoption. According to the Department of Health and Human Services, the cost of adoption ranges between \$20,000 to \$50,000.

That's why, I've introduced the Fight For Families Act to help low- and middle-income families afford adoption. Every child deserves a loving home, and I'm determined to ensure that the federal government does not stand in the way of that mission.

To that same end, I also want to thank the credit unions in my home state of Iowa and around the country who are offering affordable loans specifically designed for adoption costs—such as a home study or legal fees—and are built around supporting families through the multi-year adoption process. With credit union adoption loans, families are not burdened by excessive interest rates when pursuing an adoption.

The bottom line is that Congress must do more to lower the cost of adoption because we have too many children without forever homes. But until then, I'm heartened to see credit unions stand up and serve our communities in this important way.

CONGRATULATING ELIZABETH DUCLOS, THE 2024 NEW HAMPSHIRE TEACHER OF THE YEAR

### HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. PAPPAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elizabeth Duclos on being named New Hampshire's 2024 Teacher of the Year. Elizabeth was chosen among a talented group of educators from across the Granite State because of her leadership, dedication, and proven ability to make students feel valued.

Elizabeth arrived at Pembroke School District in 2010 and is currently a third-grade teacher at Pembroke Hill School. Her strong work ethic and insightful thinking have given her students the tools needed to succeed and receive a well-rounded education. Elizabeth's compassion and ability to foster an effective learning environment are just part of what makes her an exemplary educator.

Noted for her ability to connect with students and make them feel valued, Elizabeth has enriched the lives of all those around her. It is clear that Elizabeth has been an asset to her students and community both in and out of the classroom. As Teacher of the Year, Elizabeth will serve as an ambassador for teachers throughout the state, exemplifying empathetic and impactful learning.

On behalf of the constituents of New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Elizabeth for her achievement and thank her for her service to our community. Elizabeth embodies our state's sense of service and gives us hope for the future of American education. This is a well-deserved honor and I know Elizabeth will continue to inspire Granite State students for years to come.

MARLON PINEDA PIEDRAHITA

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Marlon Pineda Piedrahita for

earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Marlon has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Marlon, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Marlon's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Marlon Pineda Piedrahita on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

#### PERSONAL EXPLANATION

### HON. PATRICK T. McHENRY

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, due to an unforeseen scheduling conflict, I was unable to participate in the consideration of H. Res. 888 and H. Res. 793. Had I been present, I would have voted, YEA on Roll Call No. 677, and YEA on Roll Call No. 676.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF 103-YEAR-OLD LILLY LOISE CULP HOGAN

### HON. MICHAEL GUEST

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. GUEST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Lilly Louise Culp Hogan. Lilly lived a life of adventure and at age 103 was the oldest veteran at the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. She was born on February 5, 1920, in Obion County, Tennessee, Lilly was the second youngest child of eleven children.

Growing up during the Great Depression, Lilly learned the value of hard work by making clothes for all the children at home. She made her own patterns and designed her own clothing. Lilly had many siblings to look up to and who were a part of her life. Attending the local one-room schoolhouse, Lilly was taught by her older sister Zora. Lilly loved math and was always competing with her classmates for the best grades. When she finished the eighth grade, Lilly attended high school at the local Dixie School. Having no car, Lilly and her brother Fred would walk to school every day, except on the rare day when her father would allow them to ride the horse. Fred and Lilly would stable the horse in the barn attached to the school while they did their studies. In 1938 Lilly graduated as valedictorian and Fred graduated with her the same year as salutatorian.

After high school, Lilly wanted to attend college, but her family did not have the resources, so she started working. Lilly and her sister Kitty rented an apartment close to Union City, Tennessee, and together they worked at a nearby shirt factory. While working at the shirt factory, her landlord introduced Lilly to her cousin, Reed Hogan. Reed was on leave from the U.S. Navy.

After Reed was sent back overseas on duty, Lilly was bored of the shirt factory and her life

in Tennessee. On the lookout for more adventure, she moved to Wisconsin to join her brother Calvin learning the trade of photography. Lilly learned how to take photos, print them, and colorize the photos. With a new job and a new life, Lilly began to find her place in the world. While in Wisconsin, Lilly and Reed were constantly exchanging letters.

As Lilly worked in the photography shop, many men and women would come in to take pictures for their Navy identification cards. Lilly saw them coming in with their nice Navy uniforms day-in and day-out. Feeling adventurous, Lilly decided to join the Navy, too. With her photography skills, she enlisted with the goal of becoming a war photographer. Encouraged by her brother to join, Lilly went off on a new adventure in Washington, D.C.

During the process of joining the Navy, it became clear that Lilly excelled at math and was pulled from the photography route and placed in a decoding role. Lilly had no idea what the future held, but she underwent investigation for a top security clearance.

In Washington, D.C., the Pentagon had not been completed, and Lilly worked in an underground facility nearby. Lilly decoded enemy messages in Naval Intelligence. Her work was important to the war, and she knew it. She worked around the clock taking messages and typing them on a card to be slid into what was a very primitive and early version of the modern computer.

In 1944, Reed came home wounded and made his way to Washington, D.C., to find Lilly. They were married on March 16, 1944, not many days after Reed returned.

When the war ended, Lilly and Reed used the G.I. Bill to go to college. They attended the University of Tennessee together and both majored in business—Lilly in business education and Reed in business administration. Lilly and Reed were in some of the same classes and would compete against each other for the best grades. Lilly and Reed had four children—Mary Beth, Reed Jr., Jeannie, and Kim—and made their home in Mississippi.

Later in life, Lilly moved into the Armed Forces Retirement Home in Gulfport, Mississippi. Keeping with her adventurous spirit, Lilly stayed at the facility while residents cleared out during Hurricane Katrina in 2005 stating she had never seen a hurricane. The water rose to the third story, and Lilly and several of the other residents had to be rescued.

Lilly's life legacy of adventure, courage, and bravery lives on in her four children, seven grandchildren, and fifteen great-grandchildren. I am proud to honor the life of a woman who made an impact not just during World War II but throughout her entire life.

ANGELO FIELD

### HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Angelo Field for earning the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth Award.

Angelo has achieved great things, all while overcoming adversity and challenges along the way. Students like Angelo, who strive to make the most of their education, develop crucial skills and a work ethic that will guide them

for the rest of their lives. This award is a testament to Angelo's hard work, determination, and perseverance at Jefferson Jr./Sr. High School and is clearly just the beginning of a bright and promising future.

It is my honor to congratulate Angelo Field on achieving the Arvada Wheat Ridge Service Ambassadors for Youth award.

HONORING DAVID WHISENANT'S  
RETIREMENT FROM WBTB  
AFTER 32 YEARS

**HON. RICHARD HUDSON**

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. HUDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and congratulate my friend David Whisenant on his retirement from WBTB after 32 years of service.

David Whisenant started his news career at Salisbury-based radio station WSTP while in high school in 1976. He went on to attend Appalachian State University, earning degrees in both Political Science and English. Throughout his four years, he worked at a radio station in Boone, North Carolina. After graduation, David returned to Salisbury and started a full-time job at WSTP.

When WBTB first created their bureau in Salisbury, David sent a handwritten letter to the news director expressing his interest in working for the station. David started at WBTB as a stringer and within a year was promoted to General Assignment Reporter.

David would go on to provide coverage for Charlotte as well as Salisbury, Concord, and Kannapolis. In his words, he would go "wherever they send me." Some of David's biggest stories include the Pillowtex/NC Research Campus developments, the tragic fire at Salisbury Millworks, the funeral of President Ronald Reagan, NASCAR-related stories, and coverage and updates of Hurricane Katrina. I think I speak for the whole of our community here in North Carolina in wishing David all the best as he begins this next chapter of life.

Mr. Speaker, please join me today in recognizing David Whisenant's retirement from WBTB and his 32 years of service to the people of North Carolina.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15, 2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 674.

RECOGNIZING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF ELBERON FIRST AID & EMERGENCY SQUAD

**HON. FRANK PALLONE, JR.**

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad on its 75th anniversary. The all-volunteer agency continues to provide exemplary service to residents and its work is truly deserving of this body's recognition.

Incorporated in 1948, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad is a 501c4 that does not bill for its services. Though the squad is responsible for financing most of its operations, including its medical supplies, equipment, and vehicles, it receives a small stipend through the city and is also supported by the community through donations and fundraisers.

Responding to over 600 calls a year, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad serves the residents of the Elberon section of Long Branch, but also provides backup for the entire city of Long Branch, West Long Branch, Deal, Allenhurst, Eatontown, Oceanport, Monmouth Beach, and Sea Bright. In addition to providing on-site support for local community events, including the large-scale NJ Marathon, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad is on a Monmouth County EMS Strike Team and stands ready to assist in mass casualty incidents.

First Responders and Emergency Medical Technicians play a vital role in our communities, providing quality care in a timely manner. The members of Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad volunteer their time and undergo rigorous training to support its neighbors. They are well-trained, efficient, and compassionate, and they demonstrate true community service.

Mr. Speaker, I sincerely hope my colleagues will join me in marking this milestone. For 75 years, Elberon First Aid & Emergency Squad has upheld its duty to serve the community and its dedication is to be celebrated.

MICKEY WILSON

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mickey Wilson of Golden, Colorado, for receiving a Carnegie Medal after saving his friend's life in a daring act of heroism.

In January 2017, Mr. Wilson, a professional slackliner, was skiing in Dillon, Colorado, when a friend and fellow skier got caught leaving a ski lift. The skier was left dangling unconscious from the lift, out of reach from help. Mr. Wilson realized the gravity of the situation and selflessly sprung into action. Despite danger warnings, he climbed the chairlift pole and traversed 30 feet along the lift's two-inch cable to reach the chair. He then swung down onto the chair and, after catching a knife thrown by a rescue crew member, cut his friend free. The skier fully recovered with only a broken rib, while Mr. Wilson was uninjured. Mr. Wilson's slacklining experience proved life-saving that day.

The Carnegie Medal is given to people who risk their own safety in an attempt to save the lives of others. There is no doubt that Mr. Wilson is incredibly deserving of this award and it is an honor to congratulate him on this life-saving act of bravery.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF  
JORDAN MORRIS BRANDMAN

**HON. J. LUIS CORREA**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a remarkable individual, Jordan Morris Brandman. Jordan leaves behind a legacy defined by his unparalleled commitment to the community he lived in for his entire life.

Born in 1980 to Michael and Mara Brandman, Jordan was the youngest of five children and was raised in the City of Orange. After graduating from El Modena High School, he attended University of California, Irvine, where he majored in Political Science and was an early leader in the Orange County Young Democrats. Jordan interned and later worked in the California State Department of Education under both Governors Gray Davis and Arnold Schwarzenegger after his studies. It was during these years that he developed a passion for education issues.

Jordan took his inspiring passion for education and public service and ran for the Anaheim Union High School District Board of Trustees, winning a seat on the board in 2008. As a Trustee, he led the effort to create a culturally competent curriculum that catered to the needs of the growing Latino working class community. He brought the seal of bi-literacy to the school district and helped make resources accessible to students who were Dreamers.

In 2012, Jordan won a seat on the Anaheim City Council during a turbulent period of change. Jordan also broke barriers when he came out as an LGBTQ councilman—the first openly gay Councilmember in Anaheim history—giving a voice to his community. He worked relentlessly to foster a feeling of community and provide opportunities for everybody by ensuring that the bridges he built reached the very core of our local communities.

Jordan, in his professional life, showed a dedication to making connections between labor and business as the Vice President of Labor Relations at BIASC and the leader in workforce development for the Orange County Business Council. His sincere kindness and generosity extended beyond the public sphere, having a positive impact on those closest to him.

Jordan is survived by his father Michael and stepmother Pam, as well as his four brothers, Jason, Joshua, Jake, and Jedidiah. He is now reunited in eternal rest with his mother, Mara Brandman, who he always held a special place in his heart for.

I ask my colleagues to join me in celebrating and commemorating Jordan Morris Brandman's great career and contributions to our community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. JOYCE BEATTY**

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Thursday, November 30, 2023*

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, I was late to the House floor on the day of November 15,

2023 due to time-sensitive commitments I had as the White House Liaison for the House Democratic Women's Caucus. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 672.

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S5681–S5697*

**Measures Introduced:** Twenty-one bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 3364–3384, and S. Res. 480–482. **Pages S5692–93**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 2219, to amend the Congressional Accountability Act of 1995 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace. (S. Rept. No. 118–115)

S. 1332, to require the Office of Management and Budget to revise the Standard Occupational Classification system to establish a separate code for direct support professionals, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–116)

S. 2256, to authorize the Director of the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency to establish an apprenticeship program and to establish a pilot program on cybersecurity training for veterans and members of the Armed Forces transitioning to civilian life, with amendments. (S. Rept. No. 118–117)

S. 2283, to prohibit the procurement of certain items containing perfluorooctane sulfonate (PFOS) or perfluorooctanoic acid (PFOA) and prioritize the procurement of products not containing PFAS, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–118)

S. 2291, to establish the Northern Border Coordination Center, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 118–119) **Page S5692**

#### Measures Passed:

**Stomach Cancer Awareness Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 481, expressing support for the goals of Stomach Cancer Awareness Month. **Page S5695**

**Message from the President:** Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to the Atomic Energy Act of 1954, the text of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear En-

ergy; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations. (PM–32) **Pages S5691–92**

**Ramirez Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit. **Pages S5685–87**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 80 yeas to 17 nays (Vote No. EX. 325), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5688–89**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that Senate resume consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 3 p.m., on Monday, December 4, 2023; and that all time be considered expired at 5:30 p.m. **Pages S5696–97**

**AliKhan Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Page S5687**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Tuesday, December 5, 2023. **Page S5687**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5687**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5687**

**Richard Nomination—Cloture:** Senate began consideration of the nomination of Elizabeth H. Richard, of Virginia, to be Coordinator for Counterterrorism, with the rank and status of Ambassador at Large. **Page S5687**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Loren L. AliKhan, of the District of Columbia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Page S5687**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5687**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5687**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 324), Shanlyn A.S. Park, of Hawaii, to be United States District Judge for the District of Hawaii. **Page S5685**

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, Navy, and Space Force. **Page S5697**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

Juan Carlos Iturregui, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Dominican Republic.

Deven J. Parekh, of New York, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the United States International Development Finance Corporation for a term of three years. **Page S5697**

**Executive Reports of Committees:** **Page S5692**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page S5693**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S5694–95**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S5690–91**

**Notices of Intent:** **Page S5696**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S5696**

**Record Votes:** Two record votes were taken today. (Total—325) **Pages S5685, S5688–89**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:08 p.m., until 3 p.m. on Monday, December 4, 2023. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5697.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Basil Ivanhoe Gooden, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Rural Development, and Summer K. Mersinger, of South Dakota, to be a Commissioner of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, who was introduced by Senator Thune, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### CFPB SEMI-ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing the Consumer Fi-

ancial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress, including S.954, to provide for appropriate cost-sharing for insulin products covered under private health plans, and to establish a program to support health care providers and pharmacies in providing discounted insulin products to uninsured individuals, after receiving testimony from Rohit Chopra, Director, Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

### ADVANCED NUCLEAR REACTOR COMMERCIALIZATION

*Committee on Energy and Natural Resources:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine opportunities and challenges associated with advanced nuclear reactor commercialization, after receiving testimony from John C. Wagner, Laboratory Director, Idaho National Laboratory, Department of Energy; Jeff Waksman, Program Manager, Strategic Capabilities Office, Office of the Secretary of Defense; Edward Stones, Dow Inc., Midland, Michigan; and Jeffrey S. Merrifield, former Commissioner of the Nuclear Regulatory Commission, Pillsbury Winthrop Shaw Pittman, Washington, D.C., on behalf of the U.S. Nuclear Industry Council.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be Special Counsel, Office of Special Counsel, and Henry J. Kerner, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Merit Systems Protection Board, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

An authorization for subpoenas relating to the Supreme Court ethics investigation; and

The nominations of Mustafa Taher Kasubhai, to be United States District Judge for the District of Oregon, Eumi K. Lee, to be United States District Judge for the Northern District of California, Seth Robert Aframe, of New Hampshire, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Edward Sunyol Kiel, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, Sarah French Russell, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut, and Christopher Charles Fonzone, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

# House of Representatives

## *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 29 public bills, H.R. 6513–6541; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 897–901, were introduced. **Pages H6048–49**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages H6051–52**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Molinaro to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5987**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 11:38 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H5997**

**Privileged Resolution—Intent to Offer:** Representative Santos announced his intent to offer a privileged resolution. **Pages H5999–H6000**

**No Funds for Iranian Terrorism Act:** The House passed H.R. 5961, to freeze certain Iranian funds involved in the 2023 hostage deal between the United States and Iran, by a yea-and-nay vote of 307 yeas to 119 nays with one answering “present”, Roll No. 687. **Pages H6026–27**

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 118–14, modified by the amendment printed in part B of the report of H. Rept. 118–280, shall be considered as adopted in the House and in the Committee of the Whole, in lieu of the amendment recommended by the Committee on Foreign Affairs now printed in the bill. **Pages H6005–06**

Agreed to:

Cherfilus-McCormick amendment (No. 2 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that adds a sense of Congress that the terrorist-funding, human rights-violating Iranian regime should receive no additional funds but that basic humanitarian assistance for the people of Iran is important; **Pages H6006–07**

Gottheimer amendment (No. 3 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that corrects the number of hostages being held by Hamas; **Page H6007**

Norman amendment (No. 4 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that requires a 45 day waiting period between Presidential certification and removal of sanctions to provide an opportunity for congressional oversight; **Page H6008**

Ogles amendment (No. 7 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that expresses a Sense of Congress that Qatar should condemn Hamas, turn over Hamas leadership to US and Israeli custody, and pledge never to facilitate the transfer of covered Iranian funds to Iran; **Pages H6009–11**

Porter amendment (No. 11 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that commissions a report regarding Iranian internet censorship and applicable United States licensing requirements; **Pages H6013–14**

Fitzpatrick amendment (No. 1 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that adds findings that condemn Hamas and Iran-backed terror groups for using human shields and that only the unconditional surrender of Hamas and other Iran-backed terror groups will save innocent civilian lives (by a recorded vote of 412 yeas to 11 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 680); **Pages H6006, H6022**

Ogles amendment (No. 5 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that expresses a Sense of Congress that all US allies in the Middle East should publicly and unequivocally condemn the antisemitism displayed by Iranian-backed terror groups, including Hamas (by a recorded vote of 422 yeas to 1 no with one answering “present”, Roll No. 681); **Pages H6008–09, H6022–23**

Ogles amendment (No. 6 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that prohibits the use of federal funds to make any funds (as such term is defined in section 2339C(e)(1) of title 18, United States Code) available to Iran (by a recorded vote of 241 yeas to 181 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 682); **Pages H6009, H6023–24**

Ogles amendment (No. 8 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that expresses a Sense of Congress that the Houthis continue to benefit from the Biden Administration’s unwillingness to unequivocally condemn them (by a recorded vote of 226 yeas to 199 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 683); **Pages H6011–12, H6024**

Pfluger amendment (No. 9 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that prohibits the President from exercising the waiver authority described in section 1245(d)(5) of the 2012 NDAA and sections 1244(i) and 1247(f) of the Iran Freedom and Counter-Proliferation Act of 2012 (by a recorded vote of 231 yeas to 198 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 684); and **Pages H6012–13, H6024–25**

Porter amendment (No. 10 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that requires the President to issue a report to Congress within 120 days of the enactment of this Act to outline Administration policy related to human rights, nuclear proliferation, the ballistic missile program, and regional terrorism in Iran (by a recorded vote of 399 yeas to 28 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 685). **Pages H6013, H6025–26**



Rejected:

Jackson amendment (No. 12 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that sought to add a five-year sunset provision requirement (by a recorded vote of 194 ayes to 236 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 686). **Pages H6014–15, H6026**

H. Res. 891, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5283), (H.R. 5961), and the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) was agreed to yesterday, November 29th.

**Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives:** The House considered H. Res. 878, providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives. Consideration is expected to resume tomorrow, December 1st. **Pages H6015–21**

**Protecting our Communities from Failure to Secure the Border Act of 2023:** The House passed H.R. 5283, to prohibit the use of Federal funds to provide housing to specified aliens on any land under the administrative jurisdiction of the Federal land management agencies, by a recorded vote of 224 ayes to 203 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 689. Consideration began yesterday, November 29th. **Pages H6028–29**

Rejected:

Velázquez amendment (No. 12 printed in part C of H. Rept. 118–280) that was debated on November 29th that sought to allow the Interior Secretary to provide housing when the originating state has failed to meet certain criteria (by a recorded vote of 206 ayes to 223 noes with one answering “present”, Roll No. 688). **Pages H6027–28**

H. Res. 891, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 5283), (H.R. 5961), and the joint resolution (S.J. Res. 32) was agreed to yesterday, November 29th.

**Suspensions—Proceedings Resumed:** The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures. Consideration began Tuesday, November 28th.

**Requiring the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans:** H.R. 4666, amended, to require the Inspector General of the Small Business Administration to submit a quarterly report on fraud relating to certain COVID–19 loans; and **Page H6029**

**Returning Erroneous COVID Loans Addressing Illegal and Misappropriated Taxpayer Funds Act:** H.R. 4667, amended, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue guidance and rules for lenders and the Small Business

Administration on handling amounts of Paycheck Protection Loans returned by borrowers. **Page H6029**

**Clerk to Correct:** Agreed by unanimous consent that the Clerk be authorized to make technical corrections in the engrossment of H.R. 5961, to include corrections in spelling, punctuation, section numbering and cross-referencing, and the insertion of appropriate headings. **Page H6029**

**Presidential Message:** Read a message from the President transmitting written approval, authorization, and determination of an Agreement for Cooperation between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of the Republic of the Philippines Concerning Peaceful Uses of Nuclear Energy and an unclassified Nuclear Proliferation Assessment Statement concerning the Agreement—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 118–86). **Pages H6029–30**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One yea-and-nay vote and nine recorded votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H6022–29.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:57 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### SAFEGUARDING WORKERS’ RIGHTS AND LIBERTIES

*Committee on Education and Workforce:* Subcommittee on Health, Employment, Labor, and Pensions held a hearing entitled “Safeguarding Workers’ Rights and Liberties”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### UNMASKING CHALLENGES CDC FACES IN REBUILDING PUBLIC TRUST AMID RESPIRATORY ILLNESS SEASON

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “Unmasking Challenges CDC Faces in Rebuilding Public Trust Amid Respiratory Illness Season”. Testimony was heard from Mandy Cohen, M.D., Director, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services.

### OVERSIGHT OF PRESIDENT BIDEN’S BROADBAND TAKEOVER

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a hearing entitled “Oversight of President Biden’s Broadband Takeover”. Testimony was heard from the following Federal Communications Commission officials: Jessica Rosenworcel, Chairwoman; Brendan Carr, Commissioner; Geoffrey Starks, Commissioner; Nathan

Simington, Commissioner; and Anna Gomez, Commissioner.

### **ETHIOPIA: PROMISE OR PERILS, THE STATE OF U.S. POLICY**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Africa held a hearing entitled “Ethiopia: Promise or Perils, The State of U.S. Policy”. Testimony was heard from Mike Hammer, Special Envoy to the Horn of Africa, Bureau of African Affairs, Department of State; and Tyler Beckelman, Deputy Assistant Administrator, Bureau for Africa, U.S. Agency for International Development.

### **AN URGENT APPEAL TO LET BISHOP ALVAREZ GO**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations held a hearing entitled “An Urgent Appeal to Let Bishop Alvarez Go”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **THE U.S. BORDER CRISIS AND THE AMERICAN SOLUTION TO AN INTERNATIONAL PROBLEM**

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The U.S. Border Crisis and the American Solution to an International Problem”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES**

*Committee on House Administration:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 4460, the “NO VOTE for Non-Citizens Act”; H.R. 4396, the “American Confidence in Elections: District of Columbia Citizen Voter Act”; H.R. 4316, the “Citizen Ballot Protection Act”; H.R. 3162, the “Protecting American Voters Act”; H.R. 3229, the “Stop Foreign Funds in Elections Act”; H.R. 6513, the “Confirmation of Congressional Observer Access Act of 2023”; H.R. 4555, the “Federal Election Audit Act”; and H.R. 6493, the “Promoting Free and Fair Elections Act of 2023”. H.R. 4396, H.R. 3162, H.R. 4460, and H.R. 6513 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 4316, H.R. 4555, H.R. 3229, and H.R. 6493 were ordered reported, as amended.

### **HEARING ON THE WEAPONIZATION OF THE FEDERAL GOVERNMENT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Select Subcommittee on the Weaponization of the Federal Government held a hearing entitled “Hearing on the Weaponization of the Federal Government”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### **HEARING ON COMPLIANCE WITH COMMITTEE OVERSIGHT**

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Subcommittee on Responsiveness and Accountability to Oversight held a hearing entitled “Hearing on Compliance with Committee Oversight”. Testimony was heard from Naz Darakoglu, Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State; Jeanne Bumpus, Director, Office of Congressional Relations, Federal Trade Commission; Christopher Dunham, Acting Assistant Director, Office of Legislation and Congressional Affairs, Federal Bureau of Investigation.

### **LEGISLATIVE MEASURE**

*Committee on Natural Resources:* Subcommittee on Federal Lands held a hearing on legislation on the EXPLORE Act. Testimony was heard from Katherine Andrews, Director, Office of Outdoor Recreation, Department of Parks, Heritage, and Tourism, Arkansas; Chris French, Deputy Chief of the National Forest System, U.S. Forest Service, Department of Agriculture; and Michael T. Reynolds, Deputy Director for Congressional and External Relations, National Park Service, Department of the Interior.

### **DIGGING DEEPER: ENSURING SAFETY AND SECURITY IN THE CRITICAL MINERAL SUPPLY CHAIN**

*Committee on Oversight and Accountability:* Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Energy Policy, and Regulatory Affairs held a hearing entitled “Digging Deeper: Ensuring Safety and Security in the Critical Mineral Supply Chain”. Testimony was heard from Steve Feldgus, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Lands and Minerals Management, Department of the Interior; Isabel Munilla, Deputy Assistant Secretary, Multilateral Engagement, Climate and Market Development, Office of International Affairs, Department of Energy; and Halimah Najieb-Locke, Deputy Assistant Secretary for Industrial Base Resilience, Department of Defense.

### **THE ROLE OF FEDERAL RESEARCH IN ESTABLISHING A ROBUST U.S. SUPPLY CHAIN OF CRITICAL MINERALS AND MATERIALS**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Role of Federal Research in Establishing a Robust U.S. Supply Chain of Critical Minerals and Materials”. Testimony was heard from Ryan Peay, Deputy Assistant Secretary for the Office of Resource Sustainability, Office of Fossil Energy and Carbon Management, Department of Energy; and public witnesses.

### MISSING THE TARGET: CEQ'S MERITLESS SELECTION OF SBTi

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations; and Subcommittee on Environment held a joint hearing entitled “Missing the Target: CEQ’s Meritless Selection of SBTi”. Testimony was heard from Andrew Mayock, Federal Chief Sustainability Officer, Council on Environmental Quality, Executive Office of the President.

### MEMBER DAY

*Committee on Small Business:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Member Day”. Testimony was heard from Representatives Kiggans of Virginia, Case, and Moore of Utah.

### TURBULENCE AHEAD: CONSEQUENCES OF DELAYING A LONG-TERM FAA BILL

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Aviation held a hearing entitled “Turbulence Ahead: Consequences of Delaying a Long-Term FAA Bill”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Ways and Means:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 5988, the “United States-Taiwan Expedited Double-Tax Relief Act”; H.R. 6408, to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to terminate the tax-exempt status of terrorist supporting organizations; H.R. 1432, the “VETT Act”; H.R. 2426, the “Find and Protect Foster Youth Act”;

H.R. 3058, the “Recruiting Families Using Data Act of 2023”; and H.R. 529, the “Extending Limits of U.S. Customs Waters Act”. H.R. 5988, H.R. 6408, H.R. 1432, H.R. 2426, H.R. 3058, and H.R. 529 were ordered reported, as amended.

### DISCOURSE POWER: THE CCP'S STRATEGY TO SHAPE THE GLOBAL INFORMATION SPACE

*Select Committee on the Strategic Competition Between the United States and the Chinese Communist Party:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Discourse Power: The CCP’s Strategy to Shape the Global Information Space”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

## Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

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### COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR FRIDAY, DECEMBER 1, 2023

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

#### Senate

No meetings/hearings scheduled.

#### House

*Committee on Education and Workforce,* Full Committee, hearing entitled “Member Day”, 10 a.m., 2175 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

3 p.m., Monday, December 4

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Friday, December 1

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Monday:** Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Irma Carrillo Ramirez, of Texas, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 5:30 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Friday:** Consideration of S.J. Res. 32—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to Small Business Lending Under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (Regulation B). Complete consideration of H. Res. 878—Providing for the expulsion of Representative George Santos from the United States House of Representatives.

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