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No. 190

## House of Representatives

The House met at 2 p.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JONES).

### DESIGNATION OF THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
December 7, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable MONDAIRE JONES to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### PRAYER

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

On this day of infamy, O Lord, we remember. We remember and we cherish the sacred memory of those whose lives were lost in the tragic attack on Pearl Harbor 81 years ago. We pray that their sacrifice would serve as an everlasting tribute to the duty we each have to the Nation You have entrusted to us. May this day be an eternal reminder of the sacred gift of liberty You have graced on these United States.

Even as we give tribute to these brave heroes of that auspicious day in our country's history, we pray You again rouse in us the same passion, the same allegiance, the same willingness to defend against today's enemies of freedom and sovereignty, peace and justice.

We need only look around the globe to witness the reprise of irrational hubris threatening Ukraine. Sustain the Ukrainian people in their resolve, in their firm commitment to stand against their oppressors in this infamous season in their history.

O Lord, judge between the nations and settle the disputes of Your people.

Beat their weapons into tools that will cultivate the land and not destroy it. May their armaments be surrendered for instruments of diplomacy and stability.

On this day, may we be inspired to lay aside our warring ways and honor those who have gone before us, with a renewed commitment to peace.

In the salvation to be found only in Your name we pray.  
Amen.

### THE JOURNAL

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

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

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Will the gentleman from New York (Mr. SEMPOLINSKI) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI 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.

### MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Bryd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed without amendment bills of the House of the following titles:

H.R. 228. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2141 Ferry Street in Anderson, California, as the "Norma Connick Post Office Building".

H.R. 263. An act to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes.

H.R. 700. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at

303 East Mississippi Avenue in Elwood, Illinois, as the "Lawrence M. 'Larry' Walsh Sr. Post Office".

H.R. 3175. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 135 Main Street in Biloxi, Mississippi, as the "Robert S. McKeithen Post Office".

H.R. 5481. An act to name the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in Forest City, North Carolina, as the "Master Sergeant Jerry K. Crump VA Clinic".

H.R. 6614. An act to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 4744 Grand River Avenue in Detroit, Michigan, as the "Rosa Louise McCauley Parks Post Office Building".

H.R. 6722. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic in French Camp, California, as the "Richard A. Pittman VA Clinic".

H.R. 6863. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs in Memphis, Tennessee, as the "Lt. Col. Luke Weathers, Jr. VA Medical Center".

H.R. 7903. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Canton, Michigan, as the "Major General Oliver W. Dillard VA Clinic".

H.R. 7925. An act to designate the Department of Veterans Affairs community-based outpatient clinic located in Palm Desert, California, as the "Sy Kaplan VA Clinic".

The message also announced that the Senate has passed with an amendment in which the concurrence of the House is requested, a bill of the House of the following title:

H.R. 7077. An act to require the United States Fire Administration to conduct on-site investigations of major fires, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 2607. An act to award a Congressional Gold Medal to the former hostages of the Iran Hostage Crisis of 1979-1981, highlighting their resilience throughout the unprecedented ordeal that they lived through and the national unity it produced, marking 4 decades since their 444 days in captivity, and

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

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



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recognizing their sacrifice to the United States.

S. 2773. An act to amend the Leahy-Smith America Invents Act to address satellite offices of the United States Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

S. 3198. An act to direct the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise any rules necessary to enable issuers of index-linked annuities to register on a form tailored specifically to registered index-linked annuities, and for other purposes.

S. 3903. An act to require the Commissioner of U.S. Customs and Border Protection to establish procedures for conducting maintenance projects at ports of entry at which the Office of Field Operations conducts certain enforcement and facilitation activities.

S. 5016. An act to designate the medical center of the Department of Veterans Affairs located in Anchorage, Alaska, as the "Colonel Mary Louise Rasmuson Campus of the Alaska VA Healthcare System", and for other purposes.

#### ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

#### HONORING PROMISES TO NATIVE NATIONS

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

Mr. KILMER. Mr. Speaker, in 2018, the United States Commission on Civil Rights released the "Broken Promises" report, a project undertaken at my request to evaluate Federal obligations to Indian Country.

Here is a summary. For too long, the Federal Government has failed to live up to its treaty and trust responsibilities to Tribal nations. As a result, many Native communities lack adequate housing, health facilities, schools, and justice centers. Many lack basic infrastructure—roads, water, and telecommunications—required to deliver needed support services.

Congress and the Federal Government have a moral and legal obligation to fulfill the promises that have been made, and that is why I am proud to introduce the Honoring Promises to Native Nations Act, legislation to help reverse the decades-long pattern of systemic funding shortfalls and to strengthen Federal programs that support Indian Country.

This bill includes provisions to reaffirm the nation-to-nation relationship between the Federal Government and Tribal nations and to better meet the needs of Native communities.

Action is long overdue, Mr. Speaker, and Congress should move swiftly to get this done.

#### EVIDENCE OF GOD'S LOVE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize National Bible Week, we have the chance to reflect on the wisdom and guidance that the Holy Scripture provides to us as we seek to govern.

It was Benjamin Franklin who said: I know that my redeemer lives. And if a sparrow cannot fall without His knowing, surely an empire cannot rise without His aid.

We see evidence of God's love and providence in so many aspects of our American lives. From our military, who have kept our Nation safe, to the doctors and researchers who have developed lifesaving medicines and cures because they have the freedom to innovate, to the miners, rail workers, and manufacturers who have built a strong and prosperous country, and to the farmers and producers who till our soil and grow the food that we rely on, there is abundant evidence that we are truly a blessed Nation.

May God continue to bless these great United States of America.

#### CONGRATULATING JIM GARDNER ON HIS RETIREMENT

(BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize and celebrate the legendary career of Philadelphia news anchor Jim Gardner and to thank him for his remarkable contributions to the Philadelphia area and broadcast journalism.

It was back in 1976 that Jim first started his career at Philadelphia's local ABC affiliate, WPVI. For more than 46 years now, he has helped bring the news, both good and bad, to millions of us who live in the Delaware Valley.

Jim has been at the center of ensuring that Philadelphia and the entire region were proud in times of success, unified in moments of division, and calm during times of crisis.

Mr. Speaker, as a lifelong Philadelphian, it is simply impossible to imagine Philadelphia TV without Jim Gardner. I thank him for his years of service and wish him and his family all the best.

#### HONORING THE LIFE OF CHARLES SMITHGALL

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

Mr. SMUCKER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute to Charles Smithgall of Lancaster, who passed away in October at the age of 77.

Charlie, as he was known to so many, will be greatly missed. He was a husband to Debbie, a father to Allison, a grandfather to two boys, and a friend to all that he met.

Charlie graduated from J.P. McCaskey High School in 1963 and later the Philadelphia College of Pharmacy

and Science, and then he spent the rest of his life working to improve the lives of those in his hometown of Lancaster as operator of his family's pharmacy, which continues to operate on West Lemon Street.

Charlie also worked to improve the health of Lancaster city. He served as mayor from 1998 to 2006 and worked tirelessly to revitalize the city. Major developments such as the convention center there and Clipper Magazine Stadium would not have been possible without his leadership.

Charlie was also a devoted collector of military equipment, including cannons. If you have watched historical movies such as "Gettysburg" or "Lincoln," chances are that you have seen one of Charlie's cannons on the big screen.

We will all miss Charlie. While we mourn the loss of our friend, we offer our prayers of comfort to Debbie, Allison, and his entire family.

#### A WIN FOR OFFSHORE WIND

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate a more secure future for offshore wind and for Massachusetts' leadership in this growing clean energy sector.

The removal of the proposed crewing amendment is a win for offshore wind and for Massachusetts. I am proud to have fought on behalf of clean energy independence and my district's economic development.

However, we should not replay this saga every Congress. With Republicans taking the gavel, I am ready to work across the aisle and with dissenting voices in my own party to negotiate a permanent solution that advances offshore wind and anchors American jobs at home.

I look forward to working on a bipartisan compromise to support domestic mariners and shipbuilders and to safeguard our clean energy future.

#### A DAY THAT WILL LIVE IN INFAMY

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize Pearl Harbor Remembrance Day.

Eighty-one years ago today, our Nation endured a tragic loss when Pearl Harbor was targeted in a surprise attack, resulting in over 2,000 military and civilian casualties, more than 1,000 injuries, and the loss of a naval fleet.

The attack on Pearl Harbor was intended to cripple the United States, but it did just the opposite. Men and women across the country rallied together to support our country as it entered World War II, from enlisting in the military to volunteering for the

war effort. This tragedy united our country against a common enemy.

As a 24-year Army veteran, we must always remember this day as a reminder to be vigilant and always prepared.

Today, we honor those who lost their lives in the attack on Pearl Harbor. May we never forget their sacrifice and service to our great Nation.

#### COMPENSATION FOR FIRE SURVIVORS

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

Mr. THOMPSON of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on behalf of thousands of California wildfire survivors.

Following the disastrous wildfires in 2015, 2017, and 2018, a court-ordered trust was established to compensate survivors for their loss of property. These funds are nowhere near enough to fully compensate for the loss of a home. Even worse, I have heard from countless constituents concerned that the funds they receive from the trust will be taxed.

That is why I, along with Congressman LAMALFA, introduced H.R. 7305, to make clear that settlement proceeds like these are nontaxable.

This legislation is absolutely essential to wildfire survivors, many of whom still cannot return to a home on their property.

The sad reality is that more natural disasters, including fires, will happen in the future. It is critical that Congress pass this legislation now.

This bill ensures Americans impacted by disasters do not owe unfair taxes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to include this legislation in any omnibus or spending bill moving forward.

#### HELPING SMALL BUSINESSES EXPAND EXPORTS

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

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 8844, the STEP Improvement Act of 2022.

I was proud to join Representatives FLOOD, EVANS, and NEWMAN to introduce this bill to help our small businesses expand exports and reach new markets.

The STEP Improvement Act would reauthorize the State trade and export program from fiscal year 2023 to 2026, for 3 more years, and improve the program by streamlining the application process for small businesses and implementing strong metrics so the program works as intended.

Since STEP's creation in 2011, my home State of California has received \$8.5 million in STEP funding, helping more than 1,200 small businesses create jobs and generate more than \$85 mil-

lion in export sales. That is 10 times the return on our investment.

Mr. Speaker, I thank all of my colleagues who helped to pass this legislation yesterday in the House.

□ 1415

#### IN SUPPORT OF THE NIAGARA FALLS AIR RESERVE STATION

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

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the \$2.8 million included in the National Defense Authorization Act for the Niagara Falls Air Reserve Station.

This funding will support construction of a new combined operations and alert facility at the base. The project is important to the 914th Air Refueling Wing and national readiness.

A strong and efficient 914th is good for the country and for western New York. The air reserve station is Niagara County's largest employer, generating \$300 million in economic impact on the local economy.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to support this funding and enhance mission response.

#### CELEBRATING CAROL HERNANDEZ

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

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate my incredible Air Force fellow, Carol Hernandez, for her tremendous work this past year in my office.

Carol has been instrumental in all things related to the Armed Services Committee, especially when it came to the NDAA and looking for ways to improve the DOD acquisitions process. Her wealth of knowledge, experience, and expertise has been crucial in helping address issues important to Oklahoma's Fifth Congressional District.

We will miss Carol, not for only what she brought to us legislatively, but mostly because of who she is as a person. Carol is truly one of the most kind, thoughtful, and genuine people I have ever met. She is also whip smart, an engineer, and an amazing mother to four daughters.

Although I am excited for her new chapter, it has been a pleasure to have her in my office. She will be truly missed.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Carol for everything she has done for Team Bice.

#### CONGRESS MUST SAFEGUARD SAME-SEX AND INTERRACIAL MARRIAGES

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

Ms. BROWNLEY. Mr. Speaker, this summer the Supreme Court issued the

Dobbs decision, a direct assault on the right to safe and legal abortion.

In a disturbing concurrence to an already dangerous decision, Justice Clarence Thomas attacked Obergefell v. Hodges, which underpins the right to marriage equality.

With the right to marry potentially at risk, House Democrats put people over politics and took action to protect marriage equality for all Americans.

The Respect for Marriage Act prevents right-wing extremists from overturning legal precedent and ensures statutory protections for same-sex and interracial marriages across the country.

While extremist Republicans continue their path to destroy American freedom and challenge the legitimacy of LGBTQ families, Democrats are protecting American people's right to marry who they love.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this crucial bill to safeguard same-sex and interracial marriages, and I look forward to seeing President Biden sign this bill into law to protect and respect the right to marriage equality across our country.

#### CONGRATULATING THE 2022 RECIPIENTS OF THE GEORGIA MOUNTAINS REGIONAL COMMISSION AWARDS

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

Mr. CLYDE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the 2022 recipients of the Georgia Mountains Regional Commission awards.

The Georgia Mountains Regional Commission, or GMRC, offers guidance and resources to nearly 50 local governments, fostering leadership, economic development, and prosperity to improve northeast Georgia communities.

GMRC recently celebrated its 60th anniversary and honored this year's accomplished award recipients.

I am pleased to congratulate:

Joe Rothwell, regional planner for GMRC, as employee of the year;

John Sell, community and economic development director of White County, as appointed official of the year;

The mayor of Dawsonville, Mike Eason, as elected official of the year;

The mayor of Lavonia, Mr. Courtney Umbehant, as GMRC council member of the year; and

Ken Schubring, GMRC vice chairman, who received this year's chairman award.

I am proud to honor this year's Georgia Mountains Regional Commission award recipients, and I thank each of them for their hard work and dedication to serving northeast Georgians.

#### CONDEMNING IRAN KILLING CHILDREN

(Ms. PORTER asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend her remarks.)

Ms. PORTER. Mr. Speaker, Iran's youth have emerged as leaders of the anti-regime protests—but also as a political target.

On November 16, 9-year-old Kian Pirfalak was fatally shot, becoming the youngest killed by Iranian authorities' response to that demonstration. Two months after Mahsa Amini's death, over 60 children have died under Iran's brutal crackdown—children no older than my own.

These aren't accidents. Security forces are raiding grade schools looking for student protestors. Mass arrests and violent beatdowns are commonplace. Authorities are even holding hostage the remains of protestors, a heartless practice meant to silence grieving relatives.

These children belong in safe schools and loving families, not in body bags.

I strongly condemn Iran's killing of children and stand with the protestors demanding change and accountability.

Iran should not be allowed to rob children of their lives or their freedoms.

#### AMERICANS SHOULD NOT BE SUBJECT TO IRS INTRUSION AND OVERREACH

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

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, as today is Pearl Harbor Day, may we all give thanks to those before us who fought and gave their lives for our freedom.

Mr. Speaker, come next year, Americans who receive \$600 or more on their third-party payment systems like Venmo will receive a tax form thanks to a provision put into the American Rescue Plan.

For instance, if you sold an old couch and received payment for it of over \$600, you could trigger an IRS audit. This reporting requirement will not be targeting the wealthy, as it was designed for, but middle class Americans who often send and receive money via Venmo and other services.

The new 87,000 IRS agents hired through the Democrat plan will be very busy. We were told last year the IRS agents would only be targeting those making more than \$400,000 a year. I think we all remember that. The SNOOP Act introduced by my colleague MICHELLE STEEL would reverse the reporting threshold back to \$20,000, ensuring everyday Americans are not subject to this IRS intrusion and overreach, and I ask my colleagues to support it.

#### DREAMERS DESERVE A PATHWAY TO CITIZENSHIP

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

Mr. CÁRDENAS. Mr. Speaker, the alarm bell has been sounding for over a

decade on the urgent need to permanently protect Dreamers in America.

For years, we have tried and tried to get a solution across the finish line, but there are Members of this body who have lacked the heart to do the right thing and get this done.

This is shameful.

It is now or never. If we don't act in this session, then DACA could end as early as next year. Immigrant youth deserve better. They are our teachers, firefighters, nurses, small business owners, servicemembers, and leaders across our country.

Their contributions of \$1.7 billion annually benefit all of us.

America is their home, and they deserve every opportunity to achieve the American Dream and continue to contribute to our economy and our great country.

I urge my colleagues to fight for a pathway to citizenship for Dreamers, and I pray that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle do the right thing and put forth humane solutions, not senseless legislation that keeps countless immigrant people in the shadows.

#### HONORING IRENE DOROTHY SCHWEITZER

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

Mrs. STEEL. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate a great citizen of Orange County, Irene Dorothy Schweitzer.

Yesterday, Irene turned 100 years old. She has been an active member of the community and has consistently given back.

Everyone who knows Irene knows how happy she is because of her million-dollar smile which absolutely lights up the room. Even at 100 years old, Irene never forgets a face, which makes everyone who meets her feel so special.

I have personally been so blessed to know her, and I am so thankful that we have a person as wonderful as her living in Southern California and making our community a brighter place to live. She truly makes the world a better place.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of all of Orange County, I wish Irene a happy 100th birthday and wish her many more years of joy, blessings, and smiles.

#### SOFT-ON-CRIME POLICIES ARE WREAKING HAVOC ON OUR COUNTRY

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

Mr. SEMPOLINSKI. Mr. Speaker, I rise because of my concern with the havoc that President Biden and the congressional Democrats' soft-on-crime policies are wreaking on our country.

This administration's approach to crime has only emboldened criminals who exploit these weaknesses.

In a recent poll, Gallup found 56 percent of Americans think local crime has increased, which is more than any time in the past five decades.

I come from a primarily rural district, and unfortunately, we have not been immune from this rise in crime. Members of my community are concerned for their family's safety.

Failed ideas like so-called bail reform, defunding the police, and putting violent offenders back onto our streets have created a powder keg.

According to a recent study by Just Facts, if homicide rates were to continue at the rate of increase in President Biden's first year in office, over your lifetime, the chance of your life ending by homicide is 1 in 179.

We have tied the hands of our heroes in law enforcement while untying the hands of criminals. We must act now to reserve these policies for the safety and security of our communities.

#### KANSANS MUST CONTROL THEIR OWN LAND

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

Mr. ESTES. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to introduce the Promoting Local Management of the Lesser Prairie-Chicken Act. Kansas energy producers and ranchers are excellent stewards of the land and resources. They work tirelessly to feed, fuel, and clothe our Nation while taking voluntary proactive measures to protect the lesser prairie-chicken's habitat.

The U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service's inclusion of the lesser prairie-chicken on the threatened and endangered species list is nonfactual and disregards the preservation efforts of our energy producers and ranchers who best know their land.

After a yearlong species status assessment, the Federal Government spent millions to conclude that the lesser prairie-chicken population is stable and has grown.

Its inclusion on the threatened and endangered species list is detrimental to our robust ag and energy industries, blatant bureaucratic overreach, and is another example of the Biden administration's hindering American energy independence.

My legislation stops Washington elites from undermining voluntary public-private conservation practices and ensures Kansans control our land.

□ 1430

#### HONORING RAJA CHARI

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

Mrs. HINSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize NASA astronaut

Raja Chari, a native of Cedar Falls, Iowa, a decorated Air Force pilot, and commander of the NASA SpaceX Crew-3 mission.

Raja recently returned from a successful mission to the International Space Station, a milestone in U.S. space exploration. I had the privilege of meeting Raja yesterday to hear more about his mission with his team, and I appreciate his passion for ensuring that the U.S. wins the 21st century space race—not China.

Raja is an inspiration to the next generation of aspiring astronauts, fighter pilots, and scientists. He is a role model for my two boys, Max and Jax, and other young Iowans who truly want to shoot for the stars.

From Cedar Falls, Iowa, to the International Space Station, Raja has made America proud, and he has made Iowa proud.

#### AMERICANS DESERVE TRANSPARENCY AND OVERSIGHT

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, since 9/11 over 13.5 million border encounters have occurred at our border. Over 1 million Americans have died from drug overdoses, and CNN reports that the cartels take in \$19 to \$29 billion annually from drug sales to the United States of America.

Since 9/11 the United States has spent \$8 trillion on foreign wars, and over 7,000 U.S. servicemembers have died defending foreign lands and foreign borders.

Now we have sent over \$50 billion to Ukraine, and President Biden wants another \$37 billion to Ukraine. This will be pushing it to over \$90 billion.

Yesterday Democrats voted “no” on my House resolution to audit Ukraine. The American people deserve transparency and oversight on where their money is going.

I also want to point out that America deserves our borders to be defended so that if we are going to support any war, we should support a war on the cartels that are killing Americans and invading our country.

#### SUPPORTING MEDICARE PROVIDERS

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

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, as we end this session of Congress in the next few weeks, I remind all Members we are acutely aware that without congressional action, the entire healthcare clinician community faces a cumulative Medicare payment cut in reduction of approximately 8.5 percent on January 1, 2023.

Without congressional action, these cuts will continue to drive hospital consolidation, limit patient access, and

harm physicians’ ability to run their own small businesses.

These outdated cuts in a time when considerable stress is placed upon physicians has meant that they are affected. They are affected because of the costs that they have on their business.

So at a time when we look for this access and the care for our most vulnerable populations, it is up to Congress to make sure that we pass H.R. 8800, the Supporting Medicare Providers Act of 2022.

#### HUMANITARIAN CRISIS AT OUR BORDER

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

Mr. FLOOD. Mr. Speaker, I want to focus a light today on the ongoing humanitarian crisis unfolding at our southern border. This week, President Biden once again refused to visit the border saying: “There are more important things going on.”

It is no surprise the President doesn’t want to go to the border because he would have to confront the crisis that his rhetoric and policies have created.

Unlike the President, I have visited the border. During my visit, one thing became crystal clear: his catch-and-release policies have dramatically escalated the crisis. Law enforcement told me about how coyotes bring women and children across the border trafficking and sexually abusing them along the journey.

Data underscores the impact that President Biden’s rhetoric has had. CBP reports show that Southwest land border encounters have increased almost fivefold in 2 years.

I have a message to the President: It is time to address the border crisis. It is time to stop the drug and human trafficking. And it is time, Mr. President, to finish the wall and reinstate the policies to remain in Mexico.

#### FIRE VICTIMS TRUST

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Throughout California there are tens of thousands of residents who lost their homes, their belongings, and, for some, even their loved ones due to wildfires.

In 2020, the fire victims trust was established to compensate survivors of the 2015 Butte, the 2017 North Bay, and the 2018 Camp fires with a total of \$13.5 billion of settlement award money.

Survivors have waited years for compensation to rebuild their lives, and they have long awaited these funds. Instead, to add insult, many of them are facing immense tax burdens and navigating the uncertainty of our ambiguous tax code trying to find concrete answers of how much they may or may not owe the Government in taxes.

We should not force survivors to pay Federal taxes on compensation they

would otherwise use to rebuild their lives, and we certainly should not be forcing them to pay taxes on funds that are going to the lawyers involved as well.

Congressman MIKE THOMPSON and I have introduced H.R. 7305 to correct this injustice. I am urging all my colleagues in the House to support this bipartisan legislation and bring much-needed financial reprieve to these wildfire survivors.

They shouldn’t have to live with this uncertainty over their heads. This needs to be passed by the end of this year.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o’clock and 34 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1903

#### AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. JONES) at 7 o’clock and 3 minutes p.m.

#### REPORT ON RESOLUTION PRO- VIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8404, RESPECT FOR MAR- RIAGE ACT

Ms. SCANLON, from the Committee on Rules, submitted a privileged report (Rept. No. 117–608) on the resolution (H. Res. 1510) providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes, which was referred to the House Calendar and ordered to be printed.

#### PROVIDING FOR CONSIDERATION OF H.R. 8404, RESPECT FOR MAR- RIAGE ACT

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, by direction of the Committee on Rules, I call up House Resolution 1510 and ask for its immediate consideration.

The Clerk read the resolution, as follows:

H. RES. 1510

*Resolved*, That upon adoption of this resolution it shall be in order to take from the Speaker’s table the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes, with the Senate amendment thereto, and to consider in the House, without intervention of any point of order, a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment. The Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The motion shall be debatable for one hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their respective designees. The previous

question shall be considered as ordered on the motion to its adoption without intervening motion.

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

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

#### GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Today, the Committee on Rules met and reported a rule, House Resolution 1510, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404, the Respect for Marriage Act. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404 and provides 1 hour of debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. Speaker, tonight's rule provides for the consideration of the Respect for Marriage Act, and I am proud to support this rule to move that bill to the floor.

The Respect for Marriage Act will repeal the discriminatory Defense of Marriage Act once and for all and ensure that all across America, families in same-sex and interracial marriage are afforded the respect and legal rights and protections they deserve.

Passage of this bill is a critical step to protect the rights and freedoms of all Americans, regardless of their sexual orientation or race, following the Supreme Court's recent decision in *Dobbs v. Jackson Women's Health Organization*. That decision and recent statements by the Supreme Court's new rightwing majority have left families across the country and in my district worried about the future of marriage equality.

The Respect for Marriage Act will ensure long-term stability and important statutory protection for all marriages. The Respect for Marriage Act will safeguard the protections laid out in *Obergefell v. Hodges*, as well as prior case law, that protect important fundamental privacy and liberty rights, all of which were improperly called into question in the *Dobbs* decision and related dicta.

This is a matter of respecting the fundamental rights, freedoms, and liberties of our neighbors, family members, and fellow citizens. Everyone should have the right to marry the per-

son they love and live free from discrimination, regardless of where in this great land they live or travel.

In addition to securing the respect for those marriages, this bill will also secure respect for families across America and in all of our communities and families.

The issues addressed by this bill have been thoroughly debated in this body, in the Senate, and by the American public. The Respect for Marriage Act will ensure long-term stability and important statutory protections for all.

I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to support this commonsense legislation and to reaffirm the fundamental right to marriage equality.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania for yielding me the customary 30 minutes, and I will yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I do want to speak on the bill included within this rule, Senate amendment to H.R. 3404, the Respect for Marriage Act.

Mr. Speaker, as you well know, this bill previously came before the House. Unfortunately, at the time, the legislation was a byproduct of a very truncated process, having received no committee markup and being parachuted from the Speaker's office straight to the floor.

In response to the rushed House process, the Senate actually undertook a more comprehensive amendment process on the floor, giving Senators the opportunity to amend the legislation, something we did not have the opportunity to do. I am encouraged that the amended version from the Senate has tried to address some of the religious liberty concerns that myself and other Members have highlighted.

Even though I can report that this bill is much improved from its original form, there are still problems with this legislation and its possible implications for religious institutions and matters of conscience.

It is regrettable that certain amendments that would safeguard religious liberty, such as Senator LEE's and Congressman ROY's amendments prohibiting the government from removing a nonprofit organization's tax-exempt status based on religious beliefs, those were all blocked.

Had those additional amendments received a fair hearing and as a result been adopted, we could have made significant progress toward addressing the very serious and legitimate concerns about the consequences of this legislation and its potential curtailment of a fundamental American right.

Today's bill, while a better product than before, should have been better, and it is regrettable that we are at this point and this is the case.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to the rule, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, families in my community are justly skeptical of process arguments which have been regularly weaponized to roll back the rights, the freedoms, the liberties that they so richly deserve to exercise. So I think at this point, there has been plenty of process. There has been amendment process in both Chambers, and it is time to pass this legislation.

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY), a colleague and certainly a well-spoken member of the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. ROY. Mr. Speaker, obviously, I rise in opposition to the rule. I made my position clear in the Committee on Rules earlier this week, and I think it is very much a position held by a large number of my colleagues.

It is a shame that we are sitting here debating the institution of marriage but without actual debate. We are here, we are going to debate this rule, it will be a few minutes, and then boom, we are going to go vote. We are not going to have any real debate on this tomorrow either.

I offered an amendment in the Committee on Rules, an amendment to add protections for religious liberty, and it was killed on a budget point of order, a budget point of order that it said would cost around \$500,000 or more. For what? For damages that an individual American might receive if successful in challenging the Department of Justice if their rights were being infringed.

Let me be clear. It was going to be killed on a point of order out of the Committee on Rules because it could be successful in protecting the rights of Americans, when you have got a piece of legislation that has a private right of action put into it, a sword to be used against the American people if they exercise their closely held religious beliefs. And that is the truth.

It is a bill that was passed off of this floor with no hearing in the House Committee on the Judiciary, sent to the Senate in July, with no protection for religious liberty in it, and then provisions were added in the Senate to provide some very bare minimum, narrow religious liberty protections, only for the solemnization of marriage.

When an individual tries to offer an amendment to try to protect the rights of all Americans to be free from persecution—if, for example, you are a school, a religious school, that might not want to hire somebody in a same-sex marriage because it is against your closely held religious beliefs, you might have to litigate that now. The response by the other side is: Oh, my gosh, the Constitution exists; oh, my gosh, RFRA, the Religious Freedom Restoration Act, exists.

So the shield that people had before is now the thing that you have to go litigate in court and hire lawyers to defend yourself for exercising your closely held religious beliefs against the

sword that this legislation provides. That is the truth of what we are dealing with here.

We offered an amendment in good faith, just like Senator MIKE LEE did, a bipartisan amendment, by the way. We are getting no debate, no ability to offer that amendment on the floor, no ability to have a debate on that amendment, no ability to actually have a conversation about the free exercise of religion and protecting people's closely held religious beliefs.

That is why people are sick of this institution. We do not debate. We do not amend. We simply jam stuff through the Committee on Rules and then we walk away and go give speeches on the steps. That is no way to do business. I hope we change that in the new Congress. But this is not the way to do business in the House of Representatives.

□ 1915

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, with all due respect, we believe that the gentleman's amendment is both duplicative and unnecessary.

The Senate spent months crafting a bipartisan compromise to amend H.R. 8404 to address the religious liberty concerns that were raised by Republicans in the House and Senate. Sections 6 and 7 of this legislation ensure no impact on religious liberty.

Adopting this new and unnecessary amendment would unsettle the Senate's carefully crafted compromise and delay the enactment of this necessary, historic, and bipartisan legislation.

If the House passes this legislation, it will be sent straight to the President's desk to become law. This Congress is coming to a close, and we don't have the time to make changes to this legislation.

This bill has gone through both the House and Senate and through the American public, and I believe it needs to be signed into law as soon as possible.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD letters in support of this legislation from the Interfaith Alliance, from U.S. Jewish organizations, and from eight leaders of faith-based organizations representing tens of millions of Americans and hundreds of religious institutions.

NOVEMBER 28, 2022.

Hon. TAMMY BALDWIN,  
*Hart Senate Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,  
*Dirksen Senate Office Building,*  
*Washington, DC.*

DEAR SENATORS BALDWIN AND COLLINS: The Respect for Marriage Act is a simple way to provide legal stability for all married couples and their families. Within our communities, we approach matters of marriage, family, and identity differently. This bill recognizes this diversity of belief while ensuring that same-sex and interracial couples are treated with equal respect by federal and state governments.

As faith-based organizations, we recognize that the First Amendment right to religious freedom is a cornerstone of our democracy.

The bipartisan substitute amendment provides important clarification around the interaction between the Respect for Marriage Act and the robust religious freedom protections guaranteed under federal law. Crafted in the spirit of collaboration, the amendment protects the right to believe as we choose while leaving intact the core mission of the legislation to respect marriages.

The freedom to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity and supported by a majority of almost every major religious tradition in the United States. We urge the Senate to adopt the bipartisan amendment in full, without further amendment needed to protect religious freedom.

Respectfully,

Interfaith Alliance, ADL (The Anti-Defamation League), Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Center for Faith, Justice, and Reconciliation, The Episcopal Church, Evangelical Lutheran Church in America, Faithful America, Hindu American Foundation, Hindus for Human Rights, Jewish Women International, Keshet.

Muslims for Progressive Values, National Council of Jewish Women, NETWORK Catholic Social Justice Lobby, Presbyterian Church (USA) Office of Public Witness, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association, The Sikh Coalition, Sojourners, Union for Reform Judaism, Unitarian Universalist Association, United Church of Christ.

Washington, DC, September 6, 2022.

U.S. JEWISH ORGANIZATIONS' LETTER TO SENATE SUPPORTING RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT

On behalf of the Union for Reform Judaism, Keshet, and 108 additional Jewish organizations, the following letter was shared in support of the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556):

DEAR SENATOR: On behalf of the 100 undersigned national, state, and local Jewish organizations, we write to express our support for the Respect for Marriage Act (S. 4556). Driven by our Jewish values, we are committed to supporting laws that protect the civil rights and individual liberties of all people. The Respect for Marriage Act would codify three landmark Supreme Court cases, *Obergefell v. Hodges*; *Windsor v. United States*; and *Loving v. Virginia*, and therefore the basic rights of same-sex and interracial marriage. We urge Congress to swiftly pass this important bill.

Jewish tradition teaches that all people are created *b'tzelem Elohim*, in the Divine image, and are worthy of dignity and respect. As organizations grounded in Jewish values and beliefs, we have an ethical and moral responsibility to fight for a society that ensures the humanity of all people. Every person is entitled to marry who they love—regardless of sexual orientation or race.

Indeed, support for same-sex marriage protections extends across the faith community, and throughout the country. A majority of all faith groups—including 77 percent of Jews, 57 percent of mainline Protestants, and 57 percent of Catholics support same sex marriage. This view is shared by seven in ten Americans—including 83 percent of Democrats, 73 percent of independents, and 55 percent of Republicans.

Additionally, the Respect for Marriage Act would ensure that all federal benefits are available to married couples regardless of the state in which they live. Congress has a responsibility to pursue economic equity for all, regardless of geographical location, and include historically marginalized groups in this pursuit.

The right to marry who one loves is a matter of human dignity. Our faith teaches us

the *kol yisrael arevim ezh bazeh*, we are all responsible for each other, and therefore must take action to create a community for which we all can take pride.

As Jewish organizations, we believe firmly that all people deserve the right to marry who they love, regardless of sexual orientation or race. We urge Congress to pass the Respect for Marriage Act.

Sincerely,

Union for Reform Judaism, Keshet, ADL (Anti-Defamation League), ADL Austin Region, ADL Florida, ADL New England, ADL New York/New Jersey, ADL San Diego, ADL Southeast, ADL Southwest, ADL Texoma, ALEPH: Alliance for Jewish Renewal, Ameinu, American Conference of Cantors, American Jewish World Service, Avodah, Aytzim, Bend the Arc: Jewish Action, Beth Chayim Chadashim, B'nai B'rith Connect, California Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-CA), Carolina Jews for Justice, Central Conference of American Rabbis, Charles and Lynn Schusterman Family Philanthropies, Coastal Roots Farm, Columbia Jewish Congregation, Congregation Agudas Achim, Austin Texas, Congregation Har HaShem, Boulder, CO; Congregation Rodeph Shalom, Congregation Sha'ar Zahav, Florida Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-FL), Greater Miami Jewish Federation, Hadassah, The Women's Zionist Organization of America, Havurat Shalom, Andover MA, IKAR, Illinois Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-IL), J Street, Jewish Alliance for Law and Social Action, Jewish Community Action, Jewish Community Center of Asheville, Jewish Community Federation and Endowment Fund, Jewish Community Relations Council (JCRC) of the Jewish Federation of Greater Philadelphia, Jewish Community Relations Council of Broward County, Jewish Community Relations Council of Greater Boston, Jewish Community Relations Council of San Francisco, the Peninsula, Marin, Sonoma, Alameda, and Contra Costa Counties, Jewish Council for Public Affairs (JCPA), Jewish Council on Urban Affairs.

Jewish Emergent Network, Jewish Family Service Houston, Jewish Family Service of Greater New Orleans, Jewish Family Service of Los Angeles, Jewish Family Service of San Diego, Jewish Federation of Greater Ann Arbor, Jewish Federation of Greater Portland, Jewish Labor Committee, Jewish Teen Education and Engagement Network, LLC (JTENN), Jewish Women International, Jewish Youth Climate Movement, Jews for a Secular Democracy, Jews United for Justice (JUFJ), Jewtina y Co., JQY (Jewish Queer Youth), JYCA (Jewish Youth for Community Action), Kane Street Synagogue, Lab/Shul, Makom Shelanu.

Malkhut: progressive Jewish spirituality in Queens, Massachusetts Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-MA), MAZON: A Jewish Response to Hunger, Men of Reform Judaism, Milwaukee Jewish Federation, Mishkan Chicago, Moving Traditions, National Council of Jewish Women, National Council of Jewish Women New York, Network of Jewish Human Service Agencies, New Israel Fund, New Jersey Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NJ), New York Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-NY), Ohio Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-OH), Peninsula Jewish Community Center, Pennsylvania Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-PA), Rabbinical Assembly, Reconstructing Judaism, Reconstructionist Rabbinical Association.

Romemu, SAI-Judaism that Stands for All, Saul Mirowitz Jewish Community School, Shalom Austin, Sixth Circle Consulting, Society for Humanistic Judaism, St. Paul Jewish Federation, T'ruah: The Rabbinic Call for



Human Rights, TBE, Temple Beth Ahm Yisrael, Temple Beth El (Tacoma), Temple Beth El of Boca Raton, Temple Emanu-El of Westfield, Temple Kol Emeth, Temple Ohabei Shalom, Temple Shir Tikva, Texas Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism (RAC-TX), The Shalom Center, The Temple—Atlanta GA, The Workers Circle, Tivnu: Building Justice, Tribe 12, Tzedek Georgia, USY, Women of Reform Judaism.

NOVEMBER 15, 2022.

Re The Respect for Marriage Act (H.R. 8404)  
*U.S. Senate,*  
*Washington, DC 20515*

DEAR SENATORS: We are leaders of faith-based organizations representing tens of millions of Americans and hundreds of religious institutions. All our organizations hold to an understanding of marriage as between one man and one woman. Many of us privately expressed concerns about the House-passed version of the Respect for Marriage Act.

We are gratified by the substitute religious freedom language offered by Senators Collins, Baldwin, Sinema, Portman, Tillis, and Romney. It adequately protects the core religious freedom concerns raised by the bill, including tax exempt status, educational funding, government grants and contracts, and eligibility for licenses, certification, and accreditation. If passed, it would continue to build on the congressional wisdom represented by the Religious Freedom Restoration Act of 1993 (RFRA).

Attached are many statements from individual organizations.

Sincerely,

ELDER JACK N. GERARD,  
*The Quorum of the*  
*Seventy, The Church*  
*of Jesus Christ of*  
*Latter-day Saints.*

MELISSA REID,  
*Director of Govern-*  
*ment Affairs, Sev-*  
*enth-day Adventist*  
*Church—North Amer-*  
*ican Division.*

NATHAN J. DIAMENT,  
*Executive Director for*  
*Public Policy, Union*  
*of Orthodox Jewish*  
*Congregations of*  
*America.*

SHIRLEY HOOGSTRA,  
*President, Council for*  
*Christian Colleges*  
*and Universities.*

REV. JUSTIN E. GIBONEY,  
*President, AND Cam-*  
*paign.*

STANLEY CARLSON-THIES,  
*Founder and Senior*  
*Director, Institu-*  
*tional Religious*  
*Freedom Alliance.*

STEPHANIE SUMMERS,  
*CEO, Center for Public*  
*Justice.*

TIM SCHULTZ,  
*President, 1st Amend-*  
*ment Partnership.*

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

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, if I could, I would inquire as to whether or not the gentlewoman has additional speakers.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I have one additional speaker.

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

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the

distinguished chairwoman of the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the rule for the Respect for Marriage Act.

In all my decades of public service, I have never wavered in my support for the LGBTQ+ community. In 1990, I introduced the first legislation in New York State history to grant legal recognition to same-sex couples. When the Defense of Marriage Act was introduced in 1996, I was one of 67 House Members to vote against it. I knew then what I know now: DOMA was a bigoted, discriminatory solution to a problem that never existed.

It never made sense that I could get into a cab and meet someone that I have never met before, a cab driver, and marry a complete stranger. You could marry the driver that day. Yet a bold, brave New Yorker, and a friend of mine, named Edie Windsor could not have her marriage recognized. She took that fight to the Supreme Court and won.

Mr. Speaker, the Respect for Marriage Act will ensure LGBTQ equality, but much more work needs to be done. I thank Chairman NADLER for this bill.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. SESSIONS), a former chairman of the Rules Committee.

Mr. SESSIONS. Mr. Speaker, it is important what we are doing here because our friends, the Democrats, were arguing that there is no additional rights of action, that this isn't going to change anything. In fact, this same discussion that we are having, if that is true, and we are going to say that we take them at their word, that would mean no rights of action would take place as a result of this law.

Any judge would be able to look at the reason why we are passing this and the intent that would be on the floor of the House of Representatives, and that is what is being stated here tonight: No right of action; that is not what this is about.

I would hope that we would understand, just as when I was the chairman of the Rules Committee, that what we did and the way we talked on this floor is what the intent would be for a judge, for a lawsuit. If something were to happen, they would open up the RECORD, just as we are doing here tonight, Mr. Speaker, and a judge, magistrate, Federal judge, State district judge, anyone ruling on this constitutional right would be able to see that this is not about a right of action.

So, let's be clear. That was stated point blank in this discussion on the floor of the House of Representatives. It was reiterated up at the Rules Committee at the time that the rule came to the floor. That is what is stated. I will accept that as their word.

I thank the gentleman from Lewisville, Texas, for his time and

service to the Rules Committee. I spent 20 years on the darn committee, 6 years as chairman, and I understood when we handled matters that we spoke clearly and that we spoke directly about the intent of the law. I have heard enough to understand that, and I appreciate Mr. BURGESS for yielding to me.

Ms. SCANLON. Mr. Speaker, I would again inquire whether my colleague has any further testimony.

Mr. BURGESS. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, if the gentlewoman is prepared to close.

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

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

In closing, I would note that today's rule is, in fact, the product of a very rushed legislative process. The bill should have been subject to regular order so that it could be improved to address religious liberty concerns noted by my fellow Members.

The very fact that we have had this discussion here on the floor to me indicates that there is some ambiguity. I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) and Chairman SESSIONS for coming and raising the argument.

Section 6 of this bill provides protection of religious liberty, but only if you are religious enough. If you are a church, you are protected. If you are an individual or a school, you may not be, and you may be subject to that private right of action.

What we are voting on today is emblematic of how this one-party Democratic rule has been enforced in Washington, D.C., over the past 2 years. I am discouraged to see the majority is still focused on passing partisan messaging bills which will not address the problems they purportedly claim to want to solve.

This week, we are considering partisan bills instead of focusing our efforts on things like funding the Federal Government, maybe even the authorization for the Nation's defense, one of the requirements under the Constitution that we fulfill.

Unfortunately, tonight, this is a continuation of a discouraging and regrettable trend that I hope will be revisited by a new Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote on the rule, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, tonight's vote should be an easy one. The Respect for Marriage Act passed the Senate with broad bipartisan support, and the bill is supported by over 70 percent of Americans. It provides critical safeguards for a right that many Americans have already exercised and rely upon for the protection and prosperity of their families.

The Respect for Marriage Act is historic legislation to protect the marriages of same-sex and interracial couples. I don't think history will look kindly on those who, when given the



ability to protect the rights and freedoms of their constituents, chose to say no.

Mr. Speaker, on behalf of the LGBTQ community, my cousins, my dearest friends and neighbors, religious communities across the country, and, of course, the city of brotherly love and sisterly affection, which I am so proud to represent, I stand in strong support of the Respect for Marriage Act, and I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on this rule and the bill.

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

The previous question was ordered.

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

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 204, not voting 10, as follows:

[Roll No. 512]

YEAS—217

Adams	Dingell	Levin (MI)
Aguilar	Doggett	Lieu
Allred	Doyle, Michael	Lofgren
Auchincloss	F.	Lowenthal
Axne	Escobar	Luria
Barragán	Eshoo	Lynch
Bass	Españillat	Malinowski
Beatty	Evans	Maloney
Bera	Fletcher	Carolyn B.
Beyer	Foster	Maloney, Sean
Bishop (GA)	Frankel, Lois	Manning
Blumenauer	Gallego	Matsui
Blunt Rochester	Garamendi	McBath
Bonamici	Garcia (IL)	McCollum
Bourdeaux	Garcia (TX)	McGovern
Bowman	Golden	McNerney
Boyle, Brendan	Gomez	Meeks
F.	Gonzalez,	Meng
Brown (MD)	Vicente	Mfume
Brown (OH)	Gottheimer	Moore (WI)
Brownley	Green, Al (TX)	Morelle
Bush	Grijalva	Moulton
Bustos	Harder (CA)	Mrvan
Butterfield	Hayes	Murphy (FL)
Carbajal	Higgins (NY)	Nadler
Cárdenas	Himes	Napolitano
Carson	Horsford	Neal
Carter (LA)	Houlihan	Neguse
Cartwright	Hoyer	Newman
Case	Huffman	Norcross
Casten	Jackson Lee	O'Halleran
Castor (FL)	Jacobs (CA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Castro (TX)	Jayapal	Omar
Cherfilus-	Jeffries	Pallone
McCormick	Johnson (GA)	Panetta
Chu	Johnson (TX)	Pappas
Cicilline	Jones	Pascarell
Clark (MA)	Kahele	Payne
Clarke (NY)	Kaptur	Peltola
Cleaver	Keating	Perlmutter
Clyburn	Kelly (IL)	Peters
Cohen	Khanna	Phillips
Connolly	Kildee	Pingree
Cooper	Kilmer	Pocan
Correa	Kim (NJ)	Porter
Costa	Kind	Pressley
Courtney	Kirkpatrick	Price (NC)
Craig	Krishnamoorthi	Quigley
Crow	Kuster	Raskin
Cuellar	Lamb	Rice (NY)
Davids (KS)	Langevin	Ross
Davis, Danny K.	Larsen (WA)	Roybal-Allard
Dean	Larson (CT)	Ruiz
DeFazio	Lawrence	Ruppersberger
DeGette	Lawson (FL)	Rush
DeLauro	Lee (CA)	Ryan (NY)
DelBene	Lee (NV)	Sánchez
Demings	Leger Fernandez	Sarbanes
DeSaulnier	Levin (CA)	Scanlon

Schakowsky  
Schiff  
Schneider  
Schrader  
Schrier  
Scott (VA)  
Scott, David  
Sewell  
Sherman  
Sherrill  
Sires  
Slotkin  
Smith (WA)  
Soto  
Spanberger  
Speier

Aderholt  
Allen  
Amodei  
Armstrong  
Arrington  
Babin  
Bacon  
Baird  
Balderson  
Banks  
Barr  
Bentz  
Bice (OK)  
Biggs  
Bilirakis  
Bishop (NC)  
Boebert  
Bost  
Brady  
Brooks  
Buchanan  
Bucshon  
Budd  
Burchett  
Burgess  
Calvert  
Cammack  
Carey  
Carl  
Carter (GA)  
Carter (TX)  
Cawthorn  
Chabot  
Cline  
Cloud  
Clyde  
Cole  
Comer  
Conway  
Crawford  
Crenshaw  
Curtis  
Davidson  
Davis, Rodney  
DesJarlais  
Diaz-Balart  
Duncan  
Dunn  
Ellzey  
Emmer  
Estes  
Fallon  
Feenstra  
Ferguson  
Finstad  
Fischbach  
Fitzgerald  
Fitzpatrick  
Fleischmann  
Flood  
Flores  
Fox  
Franklin, C.  
Scott  
Fulcher  
Gaetz  
Gallagher  
Garbarino  
Garcia (CA)

Gibbs  
Gimenez  
Gohmert  
Gonzales, Tony  
Gonzalez (OH)  
Good (VA)  
Gooden (TX)  
Gosar  
Granger  
Graves (LA)  
Graves (MO)  
Green (TN)  
Greene (GA)  
Griffith  
Grothman  
Guest  
Guthrie  
Harris  
Harshbarger  
Hartzler  
Hern  
Herrell  
Herrera Beutler  
Hice (GA)  
Higgins (LA)  
Hill  
Hinson  
Hollingsworth  
Hudson  
Huizenga  
Issa  
Jackson  
Jacobs (NY)  
Johnson (LA)  
Johnson (OH)  
Johnson (SD)  
Jordan  
Joyce (OH)  
Joyce (PA)  
Katko  
Keller  
Kelly (MS)  
Kelly (PA)  
Kim (CA)  
Kustoff  
LaHood  
LaMalfa  
Lamborn  
Latta  
LaTurner  
Lesko  
Letlow  
Long  
Loudermilk  
Lucas  
Luetkemeyer  
Mace  
Malliotakis  
Mann  
Massie  
Mast  
McCarthy  
McCaul  
McClain  
McClintock  
McKinley  
Meijer  
Meuser  
Miller (IL)

Bergman  
Buck  
Cheney  
Donalds

Stansbury  
Stanton  
Stevens  
Strickland  
Suozi  
Swalwell  
Takano  
Thompson (CA)  
Thompson (MS)  
Titus  
Tlaib  
Tonko  
Torres (CA)  
Torres (NY)  
Trahan  
Trone

NAYS—204

Underwood  
Vargas  
Veasey  
Velázquez  
Wasserman  
Schultz  
Waters  
Watson Coleman  
Welch  
Weston  
Wild  
Williams (GA)  
Wilson (FL)  
Yarmuth

Miller (WV)  
Miller-Meeks  
Moolenaar  
Mooney  
Moore (AL)  
Moore (UT)  
Mullin  
Nehls  
Newhouse  
Norman  
Oberholte  
Owens  
Palazzo  
Palmer  
Pence  
Perry  
Pfluger  
Posey  
Reschenthaler  
Rodgers (WA)  
Rogers (AL)  
Rogers (KY)  
Rose  
Rosendale  
Rouzer  
Roy  
Salazar  
Scalise  
Schweikert  
Scott, Austin  
Sempolinski  
Sessions  
Simpson  
Smith (MO)  
Smith (NE)  
Smith (NJ)  
Smucker  
Spartz  
Staubert  
Steel  
Stefanik  
Steil  
Steube  
Stewart  
Taylor  
Tenney  
Thompson (PA)  
Tiffany  
Timmons  
Turner  
Upton  
Valadao  
Van Drew  
Van Dune  
Wagner  
Walberg  
Waltz  
Weber (TX)  
Webster (FL)  
Wenstrup  
Westerman  
Williams (TX)  
Wilson (SC)  
Wittman  
Womack  
Yakym  
Zeldin

NOT VOTING—10

Kinzinger  
McHenry  
Murphy (NC)  
Rice (SC)  
Rutherford  
Ryan (OH)

□ 2001

So the resolution was agreed to.  
The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated against:

Mr. BERGMAN. Mr. Speaker, please accept this personal explanation as I was unexpectedly detained during vote proceedings. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 512.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE

RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Axne (Pappas)	Jacobs (NY)	Palazzo
Baird (Bucshon)	(Sempolinski)	(Fleischmann)
Bass (Cicilline)	Johnson (TX)	Pascarell
Beatty (Neguse)	(Pallone)	(Pallone)
Brooks	Kahele (Correa)	Payne (Pallone)
(Fleischmann)	Kildee (Pappas)	Pressley
Brown (MD)	Kirkpatrick	(Neguse)
(Beyer)	(Pallone)	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Lawrence	(Correa)
(Pallone)	(Garcia (TX))	Ruppersberger
Doyle, Michael	Lawson (FL)	(Sarbanes)
F. (Pallone)	(Wasserman	Rush (Beyer)
Duncan	Schultz)	Simpson
(Norman)	Lieu (Beyer)	(Fulcher)
Dunn (Salazar)	Malliotakis	Sires (Pallone)
Evans (Beyer)	(Gimenez)	Swalwell
Gosar (Weber	Maloney, Sean P.	(Correa)
(TX))	(Pappas)	Titus (Pallone)
Grijalva (Neguse)	Mfume (Beyer)	Torres (NY)
Hayes (Neguse)	Napolitano	(Pappas)
Herrera Beutler	(Correa)	Wagner
(Stewart)	Neal (Beyer)	(Fleischmann)
Hice (GA)	Newman (Correa)	Welch (Pallone)
(Boebert)	O'Halleran	Wenstrup
Huffman (Levin	(Pappas)	(LaHood)
(CA))		Yarmuth (Beyer)

## ENSURING LIBERTY FOR UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, today is day number 286 of Russia's unprovoked, illegal terrorist war on Ukraine.

As Congress works to complete our 2023 appropriations bills, it is critical that the appropriation accounts for defense and energy security be fully funded. Let us be mindful that liberty has real enemies.

Our Nation, in alliance with the free nations of the world, cannot miss a beat in ensuring NATO remains the strongest defender of global liberty.

Vladimir Putin's criminal war on its innocent neighbor began in 2014. By crossing Ukraine's sovereign border, Putin violated every tenet of international law that has existed since World War II.

Then in February of this year, Russia unleashed its full terror. The free world must draw a bold line in the sand against Russia's illegal behavior.

Any nation that does not respect the sovereignty, territorial integrity, and independence of adjoining nations must be brought to full reckoning.

The free world cannot stand by idly. Putin's war machine must be defeated.

The people of Ukraine are fighting valiantly for their own freedom. May the bills being drafted as I speak ensure our Nation meets its obligation as liberty's primary defender.

### RECOGNIZING 81ST ANNIVERSARY OF NATIONAL BIBLE WEEK

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 81st anniversary of National Bible Week.

In 1941, weeks before the United States entered into World War II, Franklin D. Roosevelt declared the week of Thanksgiving as National Bible Week. This celebration recognizes the spiritual and historical significance of the Bible. It is a week where we can come together and celebrate this holy book. The Bible shaped our Nation's history and continues to provide guidance to the lives of so many.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful to live in a country where we can freely read Scripture and worship the Lord without fear of persecution. The Bible is timeless and continues to provide us with words of wisdom, comfort, and guidance as we navigate unprecedented times.

Madam Speaker, I leave you with this verse from 2 Timothy 3:16–17, one that I keep close to my heart: “All Scripture is breathed out by God and profitable for teaching, for reproof, for correction, and for training in righteousness, that the man of God may be competent, equipped for every good work.”

May God continue to bless the United States of America.

### RECOGNIZING LANDON SCHOOL THIRD GRADERS

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

Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the third grade classes at Landon School.

In the class of Ms. Brown is my nephew, Jake, who, like his fellow classmates, works very hard to treat others with respect and honor.

That is one of the important principles of Landon because Landon holds firmly to the conviction that character matters, and they aim to graduate students who will positively impact their communities.

The Landon third graders are off to a good start, recently finishing a unit on the three branches of government.

I am honored they have asked me to join them over Zoom to tell them about what it is like being a Member of Congress.

I applaud Landon students for showing interest in the important work of serving in government, and I expect, Madam Speaker, that one day some of them will end up right here, speaking at the podium. Go Bears.

### CONGRATULATING TAKEITA TOLLMAN

(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. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Savannah attorney Takeita Tollman for her placement on the Georgia Trend 40 Under 40 list.

Takeita is a very impressive young woman who has dedicated her life to public service. She began her career as a certified nurse assistant in high school, intending to become a doctor upon graduation.

Once she reached college, she realized that her passion was in writing and turned to a career in the legal profession.

Takeita attended law school at the University of Akron in Akron, Ohio. Takeita's legal specialties are Social Security disability, workers' compensation, and personal injury.

Takeita is serving some of the most vulnerable within our community. She is dedicated to helping people not just in the office but after hours, too.

She is a member of the Port City Bar Association and offers job shadowing to members of 100 Black Men of America. She also organized a sock drive for Savannah's homeless population.

I am proud to say that stories like Takeita's aren't uncommon in Savannah, though this makes them no less impressive. It just shows the kind of city we are.

I take this opportunity to thank Georgia Trend for recognizing Takeita's excellent work today and congratulate her on making the 40 Under 40 list.

### ONGOING CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak on the ongoing crisis at our southern border.

Recently, Homeland Security Secretary Alejandro Mayorkas stated that the border is secure. No one, including the Border Patrol agents he is tasked with leading, believes that assertion.

The truth is, in the last month, border agents reported over 70,000 apprehensions at the southern border, the highest month on record.

Now, you may ask yourself: Why is a Member of Congress from Idaho concerned about what is happening 700 miles away?

The truth is, the Biden administration's dereliction of duty at the border has consequences for millions of Americans across the country, including my constituents in Idaho.

Idaho Sheriff Kieran Donahue raised the alarm on how our porous border and drug cartels are creating the

fentanyl crisis in so many communities, warning that due to these policies, fentanyl is at everyone's doorstep.

In 26 days, Republicans will take control of this Chamber, and the Biden administration should be prepared to take account for their complete failure to address this border crisis.

□ 2015

### WE ARE A NATION OF CARING AND HUMANITARIANISM

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, 18 days before this Nation turns its eyes toward a beautiful recognition—for those of us who practice the understanding of the birth of our Lord—Christmas—and the many other faiths that will celebrate their special days in their own way—Brittney Griner still remains incarcerated in the most devastating, horrific, cruel, and brutal conditions. She must come home, along with Paul Whelan.

At the same time, I stand with the defenders of democracy, Ukraine, and hope that we will provide the resources necessary and be able to accept their fight for democracy while our former President asks to suspend our Constitution. Let us do the support for Ukraine and not suspend the Constitution.

Finally, ravaging floods are still plaguing the people of Pakistan. We have asked for \$600 million. They deserve those dollars to be able to restore their lives—pregnant women, families, farmers suffering and starving. It is necessary, as an ally of the United States, that we try to respond in this funding cycle now—dollars needed for Pakistan.

I look forward to working with the administration to provide the relief that they need. We are a Nation of caring and humanitarianism.

Bring Brittney Griner home now.

### MAKE AMERICA MORE SAFE AND SECURE

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

Mr. FALLON. Madam Speaker, it shouldn't be a partisan issue when we talk about the border and border security.

You know what it really comes down to?

It is the United States of America versus the Mexican drug cartels.

In April of this year, we had 234,000 illegal border crossings. It was the worst on record, by the way, only to be exceeded the very next month, in May, by 241,000 illegal border crossings.

Why do I mention this?

Because we don't know who these people are. No one ever talks about the 3.8 million people in the world that are

waiting to come to this country legally, to respect the laws and the rules of the country that they want to become a part of—who are exactly the kind of folks that we want to come here.

Another thing nobody ever talks about is 95 percent of those people are people of color, and they are going to be wonderful people that make America stronger.

The Mexican drug cartels are making, on estimate, \$25 billion a year, and now they are charging \$4,000 a head for illegal crossings, which adds another \$12 billion to their pockets. And we have had 107,000 deaths last year alone to opioid overdoses.

We need to unite as Americans, secure our southern border, and make our country more secure and Americans safer.

#### REPUBLICAN CONTROL WILL PROVIDE ACCOUNTABILITY AND PRODUCE RESULTS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK).

Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of my Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my friends for joining us on the floor tonight at this late hour. It has been a long day on Capitol Hill, but there are things that need to be said here.

It is December again, and of course that means that we are in the homestretch of a new Congress, this Congress, the 117th. The homestretch of any Congress, as we know, is when the threat of bad legislating is at its most pronounced. We have certainly seen all that here this week.

Government appropriations have been taken hostage by Democrats who want to spend even more. They seem to have forgotten about the trillions of dollars that have already been spent earlier this year.

The NDAA has been taken hostage just today by Democrats who think the right to vote is under some sort of secret threat. I guess they didn't pay attention to the massive voter turnout in Georgia just yesterday.

Here tonight, they rushed through a rule to codify same-sex marriage and create a private right of action that will vilify and supercharge attacks on people of faith.

Madam Speaker, this lame duck session is doing serious and lasting harm

to our Republic, and I guess it is a fitting end to this—what really has been a disastrous Congress overall under Democrat rule. We have with trillions upon trillions in government spending, sending inflation for all American families soaring.

We have had votes on immensely consequential, complex, thousand-plus-page bills, handed to us just hours before those votes. We have had Members dial into congressional hearings from their bedrooms and basements and even while on vacation in Europe—proxy voting. Thankfully, this is all about to come to an end, mercifully in less than a month.

The American people have spoken and the American people have given Republicans control of this body to provide accountability and produce results.

Madam Speaker, this is a legislative body and it is high time for this body to get back to the work that we are supposed to be doing for the American people. Come January, that is exactly what we intend to do.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleagues for joining us here today to talk about all of it.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from the great State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE).

Mr. ROSE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for yielding and for claiming the time this evening.

Madam Speaker, in 27 days, adherence to the constitutional principles will be returned to this institution.

In 27 days, accountability will be returned to our government.

In 27 days, Republicans will take the majority in this Chamber, secure the committee gavels, and begin the long climb to deliver a strong economy, a safe Nation, a free future, and an accountable government.

I say “the long climb” because over the course of the last 2 years of one-party Democratic rule in Washington, America has lost its way. We have seen trillions of hard-earned tax dollars and trillions borrowed from the next generation wasted. We have seen our national border overrun with millions of illegal immigrants and enough illicit and deadly fentanyl to kill every American many times over.

After decades of trying, America finally successfully achieved energy independence under the Trump administration. But in 2 years we have seen this country driven back into the ditch of energy dependence on foreign dictators and the high energy prices that come with it.

We have seen the funding of an army of 87,000 new IRS agents to go after the middle-class, working Americans in this country, catastrophic failures in Afghanistan and elsewhere around the world, and a justice system targeting concerned parents, vaccine mandates damaging our military readiness, unelected bureaucrats run amok in virtue signaling, and Big Tech in cahoots

with our government to stifle free speech for half of the American citizenry.

That is a mind-boggling amount of damage over 2 short years, and even a strong Nation like America can only take so much. But, thankfully, the turnaround begins on January 3, 2023, when Republicans retake the majority in the U.S. House of Representatives.

All of these issues are vitally important to the good folks back in my home of middle Tennessee. But I truly believe no issue is more important than that of the right to free speech. George Washington said, “If freedom of speech is taken away, then dumb and silent we may be led, like sheep to the slaughter.”

We recently learned that Twitter colluded with the Biden campaign and allegedly the FBI to suppress damaging information to President Biden's campaign. This only makes me wonder:

What else are these Big Tech companies hiding?

Soon enough, we will be able to find out.

Additionally, Securities and Exchange Commissioner Gary Gensler appears to be on a mission to destroy our small farms and businesses. He failed to provide proper oversight of crypto companies while cozying up to the biggest crypto fraud of the last decade, all while not appearing before the House Financial Services Committee in over 428 days.

Proper oversight will be on its way in 27 days.

Madam Speaker, for too long unelected bureaucrats have not had to answer to the American people. Make no mistake: no stone will go unturned in order to deliver the accountability the American people truly deserve.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is so well said. There are so many issues to cover.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS).

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, he so quite correctly outlined some of the difficulties facing Congress as we get to this end-of-the-year crunch of legislation that has to pass before the end of the year.

There is no place where this is more pronounced than for our Nation's doctors. The very people that we asked to get us through the pandemic, the very people that we have asked to take care of us. And now we arrive at the end of this Congress, and we say: Thank you for your service, here is your pay cut. And they go: Wait, what? A paycheck.

The Surgeon General came to the Doctors Caucus earlier this year and said he is concerned. He goes around and talks to doctors all over the country, he is concerned about the level of burnout that he is seeing in the Nation's physicians. He said he has never seen this before.

It really should not be a surprise. You work doctors and nurses day and night during the pandemic, and then

you turn around and say, You know what, we don't value what you do. The evidence for that is right as we barrel into the end of the year, there are significant cuts to the physician fee schedule, sequesters, paygo, budget neutrality requirements that in aggregate spell about an 8 to 9 percent reduction in payments for physicians.

For years, I fought to repeal the sustainable growth rate formula. The sustainable growth rate formula was repealed in 2015. I thought, hallelujah, we won't spend every December having to worry about how to make our doctors whole because the formula has gone away.

But now through administrative actions and through budgetary requirements, doctors are facing these pay cuts. So here we are in another December trying to scramble together a doc fix so our doctors can remain in practice.

But what makes this year so different and what makes this year so devastating to the Nation's doctors is on top of the 8 to 9 percent cuts in Medicare, they are facing 8 to 9 percent inflation. Nowhere else in the Federal Government could you say, Hey, we are going to hold you at level funding and not take into account the fact that the cost of living adjustment—it would be a pay cut anywhere else.

Well, I will tell you this, it is a pay cut in your doctor's office, and they are feeling it. The aggregate weight of these pay cuts is going to be such that we will drive doctors out of practice. I hear from docs all the time that they are going to have to close up shop.

What does that mean? It means further consolidation within the healthcare industry. It means further hospital zoning physician practices, private equity-only physician practices because we just can't keep up with what the government is doing to us.

Now, there is a chance that something will happen before the end of this year and stop these cuts before they are administered. But I will tell you this, in the new Congress—in the next Congress—it is my intention that we have to be very serious about tackling this problem in our authorizing committees.

Madam Speaker, I am on the Committee of Energy and Commerce, I expect that very early in the year we will be intentional about fixing this problem because we can't find ourselves here in December of another year where our docs are saying, We are at the end of our ropes, and we just can't take it anymore.

This is a serious problem; it needs to be fixed. President Biden would talk about, Hey, Republicans, they are going to cut your Social Security and Medicare.

Well, Mr. President, you know who is cutting Medicare right now?

You are. It is your agency, and you won't stop it. Next Congress, Republicans will.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the doctor for high-

lighting that. It is such an important issue, and just one more example of so much that has gone wrong here.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about immigration. The Democrats and the mainstream media need to take responsibility for their cover-up of President Biden's border crisis.

The liberal media hasn't made a peep about the fact that over 4 million illegals have been encountered at our southern border since President Biden took office. That is a record number, Madam Speaker, 4 million people. We have never seen this before.

They also kept the Biden administration's dirty little secret when it started flying illegals into Knoxville, Chattanooga, and all over the country in the dead of night without telling anyone, without telling the State authorities, and definitely not telling the Congressman from the Second Congressional District about it.

But then the media had a field day when Republican Governors sent a few buses of illegals to New York and Martha's Vineyard. I kept waiting for one of them to say, Buffy, quick, we have got illegals out here.

This administration is trying to keep us focused on things like climate change and woke social programs instead of their disastrous handling of our southern border. Of course, the media follows the Democrats' lead like a lost puppy dog. They cover what the Democrats want them to cover, and it is a shameful way to do journalism—a once respectable occupation.

□ 2030

It is a disgusting cover up of a very simple truth. We desperately need to close the dadgum border, Madam Speaker, and strengthen our immigration laws.

We need to reform our asylum system, which is a total joke, so illegal immigrants aren't eligible if they travel through a safe third country. We need to clarify in our laws that gang and domestic violence are not grounds for asylum; those are grounds for moving neighborhoods, not moving countries, Madam Speaker.

We also need to fully implement some policies like the Remain in Mexico policy, which is a reasonable policy, and which is critical to our national security, Madam Speaker.

Our liberal media need to stop kowtowing to the Democrats and start reporting on the facts. The American people deserve to know what is going on. And I guarantee you, the more they know, the more they will demand these kind of real changes from the disastrous Biden administration.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman JOHNSON for his more-than-lackluster attempt at democracy tonight. I, for one, enjoy it, and these young people over here seem to be enjoying it themselves, all five of those young people.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I really do have the honor to yield next to a friend and colleague who will be retiring at the end of this Congress.

Since 2005, he has represented the dozen counties stretching nearly 120 miles down Texas' eastern border with Louisiana. I represent one of his neighboring districts over that border; and in our region and, in fact, I can say nationwide, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT is a household name.

Prior to his election to Congress 9 terms ago, he served as a district judge in Texas, and Chief Justice of the Twelfth Court of Appeals of Texas. He is also a captain in the U.S. Army. He served our Nation bravely.

Judge Gohmert has been a bold defender of America's founding principles his entire life and career; and whether he is leading a debate in our House Judiciary Committee, or in the Natural Resources Committee, or setting the example for all of us with his tireless advocacy here on this House floor, LOUIE GOHMERT has been a consummate servant for the people and for our great Nation.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield to the gentleman from the great State of Texas (Mr. GOHMERT), my friend and my colleague.

Mr. GOHMERT. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana for his kind comments. The truth is, he is one of the reasons I am comfortable leaving.

There have been times when I was extremely concerned about people standing up for what is right; whether it was standing up to our own leadership or leadership of the country, including the White House, leadership of our own party, or the other party. But I have been encouraged; that is why I was willing to take a big chance on running for office statewide, even though I got in so late.

That was a matter that I will not be able to save Texas from suffering; but I have got great comfort here.

What does concern me greatly about our country, I think the bill that was just—we took up the rule on just now, concerns me.

As I know my brother, MIKE JOHNSON, knows and believes, as one of the leaders I know here on the floor, Moses, we believe, got word directly from God, and Moses passed that on, saying that a man shall leave his father and mother and a woman leave her home and the two will become one.

When Jesus was asked a question about marriage and divorce, he quoted Moses verbatim. Jesus, of course, some people say, was a great teacher, taught a lot of great things. But as C.S. Lewis pointed out, he said he was God. He said he was one on with the Father. He said so many things like that, it is very clear, he didn't have a choice to say he was a good teacher because he was either a liar, a lunatic, or he was Lord, as he said.

But the Founders, the huge majority of the Founders were not only believers

in what Moses and Jesus taught, but they were strong practicing Christians.

Nowadays, school children are taught, Ben Franklin was a deist, someone who believes, basically, that some deity, something, some force, created the universe, and if that deity, thing, force, whatever, still exists today, it never interferes with the ways of men.

But if you go back to the Constitutional Convention, Ben Franklin gave a speech when things looked like they had come to an end; they were going to go no further. There was so much yelling and disagreement.

Ben Franklin was recognized by the President of the Convention, President George Washington, and he pointed out that they had had so much disagreement over everything, and he said—he pointed back to the Continental Congress, and he said: In the beginning contest with Great Britain, when we were sensible of danger, we had daily prayer in this room. Our prayers, sir, were heard and they were graciously answered.

That is not a deist saying those things. But he went on to say—and these are His words. We know because the speech was so profound others there asked him for a copy, and he sat down and wrote the speech and everybody that heard it looked and said, yeah, that is exactly what he said.

He went on to say, we know: I have lived, sir, a long time, and the longer I live the more convincing proofs I see of this truth. God governs in the affairs of men; and if a sparrow cannot fall to the ground without his notice, is it possible a nation could rise without his aid?

He said: We have been assured, sir, in the sacred writing, that a nation cannot rise without his aid; a home will not rise without his aid. And he assured that this nation could not be built without his aid.

In this book, "Wall of Misconception," by Pastor Emeritus, former head of the Presbyterian Seminary in Philadelphia, Peter Lillback, a great historian, he points out that President Washington, in his first inaugural address, frequently referred to the Almighty. His very first act as President was to pray. Washington prayed that God would secure the liberties of the new Nation.

He went on to say that no one should be more grateful to God than the people of the United States of America in light of what God had done for them throughout the war. Although the new nation had just gone through the tumultuous time after the revolution of creating a new civil government, the process fraught with sectional rivalries and tensions was accomplished in a peacefully unique way that called for pious gratitude—those were his words—since this implied even more divine blessings to come.

The implication Washington drew from all of this was that America could not expect the continuing "smiles of

heaven" if the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained were disregarded.

We must remember that when Washington attended the Anglican churches of his day, he, along with the congregation, recited the Ten Commandments from the list behind the altar.

In Washington's historical context, "the eternal rules of order and right which heaven itself has ordained" could only refer to the Ten Commandments, given that this was the belief of almost every American in Washington's day who read or heard his inaugural address.

Along with his solemn inaugural address that graced America's first auspicious pageant of civil religion, Washington's inauguration contributed other religious precedents.

He was sworn in as President with the use of the Bible. This Bible has been sacredly kept by the Masons of New York City. The page where Washington placed his hand for the oath of office was marked by the turning down of the corner of the page. Interestingly, the marked page is Genesis 49, the chapter where Jacob, the father of the sons of Israel, bestows his blessings upon them.

By this time, Washington had long been called the "Father of His Country". The parallel of the text in the inauguration was not accidental.

Tradition has that he said, so help me God. That was not a written part of the oath. Then he bent down and he kissed the Bible.

But the religious elements of Washington's inauguration were still not complete. Next, he led the Congressmen and everyone else across the street from Federal Hall to St. Paul's Chapel for a 2-hour service of Christian worship to commit the new nation to God.

According to Mrs. Alexander Hamilton, she knelt with President Washington as they received the Eucharist together. This is part of our history. That was the very beginning.

It is interesting to note, as Jonathan Cahn did, that on 9/11, the one building that was considered part of Ground Zero was not broken, cracked, damaged whatsoever, was that very St. Paul's Chapel, where our Nation was committed to God during that period in which all of the Members of Congress, the President, Vice President Adams, they were all there participating in that time of prayer and committing this Nation to God, to the Almighty.

On visiting there, I was informed that the graveyard that is right behind the chapel on the side facing the Twin Towers, that when they fell, a huge tree, sycamore tree, at the back of the cemetery was completely uprooted. Jonathan Cahn pointed this out.

But there, the proprietor, the caretaker said that tree fell across all those graves and not one gravestone was cracked, broken, harmed in any way, nor was the chapel, not even a window cracked. It was seen to be a

miracle the way that building where our Nation was first committed to God was so very protected. Amazing, the history.

I know that there have been civilizations throughout history that have recognized same-sex union. But if you do enough digging, you find that when it came to actual marriage, that that was considered part of having children and a family, as God had said, go forth and multiply. That was considered—marriage was considered for having children and building a family.

Yes, of course, you can build a wonderful family by adoption. Now we are told that men can get pregnant. We wonder, you know, with the incredible advances of medicine, just how much man will take on the role of being his own God. It is a very dangerous thing because every time a nation has gotten to that point, they didn't last much longer.

□ 2045

If you want to attribute that to just nature or nature's God, as our Founders did, then you have your choice, but it did not bode well for such a Nation.

Now, back when the United States was a majority, a vast majority, of strong Christians, leaders of the country could appeal to the Judeo-Christian beliefs and the teachings of Moses, of the prophets, of Jesus and the apostles in the New Testament. Those things could be appealed to in the hearts of most Americans, and they would find great reception.

Now, the polls, studies, and surveys indicate that a majority of Americans do not attend church and do not seem to believe in a loving God. The appeals, therefore, of Reverend Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr., an ordained Christian pastor, who appealed to the better nature in America, that love was stronger than hate, and love could overcome hate, and love would bring the Nation together.

But since there are so few now, most don't seem to have a common agreement about the Judeo-Christian teaching that once overwhelmed the Nation at a time early on, when Harvard was established, Yale was established, basically to teach Christianity and educate people for a great future.

In fact, if you go back and look at the pledge that students had to make about their devotion to Jesus Christ, it is really staggering. But that is how things were started. That was an amazing start for this country.

Only a country that had turned its back on the teachings of Dr. King and the person that Dr. King called his Lord and Savior could become so hypocritical as we have as a Nation. We think, too often, we are God; we know better than God; we know better than Moses.

I expect sometime that his bust depicted in the middle of this Chamber as the greatest lawgiver of all time, somebody will complain that needs to be taken down. Never mind the fact that

there are great lawgivers, like Hammurabi. Some have been talking about the Code of Hammurabi and the Justinian code. Those are people who are up there.

Most people are not aware Napoleon was a lawgiver through the Napoleonic Code. Thomas Jefferson is up there. People hopefully are aware he was not at the Constitutional Convention; he was representing us in Europe. But he did help with the Northwest Ordinances and was in Virginia. He helped with laws that became a helpful framework for our Constitution and our laws.

Democrats preach long and loud that George W. Bush was not a legitimate President, that he stole the election of 2000 and stole the election of 2004. For that reason, they then objected to his election on the House floor on January 6 not of 2021 but of 2001. Then there was objection on this floor January 6 of 2005.

Although we sat here and waited for our chance to vote on the counting of the electors, no one in here realized that, according to so many Democrats today, when you object to electors, you are an election denier, treasonous, and guilty of sedition. None of us suspected that at the time that objections were made on the other side of the aisle.

In fact, on January 6, 2017, when we had 11 different objections from Democrats saying that Trump stole the election, we didn't realize that, according to the Democrats, the Democrats that objected were guilty of treason and sedition and that they should really be run out of public altogether and should not be allowed to participate in government. In fact, they shouldn't be allowed to actually be seen out in public. It was so despicable that their neighbors should reject them and run them out of the neighborhood.

None of us on this side of the aisle—I remember—in 2005 and 2017, we didn't realize what the Democrats are now telling us, that those were acts of sedition and that they were showing themselves to be election deniers. We thought that because the Democrats were following the procedures that were set out in the Constitution, they were following their beliefs and their constitutional rights. We didn't dream that they were committing sedition and treason, as they are now saying that apparently they were doing.

It was shocking to me that Democrats were alleging that Donald Trump stole that election and that he stole it with the help of collusion with Russia. We heard those claims. It took a while longer, after a multimillion-dollar investigation that found nothing of the sort. Gee, it turns out, as the investigation has gone on, that actually the Democratic National Committee, the Clinton campaign, members of the FBI, members of the DOJ, and the intel community were working in conjunction first to prevent Donald Trump from getting elected and then also working after he was elected to have him removed from office.

Now, most of us were upset on this side of the aisle with the continued, ongoing, never-ending efforts to remove Donald Trump from the office to which he was duly elected. But we didn't realize that the Democrats' actions, according to their explanations now, amounted to sedition, treason, a coup d'etat, and all of these other things we have heard in the last 2 years.

It is shocking because I don't know of anybody on our side of the aisle who realized that what was going on, on the other side of the aisle, was actually an attempted coup and seditionist treason. We didn't realize that because we hadn't heard from the Democrats until the last 2 years that to raise such issues was exactly what they were saying.

Now, they have even hypocritically turned to the government, billionaire businesses, banks, and individuals to get them to go against Republicans and start letting some Republicans, like the President of the United States, know: "We don't like your politics, and we will never allow you to do business with our banks and our businesses. We are going to try to break you, bankrupt you." We didn't realize that those were helpful things to do on behalf of our Nation.

I don't think they are indicative of what Dr. King, the reverend that he was—he had studied the Bible. He had even studied Gandhi's life and how peace was the way to make progress, peaceful protest. He preached against going after your enemies, going after your opponents, trying to destroy them. He preached what he knew, and that was Christian love.

But what we have illustrated here is a Nation that has turned from God and, to borrow from Longfellow, to allow hate in this country to be strong and mock the song of peace on Earth, goodwill toward men.

Overall, this Nation was one in which the people could be appealed to on the basis of a loving God who through, we believe, the Savior pointed out the two most important commands, to love God and love each other, and on those two hang all the law, all the prophets.

Actually, if you were to do an outline and put love God and love your neighbor, you can put all the laws from the Ten Commandments and most laws today under one of those two.

We have been so blessed in this country. Our Founders, nearly all of them, believed it was because they were trying to pursue freedom.

Historically, as an old history major, as somebody who has never stopped reading and learning history, we look back, as so many historians have, at the American Revolution. Many believe that the American Revolution came about because of the great Christian awakening that occurred in the 1700s, when most of the Nation repented of sins, of wrongdoing, and asked for forgiveness. What grew was a love of liberty and a love of freedom.

Historians have looked back and said, wow, that war ended, and it ended

in the Treaty of Paris, 1783. I was surprised to see an exact duplicate of the Treaty of Paris, 1783, because of the huge words that started the Treaty of Paris. I did not realize that they were so big, and I didn't realize that is how it started. But if you think about making a treaty with the biggest, most powerful country in the world in 1783, what would you put on the document to scare Great Britain, with the biggest Army, biggest Navy, what would you start it with to make them afraid to break their oath? Well, the Founders started with the huge words: "In the name of the most Holy and undivided Trinity," Trinity talking about the Father, Son, Holy Ghost. "In the name of the most Holy and undivided trinity," that is how that started.

They thought that is powerful enough that even the British will be afraid to break that oath. That is what they signed.

□ 2100

Others pointed out that, in the 1800s, there was a great awakening, and that same yearning and love of freedom led so many to say that slavery must end, that we cannot continue.

Actually, Thomas Jefferson, of all people, put that as the biggest grievance in the Declaration of Independence, that King George ever allowed slavery to begin. Those who would say that the Nation started with slavery; no, Jefferson said it started in spite of it, that it was a blight on this country, and blamed King George for ever allowing it because it was damaging the country and would damage the country.

But in the 1800s, after the Nation's second great Christian awakening, we had a Civil War, and 500,000 Americans were lost, 500,000 casualties lost in that fight, but we emerged stronger out of it.

It took a while, but there were people who had the love Lincoln had developed. He started out in his twenties bragging that he was an atheist, but by the time he was President, as Stephen Mansfield points out in his book, "Lincoln's Battle with God," he knew there was a God. He knew God was at work, and he knew that they should have love for people even with whom they disagreed.

But our country has abandoned the teachings of Moses, of Jesus, of Dr. King. I have idolized the "I Have a Dream" speech for nearly all of my life. It is so profound. It provokes tears. It is so powerful.

But that part of the dream where people would be judged by the content of their character and not the color of their skin, we were so close. Now, this country has been fundamentally transformed, and, now, teachers are telling children to judge people by their skin color.

What has gone on? We have colleges that say that they are so omniscient that they know the way to go is to have segregated dormitories.



What happened to the dream? It has turned into a nightmare. How could this happen? Perhaps if there was a third great awakening, many believe, we could get back on track.

Why was the American Revolution successful? We didn't kill a lot of people after the American Revolution. We signed a peace treaty. We asked them to leave us alone, and we would leave them alone. So, why did the French Revolution end up with—you can find, I have seen estimates, some people say as few as 13,000 heads cut off with a guillotine. Some say 44,000 heads chopped off.

We didn't have that after the American Revolution. Why was that? Some historians say because ours was about love of freedom and liberty, as the Bible taught, and the French Revolution was about a love for revenge. We are seeing that vengefulness play out.

There is nothing wrong with disagreeing. As the preacher said—and I know in the 1960s Lyndon Johnson was given credit, but Dr. L.L. Morris said it back around 1950 before I was born, said it to my parents: If two people agree on everything, one of them is unnecessary.

I have said that in deacons meetings at our church when people say we all ought to have exactly the same idea. No, it is good—since we are all human, nobody is perfect, and nobody has 100 percent lock on God's wisdom—that we exchange ideas, and we argue. It is okay to argue.

When I talk about a battle, I am talking about a battle of words. Some people in here are unarmed in a battle of words, and some are quite armed in a battle of words. But that is a good, healthy thing, to disagree. Otherwise, we would only need one dictator.

I am afraid we have been moving in that direction. So many of the things Orwell talked about are happening. We have people on the other side of the aisle who basically want a ministry of truth that will write down what the truth is, and anybody that disagrees with that will be guilty of a crime.

I haven't heard anybody on the other side of the aisle talk about the enforcement mechanism. That was called the ministry of love. They would pick you up, torture you, and keep you in the basement of the ministry of love, torturing days, weeks, years, whatever it took until you would repeat whatever they told you was the truth. It is the kind of thing that would kill a Galileo for saying that Earth was not the center of our solar system.

We need to have open minds, but it is important to learn from history because when you don't—everybody knows the saying—you are destined to repeat it.

We have a chance, and I believe with all my heart that it is because God is a merciful God. He has been mocked. We have his name right up here: In God We Trust. I know lots of people have been trying to get that down, but it is still there, and I know it will still be there for the next 2 years.

But we have to get over this thing of being vengeful. Even Federal judges here regarding January 6, like I have said before, people that committed violent acts, people that did destructive acts to this building, they deserve to be severely punished, but there were some that walked into the building and seemed to be welcomed. People say they are terrorists, and Federal judges have called them all kinds of names, called them seditionists, called them all kinds of things when they weren't rioting. Some were, and they need to be punished, and they have been.

But to have Federal judges throw the Constitution out the window and say: I haven't heard the evidence, but you are a seditionist, and you are dangerous. We need to make sure you are punished. You are a threat to the country—when there was no evidence of that for the individual before the judge.

The gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON), one of the great constitutional scholars in this body, and my friend, he really does understand the Constitution. One of the things I hope happens is that we will start subpoenaing judges. We impeached two Federal judges early on when I was here. It is time to bring them in and find out if there is a basis for impeaching them.

Are they going to continue to want to punish people in pretrial confinement, even though that is unconstitutional?

Are they going to continue to judge people and issue rulings when there is no evidence whatsoever on which to base the vile things they are saying about the individuals before them?

We need to know because if they are going to continue to be like Judge Roy Bean in his courtroom, which too many Federal judges are these days, it is time to stop it. Make them accountable. Let them know that there are checks and balances, and they are not God.

They took an oath, and they will be judged by that oath. If they are not following it, remove them. I hope that will happen, a shot across the bow.

I am grateful to have served in this body. I was hoping that, when I left, I would feel confident that our freedom was preserved for the next generations, at least the next one or two. I don't know. I see too many disturbing issues.

□ 2110

But I believe God is merciful, and he has given us a chance. I will be hopeful, and I will be praying for my colleagues that will be here next year. Let's get back on track. Let's don't do things out of hate. Let's don't do things out of revenge. Let's do things for a love of freedom so we don't have 44,000 people get their heads chopped off because people were overwhelmed and just insatiable wanting revenge.

I am very grateful to my friend for yielding to me today. He is a true—I started to say "patriot," but I know

some judge chastised someone for being a patriot; wanted to punish him more heavily.

So, hopefully, we can get back to a day when loving the country patriotically is a good thing.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for his comments. He has been a great example for that, and that was a fitting end to a long career and a lot of hours here on this floor articulating the truth and standing for America's founding principles.

Madam Speaker, how much time do I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Louisiana has 7 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. KUSTOFF), another good friend, colleague, and a patriot.

RECOGNIZING A. KEITH McDONALD

Mr. KUSTOFF. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize a really close friend of mine and a strong leader for Bartlett, Tennessee, A. Keith McDonald.

After serving as the mayor of Bartlett for 20 years, Keith McDonald has decided it is time for a well-earned retirement.

Keith has dedicated his entire life to the betterment of our community in west Tennessee.

He is a graduate of Clarksville High School, Freed-Hardeman University, and the University of Memphis.

As a young insurance agent, Keith played an instrumental role in forming today's Bartlett Chamber of Commerce and also developing its industrial park.

Now, prior to his government service, Keith traveled to Japan to help recruit brother industries to invest in Bartlett as the anchor tenant of that park.

Keith decided to further give to his community when he joined local government. So, in October of 2017, Keith became an alderman for the city of Bartlett and was elected its mayor in 2002.

There have been so many accomplishments during Keith's tenure as mayor during the past 20 years. Perhaps the most significant is Keith's leadership in creating and establishing the Bartlett City School System.

Now in its ninth year, the school system has further demonstrated that Bartlett is a great place to not only operate a business, but also educate children and raise families. None of it would have happened without Keith McDonald's drive and determination.

I talked with Keith's son, Brooks, about his father's life and career. Brooks told me that at home Keith taught his children about what Keith called the 80/20 rule, and that is that 20 percent of the people do 80 percent of the work. It is a lesson that Brooks has never forgotten and that Keith has continuously demonstrated both in his faith and in his community and in his family.

Now, speaking of his family, that is what is most important to Keith. Whether it was leading his son's PTA groups or serving as their Scout leader, Keith has always been that strong and loving father for Brooks and for Ryan.

Without a doubt, the city of Bartlett will certainly miss Keith McDonald's vision and leadership.

To Brooks and Ryan, I know that you are proud of your father's public service. To Keith's wife and his partner, Patty, we thank you for the years that you have given and all that you have given over these last 20 years.

Roberta and I wish Keith and his family the best as his public service concludes over the next few days. To Keith, job well done.

I thank the gentleman for yielding his time and for leading this Special Order hour tonight.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for fitting into the hour and honoring Mayor Keith McDonald. He sounds like a faithful public servant and one I wish I had the pleasure of knowing. We commend him on his long public service, and it is fitting that we do that on the night that we are bidding farewell soon to our friend and colleague, Congressman LOUIE GOHMERT, as well.

These are the kind of faithful public servants that the Founding Fathers had in mind, that they would serve selflessly for a long tenure and give themselves to their community.

Madam Speaker, I know the clock has wound up and I am out of time, and I yield back the balance of my time.

#### THE MATH WILL ALWAYS WIN

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) for 30 minutes.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, forgive me as I get myself somewhat organized as is the chaos when you use lots of boards.

Madam Speaker, we are going to sort of do something in sort of a continuation on a theme.

A couple weeks ago, I was behind the microphones here, and it is something I have done a lot, and I walked through just how much trouble we are in as a society. The debt is coming, and it turns out that debt is not Democrat or Republican, it is demographics; we got old.

But before I start to walk through what I believe is the thought process of the solutions that actually can save us, I am going to ask some favors of anyone who is crazy enough to give us time to watch some of this.

I actually do read the comments when these things are put out on social media. When you look around the room, there is almost no one here, but we are on several hundred televisions right now around the campus. Right now in offices in the buildings there are young people working on policy pa-

pers who have this on their screen. This is part of the way we communicate with each other. There is a purpose.

The second thing I am going to ask, as I start to walk through these ideas, is open your minds. Some of these will offend Republicans. Some are going to offend Democrats. But the math, the math is true. And the family motto: "The math will always win."

There is hope out there, but every single day this place continues to operate like a clown show. And I am sorry, that was very mean to clowns. Being sarcastic and being mean, the scale of what is coming at us and the immorality of not dealing with it terrifies me. So we are going to do a quick recap.

The next 30 years—and these are last year's CBO numbers, this is before inflation has been calculated in—we functionally have, and the newest one was 114, this one is \$116 trillion of borrowed money coming. That is in today's dollars.

So think about that. On this board we are going to borrow \$116 trillion or \$114 trillion. We have about \$1.9 trillion—we are in the positive.

So where is all the borrowing coming from?

Every dime of borrowing over the next 30 years, 75 percent of it is Medicare, 25 is a shortfall in Social Security.

□ 2120

That is immoral. But it is math. We got old. Baby boomers started retiring. It is math.

How many conversations have happened on the floor today saying: Hey, this is going to drive all public policy because it is going to consume every dollar?

This is the reality.

Madam Speaker, we are in the process of adopting a little boy right now. He is 5 months old. He has been with us since his first few days of life. It is a joy. When he turns 25, we have to double—his tax rate will have to have doubled what we all pay, and that is just to maintain the baseline of services.

So if you think about where you are going to be 20 years from now, Madam Speaker, 25 years from now, are you ready to pay double the taxes?

We make businesses actually do disclosures now saying: Well, global warming, environmental change, you should have to disclose that.

Damn it, should those same businesses have to disclose the fact that their tax rates are doubling over the next couple of decades?

It is baked in the cake. It is this math. Unless you have a revolution in two areas: crashing the cost of healthcare and economic growth. And growth is moral. Think about the end of 2017, 2018, and 2019 when the poor got dramatically less poor, the middle class got much more prosperous, and income inequality shrank dramatically. It is moral.

In this place we are going to fight over the stupidest things because it is easy to understand, it is theatrical, and I have \$100-plus trillion of crushing debt coming on top of the \$31 trillion already out there, and that is going to crush all of you.

If you think you are retiring, Madam Speaker, if you think my little boy or my 7-year-old girl, when they hit their peak earning years, are going to live more prosperous than we do, then we need to engage in some sort thought revolution, and that is what I am asking everyone to give me. I am going to do this in a couple of series, so this is going to be over a couple of nights. But I also need you to understand how dangerous it is.

Debt markets are smart. Those debt markets out there where we are having to borrow trillions see Congress is actually starting to take this stuff seriously, we will be benefited by the price of money into the future.

Right now they don't think we are taking it seriously.

Do understand, Madam Speaker, if interest rates on U.S. sovereign debt go up 2 points—my math says about 25 years, this board was actually originally off a print that said 30 years—then every single dime of U.S. tax receipts goes just to cover interest. We need to take a step back and think about that. We are piling on so much debt, and the curve expands. In about a decade, we are running into almost structural \$2-trillion-a-year deficits, and it gets bigger from there.

It is demographics. Almost every dime of that borrowing—75 percent will be Medicare and 25 percent will be Social Security—yet around here we will beat the crap out of each other for even mentioning Social Security and Medicare. But to save it is to actually understand the math.

What would happen if we don't convince debt markets that we are going to take this debt seriously?

The CBO model that was a year ago was, hey, the mean interest rate on U.S. sovereigns is going to be like 1.78. Now it is like 2.8. But if it remained around 4, you do realize, Madam Speaker, in two decades every dime just goes to interest. This is what we are handing to our kids.

So I also need to crush some of the stupidity out there. I accept the political class in our campaigns and those things, there has been a certain lack of truthfulness. Democrats will say: Well, let's tax rich people.

Do you realize, Madam Speaker, if you took every billionaire in America and took every dime they had—every dime, and the price of their yachts didn't crash—if you took every dime, then you could run the government for maybe 7½ months. Now, you would crash us into a massive depression. The scale of this spending and the debt is just ginormous. I love that word.

But also for us on the conservative side, we often have our people who get behind the microphone and say: If we

got rid of foreign aid; get rid of every dime of foreign aid.

Last year I think foreign aid is about \$38 billion. Let's see, last year we were borrowing \$26 billion, \$26,444,000,000 every week. So get rid of every dime of foreign aid, that is what, 10%, 11 days?

What are you going to do with the rest of the year?

Think of that. Every dime of foreign aid, maybe 11, 12 days of borrowing; and remember, our borrowing is going to double functionally over the next 10 years.

We need to tell the truth about the scale. So if I get one more person on my side saying: Well, if we got rid of waste and fraud or foreign aid; or they say: Just tax the rich people more—the math doesn't work. It is great campaign rhetoric and looks good in a brochure.

So you saw in the first chart we have \$114 trillion of borrowing, and that is last year's number before inflation coming.

There are solutions. So let's actually start to be optimistic because there is hope. But we first also have to have that moment of reality. Stop talking about things that are rounding errors. We should still do some of them, like price transparency. Many of us on the Republican side believe very much that you should know what the price of everything in healthcare is.

Great. Let's do it. But the best academic study says: Well, maybe about 1 percent, 0.1 to 0.7 is what the academic studies said if you have price transparency because we have the third-party payer system.

It doesn't mean we shouldn't do it. But don't think it makes that big of a deal in a society while I have healthcare markets around the United States that just had 16 percent inflation. Think of that. The healthcare costs in some of these markets went up 16 percent.

Madam Speaker, if you want to see a lot of detail, go to Brian Riddell's charts, Manhattan Institute. This is one of them. It talks about all the different ideas, both particularly from the right and mostly from left: If we did this sort of tax, then here is how much more tax we get over a decade of GDP.

When you start to add it up, then you start to realize that none of these get you even close. If you double the tax rate, take people and move them from 35 to 50 to 60 to 70 percent tax rate, then you don't get anything. And that is without an attempt to do the economic effects because there is a math reality that those ones in the tax world—I am on the Committee of Ways and Means—and it is for 100-plus years.

When we lower taxes, we basically seem to get about that 18, 19 percent of GDP, the size of the economy, in taxes. When we have raised taxes in the United States, you seem to get about that 18 or 19 percent of GDP in taxes. It is math, and you have got lots of history on this. So when you have raised taxes, we are still getting this size,

much of the economy, but the economy gets smaller. When you have lower taxes, the economy gets bigger, and you get this percentage.

It turns out that right now we are getting almost \$1 trillion more in receipts, revenues, and taxes than we were getting just a couple of years ago. A lot of that is based on the growth that came after tax reform. A lot of it was the amazing amount of government spending here that we had some of that stimulus that we are going to take some taxes in on money we put out; we still have to borrow the money, so we are screwed from that—sorry, an economic term. But the fact of the matter is, a lot of the folks who predicted: Oh, revenues are going to crash. They didn't. Society got much more productive.

Expensing turns out to be most valuable thing in tax reform because it forced us to do investment and growth. At one point we will talk about that.

So let's talk about right now the primary driver of U.S. debt over the next 30 years. Some reality: 5 percent of our brothers and sisters are over 50 percent of all of our healthcare spending. Now, these are our friends, our neighbors, and our family members who have multiple chronic conditions.

The majority of healthcare spending comes through government. The majority of this population is getting their healthcare through government. If this is the primary driver of costs in our society and the primary driver of debt, wouldn't we think about what we can do about that 5 percent of our society that is out there suffering?

It is worth thinking about.

So if I came to you right now, Madam Speaker, and said: Let our ideas we have out there that are doable in divided government that won't scare people too much or won't bring the armies of lobbyists down saying: Oh, we are screwing up their business model, but also have that morality of actually potentially working and doing something good—I am going to start with something really simple and then get more complicated—what would happen, Madam Speaker, if I came to all of us and said: Did you know that it is estimated that 16 percent of all healthcare spending is people just not taking their meds?

So I have hypertension. I take a calcium inhibitor. I don't stroke out, and it is a really, really, cheap, cheap pill. As long as you take it, it is incredibly effective.

Madam Speaker, how many people do you know who take statins for their cholesterol?

There are drug regimens where if you take them and take them according to the prescription, you are healthy, and you are safe. But when you don't, you stroke out, and that costs hundreds and hundreds and hundreds of thousands of dollars.

It turns out that is 16 percent of all healthcare spending. You do realize that is over a half a trillion dollars a year in healthcare spending.

So why wouldn't we have a conversation around this place and say: Okay, we all walk around with these little supercomputers in our pocket, we have seen these studies now saying that people not adhering to their pharmaceutical regimen to stay stable is over 16 percent of healthcare spending, why wouldn't you do something silly like a solution?

□ 2130

It turns out that they have pill bottle caps that beep at you if you don't open them in the morning. When you are really busy running around saying, oh, I forgot to take my calcium inhibitor for my hypertension, the thing is beeping at you. The other ones also will beep at your phone.

I know this sounds silly, but could you imagine, instead of 16 percent of healthcare being the cost of people having not maintained theirs, we cut it in half? That is \$250 billion, \$300 billion a year, and it would have been what, a \$0.99 to \$2 pill bottle cap that beeps at you, or the one that dispenses for grandma her mixture of pills that she is having trouble remembering.

We are walking through simple ideas that could pass here. Why wouldn't we have this discussion? There are other derivatives and discussions that make people uncomfortable, like for high-priced medicines. Put them in sterile packaging so if someone passes away, they can go back to the health co-op or whatever is out there and reuse them. There are all sorts of these ideas.

Think about something as simple as this. This is half a trillion dollars a year. For something you need, why wouldn't we invest and say, hey, put the pill bottle cap on that beeps at you if you don't open it in the morning? Is this simple enough conceptually?

There are ideas like this that have massive dollar impacts, and we never even discuss them because they are simple to absorb.

I have been here multiple times and talked about the item you can blow into. In our office, we have nicknamed it the flu kazoo because that was cute, people got it, but it is a breath biopsy.

I showed it, I think, a couple of weeks ago on the floor, that there are all things where you can functionally have a medical lab in your home medicine cabinet.

But here is the disruption. This is what makes so many people angry. If I brought you something right now, for a couple hundred dollars, you could have it in your home medicine cabinet. You could blow into it and instantly tell you if you have the flu, instantly bang off your medical records, instantly order your antiviral, and Lyft or Uber could drop it off at your house in 2 hours. Wouldn't you like that?

For everyone here who talks about accessibility, remember, I just talked about having a little person at home. It is a lot easier to blow into that thing for the breath biopsy and get the prescription delivered than it is to go wait

in an emergency room or try to get that doctor's appointment.

Believe it or not, that technology is illegal. The way our laws are set up right now, that disruptive technology is illegal. It is crazy.

Why wouldn't you allow that algorithm that statistically is more accurate than a human to write a prescription? Would it make your life better?

Madam Speaker, may I inquire as to how much time is remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Arizona has 12 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Excellent. Thank you, Madam Speaker.

This is part of what we are talking about: Legalize the technology that will make our lives easier, better, faster, raise accessibility, and, yes, it is going to cause a disruption.

If you are an investor in the urgent care system, you may not like telemedicine. You may not like these things. But how many of us used to go to Blockbuster Video, stand in line, and have the nice person hand us a suggestion on a movie because the one we really wanted wasn't there?

If they had hired enough lobbyists, would this place have slowed down the internet to keep Netflix?

I need you to think this way, and this is what I am asking anyone that is viewing. It is the reality of it, when you looked at that first slide, and we talked about trillions and trillions of that coming from just the shortfall in Medicare.

If this were 20 years ago or 25 years ago, you would have this debate with the left or the right. Well, we are going to do entitlement reform. No, we are not.

Does anyone remember the experience that this body had back in the early 2000s when someone was willing to talk about trying to save Social Security back then, and it became political ads, fundraising?

The math was true, but the politics were great to destroy then George Bush and the people that were willing to tell the truth about the math. This place will pay lip service, but it is not going to happen.

The path I am proposing is embracing what we have gotten really good at in this country. I mean, this is a supercomputer. Think of the power that is in this thing.

Yes, it is an iPhone. It is expensive. But it is—what?—10,000 times more powerful than the old IBM PC I used to have. Take that concept, and what would happen if we would legalize technology to crash the price of healthcare?

What is one of the biggest drivers of healthcare costs in the country? The number one? It is a little uncomfortable to talk about. It is diabetes.

The fact of the matter is 31 percent of all Medicare—Medicare, not Medicaid—Medicare spending is related to diabetes, and 33 percent of all healthcare spending is related to diabetes. It is crazy.

I represent a Tribal community that is actually pretty well off. They are incredibly well-managed, the Salt River Pima-Maricopa Tribal community right alongside Scottsdale, and they have gaming, sports, and all sorts of other things.

They are very good at what they do, and they are the second highest per capita population, I think, in the world for diabetes. Their sister Tribe, Gila River, is number one.

Is it moral if I came to you right now and said, there is a path, and yes, it might not ultimately work, but there is a path out there of a stem cell treatment working with CRISPR where they have tagged it so you don't need antirejection drugs?

Yes, it is type 1, but there is a proof of concept that is starting to work where they have actually had a handful of Americans who they have been able to transfer the stem cells, and their islet cells are now producing insulin.

Remember, I just told you 33 percent of all healthcare spending is 31 percent of all Medicare. It would be the single biggest thing you could do for debt. It would also be one of the most moral things you could do for our brothers and sisters who are out there suffering, who are going blind and losing parts of their feet.

There is math out there that health may be one of the primary drivers of income inequality in society. You can't work if you have a family member who you are having to take care of because disease is ravaging them.

This is forcing the body to think differently, that if a cure is moral, but it is also really good economics and would help us take on the primary driver of our future debt with healthcare, why wouldn't you fixate on that 5 percent of our brothers and sisters that have chronic conditions that are over 50 percent of all healthcare spending?

The 31 percent that is actually Medicare, that is just diabetes. How about a Moonshot? If I came to you right now and said they are having some success, why can't we bring these?

I have been trying now, under Democrat control for a couple of years, and look. Being in the minority, we basically get told to go to hell. I will talk to my brothers and sisters on the Democrat side, and they say that is amazing but don't believe it.

Shouldn't we go out and build a bunch more diabetes centers? Great. You are going to help people manage their misery. How about curing it? Isn't this the moral thing to do?

By the way, it would be the single most powerful thing you could do for U.S. sovereign debt and my 5-month-old's economic future and your retirement.

This is just a taste of the disruptive ideas we are going to try to bring here over the next handful of times I get in front of the floor.

There is hope, but this body needs to start thinking that we care. This body

needs to start acting like we give a damn. Instead, we spend so much time doing theater.

Look, I care a lot about what is on Hunter Biden's laptop. Well, not really. I do care about the media hiding it and screwing with our elections. That is important.

□ 2140

They mentioned at the end of the decade or so we are going to have \$2 million a year deficit and it goes up from there.

You have got to decide: Are you going to save the Republic?

Are you going to embrace the morality of the prosperity?

Start understanding the science, the synthetic biology, the opportunities around us where we can cure people. Because I am going to argue that finding a path, whether it be the single shot cure that is now available for hemophilia, which is really expensive, but it cures hemophilia.

Now, we should probably come together as a body and say, hey, why don't we work out a financing mechanism so we can use the future savings to pay for the purchase of the drug today? Because wouldn't that be the moral thing to do. And, oh, by the way, it gets rid of that chronic condition.

Sickle cell anemia, we are so close. There are so many things out there where—we talk about the lack of productivity in society.

What would happen if we cured so many of our brothers and sisters so that they are able to participate in the economics?

Part of this closing here—we are going to talk about sort of the unified theory to save the country. Part of that unified theory—this is the economics—is embracing the technology. And yes, disruption is scary and it may mess up your business model, but it is moral.

Talking about immigration—really hard—but the fact of the matter is, importing poverty by open borders crushes the working poor because now that is who they are competing with. We need talent.

With the fertility rates all across the western world, in the next couple decades there is going to be a fight for smart people.

Over here is a tax code that fixates on growth. Maybe it is time to stop subsidizing, importing stuff from other countries, and functionally taxing ourselves to send things out of the country.

You realize, we functionally crush ourselves in the way we design our tax code today? Why wouldn't you flip that, so you incentivize? Make it here.

The other thing is regulatory. If I came to you tomorrow and said you could crowdsource air quality, you don't need buildings full of paperwork shoved in file cabinets. You could make the air cleaner, better, faster.

Things like what happened to the water in Detroit or other places—actually it wasn't Detroit. Sorry, I am from

out West—but the little thing that you are able to sample your water or the thing you can put on your lapel.

Madam Speaker, I am going to beg of us, and I am going to bring boards talking about there is technology around us where we can crush the size of the bureaucracy to get cleaner, better, faster, healthier, and grow. And the growth is moral and the growth gives us a path to not be crushed by the debt that is coming with that.

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

#### ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN) until 10 p.m.

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, it is always difficult to follow the always interesting Congressman SCHWEIKERT.

There are a variety of issues that we haven't addressed for a while but that are in the news and demand some attention.

First of all, I noticed our President Biden was down near the Mexican border and was quoted as saying, when he was asked whether he would go a few more miles to the border, he said there are more important things to do. One of the more shocking statements in an administration of shocking statements.

It has come out recently that in November we had 73,000 got-aways at the southern border. Now, I would like to point out, there are two groups of people who are coming here who shouldn't be here. One group insists they are asking for asylum, and they turn themselves in to the Border Patrol, they get an interview, they are registered to come in here and are given a date to appear before some tribunal.

The other group—the more dangerous of the two, I think—are those people who don't want to be seen by the Border Patrol. They want to sneak across the border and are what the Border Patrol refers to as got-aways.

In November, the highest number that I can remember, the Border Patrol estimates there were 73,000 got-aways. They are more dangerous because, for example, if you are sneaking drugs across the border, you don't want to turn yourself into the Border Patrol, you want to sneak across somehow.

That 73,000 was a 23 percent increase in the estimate compared to the prior month. A huge increase. Like I said, for people who have a criminal background—because our Border Patrol is able to check as to whether you have a prior criminal background in the United States or a prior criminal background in Canada. But again, if you molested somebody or committed harm, you would try to sneak across the border.

Why are more people sneaking across the border?

I assume it is because it is getting easier and easier. We have a shortage

of members of the Border Patrol there. They are busy doing the administrative work. Because they are doing more administrative work, they don't have time to guard the border, and as a result, we have an all-time high.

Not only more people probably who are the type of people who would commit crimes, we have more of the type of people who bring drugs across the border. If we do have anybody from foreign countries who wanted to cause harm to the United States, they would be got-aways. That is the way to come here.

I think it is entirely scandalous that President Biden would be so breezy as to say: I have more important things to do than see what is going on at the border. It was very disappointing.

I could argue maybe some poorly run campaigns, that President Biden was only mildly struck down by the results on November 8.

I hope the American public wakes up—I don't think they were educated on these numbers enough—wakes up to the huge number of people coming across our border.

I also hope the American public remembers that the 188,000 people who die every year of illegal drug overdoses in this country it doesn't just happen; it happens because we are neglecting the border where so much of the fentanyl comes across.

I would also like to point out that America is not anti-immigrant. I think it is so slanderous when he says that.

Last month, I attended a ceremony in West Allis, Wisconsin, where they swore in, they estimated, over 100 people to be new American citizens. We were told by the representative there that last year was the first year, in her memory, in which we swore in 1 million new, all-legal citizens.

So don't let anyone tell you that America is not being kind to people from other countries who want to come here. Last year, 1 million people managed to legally be sworn in as citizens. That is quite enough.

I don't think we are being at all nice, we are being cruel to our own country to allow so many other people to come across here—73,000 got-aways, and approximately 100,000 other people, I believe, when the figures are released, coming across in October.

The next issue to talk about that has been in the news is in my home city of Milwaukee, or the city of my birth: there were 211 murders that took place. Milwaukee, when I was growing up, depending on the year, was either the safest or second safest city next to San Diego, among the 25 biggest cities in the country.

We now have—and the population has fallen since that time—we have now hit today 211 murders, which is an all-time record for Milwaukee; they never before even hit 200, now we just blew by that number. Probably by the time we are done we will be up around 220. There is going to be all sorts of analyses as to what causes it.

Some people are going to say it is caused by lack of good schools, but I want to point out that in the future when we analyze this number—and there should be an analysis done on the number—we should look a little bit at the family situation of the murderers, insofar as what type of family were they brought up in and what type of family do they live in now.

□ 2150

I do believe there has been significant breakdown of the traditional family in this country over the last 50 years, and I personally think that is the primary reason why we are blowing by the 200 figure in Milwaukee right now.

In any event, as this horrific year in Milwaukee is analyzed, I hope, given all the money we spend on studies, that some work is done studying the people who are caught for these murders, the background they have, and they realize that, in the future, as we try to avoid more murders in Milwaukee, we don't do silly things like look at the guns; we look at the background of these people; look at the war on the family that has been going on in this country for over 50 years and try to work our way back to where we were in the 1970s and the 1960s and, even more, the 1950s, when the murder rate in this country was a fraction of what it is today.

I will point out, even when you look at the 211 murders, we have top-of-the-line medical care now. The number of murders has skyrocketed over what it was, say, 40 years ago or 50 years, skyrocketed over what it was 55, 60 years ago, despite the fact that medical care was nowhere near as great at that time.

So I hope people look at the family and analyzing what we can do to get that murder rate back down a little bit toward where it should be.

The next issue I want to address today concerns the efforts being made, which I believe will be successful, to remove the vaccine mandate for our brave soldiers, sailors, and airmen and women who operate in our Armed Forces.

Earlier today, I talked to Lieutenant Colonel Theresa Long, who is from Fort Rucker, Alabama, and is a whistleblower, as to what is going on with the vaccines for our servicemembers today. I would hope that all members of the press would be crowding on a chance to talk to her on her observations at Fort Rucker and throughout reports made to the military on what is happening after our soldiers get vaccines.

Right now, a lot of the focus, understandably, is on the fact that the effort to require vaccines is reducing the number of recruits. It is causing people to leave the military at a time when we need more people in the military, and that is a big problem.

But I think we haven't spent enough time looking on the fact that the military members who do not want to get these vaccines may very well be right.

If you look at the number of soldiers and sailors aged 19 to 40 who are getting cancer, who are getting pulmonary embolisms, who are getting heart problems, myocardial heart problems, are all increasing significantly over what it was 3 years ago.

Indeed, she has seen things at Fort Rucker she has never seen before. And one has to wonder whether it is the huge number of military members who are getting these vaccines. She feels that this has been really a fraud on our servicemembers telling them that these vaccines are all safe, when we have the most in-shape group of people in this country, people in the military, aged 19 to 39 and, despite being in such good shape, particularly males 19 to 39, we see a significant increase in deaths from sudden cardiac arrest.

We see, among the women, an increase in miscarriages, perhaps an increase in infertility.

We have big problems here. I think before we advise these healthy people in their 20s and 30s to get the vaccine, they ought to sit down with Lieutenant Colonel Long and look at the figures which she has been talking about, a whistleblower trying to save the troops under her from getting any more life-threatening events.

So I hope that Congress weighs in here. I hope the Biden administration shows a little bit of sympathy with the soldiers and removes even the request that people under 40 get the vaccine. I hope that Congress weighs in in that regard, requiring that the medical personnel in the military be a little bit more forthcoming on the results that they see, the health problems that have become apparent in our troops today, compared to 2 years ago, and compared to 4 years ago.

You are going to find more bad things going on, and it seems to me common sense that, given the great increase in vaccines on these young people, you have to kind of assume that the vaccines are causing these additional problems.

So I hope that Congress wakes up. I hope even more that our slumbering media wakes up, who should be looking out for the poor and defenseless—I don't like to call our military poor and defenseless, but when they try to kick them out of the military, they kind of are—and see whether the government is, in their policies here, are they looking out for the good of the pharmaceutical industry or are they looking out for the good of our troops?

In any event, there are three issues that we deal with tonight: The bad outcomes of the vaccines on our troops; the new, all-time high in murders in the city of Milwaukee; and the record-high number of people, number of got-aways crossing the border that apparently President Biden does not think is a serious problem.

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

## ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 1 of House Resolution 1230, the House stands adjourned until 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 56 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, December 8, 2022, 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-6097. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Air Plan Approval; Connecticut; Plan Submittals for the 2008 Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard [EPA-R01-OAR-2016-0168; FRL-10414-02-R1] received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6098. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — N,N-Dimethylnonanamide; Tolerance Exemption [EPA-HQ-OPP-2018-0191; FRL-10423-01-OCSP] received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6099. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Renewable Fuel Standard Program: Canola Oil Pathways to Renewable Diesel, Jet Fuel, Naphtha, Liquefied Petroleum Gas and Heating Oil [EPA-HQ-OAR-2021-0845; FRL-9075-02-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AV55) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6100. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Addition of Certain Chemicals; Community Right-to-Know Toxic Chemical Release Reporting [EPA-HQ-TRI-2017-0434; FRL-5927-02-OCSP] (RIN: 2070-AK26) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-6101. A letter from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a determination under section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-6102. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6103. A letter from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6104. A letter from the Chair, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period April 1, 2022

through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6105. A letter from the Acting Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's Fiscal Year 2022 Agency Financial Report, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6106. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Office's Agency Financial Report for Fiscal Year 2022, pursuant to 31 U.S.C. 3515(a)(1); Public Law 101-576, Sec. 303(a)(1) (as amended by Public Law 107-289, Sec. 2(a)); (116 Stat. 2049); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-6107. A letter from the Branch of Administrative Support Services, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting the Department's final rule — Endangered and Threatened Updating Entries for Two Species on and Removing Johnson's Seagrass From the Lists of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants Wildlife and Plants [Docket No.: FWS-HQ-ES-2022-0111; FF09E22000 FXES11130900000 201] (RIN: 1018-BG87) received November 30, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6108. A letter from the Governor of Puerto Rico, transmitting the Eighth Congressional Status Report on the Economic and Disaster Recovery Plan of Puerto Rico; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

EC-6109. A letter from the Associate Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's direct final rule — NPDES Small MS4 Urbanized Area Clarification [EPA-HQ-OW-2022-0834; FRL-10123-02-OW] (RIN: 2040-AG27) received November 29, 2022, 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-6110. A letter from the Acting Chief, Trade and Commercial Regulations, U.S. Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting the Department's final rule — Rules of Origin for Goods Imported Into the United States [CBP Dec.: 22-25] (RIN: 1515-AE77) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-6111. A letter from the Chief, Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, transmitting the Service's IRB only rule — Revenue Procedure: Special Procedures for Certain Eligible Taxpayers to File a Qualified Amended Return After the Opening of an Audit (Rev. Proc. 2022-39) received November 29, 2022, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

EC-6112. A letter from the Chief Counsel, Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States, Department of Justice, transmitting the Foreign Claims Settlement Commission of the United States Annual Report for Calendar Year 2021, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 4107; July 3, 1948, ch. 826, Sec. 9 (as amended by Public Law 89-348, Sec. 2(6)); (79 Stat. 1312) and 22 U.S.C. 1622(c); Mar. 10, 1950, ch. 54, Sec. 3(c) (as amended by Aug. 9, 1955, ch. 645, Sec. 1); (69 Stat. 562); jointly to the Committees on Foreign Affairs and the Judiciary.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk



for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1884. A bill to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. "Buck" McKeon National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes; (Rept. 117-592). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 3600. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-593). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4648. A bill: to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-594). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5444. A bill to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-595, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 5715. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-596, Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6063. A bill to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-597). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6181. A bill to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 117-598). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6707. A bill to amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to advance equality for Wabanaki nations, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-599). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6438. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as "Dearfield" in the State of Colorado (Rept. 117-600). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6442. A bill to amend section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, to include Tribal Governments and quasi-governmental entities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-601). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6654. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-602). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 6799. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P.

Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System (Rept. 117-603). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7075. A bill to designate Ukrainian Independence Park in Washington, District of Columbia, and for other purposes; with amendments (Rept. 117-604). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 7496. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733 (Rept. 117-605). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. S. 789. An act to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians (Rept. 117-606). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia: Committee on Education and Labor. H.R. 604. A bill to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-607 Pt. 1). Ordered to be printed.

Ms. SCANLON: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 1510. Resolution providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-608). Referred to the House Calendar.

#### TIME LIMITATION OF REFERRED BILL

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XII, the following action was taken by the Speaker:

H.R. 604. Referral to the Committee on Ways and Means extended for a period ending not later than December 15, 2022.

#### 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. CLYDE (for himself, Mr. COMER, Mr. CAWTHORN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, Mr. BABIN, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. MASSIE, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 9448. A bill to prohibit the Federal Government from taking certain action relating to social media companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Oversight and Reform, and 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 Mr. PANETTA (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Ms. SEWELL, and Mr. FERGUSON):

H.R. 9449. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 9450. A bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to develop and disseminate resources on Regulation CF and Rule 504 of Regulation D, and

for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9451. A bill to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to revise rules relating to general solicitation or general advertising to allow for presentations or other communication made by or on behalf of an issuer at certain events, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9452. A bill to amend the Securities Act of 1933 with respect to small company capital formation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CASE (for himself, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 9453. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or the development of adaptation or management options relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CHU (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. BOWMAN):

H.R. 9454. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare children and youth for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. CRAIG (for herself, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. KILDEE, Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. FLOOD, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. MANN, Mr. BANKS, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. LATURNER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mrs. HINSON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mr. BUCK, Mrs. BUSTOS, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. ESTES, Mr. RYAN of Ohio, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, and Mr. COMER):

H.R. 9455. A bill to amend the Clean Air Act with respect to the ethanol waiver for Reid Vapor Pressure under that Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9456. A bill to amend the Endangered Species Act of 1973 to exclude certain populations of the lesser prairie chicken from the authority of such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Ms. BONAMICI):

H.R. 9457. A bill to require an interagency study on the environmental and energy impacts of crypto-asset mining, to assess crypto-asset mining compliance with the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 9458. A bill to provide temporary authority to the Secretary of Defense to appoint retired members of the Armed Forces to military health system positions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9459. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to exclude qualified institutional buyers and institutional accredited investors when calculating holders of a

security for purposes of the mandatory registration threshold under such Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. SCHIFF (for himself, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CASE, Mr. HIMES, Mr. KEATING, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. QUIGLEY):

H.R. 9460. A bill to criminalize transnational repression, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign 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. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 9461. A bill to extend duty-free treatment provided with respect to imports from Haiti under the Caribbean Basin Economic Recovery Act; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia (for herself, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. ADAMS, Ms. TITUS, Ms. NORTON, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. CARSON, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LEE of California, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. OMAR, Mr. EVANS, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. MCGOVERN, and Ms. BASS):

H. Con. Res. 120. Concurrent resolution recognizing international days of peace, coexistence, and cooperation; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Ms. BARRAGÁN (for herself, Mr. KELLER, Mr. TAKANO, and Mrs. SPARTZ):

H. Res. 1511. A resolution recognizing Interscholastic Athletic Administrators' Day on December 14, 2022; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

### CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

Pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statements are submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

By Mr. CLYDE:

H.R. 9448.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, §8, Cl. 18 of the U.S. Constitution states the Congress shall have 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 in any department of officer thereof.”

Additionally, §1 of the XIV Amendment states, “. . . nor shall any State deprive any person of life, liberty, of property, without due process of law . . .” and under §5 of the XIV Amendment, “The Congress shall have power to enforce, by appropriate legislation, the provisions of this article.”

By Mr. PANETTA:

H.R. 9449.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. FLOOD:

H.R. 9450.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9451.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. BUDD:

H.R. 9452.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. CASE:

H.R. 9453.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the Constitution

By Ms. CHU:

H.R. 9454.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Art. 1, Sec. 8 “The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States.”

By Ms. CRAIG:

H.R. 9455.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. ESTES:

H.R. 9456.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2

Provides Congress with the power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 9457.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. KILMER:

H.R. 9458.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Pursuant to clause 7 of Rule XII of the Rules of the House of Representatives, the following statement is submitted regarding the specific powers granted to Congress in the Constitution to enact the accompanying bill or joint resolution.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

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.)

By Mr. MCHENRY:

H.R. 9459.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3:

To regulate commerce with states, other nations, and Native American tribes.

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18:

Authority to create laws that are necessary and proper to carry out the laws of the land (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. SCHIFF:

H.R. 9460.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 (Necessary and Proper Clause)

By Mr. WENSTRUP:

H.R. 9461.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I Section 8 of the Constitution

### ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

H.R. 384: Mr. GRIJALVA.  
H.R. 829: Mr. PANETTA.  
H.R. 1284: Mr. ESTES, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. WALBERG, and Mr. GUEST.  
H.R. 1401: Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 1735: Mr. SHERMAN.  
H.R. 1829: Ms. MACE.  
H.R. 1946: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.  
H.R. 2021: Mr. MFUME.  
H.R. 2252: Mr. STANTON, Mr. LAHOOD, Mr. RUIZ, Mr. HIMES, and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.  
H.R. 2553: Ms. BONAMICI.  
H.R. 2800: Mr. GOLDEN.  
H.R. 4137: Mr. KEATING.  
H.R. 4268: Ms. JACOBS of California.  
H.R. 4603: Mr. SARBANES.  
H.R. 6008: Mr. BOWMAN.  
H.R. 6394: Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 6421: Mrs. HINSON.  
H.R. 6633: Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.  
H.R. 6641: Mr. GOLDEN.  
H.R. 6934: Mr. BOWMAN.  
H.R. 7079: Ms. KUSTER.  
H.R. 7477: Mr. MULLIN, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 7570: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
H.R. 7610: Ms. MANNING.  
H.R. 7615: Ms. PORTER.  
H.R. 7644: Ms. STEVENS.  
H.R. 7647: Ms. BUSH and Ms. CASTOR of Florida.  
H.R. 7706: Mr. HUFFMAN.  
H.R. 7987: Mr. MOONEY, Mr. CLINE, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. CASE, and Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 8613: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 8616: Mr. CARBAJAL.  
H.R. 8654: Mr. SHERMAN, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.  
H.R. 8685: Mrs. FLETCHER.  
H.R. 8770: Mr. KILDEE.  
H.R. 8774: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.  
H.R. 8849: Mr. THOMPSON of California.  
H.R. 8906: Mrs. CHERFILUS-McCORMICK and Ms. WILD.  
H.R. 9374: Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. PHILLIPS.  
H.R. 9402: Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi and Mr. TORRES of New York.  
H.R. 9441: Ms. MENG.  
H. Res. 1205: Mr. MFUME.  
H. Res. 1435: Mr. COHEN.  
H. Res. 1497: Mrs. McBATH.

### PETITIONS, ETC.

Under clause 3 of rule XII,

PT-156. The SPEAKER presented a petition of Town of Bartelme Electors, Bartelme, Wisconsin, relative to a resolution seeking to reclaim democracy from the expansion of corporate personhood and the corrupting influence of unlimited political contributions and spending; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117<sup>th</sup> CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

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No. 190

## Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota.

### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, who holds the wind in Your fist and wraps the ocean in your cloak, we thank You for defending all who come to You.

Lord, on this December 7, a date that has lived in infamy, we ask You to bless our military. Give our military people Your presence and peace.

Bless also our lawmakers. Give them the wisdom to meet the challenges of our time. May they not grow weary in their efforts to find common ground. Lord, provide them with the strengthening joy of Your spirit, that they may have courage for hard times and determination for challenging tasks.

We pray in Your strong Name. Amen.

### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

### APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,  
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,  
Washington, DC, December 7, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby

appoint the Honorable TINA SMITH, a Senator from the State of Minnesota, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,  
President pro tempore.

Ms. SMITH 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 session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report:

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

#### NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. McCONNELL. Madam President, yesterday evening, the Senate and House Armed Services Committee released its strong, bipartisan National Defense Authorization Act.

As Republicans have said for months, and I repeated yesterday, our servicemembers, commanders, and civilian leaders should not have had to wait until mid-December to gain certainty for a fiscal year that is already more

than 2 months over. We have to take our national defense military modernization, and defense industrial base as seriously as our rivals take theirs.

Fortunately, this strong, bipartisan NDAA is a huge step in that direction. The bill tees up a significant and badly needed increase in defense funding—\$45 billion above President Biden's insufficient request and roughly \$75 billion over last year's level. Once again, Congress agreed on a bipartisan basis that President Biden's defense budget request was anemic and insufficient.

This NDAA authorizes crucial projects like nuclear modernization. It directs critical investments in our defense industrial base so America can both defend ourselves and remain the arsenal of democracy for the world. It delivers for our servicemembers, their families, and our military installations and communities around the country.

Thanks to the leadership from our colleague Senator BLACKBURN, among others, this NDAA will repeal the President's military vaccine mandate—a policy which this Democratic administration had stubbornly clung to, even as it had clearly undermined readiness and hurt retention.

And just as Republicans insisted, just as our servicemembers deserve, this NDAA is not getting dragged down by unrelated liberal nonsense. Good, smart policies were kept in, and unrelated nonsense, like easier financing for illegal drugs, was kept out.

I am glad this Democratic-led Congress finally realized that defending America is a basic governing duty. It is not some Republican priority that Democrats can demand unrelated goodies to be wheedled into.

Neither party, let alone a sitting President's party, can ever have the mindset that they need to be goaded or bartered into supporting our troops. We made it clear we wouldn't be going down that road; our Democratic colleagues finally accepted it; and Senators REED and INHOFE did a great job landing the plane.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Now, that same lesson must carry over into our subsequent conversations about government funding. Democrats must be ready to actually fund the national defense, which this bipartisan NDAA authorizes.

Just like on this bill, neither party has any standing to demand unrelated goodies in exchange for doing our job and funding defense. And let's hope this new acceptance of reality also helps shape President Biden's next defense budget request. We have yet to see a proposed budget from this administration that takes growing threats very seriously.

Why do bipartisan majorities in Congress keep having to force this Commander in Chief to adequately resource our Armed Forces?

Today is December 7, the anniversary of Pearl Harbor. No American wants us to ever receive another painful reminder like December 7 or September 11 of the painful price we pay when we let our guard down, soften our defenses, or diminish our worldwide presence.

This strong NDAA is one important step in keeping our guard up. But only one. We need to put it on the President's desk quickly and then stay equally serious on this subject.

TRIBUTE TO JAMES M. INHOFE

Madam President, now, on a related matter, the annual defense bill I just discussed will carry the name of one of our most senior and distinguished colleagues this year—the outstanding Armed Services Committee ranking member to whose career it will provide the perfect capstone.

Senator JIM INHOFE's often soft-spoken manner and unflinching humility are a pair of traits that have combined to produce one of the most effective legislators I have ever had the privilege of working with.

At the same time, over the same one career, JIM's name has come to me in both steady, solid, conservative constancy here at home and relentless energy as a globetrotter dealmaker. The mixture has left his home State, our entire Nation, and faraway lands all changed for the better.

The roots of JIM's conservative bonafides aren't hard to trace. In fact, the story of his entry into politics is a familiar one for millions of Americans.

There was honorable military service. There was hard work and success as a small businessman in his hometown of Tulsa. And then there were the inevitable headaches of having your can-do, entrepreneurial dreams bogged down in bureaucracy and regulation. JIM knew it shouldn't be that way, so he threw his own hat into the ring.

JIM's fashion for harnessing American energy was obvious pretty early on as well. Apparently, even while he was a student at the University of Colorado, JIM got together with some classmate and filed a claim on uranium deposits discovered nearby.

This is a man who seems to have been born with a built-in turboprop.

Our friend has an insatiable drive to discover and get things done. Short stints and bouncing around were how a busy young JIM INHOFE worked his way to a college degree—by way of nine different schools. It is also how this seasoned aviator circumnavigated the globe.

JIM's conservative convictions and his boundless, problem-solving energy might have seemed to be on a collision course; but, instead, they had proven the perfect harmony: from the State Capitol, where JIM earned the trust of his Oklahoma Senate colleagues and served in the thankless role of minority leader, to a gubernatorial campaign, during which he reportedly lost 57 pounds, to the 1994 Senate race, where our friend clawed his way back from 32 points down in the polls to win back a seat Republicans had only held 6 of the last 45 years, to the 5 more landslide reelections that followed.

You would be forgiven if you assumed that such a successful elected official might have made some major compromises along the way. But you don't become famous for flying planes upside down without a strong internal compass that stays fixed on true north.

Our friend knows that faith can move mountains. And JAMES "Mountain" INHOFE has himself been moved to incredible achievements by his love of God, love of country, and love of neighbor.

Don't get me wrong. JIM knows how to twist the screws to get things done: like landing generational investments in transportation infrastructure across Oklahoma and the heartland; or protecting American energy dominance, by pioneering and then protecting the new technologies and methods that have ushered in a whole new era of prosperity and independence for our country; or strengthening and modernizing our Armed Forces by leading the must-pass NDAA across the finish line.

JIM's done it all. But in a city where a lot of people treat friendships and relationships as means to desired ends, JIM has always viewed genuine relationships as noble ends in themselves. Just take it from our Democratic colleague from Rhode Island. Senator WHITEHOUSE once had to admit that JIM simultaneously was his "worst foe" and his "key ally"; or consider the many years JIM has devoted to deep partnerships with leaders in Africa. By all accounts, JIM's engagement began not with lobbying a particular issue or advancing a particular administration's priorities. Our friend has never been anyone's tool or puppet. JIM formed deep, genuine, personal bonds with fellow legislators and leaders in Africa just because he felt drawn to do so.

But as always happens with JIM, where relationships started, big results followed. JIM's trusted status as a senior statesman and stable counselor had Secretaries of State, Secretaries of Defense, and Ambassadors seeking his sage advice.

Just a few years ago, as I understand it, JIM was called upon to help ease an extremely tense and acrimonious political standoff between rival leaders in Kenya. Of course, he had known both men for years. And when the opportunity arose during the country's National Prayer Breakfast, JIM took a moment of personal privilege after praying an invocation and got the two men to literally hug each other in front of the cameras and their countrymen. It made international news.

So you get the picture: Relationships matter. But with JIM, two relationships matter most of all: the one with his God and the one with his beloved Kay.

JIM and Kay have been married for 63 years. And anyone who has spent any time around JIM knows what happens when his beloved bride calls him up. It doesn't matter if you are the President of Kenya or the President of the United States, your conversation is politely put on hold. The woman JIM calls "his rock" always comes first.

Over the last half century, JIM INHOFE's devotion to his country, his fellow Oklahomans, and his conservative principles have produced a mountain of a legacy. But I know his most cherished peak is his and Kay's mutual love and devotion and the legacy that relationship has produced; namely, Perry, Katy, Molly, and Jim, who have in turn grown the Inhofe clan by, I believe, 16 grandchildren.

Our dear friend has given generously to his country. He has more than earned some extra time with those he loves most. So JIM, thank you. Thank you for your exemplary service.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore (Mr. LUJÁN). The majority whip.

UKRAINE

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, it has been nearly 10 months—10 months since that cold, dark morning when I was in the departure lounge at the main airport in Vilnius, Lithuania, with my colleague Senator CHRIS COONS. We watched on television as Russia attempted to seize another sovereign country in the heart of Europe. I will never forget those early scenes of Putin's horror unleashed on Ukraine.

My friends in Lithuania, who remember Soviet oppression all too well, had warned of Russia's potential strike again in Ukraine, in Europe, and beyond.

Years earlier, I had seen firsthand the seizure of Georgian land by the Russian military in 2008. In 2014, my friend and fellow colleague the late Senator John McCain and I, with a group of Senators, paid tribute to those slain in Kyiv's Maidan Square just as Russia had seized Crimea and was looking to forcibly take other areas of eastern Ukraine.

But Putin and his henchmen failed miserably at understanding Ukraine and understanding their resolve to halt him and his brutality. His initial ploy to quickly topple Ukraine's democratic

government and replace it with a puppet failed immediately. And other Russian military advances in eastern and southern Ukraine have been rolled back time and again.

In fact, Ukraine's military has reclaimed hundreds of villages and more than a thousand square miles of territory—good for them. Quite simply, despite the horrific violence unleashed by Putin, the Ukrainian people have prevailed. Their courage and their sacrifice is inspiring.

And the world has rallied to Ukraine's side, leaving Russia isolated—should be embarrassed—and in retreat of Putin's folly.

Yesterday, I met with our Ambassador to the United Nations, Linda Thomas Greenfield. We are lucky to have her. She is truly a skillful, experienced, and talented person.

She reminded me earlier this year, more than 140 U.N. member states voted overwhelmingly in support of a resolution that deplored in the strongest terms Putin's aggression.

It also affirmed the international community's commitment to the sovereignty, independence, unity, and territorial integrity of Ukraine.

Only five Nations dissented—they are the world's worst dictatorships—aligning with Putin to vote against the measure at the United Nations. A reminder that Vladimir Putin has utterly failed in pursuing his twisted nostalgia for Soviet tyranny.

And the NATO alliance has held firm in its strong support to Ukraine—this administration included—providing weapons to help them defend their nation. More than 34 other nations joined us. The United States and several key allies have imposed sanctions on nearly 8,400 Russian oligarchs and their families, 1,500 Russian entities, and 100 Russian vessels. The nations of the free world understand that Ukraine is, in fact, our common frontline in the battle for freedom in this world.

President Biden, too, with Secretaries Blinken and Austin, has rallied unprecedented international support. Other nations clearly understand what is at stake. The struggle for the rule of law over the rule of chaos and brute force, that is what is at stake.

And now it is time for the United States and the rest of the free world to continue to lift up our support.

It can be easy to get impatient, even despair, as Ukraine faces continued Russian bombardment of civilian targets and, in many cases, war crimes specifically designed to terrorize civilian populations.

I would like to show you a recent photo. It shows the U.N. High Commissioner for Human Rights, Volker Turk. He is speaking to defenders in Kyiv in an underground shelter during a recent air strike.

Another of a child here hauntingly looking at a damaged school. He is dressed for school. The building has been destroyed by Vladimir Putin.

Ukrainian civil servants are working around the clock to restore access to

electricity, water, and heat to allow hospitals and schools to function.

The continued unified support and military assistance of NATO is invaluable, and this Congress has been unified in providing this aid.

Make no mistake, Russia is losing the war in Ukraine. Its leaders now are trying to break the will of the Ukrainian people.

As an amateur student of history, I know that the winter has often been a defense for the people of Russia. Napoleon's advance of his troops on Moscow was stymied by the coldest winter imaginable. They said it was so cold that the birds fell from the sky. And we remember well what the Nazis faced when they invaded Russia in a bitter winter that was also a defense for the Russian people.

Vladimir Putin has turned the tables and, sadly, is using winter as a weapon of war against common Ukrainian people—mothers, fathers, and children.

I want to conclude by showing this one photo because it tells such a story. These are members of the Ukrainian National Philharmonic orchestra, performing in a darkened theater in Kyiv on Tuesday, lit only by battery-powered lanterns. It says it all about the resilience of the Ukrainian people.

Russia will fail.

Slava Ukraini.

#### DIETARY SUPPLEMENT LISTING ACT

Mr. President, Congress has some big decisions to make in just 2 or 3 weeks. The continuing resolution which funds our government is about to expire. One of those decisions will be whether to include important measures to ensure the Food and Drug Administration fulfills its public health mission.

You see, when we passed the last CR in September, we reauthorized the user fees that are necessary to fund this critical Agency. However, the package did not include commonsense changes in the law—bipartisan changes—that really would make FDA a more effective Agency, so we continue to pursue them this month.

One of those measures was the Dietary Supplement Listing Act, a bipartisan bill that Senator BRAUN of Indiana and I introduced in April.

More than 75 percent of people living in America, myself included—my family too—use a dietary supplement such as a vitamin or a mineral. However, many assume, when reaching for that supplement bottle in the medicine cabinet, that the Food and Drug Administration of the U.S. Government knows what is in that bottle and knows that it is for sale. That is not always the case.

Dietary supplement companies are not required to disclose to the Food and Drug Administration the ingredients in their products. Let me repeat that. Dietary supplement companies are not required by the Food and Drug Administration to disclose the ingredients in their products. They aren't even required to register that their products are for sale in the United States. An obvious problem exists.

How can the FDA really regulate this market for the safety of American consumers when it doesn't know what is on the market? It can't. It is impossible. So the legislation I have with Republican Senator BRAUN would require supplement companies to tell the FDA what products they put on the shelf and what is in them—just that basic. It is a simple fix that would improve the safety of the supplement market, and it would basically enhance quality companies selling quality dietary supplements. Others might be penalized by this; good companies would not.

I am glad this legislation received an endorsement from the Council for Responsible Nutrition, one of the largest supplement trade associations in our Nation. They are speaking for the good guys.

I want to emphasize that this is not a partisan idea. Polls show that 9 out of 10 Americans believe that manufacturers should be required to list their products and their ingredients. Ninety percent of Americans believe it.

In October, Scott Gottlieb and Mark McClellan, two Republican FDA Commissioners under Republican administrations, wrote that our legislation represents “a once-in-a-generation reform.” They concluded their article and said:

Congress should seize this opportunity to achieve long-awaited reforms that modernize FDA's regulation, promote innovation, and provide consumers greater assurance that the products they use are safe and reliable.

I understand that some oppose the inclusion of my bipartisan legislation in the yearend package. I am willing to work with any of them to overcome their resistance or to take their suggestions very seriously, but let's not move this package to fund the FDA and miss this opportunity. Consumers have waited long enough. The FDA needs to know what supplements are on the market and what their ingredients are to protect consumers. That is a bare minimum.

#### IMMIGRATION

Mr. President, yesterday—the day before yesterday, it was reported that two of our colleagues, Senators SINEMA and TILLIS, are working together on a potential immigration package. Although I want to know more details about what they are considering, I want to thank them for showing this kind of initiative on this important issue.

I believe we must pass immigration reform legislation before the end of the year, and the Members of the Senate shouldn't leave for home for the holidays until we take a vote to reform our broken immigration system.

Now, I know some people at home may be wondering why. What is the urgency? Why do it now? Well, we, first, may have an opportunity, and I hope we do, but it could be the last opportunity for a long time.

It has been more than 35 years since Congress has enacted a bill to reform our immigration system. With all of

the attention paid on the issue of immigration and our borders, it is hard to imagine how a Congress can be critical of the fact that the situation has deteriorated and not take action for 35 years. That is shameful.

Our failure to act on immigration hurts everyone, from hospitals in my State of Illinois struggling to find doctors and nurses, to asylum seekers fleeing violence and oppression.

There is one group of people in particular who have been left behind—Dreamers, these young people who are American in every way except for the paperwork. We all know Dreamers who have made a difference in our States.

They are young people who were brought to the United States by their parents, grew up here, thought they had a future here, but find they are undocumented. Many of them were brought here as babies, and they grew up alongside our own kids and pledged allegiance to the same American flag in their classrooms every morning.

A few weeks ago, I had a chance to welcome some of these Dreamers to Washington. As always, I was amazed by these young people, and above all, I was amazed by their passion to give back to the only home they have ever known—the United States of America.

One of these—and I want to show you a photo—is Eddie Rivera. He is a freshman at Dominican University in my home State of Illinois. He is studying to become a nurse.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate to tell the stories of people just like Eddie to show what is at stake when we consider the Dream Act. Eddie's story is the 131st Dreamer story I have told on the Senate floor.

You see, Eddie's family is originally from Honduras, and back there, his mother was an attorney. Now, while you think that is a stable profession, in Honduras, it was actually a liability. She received death threats because of her work, and it was out of fear for her young son's life that she sought refuge in America.

Eddie's family moved a lot when he was growing up. They struggled to get by, but they came to rely on one another for support. When his grandmother was diagnosed with dementia, Eddie and his mom became her full-time caregivers. He would sit by his grandmother's side day by day, feeding her, praying for her, holding her hand.

Sadly, his grandmother passed away in December 2019. But it was this personal life experience caring for his grandmother that inspired Eddie to pursue a career in medicine and nursing. So when the COVID pandemic hit in 2020, he answered the call for duty. He was hired to assist the nursing staff in a COVID unit of a hospital in North Carolina. In this role, he tried to provide the same loving care to his patients that he once provided to his grandmother.

In the future, it is Eddie's hope that he can obtain his nursing degree and work at a retirement home, one where

people can "spend the rest of their lives living with dignity in a loving community who will respect them and appreciate them for all of the contributions they have made to society."

So ask yourself a very basic question, which every Senator should ask: Would America be better if Eddie Rivera were deported to Honduras, a country he barely remembers, or would our Nation be better to have Eddie here among our ranks—the ranks of healthcare professionals who make such a difference in their lives?

What about the more than 200,000 DACA recipients who also work on the frontlines of the pandemic—doctors, nurse, paramedics? Would we truly be better without them? Of course not. We need Dreamers like Eddie, and we need to act on their behalf this month.

In October, the Fifth Circuit returned a case to the lower court to determine whether DACA, which has protected 800,000 Dreamers since 2012, will remain the law of the land. So unless Congress acts in the next few days to protect DACA recipients, this program could end even as soon as next year.

What does that mean for those 800,000 currently protected by DACA? Two things: They are subject to deportation at any moment, and they no longer have the legal right to work in the hospitals and clinics and businesses across America. If that happens, an average of 1,000 DACA recipients would lose their jobs each week in healthcare, education, and other sectors of our economy where we expect serious shortages.

Look, I am under no illusions about what it takes to pass an immigration package in a matter of 2 weeks or a few days. I know many of our Republican colleagues have their own priorities, and I am willing to sit down and make sensible compromises to bring order to our border. But we need to move, we need to act, because, as I mentioned, this could be the last chance in a long time.

The incoming Republican House majority has already declared that they will not allow a vote on any immigration measure during the next Congress. It will be the same dynamic we saw in 2013 when we passed an immigration bill here in the Senate, only to see it die in the House. Let's not repeat the same mistake.

To my Republican colleagues, I say this: If you care about improving border security or helping address worker shortages, this is our last chance to do it. Let's give every Dreamer in this country the peace of mind they deserve heading into the holiday season, and let's prove to the American people that we are capable of making tough decisions when the situation demands it.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The minority whip.

#### ESG REGULATIONS

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, when it comes to the actions of a party or a Presidential administration, legisla-

tion sometimes grabs the lion's share of the attention. But it is equally important to pay attention to what a Presidential administration does with its regulatory power, and the Biden administration has been characterized by a lot of deeply troubling regulations.

The so-called Inflation Reduction Act may be Democrats' most prominent Green New Deal effort, but the Biden administration's radical environmental agenda doesn't stop there. The President has also been using regulations to push through Democrats' Green New Deal fantasies, and these ill-considered, overreaching regulations could have serious consequences.

Later today, I will be sending a letter to the President about the attempts to use financial and securities regulators, like the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Federal Reserve, to push through environmental, social, and governance—or what are referred to as ESG—regulations that seek to choke off investment to essential industries like oil and natural gas and American farms and ranches. Notable among these is the Securities and Exchange Commission's proposed climate disclosure rule, which would require publicly traded companies to disclose information not only about their own emissions but also about the greenhouse gas emissions of their suppliers and even their customers. It would also require companies to determine the effects of climate-related risks on each line item of their consolidated financial statements.

Well, to start off with, this rule is obviously unworkable. Companies have zero control over the emissions of their suppliers and customers and little to no ability to accurately gauge those emissions. But the most serious aspect of this proposed rule is the fact that it represents a clear effort to coerce companies to sever ties with certain industries—notably, of course, the conventional energy industry, but also with other industries like agriculture.

It is hardly the only regulatory action of its kind proposed by the Biden administration. The Department of Labor just finalized a rule that would in practice require pension fiduciaries to consider climate change and ESG factors when making investment decisions, irrespective of their pecuniary relevance.

The Federal Reserve, which I believe has zero business inserting itself into debates over climate policy, recently established a pilot program to analyze climate-related financial risks for the Nation's largest banks, something that clearly—clearly—exceeds the Fed's statutory authority.

Similarly, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Fed have issued draft principles for large banks on "climate-related financial risk management."

And the list goes on.

Private companies, of course, have the right to consider whatever factors



they want when determining what companies they do business with and where they will invest, but the Federal Government should not be making those decisions for them.

The President and his cronies and the far-left environmental movement may like the idea of choking off investment to the fossil fuel industry and other industries to hasten the arrival of their fantasy Green New Deal future, but reducing and limiting investment in conventional energy and other essential industries is likely to create a nightmare for American families and American businesses.

I am, and have long been, a strong supporter of alternative energy, but the fact of the matter is, we are still a long way from being able to rely exclusively on alternative energy. The technology that would enable us to rely solely on green energy simply doesn't exist yet, and pretending that we can rely exclusively on alternative energy isn't going to change the reality, which is that we still need oil and natural gas and will continue to need them for the foreseeable future.

Choking off investment to the conventional energy industry isn't going to bring about the Green New Deal future, but it is going to reduce essential energy supplies, and that, in turn, is going to increase energy prices. It is going to increase energy prices for American families, and it is going to increase energy prices for American businesses.

If Democrats succeed in reducing investment in oil and natural gas, we could be looking at a very serious reduction in our supply of conventional energy and correspondingly serious price hikes.

There is reason to be concerned that Democrats aren't just interested in choking off investment in oil and natural gas but in agriculture, as well, because of natural livestock emissions and farming inputs like fertilizer. The National Credit Union Administration published a since-rescinded strategic plan that seemed to recommend that credit unions reduce their membership and loan offerings to farming communities. And South Dakota banks and credit unions have repeatedly—repeatedly—expressed their concerns to my office that the President's far-reaching ESG agenda could ultimately damage their ability to extend capital to their farm and ranch customers.

Should investment in agriculture also drop off, we could be looking not only at higher energy prices but at higher food prices as well and possibly actual food supply issues. Between higher energy prices and higher food prices, the kind of financial hardship that Americans have been experiencing during our current inflation crisis could become a fixture for the long term.

Democrats like to think of themselves as the party of the little guy, but the truth is, they have become the party of extreme special interests, and

the little guy often ends up getting sacrificed as a result. Since President Biden and Democrats took office 2 years ago, ordinary Americans have faced almost nonstop financial challenges thanks to the inflation crisis that Democrats helped to create with their massive American Rescue Plan spending bill. If the President's ESG agenda continues unchecked, that diminished prosperity could last indefinitely.

In the letter that I am sending to the President later today, I am urging his administration to consider the real-world effects of rules and regulations on ordinary families and American businesses, and to refrain from regulatory actions that would drive up prices even further. I hope that the President will listen, but if past is prologue, then I am worried that we are looking at 2 more years of extreme Democratic policies and 2 more years of economic suffering for the American people.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Iowa.

#### TWITTER AND THE 2020 ELECTION

Mr. GRASSLEY. Last Friday, Elon Musk released documents and very good information relating to Twitter's interference in the 2020 Presidential election by censoring the New York Post Hunter Biden reporting. Just yesterday, Musk reportedly fired Twitter's general counsel, Jim Baker, for his involvement in the censorship scandal. Baker, you might remember, was general counsel at the FBI and was involved in the Crossfire Hurricane investigation.

You can't make up these stories.

Musk also released information that showed that the Biden campaign was involved in the censorship efforts. The information shows that Twitter employees knew—actually knew—that they had no legitimate basis to censor the Hunter Biden reporting but proceeded to do it anyway. Twitter also removed links and blocked the reporting from being shared by direct messaging on its platform. Folks that fought the good fight against Twitter's extraordinary censorship were also locked out of their accounts.

These documents that Musk made public made very clear that Twitter was effectively an arm of the Democratic Party and the Biden campaign. Twitter essentially gave the Biden campaign a massive in-kind campaign contribution.

What Twitter and other big tech companies did in 2020 with respect to censorship was as much an outrage then as it is today. Simply put, what they did is expected of communist China, not the United States of America.

Reports also indicate that the FBI warned Twitter during weekly meetings before the 2020 election that hack-and-leak operations involving Hunter Biden material were likely to occur in October of 2020. Well, the FBI had the

Hunter Biden laptop since December of 2019, almost a year before the election.

Information on it has been verified by liberal news outlets. It took a long time for those liberal news outlets to admit that this wasn't Russian disinformation.

So, then, I ask this question: Did the FBI do the same or did they fail to do their due diligence?

I find the FBI's action in advance of the 2020 election to be more than suspicious. It is too bad that just now, 2 years later, we get this information from a person that bought Twitter and wants the public to know what actually went on.

Now, some of you remember that Senator JOHNSON and I released our first report on the Biden family connections to communist China on September 23, 6 weeks before the 2020 election. And you know, if you remember, at that time it was swept up into the Hunter Biden censorship fiasco not long after. So, too, was our second report, which we released on November 18, 2020.

But we were more than just censored. Before we even made the first report public, the liberal media and even some of our Democratic colleagues tried to smear us with false claims that our work was connected to you know what—Russian disinformation. My Senate colleagues went into full Joe Biden protection mode.

So here we have four elements to this fact pattern that ought to shake up every Member of the U.S. Senate and shake them up to their very core. No. 1, the FBI got their hands on Twitter via these weekly briefings—the weekly briefings that I have already expressed existed—and planted seeds regarding future hacked material relating to Hunter Biden. No. 2, the FBI improperly labeled information it possessed on Hunter Biden as you know what—disinformation. No. 3, the FBI provided an unnecessary August 2020 briefing to me and Senator JOHNSON that was used by some Democrats and by the liberal media to try to undermine our investigation that started well before the 2020 election. No. 4, the liberal media repeatedly and falsely labeled my and Senator JOHNSON's investigation as you know what—Russia disinformation.

Now, all of that happened in the runup to the 2020 Presidential election.

In the long run, these false allegations and bad faith efforts against me and Senator JOHNSON didn't work, as everybody knows now but didn't know at the time.

For example, in this Congress, Senator JOHNSON and I gave floor speeches on these dates in 2022: March 28, March 29, and April 5. Through those speeches, we introduced bank records connecting Hunter and James Biden to the Chinese communist regime. We sent hundreds of pages of bank records to U.S. Attorney Weiss on October 26 of this year, showing those very same connections—the same connections that Johnson and

I made in our 2020 report. These are authentic bank records. They aren't Russian disinformation.

President Biden still owes the American people answers about his connections to Hunter and James Biden's business deals and arrangements. He owes the American people an explanation as to how much he knew about their businesses and personal relationships with communist China.

On October 13 of this year, I wrote to the FBI telling them that I know it possesses documents that indicate Joe Biden was aware of Hunter Biden's business arrangements and may have been involved in some.

In conclusion, since Senator JOHNSON and I began our Biden investigation August 2019—now, remember, 14 months before the 2020 election—now, after all that, our work has been substantiated. Big Tech censorship may have succeeded in the short term; however, the truth eventually sees the light of day. And I thank the new Twitter owner for his transparency. Accountability should follow.

#### NOMINATION OF ROBERT P. STORCH

Mr. President, on another short point I want to make, I want to congratulate our Senate colleagues on confirming Rob Storch to be the new Department of Defense inspector general. This happened last week. The DOD Office of Inspector General has been without a Senate-confirmed IG for almost 7 years, and we all know that is far too long.

Inspectors general play a key role in watchdogging the executive branch. They act as force multipliers for Congress through our constitutional responsibility of congressional oversight.

Inspectors general must hold government bureaucrats accountable with hard-hitting findings and recommendations. They must remain on the attack to root out waste, fraud, and abuse. The Department of Defense has an annual budget of over \$700 billion. It is high time that we have an IG confirmed that is accountable to Congress to watchdog this money.

The Department of Defense inspector general must now hit the ground running in conducting effective and efficient oversight over the waste, fraud, and abuse that happens at the Department of Defense.

I, along with my colleagues, expect the Department of Defense inspector general to be an inspector general who has teeth, unafraid to identify wrongdoing. And we will expect him to call out those who seek to get rich off the backs of hard-working American taxpayers as well as those who put our Nation at risk.

I expect Mr. Storch to be that watchdog. I also expect him to work with Congress to conduct oversight in areas of congressional interest and be responsive to requests for information that any Member of Congress seeks.

Transparency is key, and being responsive and accountable to Congress will be crucial to his success. I look

forward to working with Mr. Storch in his new role as Department of Defense IG.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

Mr. BROWN. I ask unanimous consent that I complete my remarks—I think they will be concluded by 11:30—but that I be allowed to go a minute or two over before the rollcall.

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

#### REMEMBERING O'DELL OWENS

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Dr. O'Dell Owens, a champion of public health and public education in Cincinnati whom we lost last month. He was a longtime friend, longtime activist, longtime Ohioan, a public servant, and a trailblazer.

Dr. Owens' story and his unwavering dedication to the public good serves as an example for all us in Southwest Ohio, throughout Ohio, throughout the Midwest, and throughout the country. So much of his work was aimed at empowering young people of color and encouraging them to recognize their potential by staying in school and attending college.

He often shared a memory from his year as a ninth grader. A college counselor said he was "too poor and too dumb to go to college." Imagine a counselor saying that. Dr. Owens proved that counselor and everyone who didn't believe in him—he proved them wrong. He graduated from college; he got a masters and a medical degree from Yale University. He completed his fellowship at Harvard Medical School.

After gathering degrees and credentials that provided him with opportunities anywhere in the world, Dr. Owens returned to his home in Cincinnati where he spent his career serving his community. He was a pioneering fertility specialist at the University of Cincinnati Medical Center. He became the first African American to hold office in Hamilton County when he was elected the county coroner.

He served as president of Cincinnati State Technical and Community College. That is where I worked with him the most closely. He served as the Hamilton County interim health commissioner and as president of the non-profit Interact for Health.

His work always came back to his community and extended far outside of medicine. He sat on the boards of various organizations and foundations, including the University of Cincinnati, the National Underground Railroad Freedom Center—the only one of its kind in America. It is an extraordinary place. Anyone anywhere in the vicinity of my part of the Midwest should visit it—and the Federal Reserve Bank of Cleveland's Cincinnati Business Advisory Council.

He was chairman of the Cincinnati Preschool Promise. He volunteered as chair of the annual children's Cin-

cinnati Educational Television Action Auction in support of Cincinnati's public television programming.

Dr. Owens empowered each of us to make the world a better place, and he so succeeded. He reached out to me and my office to make sure we were paying close attention to issues impacting people in Cincinnati.

He was a very talented speaker known for his passionate delivery—always, always standing up for what he believed in. He was well-respected. He was dearly loved throughout our State for his courage and—what I would like most to think about—his moral clarity.

He took care of Cincinnati. I join our entire community in expressing gratitude for his lifetime of service. Today we recommit to his example.

Our thoughts are with the Owens family and with all those who knew and loved him.

#### REMEMBERING JULIA REICHERT

Mr. President, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Julia Reichert, an award-winning filmmaker, activist, and Ohioan whom we lost last week.

Julia was born in New Jersey, but she moved to Yellow Springs, OH, in Greene County to attend Antioch College where her interests in activism and storytelling emerged—interests that led her to become a strong, well-known voice for working Americans.

During her time at Antioch, she combined her passions by hosting a feminist program on the campus radio station and making "Growing up Female," a groundbreaking feminist documentary that explored the socialization of women. Decades later, it would be added to the National Film Registry by the Library of Congress.

After college, Julia made Dayton her home as her work gained national attention. Her documentaries "Union Maids"—M-A-I-D-S—which followed women active in the Chicago labor movement, and "Seeing Red" were both nominated for Academy Awards.

Her 2010 film "The Last Truck" followed the workers at a GM plant in Moraine, OH, as they built their final truck and the plant closed down. The film became the prologue for her Academy Award-winning documentary "American Factory," which focused on the next chapter of that GM plant after a Chinese company bought it.

In "American Factory," Julia took a global story; she made it local; she made it understandable; and she made it very popular. She gave a voice to the workers and the communities overlooked by the headlines, which happens all too often with a plant closing.

In her films and documentaries, as she explored feminism and family, labor and politics, globalism and the economy, she took these big ideas and showed what they meant on a human level. Julia had a unique ability—an extraordinary ability—to connect with all kinds of people and tell their stories in respectful, empathetic, and understandable ways.

She highlighted issues that were often overlooked. Her work sparked important conversations. People who watched these films had really no idea what it was like to be these workers until they understood so much more when they came to the theater and watched these.

Julia also taught at Wright State University in Dayton, serving as a mentor to the next generation of filmmakers. She instilled in her students that no matter where they came from or who they were, they have a voice and a story to tell—no matter who they were or where they came from, how little wealth their family might have had, they have a voice and a story to tell. And it is up to us to listen to those stories. They remember her genuine interest in their lives outside of the classroom. She cared about them. That is who Julia was.

She was a champion of the labor movement, the feminist movement, and an extraordinarily talented storyteller. She was a friend, a mother, and a mentor. Our world is a better place, not just Southwest Ohio from whence she came, but our State, our whole country is a better place because of Julia and her work.

Julia's husband and fellow filmmaker Steven, whom I know, and her daughter Lela, whom I have met and is an activist just like her mother, they will together uphold—as I will try to do—uphold Julia's legacy and will continue her work.

Today our thoughts are with Steven and Lela, Julia's friends and family, and all those who knew her and loved her and so appreciated her and had the privilege of working alongside her.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF MIA ROBERTS PEREZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Mia Perez to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Judge Perez is an accomplished State court judge with an impressive record as a litigator. And with her confirmation, this Senate will take another important step forward in building a Federal judiciary that reflects the diversity of America.

Born and raised in Philadelphia, Judge Perez received her B.A. from Tufts University before returning to Philadelphia to earn her J.D. from Temple University Beasley School of Law. She practiced as a criminal defense lawyer for a decade, serving for 4 years as a State public defender and another 6 years in private practice. In that time, she tried approximately 1,000 cases to judgment, during which she largely representing indigent defendants. For the past 6 years, Judge Perez has served as a judge in the criminal trial division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. She has presided over approximately 400 trials, including 52 jury trials. Judge Perez has also taught trial advocacy at her alma mater, Temple University

Beasley School of Law, for more than a decade.

In recognition of her extensive trial experience on and off the bench, Judge Perez enjoys the strong bipartisan support of Senators Casey and Toomey. The American Bar Association has also unanimously rated Judge Perez as “well qualified” to serve on the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. And if confirmed, Judge Perez would make history as the second Latina judge—and the first AAPI judge—to serve in this role.

I support this outstanding nominee, and I urge my colleagues to join me in doing so.

Mr. BROWN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the scheduled vote begin immediately.

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

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Perez nomination, which the clerk will read.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### VOTE ON PEREZ NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Perez nomination?

Mr. BROWN. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 378 Ex.]

#### YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

#### NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Boozman	Hoeven	Rounds
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Burr	Inhofe	Sasse
Capito	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Shelby
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Daines	McConnell	Wicker
Ernst	Moran	Young
Fischer	Paul	
Grassley	Portman	

#### NOT VOTING—5

Cruz	Kaine	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Warner	

The nomination was confirmed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### CLOTURE MOTION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

#### CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 1187, Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Tina Smith, Michael F. Bennet, Christopher A. Coons, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Tim Kaine, Ben Ray Lujan, Tammy Duckworth, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Angus S. King, Jr., Patty Murray, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Martin Heinrich, Jack Reed.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. 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 Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK), are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON) would have voted “nay.”

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 379 Ex.]

## YEAS—52

Baldwin	Hassan	Reed
Bennet	Heinrich	Rosen
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Kelly	Schatz
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

## NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

## NOT VOTING—6

Cruz	Johnson	Warner
Hickenlooper	Kaine	Warnock

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 42.

The motion is agreed to.

## EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). The Senator from Alabama.

## NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Mr. President, for more than 60 years, Congress has passed the NDAA to ensure our Armed Forces are able to keep Americans safe.

The Armed Services Committee agreed on a robust, bipartisan bill in June—June. What I don't understand is why it took 6 months to schedule a vote on this critical bill. Waiting until the last minute to pass the NDAA is playing a game of chicken with our national security and with the American servicemember. I know most of my Democratic colleagues in both the House and Senate did not control the timing of this bill.

But Senator SCHUMER did. And he decided to wait so long that our chairman and ranking member were forced to conference the bill prior to it coming to the Senate floor. So let's not wait until December 2023 to get the NDAA to the floor. Let's get the fiscal year 2024 NDAA to the floor in regular order—because the consequences of playing these games with the NDAA are severe.

If Congress keeps the DOD guessing about when we might pass the NDAA,

it hinders our ability to keep up with China, assert our dominance in space, keep command of the seas, and restock our missile defenses. If we fail to pass the NDAA or kick this to next year, we should keep in mind the consequences. There will be no raise for servicemembers and no spending increases to keep up with inflation. In short, we would be in a very dangerous situation. Providing for our common defense is one of the few responsibilities mandated by the Constitution for this body.

As the House moves forward with the NDAA this week and the Senate considers the bill next week, I hope my colleagues will come together to put our common defense over partisan politics. Producing the military equipment and facilities outlined in the NDAA requires a huge supply chain. And the pandemic revealed America's concerning dependence on foreign adversaries for items we used to produce in the U.S.

Our military is dependent on imported tungsten, cobalt, and rare earth elements. In addition to the military, our Nation's food supply depends on imported materials for fertilizer. Our energy supply chains are dependent on imported aluminum, copper, graphite and uranium. All of these have been listed by the U.S. Geological Survey as "critical minerals" in 2018 and most recently in 2022. Many of these maxed out at 100 percent imports to the U.S.

In fact, we import 100 percent of our supply of 14 of the 35 critical minerals as defined by the Department of the Interior. That means our domestic production of those minerals is zero. And our dependence on foreign countries is growing.

Where are we getting our imports? Mainly from Russia, China, and their surrogates. We are importing these materials from a country waging brutal and unprovoked war on one our allies and another country with a human rights abuse record that is too long to fit into my time today. All the while, America boasts these minerals in abundance right here in the U.S. This is a disgrace.

America's enormous mineral wealth is sitting right under its citizens' feet in vast tracts of Federal and State lands. This is a tragic irony similar to the perceived oil "shortages" in the 1970s and skyrocketing energy prices we face today—even though America is endowed with near limitless oil and gas wealth. It is a self-inflicted crisis, and we are in the same boat with "critical minerals."

Instead of using what we have at home, we are importing them by doing business with nations that run counter to everything we value. Two of our largest suppliers are China and Russia.

As you can see on the chart, we depend on these adversaries for huge amounts of our supply of materials we need to produce everything from batteries to pharmaceuticals. That means, when it comes to critical minerals, we are buying from countries that don't

have humane labor standards. Child labor, forced labor, slave labor—it all exists as I speak—and the American consumer is subsidizing it.

We are buying from countries that don't value our high environmental standards. China consumes six times the amount of coal as the United States. And that figure is growing, not shrinking.

We are buying from countries that don't value freedom and democracy. Both Russia and China use our courts, our laws, our press, and our freedoms to erode trust in our most sacred institutions.

We are buying critical minerals from countries that are outright adversarial to the America, that seek to topple our place in the world. America earned her place in world affairs through blood and treasure. And we have maintained that world order to the betterment of human kind. The spread of American democracy and capitalism has lifted more humanity out of misery and poverty than any other system of government or finance the world has ever seen. In 6,000 years of recorded human civilization, no system has ever brought comfort, security, and dignity to so many.

Yet our Nation's economic and national security apparatus is at serious risk today, just as in the 1970s, except the stakes are higher given today's unstable geopolitics. According to experts at the U.S. Geological Survey, other Western industrial economies—some of whom provide critical minerals to the U.S.—are also vulnerable to global mineral supply chain manipulation. Most of those countries are also reliant on imports, making their economies somewhat "fragile"—but none more so than the United States.

The U.S. shuns its mineral wealth rather than wisely and responsibly producing critical minerals from America's vast geologic bounty. It is possible to mine critical minerals in an environmentally responsible way, like they do in Canada and Australia. These two allies are wise environmental stewards because they know how to both extract needed minerals and protect their environments. We can protect our environment and the national interest at the same time.

Just look at uranium. Clean nuclear energy powers 20 percent of America's power needs. In my home State of Alabama, it powers a full third of our homes and businesses. Uranium powers our aircraft carriers and submarine fleets, keeping America and our allies safe. America has uranium in abundance, but our nation's uranium mining industry is on life-support at 0.1 percent of global production.

So where do we buy it from? America's uranium is almost totally imported from Russia, Kazakhstan, Namibia, and even from China. Over half of the world's uranium production is in the hands of our adversaries. The International Energy Agency reports that of the 31 reactors built in the past five

years, 27 are of Russian or Chinese design. This is a completely avoidable national security emergency.

Our minerals are wealth, real wealth—worthy of innovation and use for power generation, for medical practices, in university and national laboratory reactors, and for commercial fields of research. We need critical minerals to support and defend the world's largest, technology-based, environmentally friendly economy.

We need 21st century critical mineral independence. To get there, we must disrupt the status quo of the permitting and over-regulation. We need to open modern, technology-driven, environmentally friendly mines.

There is a fast-approaching day when we will no longer be able to count on foreign imports. The necessary sanctions we have placed on Russia highlight the dangers of foreign dependence. Natural resource issues matter to the American people.

The mineral wealth located on vast tracts of federal lands belong to us all. This wealth gives us the ability to use our natural resource endowment to help secure America's critical mineral supply chains. It is essential to our economy, independence, and safety that this nation secure its critical mineral supply chains.

I yield the floor.

#### NOMINATION OF KAI N. SCOTT

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Judge Kai Scott to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

A native of Philadelphia, Judge Scott earned her J.D. from West Virginia University College of Law after receiving her B.A. from Hampton University. After graduating from law school, she clerked for 2 years for the Honorable Donald Poorman of the Pennsylvania Department of Labor and Industry, Bureau of Workers' Compensation. Judge Scott began her legal career as a public defender, serving at both the State and Federal levels for 18 years, including 5 years leading the trial unit at the Federal Community Defender Office for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. During her time in practice, she tried more than 160 cases to verdict or judgment. Since 2016, Judge Scott has served as a judge in the Criminal Trial Division of the Philadelphia Court of Common Pleas. In that time, she has authored 60 opinions and presided over 600 trials, including 120 jury trials.

With nearly two decades of litigation experience and 6 years of judicial experience, Judge Scott has been rated as "well qualified" for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania by the American Bar Association. She also enjoys the strong bipartisan support of Senators CASEY and TOOMEY, and I hope my colleagues will follow their lead in supporting this highly qualified nominee.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. KING. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

#### VOTE ON SCOTT NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Scott nomination?

Mr. KING. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 42, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 380 Ex.]

#### YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hassan	Peters
Bennet	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Rosen
Blunt	Kelly	Sanders
Booker	King	Schumer
Brown	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Coons	Merkley	Toomey
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warren
Feinstein	Murray	Whitehouse
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	

#### NAYS—42

Barrasso	Grassley	Portman
Blackburn	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Romney
Braun	Hoeven	Rounds
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Capito	Inhofe	Sasse
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Lankford	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lee	Shelby
Cramer	Lummis	Sullivan
Crapo	Marshall	Thune
Daines	McConnell	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Paul	Young

#### NOT VOTING—8

Cruz	Johnson	Warner
Duckworth	Kaine	Warnock
Hickenlooper	Schatz	

The nomination was confirmed.

(Ms. SMITH assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). The Senator from Delaware.

Mr. COONS. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate recess following the vote on the Murphy nomination until 4:30 p.m.

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

Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President

will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### NOMINATION OF JOHN FRANK MURPHY

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm John Frank Murphy to the U.S. District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

Mr. Murphy's distinguished legal career will make him an asset on the Federal bench. He received a B.S. from Cornell University, a Ph.D. from the California Institute of Technology, and a J.D. from Harvard Law School before clerking for Judge Kimberly A. Moore on the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Federal Circuit.

In private practice, Mr. Murphy has focused on intellectual property and patent litigation. He has worked on litigation in Federal courts, International Trade Commission investigations, and contested proceedings at the U.S. Patent and Trademark Office. In addition to his IP and patent practice, Mr. Murphy has dedicated a significant amount of time to conducting pro bono work for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania's Prisoner Civil Rights Program. Mr. Murphy has been rated unanimously "well qualified" by the American Bar Association, and he has bipartisan support from his home State senators, Mr. CASEY and Mr. TOOMEY.

Mr. Murphy's technical expertise and strong background in IP and patent law will be an asset to the district court. I support his nomination and urge my colleagues to do the same.

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Murphy nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of John Frank Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

#### VOTE ON MURPHY NOMINATION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Murphy nomination?

Mr. COONS. 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 legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE), the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator

from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Wisconsin (Mr. JOHNSON).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 381 Ex.]

#### YEAS—63

Baldwin	Grassley	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blackburn	Heinrich	Reed
Blumenthal	Hirono	Romney
Blunt	Hyde-Smith	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Rounds
Brown	Kennedy	Sasse
Burr	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Capito	Leahy	Sinema
Cardin	Lujan	Smith
Carper	Manchin	Stabenow
Casey	Markey	Tester
Collins	McConnell	Tillis
Coons	Menendez	Toomey
Cornyn	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Warren
Durbin	Murphy	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Murray	Wicker
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Wyden
Graham	Padilla	Young

#### NAYS—28

Barrasso	Hagerty	Risch
Boozman	Hawley	Rubio
Braun	Hoeben	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Shelby
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Daines	Marshall	Tuberville
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Paul	

#### NOT VOTING—9

Cruz	Johnson	Schatz
Duckworth	Kaine	Warner
Hickenlooper	Sanders	Wernick

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

#### RECESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate stands in recess until 4:30 p.m.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 2:58 p.m., recessed until 4:30 p.m. and reassembled when called to order by the Presiding Officer (Ms. BALDWIN).

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—Continued

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The senior Senator from Texas.

#### BORDER SECURITY

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, yesterday, President Biden traveled to Phoenix, AZ, to visit the site of a new semiconductor manufacturing plant.

I am a proud proponent of domestic semiconductor manufacturing because it has become a matter of economic and national security, and it enjoys broad bipartisan support here in the Senate through the CHIPS and Science Act.

It is exciting to see the sort of announcements that we were seeing in Arizona and these new chipmaking investments on American soil. But it is hardly the most pressing or most urgent matter on the minds of Arizonans or Texans or any other border State

communities as well as folks across the country.

It is only about 150 miles from Phoenix to the United States-Mexico border, which has been willfully neglected by the Biden administration.

Under President Biden's administration, we have broken one record after another when it comes to illegal immigration at the southern border, and the system is now near its breaking point with the expiration of title 42, which is the public health title which has given the Border Patrol the authority to repel people coming across the border—some of them, at least—using that tool. But when that goes away, Border Patrol, absent any change in administration policy, will not be able to return those individuals—mainly adult males—back across the border for illegally entering the United States.

So despite the President getting on Air Force One at Andrews Air Force Base, flying to Phoenix, AZ, a border State, the President's trip did not include a short trip and visit to the border. After all, the President has pretty good transportation. He has got Air Force One. Can you imagine? It would just take a quick hop to the border to give the President the opportunity to learn because he has not visited the border once since he took office.

He could have done what I have done and what other Members of the Senate have done when we visited the border. He could have asked the Border Patrol agents to share their challenges, ask what he could do to help.

He could have asked what can the Federal Government do to make your job easier in order to address this crisis.

He could have talked to Customs and Border Protection Office of Field Operation officers about their efforts to interdict the drugs that took the life of 108,000 Americans last year alone, virtually all of which comes across the southern border.

He could have just simply said thank you, thank you for your service to the countless men and women who are on the frontlines of this crisis each and every day.

Unfortunately, President Biden couldn't be bothered to make that trip.

As he was leaving Washington yesterday, a reporter asked the President why he would visit Arizona, a border State, and not go to the border.

The President responded:

Because there are more important things going on.

Talk about a slap in the face to every single person who is troubled by what is happening at the southern border.

Every day, migrants are being exploited by people who care nothing about their welfare but view them simply as a commodity to make money. The stories of the abuse of migrants who take the long and dangerous trip from their home across the southern border are legion. The President could have learned more about that and expressed concern and say: You know,

what can we do to discourage people from making that long and dangerous trip into the United States and being subjected to sexual assault and other forms of abuse?

He could have asked about the fentanyl, the synthetic opioids, and other dangerous drugs that are coming into our country and killing innocent people in our communities. We have had a number of teenage children, schoolchildren, killed when they consumed a pill that they thought was maybe a prescription drug like Xanax or Percocet, which was contaminated with fentanyl. It just takes a pencil lead portion of fentanyl to kill you. Unfortunately, that has been happening because of the border crisis and the drugs flowing across the southern border.

The cartels and criminal organizations are getting rich off the trail of death and destruction that they have created. But let it be known: President Joe Biden thinks there are more important things to do.

That is more outrageous than disappointing, but it is really both. It is outrageous and disappointing to hear the President of the United States admit this outright. But as dangerous, outrageous, and disappointing as it is to hear him say it, we really shouldn't be surprised by his inaction when it comes to addressing this crisis.

For nearly 2 years, President Biden and his administration have ignored the crisis at the border so he refuses to visit. You know, he might just learn something. He might find out that this is not about root causes, which is what Secretary Blinken and others, Vice President HARRIS, have said. They think illegal immigration is a result of root causes.

Well, there is a component of that—people experiencing violence or poverty in their home country who want to come to the United States—but it is also about drug smugglers. It is also about criminals who have been deported for endangering Americans, and yet they come back across the border to do it again and again.

So the President might have actually learned something if he had just taken a few minutes to talk to the people who work and live on the border.

So he refuses to visit; he avoids talking about it; he acts like there is nothing wrong when, in fact, we are experiencing an unprecedented humanitarian and security crisis.

Since President Biden took office, U.S. Customs and Border Protection has encountered more than 4 million—4 million—migrants at the southern border. During the full 8 years of the Obama administration, Customs and Border Protection didn't see that many migrants. In 2 years, we have seen more than they saw in 8 years during the Obama administration.

President Biden's policies have not only tolerated this situation, it has actually made it worse and encouraged more migrants to make the trip to our



border and successfully get into the interior of the United States.

Whether or not President Biden wants to admit it or not, there is a crisis at the southern border. Everybody who takes 30 seconds to learn about it understands it. And the truth is, this crisis, as bad as it is, is getting worse because of the President's open border policies.

From day 1, the Biden administration decided they needed to dismantle all of the policies of the previous administration that deterred illegal immigration. It is not just about catching people who come into the country illegally; it is also about discouraging people from making that trip in the first place. And the Biden administration's policies create the impression that anybody who can make it to the border can make it into the interior.

The administration has rolled out a steady parade of rhetoric, policies, and guidance that sent a clear message: Cross the southern border and you will be able to successfully make your way into the United States.

So it is no surprise that this message that has been sent by open border policies and a lack of enforcement, it is no surprise we have seen these unprecedented numbers.

For the first time on record, Customs and Border Protection logged more than 2 million border crossings in a single year. They encountered nearly 2.4 million migrants in fiscal year 2022.

In October, we logged the highest number of migrant encounters on record. This is 230,000 in a single month.

If this happened in any one of the States represented by my colleagues that are not border States, I wonder what their reaction would be. When Governor Abbott or Governor Ducey or Governor DeSantis had put some of these migrants on a bus and sent them to Washington or Chicago or New York, Mayor Adams said: This is a crisis. Mayor Bowser in Washington, DC, said: We need the National Guard to come out when just a few thousand migrants make their way into the interior. But when 230,000 show up on the border of Texas in a single month, they could care less.

As shocking as these statistics are, they don't tell the full story. Whether we are talking about migrant encounters, drug seizures, terrorist arrests, you have to remember, these are just the ones we know about.

When Border Patrol agents are asked to process and care for thousands of migrants a day, that means they are not on the frontlines securing our border. They can't stop the drug smugglers if they are filling out paperwork or providing formula to an unaccompanied child.

New reporting from FOX News shed light on how many individuals evaded Border Patrol just last month. Law enforcement refers to these as the "got-aways." But they don't pull that number out of thin air.

The United States-Mexico border includes an extensive network of physical and technological barriers. Some sections have 30-foot steel walls, others have vehicle barriers, others include sensors, cameras, and other surveillance equipment.

Known got-aways are those who are spotted by some form of surveillance but not apprehended by the Border Patrol, and last month, Border Patrol logged more than 73,000 got-aways.

Let's see, in October, we logged the highest number of migrant encounters on record, more than 230,000 in a single month. And during that same month, 73,000 more migrants were got-aways. These are 73,000 people who did not want to encounter Border Patrol. They weren't seeking asylum; they were trying to evade law enforcement and probably for a very good reason.

Of course, even that data doesn't tell the full story. These are just the known got-aways for a single month. There is no way of knowing how many actually evaded detection entirely, especially over the course of the last 2 years.

It is not just the people we are concerned about. It is dangerous drugs like fentanyl, heroin, methamphetamine, as well as illicit weapons and drug money.

The criminal organizations and cartels that take advantage of and exploit the administration's open border policies are, in two words, commodity agnostic. In other words, they will deal in drugs, weapons, or people as long as it makes them money—commodity agnostic.

President Biden and his policies are the best thing that ever happened to their dirty business.

It is making them rich while trading on human misery and death. I disagreed with President Biden's assessment that there are more important things than what is going on at the border. That is easy for him to say, sitting in the White House in Washington, DC.

The people I represent, who live and work along the border, are overwhelmed. And this is a Federal responsibility. This shouldn't be up to the States because this is an international border. By definition, it is a Federal responsibility.

This state of chaos is also hurting the migrants who are sold lies by the cartels and traffickers and are duped into paying thousands of dollars a head to come to the United States. And, you know what, you go to Houston, TX, and some of those same migrants are held hostage, working in prostitution or forced labor by the people who say they will turn them in to the authorities and reveal the fact that they are illegally in the United States unless they continue in that forced labor or that prostitution.

As I said, this is hurting our border communities, which are now apparently expected to carry the weight of feeding, caring for, and transporting thousands upon thousands of migrants.

And it is weighing on the men and women in our law enforcement community who put their lives on the line to secure the border and to protect the American people.

I wonder if President Biden knows that last month three Border Patrol agents took their own lives—two from Texas and one from New Mexico. It is absolutely heartbreaking to see the toll this crisis is taking on these brave men and women who have been begging the administration for support for nearly 2 years. This isn't asking them to do something over and above what is required because all they are asking is for the administration to enforce the law, to let them enforce the law, and to relieve them of the burden of this abdication of responsibility.

So if President Biden had taken a few minutes to hop down to the border in Air Force One when he was in Phoenix yesterday, he might have learned some of this. Over the years, I have had the pleasure of learning from and working with the men and women who live and work along Texas's 1,200-mile border with Mexico. We are talking about law enforcement officials, local officials like the county judges, the mayors, the private property owners, the small business owners, and folks who run nonprofits. They have provided an unvarnished view of how decisions in Washington impact their communities, the economy, and our national security.

And President Biden could have learned this—Vice President HARRIS, too. I have taken the opportunity, along with my colleague Senator CRUZ, to introduce dozens of our Senate colleagues to these people on the border that I am talking about so they could gain a better understanding of the challenges that they are up against and the things that we could do that would make their life and the conditions on the border better.

And I will just issue an open invitation, Madam President. I am happy to invite President Biden to come to Texas, to the border, and I would be delighted to introduce him to these people that I have talked about—law enforcement, small businesses, local elected officials, private property owners—that are being absolutely overwhelmed by this border crisis created by President Biden's open-border policies. If he would take the time to actually listen to their experiences, there is no way he would continue to believe that there are more important things going on.

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.

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

Mrs. CAPITO. Madam President, I ask that the vote begin now.



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 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. 1238, Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Alex Padilla, Michael F. Bennet, Brian Schatz, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Mazie Hirono, Chris Van Hollen, Jacky Rosen, Margaret Wood Hassan, Sherrod Brown, Amy Klobuchar, Tina Smith, Debbie Stabenow, Elizabeth Warren, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Tammy Duckworth.

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 Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 60, nays 34, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 382 Ex.]

# YEAS—60

Baldwin	Heinrich	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Romney
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Rounds
Brown	Kennedy	Sanders
Burr	King	Sasse
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Lujan	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cornyn	Merkley	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Murkowski	Toomey
Durbin	Murphy	Van Hollen
Feinstein	Murray	Warnock
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Warren
Graham	Padilla	Whitehouse
Grassley	Peters	Wicker
Hassan	Portman	Wyden

# NAYS—34

Barrasso	Cramer	Hoeven
Blackburn	Crapo	Hyde-Smith
Blunt	Daines	Inhofe
Boozman	Ernst	Johnson
Braun	Fischer	Lankford
Capito	Hagerty	Lee
Cassidy	Hawley	Lummis

Marshall	Rubio	Thune
McConnell	Scott (FL)	Tuberville
Moran	Scott (SC)	Young
Paul	Shelby	
Risch	Sullivan	

# NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Duckworth	Schatz
Cruz	Hickenlooper	Warner

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. On this vote, the yeas are 60, the nays are 34.

The motion is agreed to.

# NOMINATION OF JERRY W. BLACKWELL

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, today, the Senate will vote to confirm Jerry Blackwell to serve on the U.S. District Court for the District of Minnesota.

Mr. Blackwell will bring outstanding qualifications and deep experience to the Federal bench. He received his undergraduate and law degrees from the University of North Carolina at Chapel Hill before entering private practice and, eventually, establishing his own law firm. Mr. Blackwell has specialized in commercial litigation, including mass torts, and he has represented Fortune 100 and Fortune 500 companies in a variety of matters.

But in addition to his success in the private sector, Mr. Blackwell has also answered the call to serve. In 2021, he served as a special prosecutor in the trial of Derek Chauvin, who was convicted for the horrific murder of George Floyd. Mr. Blackwell has also committed himself to increasing diversity in the legal profession by serving as a founding member of the Minnesota Association of Black Lawyers and the Minnesota Equity and Justice Project.

Given his broad, extensive experience, it is no surprise that the American Bar Association unanimously rated Mr. Blackwell “well qualified” to serve on the district court. He also enjoys the strong support of his home State Senators, Ms. KLOBUCHAR and Ms. SMITH. I am proud to support Mr. Blackwell’s nomination, and I strongly urge my colleagues to do the same.

# EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Blackwell nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

# VOTE ON BLACKWELL NOMINATION

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Blackwell nomination?

Mr. KELLY. Madam President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient?

There is a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH), the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER), the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ), and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) and the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ).

The result was announced—yeas 51, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 383 Ex.]

# YEAS—51

Baldwin	Grassley	Ossoff
Bennet	Hassan	Padilla
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Peters
Blunt	Hirono	Reed
Booker	Kaine	Rosen
Brown	Kelly	Sanders
Cantwell	King	Schumer
Cardin	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Carper	Leahy	Sinema
Casey	Lujan	Smith
Collins	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Murray	Wyden

# NAYS—43

Barrasso	Hoeven	Rounds
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Boozman	Inhofe	Sasse
Braun	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Burr	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Capito	Lankford	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Crapo	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Hagerty	Risch	
Hawley	Romney	

# NOT VOTING—6

Cotton	Duckworth	Schatz
Cruz	Hickenlooper	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

The Senator from Ohio.

# UKRAINE

Mr. PORTMAN. Mr. President, I come to the floor for the 27th consecutive week since the invasion of Ukraine to give another update to the American people on the brutal, illegal, and totally unprovoked attack by Russia on its neighbor Ukraine. This is at a time when brave Ukrainian freedom fighters continue to successfully fend off the third largest army in the world.

What Russia thought was going to be a weeklong invasion, successfully occupying Ukraine, is now past the 9-month mark. Against all odds, Ukraine has not only survived, but they have pushed back a much larger Russian army—more than half of the land that Russia occupied in Ukraine. Remember, they were all up here in the area of Kyiv and all down here. More than half of the land has been liberated already.

Here in the northeast part of Ukraine, near Kharkiv, in this province, the Kharkiv Oblast, the Ukrainian forces continue to make progress pushing back against the Russian forces.

It has been slow—a combination of things. One is, it is mud season. It is very difficult for them to get through the mud with their armored vehicles. The second is, the Russian forces who were pushed back from here in September have now dug in along this line. So it is slower going, but they continue to fight.

They are continuing with the momentum that started when they took over Kharkiv.

Further south, near Bakhmut—and Bakhmut is in this area, and I was actually in Bakhmut back in 2018 at the so-called line of contact—there is very intense fighting going on. This is where you have had months and months of fierce combat, lots of artillery. It has turned this area, the Bakhmut area where I was, into a battlefield reminiscent of what you might have seen during World War II—just total destruction, as you can see from this photograph.

This is the Bakhmut area today. There you have the Russian forces, mostly the Wagner Group, which is a mercenary group, making steady but very slow progress. Ukraine has made them pay dearly for every meter, but that is, again, kind of in that central part of eastern Ukraine.

In the south of Ukraine, near Kherson, they have also made good progress. You can see here in the blue where the Ukrainian forces, in the fall, earlier this fall, were able to liberate parts of occupied Ukraine.

This is an interesting area. I think it is relatively quiet right now. We had a briefing today about that. But I don't think it is going to stay quiet for long. This is an area to watch. There are already reports of Ukrainian raids, actually, on a small peninsula there.

This is a little closer look at this. Ukrainian raids have now been made on this peninsula which goes out into the Black Sea. Also, we know that Ukrainian forces have crossed the river here, the Dnipro River, and planted Ukrainian flags on the other side of the river, letting the Russians know they are not safe in this region; this is Ukraine.

They have also started to evacuate, facilitate the evacuation of some of the Ukrainian civilians from this side, the occupied side of the river.

All this indicates to me that the Ukrainians are continuing to send a clear signal to the Russians that they are not done in terms of liberating this part of Ukraine this winter.

Unfortunately, while the nation of Ukraine has survived this war, so far not all Ukrainians have. These gains on the battlefield I have talked about have come at a tremendous cost. Casualty reports have been hard to come by, but we know that tens of thousands

of Ukrainian soldiers have been killed during this liberation.

But it is not just the men and women in uniform that are taking the brunt of Vladimir Putin's aggression. Since the first day of this war, it is innocent Ukrainians themselves who have been dying. They have been intentionally targeted by Russian forces.

How many cities and villages have now become infamous for the war crimes committed by Russia? Bucha and Irpin, cities where I was visiting several weeks ago; Mariupol, Izium. Think of 4-year-old Liza. We had her photograph up here on the floor. She was killed in Vinnytsia in July. Think of 2-day-old Serhii, who was killed 2 weeks ago—2 days old, a newborn—at a maternity hospital in Vilniansk.

The United Nations reports that at least 6,500 civilians have been killed in this senseless Russian war, then adds that “the actual figures are considerably higher.” We just don't know what they are. This is because we know so little about the horrors which are occurring behind enemy lines.

So when you think about it, although we know more about the casualties that have occurred in the interior of Ukraine, what we don't know is how many casualties and war crimes and deaths are occurring in this Russian-occupied area, the red area.

What we do know is that so many of the atrocities in this war are only brought to light months after they occur. They happen in silence, and then they are discovered when these territories are liberated by Ukrainian forces. That is the bittersweet pattern of this war: You have the Russians occupying a territory, committing heinous war crimes, atrocities. Then the area is liberated, and we discover these horrific crimes.

And Russia's crimes are not just limited to the territory it occupies. Russian forces are losing on the battlefield, as we talked about, not making the progress they want, and they are sort of taking their frustration out on the rest of Ukraine. This is with cruise missiles and drones, bombing all of these other parts of Ukraine.

They continue to strike noncombatants. A whole new wave of attacks occurred yesterday, as an example, mostly on Ukrainian infrastructure, energy infrastructure, but also on just civilian targets. They have destroyed neighborhoods, schools, hospitals. As this photo shows, they have really targeted civilian infrastructure. This is, again, some of the energy infrastructure that they have targeted.

When I was in Kyiv with Senator COONS about 3 weeks ago—we were there several days after one of the powerplants had been attacked—actually, the national utility—and these were targeted attacks on the infrastructure. But also Ukrainians, civilians, and workers were killed. It is not just collateral damage. These are targeted attacks on civilians—targeted and cruel.

Russia's goal, of course, is to try to force a whole new wave of civilians to

flee from their homes and head west. This massive displacement, of course, would further devastate Ukraine's economy, which is already expected to contract about 35 percent this year. We have seen this time and time again since the war has started. They can't defeat Ukraine on the battlefield, so they strike behind the battlefield to try to destroy Ukraine as a whole.

The actions by the Kremlin to destroy these civilian areas and kill innocent Ukrainians are also, of course, meant to dampen the Ukrainian resolve. But what I have seen on my trips to Ukraine and my trips to the region is that every time there is a Russian atrocity, the resolve of the Ukrainian people doesn't weaken; it gets stronger—and for good reason.

And the Ukrainian military certainly isn't backing down in their fierce defense of their homeland. In fact, a Ukrainian military spokesman recently said that Ukraine intends to continue, if not accelerate, its counter-offensive this winter in these areas we talked about—in particular here and here. So stay tuned because I think the Ukrainians are not done yet this winter in many places along the frontline, although the winter is bitterly cold for the infantry. The ground is also frozen solid, which makes mechanized warfare possible again.

Additionally, on Monday and again today, there were explosions reported at military bases in Russia. These are military bases hundreds of miles behind the frontlines. So this is in Russian territory. There are military bases that are experiencing explosions. These bases happen to house the Tu-95 bombers, which have regularly taken part in Russia's deadly cruise missile strikes against Ukrainian civilians.

According to the British Ministry of Defense, these explosions constitute, as they say, “some of the most strategically significant failures of Russian force protection since [Russia's] invasion of Ukraine.”

Ukraine is the shield defending freedom in the West. When I visited Ukraine in August and November, I heard from so many Ukrainians who see themselves that way. They are holding Russia at bay, essentially, for the rest of the world. For years—think about it—Russia has threatened Europe and other regions with military action. We have all witnessed their attack of the country of Georgia and their brutal tactics in Syria and Chechnya.

In 2014, and then, of course, in February of this year, Ukraine became Russia's next target; and if Ukraine falls, Russia has promised other dominos will fall in Eastern and Central Europe. They have said openly they want to recreate the Soviet Union or the Russian Empire, which would include so many countries in the region.

The brave soldiers of Ukraine, men and women in uniform, are holding back the forces of Russian tyranny, and we should honor their sacrifice and

their bravery. Fortunately, they are not in this fight alone. Over 50 countries from around the world have stepped up to help Ukraine defend itself.

Ukraine's freedom fighters have been trained and equipped not just by the United States but by dozens of other countries that believe in freedom. Ukrainians are well aware of this, and they are eternally grateful. I hear this gratitude every time I am with Ukrainians. Yesterday, I met with a bunch of Ukrainian Parliamentarians from their Rada here in Washington. But when I have been in Ukraine, I have heard it also.

When I spoke with President Zelenskyy in Kyiv in August and again in November, the first thing he said to me was, "Thank you to the American people."

The aid from the United States and our allies does not go unnoticed or unappreciated. Ukrainian soldiers are bearing the brunt of Russia's wrath, but because of the significant assistance provided by the West, President Zelenskyy speaks about this war against Russian aggression as a joint battle and that we should continue to strive together toward our joint victory.

Ukrainians are well aware of the need to provide transparency to taxpayers here in the United States as to how this aid is being used. I think that is very important. During both my visits to Kyiv this year, I spoke with our diplomats at the U.S. Embassy about how they are ensuring proper oversight and accountability for military aid.

I have also met twice with the 101st Airborne in Poland, the principal unit responsible for delivery of U.S. and allied military assistance. They have gone into great detail about how they are tracking and monitoring the U.S. military assistance through so-called end-use monitoring to ensure the military equipment actually ends up in the right hands.

One thing interesting to me, confirmed again today, is that we have sent these HIMARS, which are these rocket-launching systems, to Ukraine that have been particularly effective and that, at least at this point—we have sent about 20 of them—not a single one, not a single one has been attacked and destroyed or has gotten into the wrong hands.

We also believe, from what we know, unbelievably, that with all the weapons we are sending to Ukraine, we don't have any instances that are documented of these weapons getting into the wrong hands. Plenty of Russian weapons have gotten into Ukrainians' hands—I will tell you that—including lots of armored vehicles that they have left behind.

So no one is advocating that this Congress or U.S. taxpayers give Ukraine a blank check. This aid is generously provided by taxpayers so it has got to be accountable to taxpayers. Ukraine knows that and, again, has

gone to great lengths to provide transparency, even in this time of war.

These resources fund not only Ukraine's military; they back the government and help maintain and repair civilian infrastructure. Ukraine's economy has been hit so hard by this conflict that, without help from its allies, the government there would be unable to provide many basic services to its citizens.

The Europeans, Japanese, and others, of course, have stepped up here, as they should. This is particularly important this winter. As Russia attacks Ukraine's energy infrastructure to plunge the country into cold darkness, the humanitarian aid from the United States and dozens of other countries has ensured that innocent men, women, and children are able to survive the cold Ukrainian winter amidst these heinous Russian war crimes.

Our economic aid, along with that of the European Union and dozens of other countries, has supported Ukraine's Government so that critical services to its citizens can continue. With regard to the economic assistance, by the way, the Ukraine budget support goes through the World Bank from the United States because, in addition to our own oversight, the bank adds a second layer of oversight and accountability, including issuing periodic reports and audits to both parties.

Economic assistance is further monitored by a USAID contractor, the U.S. accounting firm Deloitte. They monitor all expenses, which is a good thing, in my view.

We also need to ensure our constituents that what we are providing to Ukraine is actually working; it is making a difference. And it certainly is. When Ukraine took back the city of Kherson here, which was the first and only provincial capital taken by Russia, the key element to their success, I am told, was the military equipment provided by the United States—and others, but primarily the United States—and that was the HIMARS launchers we talked about a moment ago. These missile launchers were very effective at tearing down the Russian infrastructure that was providing the supplies to Russia—so the weapons, the food, and so on. By wearing down the Russian forces and forcing them to abandon the city, the American weapons were very effective in debilitating Russia's ability to command and resupply its forces.

And the air defense systems provided by the United States and our allies have helped Ukraine shoot down hundreds of missiles and drones launched by Russia that otherwise would have killed innocent civilians.

I do continue to believe that we can and should do more, by the way, particularly with regard to military assistance. I continue to urge the Biden administration to provide Ukraine with more of the weapons that the Ukrainians themselves have said they actually want and need and can use.

This would include fourth-generation advanced fighter jets—not the latest and greatest but things like F-16s that we are not using that they could use, that other countries have that we could allow them to provide to Ukraine; Abrams tanks that other countries have that they are willing to provide; long-range missiles.

If we are serious about helping Ukraine continue to win, as opposed to the possibility that this could just result in a stalemate, we should provide these weapons so that they can respond to the very real Russian threat.

Let me pose this question to my colleagues who are skeptical about assistance: If we had not led our allies in supporting Ukraine during this fight for survival, what would have happened? What would have happened if we allowed this authoritarian regime to dominate and subjugate its neighbors by force of arms?

Ukraine would have become an occupied state. Many more refugees, by the millions, would have fled to Europe, to the United States, and elsewhere. And even if the threat by Vladimir Putin to occupy all these other independent countries in the neighborhood that were once part of the Soviet Union had not yet become a reality, the United States would have mobilized thousands of troops and massive amounts of weapons at the borders of these NATO allies at a tremendous cost to the American taxpayer.

I think we have to think about that, think about what the alternative would have been. It also would have resulted, of course, in the rules-based international order that we have had in place for almost 80 years, since World War II, crumbling in Ukraine. What would have happened then? What message would aggressive adversaries like China and Iran take from that?

The world would have become a much more dangerous and volatile place, let's be honest. Countries would have armed up. This is why it is so important that we continue to support Ukraine. Our enemies and our adversaries alike are watching very carefully. We can't pull back now, not during this critical time. We cannot falter.

In addition to working with our allies to help Ukraine win on the battlefield, we have got to continue to tighten the global sanctions and export controls on Russia. I believe it is only that combination—success on the battlefield and making the Russian economy feel the pain—that is going to be successful in getting Russia to the peace table. Export controls already are blocking supplies, including semiconductors, needed to create military equipment in Russia. So that is having an effect. Sanctions must include better success at stopping the energy receipts to Russia that are fueling the war machine.

I mentioned what is happening to the Ukrainian economy. The Russian economy has also gone down but not nearly as much as the Ukrainian economy.

Why? Largely because the economy depends on the energy receipts that are still coming in from Russia selling its oil and gas around the world.

This week, there was some progress on that front. Back in June, the European Union decided to end all seaborne Russian oil imports by December 5. That was Monday. And the EU did, indeed, follow through on this promise. I applaud the European Union for taking that step.

However, in June, the EU also committed to end financing and insurance services for all vessels carrying Russian oil, even to non-European countries. This would be devastating to Russian oil exports since Europe dominates a large chunk of the maritime services market. Financing and insurance: Without financing and insurance from Europe, these ships would never embark and Russian oil sales would plummet.

Unfortunately, in this case, the EU did not follow through on this promise made in June. Instead, on Friday, the EU, the United States, other G-7 countries, and Australia agreed to what is being called a “price cap” scheme. Under this framework, the participating countries will continue to provide financing insurance for vessels selling Russian oil but only below a certain cost per barrel. So instead of ending these sales of seaborne Russian oil exports, we are enabling them at a lower price. What is more, as the Washington Post reports, the price cap, which was agreed to at \$60 per barrel, “is well above Russia’s cost of production and close to where its oil is currently trading—meaning it may not have much of a direct impact.”

That is my concern about it. I understand that there is another argument that the Russian oil price would, perhaps, be even higher at lower volumes if they didn’t have these ships. But I think the first plan made in June would have been much more effective in helping to tighten these sanctions.

Analysts, by the way, said the cap will have little immediate impact on the oil revenues that Moscow is currently earning. In fact, Russia itself said on Monday the cap is not going to hurt the financing of its special military operation, as they call it, in Ukraine—this deadly and unprovoked war.

The price cap is “an unhappy compromise that will do very little to cut Russia’s oil revenue” from current levels, said Ben Cahill, an energy security expert at the Center for Strategic and International Studies in Washington.

I would ask the suffering people of Ukraine what they would think about it. Ukraine, Poland, and the Baltic States—who have consistently been right about the threat of Russian aggression—suggested a price cap of just \$30 a barrel if they were going to do a price cap; so half of the \$60 that the EU, the G-7, the U.S., and Australia ended up at. The one we agreed to, again, was twice as high.

On a more positive note, at a meeting in Romania last week, the NATO’s Secretary General reaffirmed that the door to membership remains open to Ukraine. This has been NATO’s official policy for Ukraine, by the way, since 2008, but it was important that the alliance reaffirm that commitment last week in the context of Vladimir Putin’s war on Ukraine.

I encourage NATO to begin the steps to welcome Ukraine in the future. Despite all the atrocities and hardships now we have talked about tonight, I believe that Ukraine will eventually prevail in this conflict and survive as a country and that Ukraine will someday join NATO and the European Union to add the most important security guarantees they could get. No amount of Russian missiles can stop that, by the way, because the people of Ukraine will always have something that Russia does not: freedom and faith.

Faith is what our Founding Fathers had so many years ago when they set out on a risky journey to chart America’s own destiny—faith that freedom would work. Faith is what the Ukrainian people grasped onto as they embarked on their own Revolution of Dignity in 2014, abandoning a corrupt Russian-backed regime and choosing freedom, democracy, and free markets. Ukrainians chose to stand with us, with the European Union and the United States and other free nations.

Faith is what gave the people of Ukraine the strength and resolve at the beginning of Russia’s overwhelming invasion in February—faith that as a country, they would survive, and as a people, they would come out on the other end of this conflict—when the odds were so stacked against them—more unified than ever.

Against all odds, again, that faith has been justified time and time again during this bloody war. Now, once again, it is time for us to join our allies in keeping the faith—faith in the proven Ukrainian bravery and perseverance and faith that freedom will win out over tyranny if we stay the course.

I yield the floor.

#### UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from New Hampshire.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that at a time to be determined by the majority leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 1103, Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury; that there be 10 minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; that upon the use or yielding back of time, the Senate vote without intervening action or debate on the nomination; 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 and the Senate then resume legislative session.

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

#### LEGISLATIVE SESSION

##### MORNING BUSINESS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and 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.

#### TRIBUTE TO KEN LEONARD

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, anyone who knows Coach Ken Leonard knows that he cares deeply about football, but more than that, he cares deeply about people. As Illinois’ most successful high school football coach, Coach Leonard has left his mark on our State by leading Sacred Heart-Griffin High School to six State football championships and harnessing the power of sports to build confidence in young athletes. He never let any challenges get in his way and always inspired others to follow his lead.

Ken Leonard was born July 7, 1953, in Lexington, IL, to John and Iona Leonard. He was one of six children in his family, along with his two brothers and three sisters. He graduated from Chenoa High School in Chenoa, IL, where he was a four-sport athlete. Following high school, Ken was a 2-year starter for the Hawks of Harper Junior College football team in Palatine, IL, and a 1-year starter for the Trojans of Dakota State University in Madison, SD. Ken then graduated college from Illinois State University, but his career as a player was just the beginning of his legendary legacy.

In 1980, Ken took his first football head coaching job at Gridley High School, in a community of fewer than 2,000 people. A former smalltown kid himself, Ken felt right at home at Gridley, but the school struggled to recruit enough student players to field a football team. And they were forced to shut the program down. This setback, however, did not stop Ken from pursuing his passion for football.

Later that spring, Ken received a call from Sacred Heart-Griffin High School, where he would go on to become the winningest high school football coach in Illinois history.

After 39 seasons with Sacred Heart-Griffin and 43 total seasons coaching high school football, Coach Leonard is set to retire this December. By the time he leaves the locker room for the last time, he will have coached 500 games and taught countless young athletes how to work as a team.

As a parent of Sacred Heart-Griffin alumni and a fan of high school football, I feel lucky to have met Coach

Leonard. Even after my kids graduated, I would catch as many games as I could. I even had the opportunity to attend a celebration for the Cyclones after they won one of their many State championships.

From my visits to Sacred Heart-Griffin, it was evident that Coach Leonard's impressive 419-81 record reflects his deep passion for the sport and tireless dedication to his athletes. If you ask Coach Leonard, he would tell you that he has not worked a day in his life because he loved what he did. And his impact extended well beyond the gridiron.

Coach Leonard did not just coach football; he coached character. His players have gone on to become All-Americans, college football players, and even NFL stars. But Ken knew that life was more than tackles and touchdowns. He believed that what mattered more than developing players was developing good citizens, and he spent as much time in the classroom and chapel as he did on the field and in the weight room.

His coaching style also inspired a legacy. My former staff member's son, Brendan Daly, played for Coach Leonard at Sacred Heart-Griffin. After playing and coaching collegiate football, Brendan joined the ranks of NFL coaches—going onto win three Super Bowl championships with the New England Patriots and another with the Kansas City Chiefs.

Ken's own son, Derek, now coaches at Rochester High School in Rochester, IL, and has already won State championships of his own—sometimes even facing off against his dad. When Ken started coaching against Derek, Ken and I would exchange letters recounting the familial showdowns. Now, it is possible that Derek may one day surpass his Dad's record. And I know Ken will be proud as ever when that day comes.

Despite his long record of accomplishments, Coach Leonard would be the last to take credit for his team's success on the field. Luckily many of his friends and colleagues in the Sacred Heart-Griffin community will be the first to give him the credit he deserves. It is rare for stadiums to be named after people during their lifetime, but in 2017, Sacred Heart-Griffin officials surprised Coach Leonard with a ceremony and announcement that the turfed field would, from that point forward, be known as Ken Leonard Field. Standing together with the community and his wife, Liz, in the final year of her life, Coach Ken Leonard was speechless. And today, we in Illinois are thankful.

Ken Leonard is a reminder that committing yourself to what you love will shine a light for those around you. It is an honor to know Ken, as he is an inspiration to so many.

After many accomplishments, including being named the two-time National Coach of the Year and inducted into the Illinois Football Coaches Hall of

Fame, Ken Leonard will retire from coaching Sacred Heart-Griffin's football team on December 31, 2022. In true Ken Leonard fashion, he ended his career by coaching the Cyclones to defeat New Lenox Providence Catholic 44-20 and bring home their sixth State championship.

It is with great pride that I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Coach Ken Leonard. I offer my best wishes and congratulations to both Ken and his family on this important milestone.

#### TRIBUTE TO MAJOR DUSTIN MONDLOCH

Mr. KING. Mr. President, today I wish to recognize MAJ Dustin Mondloch, U.S. Army, for his outstanding work on behalf of the people of Maine and the Nation as a 2022 Department of Defense Legislative Fellow serving in my Washington, DC, office. Over the past year, Dustin has been integral in shaping my foreign policy and defense priorities. He helped secure a number of provisions in the Fiscal Year 2023 National Defense Authorization Act—FY23 NDAA—that will make our country stronger and safer. Dustin led my staff in orchestrating important appropriations for the Department of Defense, Department of State, Department of Homeland Security, U.S. Coast Guard, and the Office of National Drug Control Policy. His contributions—both to office morale and to our collective work product—are emblematic of his good character, competence, and strong work ethic.

Throughout his tenure in my office, Dustin demonstrated a level of professionalism and hard work I have come to expect—but not take for granted—from Department of Defense Legislative Fellows. Indeed, he follows a long line of accomplished U.S. Navy and Marine Corps officers who have made impactful contributions to my office and to U.S. national security policy. He distinguished himself as the first Army officer to serve in my office, setting a high bar and providing invaluable advice and insights personally to me. Over the course of the year, Dustin prepared and advised me on wide ranging and complex matters under consideration before the Senate Armed Services Committee. He brought his space expertise to assist me in the Strategic Forces Subcommittee briefings and deliberations, that resulted in important funding authorizations and legislation. Dustin's servant leadership showed in his work with constituents and while securing legislation to address Active Duty and veteran suicide. His attention to detail became apparent as he assisted me in dissecting, literally, thousands of pages of the Abbey Gate inspector general investigation. Further, he authored sections of report language, including one of my top concerns regarding the will to fight analysis of foreign militaries by our national security community. In addi-

tion, he became my go-to lead for monitoring the horrific war in Ukraine, providing clear-headed and thoughtful analysis, and liaised with representatives from the White House, State Department, and Department of Defense to convey my positions and concerns. His candor and honest assessments provided critical insights during this fraught time in U.S. history, and our Nation is better because of it.

On behalf of my colleagues and the U.S. Congress, I thank Dustin for his dedicated service to my staff, the State of Maine, the U.S. Army, and the Nation. Part of what makes the U.S. military the greatest in the history of the world is that servicemembers like Dustin dedicate their lives to service and sacrifice for their country. Major Mondloch does not do it alone, so I also acknowledge the support of his family—his wife Danielle, his son Cole, and his daughter Lennox. I wish them all the best on what I know is a bright future.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### TRIBUTE TO BILL COTTER

● Mrs. HYDE-SMITH. Mr. President, I am pleased to commend Mr. Bill Cotter for his service and contributions to the State of Mississippi in his 23 years of service with the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission.

Bill is retiring as CEO, but his record of leadership with the commission extends well beyond his latest role. In addition to CEO, Bill has served as the director of Stennis International Airport, as well as the chief operations officer for the facility as a whole, which includes the airport, its surrounding commercial property, and the Port Bienville Industrial Park, located on the Pearl River in southwest Mississippi.

While advancing into greater positions of responsibility, Bill's guidance helped the Hancock Port and Harbor Commission meet challenges head-on and achieve enormous success. As airport director, Bill led Stennis Airport's recovery from Hurricane Katrina, and he coordinated the tasks necessary for transitioning the airfield into a disaster response staging area during the BP Deepwater Horizon crisis.

Bill's contributions to the agency are also felt through his project management undertakings. Since 2005, Bill has overseen nearly \$40 million in capital improvements at Stennis International Airport, which have proved invaluable in enabling the facility to serve as a resource in meeting the aviation needs of both the military, businesses, and industry.

The Port and Harbor Commission's maritime business has also thrived under Bill's leadership. During his tenure as chief operating officer, existing docks at Port Bienville were refurbished and improved, and construction is underway on a new 600-foot dock.

The Hancock Port and Harbor Commission has consistently fulfilled its economic development mission, and Bill is a big reason why. Through his efforts, numerous companies have located on commission properties, including the U.S. Department of Defense contractor Tyonek Service Group, which performs a wide range of aircraft service operations and has been a vital catalyst in the success of the Stennis International Airport in attracting and serving military customers.

In conclusion, the value provided by Hancock Port and Harbor Commission has been made more appealing through Bill's leadership and hard work. The resulting economic growth and development is felt on multiple layers throughout Hancock County and has brought about a quality of life revered by residents and visitors alike.

With his retirement from the Hancock County Port and Harbor Commission, I thank Bill Cotter for his long and dedicated service to Hancock County, my State, and our Nation. I wish him a retirement filled with opportunities for him and his wife to spend time with their children and grandchildren.●

#### TRIBUTE TO COLONEL PAUL TAYLOR

● Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, today I want to recognize and pay tribute to a remarkable Kansan: retired U.S. Army COL Paul Taylor of Overland Park. Paul was recently awarded ZERO's 2022 Prostate Cancer Veterans Advocacy Award for his leadership in improving prostate cancer outcomes for veterans impacted by this disease.

Paul was first diagnosed with stage IV prostate cancer in 2012 at the age of 41 while preparing for deployment to Afghanistan. As is too often the case, he did not experience any notable symptoms warning of the disease. It was a routine predeployment medical screening that saved his life.

Unfortunately, Paul's story is not rare. With nearly 489,000 patients suffering from prostate cancer, this is one of the most common cancer diagnoses among American veterans. In fact, one in five veterans will develop prostate cancer in his lifetime.

With the support and encouragement of his superiors, Paul retained his command of 700 soldiers throughout his medical treatment consisting of hormone therapy, chemotherapy and surgery. He later retired from the Army and continued to serve his country in emergency management roles throughout regional and national crises.

Paul's cancer is now under control with treatment and is closely monitored. He credits his family and patient support groups for their care and encouragement throughout his cancer journey. They have been meaningful sources of emotional support and mentorship as he underwent treatment for the disease.

For those facing similar health challenges, he encourages them to find a

community to offer support and hope throughout the journey. He embodied this principle himself by choosing to sacrifice his own time and talents to help those facing prostate cancer.

Even as Paul battled this terrible disease himself, he dedicated his life to fighting prostate cancer through volunteer leadership to help all who suffer from this disease—but especially veterans.

Today, Paul lives in Overland Park, KS, with his wife Amy and three daughters. He is an active and dedicated advocate for veterans who suffer from prostate cancer.

His efforts have been instrumental in the progress of S. 2720, the Veterans' Prostate Cancer Treatment and Research Act. This legislation creates a clinical pathway for prostate cancer in the Department of Veterans Affairs and helps thousands of veterans manage their prostate cancer treatment process.

On behalf of the U.S. Senate, it is my honor to recognize Paul Taylor for his courage, sacrifice, and determination as he now offers hope and support to the nearly 3.1 million men living with prostate cancer in the United States.●

#### RECOGNIZING THE HARKNESS HOTEL

● Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, as a member and former chairman of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each month I recognize and celebrate the American entrepreneurial spirit by highlighting the success of a small business in my home State of Idaho. Today, I am pleased to honor the Harkness Hotel as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2022.

Aaron and Arianne Hunsaker opened the Harkness Hotel in July 2014. The Harkness Hotel was a personal project for the couple, who decided to move from Washington, DC, back to Aaron's home State and open a luxury hotel after they stayed in a memorable but mediocre establishment for their honeymoon.

They searched statewide for a historic building to renovate, before finally purchasing the old McCammon Investment Company in 2013. Built in 1906, the McCammon Investment Company was located less than a block away from the original Harkness Hotel, lost in a fire over 100 years ago. The Hunsakers drew inspiration from the legacy of the Harkness Hotel and set out to transform the old bank—which included apartments, a general mercantile store, and a post office—into an award-winning boutique hotel.

The Harkness Hotel blends the historic beauty of the past with modern comforts with an on-site spa and salon for the enjoyment of residents and visitors. Both ran and designed by the Hunsaker family, the Harkness Hotel serves as a symbol of pride for the McCammon community and highlights Idaho's natural beauty and genuine hospitality.

Congratulations to the Hunsakers and all of the employees at the Harkness Hotel for being selected as the Idaho Small Business of the Month for December 2022. Thank you for serving Idaho as small business owners and entrepreneurs. You make our great State proud, and I look forward to your continued growth and success.●

#### RECOGNIZING JEWISH FAMILY SERVICE

● Mr. ROMNEY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor Jewish Family Service on their remarkable sesquicentennial celebration, an organization whose spirited generosity and longstanding charity continues to benefit the health and well-being of our Utah communities.

Over two decades before Utah statehood, a group of Jewish women founded the Hebrew Women's Benevolent Society in 1872. During this time, many families journeyed West to escape persecution and build new lives, often with little to no resources. With open arms, the Hebrew Women's Benevolent Society welcomed new arrivals at their most vulnerable and ensured that their critical needs were met.

The organization abides by the same selfless mission today as Jewish Family Service, still grounded in the traditional values of tikkun olam, kavod, and tzedek—repair the world, honor, and justice. These values translate into action while the group runs food pantries, provides senior care, and offers mental health counseling to anyone in need, regardless of religious affiliation or financial means.

Today, we recognize and thank Jewish Family Service for their outstanding and indelible impact on Utahns as they continue to inspire us to turn outward and serve our brothers and sisters.●

#### MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, 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 Armed Services.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:31 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bills, without amendment:

S. 2796. An act to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to



provide for the eligibility of rural community response pilot programs for funding under the Comprehensive Opioid Abuse Grant Program, and for other purposes.

S. 3499. An act to amend the Post-Katrina Emergency Management Reform Act of 2006 to repeal certain obsolete requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 3875. An act to require the President to develop and maintain products that show the risk of natural hazards across the United States, and for other purposes.

S. 4052. An act to reauthorize a program for early detection, diagnosis, and treatment regarding deaf and hard-of-hearing newborns, infants, and young children, and for other purposes.

S. 4834. An act to reauthorize the National Internet Crimes Against Children Task Force Program.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7946. An act to provide benefits for noncitizen members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

H.R. 8844. An act to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 3462) to require an annual report on the cybersecurity of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes.

The message also announced that the House agreed to the amendment of the Senate to the bill (H.R. 5796) to amend title 35, United States Code, to establish a competition to award certificates that can be redeemed to accelerate certain matters at the Patent and Trademark Office, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 1687. An act to amend section 21 of the Small Business Act to require cyber certification for small business development center counselors, and for other purposes.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

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

H.R. 7946. An act to provide benefits for noncitizen members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 8844. An act to reauthorize the State Trade Expansion Program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

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

EC-5670. A communication from the Archivist of the United States, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to

the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5671. A communication from the Administrator, Federal Emergency Management Agency, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the cost of response and recovery efforts for FEMA-3584-EM in the State of Florida having exceeded the \$5,000,000 limit for a single emergency declaration; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5672. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2020-013, Certification of Women-Owned Small Businesses" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5673. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2018-020, Construction Contract Administration" (RIN9000-AN78) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5674. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2019-007, Update of Historically Underutilized Business Zone Program" (RIN9000-AN90) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5675. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; FAR Case 2017-019, Policy on Joint Ventures" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5676. A communication from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Federal Acquisition Regulation; Federal Acquisition Circular 2022-08, Small Entity Compliance Guide" (RIN9000-AO17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5677. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5678. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5679. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5680. A communication from the Chairman, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the requirements of the Federal Managers' Financial Integrity Act; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5681. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5682. A communication from the Director, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5683. A communication from the Chairman of the National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Performance and Accountability report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5684. A communication from the Board Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Semiannual Management Report on the Status of Audits for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5685. A communication from the President and CEO, Inter-American Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Foundation's Annual Management Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5686. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5687. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5688. A communication from the Director, Office of Administration, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to transactions from the Unanticipated Needs Account for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5689. A communication from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5690. A communication from the Deputy Associate Administrator for Legislative and Intergovernmental Affairs, National Aeronautics and Space Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5691. A communication from the Director, Defense Security Cooperation Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5692. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension

Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5693. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5694. A communication from the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5695. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-5696. A communication from the Secretary of the Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5697. A communication from the Director, Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5698. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5699. A communication from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of April 1, 2022 through October 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5700. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5701. A communication from the Inspector General, United States Postal Service, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Postal Services' Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from April 1, 2022 through September 30, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5702. A communication from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Foundation's fiscal year 2022 Agency Financial Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5703. A communication from the Chairman, Occupational Safety and Health Review Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Performance and Accountability Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5704. A communication from the Assistant Secretary, Bureau of Legislative Affairs,

Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the Report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5705. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5706. A communication from the Deputy Chief Financial Officer, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5707. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office's Agency Financial Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-5708. A communication from the Chief of the Border Security Regulations Branch, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Period of Admission and Extensions of Stay for Representatives of Foreign Information Media Seeking to Enter the United States" (RIN1651-AB49) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on December 1, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5709. A communication from the Agency Representative, Patent and Trademark Office, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Eliminating Continuing Legal Education Certification and Recognition for Patent Practitioners" (RIN0651-AD62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5710. A communication from the Secretary, Judicial Conference of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Report on the Adequacy of the Rules Prescribed under the E-Government Act of 2002"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-5711. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Central Air Conditioners and Heat Pumps" (RIN1904-AF29) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5712. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for VRF Multi-Split Systems" (RIN1904-AE43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5713. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Electric Motors" (RIN1904-AE62) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5714. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regula-

tion and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Procedures for the Acquisition of Petroleum for the Strategic Petroleum Reserve" (RIN1901-AB56) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5715. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Direct Expansion-Dedicated Outdoor Air Systems" (RIN1904-AD92) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5716. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel for Legislation, Regulation and Energy Efficiency, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Energy Conservation Program: Test Procedure for Automatic Commercial Ice Makers" (RIN1904-AD81) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5717. A communication from the General Counsel, Federal Energy Regulatory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Standard Applied to Complaints Against Oil Pipeline Index Rate Changes Policy Statement" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5718. A communication from the Administrator and Chief Executive Officer, Bonneville Power Administration, Department of Energy, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Annual Report for fiscal year 2022; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5719. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5720. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5721. A communication from the Deputy Chief, National Forest System, Department of Agriculture, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the final maps and perimeter boundary descriptions for the enclosed Wild and Scenic Rivers; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

EC-5722. A communication from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Self-Regulation of Class II Gaming" (RIN3141-AA72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5723. A communication from the General Counsel, National Indian Gaming Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Family License Notifications" (RIN3141-AA76) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 10, 2022; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5724. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of the Interior, transmitting a

legislative proposal relative to establishing a subaccount within the Indian Water Rights Settlement Completion Fund to provide mandatory funding to address the ongoing Operation, Maintenance, and Repair requirements associated with four enacted Indian Water Rights Settlements managed by the Bureau of Reclamation; to the Committee on Indian Affairs.

EC-5725. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Delegated Authority to Settle Federal Tort Claims Act Administrative Tort Claims" (RIN2900-AR72) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5726. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VA Acquisition Regulation: Acquisition Planning; Required Sources of Supplies and Services; Market Research; and Small Business Programs" (RIN2900-AR06) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on October 27, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5727. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Requesting Disinterment of an Eligible Decedent from a National Cemetery" (RIN2900-AR43) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5728. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "VHA Claims and Appeals Modernization" (RIN2900-AQ44) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 7, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-5729. A communication from the Regulation Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Vietnam Era Definition, Medal of Honor Special Pension for Surviving Spouses, and Dependency and Indemnity Compensation (DIC) Remarriage Age" (RIN2900-AR70) received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on November 21, 2022; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2541. A bill to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the "Shadow Wolves") in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O'odham Nation as special agents (Rept. No. 117-235).

S. 4611. A bill to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program (Rept. No. 117-236).

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Con. Res. 16. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Con. Res. 47. A concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 322. A resolution reaffirming the alliance between the United States and Bulgaria, congratulating Bulgaria on its July 11, 2021 parliamentary elections, and calling for continued progress in Bulgaria towards combating corruption, respecting the freedom of the press, and protecting minority rights.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Res. 472. A resolution reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and an amendment to the title and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 650. A resolution recognizing May 28 as "World Hunger Day", that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble:

S. Res. 713. A resolution recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with a preamble:

S. Res. 730. A resolution remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks.

By Ms. CANTWELL, from the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 2333. A bill to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, and for other purposes.

S. 2427. A bill to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, and for other purposes.

S. 3014. A bill to establish the Next Generation Telecommunications Council, and for other purposes.

S. 3053. A bill to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of

2017 to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a plan and national guidance document to improve precipitation estimates, and for other purposes.

S. 3196. A bill to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, and for other purposes.

S. 3290. A bill to establish a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute:

S. 3386. A bill to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally.

S. 4064. A bill to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports.

S. 4509. A bill to provide for security in the Black Sea region, and for other purposes.

S. 4955. A bill to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 4996. A bill to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to modify the establishment of a coordinator for detained ISIS members and relevant displaced populations in Syria, and for other purposes.

By Mr. MENENDEZ, from the Committee on Foreign Relations, without amendment:

H.R. 7240. An act to reauthorize the READ Act.

## EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. MENENDEZ for the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Cynthia Dyer, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large.

Nominee: Cynthia Dyer.

Post: Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with rank of Ambassador at large.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

1. Self: \$10, 8/11/19, ACT BLUE.
2. Spouse: \$50, 4/5/20, ACT BLUE; \$50, 6/1/20, ACT BLUE; \$5, 6/1/20, ACT BLUE; \$100, 9/30/19, ACT BLUE; \$10, 8/11/19, ACT BLUE.

Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mali.

Nominee: Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen.

Post: Mali.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

N/A.

Joey R. Hood, of New Hampshire, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tunisia.

Nominee: Joey R. Hood.  
Post: Republic of Tunisia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Anne Lompo: \$0.  
Fiona Hood (18): \$0.  
Henry Hood (15): \$0.

Kathleen Ann Kavalec, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to Romania.

Nominee: Kathleen Ann Kavalec.  
Post: Romania.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Kathleen Kavalec—None.  
Mark Taplin, spouse—None.

Jessica Davis Ba, of the District of Columbia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cote d'Ivoire.

Nominee: Jessica David Ba.  
Post: Cote d'Ivoire.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
1. Self: None.  
2. Spouse: Amadou Mahtar Ba: None.

Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Bulgaria.

Nominee: Kenneth Merten.  
Post: Sofia, Bulgaria.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
None.

Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Cyprus.

Nominee: Julie D. Fisher.  
Post: Republic of Cyprus.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
1. Self: None.  
2. Spouse: None.

Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary

of the United States of America to the Republic of Latvia.

Nominee: Christopher Todd Robinson.  
Post: Republic of Latvia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Christopher Todd Robinson: None.  
Donka Todorov Robinson: None.

Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary.

Nominee: Stephanie Sanders Sullivan.  
Post: US Mission to the African Union.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Myself: None.

John Henry Sullivan (husband): Cash, \$200, 06/09/2022, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; Cash, \$200, 08/29/2021, Pennsylvania Democratic Party; Cash, \$50, 10/25/2020, Democratic National Committee; Cash, \$50, 09/29/2020, Act Blue (Biden for President); Cash, \$50, 08/05/2020, Democratic National Committee; In Kind (Volunteer work), 40 hours, Oct/Nov 2020, Pennsylvania Democrats (Democratic Party/Biden campaign).

Lucy Tamlyn, of Rhode Island, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

Nominee: Lucy Tamlyn.  
Post: Democratic Republic of Congo.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
0, 0, N/A, Lucy Tamlyn.  
0, 0, N/A, Jorge M. Serpa.

Manuel P. Micaller, Jr., of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Tajikistan.

Nominee: Manuel P. Micaller, Jr.  
Post: Dushanbe, Tajikistan.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
None.

Kristina A. Kvien, of California, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Armenia.

Nominee: Kristina Alyson Kvien.  
Post: Republic of Armenia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent con-

tributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Thomas White: \$120, 4/27/2020, ActBlue.

Henry V. Jardine, of Virginia, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Seychelles.

Nominee: Henry Victor Jardine.

Post: Republic of Mauritius and the Republic of Seychelles.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:  
Henry V. Jardine: None.  
Kathleen Jardine (Spouse): None.

Bijan Sabet, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Czech Republic.

Nominee: Bijan Joseph Sabet.

Post: U.S. Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary to the Czech Republic.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Donee: Bijan Sabet:

Organization, joint fund recipient, donation amount, and donation date: Swing Left, \$1,000.00, 2/16/2018; ACTBLUE, Contribution to ACTBLUE, \$100.00, 2/16/2018; ACTBLUE (Earmarked for Swing Left (C00632133), \$160.00, 3/4/2018; Swing Left, \$160.00, 3/4/2018; ACTBLUE Texas, \$125.00, 7/4/2018; Rosen Victory Fund, \$1,000.00, 7/16/2018; Rosen for Nevada \$1,000.00, 7/22/2018; ACTBLUE, Contribution to ACTBLUE, \$100.00, 7/16/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; BRENDAN KELLY for Southern Illinois, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Finkenauer for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$214.28, 8/11/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$214.29, 8/11/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for Dean Phillips for Congress, \$214.29, 8/20/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$214.29, 8/20/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for FL-18 Democratic Nominee, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$214.28, 8/20/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Elect Carolyn Long, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Brendan Kelly for Southern Illinois, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Finkenauer for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$335.01, 8/23/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$335.02, 8/23/2018; Swing Left, Earmarked for

FL-18 Democratic Nominee, \$335.02, 8/31/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$335.02, 8/31/2018; George Scott for Congress, \$372.52, 9/1/2018; Dean Phillips for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Sharice for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Amy McGrath for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Radinovich for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Elect Carolyn Long, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Brendan Kelly for Southern Illinois, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Spanberger for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Gina Ortiz Jones for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Dr. Kim Schrier for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Lauren Baer for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Finkenaue for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Committee to Elect Jared Golden, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; Eastman for Congress, \$372.53, 9/1/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Mike Levin for Congress (C00634253), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Susan Wild for Congress (C00658567), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Wexton for Congress (C00638023), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Harder for Congress (C00639146), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Josh Harder for Congress, \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue, Earmarked for Colin Allred for Congress (C00637868) \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue Earmarked for Jason Crow for Congress (C00637363), \$31.25 10/11/2018; Actblue, Elizabeth Pannill Fletcher for Congress (C00640045), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Actblue, Earmarked for Rosen for Nevada (C00606939), \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Rosen for Nevada \$31.25, 10/11/2018; Kamala Harris for the People, \$1,000.00 5/6/2019; Cory 2020, \$2,800.00, 5/7/2019; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$250.00, 6/22/2019; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$25.00, 6/22/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for IA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for TX-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for CO-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue Earmarked for Democratic Nominee For AZ-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23 \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Mark Kelly for Senate, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for KY-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, Inc., \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for NC-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50 6/29/2019; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for ME-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Sara Gideon for Maine \$62.50, 6/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, \$500.00, 7/29/2019; Amy McGrath for Senate, \$500.00, 7/29/2019; Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 8/6/2019; Warren for President, Inc. \$2,000.00, 9/18/2019; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$200.00, 9/18/2019; Warren for President, Inc., \$800.00, 10/1/2019; Warren for President, Inc., \$200.00, 10/1/2019; Warren for President, -\$200.00, 5/5/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$100.00, 1/27/2020; P acronym, \$1,000.00, 1/27/2020; Arati for Congress, \$500.00, 2/9/2020; Biden for President, \$500.00, 3/1/2020; Biden for President, \$1,000.00, 3/1/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$50.00 3/1/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for CO-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for ME-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$100.00, 3/5/2020;

Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for AK-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Dr. Al Gross for U.S. Senate, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Doug Jones for US Senate (C00640623), \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for AZ-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Mark Kelly for Senate, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for TX-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for IA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Contribution to Actblue, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic nOMINEE FOR SC-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee for KY-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Amy McGrath for Senate, Inc., \$100.00, 3/5/2020; Dnc Services Corp Democratic National Committee, \$35,500.00, 4/14/2020; Dnc Services Corp Democratic National Committee, \$1,153.95, 4/14/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 5/7/2020; Biden for President, \$1,300.00, 5/7/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$2,800.00, 5/21/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 5/21/2020; Fair Fight \$1,000.00, 6/1/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$500.00, 7/17/2020; Scholten for Congress, \$2,800.00, 7/18/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Cal for NC (C00709410), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Cal for NC, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Hickenlooper for Colorado (C00716720), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Theresa Greenfield for Iowa (C00708164), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Theresa Greenfield for Iowa, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Mark Kelly for Senate (C00696526), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Democratic Nominee For GA-, held Pursuant to Aos 1977-16 and 1982-23, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Actblue, Earmarked for Montanans for Bullock (C00741611), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Sara Gideon for Maine (C00709899), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; ACTBLUE, Earmarked for Jon Ossoff for Senate (C00718866), \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$62.50, 7/19/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 7/19/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$1,666.67, 7/19/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$1,666.66, 7/19/2020; Jaime Harrison for US Senate, \$2,800.00, 7/20/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$10,000.00, 8/4/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/4/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$1,000.00, 8/6/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$55.76, 8/7/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3.98, 8/7/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$1,000.00, 8/12/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$71.42, 8/16/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Texas

Democratic Party, \$71.43, 8/16/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$10,000.00, 8/17/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$714.28, 8/17/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$25,000.00, 8/20/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$703.71, 8/20/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$3,228.37, 8/20/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$3,228.38, 8/20/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$703.72, 8/20/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$703.71, 8/20/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$3,228.37, 8/20/2020; MJ for Texas, \$2,800.00, 8/24/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,000.00, 9/1/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Party Of Virginia, \$374.99, 9/1/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Executive Committee Of Florida, \$333.34, 9/1/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Democratic Party Of Wisconsin, \$333.33, 9/1/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$375.00, 9/1/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$2,800.00, 9/4/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$186.67, 9/4/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$186.66, 9/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$210.00, 9/4/2020; Bullock Victory Fund, \$5,600.00, 9/5/2020; Montana Democratic Party, \$2,800.00, 9/5/2020; Montanans For Bullock, \$2,800.00, 9/5/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$5,600.00, 9/5/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$419.99, 9/6/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$373.34, 9/6/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$373.33, 9/6/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$420.00, 9/6/2020; Biden Victory Fund, \$50,000.00, 9/8/2020; North Carolina Democratic Party—Federal, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Arizona Democratic Party, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Colorado Democratic Party, \$2,595.95, 9/8/2020; Minnesota Democratic-Farmer-Labor Party, \$3,749.99, 9/8/2020; Democratic Party of Virginia, \$2,596.03, 9/8/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$2,595.99, 9/8/2020; Nebraska Democratic Party, \$2,595.96, 9/8/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$3,333.34, 9/8/2020; Democratic Party

of Wisconsin, \$3,333.33, 9/8/2020; Texas Democratic Party, \$2,596.00, 9/8/2020; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$3,749.99, 9/8/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$1,666.67, 9/9/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$703.72, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$333.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$186.67, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$373.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$333.34, 9/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$714.29, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$3.98, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$71.43, 10/15/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$714.29, 10/15/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Dr. Al Gross for U.S. Senate, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; MJ for Texas, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Jaime Harrison for US Senate, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$384.61 9/18/2020; Cal for NC, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Peters for Michigan, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Sara Gideon for Maine, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Hickenlooper for Colorado, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Bollier for Kansas, \$384.62, 9/18/2020; Montanans for Bullock, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Warnock for Georgia, \$384.61, 9/18/2020; Theresa Greenfield for Iowa, \$384.62, 9/21/2020; New Hampshire Democratic Party, \$10,000.00, 10/1/2020; Doug Jones for Senate Committee, \$1,000.00, 10/19/2020; Ohio Democratic Party, \$1,000.00, 10/19/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,000.00, 10/22/2020; Democratic Executive Committee of Florida, \$1,000.00, 10/26/2020; Scholten for Congress, \$1,000.00, 10/30/2020; People's Action Power, \$1,000.00, 10/30/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$1,000.00, 11/4/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$1,000.00, 11/4/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Pennsylvania Democratic Party, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Democratic Party of Wisconsin, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Michigan Democratic State Central Committee, \$200.00, 11/5/2020; Fair Fight, \$2,500.00, 11/6/2020; Warnock for Georgia, \$2,800.00, 11/8/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$200.00, 11/9/2020; Biden Fight Fund, \$2,800.00, 11/11/2020; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$2,800.00, 11/11/2020; Defeat by Tweet, \$2,000.00, 11/12/2020; Georgia Senate Victory Fund, \$15,600.00, 11/14/2020; Georgia Federal Elections Committee, \$10,000.00, 11/15/2020; Jon Ossoff for Senate, \$2,800.00, 11/15/2020; Georgia Senate Victory Fund, \$15,000.00, 11/30/2020; Presidential Inaugural Committee, \$250,000.00, 1/1/2021; Build Back Together, \$50,000.00, 1/1/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$2,800.00, 1/12/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$2,800.00, 1/12/2021; Democratic Party of Wisconsin Federal, \$1,000.00, 1/21/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$2,700.00, 1/22/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$2,900.00, 1/22/2021; Bennet for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 1/22/2021; Bennet for Colorado, \$2,800.00, 1/22/2021; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$15,000.00, 2/11/2021; Rosen Victory Fund, \$5,900.00, 2/22/2021; Rosen for Nevada, \$200.00, 2/22/2021; Nevada State Democratic Party, \$700.00, 2/22/2021; Smart Solutions PAC, \$5,000.00, 2/22/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$2,900.00, 2/24/2021; Cory Booker for Senate, \$100.00, 2/24/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 4/13/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$800.00, 4/13/2021; Purpose PAC, \$5,000.00, 4/13/2021; Ro for Congress Inc, \$2,900.00, 4/28/2021; Ro for Congress Inc, \$2,900.00, 4/28/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 7/9/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$5,800.00 7/9/2021; DSCC, \$10,000.00, 7/18/2021; DSCC, \$10,000.00, 7/18/2021; Booker Victory Fund, \$5,800.00, 8/15/2021; New Jersey Democratic State Committee, \$3,400.00, 8/15/2021; Booker Victory Fund, -\$2,400.00, 8/16/2021; DSCC, \$2,400.00, 8/25/2021; Kaine for Common Ground

PAC, \$5,800.00, 8/28/2021; Kaine for Virginia, \$2,900.00, 9/30/2021; Kaine for Virginia, \$2,900.00, 9/30/2021; DSCC, \$5,900.00, 9/14/2021; DSCC, \$14,100.00, 9/14/2021; Wyden for Senate, \$2,900.00, 9/15/2021; Wyden for Senate, \$2,900.00, 9/15/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 9/20/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 9/20/2021; Cheri Beasley for North Carolina, \$2,900.00, 9/26/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/1/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/12/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/18/2021; Accountability Virginia PAC, \$25,000.00, 10/18/2021; Friends of Lucy McBath, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Andy Kim for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Mike Levin for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021, Mikie Sherrill for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Sharice for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Haley Stevens for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Cindy Axne for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; Lauren Underwood for Congress, \$500.00, 10/23/2021; DSCC, \$36,500.00, 1/24/2022; Democratic Grassroots Victory Fund, \$36,500.00, 1/29/2022; DNC Services Corp/Democratic National Committee, \$36,500.00, 1/29/2022; Tim Ryan for Ohio, \$1,000.00, 2/9/2022; Conor Lamb for Senate, \$1,000.00, 3/2/2022.

Donee: Lauren Sabet;

Organization, Joint Fund Recipient, Donation Amount and Donation Date: Biden for President, \$2,800.00, 8/06/2019.

George P. Kent, of Massachusetts, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Minister-Counselor, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Republic of Estonia.

Nominee: George Peter Kent.

Post: Tallinn, Estonia.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

Myself: None.

My spouse: None.

Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, a Career Member of the Senior Foreign Service, Class of Career Minister, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Russian Federation.

Nominee: Lynne M. Tracy.

Post: Russian Federation.

(The following is a list of members of my immediate family. I have asked each of these persons to inform me of the pertinent contributions made by them. To the best of my knowledge, the information contained in this report is complete and accurate.)

Contributions, amount, date, and donee:

None.

Carol Spahn, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps.

L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development for a term of two years.

Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, for the Committee on Foreign Relations I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORD on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at

the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

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

Foreign Service nomination of Ryan Giralt Bedford.

Foreign Service nominations beginning with Gary P. Anthony and ending with Stephanie A. Bunce, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2022.

By Ms. CANTWELL for the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

\*David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Christopher Koos, of Illinois, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Samuel E. Lathem, of Delaware, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Robin Lee Wiessmann, of Pennsylvania, to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors for a term of five years.

\*Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2028.

\*Sue Ellen Moore, of Washington, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2023.

\*Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission for a term expiring May 13, 2025.

\*Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board for a term expiring December 31, 2027.

\*Diane Susan Kaplan, of Alaska, to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting for a term expiring January 31, 2026.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Capt. Richard E. Batson and ending with Capt. Wilborne E. Watson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 6, 2022.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Mary M. Dean and ending with Michael W. Raymond, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 11, 2022.

\*Coast Guard nomination of Capt. William G. Dwyer, to be Rear Admiral (Lower Half).

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

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

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with William C. Adams and ending with Yvonne C. Yang, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2022.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Craig H. Allen, Jr. and ending with Nicholas S. Worst, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on September 29, 2022.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Brian J. Maggi and ending with Lisa M. Thompson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on October 11, 2022.



\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Troy E. Fryar and ending with John D. Hughes, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 15, 2022.

\*Coast Guard nominations beginning with Amber S. Ward and ending with Christopher Anderson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on November 17, 2022.

\*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(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. ROMNEY (for himself and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 5195. A bill to strengthen the national security of the United States by decreasing the reliance of the Department of Defense on critical minerals from the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Ms. BALDWIN (for herself, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. BENNET):

S. 5196. A bill to authorize the location of a monument on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the women's suffrage movement and the passage of the 19th Amendment to the Constitution, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CORNYN:

S. 5197. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 651 Business Interstate Highway 35 North Suite 420 in New Braunfels, Texas, as the "Bob Krueger Post Office"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. TESTER (for himself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 5198. A bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to make eligible revenue sharing consolidated governments eligible for payments from the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 5199. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. SHAHEEN:

S. 5200. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility of members of the National Guard for housing loans guaranteed by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND:

S. 5201. A bill to reauthorize the Helen Keller National Center for Youths and Adults Who Are Deaf-Blind; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to strengthen adult education; to the Com-

mittee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. RISCH, Ms. HASSAN, Ms. WARREN, Mr. THUNE, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 5203. A bill to provide for the creation of the Missing Armed Forces Personnel Records Collection at the National Archives, to require the expeditious public transmission to the Archivist and public disclosure of Missing Armed Forces Personnel records, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. BOOKER:

S. 5204. A bill to strengthen student achievement and graduation rates and prepare children and youth for college, careers, and citizenship through innovative partnerships that meet the comprehensive needs of children and youth; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LUJAN (for himself and Mr. CRAMER):

S. 5205. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to require the Secretary of Energy to establish an abandoned wells research, development, and demonstration program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 5206. A bill to improve the treatment of Federal prisoners who are primary caretaker parents, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. SMITH:

S. 5207. A bill to authorize the Attorney General to make grants to improve public safety, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. THUNE):

S. 5208. A bill to enhance existing aviation workforce development pilot programs; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. GILLIBRAND (for herself, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 5209. A bill to establish a grant program for States to fund community-based nonprofit student loan consumer assistance programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MARKEY (for himself and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 5210. A bill to require an interagency study on the environmental and energy impacts of crypto-asset mining, to assess crypto-asset mining compliance with the Clean Air Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

## SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY):

S. Res. 862. A resolution calling for the dissolution of the biased United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 863. A resolution designating November 2022 as "National Lung Cancer

Awareness Month" and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer; considered and agreed to.

## ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 403

At the request of Mr. YOUNG, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) and the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) were added as cosponsors of S. 403, a bill to preserve open competition and Federal Government neutrality towards the labor relations of Federal Government contractors on Federal and federally funded construction projects, and for other purposes.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. YOUNG) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2029

At the request of Mr. MURPHY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2029, a bill to prohibit the use of corporal punishment in schools, and for other purposes.

S. 2438

At the request of Mr. CASSIDY, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. KENNEDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2438, a bill to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes.

S. 3372

At the request of Mr. BRAUN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3372, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to strengthen benefits for children of Vietnam veterans born with spina bifida, and for other purposes.

S. 3508

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3508, a bill to posthumously award a congressional gold medal to Constance Baker Motley.

S. 3629

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3629, a bill to authorize a study on certain exemptions for treatment of opioid use disorder through opioid treatment programs during the COVID-19 public health emergency, and for other purposes.

S. 3766

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the name of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BRAUN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3766, a bill to increase the benefits guaranteed in connection with certain pension plans, and for other purposes.

S. 3791

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey

(Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3791, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide for coverage of prescription digital therapeutics under such titles, and for other purposes.

S. 3797

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3797, a bill to amend title V of the Social Security Act to support stillbirth prevention and research, and for other purposes.

S. 3963

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the names of the Senator from Texas (Mr. CORNYN), the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3963, a bill to protect survivors from brain injury by authorizing the Secretary of Health and Human Services to collect data on the prevalence of brain injuries resulting from domestic and sexual violence.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the name of the Senator from West Virginia (Mr. MANCHIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4156

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4156, a bill to improve the workforce of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4419

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4419, a bill to require small, medium, and large hub airports to certify that airport service workers are paid the prevailing wage and provided fringe benefits, and for other purposes.

S. 4587

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN), the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN), the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM), the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA), the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. BURR), the Senator from Wyoming (Ms. LUMMIS), the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 4587, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Benjamin Berell Ferencz, in recognition of his service to the United States and international community during the post-World War II Nuremberg trials and lifelong advocacy for international criminal justice and rule of law.

S. 4700

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4700, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide for

limitations on copayments for contraception furnished by the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 4932

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 4932, a bill to amend title 17, United States Code, to provide fair treatment of radio stations and artists for the use of sound recordings, and for other purposes.

S. 4937

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4937, a bill to prohibit the United States Government from recognizing the Russian Federation's claim of sovereignty over any portion of the sovereign territory of Ukraine, and for other purposes.

S. 5021

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nebraska (Mrs. FISCHER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5021, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude certain broadband grants from gross income.

S. 5112

At the request of Mr. BLUMENTHAL, the name of the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5112, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the 250th Anniversary of the United States Marine Corps, and to support programs at the Marine Corps Heritage Center.

S. 5135

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) was added as a cosponsor of S. 5135, a bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring an issuer to disclose information relating to certain greenhouse gas emissions, and for other purposes.

S. 5192

At the request of Mr. KING, the names of the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS), the Senator from New Hampshire (Mrs. SHAHEEN) and the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) were added as cosponsors of S. 5192, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to increase the limitation on the credit for biomass stoves and boilers.

S. CON. RES. 47

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. Con. Res. 47, a concurrent resolution commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses.

S. RES. 650

At the request of Mr. Kaine, the name of the Senator from Connecticut

(Mr. MURPHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 650, a resolution recognizing May 28 as "World Hunger Day", that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932-1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin's illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine's agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day.

AMENDMENT NO. 6477

At the request of Mr. MARSHALL, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of amendment No. 6477 intended to be proposed to H.R. 7900, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2023 for military activities of the Department of Defense and for military construction, and for defense activities of the Department of Energy, to prescribe military personnel strengths for such fiscal year, and for other purposes.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Mr. CARPER, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 5199. A bill to authorize Federal agencies to establish prize competitions for innovation or adaptation management development relating to coral reef ecosystems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Ms. HIRONO. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce a bill, the Coral Sustainability Through Innovation Act of 2022. This no-cost bill allows the head of any Federal Agency with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to award competitive prizes for the purpose of stimulating innovation to advance the ability of the United States to understand, research, or monitor coral reef ecosystems or to develop management or adaptation options to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

Federal Agencies with a representative serving on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force include the Department of Commerce, DOC; the Department of the Interior, DOI; the Federal Emergency Management Agency, FEMA; the U.S. Agency for International Development, USAID; the U.S. Department of Agriculture, USDA; the Department of Defense, DOD; the U.S. Coast Guard, USCG; the U.S. Department of Justice, DOJ; the U.S. Department of State, DOS; the U.S. Department of Transportation, DOT; the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency, EPA; the National Aeronautic Space Administration, NASA; and the National Science Foundation, NSF. In addition to Federal Agencies, other members of the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force include the States of Hawaii and Florida, the territories of Guam, American Samoa, and the U.S. Virgin Islands, the Commonwealths of Puerto Rico and the Northern Mariana Islands, and the Federated

States of Micronesia, the Republic of Marshall Islands, and the Republic of Palau.

Corals serve myriad ecosystem functions, which include serving as a source of food, a place for recreation and tourism, a source for coastal protection, and an important part of local cultural practices, to name a few. A number of studies have been conducted to place a monetary value on the importance of coral reef ecosystems in Hawaii. A U.S. Geological Survey, USGS, study published in 2019 estimated the flood protection value of coral reefs in Hawaii alone at \$836 million annually. When accounting for all U.S. coral reefs, so those in the waters of Hawaii, Florida, Guam, American Samoa, Puerto Rico, the U.S. Virgin Islands, and the Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands, the same study estimated the flood protection value to increase to \$1.8 billion. Another study published by the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, NOAA, in 2011 estimated the total economic value of Hawaii coral reefs to the American people to be \$33.57 billion. There is no doubt the importance of corals to our Nation.

Unfortunately, there are currently a number of variables that are threatening the health of our Nation's coral reefs. These variables include climate change-driven warming of ocean temperatures and ocean acidification, unsustainable fishing, and pollution. As a result of global bleaching events and disease outbreaks corals are projected to decline significantly over the coming decades.

In an effort to mitigate the impacts of declining coral health, this no-cost bill prioritizes programs that address communities, environments, or industries that are in distress due to the decline or degradation of coral reef ecosystems. Allowing Federal Agencies on the U.S. Coral Reef Task Force to enter into private-public partnerships via prize competitions, as this bill does, will allow for the advancement of innovative research that will advance our Nation's ability to preserve, sustain, and restore coral reef ecosystems.

Time is running out to ensure that coral reef ecosystems remain the vibrant habitats that so many aspects of our society's functioning have come to rely upon. Innovative solutions at no extra cost to the American people, such as those supported by this bill, are desperately needed to reverse the damage that our Nation's coral reef ecosystems have experienced over the past decades to ensure that they will be around to benefit Americans in the coming decades.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 5202. A bill to amend the Adult Education and Family Literacy Act and the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to strengthen adult education; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, we have a longstanding adult literacy crisis that

affects the quality of life for individuals and families and holds our economy back. It is time for a major expansion of adult education. Today, I am proud to introduce bipartisan legislation—the Adult Education Workforce Opportunity and Reskilling for Knowledge and Success Act, or the Adult Education WORKS Act—with my colleague Senator YOUNG.

Adult education provides numeracy, literacy, digital literacy, English language skills, work readiness, soft skills, high school equivalency, and numerous wraparound services to millions of adult learners nationwide—all essential skills. They can be the difference between earning a family-sustaining wage and struggling to make ends meet. A study commissioned by the Barbara Bush Foundation estimated that getting all U.S. adults to the equivalent of a sixth grade reading level would generate an additional \$2.2 trillion in annual income for the country. Without the opportunities provided through adult education programs, many adults will be left on the sidelines.

According to recent National Center for Education Statistics, NCES, data, 43 million adults are low-skilled in literacy and 62.7 million adults are low-skilled in numeracy. Building a sustainable economy that truly works for everyone is going to require helping these individuals acquire the basic skills they need to succeed. Unfortunately, we are reaching only a fraction of these individuals today. According to the Department of Education, at current funding levels, adult education programs only serve about 1.1 million people, and an estimated one-third of local adult education providers have waiting lists.

The Adult Education WORKS Act provides a roadmap for addressing this crisis. It calls for increased resources, doubling funding for adult education by 2026. At the same time, it makes significant improvements to the adult education system. It calls for a new emphasis on digital and information literacy, which are critical for success in the workplace and in navigating everyday life. It enhances the role of adult education providers, with a special focus on public libraries and community-based organizations, throughout the workforce development system, ensuring coordination and efficient use of resources. It invests in the professionalization of the adult education field, strengthening State certification policies, encouraging full-time staffing models, and expanding professional development opportunities and career pathways for adult educators. It provides support for college and career navigators in public libraries and community-based organizations to support adult learners where they live. Finally, it invests in innovation and accountability through pilot projects that test new approaches to measuring program performance and learner outcomes.

In developing this legislation, Senator YOUNG and I worked closely with key stakeholders working on the frontlines in the adult education community. I am pleased to count the American Library Association, the Center for Law and Social Policy, the Coalition on Adult Basic Education, the National Coalition for Literacy, ProLiteracy, and TESOL among the supporters of this legislation.

I urge my colleagues to cosponsor this legislation and work with us to ensure it is part of any legislation to reauthorize the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act.

## SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

### SENATE RESOLUTION 862—CALLING FOR THE DISSOLUTION OF THE BIASED UNITED NATIONS INDEPENDENT INTERNATIONAL COMMISSION OF INQUIRY ON THE OCCUPIED PALESTINIAN TERRITORY, INCLUDING EAST JERUSALEM, AND ISRAEL

Mr. CARDIN (for himself and Mr. HAGERTY) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. RES. 862

Whereas, shortly after the Israeli-Palestinian conflict in May 2021, the United Nations Human Rights Council (UNHRC) launched an open-ended investigation into the actions of Israel during the conflict;

Whereas the investigation, which serves to discredit the only Jewish state, is likely to further fuel anti-Semitism worldwide;

Whereas the mandate of the United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (referred to in this preamble as the "Commission") is to investigate in the West Bank, Gaza, East Jerusalem, and Israel all alleged violations of international humanitarian law and all alleged violations and abuses of international human rights law leading up to and since April 13, 2021;

Whereas the creation of the Commission is consistent with the continued bias of the UNHRC against Israel and the disproportionate use of resources in an ongoing campaign to disparage, discredit, and denounce Israel;

Whereas, on October 16, 2021, after the United States was reelected to the UNHRC, Secretary of State Antony Blinken stated that the UNHRC "suffers from serious flaws, including disproportionate attention on Israel" and that the United States and other countries "must push back against attempts to subvert the ideals upon which the Human Rights Council was founded";

Whereas, on March 28, 2022, Senator Cardin and Senator Portman led a bipartisan group of 68 Senators in a letter urging the Biden administration to prioritize reversing the discriminatory and unwarranted treatment of Israel by the UNHRC by leading a multinational effort in the UNHRC and in the United Nations to end the Commission;

Whereas the Commission released a report on June 7, 2022, stating that "the continued occupation by Israel of Palestinian territory and discrimination against Palestinians are the key root causes of the recurrent tensions, instability and protraction of conflict in the region";

Whereas the report was presented at the 50th session of the UNHRC on June 13, 2022, and concluded by stating that the Commission will conduct investigations and legal analysis into alleged violations and abuses by Israel and will work with judicial accountability mechanisms toward ensuring individual, state, and corporate accountability;

Whereas, on October 20, 2022, the Commission released a report to the United Nations General Assembly, stating that “Israeli occupation of Palestinian territory is now unlawful under international law due to its permanence and the Israeli Government’s de facto annexation policies” and urged that the issue to be referred to the International Court of Justice;

Whereas, on November 11, 2022, the United Nations General Assembly Fourth Committee voted by a margin of 98 in favor, 17 opposed, and 52 abstentions to urgently seek an advisory opinion from the International Court of Justice on the “prolonged occupation, settlement and annexation of Palestinian territory” by Israel; and

Whereas one-sided reporting by the Commission continues to attack Israel, while ignoring the continued violence committed by Hamas and other Palestinian terrorist groups: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) calls for the Secretary of State to continue to work robustly toward the dissolution of the biased United Nations Independent International Commission of Inquiry on the Occupied Palestinian Territory, including East Jerusalem, and Israel (referred to in this resolution as the “Commission”) to allow the United Nations Human Rights Council to focus on the many situations around the world that warrant a thorough and even-handed examination;

(2) supports efforts by the Secretary of State to continue to reduce the budget of the Commission until it is eliminated;

(3) believes that eliminating the Commission is an opportunity to fulfill the pledge made at the 76th session of the United Nations General Assembly Fifth Committee by Ambassador Patrick F. Kennedy that “the U.S. stands with Israel in rejecting the unprecedented open-ended mandate of this Commission of Inquiry, which perpetuates a practice of unfairly singling out Israel in the U.N.”; and

(4) opposes the persistent anti-Israel bias of the United Nations Human Rights Council and other international organizations.

#### SENATE RESOLUTION 863—DESIGNATING NOVEMBER 2022 AS “NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH” AND EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR EARLY DETECTION AND TREATMENT OF LUNG CANCER

Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 863

Whereas lung cancer is the leading cause of cancer-related death among individuals in the United States, accounting for more deaths than colon cancer, breast cancer, and prostate cancer combined;

Whereas it is estimated that, in 2022, 236,740 individuals in the United States will be diagnosed with lung cancer, and 130,180 individuals (approximately 350 individuals per day) will die from the disease;

Whereas 1 in 16 men and 1 in 17 women in the United States will develop lung cancer during their lifetimes;

Whereas the rate of lung cancer diagnosis in women in the United States has increased by 79 percent over the past 44 years, each year more women die from lung cancer than breast cancer, and, by 2035, it is estimated that more women will die from lung cancer than men;

Whereas disparities in lung cancer screening, diagnosis, treatment, and mortality are well-documented, and Black men have the highest incidence of lung cancer and the highest mortality rate from lung cancer of any racial or ethnic group in the United States;

Whereas, in 2022, lung cancer in individuals who have never smoked is estimated to account for 20,700 deaths in the United States, according to the American Cancer Society;

Whereas women who have never smoked are more likely to be diagnosed with lung cancer than men who have never smoked;

Whereas, in the United States, the proportion of lung cancers diagnosed in individuals who have never smoked is increasing;

Whereas the 5-year survival rate for localized lung cancer is 61 percent, yet only 19 percent of lung cancers are diagnosed at this stage, while a majority of lung cancer cases are diagnosed at the distant stage, for which the 5-year survival rate is 7 percent;

Whereas screening individuals at high risk of lung cancer using low-dose computed tomography can detect lung cancer earlier than other forms of screening and ultimately save lives;

Whereas over 1,000,000 veterans are eligible for lung cancer screening, but less than 3 percent undergo lung cancer screening by low-dose computed tomography;

Whereas lung cancer screening can effectively reduce lung cancer mortality, but, annually, only 4.5 percent of individuals in the United States at risk for lung cancer undergo lung cancer screening with low-dose computed tomography;

Whereas current lung cancer screening guidelines help identify cancer early for individuals at high risk of lung cancer, leading to a higher likelihood of successful treatment, but can preclude screening for individuals who develop lung cancer, including individuals who have never smoked but have other risk factors, such as family history of lung cancer, exposure to secondhand smoke, or exposure to radon, which is the second leading cause of lung cancer; and

Whereas educational efforts can increase awareness of lung cancer and lung cancer screening among the general public, patients and their families, and health care workers, thereby increasing the early detection of lung cancer: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 2022 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month”;

(2) supports the purposes and ideals of National Lung Cancer Awareness Month;

(3) promotes efforts to increase awareness of, and education about, lung cancer among individuals in the United States;

(4) champions efforts to increase lung cancer screening by raising awareness among, and improving access for, individuals who are eligible for lung cancer screening;

(5) recognizes the need for research on the early screening, diagnosis, and treatment of lung cancer; and

(6) encourages the people of the United States to observe National Lung Cancer Awareness Month with appropriate awareness and educational activities.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I have two requests for committees to meet

during today’s session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

#### COMMITTEE ON COMMERCE, SCIENCE, AND TRANSPORTATION

The Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, December 7, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a business meeting.

#### PROVIDING FOR CERTAIN WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged from further consideration of S. 3316 and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 3316) to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the Grassley substitute amendment be considered and agreed to and the bill be considered read a third time.

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

The amendment (No. 6507), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

Strike all after the enacting clause and insert the following:

#### SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Anti-Money Laundering Whistleblower Improvement Act”.

#### SEC. 2. WHISTLEBLOWER INCENTIVES AND PROTECTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, as amended by section 6314 of the Anti-Money Laundering Act of 2020 (division F of Public Law 116-283) is amended by striking subsection (b) and inserting the following:

“(b) AWARDS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In any covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, the Secretary, under regulations prescribed by the Secretary, in consultation with the Attorney General and subject to subsection (c), shall pay an award or awards to 1 or more whistleblowers who voluntarily provided original information to the employer of the individual, the Secretary, or the Attorney General, as applicable, that led to the successful enforcement of the covered judicial or administrative action, or related action, in an aggregate amount equal to—

“(A) not less than 10 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions; and

“(B) not more than 30 percent, in total, of what has been collected of the monetary sanctions imposed in the action or related actions.

“(2) PAYMENT OF AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Any amount paid under paragraph (1) shall be paid from the Fund established under paragraph (3).

“(B) RELATED ACTIONS.—The Secretary may pay awards less than the amount described in paragraph (1)(A) for related actions in which a whistleblower may be paid by another whistleblower award program.

“(3) SOURCE OF AWARDS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be established in the Treasury of the United States a revolving fund to be known as the Financial Integrity Fund (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Fund’).

“(B) USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall be available to the Secretary, without further appropriation or fiscal year limitations, only for the payment of awards to whistleblowers as provided in subsection (b).

“(C) RESTRICTIONS ON USE OF FUND.—The Fund shall not be available to pay any personnel or administrative expenses.

“(4) DEPOSITS AND CREDITS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—There shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to—

“(i) any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary or Attorney General in any judicial or administrative action under this title, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), unless the balance of the Fund at the time the monetary sanction is collected exceeds \$300,000,000; and

“(ii) all income from investments made under paragraph (5).

“(B) ADDITIONAL AMOUNTS.—If the amounts deposited into or credited to the Fund under subparagraph (A) are not sufficient to satisfy an award made under this subsection, there shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund an amount equal to the unsatisfied portion of the award from any monetary sanction collected by the Secretary of the Treasury or Attorney General in the covered judicial or administrative action on which the award is based.

“(C) EXCEPTION.—No amounts to be deposited or transferred into the United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Fund pursuant to the Justice for United States Victims of State Sponsored Terrorism Act (34 U.S.C. 20144) or the Crime Victims Fund pursuant section 1402 of the Victims of Crime Act of 1984 (34 U.S.C. 20101) shall be deposited into or credited to the Fund.

“(5) INVESTMENTS.—

“(A) AMOUNTS IN FUND MAY BE INVESTED.—The Secretary of the Treasury may invest the portion of the Fund that is not required to meet the current needs of the Fund.

“(B) ELIGIBLE INVESTMENTS.—Investments shall be made by the Secretary of the Treasury in obligations of the United States or obligations that are guaranteed as to principal and interest by the United States, with maturities suitable to the needs of the Fund as determined by the Secretary.

“(C) INTEREST AND PROCEEDS CREDITED.—The interest on, and the proceeds from the sale or redemption of, any obligations held in the Fund shall be credited to, and form a part of, the Fund.”.

(b) TECHNICAL AND CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 5323 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in paragraphs (1) and (5), by striking “this subchapter or subchapter III” each place the term appears and inserting “this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.), or .), and for conspiracies to violate the aforementioned provisions”; and

(B) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “covered” after “respect to any”; and

(ii) by striking “under this subchapter or subchapter III”; and

(iii) by striking “action by the Secretary or the Attorney General” and inserting “covered action”; and

(2) in subsection (c)(1)(B)(iii)—

(A) by striking “subchapter and subchapter III” and inserting “this subchapter, chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, and the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.)”; and

(B) by striking “either such subchapter” and inserting “the covered judicial or administrative action”; and

(3) in subsection (g)(4)(D)(i), by inserting “chapter 35 or section 4305 or 4312 of title 50, or the Foreign Narcotics Kingpin Designation Act (21 U.S.C. 1901 et seq.),” after “subchapter.”.

The bill, as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading and was read the third time.

Ms. HASSAN. I know of no further debate on the bill, as amended.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate on the bill?

Hearing none, the bill having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the bill pass?

The bill (S. 3316), as amended, was passed.

Ms. HASSAN. I further ask that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

## FEMA IMPROVEMENT, REFORM, AND EFFICIENCY ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask that the Chair lay before the Senate the message to accompany S. 3092.

The Presiding Officer laid before the Senate the following message from the House of Representatives:

Resolved, That the bill from the Senate (S. 3092) entitled “An Act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance, and for other purposes.”, do pass with an amendment.

### MOTION TO CONCUR

Ms. HASSAN. I move to concur in the House amendment, and I ask unanimous consent that the motion be agreed to and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

## CLEAR AND CONCISE CONTENT ACT OF 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of Calendar No. 502, S. 4577.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 4577) to improve plain writing and public experience, and for other purposes.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the bill, which had been reported from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, with amendments, as follows:

(The parts of the bill intended to be stricken are shown in boldface brackets and the parts of the bill intended to be inserted are shown in italic.)

S. 4577

*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 “Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022”.

### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means an executive agency and a military department, as such terms are defined in sections 105 and 102 of title 5, United States Code, respectively.

(2) COVERED CONTENT.—The term “covered content”—

(A) means any content that—

(i) is necessary for obtaining any benefit or service from the Federal Government or for filing taxes; or

(ii) provides information about—

(I) any benefit or service from the Federal Government;

(II) any operations, policies, or guidance of an agency that are of material importance to the agency and are posted publicly by the agency, including any explanation of how to comply with a requirement the Federal Government administers or enforces;

(III) how to interact with or provide feedback to an agency regarding the operations, policies, or guidance of the agency; or

(IV) how to navigate or interact with any agency website, digital service, or office;

(B) includes—

(i) (whether in paper or electronic form) a letter, publication, form, notice, guidance, policy, instruction, or official correspondence of an agency;

(ii) all content necessary for public understanding, interaction, and use of an agency digital service or website; and

(iii) instructions on how to submit comments, feedback, or information in response to a regulation during any portion of the rulemaking or implementation process for a regulation; and

(C) subject to subparagraph (B)(iii), does not include a regulation.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(5) PLAIN WRITING.—The term “plain writing” means writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience, including an audience who may be disabled, may not be proficient in English, or may otherwise be disadvantaged or traditionally underserved.

### SEC. 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall rescind outdated guidance and issue new guidance for the creation, maintenance, and use of covered content at agencies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) establish procedures under which an agency shall review any content in use on the date of enactment of this Act to determine if it is covered content;

(2) establish policies for an agency to ensure that any content of the agency that is covered content, including any content created or updated after the date of enactment of this Act that is determined to be covered content, is drafted in plain writing;

(3) establish qualitative and quantitative metrics by which an agency shall be measured for compliance with the requirements to identify covered content, draft covered content in plain writing, and solicit and incorporate public feedback and data to improve public engagement and interaction with the agency;

(4) prescribe processes by which agencies shall submit agency reports required by the Director, in an appropriate manner and form, to support the governmentwide reports required under subsection (c); and

(5) require an agency to solicit public feedback, collect data, and routinely test the creation or modification of covered content of the agency.

(c) REPORTS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on implementation of this Act by agencies, including the progress of agencies towards the metrics established under subsection (b)(3) and any other information or data determined by the Director to inform Congress and the public on implementation of plain writing in covered content by agencies.

(2) PUBLIC WEBSITE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director may make the reports submitted under paragraph (1) available on a public website determined by the Director.

(B) FORM.—If the Director makes reports available under subparagraph (A), the reports shall be maintained as open Government data assets.

(3) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.—

(A) FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.—The Director shall ensure that the information regarding the Federal Government performance plan and agency performance plans required to be made available under [subsection (b) or (c) of section 1122] subsection (a) or (b) of section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is treated as covered content and published (whether in paper or electronic form) using plain writing.

(B) AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.—Section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) incorporate the metrics established under section 3(b)(3) of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022.”.

#### SEC. 4. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency shall ensure compliance with this Act, including through the designation of a senior officer at the agency (not lower than [the *an* Assistant Secretary or equivalent] to oversee implementation by the agency, including all bureaus, offices, or other subordinate components of the agency.

(b) REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN COVERED CONTENT.—Except as provided in

the amendments made by section 5(1), on and after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall use plain writing in all covered content made available by the agency, consistent with the guidance issued by the Director under section 3(a).

(c) REQUIREMENT FOR FEEDBACK FROM CUSTOMERS.—The head of each agency shall ensure that there are opportunities and mechanisms in place (whether in paper or electronic form) that incorporate plain writing instructions for feedback from individuals or entities obtaining services from or engaging in transactions with the agency.

(d) PUBLIC FEEDBACK.—The head of each agency shall maintain an accessible form, survey tool, or other portion of a website of the agency to solicit feedback from the public on compliance with this Act by the agency and to collect the feedback and data required under section 3(b) [(4)] (5).

#### SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE 21ST CENTURY IDEA ACT.

Section 3 of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (9), not later”; (B) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and (D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) is drafted using plain writing (as defined in section 2 of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022), as is required under section 4 of such Act for covered content (as defined in section 2 of such Act), by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of such Act.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022, comply with the requirements under subsection (a).”.

#### SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY.

(a) JUDICIAL REVIEW.—No court shall have jurisdiction over any claim related to any act or omission arising out of any provision of this Act.

(b) ENFORCEABILITY.—No provision of this Act shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any administrative or judicial action.

#### SEC. 7. REPEAL.

Effective on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note) is repealed.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I further ask that the committee-reported amendments be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The committee reported amendments were agreed to.

The bill (S. 4577), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed, as follows:

S. 4577

*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 “Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022”.

#### SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” means an executive agency and a military department, as such terms are defined in sections 105 and 102 of title 5, United States Code, respectively.

(2) COVERED CONTENT.—The term “covered content”—

(A) means any content that—

(i) is necessary for obtaining any benefit or service from the Federal Government or for filing taxes; or

(ii) provides information about—

(I) any benefit or service from the Federal Government;

(II) any operations, policies, or guidance of an agency that are of material importance to the agency and are posted publicly by the agency, including any explanation of how to comply with a requirement the Federal Government administers or enforces;

(III) how to interact with or provide feedback to an agency regarding the operations, policies, or guidance of the agency; or

(IV) how to navigate or interact with any agency website, digital service, or office;

(B) includes—

(i) (whether in paper or electronic form) a letter, publication, form, notice, guidance, policy, instruction, or official correspondence of an agency;

(ii) all content necessary for public understanding, interaction, and use of an agency digital service or website; and

(iii) instructions on how to submit comments, feedback, or information in response to a regulation during any portion of the rulemaking or implementation process for a regulation; and

(C) subject to subparagraph (B)(iii), does not include a regulation.

(3) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

(4) OPEN GOVERNMENT DATA ASSET.—The term “open Government data asset” has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

(5) PLAIN WRITING.—The term “plain writing” means writing that is clear, concise, well-organized, and follows other best practices appropriate to the subject or field and intended audience, including an audience who may be disabled, may not be proficient in English, or may otherwise be disadvantaged or traditionally underserved.

#### SEC. 3. RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE DIRECTOR.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall rescind outdated guidance and issue new guidance for the creation, maintenance, and use of covered content at agencies.

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The guidance required under subsection (a) shall—

(1) establish procedures under which an agency shall review any content in use on the date of enactment of this Act to determine if it is covered content;

(2) establish policies for an agency to ensure that any content of the agency that is covered content, including any content created or updated after the date of enactment of this Act that is determined to be covered content, is drafted in plain writing;

(3) establish qualitative and quantitative metrics by which an agency shall be measured for compliance with the requirements to identify covered content, draft covered



content in plain writing, and solicit and incorporate public feedback and data to improve public engagement and interaction with the agency;

(4) prescribe processes by which agencies shall submit agency reports required by the Director, in an appropriate manner and form, to support the governmentwide reports required under subsection (c); and

(5) require an agency to solicit public feedback, collect data, and routinely test the creation or modification of covered content of the agency.

(c) **REPORTS TO CONGRESS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Director shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives a report on implementation of this Act by agencies, including the progress of agencies towards the metrics established under subsection (b)(3) and any other information or data determined by the Director to inform Congress and the public on implementation of plain writing in covered content by agencies.

(2) **PUBLIC WEBSITE.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Director may make the reports submitted under paragraph (1) available on a public website determined by the Director.

(B) **FORM.**—If the Director makes reports available under subparagraph (A), the reports shall be maintained as open Government data assets.

(3) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT AND AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—

(A) **FEDERAL GOVERNMENT.**—The Director shall ensure that the information regarding the Federal Government performance plan and agency performance plans required to be made available under subsection (a) or (b) of section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is treated as covered content and published (whether in paper or electronic form) using plain writing.

(B) **AGENCY PERFORMANCE PLANS.**—Section 1115(b) of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(i) in paragraph (9)(C), by striking “and” at the end;

(ii) in paragraph (10), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(iii) by adding at the end the following:

“(11) incorporate the metrics established under section 3(b)(3) of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022.”.

**SEC. 4. AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.**

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The head of each agency shall ensure compliance with this Act, including through the designation of a senior officer at the agency (not lower than an Assistant Secretary or equivalent) to oversee implementation by the agency, including all bureaus, offices, or other subordinate components of the agency.

(b) **REQUIREMENT TO USE PLAIN LANGUAGE IN COVERED CONTENT.**—Except as provided in the amendments made by section 5(1), on and after the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, each agency shall use plain writing in all covered content made available by the agency, consistent with the guidance issued by the Director under section 3(a).

(c) **REQUIREMENT FOR FEEDBACK FROM CUSTOMERS.**—The head of each agency shall ensure that there are opportunities and mechanisms in place (whether in paper or electronic form) that incorporate plain writing instructions for feedback from individuals or entities obtaining services from or engaging in transactions with the agency.

(d) **PUBLIC FEEDBACK.**—The head of each agency shall maintain an accessible form,

survey tool, or other portion of a website of the agency to solicit feedback from the public on compliance with this Act by the agency and to collect the feedback and data required under section 3(b)(5).

**SEC. 5. AMENDMENTS TO THE 21ST CENTURY IDEA ACT.**

Section 3 of the 21st Century Integrated Digital Experience Act (44 U.S.C. 3501 note) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (9), not later”; and

(B) in paragraph (7), by striking “and” at the end;

(C) in paragraph (8), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(D) by adding at the end the following:

“(9) is drafted using plain writing (as defined in section 2 of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022), as is required under section 4 of such Act for covered content (as defined in section 2 of such Act), by not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of such Act.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “Not later” and inserting “Except as provided in paragraph (2), not later”; and

(B) by striking paragraph (2) and inserting the following:

“(2) by not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of the Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022, comply with the requirements under subsection (a).”.

**SEC. 6. LIMITATION ON JUDICIAL ENFORCEABILITY.**

(a) **JUDICIAL REVIEW.**—No court shall have jurisdiction over any claim related to any act or omission arising out of any provision of this Act.

(b) **ENFORCEABILITY.**—No provision of this Act shall be construed to create any right or benefit, substantive or procedural, enforceable by any administrative or judicial action.

**SEC. 7. REPEAL.**

Effective on the date that is 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Plain Writing Act of 2010 (5 U.S.C. 301 note) is repealed.

**NATIONAL WARRIOR CALL DAY**

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 754.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 754) designating November 13, 2022, as “National Warrior Call Day” in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to; the Shaheen amendment at the desk to the preamble be agreed to; the preamble, as amended, be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

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

The resolution (S. Res. 754) was agreed to.

The amendment (No. 6508) to the preamble was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: To amend the preamble)

Strike the preamble and insert the following:

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the rate of suicide for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased from 20.3 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 individuals in 2020;

Whereas the suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans dying by suicide in 2019;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2019 was 31.6 per 100,000 individuals, substantially higher than the rate among adults in the United States who are not veterans at 16.8 per 100,000 individuals;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who died by suicide had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 13, 2022, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

The preamble, as amended, was agreed to.

The resolution with its preamble, as amended, reads as follows:

**S. RES. 754**

Whereas establishing an annual “National Warrior Call Day” will draw attention to the members of the Armed Forces whose connection to one another is key to the veterans and first responders in the United States who may be dangerously disconnected from family, friends, and support systems;

Whereas the rate of suicide for members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty increased from 20.3 per 100,000 individuals in 2015 to 28.7 per 100,000 individuals in 2020;

Whereas the suicide rate for veterans has steadily increased since 2006, with 6,261 veterans dying by suicide in 2019;

Whereas, after adjusting for sex and age, the rate of veteran suicide in 2019 was 31.6 per 100,000 individuals, substantially higher than the rate among adults in the United States who are not veterans at 16.8 per 100,000 individuals;

Whereas more veterans have died by suicide in the last 10 years than members of the Armed Forces who died from combat in Vietnam;

Whereas many of the veterans who died by suicide had no contact with the Department of Veterans Affairs;

Whereas the Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic continues to lead to increased isolation and disconnection, further exacerbating mental and physical ailments such as post-traumatic stress disorder and traumatic brain injury;

Whereas invisible wounds linked to an underlying and undiagnosed traumatic brain injury can mirror many mental health conditions, a problem that can be addressed through appropriate medical treatment;

Whereas additional research is needed to highlight the connection between traumatic brain injury as a root cause of invisible wounds and suicide by members of the Armed Forces and veterans; and

Whereas November 13, 2022, would be an appropriate day to designate as “National Warrior Call Day”: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates November 13, 2022, as “National Warrior Call Day”;

(2) encourages all individuals in the United States, especially members of the Armed Forces serving on active duty and veterans, to call up a warrior, have an honest conversation, and connect them with support, understanding that making a warrior call could save a life; and

(3) implores all individuals in the United States to recommit themselves to engaging with members of the Armed Forces through “National Warrior Call Day” and other constructive efforts that result in solutions and treatment for the invisible scars they carry.

#### CELEBRATING THE 45TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE SENATE BLACK LEGISLATIVE STAFF CAUCUS AND ITS ACHIEVEMENTS IN THE SENATE

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on Rules and Administration be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 851.

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

The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 851) celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Senate Black Legislative Staff Caucus and its achievements in the Senate.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, 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. 851) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of November 29, 2022, under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### NATIONAL LUNG CANCER AWARENESS MONTH

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate

proceed to the consideration of S. Res. 863, submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 863) designating November 2022 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for the early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Ms. HASSAN. I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and 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. 863) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in today’s RECORD under “Submitted Resolutions.”)

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Hopkins nomination postcloture; further, that at 11:30 a.m., the Senate vote on the Hopkins nomination and cloture on the Montgomery-Reeves nomination; further, that notwithstanding rule XXII, at 1:45 p.m., the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the Douglas nomination; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday’s session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action.

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

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 11 A.M. TOMORROW

Ms. HASSAN. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:03 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, December 8, 2022, at 11 a.m.

#### NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY

WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

##### To be general

LT. GEN. CHARLES R. HAMILTON

##### IN THE AIR FORCE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES AIR FORCE UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be lieutenant colonel

CHANDRAMOULI RAJARAM

##### IN THE ARMY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

CHRISTOPHER A. KREILER

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR TEMPORARY APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY JUDGE ADVOCATE GENERAL’S CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTIONS 605 AND 7064:

##### To be colonel

MICHAEL A. RIZZOTTI  
JESS B. ROBERTS  
BRETT C. SHEPARD

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

RONALD W. SPRANG

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

RYAN C. AGEE

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

PHILIP J. DEAGUILERA

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE RESERVE OF THE ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 12203:

##### To be colonel

BRIAN C. BELDOWICZ

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES ARMY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be major

CHRISTOPHER A. BENSON

##### IN THE MARINE CORPS

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICERS FOR APPOINTMENT TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES MARINE CORPS UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

##### To be colonel

DAVID AHN  
TIMOTHY D. ANDERLONIS  
CHRISTOPHER E. ANNUNZIATA  
JOEL R. ARCHIBALD  
JASON C. ARMAS  
PETER Y. BAN  
RICHARD S. BARCLAY  
SCOTT M. BENNINGHOFF  
NEIL R. BERRY  
PAUL B. BOCK  
MARK P. BRATHWAITE  
ROBERT S. BUNN  
STANLEY P. CALIXTE  
IAN S. CAMPBELL  
MICHAEL CARLSON  
MICHAEL J. CARROLL  
MICHAEL R. CASSIDY  
ALAN J. CLARKE  
ZACHARY A. COATES  
CHRISTOPHER S. CONNER  
TIMOTHY F. COSTELLO  
SCOTT A. CUOMO  
JEFFREY S. CURTIS  
SALEH P. DAGHER  
KENNETH J. DELMAZO  
NATHANIEL P. DOHERTY  
DAVID J. DONNELL  
BRIAN C. DONNELLY  
MATTHEW S. DOWNS  
SHARON L. DUBOW  
SHANE A. EDWARDS  
RAYMOND P. FELTHAM  
MICHAEL E. FEUQUAY  
JAMES D. FLEMING  
KURT M. GALL  
JAVIER A. GARCIA  
ALBERT J. GOLDBERG  
EVERETT M. GOOD  
WILLIAM V. GORSUCH  
ANDREW G. GOURGOMIS  
BENJAMIN W. GRANT  
BRYAN K. GRAYSON  
JOSEPH I. GRIMM

RYAN F. HARRINGTON  
THOMAS J. HELLER  
LEE W. HEMMING  
RUSSELL R. HENRY  
MICHAEL T. HLAD  
CHRISTINE M. HOUSER  
CALEB HYATT  
JOHN P. KEARNS  
ANDREW W. KELLNER  
JOHN F. KELLY  
THOMAS W. KERSHUL  
ANDREW J. KONICKI  
DOUGLAS P. KRUGMAN  
CEDRIC N. LEE  
YONG J. LEE  
SARAH B. LENZ  
AARON C. LLOYD  
NICHOLAS J. LOZAR  
RYAN A. LYNCH  
MICHELLE I. MACANDER  
WILLIAM E. MARCANTEL, JR.  
MATTHEW A. MARKHAM  
RICHARD D. MARSHALL, JR.  
ARMANDO J. MARTINEZ  
WILLIAM J. MATORY  
JOSHUA J. MAYORAL  
ADAM C. MCCULLY  
CHRISTOPHER C. MCDONALD II  
ROBB T. MCDONALD  
MATTHEW T. MCSORLEY  
ROBERT D. MERRILL, JR.  
ROBYN E. MESTEMACHER

JOHN A. MODER  
CHRIS P. NIEDZIOCHA  
CHARLES E. PARKER, JR.  
IAIN D. PEDDEN  
ZEBULON C. PHILPOTT  
JACOB D. PORTARO  
CARL J. PUNZEL  
WADE C. REAVES  
MARCUS J. REYNOLDS  
KEITH W. RICHARDSON  
RICHARD H. ROBINSON III  
MICHAEL C. ROCK  
JAMES T. ROSE  
JUSTIN M. SANDERS  
THOMAS W. SAVAGE  
RUSSELL W. SAVATT IV  
JOEL C. SCHUMACHER  
PETRA L. SEIPEL  
ARNOLD B. SELVIDGE  
SCOTT G. SHADFORTH  
LESLIE M. STANSBERRY  
JOHN J. STEPHENS  
JAMES D. THORNBURG, JR.  
PABLO J. TORRES  
ANNA M. VOYNE  
MARC T. WALKER  
SCOTT D. WELBORN  
LIZETTE G. WELCH  
JOSHUA O. WHAMOND  
PATRICK S. WILLIAMS  
ROBERT D. WOLFE  
ADAM J. WORKMAN

JAY M. ZARRA

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT  
TO THE GRADE INDICATED IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY  
UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 624:

*To be lieutenant commander*

TAPEKA C. PRINGLE

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by  
the Senate December 7, 2022:

THE JUDICIARY

JERRY W. BLACKWELL, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED  
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MIN-  
NESOTA.

JOHN FRANK MURPHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

MIA ROBERTS PEREZ, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE  
UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN  
DISTRICT OF PENNSYLVANIA.

KAI N. SCOTT, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE UNITED  
STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT  
OF PENNSYLVANIA.

## EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING MAJOR ALEXANDER ARCDIACONO UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Major Alexander Arcidiacono of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Major Alexander Arcidiacono epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Major Alexander Arcidiacono of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE SERVICE OF  
MYRTLE BRAXTON

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the service of Myrtle Braxton.

Throughout her life, Myrtle has served her community in Richmond and has been a true champion for Contra Costa seniors and families. She began her career in public service at the age of 17, working at the Social Security Administration's (SSA) San Francisco office. She went on to work out of the SSA's Rich-

mond office, serving with the SSA for a total of 35 years prior to her retirement in 1981.

After retiring, Myrtle continued to be engaged and active with a number of community organizations, including the League of Women Voters, California Alliance for Retired Americans, the Richmond Commission on Aging, and more. She is also a founder of the City of Richmond's Crime Prevention Program, promoting neighborhood safety and advocating for improved relations between community members and local law enforcement. Additionally, Myrtle has worked hard to preserve open and recreational spaces in our community through her work with the California Association of Parks and Recreation for Commissioners and Board Members and with the National Citizen Branch for the Recreation Park Association. Myrtle has worked tirelessly to improve her community and to serve Richmond residents. Her passion and commitment to activism are admired by many.

Myrtle's advocacy and leadership have been instrumental in Richmond and West County. Please join me in recognizing and thanking Myrtle Braxton for her many years of dedicated service.

HONORING AIRMAN JEREMY EDA  
UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Airman Jeremy Eda of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Airman Jeremy Eda epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congres-

sional District, I would like to congratulate Airman Jeremy Eda of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

RECOGNIZING THE EFFORTS AND  
SUCSESSES OF WNY HEROES

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor an organization, WNY Heroes, whose programs continue to be a lifeline for our local military veterans. Founded in 2007, its mission of preventing homelessness quickly expanded to a wholesale outreach organization that has aided countless veterans. They continue to work tirelessly in support of veterans, and this week we celebrate the grand opening of their new location in downtown Buffalo.

At the outset, WNY Heroes was designed to assist Iraq and Afghanistan veterans, but the need grew as veterans of all eras came in search of help. They soon broadened their reach to all that served our nation. WNY Heroes has become an instrumental voice in our community, and their effort toward veterans and their families by providing immediate financial assistance is nothing short of remarkable. More than ever, the demand for their services is growing.

Their program, "Heroes' Bridge," offers veterans with financial assistance. Through medical referral, "Pawstive for Heroes" has paid for over 140 veterans to be paired with a trained service dog. "Operation Backpack" raises money every year to buy new school supplies for the children of veterans. 1,200 veterans from four local counties are sufficiently fed because of their program, "Feed a Veteran." They connect veterans with appropriate resources and services through the Veterans Health Administration every day.

WNY Heroes fills a void in the treatment of our veterans—one that should not exist. Sacrifice abroad is often met with hardship at home. Founder, Chris Kreiger, and the WNY Heroes team knows this firsthand, so they act to fix it. This organization's success serves as a much-needed inspiration, and each of the aforementioned programs is critical in the lives of our local heroes. Their new location in Buffalo should help them to reach more veterans in a more effective manner. On behalf of everyone in the Western New York community, I would like to thank and congratulate WNY Heroes for the services they have provided to our bravest men and women.

• 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.

## HONORING PHILIPPE GILBERT

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I am grateful, on behalf of the Congressional French Caucus, to invite the House of Representatives to join in honoring Philippe Gilbert, an unheralded leader and an expert in global logistics. Philippe recently announced his retirement from United Parcel Service, Inc. (UPS) and the Caucus recognizes Philippe Gilbert for his contribution to the American people during his tenure with UPS.

A native of France, Philippe earned his Finance degree from the Institut Supérieur de Gestion (I.S.G.) in Paris, France, and is fluent in English, Spanish, French and Portuguese. Philippe first came to the United States in 1994 working for Saga S.A, coincidentally, the same year he met his lovely wife, Ida. He went on to become Executive Vice President for GEODIS Wilson, the freight management division of the GEODIS Group, followed by his position as Regional CEO of the Americas for DB Schenker Logistics. Philippe joined UPS in 2019 as Executive Vice President, Supply Chain Solutions, where he was responsible for Global Logistics and Distribution, Global Freight Forwarding and the technology-driven truckload freight brokerage business at Coyote.

Philippe was an integral part of the UPS partnership with the White House to deliver lifesaving COVID-19 vaccines across the country. Philippe and his Supply Chain Solutions team worked tirelessly to ensure vaccines could be delivered quickly and safely. To date, UPS has delivered over 1 billion vaccines across the globe with near perfect on time delivery.

Not only did Philippe work to deliver critical healthcare goods, but his team also helped American businesses through the supply chain crisis that resulted from the pandemic. Under his leadership, the Supply Chain Solutions team helped businesses of all sizes optimize their supply chains and adjust to ever changing global trade dynamics.

While his business success is laudable, Philippe's personal advocacy in support of the Crecer Business Resource Group (BRG) at UPS and efforts to support Latina advancement reflected his unwavering commitment to diversity, equity and inclusion. He would always find the time to engage and mentor, understanding the importance of the next generation of leaders.

We wish all the best to Philippe, Ida, and their son, Gabriel.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
RAUL MONTIAGUE UPON RECEIVING  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING  
CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Lieutenant Colo-

nel Raul Montague of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Lieutenant Colonel Raul Montague epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel Raul Montague of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE  
OF DALE HARRINGTON

**HON. MARK DeSAULNIER**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. DeSAULNIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of Dale Harrington.

Throughout his life, Dale has demonstrated his passion for advocacy and has worked tirelessly to promote equity within our community. He earned his master's degree from California State University at Sacramento, California and in 1963, he became Assistant Chief Probation Officer in Yolo and Santa Barbara Counties where he served for 15 years. In 1975, he was appointed chair of the Santa Barbara County Juvenile Justice Master Plan Task Force. Throughout his life, Dale was a strong advocate for criminal justice reform, firmly believing that no one is beyond redemption.

After his time as a probation officer, Dale was appointed as executive director of two corporations responsible for providing housing for elderly and disabled persons in the East Bay. Dale went on to share his expertise with future generations, joining the University of Phoenix as a Professor of Management, Sociology, and Critical Thinking. As a faculty member, he published an article through the University of Kiev in Ukraine entitled: "Professor and Student Responsibilities—How are they different?".

As a strong proponent for affordable housing within the East Bay, Dale was involved with many community organizations, serving on the Board for the Golden Rain Foundation, City of Benicia Housing Authority, and the California Association of Homes and Services for the Aging. Additionally, he was a founder and Board Member for the Affordable Housing Affiliation.

Please join me in honoring Dale Harrington, who sadly passed away at the age of 84 on October 9, 2022. He will be remembered for his outstanding character and his commitment to his community.

RECOGNIZING JEROME D. SCHAD'S  
EXCEPTIONAL CAREER

**HON. BRIAN HIGGINS**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. HIGGINS of New York. Madam Speaker, today I am pleased to honor a man, Jerome "Jerry" Schad, and his lifetime of remarkable work. Jerry has been a pillar within the Western New York law community for nearly five decades and a personal friend of mine. Though Jerry's retirement is imminent, the work that he has done in private practice and public service will long outlive his career.

A graduate of Geneva College, Duquesne University, and the University at Buffalo Law School, Jerry was admitted into the New York State Bar Association in 1972. As a partner at Hodgson Russ LLP, Jerry spent nearly thirty-four years in litigation for his firm. His work mainly focused on tort, commercial, and civil litigation regarding compliance with disability law. In his storied career, he litigated in the New York State Supreme Court and handled appeals to the Third and Fourth Appellate Divisions of the Supreme Court.

After retiring from private practice in June of 2005, Jerry began his journey in public service. Beginning in 2012, as Majority Counsel to the Erie County Legislature, Jerry advised the Democratic majority on a wide variety of pressing legal issues. In 2013, Jerry began working as one of three Commissioners of the Erie County Water Authority. He would continue this work for three terms, and it would include taking the role of Chair in 2018.

Meanwhile, Jerome Schad has been the steady force and bedrock of the Amherst Democratic Committee for the last decade. Today, Jerry is recognized for all the work he has done to advance its position and interests.

With his newfound free time, I trust that Jerry will cherish more moments with his six children, twelve grandchildren, and his loving wife, Priscilla. Not to mention, it can be safely assumed that Jerry will more frequently be seen around Western New York's golf courses. As a long-tenured and vital leader of our community, he deserves this time to enjoy the things he loves most. On behalf of countless others, I would like to thank Jerry for all his efforts through an exceptional career.

HONORING DENNIS BROBSTON FOR HIS TREMENDOUS IMPACT ON SARATOGA COUNTY AND THE CAPITAL REGION

**HON. ELISE M. STEFANIK**

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Ms. STEFANIK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dennis Brobston for his remarkable career at Saratoga Economic Development Corporation (SEDC). Over his almost fifteen-year tenure, Dennis had a tremendous impact on Saratoga County and the Capital Region.

Under Dennis' leadership, SEDC focused on creating economic growth and stability in Saratoga County and the surrounding region by helping companies invest in facilities, technology, and talent. Since Dennis began serving as President in March 2008, he has worked on nearly 200 projects that have landed Saratoga County billions in economic development.

Among these projects was the creation of GlobalFoundries in 2009. SEDC estimates that this international firm created more than 3,000 jobs in Saratoga County and more than 20,000 indirect and induced jobs throughout the region. Dennis was involved in projects of all sizes, including creating distribution centers for Target, Ace Hardware, Quad/Graphics, Greenfield Manufacturing, Agrochem, Synergy Park, and Cortex.

Throughout Dennis' career, private investment in Saratoga County reached \$16 billion, job creation grew by over 5,000, and more than 4,000 jobs were retained. These investments and growth will continue to have an economic impact on the regional and state economy for many years going forward.

While Dennis' career at SEDC is coming to an end, his leadership will continue bringing economic success to the Saratoga region. On behalf of New York's 21st District, I am honored to congratulate Dennis for his monumental career at SEDC. We thank him for making a lasting impact on the Capital Region and wish him luck in his future endeavors.

HONORING CAPTAIN CODY APFEL UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Captain Cody Apfel of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobil-

ity Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Captain Cody Apfel epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Captain Cody Apfel of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RUSS FULCHER**

OF IDAHO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. FULCHER. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 509, S. 2796.

HONORING USAF RET. COL. JAMES F. DOUGHERTY, JR.

**HON. KAT CAMMACK**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, on behalf of Florida's Third Congressional District, I honor the life of Colonel James F. Dougherty Jr., USAF, Retired. He died at the Lake City VA Medical Center on June 16, 2022 at the age of 80.

Remembered as a loving husband, father, and grandfather, Colonel Dougherty was a pilot in the Air Force before moving into financial management. The unprecedented projects he tackled in the Air Force and the Department of Defense were a credit to his willingness to do the impossible in financial management and in support of military pay improvements for our troops stationed around the world. Colonel Dougherty served in Vietnam and in support of Operation Desert Shield/Storm.

I extend my deepest condolences to Colonel Dougherty's family and friends and celebrate his life well lived. Our nation is grateful for his service and sacrifice to the Stars and Stripes.

HONORING CAPTAIN SPENCER YACOS UPON RECEIVING THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Captain Spen-

cer Yacos of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Captain Spencer Yacos epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Captain Spencer Yacos of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. RICHARD E. NEAL**

OF MASSACHUSETTS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. NEAL. Madam Speaker, due to unforeseen circumstances, I was unable to be present on December 6, 2022, to vote on S. 4834, the PROTECT Our Children Act of 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 510, S. 4834, PROTECT Our Children Act.

RECOGNIZING SAN ANTONIO'S RICHARD PEREZ

**HON. HENRY CUELLAR**

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize Mr. Richard Perez of San Antonio, Texas.

After 15 years serving as President and Chief Executive Officer of the San Antonio Chamber of Commerce, Mr. Perez will step down from his position at the end of this month. Thanks to Mr. Perez, the Chamber is stronger and more influential than ever. I would like to congratulate him on his many successes and wish him the very best in the next chapter of his life.

A native of San Antonio, Texas, Mr. Perez learned about the importance of small businesses—and the challenges that they face—at



an early age while working for his family's landscaping company. He would go on to serve as Assistant to the City Manager in my hometown of Laredo, Texas and as Special Assistant to the Deputy Secretary of the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development in the Clinton Administration. He then returned home to San Antonio where he would be elected to the City Council and eventually take the reins at the local Chamber.

Under Mr. Perez's tenure, the Chamber successfully advocated for the establishment of Texas A&M University—San Antonio and passage of the Vista Ridge Pipeline project. Mr. Perez also oversaw the design and implementation of a new governance structure and strategic plan for the Chamber. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Chamber was not only a powerful advocate for the interests of local businesses, but also a critical resource for businessowners trying to make sense of the new pandemic relief programs established by Congress.

With more than 1,650 members, Mr. Perez has harnessed the power of San Antonio's business community to make the city a friendlier place for entrepreneurs and employers. He has been a tireless advocate for the San Antonio business community, and I have greatly enjoyed working with him over the years.

Once again, I would like to recognize all that Mr. Perez has contributed to the Chamber, to the City of San Antonio, and to the State of Texas. I congratulate him on his work over the past 15 years, and I look forward to seeing what the next chapter of his life holds.

HONORING CAPTAIN JEDD  
DILLMAN UPON RECEIVING THE  
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Captain Jedd Dillman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Captain Jedd Dillman epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Captain Jedd Dillman of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

REPUBLICAN REPEAL OF NEW IRS  
AGENTS

**HON. JOE WILSON**

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, sadly in August, the Democrats passed the irresponsible \$740 billion Inflation 'Expansion' Act.

According to the Congressional Budget Office this reckless legislation, now signed into law by Biden, will actually increase the deficit by \$60 billion through 2026—putting more strain on the budgets of American families.

In addition to a long list of unnecessary and costly actions planned, such as tax increases on corporations and some \$350 billion creating dependency on Chinese batteries the law wastes \$80 billion for the IRS hiring of an additional 87,000 more agents, increasing audits targeting families and businesses.

Voters have elected a House Republican majority to fight inflation with fiscal sanity and repealing this IRS hiring is a high priority.

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.

As we remember the attack of December 7th, we will always remember the attack of September 11th to support peace through strength.

DANIELLE RADOVICH PIPER

**HON. ED PERLMUTTER**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the public service of my Chief of Staff, Danielle Radovich Piper.

Danielle has served as my trusted adviser for more than two decades. She managed my first campaign for Congress in 2006 out of a former veterinarian's office in Golden and has been by my side ever since as my Chief of Staff. Together, we've served Colorado's 7th Congressional District for the last 16 years. Danielle expertly managed our team of dedicated public servants. She ensured a dual focus for our office on advancing legislation which would benefit the hard-working people of Colorado while simultaneously providing excellent constituent services. Danielle is a brilliant strategist and communicator. This has served us well during difficult times including natural disasters and devastating crises in our community. She is highly respected by her peers in both Colorado and Washington, D.C.

Danielle graduated from Colorado State University with a major in Political Science and a

minor in Spanish. Before serving as my Chief of Staff, Danielle was Chief of Staff for the Senate Majority in the Colorado General Assembly. She has been appointed to several state-level entities, including the Supreme Court Nominating Commission and the Census Outreach Grant Committee.

Danielle has done this all while raising two boys, Aiden who attends Golden High School and Liam who attends Manning Middle School, with her husband Chris. Danielle is a tremendous role model with a strong moral compass who checks every line of the Code of the West, especially "Always finish what you start," "Know where to draw the line," "Be tough, but fair," and "When you make a promise, keep it." Danielle's leadership and commitment to our community is remarkable and it is impossible to count the ways her work has impacted the State of Colorado. I am proud to see Danielle continue her public service next year at my alma mater, the University of Colorado, as the Senior Vice President for External Relations and Strategy.

On behalf of our friends, neighbors, and constituents from Colorado's 7th Congressional District and the entire Congress, I want to express sincere appreciation for the career and public service of my colleague and friend, Danielle Radovich Piper.

HONORING CAPTAIN DAVID  
STUPPY UPON RECEIVING THE  
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

**HON. JOHN GARAMENDI**

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Captain David Stuppy of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Captain David Stuppy epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Captain David Stuppy of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his

sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

REMEMBERING VERONA VETERAN  
MICHAEL A. COPPOLA, JR. FOR  
HIS YEARS OF MILITARY SERVICE

### HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Michael A. Coppola, Jr. for his years of service to our Nation and to the North New Jersey community.

Mr. Coppola served in the Navy as a Water Tender Second Class. He fought in World War II from 1943 to 1946. Remarkably, he answered his country's call to duty a second time during the Korean War from 1950 to 1952. During his years of honorable service, he was awarded with the American Theatre Medal, Victory Medal, European Theatre Medal, and the Sea Bee Insignia.

After his military service, he moved to Verona, New Jersey in 1954. He worked as a Power House Chief Engineer for Otis Elevator for 31 years then went to work for Westinghouse for 10 years in a similar role.

He was President of the Essex Chapter of the National Association of Power Engineers and was a member of the Veterans of Foreign Wars in Cedar Grove. In addition, he was a Fourth Degree Member of the Knights of Columbus and was a Cubmaster for Boy Scout Pack Five in Verona. For twenty years, he walked as the oldest marching veteran from World War II in Verona's Memorial Day Parade. Over these years, he became a beloved staple of the event.

Regrettably, Michael A. Coppola Jr. died on July 1st at the NJ Veterans Home in Paramus at the age of 97. I am proud to honor his long service in the Navy. He will be a missed fixture of our community.

BEATRICE STIEBER'S 100TH  
BIRTHDAY

### HON. MIKE QUIGLEY

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. QUIGLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the 100th Birthday of Beatrice Stieber.

Beatrice (Kramer) Stieber was born on December 14, 1922 in the Bronx, New York. She married Robert Stieber on February 7, 1943. After 52 years together he passed away on April 4, 1995. They had two children, Jay and Dean.

Bea loves to spend time with her grandchildren, Tami, David, Brennan and Haley and her great grandchildren Grace, Jordan, Hadley and Scarlett.

Her happiness comes from her family, and she brings joy to all who know her. She is an outstanding cook and is passionate about food. At this milestone birthday, Bea continues to live a full and rewarding life.

HONORING LIEUTENANT RYAN  
CORVIN UPON RECEIVING THE  
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

### HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Lieutenant Ryan Corvin of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Lieutenant Ryan Corvin epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Ryan Corvin of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING THE MID CONTINENT  
GROUP

### HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor an impressive accomplishment for a group of job creators and innovators in my district.

This week, the Mid Continent Group celebrates their 75th anniversary. Founded in Oklahoma City by economic and cultural pioneers J.H. Edwards, E. Fred Johnson, and C.R. Anthony, the Mid Continent Group eventually moved to Tulsa under the leadership of Senator JIM INHOFE's father, Perry Dyson Inhofe, Sr.

Since 1983, the Mid Continent Group has operated as a subsidiary of Great American Insurance, under the umbrella of American Financial Group (AFG). Their business-focused approach to commercial insurance has led them to sustained success in the Tulsa area. Much like Senator INHOFE and his family, they've had a lasting positive impact on our community and the state of Oklahoma.

I thank Mid Continent Group for 75 years of hard work to help businesses flourish, and thanks to all the individuals who have contributed to that mission.

HONORING DR. K. BARRY  
SHARPLESS FOR RECEIVING HIS  
SECOND NOBEL PRIZE IN CHEMISTRY

### HON. MIKE LEVIN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, December 7, 2022

Mr. LEVIN of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the extraordinary accomplishments of Dr. Barry Sharpless who was awarded his second Nobel Prize in Chemistry this year. His contributions to the fields of chemistry and medicine are numerous and with this award he has joined an elite list of researchers and scientists. I honor his achievements as he becomes one of only two scientists in history to win two Nobel Prizes in Chemistry and only the fifth person to win a Nobel Prize twice.

Dr. Sharpless was born in Philadelphia, Pennsylvania, on April 28, 1941. His first true passion was fishing, and it has been a constant throughout his life. He did not discover his love of chemistry and science until much later and did not plan to become a scientist in his youth. In 1959, he left Philadelphia to attend university at Dartmouth College in New Hampshire. His parents had always hoped that he would follow in his father's footsteps and become a medical doctor. This led him to study chemistry in school. It was at Dartmouth College that he found mentors who inspired and guided him.

Dr. Sharpless attended Stanford University for his postgraduate studies, where he earned his doctorate in organic chemistry. He met his future wife at Stanford University, and they later had three children. Upon completion of his Ph.D., Dr. Sharpless conducted research in enzymology at Harvard University.

In 1970, he joined the faculty at the Massachusetts Institute of Technology (MIT) as an assistant professor. It was at MIT that he began researching chirality, a concept in chemistry which refers to mirror image molecules. Chemical reactions that occur in a lab produce two forms of molecules with different properties. Relying on the wrong form can make synthetic medicines dangerous. Thanks to the work done by Dr. Sharpless and his colleagues, his lab was able to find ways to synthesize molecules with new properties to develop safer pharmaceutical products. These contributions earned him his first Nobel Prize in 2001, which he shared with William S. Knowles, Ph.D., and Ryoji Noyori, Deng.

Dr. Sharpless joined Scripps Research in La Jolla, California, in 1990. Building upon his earlier work, Dr. Sharpless developed click chemistry, a term he coined that describes a set of methods used to construct chemical compounds. This process revolutionized how scientists approach bioimaging and has led to significant advances in drug development for diseases such as diabetes, Alzheimer's, Parkinson's, and cancer.

We are incredibly proud that Dr. Sharpless and his team at Scripps Research are doing this groundbreaking work in the San Diego region.

Nobel Prizes are awarded to those with the highest degrees of intelligence, creativity, and dedication. I am certain Dr. Sharpless will continue to embody these characteristics and inspire future generations to do the same. Dr. Sharpless has earned countless awards, honors, and distinctions from around the world and has brought immense pride to California's 49th Congressional District.

Madam Speaker, as you can see, Dr. Sharpless is an incredibly accomplished individual who has had a positive impact on our community, our Nation, and the world. I congratulate Dr. Sharpless on this remarkable honor and I look forward to seeing what he does next.

HONORING LIEUTENANT COLONEL  
WILLIAM STREET UPON RECEIVING  
THE DISTINGUISHED FLYING  
CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Lieutenant Colonel William Street of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for his service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. He exemplifies the best of America, and his tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Lieutenant Colonel William Street epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Lieutenant Colonel William Street of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for his sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

HONORING FAYETTEVILLE STATE  
UNIVERSITY'S FOOTBALL TEAM  
FOR OUTSTANDING ATHLETIC  
LEADERSHIP AND SUCCESS

HON. RICHARD HUDSON

OF NORTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Fayetteville State University Football Team for its exceptional victory in the 2022 Central Intercollegiate Athletic Association (CIAA) Conference Championship.

On Saturday, November 12, 2022, the Fayetteville State University Football Team defeated Chowan University in the CIAA Conference Championship to become conference champions for the first time in 13 years. This victory was marked by an impressive second-half comeback that resulted in a last-second, game-winning field goal and a final game score of 31-28. Having advanced to the CIAA Championship the past 5 years, Fayetteville State has demonstrated steady dominance in the conference. Although it was defeated in the previous four championship games, the team's hard work and resilience led to a well-deserved win this year. This outstanding achievement is a direct result of remarkable work ethic, discipline, and determination. These values represent the very best of our community and serve as an excellent example for all to follow.

I would like to extend my most sincere congratulations to Fayetteville State for winning its conference championship. The team's passionate commitment to their craft and dedicated leadership within our community is both admirable and inspiring. I speak for our entire community in wishing the student-athletes and coaching staff continued success.

Madam Speaker, please join me today in honoring the Fayetteville State University Football Team for its exemplary work ethic and impressive victory in the CIAA Conference Championship.

HONORING CAPTAIN KATELYN  
DUNAHOE UPON RECEIVING THE  
DISTINGUISHED FLYING CROSS

HON. JOHN GARAMENDI

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, December 7, 2022*

Mr. GARAMENDI. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and commend Captain Katelyn Dunahoe of the 60th Air Mobility Wing upon receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross for her service, dedication, and sacrifice during Operation Allies Refuge. She exemplifies the best of America, and her tireless efforts guarantee the safety of all those who call America home.

Last year, the servicemembers of the 60th Air Mobility Wing met a challenge of colossal scale when they played a pivotal role in completing the drawdown of forces from Afghanistan. This command was critical in the largest noncombatant evacuation operation in known history, Operation Allies Refuge, ultimately saving over 124,000 lives. The 60th Air Mobility Wing directly supported the evacuation of nearly 13,000 Afghans while simultaneously

managing the security and operations at Hamid Karzai International Airport. I have listened to countless stories from this group of brave men and women that exemplify the character, leadership, and bravery that is cultivated at Travis Air Force Base.

Service records only scratch the surface of the courageous actions performed by the 60th Air Mobility Wing. They put their hearts and lives on the line to save so many. These valiant servicemembers like Captain Katelyn Dunahoe epitomize the values of courage and patriotism.

On behalf of a grateful country and all the constituents of California's Third Congressional District, I would like to congratulate Captain Katelyn Dunahoe of the 60th Air Mobility Wing for receiving the Distinguished Flying Cross and extend my sincere gratitude for her sacrifice and contributions to the defense of this great country.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, December 8, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

DECEMBER 12

5:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Martin J. Gruenberg, of Maryland, to be a Member and Chairperson, Travis Hill, of Maryland, to be a Member and Vice Chairperson, and Jonathan McKernan, of Tennessee, to be a Member, all of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and Kimberly Ann McClain, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

S-219

DECEMBER 13

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Permanent Subcommittee on Investigations

To hold hearings to examine sexual abuse of female inmates in Federal prisons.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Subcommittee on Food and Nutrition, Specialty Crops, Organics, and Research

To hold hearings to examine food as medicine, focusing on current efforts and potential opportunities.

SR-328A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband

To hold hearings to examine solutions to meet America's broadband needs.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the Department of the Interior's implementation of the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act.

SD-366

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

Subcommittee on Securities, Insurance, and Investment

To hold hearings to examine how capital markets serve diverse entrepreneurs and investors.

SD-538

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Oceans, Fisheries, Climate Change, and Manufacturing

To hold hearings to examine promoting and investing in small American manufacturers.

SR-253

3 p.m.

Committee on Rules and Administration

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the U.S. Capitol Police.

SR-301

## DECEMBER 14

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine why the FTX bubble burst and the harm to consumers.

SD-G50

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine improving access to capital in underserved communities, focusing on the Community Advantage program, microloans, and other Small Business Administration initiatives.

SR-428A

## DECEMBER 15

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the impact of plastic use and identifying solutions for reducing plastic waste.

SD-406

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine promoting healthy and affordable food for older Americans.

SD-562

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S7011–S7042*

**Measures Introduced:** Sixteen bills and two resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 5195–5210, and S. Res. 862–863.

**Page S7034**

#### Measures Reported:

S. 2541, to authorize the reclassification of the tactical enforcement officers (commonly known as the “Shadow Wolves”) in the Homeland Security Investigations tactical patrol unit operating on the lands of the Tohono O’odham Nation as special agents, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–235)

S. 4611, to improve services for trafficking victims by establishing, in Homeland Security Investigations, the Investigators Maintain Purposeful Awareness to Combat Trafficking Trauma Program and the Victim Assistance Program, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute. (S. Rept. No. 117–236)

H.R. 7240, to reauthorize the READ Act.

S. Res. 322, reaffirming the alliance between the United States and Bulgaria, congratulating Bulgaria on its July 11, 2021 parliamentary elections, and calling for continued progress in Bulgaria towards combating corruption, respecting the freedom of the press, and protecting minority rights, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 472, reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Res. 650, recognizing May 28 as “World Hunger Day”, that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin’s illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine’s agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World

Hunger Day, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 713, recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Res. 730, remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2333, to amend chapter 2205 of title 36, United States Code, to ensure equal treatment of athletes, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 2427, to require the Federal Communications Commission to conduct a study and submit to Congress a report examining the feasibility of funding the Universal Service Fund through contributions supplied by edge providers, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3014, to establish the Next Generation Telecommunications Council, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3053, to amend the Weather Research and Forecasting Innovation Act of 2017 to require the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration to develop a plan and national guidance document to improve precipitation estimates, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3196, to enhance the policies, procedures, and training for midshipmen at the United States Merchant Marine Academy, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3290, to establish a National Manufacturing Extension Partnership Supply Chain Database, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 3386, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4064, to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and

nuclear exports, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4509, to provide for security in the Black Sea region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4955, to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. 4996, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to modify the establishment of a coordinator for detained ISIS members and relevant displaced populations in Syria, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

S. Con. Res. 16, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute and with an amended preamble.

S. Con. Res. 47, commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute.

Page S7030

#### Measures Passed:

**Anti-Money Laundering Whistleblower Improvement Act:** Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs was discharged from further consideration of S. 3316, to provide for certain whistleblower incentives and protections, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S7037–38

Hassan (for Grassley) Amendment No. 6507, in the nature of a substitute.

Pages S7037–38

**Clear and Concise Content Act of 2022:** Senate passed S. 4577, to improve plain writing and public experience, after agreeing to the committee amendments.

Pages S7038–40

**National Warrior Call Day:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 754, designating November 13, 2022, as “National Warrior Call Day” in recognition of the importance of connecting warriors in the United States to support structures necessary to transition from the battlefield, and the resolution was then agreed to, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Pages S7040–41

Hassan (for Shaheen) Amendment No. 6508, to amend the preamble.

Pages S7040–41

**Black Legislative Staff Caucus 45th Anniversary:** Committee on Rules and Administration was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 851, celebrating the 45th anniversary of the Senate Black

Legislative Staff Caucus and its achievements in the Senate, and the resolution was then agreed to.

Page S7041

**National Lung Cancer Awareness Month:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 863, designating November 2022 as “National Lung Cancer Awareness Month” and expressing support for early detection and treatment of lung cancer.

Page S7037

#### House Messages:

**FIRE Act:** Senate concurred in the amendment of the House of Representatives to S. 3092, to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act to improve the provision of certain disaster assistance.

Page S7038

**Hopkins Nomination—Agreement:** Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio.

Pages S7011–17, S7018–22

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 60 yeas to 34 nays (Vote No. EX. 382), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

Page S7022

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 11 a.m., on Thursday, December 8, 2022; that at 11:30 a.m., Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination, followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit; and that notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit, at 1:45 p.m.

Page S7041

**Shambaugh Nomination—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader, Senate begin consideration of the nomination of Jay Curtis Shambaugh, of Maryland, to be an Under Secretary of the Treasury; that there be ten minutes for debate equally divided in the usual form on the nomination; and that upon the use or yielding back of time, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination without intervening action or debate.

Page S7025

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 52 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 378), Mia Roberts Perez, of Pennsylvania, to be United States



District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania. **Page S7017**

By 50 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 380), Kai N. Scott, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Page S7019**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 42 nays (Vote No. EX. 379), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Pages S7017–18**

By 63 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. EX. 381), John Frank Murphy, of Pennsylvania, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania.

**Pages S7019–20**

By 51 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 383), Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

**Page S7022**

**Nominations Received:** Senate received the following nominations:

1 Army nomination in the rank of general.

Routine lists in the Air Force, Army, Marine Corps, and Navy.

**Pages S7041–42**

**Messages from the House:**

**Pages S7027–28**

**Measures Referred:**

**Page S7028**

**Executive Communications:**

**Pages S7028–30**

**Executive Reports of Committees:**

**Pages S7030–34**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Pages S7034–35**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**

**Pages S7035–36**

**Additional Statements:**

**Pages S7026–27**

**Amendments Submitted:**

**Pages S7039–40**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S7037**

**Record Votes:** Six record votes were taken today. (Total—383)

**Pages S7017–20, S7022**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:03 p.m., until 11 a.m. on Thursday, December 8, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7041.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Committee ordered favorably reported the nominations of Anthony Rosario Coscia, of New Jersey, David Michael Capozzi, of Maryland, Christopher Koos, of Illinois, Samuel E. Lathem, of Delaware,

and Robin Lee Wiessmann, of Pennsylvania, each to be a Director of the Amtrak Board of Directors, Robert E. Primus, of New Jersey, to be a Member of the Surface Transportation Board, Sue Ellen Moore, of Washington, and Andrew J. Read, of North Carolina, both to be a Member of the Marine Mammal Commission, Rubydee Calvert, of Wyoming, and Diane Susan Kaplan, of Alaska, both to be a Member of the Board of Directors of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting, and routine lists in the Coast Guard.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee ordered favorably reported the following business items:

S. 3386, to prevent, treat, and cure tuberculosis globally, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4064, to facilitate the development of a whole-of-government strategy for nuclear cooperation and nuclear exports, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4509, to provide for security in the Black Sea region, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4996, to amend the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2020 to modify the establishment of a coordinator for detained ISIS members and relevant displaced populations in Syria, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. 4955, to amend certain authorities relating to human rights violations and abuses in Ukraine, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Con. Res. 47, commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime's human rights abuses, with an amendment;

S. Con. Res. 16, commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort, with amendments;

S. Res. 713, recognizing Russian actions in Ukraine as a genocide, with amendments;

S. Res. 472, reaffirming the partnership between the United States and the Dominican Republic and advancing opportunities to deepen diplomatic, economic, and security cooperation between the two nations, with an amendment in the nature of a substitute;

S. Res. 730, remembering the 30th anniversary of the bombing of the Embassy of Israel in Buenos Aires on March 17, 1992, the 28th anniversary of the bombing of the Argentine-Israeli Mutual Association building in Buenos Aires on July 18, 1994, and recommitting to efforts to uphold justice for the victims of the attacks, with an amendment;

S. Res. 322, reaffirming the alliance between the United States and Bulgaria, congratulating Bulgaria on its July 11, 2021 parliamentary elections, and calling for continued progress in Bulgaria towards combating corruption, respecting the freedom of the press, and protecting minority rights, with an amendment;

S. Res. 650, recognizing May 28 as “World Hunger Day”, that the 90th anniversary of the Ukrainian Famine of 1932–1933, known as the Holodomor, should serve as a reminder of repressive Soviet policies against the people of Ukraine, and that Vladimir Putin’s illegal war against Ukraine has diminished Ukraine’s agricultural output and threatens to exacerbate the problems of global hunger on World Hunger Day, with amendments;

H.R. 7240, to reauthorize the READ Act; and

The nominations of Joey R. Hood, of New Hampshire, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tunisia, Lucy Tamlyn, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Jessica Davis Ba, of the District of Columbia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cote d’Ivoire, and Rachna Sachdeva Korhonen, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mali, Cynthia Dyer, of Virginia, to be Director of the Office to Monitor and Combat Trafficking, with the rank of Ambassador at Large, Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Amba-

sador to the Republic of Cyprus, Henry V. Jardine, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Mauritius, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Seychelles, Kathleen Ann Kavalec, of California, to be Ambassador to Romania, George P. Kent, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Estonia, Kristina A. Kvien, of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Armenia, Kenneth Merten, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Bulgaria, Manuel P. Micaller, Jr., of California, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Tajikistan, Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia, Bijan Sabet, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Czech Republic, Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador, and Lynne M. Tracy, of Ohio, to be Ambassador to the Russian Federation, all of the Department of State, L. Felice Gorordo, of Florida, to be United States Alternate Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Richard L.A. Weiner, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development, Carol Spahn, of Maryland, to be Director of the Peace Corps, and routine lists in the Foreign Service.

## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 14 public bills, H.R. 9448–9461; and 2 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 120; and H. Res. 1511, were introduced.

**Pages H8823–24**

**Additional Cosponsors:**

**Page H8824**

**Reports Filed:** Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 1884, to repeal section 3003 of the Carl Levin and Howard P. “Buck” McKean National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2015, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–592);

H.R. 3600, to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Route 66 National Historic Trail, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–593);

H.R. 4648, to modify the boundary of the Cane River Creole National Historical Park in the State of Louisiana, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–594);

H.R. 5444, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–595, Part 1);

H.R. 5715, to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–596, Part 1);

H.R. 6063, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–597);

H.R. 6181, to reaffirm that certain land has been taken into trust for the benefit of the Samish Indian Nation, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–598);

H.R. 6707, to amend the Maine Indian Claims Settlement Act of 1980 to advance equality for Wabanaki nations, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–599);

H.R. 6438, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study of the site known as “Dearfield” in the State of Colorado (H. Rept. 117–600);

H.R. 6442, to amend section 101703 of title 54, United States Code, to include Tribal Governments and quasi-governmental entities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–601);

H.R. 6654, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to establish a National Climate Adaptation Science Center and Regional Climate Adaptation Science Centers to respond to the effects of extreme weather events and climate trends, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–602);

H.R. 6799, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a special resource study to determine the suitability and feasibility of establishing the John P. Parker House in Ripley, Ohio, as a unit of the National Park System (H. Rept. 117–603);

H.R. 7075, to designate Ukrainian Independence Park in Washington, District of Columbia, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–604);

H.R. 7496, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to install a plaque at the peak of Ram Head in the Virgin Islands National Park on St. John, United States Virgin Islands, to commemorate the slave rebellion that began on St. John in 1733 (H. Rept. 117–605);

S. 789, to repeal certain obsolete laws relating to Indians (H. Rept. 117–606);

H.R. 604, to provide for the long-term improvement of public school facilities, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–607, Part 1); and

H. Res. 1510, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–608).

**Pages H8822–23**

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Jones to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

**Page H8803**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 2:34 p.m. and reconvened at 7:03 p.m.

**Page H8807**

**Senate Referrals:** S. 2607 was held at the desk. S. 2773 was held at the desk. S. 3198 was held at the desk. S. 3903 was held at the desk. S. 5016 was held at the desk.

**Pages H8803–04**

**Respect for Marriage Act—Rule for Consideration:** The House agreed to H. Res. 1510, providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to the bill (H.R. 8404) to repeal the Defense of Marriage Act and ensure respect for State regulation of marriage, by a yeay-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 204 nays,

Roll No. 512, after the previous question was ordered without objection.

**Pages H8807–11**

**Senate Message:** Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H8803–04.

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** One yeay-and-nay vote developed during the proceedings of today and appears on page H8811.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 2 p.m. and adjourned at 9:56 p.m.

## Committee Meetings

### AN ENDURING LEGACY: THE ROLE OF FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS IN THE HORRORS OF SLAVERY AND THE NEED FOR ATONEMENT, PART II

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations held a hearing entitled “An Enduring Legacy: The Role of Financial Institutions in the Horrors of Slavery and the Need for Atonement, Part II”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### UNDERSTANDING AND ADDRESSING CHALLENGES IN THE MEKONG REGION

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Subcommittee on Asia, the Pacific, Central Asia, and Nonproliferation held a hearing entitled “Understanding and Addressing Challenges in the Mekong Region”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on Foreign Affairs:* Full Committee concluded a markup on H. Res. 1456, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the conclusion of the Department of State on whether Marc Fogel is wrongfully detained; H. Res. 1482, of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Defense and Secretary of State to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to Congressionally appropriated funds to the nation of Ukraine from January 20, 2021 to November 15, 2022; H.R. 9374, the “Countering Malign Russian Activities Globally Act”; H.R. 9243, the “Providing Appropriate Recognition and Treatment Needed to Enhance Relations with ASEAN Act”; H.R. 8654, the “End Tuberculosis Now Act”; and H. Con. Res. 110, commending the bravery, courage, and resolve of the women and men of Iran demonstrating in more than 80 cities and risking their safety to speak out against the Iranian regime’s human rights abuses. H. Res. 1456, H. Res. 1482, and H.R. 9243 were ordered reported, without amendment. H.R. 9374, H.R.

8654, and H. Con. Res. 110 were ordered reported, as amended.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 8361, the “Preventing Suicide Through Voluntary Firearm Purchase Delay Act”; H.R. 4130, the “American Music Fairness Act”; H. Res. 1477, calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information in the possession of the Attorney General regarding NICS Indices Self-Submission Forms; and H. Res. 1478, calling for the submission to the House of Representatives of certain information regarding the decision of the President of the United States to institute the “Ghost Gun” Rule. H.R. 8361, H. Res. 1477, H. Res. 1478, and H.R. 4130 were ordered reported, as amended.

### SENATE AMENDMENT TO WATER RESOURCES DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 2022; SENATE AMENDMENT TO RESPECT FOR MARRIAGE ACT; EAGLE ACT OF 2022; VETERAN SERVICE RECOGNITION ACT OF 2022

*Committee on Rules:* Full Committee continued a hearing on the Senate Amendment to H.R. 7776, the “Water Resources Development Act of 2022” [James M. Inhofe National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2023]; the Senate Amendment to H.R. 8404, the “Respect for Marriage Act”; H.R. 3648, the “EAGLE Act of 2022”; and H.R. 7946, the “Veteran Service Recognition Act of 2022”. The Committee granted, by record vote of 8–4, a rule providing for consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404, the “Respect for Marriage Act”. The rule makes in order a motion offered by the chair of the Committee on the Judiciary or his designee that the House concur in the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the motion. The rule provides that the Senate amendment and the motion shall be considered as read. The rule provides one hour of general debate on the motion equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on the Judiciary or their designees. Testimony was heard from Chairman Smith of Washington, and Representative Rogers of Alabama.

### U.S. COAST GUARD’S LEADERSHIP ON ARCTIC SAFETY, SECURITY, AND ENVIRONMENTAL RESPONSIBILITY

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Coast Guard and Maritime Transportation held a hearing entitled “U.S. Coast Guard’s Leadership on Arctic Safety, Security, and Environ-

mental Responsibility”. Testimony was heard from Vice Admiral Peter W. Gautier, Deputy Commandant for Operations, U.S. Coast Guard; Michael Sfraga, Chair, U.S. Arctic Research Commission; Andrew Von Ah, Director, Physical Infrastructure Team, Government Accountability Office; and public witnesses.

### FULFILLING OUR PACT: ENSURING EFFECTIVE IMPLEMENTATION OF TOXIC EXPOSURE LEGISLATION

*Committee on Veterans’ Affairs:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Fulfilling our Pact: Ensuring Effective Implementation of Toxic Exposure Legislation”. Testimony was heard from Shereef Elnahal, M.D., Under Secretary for Health, Department of Veterans’ Affairs; and Joshua Jacobs, Senior Advisor for Policy, Performing the Delegable Duties of the Under Secretary for Benefits, Department of Veterans Affairs.

### MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a markup on H. Res. 1466, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the investigation by the intelligence community into the origins of the COVID–19 virus; and H. Res. 1467, of inquiry requesting the President to transmit certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to the use of authorities, personnel, and capabilities of the intelligence community to conduct domestic activities unrelated to foreign intelligence. H. Res. 1466 and H. Res. 1467 were ordered reported, without amendment.

### BUSINESS MEETING

*Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth:* Full Committee held a business meeting on the Select Committee’s final report entitled *Bridging the Divide: Building an Economy that Works for All*. The report was approved.

## Joint Meetings

### CIVIL SOCIETY CAMPAIGN

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe:* Commission concluded a hearing to examine the Civil Society Campaign to improve the lethality and survivability of the Ukrainian military, after receiving testimony from Dora Chomiak, Razom for Ukraine; Taras Chmut, Come Back Alive; Serhiy Prytula, Prytula Charity Foundation; and Jonas Ohman, Blue/Yellow for Ukraine.

## NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D1187)

H.R. 7132, to preserve safe access to communications services for survivors of domestic violence and other crimes. Signed on December 7, 2022. (Public Law 117–223)

S. 4524, to limit the judicial enforceability of predispute nondisclosure and nondisparagement contract clauses relating to disputes involving sexual assault and sexual harassment. Signed on December 7, 2022. (Public Law 117–224)

## COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, DECEMBER 8, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

## Senate

*Committee on the Judiciary*: business meeting to consider S. 2774, to amend title 35, United States Code, to address patent ownership, and the nominations of DeAndrea Gist Benjamin, of South Carolina, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit, Robert Stewart Ballou, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Virginia, Todd E. Edelman, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Kymberly Kathryn Evanson, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Myong J. Joun, to be United States District Judge for the District of Massachusetts, Colleen R. Lawless, to be United States District Judge for the Central District of Illinois, and Henry C. Leventis, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Tennessee, Michael D. Black, to be United States Marshal for the Southern District of Ohio, and Catrina A. Thompson, to be United States Marshal for the Middle District of North Carolina, all of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH–216.

## House

*Committee on Financial Services*, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, hearing entitled “E, S, G and W: Examining Private Sector Disclosure of Workforce Management, Investment, and Diversity Data”, 9 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

*Committee on the Judiciary*, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Undue Influence: ‘Operation Higher Court’ and Politicking at SCOTUS”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

*Committee on Natural Resources*, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3681, the “Sinkhole Mapping Act of 2021”; H.R. 5522, the “Federal Land Asset Inventory Reform Act of 2021”; H.R. 6032, the “Katimiin and Aameekyaaraam Sacred Lands Act”; H.R. 6427, the “Red River National Wildlife Refuge Boundary Modification Act”; H.R. 6611, to authorize the Embassy of France in Washington, DC, to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary contributions of Jean Monnet to restoring peace between European nations and establishing the European Union, and for other purposes; H.R. 6720, to authorize the Thomas Paine Memorial Association to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes; H.R. 6964, to authorize leases of up to 99 years for lands held in trust for the Confederated Tribes of the Chehalis Reservation; H.R. 7615, the “LODGE Act”; H.R. 7918, the “Sea Turtle Rescue Assistance Act of 2022”; H.R. 7952, the “Valley Forge Park Realignment Permit and Promise Act”; H.R. 8115, the “Recreation and Public Purposes Tribal Parity Act”; and S. 314, the “Klamath Tribe Judgment Fund Repeal Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth.

## Joint Meetings

*Commission on Security and Cooperation in Europe*: to receive a briefing on demining Ukraine, 11 a.m., WEBEX.

Full Committee, to receive a briefing on Russia’s infrastructure terrorists, 3:30 p.m., WEBEX.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

11 a.m., Thursday, December 8

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, December 8

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jeffery Paul Hopkins, of Ohio, to be United States District Judge for the Southern District of Ohio, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m., followed by a vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Tamika R. Montgomery-Reeves, of Delaware, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Third Circuit.

At 1:45 p.m., Senate will vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of the Senate amendment to H.R. 8404—Respect for Marriage Act.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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