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No. 187

House of Representatives

The House met at noon and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CASTEN).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
October 25, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable SEAN CASTEN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 4, 2021, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

The Chair will alternate recognition between the parties, with time equally allocated between the parties and each Member other than the majority and minority leaders and the minority whip limited to 5 minutes, but in no event shall debate continue beyond 1:50 p.m.

SMALL BUSINESSES SUSTAIN OUR ECONOMY

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in strong support of America's small businesses.

Nearly half of American workers are employed by small businesses, and their livelihoods are being threatened by new taxes and new regulations that are being proposed by the administration and liberals in Congress.

In the past year already, our small businesses have been hamstrung by arbitrary lockdown orders that have stunted growth and strained our recovery.

Now they are being squeezed even harder by supply chain issues and labor shortages caused by President Biden's policy of paying workers to remain at home.

Now the President is refusing to address the crisis that his administration has caused.

Recently, I visited Guy Chemical in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The supply chain issues that they face have delayed shipments for months.

Problems ranging from backlogs at the Port of Los Angeles to a lack of truck drivers on our Nation's highways have resulted in shortages and backlogs that are straining businesses that actually hold our communities together. Small businesses are truly the backbone of our economy.

Let's be clear: This administration's failed policies are threatening these American small businesses.

To make matters even worse, some Members of this body are now threatening to impose new taxes that would take as much as 39 percent of revenues away from these vital small businesses. This wasteful taxation directly harms the Americans that work for small businesses and rely on them for their daily needs and for their paychecks.

Now is the time to put a stop to this tax-and-spend spree.

Now is the time to stand up for the small businesses that truly sustain our economy.

And now is the time to put Americans first and not the liberal politicians.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until 2 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 4 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. FOSTER) at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

Receive our prayers this day, O Lord. Receive them and supply us in our need. For our prayers reflect the disquiet of our lives, the need for answers, the need for encouragement, the need for relief from conflict and worry.

Remind us that what we want can only be found in You. You are the source of all knowledge, the source of our strength, the source of lasting peace.

By Your divine power You have given us everything we need to live, and all You ask of us is to live a Godly life, a life where we refrain from the vain expectation that our needs can be satisfied by anything or anyone but You.

Give us the will to accept that our contentment is found only in You. Give us the understanding that Godliness, an attitude attuned to Your divine power and provision, gains us all we desire.

So may we direct our restless hearts to live a righteous life, that we would live contented in the bounty of Your righteousness.

In Your strong and sufficient name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(a) of House Resolution 188, the Journal of the last day's proceedings is approved.

□ 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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H5837

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. LAMALFA 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 PRESIDENT

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

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.

THE AMERICAN PEOPLE DESERVE BETTER

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise today on an urgent matter confronting our country.

The American people are experiencing the worst series of self-inflicted crises in a generation.

Inflation is at a 40-year high. Gas is up 42 percent. Utilities are up 20 percent.

Either President Biden doesn't care or is being insulated from reality.

We saw the worst jobs report of the Presidency this last month. Self-induced labor shortages are plaguing businesses. Shelves are bare. Container ships are stacking up.

We have the worst Biden-created border crisis in 30 years, yet the President has time to go to Delaware every weekend but not the border?

Hundreds of Americans are still in Afghanistan, meanwhile President Biden and Democrats are trying to ram through trillions in new tax hikes.

So what is the administration working on? What are their priorities? A national gender strategy. Are you kidding me? This administration cares more about which pronoun you use than countering the Chinese threat or the threat at our southern border.

Mr. Speaker, the American people deserve better than this. My constituents deserve better than this. Our Nation deserves better than this.

RECOGNIZING PEAK FARMS

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

Ms. FOXX. Mr. Speaker, once again this year, a local farm in North Caro-

lina's Fifth District has been selected to provide the White House Christmas tree.

Rusty and Beau Estes, the owners of Peak Farms in Ashe County, are no strangers to this prestigious selection process.

In both 2008 and 2012, Peak Farms provided Fraser firs to the White House, and in 2018, the farm was selected to deliver the Christmas tree to the residence of Vice President Mike Pence.

Mr. Speaker, this is a terrific accomplishment, and it represents the best that North Carolina has to offer.

Congratulations to both Rusty and Beau. Mr. Speaker, yet again, Rusty and Beau have proven that North Carolina's Fifth District is the premier provider of Christmas trees throughout the country.

RECOGNIZING THE DEPARTURE OF RILEY SCOTT

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I rise today with bittersweet sentiments.

I recognize the departure of my legislative assistant, Riley Scott, of Petaluma, California, to an amazing, new adventure.

Riley has been, in addition to her strong work in my office for 2 years, a lifetime swimmer and received a full ride out of high school to USC where she won several PAC-12 championships and competed at the top level in the NCAA's.

I point out this impressive record because Riley's new opportunity will be competing to represent our country in the 2024 Paris Olympics.

Riley will be training for the women's pentathlon, which consists of, of course, swimming, horsemanship, a combination of running, pistol shooting, and fencing.

Now, I told Riley that there is a lot of fencing around our ranch that needed to be repaired, but she said that wasn't the same thing.

I told Riley early on if she ever had this type of opportunity post college, she had to go out and take that chance and do it, and so she is.

It is a loss for our office and here in Congress, but watch as Riley goes for the gold as Californians are known to do.

Fight on to victory, Riley Coyote.

AMERICA'S ENERGY SECURITY IS IN JEOPARDY

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Mr. Speaker, President Biden's radical policies have stymied America's energy independence and created a crisis, unfortunately.

The national average price for a gallon of gas has climbed to its highest

level since 2014 and is 66 percent higher than it was last year.

On day one, President Biden destroyed 11,000 American jobs by canceling the Keystone Pipeline.

President Biden paused new domestic oil and gas leases, which will cost one million American jobs and decrease the GDP by \$700 billion.

Instead of allowing American companies to increase domestic production and hire more U.S. workers, President Biden and his administration has pleaded with OPEC and Russia to increase global output to ease rising fuel prices.

Democrats in Congress are pushing a multitrillion-dollar spending package, which includes a tax hike on fuel.

These actions jeopardize our Nation's energy security and will increase costs for all American families, unfortunately.

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 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1700

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. MCNERNEY) at 5 p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the Chair will postpone further proceedings today on the motions to suspend the rules on which the yeas and nays are ordered.

The House will resume proceedings on the postponed questions at a later time.

SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACT CAPACITY ACT

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4111) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to Fund members seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4111

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 "Sovereign Debt Contract Capacity Act".

SEC. 2. SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF INTERNATIONAL MONETARY FUND MEMBERS TO EVALUATE THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title XVI of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262p–262p–13) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1630. SUPPORT TO ENHANCE THE CAPACITY OF FUND MEMBERS TO EVALUATE THE LEGAL AND FINANCIAL TERMS OF SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACTS.

“The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate that the Fund promote international standards and best practices with respect to sovereign debt contracts and provide technical assistance to Fund members, and in particular to lower middle-income countries and countries eligible to receive assistance from the International Development Association, seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts with multilateral, bilateral, and private sector creditors.”.

(b) REPORT TO THE CONGRESS.—Within 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for the next 4 years, the Secretary of the Treasury shall report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate on—

(1) the activities of the International Monetary Fund in the then most recently completed fiscal year to provide technical assistance described in section 1630 of the International Financial Institutions Act, including the ability of the Fund to meet the demand for the assistance; and

(2) the efficacy of efforts by the United States to achieve the policy goal described in such section and any further actions that should be taken, if necessary, to implement that goal.

(c) SUNSET.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall have no force or effect after the 5-year period that begins with the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, earlier this year, the Financial Services Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy held a hearing on China's lending practices and their impact on the international sovereign debt architecture. The hearing examined China's dominant position as the largest official creditor in the world, with China's outstanding

claims larger than those of all other bilateral creditors combined. We also examined how China lends with respect to the terms and conditions China imposes on borrowing countries through its sovereign debt contracts.

Among the witnesses who testified were authors of a recent study that examined 100 China sovereign debt contracts, which found that since 2014, every sovereign debt contract examined contained strict nondisclosure requirements that prohibited the borrower from disclosing the terms of, and even the existence of, the debt itself.

Many of the contracts examined sought to elevate Chinese Government loans over other creditors by requiring the creation of China-controlled offshore collateral accounts and by explicitly prohibiting the debt from being included in any multilateral debt restructuring initiative.

The study also found a number of contracts with cross-default and accelerated payment provisions that give China substantial leverage over an array of domestic and foreign policy decisions that a borrowing country might undertake.

The absence of transparency not only prevents citizens from holding their governments accountable for their borrowing decisions, but it also obscures a country's true financial picture from other creditors, which can undermine sovereign debt rescheduling operations that are based on systems of trust and equitable burden sharing among all of a country's creditors.

For example, in Zambia, one of three countries that has applied for debt relief under the new G20 Common Framework initiative, new revelations about undisclosed Chinese debt nearly doubled its total official amount owed from \$3.4 billion to \$6.6 billion.

Opacity also creates greater opportunity for political capture and corruption and undermines debt risk management and surveillance work.

It was this context in which I introduced, with Ranking Member PATRICK MCHENRY, H.R. 4111, the Sovereign Debt Contract Capacity Act, which directs the Secretary of the Treasury to instruct the United States executive director at the International Monetary Fund to use the influence of the United States at the IMF to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to bolster the capacity of developing country debt managers to evaluate and negotiate both the financial and the legal terms in sovereign debt contracts.

It is important that this kind of capacity building also be available through multilateral channels like the IMF, which have a wider global reach. Multilateral approaches can also be more effective since national programs risk being perceived as an instrument of power politics and beholden to certain interest groups within a country.

To be sure, some countries sign bad contracts for the wrong reasons, including corruption and governance

problems. In a country that is running up oppressive, hidden debt because its leaders are corrupt, training is not going to help a lot. But ensuring that technical assistance is available to any developing country that requests help in assessing the technical, legal complexities of sovereign debt contracts would be an important step in reform of the sovereign debt crisis management system.

Mr. Speaker, for these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 4111, the Sovereign Debt Contract Capacity Act, an important piece of legislation sponsored by our chairwoman and cosponsored by our committee's lead Republican.

China has now become the world's largest official creditor, but the details of its lending remain notoriously opaque.

At a hearing in May, the Financial Services Committee examined how China has been using strict confidentiality arrangements, cross-default provisions, and other tools to hide the details of its loans and potentially influence borrowers' domestic and foreign policies.

A recent analysis by the research group AidData has also shown that 42 countries now have public debt exposure to China in excess of 10 percent of their GDP, which is largely hidden from conventional reporting to the World Bank.

H.R. 4111 would address this problem by supporting technical assistance from the International Monetary Fund to help developing countries better assess these debt contracts.

This legislation builds on a bipartisan law authored by our colleague, Congressman HILL from Arkansas, that requires the Treasury Department to push for greater Chinese debt transparency at the international financial institutions.

Together, these two bills are a clear statement that our committee wants the Treasury Department to prioritize the threat of China's hidden debt and give countries the necessary technical assistance to push back on Beijing.

H.R. 4111 is especially timely since the IMF is confronting serious difficulties carrying out new programs since China has been so slow negotiating its loans to IMF borrowers.

If the International Monetary Fund can't accurately assess borrowers' liabilities to Beijing, it will have trouble providing its own financing. In other words, China's opaque lending practices are not just a threat to borrowing countries; it puts at risk the operations of the IMF, World Bank, and other multilateral lenders. This is unacceptable.

I commend the chairwoman for sponsoring this legislation and hope that our committee can continue to work in such a bipartisan manner to address

China's exploitation of countries around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 4111, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman, again, for her strong legislation. I would urge all my colleagues to support H.R. 4111, the Sovereign Debt Contract Capacity Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

In closing, I want to note that H.R. 4111 also directs the U.S. to advocate for the IMF to develop and promote a shared understanding of standard terms and sound practices with respect to sovereign debt contracts.

Officials for countries that sign oppressive debt contracts are often told that the proposed terms are market standard where either there is no standard or where the standard is quite different from what is being proposed. This would be another positive reform of the sovereign debt architecture.

I would like to thank Ranking Member McHENRY for working with me on this important bill. H.R. 4111 has been endorsed by Oxfam, Bread for the World, ONE, and the AFL-CIO.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4111.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the yeas have it.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2989) to amend securities and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to further enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector's regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2989

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) SHORT TITLE.—This Act may be cited as the “Financial Transparency Act of 2021”.

(b) TABLE OF CONTENTS.—The table of contents for this Act is as follows:

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

Sec. 101. Data standards.

Sec. 102. Open data publication by the Department of the Treasury.

Sec. 103. Rulemaking.

Sec. 104. No new disclosure requirements.

Sec. 105. Report.

TITLE II—SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

Sec. 201. Data standards requirements for the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sec. 202. Open data publication by the Securities and Exchange Commission.

Sec. 203. Data transparency at the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board.

Sec. 204. Data transparency at national securities associations.

Sec. 205. Shorter-term burden reduction and disclosure simplification at the Securities and Exchange Commission; sunset.

Sec. 206. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE III—FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION

Sec. 301. Data standards requirements for the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Sec. 302. Open data publication by the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

Sec. 303. Rulemaking.

Sec. 304. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE IV—OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

Sec. 401. Data standards and open data publication requirements for the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency.

Sec. 402. Rulemaking.

Sec. 403. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE V—BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

Sec. 501. Data standards and open data publication requirements for the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

Sec. 502. Rulemaking.

Sec. 503. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE VI—FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

Sec. 601. Data standards requirements for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Sec. 602. Open data publication by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

Sec. 603. Rulemaking.

Sec. 604. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE VII—NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

Sec. 701. Data standards.

Sec. 702. Open data publication by the National Credit Union Administration.

Sec. 703. Rulemaking.

Sec. 704. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE VIII—FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

Sec. 801. Data standards requirements for the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Sec. 802. Open data publication by the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Sec. 803. Rulemaking.

Sec. 804. No new disclosure requirements.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

Sec. 901. Rules of construction.

Sec. 902. Classified and protected information.

Sec. 903. Discretionary surplus fund.

Sec. 904. Determination of budgetary effects.

TITLE I—DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

SEC. 101. DATA STANDARDS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title I of the Financial Stability Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5311 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 124. DATA STANDARDS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall, by rule, promulgate data standards, meaning a standard that specifies rules by which data is described and recorded, for the information reported to member agencies by financial entities under the jurisdiction of the member agency and the data collected from member agencies on behalf of the Council.

“(b) STANDARDIZATION.—Member agencies, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall implement regulations promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury under subsection (a) to standardize data reported to member agencies or collected on behalf of the Council, as described under subsection (a).

“(c) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) COMMON IDENTIFIERS.—The data standards promulgated under subsection (a) shall include common identifiers for information reported to member agencies or collected on behalf of the Council. The common identifiers shall include a common nonproprietary legal entity identifier that is available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) for all entities required to report to member agencies.

“(2) DATA STANDARD.—The data standards promulgated under subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data's semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license;

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) CONSULTATION.—In promulgating data standards under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall consult with the member agencies and with other Federal departments and agencies and multi-agency initiatives responsible for Federal data standards.

“(4) INTEROPERABILITY OF DATA.—In promulgating data standards under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall seek to promote interoperability of financial regulatory data across members of the Council.

“(d) MEMBER AGENCIES DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘member agencies’ does not include the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents under section 1(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 123 the following:

“Sec. 124. Data standards.”.

SEC. 102. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY.

Section 124 of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, as added by section 101, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.—All public information published by the Secretary of the Treasury under this subtitle shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk, and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 103. RULEMAKING.

Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title. The Secretary may delegate the functions required under the amendments made by this title to an appropriate office within the Department of the Treasury.

SEC. 104. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Secretary of the Treasury to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 105. REPORT.

Not later than 1 year after the end of the 2-year period described in section 103, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report on the feasibility, costs, and potential benefits of building upon the taxonomy established by this Act to arrive at a Federal Government-wide regulatory compliance standardization mechanism similar to Standard Business Reporting.

TITLE II—SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION

SEC. 201. DATA STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

(a) DATA STANDARDS FOR INVESTMENT ADVISERS’ REPORTS UNDER THE INVESTMENT ADVISERS ACT OF 1940.—Section 204 of the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80b-4) is amended—

(1) by redesignating the second subsection (d) (relating to Records of Persons With Custody of Use) as subsection (e); and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(f) DATA STANDARDS FOR REPORTS FILED UNDER THIS SECTION.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all reports filed by investment advisers with the Commission under this section.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United

States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(b) DATA STANDARDS FOR REGISTRATION STATEMENTS AND REPORTS UNDER THE INVESTMENT COMPANY ACT OF 1940.—The Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-1 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 8, by adding at the end the following:

“(g) DATA STANDARDS FOR REGISTRATION STATEMENTS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all registration statements required to be filed with the Commission under this section, except that the Commission may exempt exhibits, signatures, and certifications from such data standards.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”; and

(2) in section 30, by adding at the end the following:

“(k) DATA STANDARDS FOR REPORTS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all reports required to be filed with the Commission under this section, except that the Commission may exempt exhibits, signatures, and certifications from such data standards.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(c) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED OR PUBLISHED BY NATIONALLY RECOGNIZED STATISTICAL RATING ORGANIZATIONS.—Section 15E of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-7) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(w) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION REQUIRED TO BE SUBMITTED OR PUBLISHED UNDER THIS SECTION.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information required to be submitted or published by a nationally recognized statistical rating organization under this section.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(d) DATA STANDARDS FOR ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES DISCLOSURES.—Section 7(c) of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77g(c)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(3) DATA STANDARDS FOR ASSET-BACKED SECURITIES DISCLOSURES.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all disclosures required under this subsection.

“(B) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subparagraph (A) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(i) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(ii) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(iii) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(iv) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(v) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(vi) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(C) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this paragraph, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(e) DATA STANDARDS FOR CORPORATE DISCLOSURES UNDER THE SECURITIES ACT OF 1933.—Section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933 (15 U.S.C. 77g) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all registration statements and for all prospectuses included in registration statements required to be filed with the Commission under this title, except that the Commission may exempt exhibits, signatures, and certifications from such data standards.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(f) DATA STANDARDS FOR PERIODIC AND CURRENT CORPORATE DISCLOSURES UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information contained in periodic and current reports required to be filed or furnished under this section or under section 15(d), except that the Commission may exempt exhibits, signatures, and certifications from such data standards.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(g) DATA STANDARDS FOR CORPORATE PROXY AND CONSENT SOLICITATION MATERIALS UNDER THE SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78n) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) DATA STANDARDS FOR PROXY AND CONSENT SOLICITATION MATERIALS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information contained in any proxy or consent solicitation material prepared by an issuer for an annual meeting of the shareholders of the issuer, except that the Commission may exempt exhibits, signatures, and certifications from such data standards.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incor-

porate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(h) DATA STANDARDS FOR SECURITY-BASED SWAP REPORTING.—Section 15F of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o–10) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) DATA STANDARDS FOR SECURITY-BASED SWAP REPORTING.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Commission shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all reports related to security-based swaps that are required under this Act.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Commission shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(i) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this section.

(2) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on emerging growth companies, lending institutions, accelerated filers, smaller reporting companies, and other smaller issuers, as determined by the study required under section 205(c), while still providing searchable information to investors.

(3) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 202. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.

Section 4 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78d) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.—All public information published by the Commission under the securities laws and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 203. DATA TRANSPARENCY AT THE MUNICIPAL SECURITIES RULEMAKING BOARD.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15B(b) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-4(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(8) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(A) REQUIREMENT.—If the Board establishes information systems under paragraph (3), the Board shall adopt data standards for information submitted via such systems.

“(B) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subparagraph (A) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(i) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(ii) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(iii) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(iv) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(v) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(vi) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(C) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards under this paragraph, the Board shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this section.

(2) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this section, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(3) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this section, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 204. DATA TRANSPARENCY AT NATIONAL SECURITIES ASSOCIATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 15A of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78o-3) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—A national securities association registered pursuant to subsection (a) shall adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the association.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which

clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards under this subsection, the association shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

(b) RULEMAKING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, a national securities association shall adopt the standards required under the amendments made by this section.

(2) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In adopting the standards required under the amendments made by this section, a national securities association may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(3) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In adopting the standards required under the amendments made by this section, a national securities association shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such standards.

SEC. 205. SHORTER-TERM BURDEN REDUCTION AND DISCLOSURE SIMPLIFICATION AT THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION; SUNSET.

(a) BETTER ENFORCEMENT OF THE QUALITY OF CORPORATE FINANCIAL DATA SUBMITTED TO THE SECURITIES AND EXCHANGE COMMISSION.—

(1) DATA QUALITY IMPROVEMENT PROGRAM.—Within six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall establish a program to improve the quality of corporate financial data filed or furnished by issuers under the Securities Act of 1933, the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, and the Investment Company Act of 1940. The program shall include the following:

(A) The designation of an official in the Office of the Chairman responsible for the improvement of the quality of data filed with or furnished to the Commission by issuers.

(B) The issuance by the Division of Corporation Finance of comment letters requiring correction of errors in data filings and submissions, where necessary.

(2) GOALS.—In establishing the program under this section, the Commission shall seek to—

(A) improve the quality of data filed with or furnished to the Commission to a commercially acceptable level; and

(B) make data filed with or furnished to the Commission useful to investors.

(b) REPORT ON THE USE OF MACHINE-READABLE DATA FOR CORPORATE DISCLOSURES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than six months after the date of the enactment of this Act, and every six months thereafter, the Commission shall issue a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate on the public and internal use of machine-readable data for corporate disclosures.

(2) CONTENT.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) an identification of which corporate disclosures required under section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 are expressed as machine-readable data and which are not;

(B) an analysis of the costs and benefits of the use of machine-readable data in corporate disclosure to investors, markets, the Commission, and issuers;

(C) a summary of enforcement actions that result from the use or analysis of machine-readable data collected under section 7 of the Securities Act of 1933, section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934, or section 14 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934; and

(D) an analysis of how the Commission is itself using the machine-readable data collected by the Commission.

(c) SUNSET.—On and after the end of the 7-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, this section shall have no force or effect.

SEC. 206. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Municipal Securities Rulemaking Board, or a national securities association to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE III—FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION**SEC. 301. DATA STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.**

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 52. DATA STANDARDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Corporation shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information that the Corporation receives from any depository institution or financial company under this Act or under title II of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(1) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(2) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(3) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(4) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(5) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(6) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(c) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this section, the Corporation shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(d) FINANCIAL COMPANY DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘financial company’ has the meaning given that term under section 201(a) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5381(a)).”.

SEC. 302. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE CORPORATION.

The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.), as amended by section 301, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 53. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.

“(a) All public information published by the Corporation under this Act or under the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 303. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(c) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 304. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IV—OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY

SEC. 401. DATA STANDARDS AND OPEN DATA PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE OFFICE OF THE COMPTROLLER OF THE CURRENCY.

The Revised Statutes of the United States is amended by inserting after section 332 (12 U.S.C. 14) the following:

“SEC. 333. DATA STANDARDS; OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.

“(a) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Comptroller of the Currency shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Comptroller of the Currency by any entity with respect to which the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency is the appropriate Federal banking agency (as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act).

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by paragraph (1) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which

clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this subsection, the Comptroller of the Currency shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“(b) OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.—All public information published by the Comptroller of the Currency under title LXII or the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 402. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Comptroller of the Currency shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Comptroller of the Currency may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(c) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Comptroller of the Currency shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 403. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Comptroller of the Currency to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION

SEC. 501. DATA STANDARDS AND OPEN DATA PUBLICATION REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 1018 the following:

“SEC. 1019. DATA STANDARDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Bureau shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Bureau.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(1) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(2) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as

defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(3) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(4) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(5) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(6) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(c) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this section, the Bureau shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.

“SEC. 1020. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.

“(a) All public information published by the Bureau shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents under section 1(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1018 the following:

“Sec. 1019. Data standards.

“Sec. 1020. Open data publication.”.

SEC. 502. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(c) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 503. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VI—FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM

SEC. 601. DATA STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

(a) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION FILED OR SUBMITTED BY NONBANK FINANCIAL COMPANIES.—Section 161(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5361(a)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(4) DATA STANDARDS FOR REPORTS UNDER THIS SUBSECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Governors shall adopt data standards for all financial

data that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Board of Governors by any nonbank financial company supervised by the Board of Governors pursuant to this subsection.

“(B) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by this section shall, to the extent practicable—

“(i) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(ii) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(iii) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(iv) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(v) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(vi) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(C) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this paragraph, the Board of Governors shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”

(b) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION FILED OR SUBMITTED BY SAVINGS AND LOAN HOLDING COMPANIES.—Section 10 of the Home Owners’ Loan Act (12 U.S.C. 1467a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(u) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Board shall adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Board by any savings and loan holding company, or subsidiary of a savings and loan holding company, other than a depository institution, under this section.

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by this subsection shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this section, the Board of Governors shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”

(c) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION FILED OR SUBMITTED BY BANK HOLDING COMPANIES.—Section 5 of the Bank Holding Com-

pany Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1844) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Board shall adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Board by any bank holding company in a report under subsection (c).

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by this subsection shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards under this subsection, the Board shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”

(d) DATA STANDARDS FOR INFORMATION SUBMITTED BY FINANCIAL MARKET UTILITIES OR INSTITUTIONS UNDER THE PAYMENT, CLEARING, AND SETTLEMENT SUPERVISION ACT OF 2010.—Section 809 of the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Supervision Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5468) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) DATA STANDARDS.—

“(1) REQUIREMENT.—The Board of Governors shall adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Board by any financial market utility or financial institution under subsection (a) or (b).

“(2) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by this subsection shall, to the extent practicable—

“(A) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(B) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(C) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(D) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(E) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(F) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(3) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards under this subsection, the Board of Governors shall incor-

porate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”

SEC. 602. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM.

The Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 226 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 32. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE BOARD OF GOVERNORS.

“All public information published by the Board of Governors under this Act, the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956, the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Home Owners’ Loan Act, the Payment, Clearing, and Settlement Supervision Act of 2010, or the Enhancing Financial Institution Safety and Soundness Act of 2010 shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”

SEC. 603. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(c) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 604. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VII—NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION

SEC. 701. DATA STANDARDS.

Title I of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 132. DATA STANDARDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Board shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information and reports regularly filed with or submitted to the Administration under this Act.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(1) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(2) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-readable taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(3) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(4) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(5) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(6) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(c) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this section, the Board shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

SEC. 702. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.

Title I of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752 et seq.), as amended by section 801, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 133. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.

“All public information published by the Administration under this title shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 703. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the National Credit Union Administration Board shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) SCALING OF REGULATORY REQUIREMENTS.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the National Credit Union Administration Board may scale data reporting requirements in order to reduce any unjustified burden on smaller regulated entities.

(c) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the National Credit Union Administration Board shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 704. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the National Credit Union Administration Board to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE VIII—FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY

SEC. 801. DATA STANDARDS REQUIREMENTS FOR THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

Part 1 of subtitle A of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1319H. DATA STANDARDS.

“(a) REQUIREMENT.—The Agency shall, by rule, adopt data standards for all information that is regularly filed with or submitted to the Agency under this Act.

“(b) CHARACTERISTICS.—The data standards required by subsection (a) shall, to the extent practicable—

“(1) render data fully searchable and machine-readable (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(2) enable high quality data through schemas, with accompanying metadata (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code) documented in machine-read-

able taxonomy or ontology models, which clearly define the data’s semantic meaning as defined by the underlying regulatory information collection requirements;

“(3) assure that a data element or data asset that exists to satisfy an underlying regulatory information collection requirement be consistently identified as such in associated machine-readable metadata;

“(4) be nonproprietary or made available under an open license (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code);

“(5) incorporate standards developed and maintained by voluntary consensus standards bodies; and

“(6) use, be consistent with, and implement applicable accounting and reporting principles.

“(c) INCORPORATION OF STANDARDS.—In adopting data standards by rule under this section, the Agency shall incorporate all applicable data standards promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury.”.

SEC. 802. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION BY THE FEDERAL HOUSING FINANCE AGENCY.

Part 1 of subtitle A of the Federal Housing Enterprises Financial Safety and Soundness Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4501 et seq.), as amended by section 901, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1319I. OPEN DATA PUBLICATION.

“All public information published by the Agency under this Act shall be made available as an open Government data asset (as defined under section 3502 of title 44, United States Code), freely available for download in bulk and rendered in a human-readable format and accessible via application programming interface where appropriate.”.

SEC. 803. RULEMAKING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than the end of the 2-year period beginning on the date the final rule is promulgated pursuant to section 124(a) of the Financial Stability Act of 2010, the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall issue the regulations required under the amendments made by this title.

(b) MINIMIZING DISRUPTION.—In issuing the regulations required under the amendments made by this title, the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall seek to minimize disruptive changes to the persons affected by such regulations.

SEC. 804. NO NEW DISCLOSURE REQUIREMENTS.

Nothing in this title or the amendments made by this title shall be construed to require the Federal Housing Finance Agency to collect or make publicly available additional information under the statutes amended by this title, beyond information that was collected or made publicly available under such statutes before the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE IX—MISCELLANEOUS

SEC. 901. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) NO EFFECT ON INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to alter the existing legal protections of copyrighted material or other intellectual property rights of any non-Federal person.

(b) NO EFFECT ON MONETARY POLICY.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to apply to activities conducted, or data standards used, exclusively in connection with a monetary policy proposed or implemented by the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System or the Federal Open Market Committee.

(c) PRESERVATION OF AGENCY AUTHORITY TO TAILOR REGULATIONS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act may be construed to—

(1) require Federal agencies to incorporate identical data standards to those promulgated by the Secretary of the Treasury; or

(2) prohibit Federal agencies from tailoring such standards when issuing rules under this Act and the amendments made by this Act to adopt data standards.

SEC. 902. CLASSIFIED AND PROTECTED INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall require the disclosure to the public of—

(1) information that would be exempt from disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Freedom of Information Act”); or

(2) information protected under section 552a of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), or section 6103 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

(b) EXISTING AGENCY REGULATIONS.—Nothing in this Act or the amendments made by this Act shall be construed to require the Secretary of the Treasury, the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the National Credit Union Administration Board, or the Federal Housing Finance Agency to amend existing regulations and procedures regarding the sharing and disclosure of nonpublic information, including confidential supervisory information.

SEC. 903. DISCRETIONARY SURPLUS FUND.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The dollar amount specified under section 7(a)(3)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 289(a)(3)(A)) is reduced by \$100,000,000.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on September 30, 2031.

SEC. 904. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021.

As chairwoman of the House Financial Services Committee, I would like to thank Representative MALONEY for her leadership on this bill, as well as Representative MCHENRY, the ranking member of the committee, for working on this bill in a bipartisan manner.

The Financial Transparency Act takes a proactive approach to modernizing our data standards and publication protocols within the financial services industry. This bill requires that the SEC, FDIC, OCC, CFPB, Federal Reserve, NCUA, and FHFA work with the Treasury Department to adopt data standards for the information it collects and to upgrade their reporting requirements so that reported data is stored in an open, searchable, and accessible manner.

The bill also ensures that these standards are created in a coordinated manner to enable searchability across these agencies, helping to catch bad actors more easily while promoting greater transparency and trust from the public in our financial system.

In this digital age, it is imperative that our regulators keep up with our rapidly changing financial markets and utilize technology in a way that safeguards our data while promoting the safety and soundness of our financial system. This bill puts the United States on equal footing with many other countries that already have begun using searchable data formats in submissions to regulators.

This commonsense bill would also benefit retail investors, as they will be able to search through publicly available documents, rather than having to manually save each document in order to extract the information they want.

In addition, companies that analyze this data will be able to more quickly report their findings to the public, helping better inform the investing public about the state of our capital markets.

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H.R. 2989 will also benefit regulated entities, like banks, credit unions, asset managers, and public companies, as they will now have clearly delineated criteria and frameworks to upload their data, ensuring consistent data standards and the ability for financial institutions to do more efficient compliance tasks that must be performed manually today.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2021.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, Committee on Financial Services,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM CHAIRWOMAN: This letter confirms our mutual understanding regarding H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021. Thank you for collaborating with the Committee on Agriculture on the matters within our jurisdiction.

The Committee on Agriculture will forego any further consideration of this bill so that it may proceed expeditiously to the House floor for consideration. However, by foregoing consideration at this time, we do not waive any jurisdiction over any subject matter contained in this or similar legislation. We request that our Committee be consulted and involved as this bill moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues in

our jurisdiction. The Committee on Agriculture also reserves the right to seek appointment of an appropriate number of conferees to any House-Senate conference involving this or similar legislation and ask that you support any such request.

We would appreciate a response to this letter confirming this understanding with respect to H.R. 2989, and request that a copy of our letters on this matter be published in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration.

Sincerely,

DAVID SCOTT,
Chairman.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, October 25, 2021.

Hon. DAVID SCOTT,
Chairman, House Committee on Agriculture,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MISTER CHAIRMAN: I writing to acknowledge your letter dated October 25, 2021, regarding the waiver by the Committee on Agriculture of any jurisdictional claims over the matters contained in H.R. 2989, the "Financial Transparency Act of 2021." The Committee on Financial Services confirms our mutual understanding that your Committee does not waive any jurisdiction over the subject matter contained in this or similar legislation, and your Committee will be appropriately consulted and involved as this bill or similar legislation moves forward so that we may address any remaining issues within your jurisdiction.

The Committee on Financial Services further recognizes your interest in appointment of outside conferees from the Committee on Agriculture should this bill or similar language be considered in a conference with the Senate.

Pursuant to your request, I will ensure that this exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during Floor consideration of the bill. I appreciate your cooperation regarding this legislation and look forward to continuing to work with you as this measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,

MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of Representative MALONEY and Ranking Member McHENRY's bipartisan legislation, H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021.

Our securities and banking laws require financial regulatory agencies to collect countless pieces of data from regulated entities each year. Yet, there is no consistency in the manner in which they collect this data. As a result, data is often difficult to find and to understand.

This commonsense legislation ensures our regulatory agencies are working together to adopt consistent data fields and formats for the information they collect.

The bill will require our banking and securities regulators to better organize data and make this information available in open-source formats. This, in turn, benefits investors, businesses, and even the Federal Government.

Setting data standards will foster more transparency and increase the efficiency for everyone who generates, collects, and uses the information.

This bill will make financial data more easily available. It will also reduce overhead costs and streamline workloads.

I applaud Congresswoman MALONEY and Ranking Member McHENRY for their commitment to this issue.

Reforming our information management practices and establishing uniform data standards for regulatory reporting is critical to ensuring an efficient and effective regulatory framework.

I urge Members to support this commonsense piece of legislation and vote "yes" on H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY), the sponsor of this legislation.

Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chair of the Financial Services Committee for her leadership and support on this legislation.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021, a bipartisan bill I introduced with Financial Services Committee Ranking Member McHENRY.

The Financial Transparency Act would require our Nation's financial regulators to adopt a set of data collection and dispersion standards for the information they collect under current law, including the adoption of electronic forms to replace paper-based forms.

All data would be made available in an open-source format that is electronically searchable, downloadable in bulk, and without license restrictions.

Under the bill, Treasury is tasked with establishing common data standards that would allow the standardization and sharing of data across our financial regulators and the public at large. Such data standards would include a common legal entity identifier that would give Treasury an increased ability to provide effective oversight across our financial markets.

The legal entity identifier is used throughout our financial markets and regulations today, and this bill would encourage agencies to continue moving in that direction.

Each financial regulator is then tasked with adopting standards for the data reported to each agency. The regulators maintain the ability to tailor its regulations as needed to fit the unique needs of each entity and have the ability to scale any regulatory requirements in order to reduce regulatory burdens on smaller entities.

I also want to be clear that this is not imposing new regulatory burdens on market participants. This is modernizing and making more transparent the data that is already reported to our regulators and that the regulators publish today.

The bill also contains important protections to ensure confidential business

and supervisory information remains protected.

The end result of this bill will be more transparent and open data sources and data that is readily comparable across businesses and sectors.

This is a win-win for regulators, for investors, for the public, for accuracy, and for industry.

For regulators, they will more easily be able to analyze and search the data its regulated entities are reporting. This will improve efficiency and overall government operations.

For investors, open-data publications will allow for easy searchability and comparability of companies and sectors, empowering investors to act on up-to-date information.

Industries will be able to automatically report required information using software in the format required by their regulators.

Mr. Speaker, the Financial Transparency Act builds on past congressional efforts to make data more accessible, useful, and more accurate.

This has clear benefits for our regulators, investors, and market participants and would improve the ability of our regulators to monitor financial stability and therefore the safety and soundness of our financial markets.

Before I close, I want to take a moment to thank Ranking Member McHENRY and his staff for their work and coordination on this important effort. I also want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and her staff for working with me on advancing this bill.

This was truly a bipartisan effort, and we would not be here without everyone working in the same direction.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting the Financial Transparency Act.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close. I reserve the balance of my time until Mrs. WAGNER yields.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2989, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I would again like to state that I support this bipartisan bill. The Financial Transparency Act of 2021 helps modernize our regulatory framework so that government, private industry, and the public all benefit.

Now more than ever, it makes sense for Congress to harness technology in a manner that provides greater transparency, accountability, and efficiency, and this bill does exactly that.

I want to thank Representative MALONEY and Ranking Member McHENRY for working with my staff in a bipartisan manner to get this bill across the finish line.

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021, introduced by my friend and colleague, Mrs. MALONEY.

I appreciate all her hard work on this important bill over the last six years to help make

data more available to Americans and establish a framework to reduce regulatory compliance costs.

We can all agree that data is important.

In the 21st century, data is critical to growing our knowledge-based economy.

Reliable data not only drives decisions in the private sector, but it also drives decisions within the federal government.

Yet, data is only useful if one (1) can find it and (2) understand it.

Trying to access data within the federal government, and in particular financial services sector, is even more difficult.

Data is collected, maintained, and disclosed by the federal government in outdated formats.

Moreover, the silos in the federal government and within the financial services industry can make it more difficult for Americans to access useful information.

H.R. 2989, the Financial Transparency Act of 2021, brings the regulators and the financial industry into the 21st century.

This bill will require our regulatory agencies to work together to establish data standards for regulatory reporting and to post the information online in a publicly accessible format. This bill applies to information the agencies already collect under current law.

This bill signals Congress' intent to have the information be unambiguously identified in machine-readable data formats.

Automating how data is handled will make it easier for oversight agencies to quickly identify what needs further investigation, keeping small issues from becoming bigger ones, and allowing us to use government resources more wisely and efficiently.

Automating how data is handled will allow regulated entities to automate much of their reporting processes.

It is also important to note what this bill does not do.

H.R. 2989 does not support any particular technology. Nothing needs to be invented to satisfy this bill. There are a range of technologies available that have been developed exactly for these needs in the US and globally.

It does not change what gets reported. That is, it explicitly leaves to the agencies control over their disclosure requirements.

Passage of the Financial Transparency Act is long overdue.

I applaud my friend, Congresswoman MALONEY, for her unwavering commitment to foster more transparency of the data collected by our federal government and increase the efficiency for everyone who generates, collects, and uses the information collected by our financial regulators.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2989, as amended.

The question was taken.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. In the opinion of the Chair, two-thirds being in the affirmative, the ayes have it.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 3(s) of House Resolution 8, the yeas and nays are ordered.

Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this motion are postponed.

FINANCIAL EXPLOITATION PREVENTION ACT OF 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2265) to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain securities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2265

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 "Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN SECURITIES POSTPONED.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 22 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a-22) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) REQUIREMENTS WITH RESPECT TO NON-INSTITUTIONAL DIRECT AT-FUND ACCOUNTS.—

“(1) ELECTION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—A registered open-end investment company and a transfer agent described under paragraph (2) may elect to comply with the requirements under paragraph (2) and subsection (i) by notifying the Commission of such election.

“(B) EFFECT OF ELECTION.—Paragraph (2) and subsection (i) shall only apply to a registered open-end investment company and a transfer agent that have made the election under subparagraph (A).

“(2) REQUIREMENTS.—In the case of a customer who is a holder of a non-institutional account held directly with a registered open-end investment company and serviced by a transfer agent (a ‘direct-at-fund account’), the company and transfer agent shall—

“(A) request from such customer the name and contact information of at least one individual who—

“(i) is at the time of such request an adult; and

“(ii) may be contacted with respect to such account;

“(B) document and retain the information received pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

“(C) disclose to such customer in writing (including through electronic delivery) that such company or transfer agent may contact an individual specified pursuant to subparagraph (A) with respect to the account of such customer to—

“(i) address possible financial exploitation of such customer;

“(ii) confirm the contact information or health status of the customer; or

“(iii) identify any legal guardian, executor, trustee, or holder of a power of attorney of the customer.

“(i) REDEMPTION OF CERTAIN SECURITIES POSTPONED.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (e), a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company may postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of any redeemable security in accordance with its terms for more than seven days after the tender of such security to such company or its agent designated for that purpose for redemption if such company or agent reasonably believes that—

“(A) the redemption is requested by a security holder who is a specified adult; and

“(B) financial exploitation has occurred, is occurring, or has been attempted with respect to such redemption.

“(2) DURATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraphs (B) and (C), a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company may postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of a redeemable security under paragraph (1) for a period of not more than 15 business days.

“(B) EXTENSION UPON DETERMINATION OF EXPLOITATION.—The period described in subparagraph (A) may be extended by an additional 10 business days if the registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company—

“(i) reasonably believes that—

“(I) the redemption is requested by a security holder who is a specified adult; and

“(II) financial exploitation has occurred, is occurring, or has been attempted with respect to such redemption;

“(ii) subject to subparagraph (D), not later than 2 days after making a determination under clause (i), notifies the individuals specified by such security holder under subsection (h)(2)(A) in writing (including through electronic delivery) of the extension of the period described in subparagraph (A) under this subparagraph and the reason for such extension;

“(iii) initiates an internal review of the facts and circumstances relating to the determination under clause (i);

“(iv) holds amounts related to the delayed payment or satisfaction upon redemption of the redeemable security in a demand deposit account; and

“(v) documents and retains records related to carrying out clause (iv) and includes such records in the first required account statement of the security holder provided after the date on which the determination is made under clause (i).

“(C) EXTENSION BY GOVERNMENT.—A State regulator, administrative agency of competent jurisdiction, or court of competent jurisdiction may extend the period described in subparagraph (A).

“(D) NOTIFICATION.—

“(i) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (B)(ii) shall not apply if a registered open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company reasonably believes that an individual required to be notified under such subparagraph is, has been, or will subject the security holder who identified such individual under subsection (h)(2)(A) to financial exploitation.

“(ii) REASONABLE EFFORTS.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall be considered in compliance with subparagraph (B)(ii) if such company or transfer agent makes a reasonable effort to contact the individuals specified by a security holder under subsection (h)(2)(A).

“(E) INTERNAL PROCEDURES.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall establish procedures to carry out the requirements under this subsection, including procedures—

“(i) related to the identification and reporting of matters related to the financial exploitation of specified adults;

“(ii) to determine whether to release or reinvest delayed redemption proceeds, taking into account the facts and circumstances of each case, should the internal review under subparagraph (B)(iii) support the reasonable belief described in subparagraph (B)(i);

“(iii) identifying each employee of the company or transfer agent with authority to establish, extend, or terminate a period described in paragraph (1) or subparagraph (A);

“(iv) in the case of a transfer agent, that are reasonably designed to ensure that the employees of such transfer agent comply with this subsection; and

“(v) in the case of an open-end investment company, establishing periodic reporting requirements under which a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall notify such company of—

“(I) each extension under subparagraph (B) authorized by such transfer agent;

“(II) each finding by the transfer agent under subparagraph (B)(i);

“(III) each notification under subparagraph (B)(ii) carried out by such transfer agent; and

“(IV) the results of each internal review initiated by the transfer agent under subparagraph (B)(iii).

“(F) INFORMATION INCLUDED IN CERTAIN STATEMENTS.—An open-end investment company shall include in each prospectus or statement of additional information a notification that the company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company may postpone redemption of certain securities under this subsection.

“(G) RECORD RETENTION.—An open-end investment company or transfer agent acting on behalf of such company shall—

“(i) document and retain records of—

“(I) each postponement of redemption under subparagraph (A), (B), and (C);

“(II) each finding under subparagraph (B)(i);

“(III) the name and position of each employee described in subparagraph (E)(iii);

“(IV) each notification carried out under subparagraph (B)(ii); and

“(V) the results of each internal review initiated under subparagraph (B)(iii); and

“(ii) make such records available to the Commission at the request of the Commission.

“(3) SPECIFIED ADULT DEFINED.—In this subsection, the term ‘specified adult’ means—

“(A) an individual age 65 or older; or

“(B) an individual age 18 or older who is a registered open-end investment company or a transfer agent acting on behalf of such company reasonably believes has a mental or physical impairment that renders the individual unable to protect the individual’s own interests.”

(b) RECOMMENDATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission, in consultation with the entities specified in paragraph (2), shall submit to Congress a report that includes recommendations regarding the regulatory and legislative changes necessary to address the financial exploitation of security holders who are specified adults (as defined in subsection (i)(3) of section 22 of the Investment Company Act of 1940 (15 U.S.C. 80a–22), as added by this section).

(2) CONSULTATION.—The entities specified in this paragraph are as follows:

(A) The Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(B) The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(C) The Financial Industry Regulatory Authority.

(D) The North American Securities Administrators Association.

(E) The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

(F) The Comptroller of the Currency.

(G) The Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled “Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation” for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of

the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2265, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2021, sponsored by the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER).

It is not a surprise that adults over the age of 65 are sometimes the targets for financial exploitation and have become victims of financial crimes more than any other demographic. Just last week, in its annual report on elder fraud and abuse, the Department of Justice reported that in 2020 alone, seniors suffered over \$1 billion in financial losses due to fraud.

Unlike other adults, seniors are often dependent on their savings to support them in retirement, making any fraud that much harder to recover from. Brokers and investment managers, who often stand in as the stewards of the savings of seniors, are in a unique position to protect elders from financial crimes.

In 2018, the Securities and Exchange Commission released a policy letter, called a no-action letter, stating that the Commission would not take an enforcement action against the agents of an investment company, including mutual funds, if the person paused a payment or redemption based on the suspicion of financial exploitation. This pause on cashing out the savings of a senior can provide invaluable time to ensure that the redemption is consistent with the will of the senior.

H.R. 2265 would codify this SEC letter. It would also make two further changes to describe how a mutual fund adviser can establish the process at each fund to protect seniors.

I thank Mrs. WAGNER for working with my staff to craft the language in this bill. This is a helpful piece of legislation that will provide one more tool to market participants to protect investors and, in particular, our Nation’s retirees.

I urge Members to support H.R. 2265, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 2265, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act, a bipartisan bill

that will help us combat the financial exploitation of seniors and other vulnerable adults.

I thank Congressman MCHENRY and Chairwoman WATERS for supporting this important legislation.

Financial exploitation of seniors and other vulnerable adults is a serious and growing problem.

The number of Americans ages 65 and older is projected to nearly double, from 52 million in 2018 to 95 million by 2060. This represents an increase from 16 to 23 percent of the U.S. population being 65 years old and older.

Right now, approximately 44 percent of households headed by a baby boomer and 30 percent of silent generation households own mutual funds.

As more investors age into retirement, the risk of financial exploitation for elderly households only increases. Roughly one in five senior investors are victimized by financial fraud, and those investors lose an estimated \$2.9 billion annually in reported cases and, unfortunately, some estimates indicate that only 1 in 44 cases of financial abuse is ever reported.

□ 1730

My bill proposes a solution to fight elder abuse in the context of mutual funds.

Since some mutual fund shareholder accounts are held directly with a mutual fund and serviced by the fund's transfer agent, or "direct-at-fund" accounts as they are known, the transfer agent is typically responsible for opening and servicing the accounts, maintaining account records, and serving as the fund's point of contact with those shareholders.

Under current law, when a fund's transfer agent suspects financial exploitation in a direct-at-fund account, it cannot lawfully delay the disbursement of redemption proceeds while an investigation occurs.

My legislation codifies a SEC-issued no-action letter from 2018 that permits a mutual fund and its transfer agents to delay the redemption period of a security if it is reasonably believed that a request was made by exploiting seniors or other vulnerable adults.

This will provide our potentially vulnerable investors with an important layer of investor protection to help make sure that they receive the hard-earned savings that they have built up over the years.

Additionally, and importantly, my bill also requires the SEC to report to Congress on additional potential legislative solutions on how to further combat financial exploitation of seniors and vulnerable adults.

This legislation, Mr. Speaker, is needed to provide certainty to protect our seniors, and I strongly urge my colleagues to support the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act.

I am grateful to the chairwoman and to the ranking member and all of the committee that has worked on this in such a bipartisan fashion, Mr. Speaker, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further Democratic speakers, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I again, thank the chairwoman and her team for making this very important piece of legislation that is so important to our seniors and to our vulnerable adults happen.

Again, in 2018, the SEC put this together as something we should be strongly looking at as we move forward. I am pleased we were able to bring it to the floor today in a bipartisan fashion.

I urge all of my colleagues to support my bill, H.R. 2265, the Financial Exploitation Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2265, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

AWARDING POSTHUMOUSLY A CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDAL COMMEMORATING SERVICEMEMBERS WHO PERISHED IN AFGHANISTAN ON AUGUST 26, 2021

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 5142) to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 5142

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

SECTION 1. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) At 9:44 A.M., on August 26, 2021, the Pentagon confirmed that one explosion occurred at the Hamid Karzai International Airport.

(2) The explosion was confirmed to be a suicide bombing by ISIS-K terrorist group.

(3) Estimates as high as 200 deaths were reported, including 13 servicemembers of the United States, as well as hundreds more wounded.

(4) The attack on Thursday, August 26, 2021, at the Hamid Karzai International Airport in Kabul, Afghanistan, killed 13 United States servicemembers, making it the deadliest single day of the war for the United States in more than a decade.

(5) The American servicemembers went above and beyond the call of duty to protect citizens of the United States and our allies to ensure they are brought to safety in an extremely dangerous situation as the Taliban regained control over Afghanistan.

(6) The American servicemembers exemplified extreme bravery and valor against armed enemy combatants.

(7) The American servicemembers dedicated their lives and their heroism deserves great honor.

(8) Maxton Soviak, Kareem Nikoui, David Espinoza, Rylee McCollum, Jared Schmitz, Hunter Lopez, Taylor Hoover, Daegan William-Tyler Page, Nicole Gee, Humberto Sanchez, Dylan Merola, Johanny Rosario Pichardo, and Ryan Knauss have been identified as the 13 servicemembers who died from the blast while stationed at Hamid Karzai International Airport.

SEC. 2. CONGRESSIONAL GOLD MEDALS.

(a) PRESENTATIONS AUTHORIZED.—The Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate shall make appropriate arrangements for the posthumous presentation, on behalf of the Congress, of a single gold medal of appropriate design in commemoration to the 13 servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan, on August 26, 2021.

(b) DESIGN AND STRIKING.—For the purposes of the presentation referred to in subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury (hereafter in this Act referred to as the "Secretary") shall strike a gold medal with suitable emblems, devices, and inscriptions, to be determined by the Secretary.

(c) SMITHSONIAN INSTITUTION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Following the award of the gold medal under subsection (a), the gold medal shall be given to the Smithsonian Institution, where it shall be available for display as appropriate and made available for research.

(2) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the Smithsonian Institution shall make the gold medal received under paragraph (1) available for display outside of the District of Columbia at times, particularly at other locations associated with the 13 servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

SEC. 3. DUPLICATE MEDALS.

The Secretary may strike and sell duplicates in bronze of the gold medal struck pursuant to section 2 at a price sufficient to cover the cost thereof, including labor, materials, dies, use of machinery, and overhead expenses.

SEC. 4. STATUS OF MEDALS.

(a) NATIONAL MEDALS.—The medal struck pursuant to this Act is a national medal for purposes of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code.

(b) NUMISMATIC ITEMS.—For purposes of section 5134 of title 31, United States Code, all medals struck under this Act shall be considered to be numismatic items.

SEC. 5. AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS; PROCEEDS OF SALE.

(a) AUTHORITY TO USE FUND AMOUNTS.—There is authorized to be charged against the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund such amounts as may be necessary to pay for the costs of the medals struck pursuant to this Act.

(b) PROCEEDS OF SALE.—The amounts received from the sale of duplicate bronze medals authorized under section 3 shall be deposited into the United States Mint Public Enterprise Fund.

SEC. 6. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

The budgetary effects of this Act, for the purpose of complying with the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010, shall be determined by reference to the latest statement titled "Budgetary Effects of PAYGO Legislation" for this Act, submitted for printing in the Congressional Record by the Chairman of the House Budget Committee, provided that such statement has been submitted prior to the vote on passage.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Member may have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on this legislation and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 5142, a bill to posthumously award Congressional Gold Medals in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

Mr. Speaker, during the 20-year war in Afghanistan, we lost over 2,000 brave men and women. More than 20,000 servicemembers returned home wounded in action.

I believe in my heart that every single soldier we lost in Afghanistan was a tragedy. We must remember their sacrifice.

In the waning days of this war, the Biden administration made decisions that put U.S. servicemembers in harm's way, and, unfortunately, Mr. Speaker, on August 26, we lost 13 more servicemembers, and more than 20 were injured.

Eleven marines, one Navy corpsman, and one soldier were killed by an ISIS-K bomber outside the Hamid Karzai International Airport on this terrible day in August.

Mr. Speaker, I represent the people of Missouri's Second Congressional District; and on August 26, my State lost a hero, Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz.

This courageous young man had been stationed in Jordan on his first deployment when he was called into Afghanistan to defend the civilians fleeing the Taliban's advance. He was eager to be one of the brave men and women on the front lines, making a real difference for the Americans and allies trapped in a terrifying and dangerous situation.

Lance Corporal Schmitz was totally committed to his military service, and he felt a calling to be a United States marine. So much so that he had gotten his parents' permission to enlist at just 17 years old.

Lance Corporal Schmitz was just 20 years old when he lost his life in the terrorist attack at the airport in Kabul.

Lance Corporal Schmitz and the 12 other servicemembers we lost in August went above and beyond the call of duty to protect those stranded in Afghanistan.

I sadly don't believe we will truly understand why Lance Corporal Schmitz

and his fellow soldiers died. Nevertheless, his family, their families, and all Americans deserve answers, Mr. Speaker.

And I hope one day those who made the decisions that resulted in these senseless deaths will be held accountable.

In the meantime, I am grateful that their service and their sacrifice is being commemorated by this legislation. The bravery and valor shown by these servicemembers is unquestionable.

I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I look forward to standing next to the family of Lance Corporal Schmitz as they are presented a Congressional Gold Medal commemorating their son's service and valor.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. CICILLINE).

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, as we mark nearly 2 months since the bombing that killed more than 116 innocent Afghans and American military personnel at the Hamid Karzai International Airport, I rise in strong support of this legislation to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to the 13 U.S. servicemembers who gave their lives that day.

Those individuals are Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo, Sergeant Nicole Gee, Staff Sergeant Darin Taylor Hoover, Corporal Hunter Lopez, Corporal Daegan Page, Corporal Humberto Sanchez, Lance Corporal David Espinoza, Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz, Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum, Lance Corporal Dylan Merola, Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui, Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak, and Staff Sergeant Ryan C. Knauss.

Mr. Speaker, as we recognize these extraordinary heroes and also understand that this honor cannot come close to filling the void left by their loss, I cannot think of anyone more deserving of such a distinction.

These brave servicemembers represent the very best of America, knowingly putting themselves in harm's way to help evacuate thousands from the region, a true embodiment of the American spirit.

Their legacies live on in the thousands of Afghan refugees they saved, who now have an opportunity to live lives free of violence and persecution.

And so as we remember these extraordinary American heroes and recognize them with the Congressional Gold Medal, let us all live lives worthy of their sacrifice and service to our great Nation.

I urge all my colleagues to vote "yes" and to join me in honoring these great American heroes.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. McCLAIN), the sponsor of this bill.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

War is an incredible teacher, a brutal instructor. We have learned lessons about triumph, sorrow, loss, and pain.

War teaches us to appreciate the simple things we take for granted, like the ability to speak your mind, freely practice your religion, even seeing your loved ones once a day.

It also teaches us that in war there are no unwounded soldiers.

There are those who came back with both visible scars and invisible battle wounds, and there are those who did not come home at all.

Today, we pause to honor the 13 American servicemembers who lost their lives during the evacuation efforts at the Kabul Airport in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

These 13 fallen warriors, along with many others, made the ultimate sacrifice. Each of them knew their duty, and they accepted the risks. Not many answer the call, but they volunteered anyway.

Sent to evacuate Americans and Afghans that struggled to get past the Taliban checkpoints in Kabul and through the airport gates, fearing they would be left behind and left for dead. They knew the mission and valiantly forged ahead; helping hundreds to safety, overcoming their own fears, when a suicide bomb attack took their lives.

The terrorist act took the lives of at least 170 Afghans, 11 marines, one Navy corpsman, and one Army special operations soldier, including Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza of Laredo, Texas; Sergeant Nicole Gee of Roseville, California; Staff Sergeant Darin Taylor Hoover of Salt Lake City, Utah; Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss of Knoxville, Tennessee; Corporal Hunter Lopez of Indio, California; Lance Corporal Rylee McCollum of Bondurant, Wyoming; Corporal Dylan Merola of Rancho Cucamonga, California; Lance Corporal Kareem Nikoui of Norco, California; Corporal Daegan William-Tyler Page of Omaha, Nebraska; Sergeant Johnny Rosario Pichardo of Lawrence, Massachusetts; Corporal Humberto Sanchez of Logansport, Indiana; Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz of Wentzville, Missouri; Navy Corpsman Maxton Soviak of Berlin Heights, Ohio.

I could not be more grateful for their service to our Nation. While we as a Nation grieve for the servicemembers we have lost, we often forget about the families who have lost even more.

To be a Gold Star Family is an honor no one wishes for. We owe our sincerest gratitude to the families who eagerly awaited these 13 servicemembers' return. These families bear the greatest burden of their loved one's sacrifice, and we can never thank them in a way that will make up for their loss.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 15 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Mrs. McCLAIN. Awarding Congress' highest honor is a small token of our appreciation.

Thank you to all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle who joined me in this effort.

□ 1745

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CUELLAR).

Mr. CUELLAR. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for her leadership, and the ranking member, also.

Mr. Speaker, today we honor our fallen servicemembers to award them with this Congressional Gold Medal. I am proud to be a cosponsor of this legislation, H.R. 5142.

On August 26 at 9:44 a.m., an explosion from a suicide terrorist bombing in Afghanistan killed 13 of our servicemembers. One of those servicemembers was my constituent, Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza from Rio Bravo.

He was born in Laredo and graduated from the city's Lyndon B. Johnson High School in 2019. His mother, Elizabeth Holguin, and his father, Victor Dominguez, and his brothers and sister, Angel, Victor, and Delilah, mourn his loss and are endlessly proud of David and his service.

When we attended David's funeral in Laredo, we all knew that families across the United States also mourned their loved ones. David joined the Marine Corps with the intention of protecting our Nation and demonstrating his selfless acts of service to his country. He embodied the American values of grit, dedication, service, and valor.

May Lance Corporal David Lee Espinoza and our fallen servicemembers forever be honored and never be forgotten.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining on my side.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman from Missouri has 13¼ minutes remaining.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER).

Mr. MEIJER. Mr. Speaker, I am proud to rise today in support of H.R. 5142 introduced by my colleague, LISA MCCLAIN from Michigan.

This bill would posthumously award a Congressional Gold Medal to the U.S. servicemembers killed during the final week of the Afghanistan evacuation.

On August 26, 2021, 13 American servicemembers were killed in a brutal suicide bombing at Hamid Karzai International Airport, marking one of the deadliest days for U.S. forces in Afghanistan in the past 20 years.

These selfless and brave Americans were put into an impossible situation, but their commitment to that mission never wavered.

They epitomized what it means to be a hero. They knew about the heightened threat that they faced. They knew the risks, but they stayed at those gates to keep them open, each second buying time for more lives to be saved.

The chaos of those days in Kabul and the perilous situation our servicemem-

bers and diplomats faced cannot be overstated. We owe an extraordinary debt of gratitude for the sacrifice that they should have never been forced to have made.

Every American should take pride in the heroism that Americans on the ground displayed in our final days in Afghanistan, but every American should also demand accountability from those senior officials whose decisions put our servicemembers in a position that required such heroic acts.

Today, we honor the 13 lives lost and keep their families and all who loved them in our prayers. Theirs is the epitome of selfless service, and a grateful Nation honors them here today.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from Michigan for introducing this important legislation, and I urge the support of my colleagues.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. MAST).

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I was asked by somebody about this piece of legislation, the Congressional Gold Medal for the 13 killed on August 26, and why not a gold medal for the thousands that have been killed in the war on terror, the ones that I wear on my wrist and the ones with names on the wall in the Rayburn Office Building and those that we see the markers for in Arlington National Cemetery. The fact is, we could give every one of them a thousand gold medals and it wouldn't represent a thousandth of what we owe those who have given their lives in defense of this country.

This gold medal isn't about that. It is about what we owe to the living.

This gold medal is a result of America's leaders being weak. That is why we are awarding this gold medal. We owe our fighters strength. We owe them that we never be intimidated, that we never back up, that we never retreat, that we never surrender. And as leaders, if we can't promise that to our fighters, then we owe it to them to never ask to lead.

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

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. WALTZ).

Mr. WALTZ. Mr. Speaker, as we as a nation reflect on 13 more killed in action, 13 more Gold Star families, I think it is worth noting that they did their mission. They did their jobs.

Their operation, their mission, was to secure Kabul International Airport, to evacuate our Embassy, to evacuate those who had worked with us, to evacuate the remaining military assets. And they did their job. They secured Kabul International Airport. But they went above and beyond.

After pulling grueling, long shifts in the August heat in Afghanistan—and everybody who has served there knows how difficult that could be—they went on their own time and were working with grassroots veterans organizations who sprung up, who stepped up to do, frankly, what should have already been done and to help those who had stood with us and stood for that flag for 20 years.

They, on their own time, at great risk, were getting people out. They knew the dangers. Everybody who had served there knew that it was only a matter of time till they were going to be hit. They knew that it was only a matter of time. Yet, they did it anyway.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to support this legislation for the Congressional Gold Medal, but we owe them answers. We owe their families answers. We owe this country answers.

Why were they defending an airport in the middle of a city of 4 million people? Why were the military assets pulled before—before—all of our civilians and our government employees were out?

Why? Why? Why? So many questions. So many answers.

I can tell you, and I could tell these families, I tell this body, I will not rest, I will never forget, and we will get those answers that those 13 Gold Star families deserve. And there will be accountability for why we now have 13 more dead Americans.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. BURCHETT).

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative WAGNER for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, the Congressional Gold Medal, as we all know and have heard, is Congress' highest medal. It is the least we can do for the 13 brave servicemembers killed during our withdrawal from Afghanistan back in August.

One of those 13, Army Staff Sergeant Ryan Knauss, was from Corryton, Tennessee, in my congressional district. As a matter of fact, I live in Corryton, and his family, they are neighbors of mine.

His grandfather called me shortly after and described the scene. We have all seen it in movies, but he, unfortunately, had to live it. The car pulls up. The Army officers get out and, in fact, inform his family that his grandson had perished in Afghanistan.

Mr. Speaker, I have heard that story many times because my mama endured that very same thing when she was a young girl in Cheatham County, Tennessee, and her brother, Roy, had died fighting the Nazis. So it is in my head pretty thick, sir.

Of course, he was killed while helping complete strangers, and that is what he loved to do. He loved helping folks.

When Staff Sergeant Knauss succumbed to his injuries after the attack, he became the final American military

casualty from the war in Afghanistan. We were all devastated by this loss, but our community is very strong.

Mr. Speaker, on September 11, they held a great local tribute to this fallen hero at Gibbs High School, on the football field. And on September 21, I also attended his funeral as he was laid to rest at Arlington National Cemetery.

Today, we honor him and 12 fellow heroes further by passing this legislation. The true heroes in this country are the men and women of our Armed Forces. They are the ones who keep us free. Their patriotism and bravery have kept us safe every day.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. WEBER), my friend and colleague, a classmate of mine.

Mr. WEBER of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, little that we can do here today is going to make a difference in what those families endured. We can only supply a small token of our appreciation for the greatest fighting force of men and women on the planet.

I want you to think with me for a second here. When the world has a calamity, it doesn't matter whether it is a hurricane, whether it is a tsunami, whether it is an earthquake, whether it is pestilence, famine, or rebellion, invasion. When the world has a calamity and they dial 911, who is it that answers? It is the United States of America, isn't it? With the greatest fighting force of men and women this world has ever known.

When America is safe, the world is a safer place. To the families, the Gold Star families, whose family members gave all, we owe them a debt of gratitude, and not just us, but the world as well.

Mr. Speaker, may God bless them, and may they rest in peace.

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I continue to reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close.

Mr. Speaker, I simply urge my colleagues to support H.R. 5142 to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal in commemoration of the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021.

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

Ms. WATERS. Mr. Speaker, I simply ask all of my colleagues, all the Members of this House, to support this bill.

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

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, the book of Isaiah recounts how the prophet Isaiah began his service. In a time of darkness, the Lord asks, "Whom shall I send? And who will go for us?" Isaiah's response was to volunteer for service: "Here am I; send me."

When their nation called them to serve, so said a generation of American

servicemembers, diplomats and intelligence officers: "Here am I; send me."

Two months ago tomorrow, thirteen of those servicemembers were killed as they helped bring nearly 130,000 Americans, allies and Afghan partners to safety.

That action was one of profound valor, selflessness and sacrifice, for which the Congress and Country are united in grief and in gratitude.

We salute and pray for: Marine Corps Staff Sgt. Darin T. Hoover (Salt Lake City, Utah); Marine Corps Sgt. Johanny [jo-HAN-nee] Rosario Pichardo (Lawrence, Massachusetts); Marine Corps Sgt. Nicole L. Gee [JEE] (Sacramento, California); Marine Corps Cpl. Hunter Lopez (Indio, California); Marine Corps Cpl. Daegan [day-gan] Page (Omaha, Nebraska); Marine Corps Cpl. Humberto A. Sanchez (Logansport, Indiana); Marine Corps Lance Cpl. David L. Espinoza (Rio Bravo, Texas); Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Jared M. Schmitz (St. Charles, Missouri); Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Rylee J. McCollum (Jackson, Wyoming); Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Dylan R. Merola (Rancho Cucamonga, California); Marine Corps Lance Cpl. Kareem M. Nikoui [neh-KOO-ee] (Norco, California); Navy Hospitalman Maxton W. Soviak (Berlin Heights, Ohio); and Army Staff Sgt. Ryan C. Knauss [kuh-nows] (Corryton, Tennessee).

Today, we honor their heroism by awarding them the Congressional Gold Medal: the highest honor that the Congress can bestow.

Their service brings great honor to our country, and their being awarded this honor brings luster to this award.

As we honor the heroism of the fallen, we salute each member of our military, intelligence and diplomatic communities who conducted this evacuation—and all who have served or are serving our country.

We pray for all fighting for our freedoms and for their families. And we pray for the people of Afghanistan and in the region.

Mr. LUETKEMEYER. Mr. Speaker, on August 26th, 13 American families experienced the worst day of their lives.

They received the knock on the door that every parent of a servicemember prays will never come.

For those families, the conversation that followed was the most devastating news a person can receive: their child has been killed.

One of the marines we lost that day was Lance Corporal Jared Schmitz from Wentzville in Missouri's Third Congressional District.

Lance Corporal Schmitz was just 20 years old when the military transferred him from Jordan to Afghanistan during the U.S. evacuation.

Shortly after arriving in Kabul, Jared died while achieving his lifelong goal of serving the American People in the United States Marine Corps.

Because of Jared's and his fellow servicemembers' sacrifice, thousands of Americans were able to return home safely.

They ensured that thousands of families did not get the heartbreaking news Jared's parents received early in the morning of August 27th.

Because our servicemembers displayed a bravery most of us are not capable of, countless kids saw their mom and dad again.

Brothers reunited with their sisters.

And terrified parents got to hug their children after days of worrying that day would never come.

Nothing we can say on this floor will erase the pain far too many military families live with every day.

No amount of gratitude nor a Congressional Gold Medal will change the fact that the Schmitz family and 12 others will forever have an unfillable hole in their hearts.

But what we can do with this bill is remind them of what they hopefully already know: their loved-one represents the best of us.

They are the American heroes who allow 300 million people to live freely in the greatest country in the history of the world.

Their loss is absolutely heartbreaking, but their sacrifice and their lives will never be forgotten.

They will be remembered as the heroes they are and will live in the hearts of millions of grateful Americans forever.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 5142, as amended.

The question was taken; and (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

□ 1800

CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY WITH RESPECT TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—MESSAGE FROM THE PRESIDENT OF THE UNITED STATES (H. DOC. NO. 117-67)

The SPEAKER pro tempore laid before the House the following message from the President of the United States; which was read and, together with the accompanying papers, referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the Federal Register and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the Federal Register for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2021.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared

in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 25, 2021.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair would inform the House that, pursuant to House Resolution 730, the Speaker has certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of Stephen K. Bannon to produce documents in compliance with a subpoena to the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol.

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 6 o'clock and 1 minute p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. CASTEN) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

SOVEREIGN DEBT CONTRACT CAPACITY ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4111) to require the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to Fund members seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts, and for other purposes, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 391, nays 29, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 332]

YEAS—391

Adams	Axne	Beatty
Aderholt	Babin	Bentz
Aguilar	Bacon	Bera
Allen	Baird	Bergman
Allred	Balderson	Beyer
Amodei	Banks	Bice (OK)
Armstrong	Barr	Bilirakis
Arrington	Barragán	Bishop (GA)
Auchincloss	Bass	Blumenauer

Blunt Rochester	Garcia (CA)	Malliotakis
Bonamici	Garcia (IL)	Maloney
Bost	Garcia (TX)	Carolyn B.
Bourdeaux	Jimenez	Maloney, Sean
Bowman	Golden	Mann
Boyle, Brendan	Gomez	Manning
F.	Gonzales, Tony	Mast
Brady	Gonzalez (OH)	Matsui
Brown	Gonzalez,	McBath
Brownley	Vicente	McCarthy
Buchanan	Gooden (TX)	McCaul
Bucshon	Gottheimer	McClain
Budd	Granger	McCollum
Burchett	Graves (LA)	McEachin
Burgess	Graves (MO)	McGovern
Bush	Green (TN)	McHenry
Butterfield	Green, Al (TX)	McKinley
Calvert	Griffith	McNerney
Carbajal	Grijalva	Meeks
Cárdenas	Grothman	Meijer
Carl	Guest	Meng
Carson	Guthrie	Meuser
Carter (GA)	Hagedorn	Mfume
Carter (LA)	Harder (CA)	Miller (WV)
Carter (TX)	Harshbarger	Miller-Meeks
Cartwright	Hartzler	Moolenaar
Case	Hayes	Mooney
Casten	Hern	Moore (AL)
Castor (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Moore (UT)
Chabot	Higgins (NY)	Moore (WI)
Chu	Hill	Morelle
Ciicilline	Himes	Moulton
Clark (MA)	Hinson	Mrvan
Clarke (NY)	Hollingsworth	Mullin
Cleaver	Horsford	Murphy (FL)
Clyburn	Houlahan	Murphy (NC)
Clyde	Hoyer	Nadler
Cohen	Hudson	Napolitano
Cole	Huffman	Neal
Comer	Huizenga	Neguse
Connolly	Issa	Newhouse
Cooper	Jackson Lee	Newman
Correa	Jacobs (CA)	Norcross
Costa	Jacobs (NY)	Nunes
Courtney	Jayapal	O'Halleran
Craig	Jeffries	Obernolte
Crawford	Johnson (GA)	Ocasio-Cortez
Crenshaw	Johnson (OH)	Omar
Crist	Johnson (SD)	Owens
Crow	Johnson (TX)	Palazzo
Cuellar	Jones	Pallone
Curtis	Joyce (OH)	Palmer
Davids (KS)	Joyce (PA)	Panetta
Davidson	Kahele	Pappas
Davis, Danny K.	Kaptur	Pascarell
Davis, Rodney	Katko	Payne
Dean	Keating	Perlmutter
DeFazio	Keller	Peters
DeGette	Kelly (IL)	Pfleger
DeLauro	Kelly (MS)	Phillips
DeBene	Kelly (PA)	Pingree
Delgado	Khanna	Pocan
Demings	Kildee	Porter
DeSaulnier	Kilmer	Posey
DesJarlais	Kim (CA)	Pressley
Deutch	Kim (NJ)	Price (NC)
Diaz-Balart	Kind	Quigley
Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Raskin
Doggett	Krishnamoorthi	Reed
Donalds	Kuster	Reschenthaler
Doyle, Michael	Kustoff	Rice (NY)
F.	LaHood	Rice (SC)
Dunn	LaMalfa	Rodgers (WA)
Elizy	Lamb	Rogers (AL)
Emmer	Lamborn	Rogers (KY)
Escobar	Langevin	Rose
Eshoo	Larsen (WA)	Ross
Espallat	Larson (CT)	Rouzer
Estes	Latta	Roybal-Allard
Evans	LaTurner	Ruiz
Fallon	Lawrence	Ruppersberger
Feenstra	Lawson (FL)	Rush
Ferguson	Lee (CA)	Rutherford
Fischbach	Lee (NV)	Ryan
Fitzgerald	Leger Fernandez	Salazar
Fitzpatrick	Letlow	Sánchez
Fleischmann	Levin (CA)	Sarbanes
Fletcher	Levin (MI)	Scalise
Fortenberry	Lieu	Scanlon
Foster	Lofgren	Schakowsky
Fox	Long	Schiff
Frankel, Lois	Loudermilk	Schneider
Franklin, C.	Lowenthal	Schrader
Scott	Lucas	Schrier
Fulcher	Luetkemeyer	Schweikert
Gallagher	Luria	Scott (VA)
Gallego	Lynch	Scott, Austin
Garamendi	Mace	Scott, David
Garbarino	Malinowski	Sessions

Sewell	Swalwell	Walberg
Sherman	Takano	Walorski
Sherrill	Taylor	Waltz
Simpson	Tenney	Wasserman
Sires	Thompson (CA)	Schultz
Slotkin	Thompson (MS)	Waters
Smith (MO)	Thompson (PA)	Watson Coleman
Smith (NE)	Timmons	Weber (TX)
Smith (NJ)	Titus	Webster (FL)
Smith (WA)	Tlaib	Welch
Smucker	Tonko	Wenstrup
Soto	Torres (CA)	Westerman
Spanberger	Torres (NY)	Wexton
Spartz	Trahan	Wild
Stansbury	Trone	Williams (GA)
Stanton	Turner	Williams (TX)
Stauber	Underwood	Wilson (FL)
Steel	Upton	Wilson (SC)
Stefanik	Van Drew	Wittman
Steil	Van Duyne	Womack
Steube	Vargas	Yarmuth
Stevens	Veasey	Young
Stewart	Vela	Zeldin
Strickland	Velázquez	
Suozi	Wagner	

NAYS—29

Biggs	Gohmert	Jordan
Bishop (NC)	Good (VA)	Lesko
Boebert	Gosar	Massie
Brooks	Greene (GA)	McClintock
Buck	Harris	Miller (IL)
Cammack	Herrell	Norman
Cawthorn	Hice (GA)	Perry
Cline	Higgins (LA)	Roy
Duncan	Jackson	Tiffany
Gaetz	Johnson (LA)	

NOT VOTING—11

Bustos	Gibbs	Rosendale
Castro (TX)	Kinzinger	Speier
Cheney	Nehls	Valadao
Cloud	Pence	

□ 1901

Mr. CLINE changed his vote from "yea" to "nay."

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragán (Beyer)	Jackson Lee	Moulton
Boyle, Brendan	(Cicilline)	(Wexton)
F. (Jeffries)	Johnson (TX)	Pascarell (Kildee)
Buchanan	Jeffries	Payne (Pallone)
(Waltz)	Kahele (Jacobs)	Porter (Wexton)
Butterfield	(CA)	Rodgers (WA)
(Kildee)	Kelly (IL) (Blunt)	(Joyce (PA))
Cárdenas	Rochester)	Rush
(Gomez)	Khanna (Lee)	(Underwood)
Cleaver (Davids)	(CA)	Schneider
(KS)	Kind (Connolly)	(Wasserman)
Costa (Correa)	Kirkpatrick	Schultz)
Crist (Castor)	(Stanton)	Scott, David
(FL)	LaHood (Miller)	(McGovern)
Davis, Danny K.	(WV)	Sires (Pallone)
(Underwood)	Lawrence	Smucker (Joyce)
DeFazio (Brown)	(Beatty)	(PA)
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL)	Takano
(Beyer)	(Soto)	(Cicilline)
DesJarlais	Lieu (Beyer)	Thompson (PA)
(Fleischmann)	Lofgren (Jeffries)	(Reschenthaler)
Doggett (Raskin)	Luetkemeyer	Trahan (Lynch)
Frankel, Lois	(Long)	Walorski
(Clark (MA))	Malinowski	(Bucshon)
Fulcher (Johnson)	(Pallone)	Watson Coleman
(OH)	McEachin	(Pallone)
Green (TN)	(Wexton)	Williams (GA)
(Joyce (PA))	Meng (Jeffries)	(Jacobs (CA))
Grijalva	Mfume (Brown)	Wilson (FL)
(Stanton)		(Hayes)

FINANCIAL TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the

bill (H.R. 2989) to amend securities and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to further enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector's regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from California (Ms. WATERS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 400, nays 19, not voting 12, as follows:

[Roll No. 333]

YEAS—400

Adams	Cole	Jimenez
Aderholt	Comer	Gohmert
Aguilar	Connolly	Golden
Allen	Cooper	Gomez
Allred	Correa	Gonzales, Tony
Amodei	Costa	Gonzalez (OH)
Armstrong	Courtney	Gonzalez,
Arrington	Craig	Vicente
Auchincloss	Crawford	Gooden (TX)
Axne	Crenshaw	Gottheimer
Babin	Crist	Granger
Bacon	Crow	Graves (LA)
Baird	Cuellar	Graves (MO)
Balderson	Curtis	Green (TN)
Banks	Davidson	Green, Al (TX)
Barr	Davis, Danny K.	Griffith
Barragan	Davis, Rodney	Grijalva
Bass	Dean	Grothman
Beatty	DeFazio	Guest
Bentz	DeGette	Guthrie
Bera	DeLauro	Hagedorn
Bergman	DelBene	Harder (CA)
Beyer	Delgado	Harshbarger
Bice (OK)	Demings	Hartzler
Bilirakis	DeSaulnier	Hayes
Bishop (GA)	DesJarlais	Hern
Blumenauer	Deutch	Herrera Beutler
Blunt Rochester	Diaz-Balart	Hice (GA)
Bonamici	Dingell	Higgins (NY)
Bost	Doggett	Hill
Bourdeaux	Donalds	Himes
Bowman	Doyle, Michael	Hinson
Boyle, Brendan	F.	Hollingsworth
F.	Duncan	Horsford
Brady	Dunn	Houlahan
Brooks	Ellzey	Hoyer
Brown	Emmer	Hudson
Brownley	Escobar	Huffman
Buchanan	Eshoo	Huizenga
Bucshon	Espallat	Issa
Budd	Estes	Jackson
Burgess	Evans	Jackson Lee
Bush	Feenstra	Jacobs (CA)
Butterfield	Ferguson	Jacobs (NY)
Calvert	Fischbach	Jayapal
Carbajal	Fitzgerald	Jeffries
Cardenas	Fitzpatrick	Johnson (GA)
Carl	Fleischmann	Johnson (LA)
Carson	Fletcher	Johnson (OH)
Carter (GA)	Fortenberry	Johnson (SD)
Carter (LA)	Foster	Johnson (TX)
Carter (TX)	Fox	Jones
Cartwright	Frankel, Lois	Jordan
Case	Franklin, C.	Joyce (OH)
Casten	Scott	Joyce (PA)
Castor (FL)	Fulcher	Kahele
Cawthorn	Gaetz	Kaptur
Chabot	Gallagher	Katko
Chu	Gallago	Keating
Cicilline	Garamendi	Keller
Clark (MA)	Garbarino	Kelly (IL)
Clarke (NY)	Garcia (CA)	Kelly (MS)
Cleaver	Garcia (IL)	Kelly (PA)
Clyburn	Garcia (TX)	Khanna
Cohen		Kildee

Kilmer	Murphy (FL)	Sires
Kim (CA)	Murphy (NC)	Slotkin
Kim (NJ)	Nadler	Smith (MO)
Kind	Napolitano	Smith (NE)
Kirkpatrick	Neal	Smith (NJ)
Krishnamoorthi	Neguse	Smith (WA)
Kuster	Nehls	Smucker
Kustoff	Newhouse	Soto
LaHood	Newman	Spanberger
LaMalfa	Norcross	Spartz
Lamb	Nunes	Stansbury
Lamborn	O'Halleran	Stanton
Langevin	Obernolte	Staubert
Larsen (WA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Steel
Larson (CT)	Omar	Stefanik
Latta	Owens	Steil
LaTurner	Palazzo	Steube
Lawrence	Pallone	Stevens
Lawson (FL)	Palmer	Stewart
Lee (CA)	Panetta	Strickland
Lee (NV)	Pappas	Suozzi
Leger Fernandez	Pascarell	Swalwell
Lesko	Payne	Takano
Letlow	Perlmutter	Taylor
Levin (CA)	Perry	Tenney
Levin (MI)	Peters	Thompson (CA)
Lieu	Pfleger	Thompson (MS)
Lofgren	Phillips	Thompson (PA)
Long	Pingree	Timmons
Loudermilk	Pocan	Titus
Lowenthal	Porter	Tlaib
Lucas	Posey	Tonko
Luetkemeyer	Pressley	Torres (CA)
Luria	Price (NC)	Torres (NY)
Lynch	Quigley	Trahan
Mace	Raskin	Trone
Malinowski	Reed	Turner
Golden	Reschenthaler	Underwood
Malliotakis	Rice (NY)	Upton
Maloney,	Rice (SC)	Van Drew
Carolyn B.	Rodgers (WA)	Van Duyen
Maloney, Sean	Rogers (AL)	Vargas
Mann	Rogers (KY)	Veasey
Manning	Rose	Vela
Mast	Rouzer	Velázquez
Matsui	Roybal-Allard	Wagner
McBath	Ruiz	Walberg
McCarthy	Ruppersberger	Walorski
McCaul	Rush	Walt
McClain	Rutherford	Wasserman
McCollum	Ryan	Schultz
McEachin	Salazar	Waters
McGovern	Sánchez	Watson Coleman
McHenry	Sarbanes	Weber (TX)
McKinley	Scalise	Webster (FL)
McNerney	Scanlon	Welch
Meeks	Schakowsky	Wenstrup
Meijer	Schiff	Westerman
Meng	Schneider	Wexton
Meuser	Schrader	Wild
Mfume	Schrier	Williams (GA)
Miller (WV)	Schweikert	Williams (TX)
Miller-Meeks	Scott (VA)	Wilson (FL)
Moolenaar	Scott, Austin	Wilson (SC)
Mooney	Scott, David	Wittman
Moore (AL)	Sessions	Womack
Moore (UT)	Sewell	Yarmuth
Moore (WI)	Sherman	Young
Morelle	Sherrill	Zeldin
Moulton	Simpson	
Moulton		
Mrvan		
Mullin		

NAYS—19

Biggs	Good (VA)	McClintock
Bishop (NC)	Gosar	Miller (IL)
Boebert	Greene (GA)	Norman
Buck	Harris	Roy
Burchett	Herrell	Tiffany
Cline	Higgins (LA)	
Clyde	Masse	

NOT VOTING—12

Bustos	Cloud	Pence
Cammack	Fallon	Rosendale
Castro (TX)	Gibbs	Speier
Cheney	Kinzing	Valadao

□ 1920

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the bill, as amended, was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, October 25, 2021, I missed votes due to unavoidable flight delays. Had I been present, I would have voted "yea" on rollcall No. 332 and "yea" on rollcall No. 333.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Barragan (Beyer)	Johnson (TX)	Porter (Wexton)
Boyle, Brendan	(Jeffries)	Rodgers (WA)
F. (Jeffries)	Kahele (Jacobs)	(Joyce (PA))
Buchanan	(CA)	Rush
(Waltz)	Kelly (IL) (Blunt)	(Underwood)
Butterfield	Rochester	Schneider
(Kildee)	Khanna (Lee)	(Wasserman)
Cardenas	(CA)	Schultz
(Gomez)	Kind (Connolly)	Scott, David
Cleaver (Davids)	Kirkpatrick	(McGovern)
(KS)	(Stanton)	Sires (Pallone)
Costa (Correa)	LaHood (Miller)	Smucker (Joyce)
Crist (Castor)	(WV)	(PA)
(FL)	Lawrence	Takano
Davis, Danny K.	(Beatty)	(Cicilline)
(Underwood)	Lawson (FL)	Thompson (PA)
DeFazio (Brown)	(Soto)	(Reschenthaler)
DeSaulnier	Lieu (Beyer)	Trahan (Lynch)
(Beyer)	Luetkemeyer	Walorski
Doggett (Raskin)	(Long)	(Bucshon)
Frankel, Lois	Malinowski	Watson Coleman
(Clark (MA))	(Pallone)	(Pallone)
Fulcher (Johnson)	McEachin	Williams (GA)
(OH)	(Wexton)	(Jacobs (CA))
Green (TN)	Meng (Jeffries)	Wilson (FL)
(Joyce (PA))	Mfume (Brown)	(Hayes)
Grijalva	Moulton	
(Stanton)	(Wexton)	
Jackson Lee	Pascarell (Kildee)	
(Cicilline)	Payne (Pallone)	

MOMENT OF SILENCE HONORING CONGRESSMAN JAMES H. BILBRAY

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

Ms. TITUS. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and remember the accomplishments of Congressman James H. Bilbray. Jim was a native son of Nevada who served as a judge, a university regent, and a State legislator before being elected to the House of Representatives from Nevada's First District where he served from 1987 to 1995.

Congressman Bilbray was a man ahead of his time. He was an early environmentalist before going green was considered cool. His legislation to protect Red Rock Canyon preserved a special place for future generations. His legacy will live on in the magnificent formations, Native American petroglyphs, and iconic wildlife and flora and fauna found there.

Madam Speaker, I ask now that the House observe a moment of silence in his honor.

AMERICA PROSPERS WHEN ELECTED LEADERS PROTECT AMERICANS' CONSTITUTIONAL RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, back in 2020 when the coronavirus vaccines were developed under the Trump administration, Joe Biden and progressive Democrats trashed them in the media. As you can see from these

quotes, they were extremely skeptical about the effectiveness of coronavirus vaccines when Donald Trump was in charge.

Of course, when Biden became President, the vaccine suddenly became entirely effective and highly encouraged. But Jen Psaki still maintained in July that mandating these vaccines is “not the Federal Government’s role.”

But now President Biden is forcing millions of Americans to choose between keeping their jobs or getting the vaccine. My office is flooded daily with calls from constituents who risk losing their livelihoods because of this administration’s mandate. Apparently, protecting Americans’ freedoms to make their own healthcare decisions is too much to ask.

So far Joe Biden’s Presidency has been defined by his out-of-touch agenda. A vaccine mandate is not what Americans want and is inconsistent with our national values, Madam Speaker.

Tennesseans value freedom from government tyranny. That is why we elect leaders like Governor Billy Lee and members of the Tennessee General Assembly, who are fighting outrageous vaccine mandates.

Our country prospers when elected leaders protect Americans’ constitutional rights and freedoms. Unfortunately, this is a radical concept to President Joe Biden.

EVERYONE DESERVES A FRESH START

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

Ms. SCANLON. Madam Speaker, for millions of Americans, a minor or decades-old criminal record can pose an insurmountable barrier to full employment, housing, and education. All too often, individuals in this situation are unable to get a fresh start because having eligible records sealed or expunged is so burdensome or expensive.

Bureaucratic delays and high legal fees perpetuate the cycle of poverty and make it more difficult for people to transition back into society successfully after being incarcerated.

That is why I was proud to join Representative DAVID TRONE and a bipartisan group of our colleagues from the House and the Senate to introduce legislation last week to help these Americans get the second chances they deserve.

The Fresh Start Act of 2021 provides Federal grants for States with record sealing or expungement procedures to help improve their automated record infrastructure.

As we rebound from a once-in-a-century pandemic and in the name of fairness and equity, we need to eliminate barriers to employment and champion opportunities for our communities to recover and thrive.

□ 1930

MORE UNNECESSARY SPENDING

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

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise to express my continued concern and opposition to the efforts from the Democrat majority to pass another \$3.5 trillion worth of unnecessary spending.

If you ask any American right now what the biggest challenge they face is, it is inflation. We have inflation today primarily because of the last unnecessary spending that was passed in this House, and that was the \$1.9 trillion stimulus bill that Democrats passed on a partisan basis in this House. That has led to inflation.

We have more inflation than we have had in my adult lifetime. Yet, this body wants to continue to pass more unnecessary spending that will lead to more inflation. Enough is enough. We need to move on from this bill and take care of the business that the American people deserve Congress to address.

HONORING MANNY ONTIVEROS

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

Mr. CORREA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a great community leader and a good friend, Manny Ontiveros.

As an Anaheim native and friend, Manny has devoted over 30 years of his life to serving the community, first as a trustee of the North Orange County Community College District and then as a Federal probation officer for almost 30 years. He was also a member of the Anaheim Parks and Recreation Commission and the Anaheim Independencia board of directors.

Today, Manny is looking to retire from his Federal job as a Federal probation officer. I congratulate him and his family. Job great done. Career great done.

Madam Speaker, I am honored that he calls me his friend, and everybody in the community is honored to have Manny Ontiveros serving us well.

ATLANTA BRAVES ADVANCE TO WORLD SERIES

(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 the Atlanta Braves for advancing to the World Series for the first time since 1999.

In a season plagued by injuries, what the Braves have accomplished is nothing short of remarkable. On August 1, the Braves had a losing record, and things were looking grim. Through much adversity, the Braves relied on some unlikely stars to shine in the

postseason during the month of October.

What this team has achieved is nothing short of special, and we hope to continue shocking the world.

After caving to the lies of the Democrats, Major League Baseball moved the All-Star game out of Atlanta, depriving the community of hundreds of millions of dollars. Well, you may be able to move the All-Star game, but you can’t move the World Series, and Truist Park is going to be electric.

In addition to the players, I would also like to congratulate manager Brian Snitker and the rest of the coaching staff for the tremendous job they did in assembling and guiding this team to the 2021 World Series. Go Braves.

OBSESSION WITH ABORTION

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, a lot has been said about the reconciliation bill that we may or may not vote on. Obviously, the spending is tremendously out of control and will further fan the flames of inflation. There are several provisions in there designed, one more time, I would argue, to replace fathers and the family.

Madam Speaker, today, I will address, one more time, the majority’s obsession with abortion. We have already seen this cycle, efforts made in the White House to get rid of the Mexico City policy and have the United States involved in pushing abortion around the world, kind of a very strange and sad thing given how blessed this country has been by the Almighty during our tenure.

In this bill, one more time, be it including \$10 billion in public health funding grants that do not include the Hyde amendment, or abortion coverage for ObamaCare and plans covering individuals up to 138 percent of the Federal poverty line, this is one of the most extreme pro-abortion bills that I have seen yet, and it is another reason not to vote for the reconciliation bill.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF DEREK ASDOT

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

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay tribute and to honor the life of my dear friend, Green Cove Springs Police Chief Derek Asdot. Chief Asdot passed away last month after a prolonged and hard-fought battle with COVID-19.

He started his distinguished career in law enforcement with Duval County Schools and, in 2002, joined Green Cove Springs Police Department. During his nearly 20 years of service to the Green Cove Springs community, he served in multiple capacities, including patrolman, narcotics task force, and, finally, as chief of police starting in 2017.

He leaves behind a wonderful wife and two children, as well as a community full of grateful citizens, grateful for his decades of faithful service to the community and its people and grateful for having had a chance to know a man like Derek.

I am personally saddened by this loss. Chief Asdot was a friend, a mentor, and a colleague who showed me what selfless public service looks like. He did his duty with integrity, passion, grit, and I am forever thankful to have known him.

Rest easy, Chief. We've got your 6.

VOTING RIGHTS UNDER ATTACK

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. NEWMAN). Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include any extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, where did we get this notion that the filibuster is more worth preserving than the right to vote? That is surely not the lesson of American history. That is surely not what we teach our students in the classroom or our children at home. Yet, that is the lie that dictates what happens here in the Nation's Capitol, a lie that comes at a heavy cost to American democracy.

It seems that there is nothing sacred in American politics—not the truth, not the peaceful transfer of power, not the full faith and credit of the United States, and, indeed, not even the right to vote.

The enforcement mechanisms of the Voting Rights Act have been all but eviscerated.

First, there is section 5, otherwise known as preclearance, which enables the executive branch, the Civil Rights Division of the Department of Justice, to enforce the Voting Rights Act. Then there is section 2, which enables the judicial branch, the courts, to enforce the Voting Rights Act. Both of these provisions have been gutted at the hands of rightwing judicial activism.

The end of the Voting Rights Act as we know it has been a political windfall for the Republican Party, which is intent on holding power by any means necessary, even if it means disenfranchising Black and Brown voters.

We are here to tell you that the Congressional Black Caucus will not stand by idly while the voting rights of Black Americans come under systematic assault. We will fight back because fighting is what we do in the Congressional

Black Caucus and because there were many before us who were bloodied and bludgeoned and beaten so that we can have the right to vote. The least we can do is fight back.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY), our dynamic leader, our dynamic chair.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congressman TORRES for yielding.

Madam Speaker, it is indeed my honor to stand in this Chamber tonight to speak up, to speak out about voting rights, voter suppression, fighting back, disenfranchised, section 4, section 5, section 2, all of which you will hear about tonight.

We are here as members of the Congressional Black Caucus because we want to make sure that all of our colleagues hear our story, a story that they, too, should know so well, the story of a lady by the name of Fannie Lou Hamer, a civil rights activist from Mississippi who didn't even know that she could have had the right to vote.

Recently, her granddaughter told that story. As I read that and thought about how she dedicated her life to voting rights, fast-forward, think about our beloved friend, colleague, mentor, the late Congressman John Lewis, who stood on this floor at this microphone and told us his story, told us about that day when he was crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge, what it felt like—dogs, hose, police officers, knocked down, and could have died.

But the story ends with a good message because he would have done it all over again. He told us, if you see something, say something. He reminded us that it is our role to get in good trouble.

So tonight, we want our colleagues, especially those on the other side of the aisle, to know that this is one of our top priorities. We want them to know that four times Republican Presidents reauthorized the Voting Rights Act. We want our colleagues in the Senate to know this should not be something that we are fighting over. This is something that we should be honoring and celebrating.

As we gather here in this sacred Chamber, on the floor of the people's House, to discuss voting rights in America, to amplify Our Power, Our Message, we boldly announce that we are not going to let the clock be turned back.

Let me end by saying on behalf of the members of the Congressional Black Caucus that this is something that we are asking all of our colleagues to join in and help us make sure that we can proudly say that we are reauthorizing the Voting Rights Act.

Madam Speaker, I close by saying the CBC will do everything in our power to defend the right to vote. We are prepared to work overtime. We are prepared to go what I like to call old school: stand up and make some noise, march, protest, and, yes, even get arrested.

□ 1945

I remember that day clearly, fighting, marching, protesting. I thought of Fannie Lou Hamer. I thought of John Lewis and so many other soldiers, pioneers. I stand on their shoulders.

Tonight, I ask us, let's stand together.

Madam Speaker, it gives me great pleasure, as chair of the Congressional Black Caucus to recognize the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL), my colleague and my friend.

I like to call her the current day mother of voting rights, fighting, and telling her story, leading us with John Lewis every year since I have been in Congress, and before, across that Edmund Pettus Bridge.

Listening to her so scholarly debate the lawsuits that we have been confronted with, Shelby v. Holder.

Listening to her explain preclearance and why we must fight and why we must have hearings. Why we must get it right because there is so much at stake.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Alabama (Ms. SEWELL).

Ms. SEWELL. Madam Speaker, I want to thank the illustrious chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY, for her leadership. I want to thank RICHIE TORRES for leading us in this Special Order hour. Nothing could be more profound in this hour than to be talking about voting rights.

As we speak, our Nation is facing the most concerted effort to restrict the right to vote in a generation. Just this year, 400 bills have been introduced in State legislatures across this Nation to restrict the right to vote. In 19 States, at least 33 of these bills have become law, including the most egregious of State legislatures, Georgia, where now it is a crime to give a bottle of water to a voter as they stand in line.

Even as our democracy comes under attack, we see Republicans standing firm in their opposition to protecting the right to vote, a bedrock principle that should never be partisan.

Just last week, we watched as every Senate Republican voted to block debate on the Freedom to Vote Act, a commonsense bill that would ensure that every American has access to the ballot box.

What are they afraid of, I ask? What are they afraid of?

Last week's vote made clear that Senate Republicans are unwilling to even debate voting rights, let alone hold a fair vote. This just further demonstrates that in order to protect our democracy and the sacred right to vote; we must reform the filibuster to create a path forward for must-pass pieces of legislation.

Madam Speaker, almost 3 weeks ago we saw Senator LEAHY introduce S. 4, the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in the Senate. But unless we take action on the filibuster, and take action now, this critical bill

will face the same fate as the Freedom to Vote Act.

The way I see it, every Senator is now faced with a choice: it is voting rights or the filibuster; it is protecting our sacred right to vote and our democracy or the filibuster; it is advancing the legacy of John Lewis and the foot soldiers or it is a filibuster.

Now, I know which side I am on. I hope our Senators will choose to do what is right and do away with an archaic procedural rule that has been used for decades to block racial justice in this country.

President Biden also understands the urgency of this critical moment. On Thursday, at his town hall meeting, we heard President Biden express support for reforming the filibuster to pass must-needed voting rights legislation. I am glad that President Biden understands the urgency of this moment and the dire need for Federal oversight.

You know, it was Federal oversight that brought us the Civil Rights Act of 1965. It was Federal oversight that allowed those marchers to march across that Edmund Pettus Bridge in my hometown of Selma, Alabama. You know when State legislatures go amuck, it is Federal oversight that we need to ensure that every American has access to the ballot box.

Madam Speaker, it was foot soldiers like our late, great colleague and my mentor, John Lewis, who shed blood on a bridge in Selma for the equal right of all Americans to vote. If protecting that sacred right is not worth overcoming a procedural rule, then what is?

Madam Speaker, it takes only 51 votes to sit a Supreme Court Justice and for a Supreme Court Justice to have life tenure on the Supreme Court. 51 votes. Yet, it takes 60 votes to stop debate and to allow a fair vote in the United States Senate on voting rights. This is unacceptable. It is un-American. It is unjust.

We, in the Congressional Black Caucus, are saying: This is our message. This is our fight. Voting rights. We have no other choice, we must reform the filibuster and we must do so now.

When I think about the shoulders on which we all stand, I am reminded of being in this House in 2015 during the State of the Union. I had as my special guest none other than Amelia Boynton Robinson, who at that time was 103 years old. She was the oldest living foot soldier that marched across the Edmund Pettus Bridge with John Lewis and so many others.

In 2015, the 50th anniversary of the Selma to Montgomery march, she was my special guest. As we waited in a small room off of this Chamber for Barack Obama, then-President of these United States, to deliver that State of the Union, everyone wanted to take a picture with Ms. Amelia Boynton Robinson.

They knelt by her wheelchair, and said: Ms. Amelia, we stand on your shoulders. Oh, Ms. Amelia, we wouldn't be here if it wasn't for your sacrifice.

Well, Ms. Amelia was a little tired of people saying that to her over and over again. And when Eric Holder, the then-Attorney General of the United States, came and knelt beside her, and said: Oh, Ms. Amelia, I stand on your shoulders. She said: Get off my shoulders, all of you, do your own work—is what she said.

Madam Speaker, I am here to say that we, the members of the Congressional Black Caucus, are doing our own work. We are standing firm, we are standing solid, we are standing united in our effort to bring back the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

We must do our own work, all of us. It is not enough to say that we stand on the shoulders of giants. We know these giants, our foremothers and our forefathers, they were tacticians, they were strategists. They just didn't happen upon Selma, Alabama. They just didn't happen upon Birmingham and Memphis and Atlanta. They went looking for good trouble, and good trouble they got in. We must do the same. We must take a play from their playbook.

We must stand firm. We must stand united. We must stand undeterred in our efforts to beat down any barrier that stands in the way of protecting that sacred right to vote. It was John Lewis who said that the vote is the most sacred, the most fundamental right, nonviolent tool in our democracy. That is the vote. The vote is fundamental to this democracy, and everything else we do—well, everything else we do will be tainted if every American lacks the right to vote. There is nothing more sacred, more fundamental to this democracy, than the right to vote.

How can a procedural rule stand in the way of that right?

Now, I can tell you that my constituents back home don't understand the filibuster. They don't understand this archaic procedural rule that is in the Senate. When I tell them that that stands in the way of us passing the John Robert Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, they say: Why? Didn't we go to the polls in record numbers in States all across this Nation, in southern States like Georgia to deliver the democratic majority? And they ask of us to protect that democracy now.

John Lewis said that our fight is not a fight for 1 day, it is not a fight for 1 year, ours is a fight of a lifetime to secure that sacred right to vote. When I close my eyes, I can hear him. Can't you hear him? John Lewis said it firmly, he said it often: When you see something that is not right, that is not fair, that is not just, we have a moral obligation to stand up and do something about it.

We in the Congressional Black Caucus know that our message, our fight, our cause, is nothing if not to defend the sacred right to vote. It is a right that is fundamental to our democracy and that no elected official should seek to undermine, to restrict any voice in this democracy.

Our vote is our voice in this representative democracy. When you squelch the voice of one American who has that sacred right and is unable to exercise it because the lines are too long, because their names have been purged from a roll, it is a fundamental threat to all of us, injustice anywhere is a threat to justice everywhere.

We know that. We live that. Martin Luther King told us that, but we live it every day. Nothing is more fundamental to our rights than our democracy and its foundation, its bedrock, the right to vote.

When Barack Obama came into that small room off of this Chamber, Amelia Boynton Robinson cradled his face. I think all of us understood the import of that moment. Here was the first African-American President of these United States, and here was a woman, at 103 years old, who made the ultimate sacrifice, bludgeoned on a bridge, shedding blood on a bridge in my hometown of Selma, Alabama, so that all of us would have the right to vote and that one day she would see the fruits of her labor. Oh, what faith our foremothers and our forefathers must have had. Faith. Faith that their sacrifices were not in vain.

And President Obama said: Oh, Ms. Amelia, to say thank you doesn't seem adequate. I get to give a speech as the President of these United States, and it is because of you. Without missing a beat, this woman, 103 years old, frail, said: Oh, make it a good one. That better be a very good speech.

□ 2000

We should make every day a good one; we who are the inheritors of this legacy, and we who are the beneficiaries of this movement. Every day should be a good one. We should not lay our head on a pillow if we have not advanced the legacy of these foremothers and forefathers. Every day should be a good one.

So we call on the Senate to do what we know is right, to do what John calls good trouble. Get into some good trouble. Let's change those rules. We have it within our power to do so. After all, we control the Senate, we control the House, and we have the White House—gavels given to us by ordinary people who believed that we will take that power and exercise that power on their behalf.

Nothing is more fundamental than the right to vote. So in the name of John Lewis, in the name of Amelia Boynton, and in the name of all of those known and unknown foot soldiers who have the audacity to make this Nation live up to its ideals of freedom, justice, and equality, are those empty words?

We must breathe life into those constitutional principles, and we can do so if we have the will to do what we know is right.

A filibuster or voting rights?

Upholding the legacy of our foremothers and forefathers or a filibuster?

Making sure that we do all that we can to protect this democracy or a filibuster?

The choices are easy from where I sit. They are easy from where our constituents sit.

I ask our Senators to do what they know is right. If ever there is a reason to reform the filibuster, it is for that constitutionally protected right to vote. We must do so, and we must do so now and pass S. 4, the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

Let us restore the full protections of the Voting Rights Act of 1965. Let us pass the Freedom to Vote Act. After all, the first 300 pages were written by John Lewis. His Voter Empowerment Act is about access to the ballot box. It is about making sure that the least of these—the voiceless—have a voice in this democracy. We must restore the vote and the voices of the excluded.

We can do that. Congress can do that. That was what the Supreme Court said in the *Shelby v. Holder* decision: Only Congress can come up with a modern-day formula to secure the right to vote and to get at the most egregious State actors. We understand that we are threading a thin needle, but we have done our job and now the Senate must do its. Let's get rid of the filibuster. Let's reform the filibuster at the very least and ensure that every American has a right to vote and to ensure that their vote is counted.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. EVANS).

Mr. EVANS. Madam Speaker, I would like to thank the chairwoman for her leadership of the Black Caucus for this opportunity, and I would like to thank my colleague from the great State of New York for his leadership and what he has done.

After listening to the mother, as the chairwoman said, I don't think it could have been expressed better. She did a fanatic job.

Madam Speaker, in my home State of Pennsylvania, Republican majorities in the legislature are trying to stay in power by restricting people's right to vote. For 7 years, Governor Wolf's veto has protected voting rights, so they are trying to amend the State constitution to bypass him.

We are seeing these types of voting suppression plans moving forward in several States as well as plans to override the votes after the votes have been cast.

To those who want to suppress votes or throw out vote counts, why are you so afraid of the voters?

Let me repeat that: Why are you afraid of the voters?

Fortunately, Congress can still act. The House has acted twice. We have passed the For the People Act almost 8 months ago on March 3, and we have passed the John R. Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act in August. Now the eyes of the Nation are on the Senate.

Will the Senators let the filibuster gut the sacred right to vote?

Personally, I would support an end to the filibuster but, I don't get to vote on Senate rules.

According to the Brookings Institute analysis, there are 161 exceptions to the filibuster already. Let me repeat that: 161 exceptions to the filibuster. Everything from executive branch and judicial appointments to budget reconciliation, to fast-track trade agreements, to military base closures and arms sales, but not for voting rights. There are 161 exceptions. Madam Speaker, you heard me just describe to you those exceptions.

At a bare minimum, Senators who support voting rights need to create exception number 162 to the filibuster—a voting rights exception. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy. The right to vote is the foundation of our democracy.

Make that exception to the filibuster. Save our democracy.

It is important to understand just at this moment, this is a moment in history. This is a moment. I had the pleasure of serving with the late John Lewis on the Ways and Means Committee. And I watched him when I was growing up as he walked across the bridge. I was 10 years old. He demonstrated to all of us in this country what it means to be the conscience; very similar to Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY leading the Congressional Black Caucus. The Congressional Black Caucus is the conscience of this Congress, and we stand here today to add our voices to make sure that people understand that we are in this fight, we were determined in every way that you can think of, Madam Speaker, to fight for that exception on the filibuster. We want to be clear and concise and let people know that we are not accepting this. This is something that is unacceptable. We must have the right to vote.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Georgia (Mrs. MCBATH).

Mrs. MCBATH. Madam Speaker, first, I would like to thank Congresswoman and Chairwoman JOYCE BEATTY of the Congressional Black Caucus for her astounding leadership and really being on the front lines for the Congressional Black Caucus, and I want to thank our colleague, RITCHIE TORRES, for his leadership tonight on the floor for our Special Order hour for voting rights.

I really want to thank each and every one of my colleagues, whether they be members of the Congressional Black Caucus or just colleagues here in this body who have stood and fought for everyone's right to exercise their right to vote, to exercise what is important to them in this country to be fully and freely an American. I want to thank each and every one of them because it is for that reason—those reasons—that we are here tonight.

Madam Speaker, I rise today, like so many have done before me throughout the years, to stand for the right of every American citizen in this country to vote.

During the civil rights movement, I was the child in the stroller at the March on Washington. I know many have heard me say before that my father was president of the NAACP chapter in Illinois, and I can still picture him to this day presiding over meetings at our kitchen table in our home. Our house was always filled with volunteers, civil rights leaders, and workers as they were working on their poster boards, preparations, and getting ready for rallies and for marches as they were preparing to fight for a brighter world.

From the time that I could walk as a young child, I was always marching with my family. I have joked with my colleagues over and over again that the very first song I think I really truly learned how to sing was "We Shall Overcome" because that is what we were singing. That is what I remember in my mind. I knew the words to that song because I knew that they had depth, and I knew they were so important to my family. Even though I was so young and I didn't understand what we were fighting for, I knew what my parents were doing was vitally important to this Nation.

I was raised by my parents to always fight for others, to fight for what is right, to stand up, to champion, to fight for the least of these, and to stand up so that every American's voice is heard and that their voice is counted.

I remember all the nights that my mother would put my sister and me in the car and we would travel all around Illinois passing out *The Voice* newspaper which at that time was the Illinois civil rights newspaper. I remember getting stuck in the mud at night and being out in parts of Illinois where we didn't know where we were, but my mother put us in the car and did what she believed she had to do to make sure that the American people and people of color understood the fight that was going on on their behalf whether they were taking part in it or not, but that they understood and that they knew how important it was for them to be able to exercise what was important to them as human beings and as citizens in the United States of America.

The struggle for voting rights was championed not only by my parents but was embodied by our great friend and colleague, Representative John Lewis. He inspired millions of Americans, and that is still carried on today. That is still so vitally necessary today. I live in Georgia, and Georgia has had a profound and rich history of all the American civil rights stalwarts who fought on the front lines for the very voting rights that we still talk about to this day and that we are still having to protect and champion to this day: Representative John Lewis, Martin Luther King, Jr., Coretta Scott King, Joseph Lowery, C.T. Vivian, Ralph David Abernathy, and, of course, Andrew Young.

These are the individuals who were on the front lines fighting for us—

Members of Congress African Americans—to be in this Chamber, to be in this House, to be in this body, and to represent the values and the dreams of not only people of our ilk but of the American people.

□ 2015

Had it not been for those individuals, as Representative TERRI SEWELL has mentioned, the foremothers, the forefathers, we would not be here today.

Free and fair elections are the bedrock of American democracy. That is what this democracy was founded upon.

As John Lewis used to say: “Freedom is not a state; it is an act. . . . Freedom is the continuous action we all must take, and each generation must do its part to create an even more fair, more just society.” Together, each and every one of us must do our part.

When I think about the fact that my father worked so hard in the civil rights movement, that my father was there in the White House with President Lyndon Baines Johnson for the signing of the Civil Rights Act of 1964, and when I think about the fact that I am here as a Member of Congress because of the work that my forefathers and foreparents and civil rights workers and leaders and volunteers and people who just believed, just believed in what the Constitution said and meant, believed in that by exercising the right to vote, the fact that now we are still fighting for those same rights and that people live in jeopardy of having those rights taken away is unconscionable.

For every American who fought or bled or died, gave their life for people to have the right to vote, what is happening in this body, what is happening in the Senate, is unconscionable.

We are better than this. America is better than this. We have been that beacon for the world for the sense of democracy, and we must continue to be that very thing.

Across America, we are standing up.

Across America, we will lead the fight for free and fair elections.

Across America, we will lead the fight to ensure that every American has the right to make their voice heard.

Across America, we will lead the fight to create a more just society. We must. The times demand it.

Every one of us in this body was born for a time such as this, and God demands that of us at this time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Illinois (Ms. UNDERWOOD).

Ms. UNDERWOOD. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding.

I rise today to urge the Senate to defend the American people from the ongoing assault on their sacred right to vote.

People of color are disproportionately impacted by the recent onslaught of attacks on this fundamental right by certain State legislatures and partisan litigators. This is only the latest

salvo from a decades-long war on voting rights, a war that has always been and still is fueled by racism. But although people of color are the primary targets of these attacks, we are not the only casualties.

The right to vote is the foundation of any democracy. Without it, the United States would cease to be a government of, by, and for the people. Those are the stakes. This is a life-and-death issue for our country itself.

Earlier this year, I proudly voted with most though, unfortunately, not all of my colleagues to designate Juneteenth National Independence Day as a Federal holiday. With this vote, we recognized that America cannot truly be a free country until every American is free.

Freedom cannot be conditional on who you are, where you live, what you look like, how many hours you work, what language you speak, or what bus you ride. That is why every attack on voting rights cracks the foundation of our democracy. If we allow it to keep crumbling away chip by chip, soon, the whole structure will collapse.

Last week, Senate Democrats brought an urgently needed voting rights bill to the floor, where every single Republican voted to defeat it. Of course, this defeat was made possible by the filibuster, an undemocratic procedural weapon that has been wielded for a century and a half to block anti-lynching legislation, civil rights, and voting rights.

Americans are tired of seeing their rights sacrificed on the altar of the filibuster. Every Senator faces a choice about what is more important to protect, an antiquated procedural rule or our representative democracy.

I urge my colleagues in the Senate to prioritize our democracy and ensure access to the ballot box is not undermined by restrictive State laws. A democracy for some is not a democracy for all.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, how much time do I have left?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 16 minutes remaining.

Mr. TORRES of New York. I will use far fewer than 16 minutes.

Madam Speaker, the lesson of history is State and local governments cannot be trusted to respect voting rights in the absence of Federal oversight. Federal voting rights enforcement is essential, as essential as the right to vote itself. And the most powerful tool for voting rights enforcement is preclearance. Preclearance has been so effective that, from 1965 to 2006, it kept 1,200 State and local voting restrictions from taking effect.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act would restore preclearance as the gold standard of voting rights enforcement, not only for some States but for all.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Act makes real the creed of America, liberty and justice for all.

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

DEMOGRAPHICS IS OUR BIGGEST THREAT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Arizona (Mr. SCHWEIKERT) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I am going to try something for the next hour, and it is going to be one of those presentations that is always a little on the difficult side because we are going to talk about things a lot of this place and a lot of the country doesn't want to hear, but we call it math.

The first premise, I need to ask all of us, if I were to walk into a room of Democrats, people on the left, or people on the right, and say, “What is the biggest threat over the next couple of decades that is facing your country?” you would hear all sorts of things.

You know, a couple of years ago, with the Democrats, it was Russia, Russia. Today, it may be this and that. I am going to argue it is demographics. And you go, huh?

We are going to do almost 38 boards here, walking through the national debt, deficit spending, spending priorities, and the reality on where there are revenues, taxes, what we call receipts. Then you have to ask yourself, does the next generation, and the generation after that, and the generation after that, do they have the right to live in a country where there is some prosperity, or has Washington, D.C., decided to just destroy those who are heading toward retirement, those who are heading toward elementary school and their future?

Let's actually sort of walk through some of the realities of the math. And I am not going to even bother with 1965 and what the mix was.

You have to understand, in 2021, 77 percent of all the spending in this place, 77 percent of all the spending, was what we called mandatory, formula, Social Security, Medicare, formulas. Only 10 percent was defense, and 13 percent was everything else in government.

If you like to think that, well, you have lots of prodefense Democrats and, obviously, prodefense Republicans, then mandatory is a formula that you don't even vote on here. You are electing Members of Congress to come and vote on 13 percent of the spending in this budget cycle. This is how out of whack it is. And we are going to walk through how much of this mandatory is demographics.

Look, getting older is not Republican or Democrat, but it is math. It is going to happen. So let's actually walk through a couple of the realities here.

I just threw this chart together. I know it is impossible to read on camera and those things. But the point is simple. Today, Social Security is 23 percent of all the spending; national defense is 15; Medicare is 14. In a couple of years, all those change. I could even

show you some charts that, if interest rates tick up even a little bit, defense actually starts to fall to fourth very, very soon.

To give you an idea, when you actually get up in front of audiences—and for conservative audiences, the folklore a decade ago was, well, waste and fraud, foreign aid, and then you would pull out this chart and show that it is a fraction of a percent.

Fine, maybe we should do something different in foreign aid. Yes, the spending from this year has massive fraud in it. But the long-term impact of those is nothing compared to the fact—and I am going to have to be honest and have a conversation about how we save, how we protect Medicare and Social Security, because what is going on around this place—you get politician after politician behind these microphones and saying, I am going to protect Medicare, and I am going to protect your Social Security, while they are driving it into the ground.

So let's actually start to walk through how fast it is eroding. From 2019 to 2031—and 2031 is what? How many years from now? It is functionally nine budget cycles from now. We will have doubled debt. You have to understand how fast this is eroding from us.

The more current numbers, because this slide was done about a year or two ago, it is actually much worse with the spending during the pandemic. So let's actually start to also walk through what we need to understand. Social Security, healthcare, entitlements, and interest costs drive 90 percent of the 2008 to 2031 spending hikes.

Let's back that up. If you take a look at Social Security, Medicare, and then the interest attached to those, that is what drives the deficit.

Remember our earlier comment: It is our demographics. And this place is unwilling to actually have honest conversations of how we are going to protect access to those earned benefits because the numbers are so big and so scary.

What do you have? What do you have here even today? Member after Member running to the microphones talking about how we are going to functionally give away more.

But if you are under 50, we are about to make your future—as a matter of fact, it is already baked into the cake. Your future is really dangerous right now.

□ 2030

So let's actually walk a little bit more through what the slides look like. Rising Social Security and Medicare shortfalls drive nearly entire 2019 to 2031 nonpandemic—so this is before the pandemic—and you start to understand that this is before the pandemic calculations. We were heading towards about \$2.2 trillion a year in borrowing before the pandemic. That is the baseline number.

When you actually start to really understand that—this is the general reve-

nues. And when you start to add up all the shortfalls, you are heading towards a time where functionally a 30-year government is living on borrowed money.

So let's actually do a little bit more. You have all seen this slide. Lots of people like to use it. You know, the national debt is set to match the World War II peak within a decade. Well, guess what? We are pretty much there. We have pretty much now have hit what they call the percentage of GDP.

Why do we use that? Because there is this theory that says the size of the economy is what allows you to borrow money, and as long as you don't borrow too much money where the interest costs start to burden the availability of what they call capital stock, for an economy to grow, the economy to have new investments.

The fear is—remember, it wasn't that long ago we used to talk about, well, when we hit 100 percent of GDP, that means the borrowing, the publicly borrowed money will be the size of the economy. Guess what? We have already surpassed that. We have done it.

You are going to see some boards here that should terrify you.

Long-term baseline. Now, I have got to give credit where credit is due. Manhattan Institute, Brian Riedl, basically what he does is take the CBO numbers, and I think some from Joint Tax, and tries to make them digestible. He also lays out what the short-term, which is 10-year, 20-year, and 30-year layouts are. You can go right now to that website and download these same charts for yourself.

But the long-term baseline shows absolutely unsustainable debt; and this side has gotten worse since last year when we printed it, because it actually had in 2050. So functionally in less than 30 years, we were approaching up to 195 percent of debt, borrowed money, the size of the total economy, so functionally twice the size of the economy. That number has actually now gotten much worse because of what we have done in the pandemic financing and a whole bunch of the other promises that have come in and the other spending that has happened during unified government from the left.

So once again, trying to actually demonstrate, it is not falling revenues. We have dozens of charts—and I only brought a couple of them—on the slide deck that make it very clear, when you look at—and this redline is what in Ways and Means we would call receipts. Most people think of it as tax revenues. It is basically where it has always been.

If you actually go back to the 1960s and 1970s, it was about 17.3 percent of GDP came in as revenues, as taxes. Now, we are actually heading towards a time where it is about 18.5 percent. So it is actually higher. But what is this line here? You see this? Okay, that is the pandemic.

But then you get back to the trend line. Why is the trend line exploding in

that direction with 31.8 percent more spending than revenues? It is demographics, healthcare costs.

So let's actually do another one. Medicare part A and Social Security trust funds face bankruptcy. The Medicare trust fund is gone in about 6 years. Remember, post tax cuts and reform, you know, when we reformed the tax code, because the economy was growing so fast and so many people were working, we actually at that time went from 4 years left in the part A trust fund of Medicare—remember, only the hospital portion of Medicare has a trust fund. Everything else comes out of the general fund. We actually added a couple of years, because there were so many people working and, therefore, paying their FICA taxes.

But does this concern anyone that the Social Security trust fund is gone? The Medicare, the hospital portion of the trust fund, is gone in functionally 5 years. Is anyone paying attention? Or, once again, will we try to manage this by crisis? But the scale of these numbers is just stunning, and then we live in this financial fantasy world in this place.

Here is the slide. I have done a version of this slide for a decade now, and I have been booed in front of audiences for telling them the truth. There is something wrong in our psyche when we are so used to politicians lying to us that we almost want them to not tell us the truth; it hurts too much.

Now, I have been on this floor dozens and dozens and dozens of time saying there is a path. The future doesn't have to be this dystopian, debt-laden financial collapse. There is a path. But you have to have a revolution in the cost of healthcare and economic growth. There is a series of things, and you have to do all of them together.

The thing that terrifies me the most is how many times do you have anyone come behind these microphones and talk about the scale of the debt that is coming or solutions to it.

The fact of the matter is, I don't know if our public votes on this. God knows, you don't raise money telling people the truth about what is going on. But I have a 6-year-old daughter. Doesn't she deserve to live in a prosperous country? Because this is going to crush prosperity for everyone, and it is going to wipe out lots of people in retirement.

Once again, you have got to understand, this chart, this is Congressional Budget Office numbers, which say in about 29 years, we have \$112 trillion of borrowing, debt. This is an inflation adjusted number, so this is in constant dollars.

You are going to notice, the entire 30-year debt comes from Medicare and then Social Security. The rest of the budget is actually in balance.

If this place isn't willing to have a revolution in the cost of delivering healthcare to our brothers and sisters and our seniors, our future is really ugly.

You have got to understand. There is a fraud around here. You will get people from the left saying, well, we should do Medicare for all. Medicare for all is a financing bill. It does nothing to the cost of healthcare. ObamaCare, the ACA, was a financing bill. It was about who got subsidized and who had to pay. The Republican alternative was a financing bill. It was about who had to pay and who got subsidized. None of them are doing things that change the cost of healthcare.

I didn't bring the slide here, because I did it just 2 weeks ago, that shows 31 percent of Medicare spending is just diabetes. The single most powerful thing you could do to help the United States in its sovereign debt and to end misery in our minority communities and my Tribal communities out in Arizona is do an operation warp speed, go after type 2 diabetes. Isn't that something Republicans and Democrats could agree upon? And guess what? It has amazing economic impact.

We are working on a math problem right now. We actually believe solving diabetes could be one of the single biggest things you could do to income inequality, because you take a look at some of our urban minority populations that suffer from diabetes and some of my Tribal communities out west, and if you normalize, saying, what would happen—what would this population's income and prosperity look like if you cured diabetes, that income inequality number shrinks dramatically. It is not a bunch of transfer payments; it is solving people's misery. But it is a little hard campaigning on something that is complicated, isn't it?

So this is the slide, out of everything I am going to show, that I actually see in my dreams. It really, really bothers me, because I don't have really elegant ways to explain how dystopian this number is.

Projected 2051 budget deficits are entirely driven by Social Security and Medicare. But do you see this number here? It is basically saying almost 21 percent of the entire GDP will be outlays for Social Security and Medicare, but revenues will only be 6 percent. This gap here is solely living on borrowed money. This over here is the rest of the budget. Turns out that for the rest of the budget, revenues are outpacing the spending. That is all other government. That is defense, that is environment, that is everything, including education. But this gap right here is what brings us to that \$112 trillion of borrowing in the next 29 years.

You have got to get your head around this. That is assuming the CBO numbers, that there are no recessions, there are no economic slowdowns, there are no major terrorists attacks that slow down the economy, and there is not another pandemic. That is a baseline number. Do you understand how fragile we have made this economy because we are unwilling to tell the truth about these numbers?

I had a political consultant once tell me: SCHWEIKERT, you can't tell the

truth about the debt and financing, because it will get you unelected. I am incredibly blessed. I represent North Maricopa County, so Scottsdale, Carefree, Cave Creek, Paradise Valley, Fountain Hills. I represent a bunch of really smart people, and they are not happy when I show them this, but they understand it is math.

I don't get my head around how this becomes partisan, because you are going to see, if you take a look at the pieces of legislation the left drops, they are trying to expand the programs at the same time they are collapsing. I mean, the lunacy.

So let's take a look, do the same thing, trying to get our heads around this. Remember, this slide was done before the pandemic scale of borrowing, which we are going to be paying interest on that for decades and decades and decades, because we never pay it off.

Social Security faces functionally a \$35 trillion shortfall over the next 30 years. Now, it is 29 years. \$32 trillion, if you include the trust fund balance. So functionally just Social Security has a \$32 trillion shortfall over the next 29 years, okay?

Oddly enough, we could sit down around the table, and that \$32 trillion shortfall on Social Security, we can figure that out, because being a defined benefit system as it is, the math, you have about a dozen or two dozen levers where you can say we are going to stop subsidizing really, really, really rich people, we are going to do this, we are going to do that. There are to deal with that.

The one that is just brutal, math-wise, is this one. So Social Security is \$32 trillion short. Medicare is \$78 trillion short. And this one is much more difficult. Yet, the solution around here is, well, we will just subsidize more people and borrow the money.

There is a path, but you have got to be willing to functionally legalize technology and disrupt the cost of healthcare.

And there are some amazingly good things happening. Actually, with the messenger RNA, there are so many diseases that, if we invest in, we could actually cure misery today and reap the benefits in the future. And I have only come to the floor dozens of times trying to share that math.

So once again, let's take a look. This is also something that is disharmonious to what a lot of people believe. The typical retiring couple—and this is before the pandemic—will receive \$3 in Medicare for every dollar they paid in.

Now, Social Security, you functionally get really close to what you put into it. Social Security is a fairly square deal. Medicare, we have a problem.

That typical retiring couple, 2 years ago, when Brian Riedl was doing this math, would put in about \$161,000 in a lifetime, and they were taking out, or receiving benefits, of about \$522,000. That gap right there is almost the sole primary driver of most of the U.S. sovereign debt over the next 30 years.

If we are willing to actually have an honest conversation of what do we do to keep our brothers and sisters healthy, to provide access and resources, but do it in a modern way and could we bend this cost differential here? Because if we do that—remember, we were just talking a moment ago. Thirty-one percent of this is just diabetes in our seniors. If you took that on, that is the single greatest thing you could do to bending this curve and saving the economic future of this society.

□ 2045

We also need to deal with a bit of the folklore. Now, this is folklore that comes from the left. You do realize the Tax Code has already been getting more progressive. You do realize the 2017 tax reform was more progressive than the Tax Code before 2017.

And look, when you actually go back to the 1980s, 1990s, the top 20 percent at that time were all paying about 60 percent of all income taxes. Today, they are paying 70 percent. This is the top 20 percent.

So it is folklore. Now, it is good political folklore. It is good campaign folklore. We are going to make the rich pay their fair share. Fine, stop subsidizing them.

We have already done a demonstration here repeatedly that we come up with a trillion, a trillion-four over 10 years of direct subsidies to the really, really, really rich. So the absurdity that is in the current tax plan being offered by the Democrats is: Let's do this. Let's raise their taxes. Oh, by the way, wink, wink, nod, nod, you make \$800,000 a year, we are going to give you tax credits of \$118,000 if you buy what Democrats tell you to buy.

Okay. Why not go further? Why not remove the trillion, trillion-four in direct subsidies that we give to the rich and then put that toward balancing some of these—well, actually slowing the erosion? Because you are not going to balance this.

Any politician that gets up and says we are going to balance the budget; we are going to pay off the debt and deficits isn't being forthright. Our job is just to stabilize it at this point because the numbers are so large. If you get someone that comes behind these microphones and throws out the rhetoric of, well, it is foreign aid, it is waste and fraud. Well, we are going to balance the budget by doing this. Buy them batteries for their calculator because they obviously don't have them.

This comes back to dealing with the reality. No defense cuts, taxing millionaires cannot finance current deficits. The progressive wish list. The proposals that the left has proposed this year functionally—the free college, the job guarantees, the Medicare for all—you start to add that up, and if you start to wipe out everything else, you functionally have just blown up the deficit by another 34 percent. The math just doesn't work.

So let's actually sort of walk through this. It is important. President Biden promised in his campaign \$11 trillion of new spending over 10 years. \$11 trillion in new spending. And look, they are all cited. They are either CBO or Committee for a Responsible Budget. But you start to look at it, this is just the campaign promises of \$11 trillion of new spending on top of what is the \$4-plus trillion baseline budget, plus the couple trillion additional we did over the last two years.

Now you have, what was it, the original scoring of the Build Back Better plan was, what? They claimed \$3½—but it really scored out to \$5, \$5½ trillion. This is the lunacy we are at.

And, yet, if you come and add up every potential tax hike the left talks about—you know, get rid of any changes we did in tax reform that created the great growth—you actually start to take all income over \$200,000 and just take 50 percent of it. Hey, you make \$200,000, we take 50 percent of it. You do all the tax hikes that are on the entire list of the Democrats. Over a decade, you functionally raise \$12 trillion. Okay. The deficit already projected before the pandemic was going to be over \$13 trillion at that time. And that is not assuming you just blew up the economy, you slowed down growth.

Madam Speaker, may I inquire how much time is remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 33 minutes remaining.

Mr. SCHWEIKERT. Madam Speaker, I know this is a lot of boards, but in some ways you need it to try to drill in. We hate talking about this around here. I can't tell you—I will start to do these presentations even with some of my conservative brothers and sisters, and they run away from me. But it is the math.

The progressive programs overwhelmingly benefit the rich. This is one of my fixations here because I think this is something the left and those of us on the right could actually come to an agreement on. Let's stop subsidizing the rich. The things we provide to families with high incomes, and you actually walk through the amount—we actually brought a presentation to the floor a couple weeks ago and showed a trillion, a trillion-four-hundred-thousand dollars that goes to the very top quartile. That is the lunacy that is going on around here, we want to tax the rich, but we are going to turn around and hand it back to them. You know, if it is my fourth house and I happen to buy it on a beach, should I be getting subsidized flood insurance?

The Biden budget proposals would add \$8.8 trillion in debt over the next decade, and that is with the Biden tax hikes. How often are we talking about that around here? That is how CBO scores it.

Even eliminating all defense spending doesn't get you close to actually making a difference in the long-term debt.

Think of this. This is the defense line. And the baseline is basically projected to sit about now for the future decades at about 3½ to 4 percent of GDP. But you start taking a look and go out to that 2050 number, we are at almost 16 percent of GDP. The size of the economy will just be the spending on Social Security and Medicare. Does anyone sort of see a difference, hey, 4 to 16?

This is the reality, but yet, we will get people who will come behind these microphones, Members, and say, if we would cut defense, if we would do this, we will balance it. No, you won't. That is not the math, and you know it is not the math. We need to stop misinforming—my wife would refer to it as lying—the public and start telling the truth and treat them like adults about what is going on.

Remember, the problem ultimately isn't Republican or Democrat. It is demographics. We as a society have made lots of promises, and if we are going to keep them, we need to tell the truth about the math.

It turns out the growth in the economy is crucial, even with my most optimistic math. When we have come here and said we can have a revolution in the cost of delivering healthcare, we can do all these things, the linchpin of it is you must have the economic growth.

You actually take a look during when President Obama oversaw about half a trillion of new taxes, and we functionally lost \$3.2 trillion of economic expansion. If we are going to raise taxes, you have got to think it through in a way that what is the economic growth effect at the end of the decade, the next decade, and the decade after that. Because if we don't keep growing the size of this economy, that ratio of borrowing—because the borrowing is exploding. If you aren't growing the economy as fast, there is a technical economic term for it. It is called "We are screwed."

Even a 100 percent tax rate on small businesses and upper-income families could not come close to balancing the long-term budget. Take everything. Take all the money from upper income. Take all the money from small businesses, and you still don't get close to balancing.

We all know this. Why is this place so incapable of telling the truth? I mean, are we that addicted to the spending? Our constituents, our voters, our contributors, are they that addicted to us handing them checks?

But this is the basic chart. It makes it very, very clear. You can't solve the long-term budget even if you go out and confiscate 100 percent of small businesses' wealth and the upper income's wealth.

Here's where the reality should be terrifying you. National debt is projected to leap from 200 percent to 328 percent of GDP, depending on if those Biden proposals pass and if there are any interest rate changes. So you start

taking a look at this. When you start to see \$328 trillion of spending in 28 years, 29 years, you get this sort of number, if the Biden proposals pass and interest rates go up by 1 percent. You have got to understand how fragile we are.

Is there anyone around here that is a fan of Taleb, the guy that wrote "Black Swan?" In "Antifragile", he talks about how you can see these things coming, do things not to make yourself—because there are going to be other economic black swans. We have made this country incredibly, economically fragile because these numbers are coming.

Now, this one happens to come if the Biden administration and the Democrats here get their proposals. But even if they don't, you are still well over 200 percent of debt-to-GDP as the baseline.

The share of Federal tax revenues spent on interest on the national debt is projected to surge. Okay.

Here's a simple thought experiment. Today interest, with our incredibly low interest rates, is about 9 percent of GDP. If we get two points of an interest rate hike, in 2051, 100 percent of GDP is just interest.

Doesn't this terrify anyone else? I can't be alone in looking at these numbers and just panicked for my society, for my country, my daughter.

Since 1990, nondefense discretionary spending has grown four times faster than defense. This is important because we keep seeing people come behind these microphones talking about the skyrocketing cost of defense. Non-discretionary is growing four times faster. Over the last 20 years, four times faster. And you saw it in the opening slide that basically said 70 percent of all of our spending is mandatory today, 10 percent is defense, and everything else is what we really get to vote on.

Coronavirus legislation—and we are all guilty on this; Democrats substantially more guilty, but we are all guilty—pushed the 2020 and 2021 Federal spending past \$50,000 per household. So if you are a household out there during this pandemic cycle, do you feel you got \$50,000 worth of value? Because you are going to pay for it for the rest of your lives, the rest of your kids' lives, the rest of your grandkids' lives with lots of interest. Functionally, this spike you see here was \$50,000 per household. That is what we did during the pandemic.

And you have got to understand, we have had an incredible free ride the last couple years. The Federal Reserve has functionally financed our debt. And now we are financing our own inflation.

I am sure some of you have been to a grocery store, filled up your gas tank. Welcome to what happens when you do Keynesian economics.

Here's the reality: Do you see the little line down here? This is China. This is Japan. This is the rest of the world. This is the Federal Reserve. The Federal Reserve is functionally about five

times more financing our debt than China and Japan together. We are playing a shell game ourselves. We are financing our own debt. And then you wonder why you have inflation.

□ 2100

And we have all been in this body, and I know there is always angst when we get near the debt ceiling, but the fact of the matter is if you take a look at the last 40 years, almost the only times we have actually had any attempt to bend the spending curve, bend the borrowing curve, bend the debt curve have been out of negotiations to raise the debt ceiling.

Budget deals, we have had a number of them. Remember the Budget Control Act and some of the others?

Now, the problem is, we have had some of these where we set base lines and they were actually sort of working, and then this place all runs away from them. But there is a fraud in those, and that was they were always tied to discretionary spending, not the mandatory that is functionally driving the debt.

Some of my brothers and sisters on the left have said, well, it was tax reform. That is just not true. If you actually look at the contributor debt, if everything from tax reform was extended permanently, it is a tiny fraction, and that is assuming without CBO—remember CBO wasn't giving us the value for all the economic growth we particularly had in 2018 and 2019. But that is not the math.

And the six major deficit reduction deals that we have had since 1983, if you take a look at them, almost all of it was under discretionary. It saved us some money in interest. We did raise some more taxes. We did a little bit in the early eighties under Ronald Reagan on mandatory Social Security, but you take a look at them, and they had a pretty darn impressive effect. Remember the surpluses in the late nineties? But today we have let it get away from us.

And you take a look at what became of the \$1.7 billion in promised—remember 2013 until this year there was supposed to be about \$1.7 trillion in functional reductions in spending? Do you remember the Budget Control Act? Except what happened?

Well, time after time both Republicans and Democrats came here and whittled it away because we wanted to spend more money, and we lost much of the value. So we did gain about a trillion dollars of savings over those 10 years. It could have been double that if we hadn't whittled it away.

The last thing, and I hope our brothers and sisters on the left will actually step up and help us on this one. The current number is actually substantially higher than this because this slide now is a couple months old, but we think we have identified over \$200 billion in functionally missed and fraudulent claims and payments during the pandemic. You have seen some of

the crazy stories of how much fraud there has been in unemployment in California.

We need to tell the truth about the healthcare costs, Medicare driving our debt. But I believe in a holistic theory. You need to go after everything. You need to go after what we know is the fraud from the last 2 years. We also need to tell the truth about bending the curve on delivering healthcare. And there are ways to do it. This place just needs to stop being so fearful of telling the truth about the debt and deficits because if we don't grow up and take this head on it is going to take our head off.

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

THOUGHTS ON ADDRESSING ECONOMIC DISPARITY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentleman from Connecticut (Mr. HIMES) for 28 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I am delighted as chairman of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity to welcome the ranking member and the Republican appointees to this very important committee for this Special Order where I think the members of our committee are going to try to highlight some of the early and initial thoughts that we have on how we might address this issue of economic disparity.

I will note that in our first hearing one of our witnesses called this committee "a committee of historic potential." It is based on the National Economic Committee of 1938, and that committee operated in a moment of economic crisis worse than any of us have seen in our lifetimes really since the Great Depression.

The Great Depression showed America that far too many citizens of the richest and most powerful country in the world could be impoverished by unpredictable forces beyond their control.

It showed that free market capitalism was both an unparalleled engine of economic growth, and if left unregulated, subject to manipulation, in different to fairness, and prone to collapse as it did in the early 1930s.

In most respects, the American economy is more stable and the safety net is more robust than it was 80 years ago, but today our economy demonstrates more income and wealth disparity and less mobility than it ever has. And, Madam Speaker, that is not a red prob-

lem or a blue problem. It is not a northern or a western or an eastern problem. It affects every single one of our communities, every single one of our districts.

It is not a trivial problem. Market economies don't work if they are perceived as fundamentally unfair. Our Democratic political system rests now uneasily on the premise that every American counts equally. Economic mobility, the idea that hard work and playing by the rules allows one to climb the ladder has always been essential to our understanding of ourselves. It defines the American Dream, and yet, when my parents were born, more than 90 percent of American children could expect to make more money than their parents. Today, fewer than half the children will outearn their parents.

Madam Speaker, I see this every day at home. Some of the towns I represent in Connecticut's so-called "Gold Coast" include some of the wealthiest people on the planet, but a 15-minute drive from their neighborhoods will take them into cities with horrendous poverty and neighborhoods where opportunity is scarce at best.

Addressing that issue in a thoughtful way, in a bipartisan way is the remit of this committee.

Having made that point, before we enter into a colloquy, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), my friend and the ranking member of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth to make any comments he wishes to make.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Connecticut for yielding.

It is great to be joining him here on the House floor to share with our colleagues the important work that lies ahead for the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth. Simply put, we will be exploring, questioning, and hearing potential ways to address economic challenges we are seeing across this country. We are, in fact, on a fact-finding mission as we search for policy solutions that create opportunity for every American.

Leading up to the COVID-19 pandemic, Americans saw progress. In 2019, the median household income grew by 6.8 percent, the largest increase ever recorded. Minority communities saw even greater growth: Blacks Hispanics, Asians, and women.

But coming out of the COVID-19 pandemic, something has changed, which is why the work of this Select Committee is so timely. Labor force participation, both those seeking work and currently employed, are lows not seen since the Carter administration.

Across this country there is a growing disconnect between available jobs and workers ready to work. The government should be supporting and encouraging work and the dignity that comes with it.

Families across the country, from Kenosha to New York, San Francisco

to Orlando, are being hurt by rising prices. They feel it when they fill up their car's tank. They feel it at the grocery store. And they are scared they are going to feel it when they go Christmas shopping for their kids in a few weeks.

Inflation is a tax on every American, but it is devastating to low-income Americans.

Chairman HIMES, I look forward to working with you to explore what we can do to empower workers to prosper and to expand opportunities for all families to succeed.

□ 2110

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member. We will be engaging in a colloquy, just so all the Members know. We will be having an informal chat without having recognition from the Chair.

I know that we are both anxious to get to our members and their affirmative but early ideas on what we might do here, but the ranking member and I were in Lorain, Ohio, last week, courtesy of the gentlewoman from Ohio, who we will hear from later. I think we were both struck by a couple of things.

I came away from that visit impressed by the optimism of people in a town that had suffered badly, associated with the closing of a steel mill. I came away remarkably impressed by the potential role for education. One of the best things I heard there was the amazing work that the community college of Lorain was doing, training people who had both lost jobs but also training young people.

I personally hope—and I know there is a conversation to be had about this—that training and education won't start at the community college level but will start as early as possible. I would hope that maybe education and training might be one of those areas in which we might find bipartisan agreement.

Mr. STEIL. Madam Speaker, I think there is great opportunity as it relates to education and, in particular, workforce development. I think not lost on many of us, as we look out at the disconnect between workers and jobs available, there are over 10 million jobs available across America, yet we continue to have a disconnect between getting workers who are looking for work and the jobs that are available.

We saw in Lorain, like we see in southeast Wisconsin, signs looking for workers. As we walked into the hearing, I remarked that there were "Help Wanted" signs across the street, yet there were many people who were still unemployed.

Hopefully, we can look at the workforce development aspects of education in the United States to make sure that we are connecting workers with the jobs that are available.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, that is right, I say to my friend from Wisconsin. I was startled by that sign as well. Here we are in a depressed, if optimistic, town, with a big, closed steel

mill with "Help Wanted" signs on the outside of that steel mill.

Now, there are probably lots of reasons for the current disconnect. Nationally, I think it is in the millions of jobs that are going begging, even as some people are having a hard time getting those good-paying jobs. But I was really impressed by the fact that you had in a town where there were certainly surplus workers a steel plant looking for more employees.

Mr. STEIL. Absolutely. We see this time and again in southeast Wisconsin. We see businesses that are shrinking hours to try to deal with and navigate through this challenging work environment.

I know we will be having a hearing coming up on automation, and I don't think it can be lost on us that many businesses are looking and the struggle to get workers back to work and the impact that may have on automation and future job growth in the United States.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the ranking member and look forward to working with him and his members. I know both of us feel strongly about making sure that the members of the committee have an opportunity to offer up their ideas, so I will begin. Again, the Chair won't be yielding. I will just give a wave when I think maybe time is running low.

Let me begin by inviting the gentlewoman from California, who really has already made a dramatic contribution to the committee.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS).

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I thank Chair HIMES for organizing this Special Order, and I say thank you to the ranking member.

I welcome our Republican colleagues to the committee. I know we are going to have some strong debates on this committee, and we should because economic inequality is the central issue of our time. It deserves all the energy and attention we can give it because we are at a pivotal moment.

Right now, the bottom 50 percent of the population holds 2 percent of the wealth in the United States. The top 1 percent holds nearly a third of all wealth.

I have some experience with that. The most consequential day of my life, the day that would determine whether or not I grew up with opportunity and privilege, was the day that I was born. That is true for so many kids in America. But unlike the majority of kids who were born in 1989, I was lucky. While some were born into generational poverty, I was born into a family of wealth. That is what I did to earn my wealth and my opportunity in life—I was born.

For decades, our policies have benefited people like me, and that has to change because, in addition to being immoral, economic inequality represents a long-term threat to our inter-

national competitiveness, our national security, and the health of our democracy.

I know my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, some of whom served with me on Armed Services, are thinking deeply about how we remain competitive in the international landscape. But with 140 million Americans who live in households that are low income, low wealth, are one crisis away from economic ruin, that is more difficult.

I represent San Diego in Congress. We are one of the wealthiest counties in the country. We have Fortune 500 companies. We have mansions on the beach. Yet, more than 40 percent of our kids were living in families experiencing poverty before the pandemic. We have to do better.

That is why I am so grateful to be on this committee and that we are taking the time to debate and negotiate the Build Back Better Act, a bill that would make historic investments to rebalance our system, especially for children.

I know our disagreements are real, but I have faith that, together, we can work to find solutions like the earned income tax credit, the child tax credit, Head Start, all of these programs that, when they were passed, had wide bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I again thank Chair HIMES and our Republican colleagues.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from California. I take real pleasure in welcoming the gentlewoman from Oklahoma to the committee and invite her to make any remarks she would like to make.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Oklahoma (Mrs. BICE).

Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding. It is an honor to be selected for the committee, and I look forward to working with all the members, including Ranking Member STEIL, on this very important issue.

Madam Speaker, I am honored to be selected to serve on the Select Committee on Economic Disparity, and I look forward to working with all of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to dive deep into the issues at hand and to try to find areas where we can work together to craft bipartisan solutions.

In contrast to my friend and colleague from California, I was born the daughter of an immigrant. My father came to the United States with no money in pursuit of the American Dream. He went to college, graduated, started his own business, and, today, is a very successful businessman.

I look forward to discussing in this committee the ways that we can foster the American Dream with American citizens across this country. The mission of the select committee is certainly worthy of consideration. The question of why some of our fellow Americans are being left behind in the economy demands our time and attention.

One of the most worrying economic statistics of the past year and a half is

that the U.S. labor force participation rate is the lowest it has been since 1977, nearly 45 years ago. Millions of fewer Americans are employed or actively seeking work compared to just 2 years ago, and that has created a wide-ranging challenge for American families and for our economy.

“Help Wanted” signs, as was mentioned earlier, have become ubiquitous across the Nation as stores, restaurants, manufacturers, and others struggle to find employees to continue operations. It is vital that we find the root causes and craft the appropriate solutions.

To that end, here are a few areas I think the select committee should focus its time and its energy on.

First, we should begin to review and unwind Federal policies that have disincentivized participation in the labor force, many of which were created at the end of the COVID-19 pandemic.

Second, we should refocus and strengthen our Nation’s education and workforce development programs. It is clear that our Nation’s education system leaves many Americans behind, saddles students with large amounts of debt, and often promotes pricey degree programs with very poor job prospects.

I believe we need to do a better job of matching workforce development programs to the actual needs of employers. Aligning job training curriculum to meet the demands of employers who need skilled workers would almost guarantee jobs for those who complete a program.

Third, we need to reform our Nation’s criminal justice system and reinvest efforts to rehabilitate the nearly 95 percent of prisoners who will eventually be released from prison. Sadly, all too often, we hear of individuals released with just the clothes on their back and a one-way bus ticket. This level of support doesn’t set up individuals for success.

I am proud, earlier this year, the State of Oklahoma stood up a program to begin preparing inmates 9 months before their release with workforce training and assistance to obtain documentation needed to get a job, transportation, and housing. Improving programs to transition the formerly incarcerated back to society is worth our consideration and can save taxpayers in the long run.

Finally, I would be remiss if I didn’t note the importance of regulatory relief and tax reform as key components to all of this. As someone who worked in the private sector for many years, including running my own firm and working for a family company, I can say with certainty that tax policy and government regulation have tremendous impacts on the decisions of businesses to hire, expand, and make investments.

In closing, I would again like to express my appreciation for being on the committee and look forward to working with my colleagues to dig deeper.

Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman HIMES and Ranking Member STEIL for organizing this Special Order this evening.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Oklahoma.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. CRAIG).

□ 2120

Ms. CRAIG. Madam Speaker, I am so incredibly honored to be appointed to the Select Committee studying economic disparities and fairness in growth. I welcome my Republican colleagues.

I am especially grateful to be taking a fresh look at how we build economic growth in our rural communities. The challenges facing rural America, while longstanding, have been made even more urgent as a result of the COVID-19 public health crisis. In Congress, it is our responsibility and our moral duty to respond to the unique needs of our rural communities.

Right now, in small towns across my district a lack of reliable internet access is preventing entrepreneurs from growing their small businesses. Higher insurance premiums and out-of-pocket healthcare costs are putting a strain on families’ bottom lines. Access to healthcare sometimes means driving an hour to the nearest hospital. We must enter this work with an open mind to examine the issues, and we must build a roadmap that ensures our rural communities are not left behind.

To be sure, the Build Back Better Act has many provisions designed to address growth in rural America, most notably, the President’s Rural Partnership Program, which would empower local communities to shore up unreliable electric grids, childcare, and support small businesses that power local communities.

These long overdue investments won’t reverse all of the economic decline we have seen in our rural communities, but it is a start to put into place an economic foundation that paves the way for consistent, longstanding growth that has eluded our rural communities for decades.

I came to Congress to deliver these solutions for my constituents, and now we have an opportunity to step back and examine these issues with fresh eyes. We cannot let this opportunity pass us by.

Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for all of his work, and I appreciate the opportunity to be on this Select Committee.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Minnesota.

Madam Speaker, I am just going to note to the ranking member, I have four members, a good, enthusiastic turnout, so we are going to need to be a little disciplined with time, about roughly 2 minutes each.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON).

Mr. DAVIDSON. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking

member, the Speaker, and the minority leader. It is nice to have this committee to focus on such an important topic and to do it in a bipartisan way. I am sure we will have our differences of opinion, but I hope we find some common ground.

Frankly, one of the bills I have worked on for a long time is the People CARE Act. It would create a bipartisan commission for Republicans, for Democrats, and it would reform all 90-plus means-tested programs. We spend about a trillion dollars a year, and for reference, we spend about \$750 billion on defense, so far more just on poverty assistance. Many of those programs aren’t as effective as they could be.

It wouldn’t cut any funding. It wouldn’t even necessarily cut any programs, but the commission could redesign them to do things like end benefit cliffs. That is really important, because as people start to recover and as they start to get back into the economy and participate in the workforce—when they get a raise, when they get a promotion, sometimes when they get a job—they get put on a cold turkey program, they lose their benefits and it creates a lot of fear, and frankly, turns a safety net into a snare.

One of the things right now that is driving the challenges for the safety net is wages are going up. Now, that doesn’t mean inflation is a good thing, by any means. Inflation is really hitting wage-earners really hard and retirees even harder, but it is changing how far a housing voucher will go, for example, or whether somebody gets a raise. They might not have updated the benefit program from the Federal safety net to recognize that and now they are facing a cliff.

We need to address the drivers of this inflation, and that goes to the destruction of the value of our money. The massive spending that we do, often in the name of compassion, is growing the wealth gap, this is fiscal and monetary policy. When we have big deficits, it grows inequality in the name of helping people.

There are so many more issues that I hope we get to, but it is an honor to serve with my colleagues and I look forward to hearing their ideas and growing from the experience.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Ohio for his generous comments.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Wisconsin (Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin), another one of our stalwart midwesterners, who was with us in Lorain, Ohio.

Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman and the ranking member. I am so delighted to have been appointed to the Select Committee.

The Speaker, of course, said that we should make proposals that make our economy grow for everyone, empowering American economic growth while ensuring that no one is left behind in the 21st century economy.

It is no secret that our country is marred by unequal access to good paying jobs, healthcare, housing, high quality education, childcare, and many other things. I can't dwell on all those things in this short period of time. These disparities impact the ability of many communities to escape poverty, and especially people of color.

I do want to dwell on a couple of things, proposals that I think are extremely important to close the economic gap, the wealth gap, and the housing gap.

First of all, I think that all of our workers deserve paid family leave, a universal comprehensive paid family and medical leave program. Only about a third of Americans in the highest quintile in the country receive any kind of paid family leave, while 92 percent of workers in the lower quintile have no paid family leave.

I think that we should enhance the child tax credit and the earned income tax credits. These are things that, while there is a very high cost of poverty, there is a big, huge outcome and harvest from investing in our children. People around the globe have noted that it really creates better workers, better educational outcomes, and better healthcare outcomes.

We also need to address the uncompensated care that so many family caregivers, especially women, are providing, about a half-trillion dollars a year in uncompensated care, and we need to address that. So I think if we boost the CTC, the earned income tax credit, provide paid family leave, we will begin to see the beginnings around the edges of reducing some of the disparities.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for her remarks this evening.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I thank Chairman HIMES and Ranking Member STEIL.

Madam Speaker, I rise today as a member of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in and Growth, aka, the Committee on the Economy.

Over the past few minutes, we have heard a variety of arguments, and there is absolutely no doubt that every Member here today has a vested interest in ensuring our Nation remains prosperous for generations to come.

While we may disagree on solutions, we will work together to address economic challenges that we see across this country. Economic prosperity for all Americans is imperative and we know that prior to COVID-19, Americans saw tremendous progress.

In 2019 alone, the median household income grew 6.8 percent, the largest increase ever recorded in American history. With historic legislation passed by the House of Representatives and the Trump administration, we saw minority and historically underserved

communities grow at historic rates, with income levels rising 7 percent for Hispanics and African Americans.

Following the pandemic, however, we have seen labor force participation plummet, as the policies proposed by our colleagues across the aisle have incentivized unemployment that we have not seen since the Carter administration which, for the record, was more than a decade before my time.

Now, as we begin to prepare to explore what we can do to empower workers for the jobs of the future and encourage all American families to succeed nationwide, I am particularly focused on communities like mine in north Central Florida, which lack broadband in both rural and urban areas, suffering from a lack of investment, which in turn affects our schoolchildren, telehealth opportunities, commerce, and so much more.

Now, in an agriculture-heavy district like mine, I also want to highlight the high trade deficit, the need for improved trade agreements, which help Florida producers in my home State who have consistently been devastated by lower prices from Mexico.

During the pandemic, farmers had to destroy crops and dump milk because the demand was so low, while cheaper produce from other nations continued to be imported cutting out the market from our producers. Simply put, the economics of U.S. production in agriculture are in peril.

Finally, I would like to bring attention to issues that are hot in the headlines these days: educational freedom, school choice, and the rights of parents to have a say in their children's education. We all know education is a direct correlation to prosperity. We know that America was built on equal opportunity, not equal outcome.

Rather than asking what more government should do, we should ask where government can be removed and should be removed. Federal regulations cost \$1.9 trillion, spent on reporting, compliance, and more, which could be better served in investing in employees or in workforce development or in underdeveloped communities across the country.

□ 2130

As we begin our work on this select committee, I am committed to working with my colleagues to pursue meaningful opportunities for all Americans, regardless of their location, regardless of their background, regardless of their education, and regardless of whatever box they check.

It is well past time that we stop seeing the government as the solution to our problems because, after all, it is the incredible opportunities here today in America that have allowed me, the daughter of a single mom, a young woman from rural America, who has gone from homeless to the House of Representatives in under a decade. It is time that we expand those opportunities—not restrict them.

I thank Chairman HIMES, again, as well as Ranking Member STEIL for their leadership. I am honored to serve on this select committee.

Mr. HIMES. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Florida. We may not totally agree on the role of government, but I am grateful to her for really highlighting the importance of education which has been the theme that we have heard a lot here tonight.

Batting cleanup, our last Member to hear from is our hostess from Lorain, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. KAPTUR).

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, Chair HIMES, for yielding, and I thank him for bringing the committee to Lorain, Ohio.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to offer my strong support for pending new investments in our workers, our families, and our communities.

As was highlighted during the hearing in Lorain, our region has been battered by an economy that rewards the 1 percent and billionaire investors at the expense of workers of the middle class. Thankfully, right now in northern Ohio we are seeing the possibility of restoring new hope and new opportunity not just for billionaires but for workers. The parents and grandparents of nearly 150,000 children from working families and struggling households in our district are seeing their taxes cut through the child tax credit.

Unlike the trillion-dollar giveaway aimed at the wealthiest and transnational corporations that outsource jobs to penny-wage nations, our hardworking families are seeing their tax dollars returned directly to them.

Looking at how working mothers struggle, a recent study from the United Way of Greater Toledo shows that more than one-third workers are not eligible for paid maternity leave. In the richest nation on Earth, our workers should have access to paid family leave that is available elsewhere on the globe. This is what we are working to deliver.

Further, significant new investments in physical infrastructure will create living wage jobs and help level the playing field as America creates new wealth beginning right where we live by rebuilding our roads, bridges, ports, and investing in renewable energies like hydrogen and electric vehicles to spur a real revival of our industrial heartland.

It is time to deal in workers and their families by rewarding hard work, not just capital. It is time to deliver for the families in Toledo, Sandusky, Lorain, and Cleveland. Investments in our workers, families, and communities will help restore faith that hard work matters. It will rebuild the middle class and provide a path to fully realize the American Dream.

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

PROTECTING OUR VETERANS

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that each Member may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, my distinguished colleagues and I stand here on behalf of America's veterans. The last thing our veterans should be burdened with is any delay, let alone a prolonged wait time to access the benefits and programs they have earned through their service.

The National Personnel Records Center is responsible for processing these records, and at this moment, there is a backlog of more than half a million requests, some dating back to February of 2020. Consequently, some veterans have been waiting for over a year and a half for copies of their service records which are needed to access VA benefits, adjudicate disability claims, request campaign service medals, and much more.

We in the United States of America honor the service and sacrifice of our veterans and Active Duty military personnel, and any delay for them is unacceptable.

That is why we introduced the RECORDS Act, legislation that would compel the National Personnel Records Center to take the necessary actions to eliminate the growing backlog of veterans' record requests.

Dating back more than a year, there has been a broad, bipartisan push to deliver for our veterans and work toward addressing the National Personnel Records Center's unacceptable backlog. The RECORDS Act is an opportunity to achieve this.

Our veterans fought for us. We must always fight for them. I appreciate my colleagues joining me this evening together in support of this goal.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. RUTHERFORD).

Mr. RUTHERFORD. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding, and I thank my good friend from Pennsylvania for this opportunity.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to talk about one of the fundamental roles for a Member of Congress, and that is to help our constituents navigate the Federal bureaucracy and get the documents or benefits that they need and they deserve. This is especially true for veterans, who often run into difficulty at the VA, even when it is not the VA's fault.

Unfortunately, the National Personnel Records Center is still today not fully open, and this is after we gave

them money in last year's appropriations bill to safely reopen during the COVID-19 pandemic. This has prevented caseworkers in my office from properly assisting my constituents in a timely manner.

In fact, there is a backlog that was just mentioned of over 500,000 requests from veterans and their families—over 500,000. To fix this problem, I am proud to support the RECORDS Act, and I urge the Speaker to bring to this bill to the floor.

This bill will ensure that the National Personnel Records Center is operating full time and at fully-staffed capacity now. American veterans deserve better than what they are currently getting from this administration. Let's pass the RECORDS Act.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague for joining us this evening and so very well put about making sure that we help our veterans and the fact that the records center had the resources in previous legislation. We just need to make sure that they get the job done. I thank the gentleman for joining us.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK).

Mrs. CAMMACK. I rise today, Madam Speaker, to speak in support of the RECORDS Act to make urgently needed reforms to the National Personnel Records Center which has failed our Nation's veterans through a critical time.

I would like to share a recent story from my district about a 99-year-old marine who has been suffering from Alzheimer's. Her family has been attempting to obtain her DD-214 form to apply for her VA pension. This would grant her a placement in a nursing home equipped to handle an Alzheimer's patient. However, the National Personnel Records Center has put an indefinite delay on sending her records to her and her loved ones.

Their justification in writing: this request does not constitute a medical emergency. She is 99 years old. She dedicated her life to serving our country as a marine and is suffering from a debilitating disease. As if this excuse was not poor enough, the center also demanded that the family prove that she has been separated for 60 years or more to justify pulling the records. Again, this is a 99-year-old marine veteran.

The National Personnel Records Center can no longer be allowed to lean on the crutches of COVID. This is their excuse to justify their dereliction of duty. They have an obligation to fulfill these claims for our Nation's veterans who have served our country bravely. If the National Personnel Records Center does their job and still feels no shame in letting veterans' care lapse while their needed records requests go unfulfilled to the tune of 500,000-plus nationally, hundreds within Florida's Third Congressional District—constituents of mine—then it is time for us in Congress to intervene.

Madam Speaker, I urge the House to immediately take up this legislation. Excuses be damned.

□ 2140

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for those remarks. What an outstanding lady that the gentlewoman represents.

The gentlewoman mentioned something that really makes me think of something when you talk about excuses. I was raised by my grandmother, and I can remember her telling me one time, my brother and I, she looked at us and said: Boys, people that make excuses are weak.

It is time that we show strength, and we make them do their job.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE), my good colleague and friend.

Mr. CLYDE. I thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER), my good friend and colleague, for yielding.

Madam Speaker, veterans and their families have made many sacrifices for our great Nation. Through their service, these men and women have earned numerous benefits, and those benefits are validated by the member's individual service record.

The repository for those records is the National Personnel Records Center. The center is behind in its work. With the pandemic, the backlog to obtain military records jumped from 56,000 to over 500,000 requests. That is a tenfold increase.

That is 500,000 veterans and their families who are waiting on documentation that they need to apply for and receive benefits that they earned, including the GI Bill education benefits, VA loans, medical benefits, disability compensation, life insurance, and even burial benefits for their families.

When these issues were first reported last year, the National Personnel Records Center stated that the pandemic prevented their employees from being able to process record requests in a safe environment. As such, Congress appropriated additional funds to address the center's concerns and to help expedite the digitization of records.

However, the center did not grant its employees the proper technology to work from home during the pandemic until early 2021, nearly a year after the pandemic began. This choice by the center only compounded the worsening backlog.

Also, the Archivist of the United States, who oversees the NPRC's operations, noted in his latest correspondence to Congress that he expects the center to eliminate the backlog of veteran requests by the end of fiscal year 2022. That means this time next year, a whole year. This is simply unacceptable.

Each Member of this body has at least one veteran in their district impacted by this backlog, probably many, many veterans. It is time for all of us

to step up to the plate to demand results. Show us that these record requests are being processed in a timely manner.

I commend Representative KELLER for spearheading this tonight to fix this issue. Part of that is through the introduction of his bill, the RECORDS Act. I appreciate his efforts very much, and I am proud to join him in this fight. I thank him for the invitation to participate.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative CLYDE for his remarks and recognizing that there are veterans across our Nation in every district we have the privilege to represent.

The gentleman mentioned the records center not wanting to—worried about danger. Well, our veterans didn't worry about danger when they went to protect our freedom and our way of life.

I am glad to be joined by my great friend and colleague from Pennsylvania, Representative KELLY.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLY).

Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, Representative KELLER and I indeed are very good friends and in complete agreement on what it is we are trying to do tonight.

Madam Speaker, there are 54,511 veterans in Pennsylvania's 16th Congressional District. These are men and women that have served in all types of activities in the military.

Nearly 1 in 13 of my constituents are military veterans. Roughly 520,000 pending VA claims for disability, compensation, and benefits are out there right now. And 191,000 of those that are considered to be backlogged are older than 3 months old, 4 months old, and they can't even get the information that they need.

Thirty-six percent of these cases this summer were considered backlogged. Again, over 4 months, these people are waiting for their records to be pulled.

The National Personnel Records Center is operating at 45 percent of its pre-pandemic capacity—45 percent—while almost every other business and government entity is operating at full capacity.

This delay prevents veterans from getting the benefits they deserve for months or even years. A lack of digital records prevents staff from accessing those records while working remotely during the pandemic.

Representative KELLER's bill would require the National Personnel Records Center employees to return to the job at 100 percent of capacity and improve the efficiency and responsiveness of the operations at the center.

This is not just a request. This is honoring the service of those who have given all to defend this country.

They are not looking for anything special. They are not looking for anything out of the ordinary. They are not looking for anybody to go beyond what

they were hired to do. All they are asking for is for their records to be processed in the right time so they can receive their benefits.

How can this Nation turn its back, and how can this group refuse to do this in a timely fashion and prevent this from happening further?

All we are asking for is people to do their jobs. What an unusual concept for somebody to go to work every day and be asked to do their job, not doing it from home, but going on the job and actually doing the job for those who put their lives on the line for this Nation.

Incredible that it would take a bill from Congress for people to actually do the job they were hired to do and fulfill their responsibility to our incredible veterans.

I thank Representative KELLER for bringing this forward, and I would urge this body to take a look at what we are doing right now and somehow come to an agreement that there is not—this shouldn't be a request. This is a responsibility to those who have served us so well.

I thank Representative KELLER for including me tonight and all the rest of my colleagues.

Again, this is not just a request. This is a responsibility.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for making a very valid point, that the rest of America is going back to work and doing what they need to do at full capacity, working at 100 percent. To have a government agency working at 45 percent, as the gentleman pointed out, for those who have done so much for us is unacceptable. I appreciate his help with this.

I also look forward to hearing what my great colleague and friend from Wisconsin has to say.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I would also like to speak on behalf of Congressman KELLER's bill.

One of the things we do as Congressmen back in our district is constituent work. Probably one of the areas which we are busiest in is the areas of helping our veterans. Whether it is getting burial benefits, veteran benefits, or lost military awards, we have to contact the National Personnel Records Center.

Unfortunately, as has been mentioned, for over a year now, the National Personnel Records Center has been operating at well under capacity. This is an insult to our veterans.

Their excuse for not operating is, of course, the COVID. My staff has toured the National Personnel Records Center, and it is a large warehouse, very spread out. Unlike where most Americans have had to work the last 2 years, you are not squeezed up in a cubicle next to somebody else.

Unfortunately—and this maybe is an indication of the overall caring of the Federal Government. Unfortunately,

they have not been open at a time when not only our veterans have given so much, but a time when so many taxpayers have been working around the clock.

Every night I go home, I go by a couple of cheese factories. I can drive by there at 1 in the morning. They are packed with people. They never stopped working.

Here we have a massive warehouse with lots of space between people, and we are told it is too dangerous to go to work. That is preposterous. It is an insult to our veterans. It is an insult to our taxpayers.

I urge this body to pass Congressman KELLER's bill as soon as possible.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for his comments, so very well put, that we have people for which we work that are veterans that go to work every day, that maybe aren't veterans but taxpayers that go to work every day and expect our government to work. That is all we are asking for.

People every day in America go to work, and they produce goods, they provide services. The Americans that have served, our veterans, and those that are serving deserve a government that is responsive to the needs that they have because of what they have earned.

They are not asking for anything special. They are saying: Look, we have earned these benefits, and to gain access to them, we need you to do your job.

Who would have thought it would have taken an act of Congress to try and get them to do their work. It is time that we make sure that the National Personnel Records Center does its job for our veterans and to make sure that they have a plan that this never happens again.

We cannot let down our veterans because of some bureaucracy, because somebody doesn't want to make sure that it runs efficiently and effectively.

□ 2150

It needs to be done. It needs to be done now.

Madam Speaker, just let me say, we must first and always remember our veterans and Active Duty military personnel.

Also, I would like to thank my colleagues for their participation this evening. This is an important issue. It is widespread, and it transcends party lines.

These are veterans. They are Americans. They are not Republicans; they are not Democrats. They are Americans, and they are an outstanding group of Americans.

I notice I was just joined here by a colleague of mine. So before I close, I will recognize a gentleman I have known for quite some time, actually a member of the military. When I knew him, he was still a member of the military, so a veteran then, a good friend of mine, a great American from Pennsylvania.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. PERRY).

Mr. PERRY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend, the gentleman from Pennsylvania, for bringing up the subject and offering me the opportunity to stand in support of his legislation, the RECORDS Act, to let you know, what you have probably heard, that literally hundreds of thousands—500,000 to 600,000 veterans are awaiting their care based on the inability of the VA to get to their records.

They can't prove that they are due the care, that they have earned the care, without the records. The VA has this backlog, which takes them a year, maybe two, where they can't access their records to get the care that they have earned. So I commend the gentleman for his efforts with the RECORDS Act.

I have a similar bill, the WINGMAN Act, which allows congressional staffers, given the appropriate approvals, to go in and help the veteran do the same thing, get through the backlog.

Mr. KELLER has a response. He has a solution. I am working on a solution. Who is not working on a solution? The VA. It is not the people down in the trenches, down doing the hard work. As usual, it is the administration, the upper staff, that has failed in this endeavor.

If we can do anything in the United States of America—of all the billions

we spend, here and across the globe, anywhere, and all the different programs that we have—the least we can do is take care of those who have safeguarded our freedoms and have earned the care that they deserve to get. The only thing that stands between them and that care is accessing their records. They cannot right now because of this backlog.

The good gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) has legislation that will fix that, and I urge my colleagues to support it. I urge everybody that is a veteran or a family member supportive of a veteran to write, to contact their Congressman, their Member of Congress, and urge them to support this legislation.

Let's see if we can fix the circumstances at the VA for these veterans.

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend, Mr. PERRY, who said it so very well. These people earned their benefits. Our veterans earned these benefits. They protected our freedom and way of life. They didn't question was it too dangerous to go do that job. They went and did it. They have earned benefits.

What we need to do is we need to make sure that the bureaucrats that are running this—as he said, it is not the people that get the work done every day, but it is the managers of the National Personnel Records Center that need to make sure they do their

job and put together a plan to address the issues, to get our veterans the necessary records, in a timely fashion, that they need to gain access to the benefits they have earned.

As I mentioned before, this is an issue that is not a Republican or Democrat issue. It is an American issue, and it is about helping Americans who have helped humanity from around the globe, stood up for freedom, stood on that wall and made sure we were safe. Now, it is our time to stand up for them and make sure they get the benefits they have earned.

We all urge the National Archives and Records Administration to immediately take all steps to address this problem and prevent it from ever happening again.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 9 o'clock and 54 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third quarter of 2021, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GERMANY AND ITALY, EXPENDED BETWEEN AUG. 25 AND AUG. 31, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²
Hon. David Price	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Hon. Gerry Connolly	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Hon. Cheryl Johnson	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Admiral Brian Monahan	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Derek Luyten	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Justin Wein	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Sean Brady	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Collin Davenport	8/25	8/28	Germany		801.53						801.53
Hon. David Price	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		17,398.35				18,910.35
Hon. Vern Buchanan	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		12,053.55				13,565.55
Hon. Gerry Connolly	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		13,832.95				15,344.95
Hon. Diana DeGette	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		5,451.05				6,966.05
Hon. Cheryl Johnson	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		2,482.55				3,994.55
Admiral Brian Monahan	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		2,502.85				4,014.85
Derek Luyten	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		2,455.85				3,967.85
Justin Wein	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		11,105.85				12,617.85
Sean Brady	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		2,455.85				3,967.85
Collin Davenport	8/28	8/31	Italy		1,512.00		2,296.35				3,808.35
Committee total					15,120.00		72,035.20				94,371.97

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DAVID E. PRICE, Sept. 28, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON HOUSE ADMINISTRATION, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☐

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. ZOE LOFGREN, Oct. 5, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. JERROLD NADLER, Oct. 1, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. RAÚL M. GRUALVA, Oct. 5, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON SMALL BUSINESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. NYDIA M. VELÁZQUEZ, Oct. 14, 2021.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, SELECT COMMITTEE ON THE MODERNIZATION OF CONGRESS, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEPT. 30, 2021

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem ¹		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency ²

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. ☒

¹ Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

² If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. DEREK KILMER, Oct. 14, 2021.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2265, the Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 5142, to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies in Hamid Karzai International Airport, and for other purposes, as amended, would have no significant effect on the def-

icit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-2511. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Colonel Brian S. Laidlaw, United States Air Force, to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777(b)(3)(B); Public Law 104-106, Sec. 503(a)(1) (as added by Public Law 108-136, Sec. 509(a)(3)); (117 Stat. 1458); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2512. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Major General Michael R. Penzel, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2513. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Vice Admiral

Timothy G. Szymanski, United States Navy, and his advancement to the grade of vice admiral on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2514. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting authorization of Major General Antonio M. Fletcher, United States Army, to wear the insignia of the grade of lieutenant general, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 777a(b)(4); Public Law 111-383, Sec. 505(a)(1); (124 Stat. 4208); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-2515. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 of April 12, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-2516. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Iran that was declared in Executive Order 12170 of November 14, 1979, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public

Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES ON PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XIII, reports of committees were delivered to the Clerk for printing and reference to the proper calendar, as follows:

Mr. NADLER: Committee on the Judiciary. H.R. 4035. A bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-154). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

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. BENTZ:

H.R. 5705. A bill to make technical amendments to update statutory references to provisions reclassified to title 34, United States Code; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DEFAZIO (for himself, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. CARSON, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. SIRE, Ms. NORTON, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. LOWENTHAL, and Ms. BROWNLEY):

H.R. 5706. A bill to protect transportation personnel and passengers from sexual assault and harassment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, 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. RUTHERFORD (for himself, Mr. POSEY, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. SOTO, Mr. MAST, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. CRIST, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida):

H.R. 5707. A bill to provide for a moratorium on oil and gas leasing and exploration on the outer Continental Shelf off the coast of Florida until 2032, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BENTZ (for himself, Mr. WESTERMAN, and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 5708. A bill to codify certain regulations relating to the Endangered Species Act of 1973; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. WENSTRUP):

H.R. 5709. A bill to direct the Director of National Intelligence to produce a National Intelligence Estimate on the situation in Afghanistan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Intelligence (Permanent Select).

By Ms. JACKSON LEE (for herself, Ms. ROSS, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. CARSON, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Ms. MENG, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, Ms. DEAN, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. MFUME):

H.R. 5710. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance criminal penalties for health related stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5711. A bill to modify the Federal TRIO programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5712. A bill to require the head of each executive agency to relocate such agency outside of the Washington, D.C., metropolitan area, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 5713. A bill to empower independent music creator owners to collectively negotiate with dominant online platforms regarding the terms on which their music may be distributed; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 5714. A bill to amend the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 to provide for whistleblower incentives and protection, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 5715. A bill to reauthorize the Morris K. Udall and Stewart L. Udall Trust Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Natural Resources, 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. HARDER of California (for himself, Mr. COSTA, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. MCNERNEY):

H.R. 5716. A bill to promote water supply reliability and improved water management for rural communities, the State of California, and the Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 5717. A bill to address the surge in illegal border crossings along the southwest border by establishing new ports of entry for processing migrants in accordance with the Immigration and Nationality Act and section 362 of the Public Health Service Act; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committees on Homeland Security, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. OMAR (for herself, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. EMMER, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mrs. FISCHBACH, and Mr. STAUBER):

H.R. 5718. A bill to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal to Prince Rogers Nelson, in recognition of his achievements and contributions to American culture; to the Committee on Financial Services, and in addition to the Committee on House Administration, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PERRY (for himself and Mr. DUNCAN):

H.R. 5719. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publicly disclose information regarding adverse effects of COVID-19 vaccines; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. ROSS (for herself, Mr. ISSA, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. NADLER, and Mr. ROY):

H.R. 5720. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a peri-

odic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. TAKANO (for himself and Mr. BOST):

H.R. 5721. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve research conducted within the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. TRONE (for himself, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. MACE, Ms. DEAN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. BACON, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. MEIJER):

H.R. 5722. A bill to give Federal courts additional discretion to determine whether pretrial detention is appropriate for defendants charged with nonviolent drug offenses in Federal criminal cases; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. FALLON:

H. Con. Res. 56. Concurrent resolution condemning the Government of the People's Republic of China and the People's Liberation Army for continued military aggression against Taiwan, most notably the October 4th incursion of Taiwan's Air Defense Identification Zone; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. MCCAUL, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CONNOLLY, and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey):

H. Res. 744. A resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. WELCH (for himself and Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois):

H. Res. 745. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of October 24, 2021, to October 31, 2021, as "BatWeek"; to the Committee on Agriculture.

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. BENTZ:

H.R. 5705.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, section 8, clause 18.

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 5706.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. RUTHERFORD:

H.R. 5707.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. BENTZ:

H.R. 5708.
Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 5709.

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

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

By Ms. JACKSON LEE:

H.R. 5710.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Amendment 4 and Amendment 14, Section 5 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5711.

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

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power . . .

Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DAVIDSON:

H.R. 5712.

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

Article I, Section 8:

The Congress shall have Power . . .

Clause 17: To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession of particular States, and the Acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-yards, and other needful Buildings;

And

Clause 18: To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Mr. DEUTCH:

H.R. 5713.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution; Article 1, Section 8, Clause 8 of the United States Constitution; and Article 1, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 5714.

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

Necessary and Proper Clause (Art. 1, Sec. 8, Cl. 18)

By Mr. GRIJALVA:

H.R. 5715.

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

U.S. Const. art. I, sections 1 and 8.

By Mr. HARDER of California:

H.R. 5716.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 & Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. NORMAN:

H.R. 5717.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OMAR:

H.R. 5718.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. PERRY:

H.R. 5719.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. ROSS:

H.R. 5720.

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

Article III, Section 1 vests the judicial power of the United States in the Supreme Court and any inferior courts Congress establishes.

Article I, Section 8, clause 18 allows Congress to make all laws "which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution" any "other" powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H.R. 5721.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution, authorized by Congress' power to "provide for the common Defense and general Welfare of the United States."

By Mr. TRONE:

H.R. 5722.

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

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

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 95: Mr. PFLUGER.

H.R. 151: Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 255: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 263: Ms. ROSS and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 310: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.

H.R. 333: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 344: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 521: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.

H.R. 622: Mr. ALLRED.

H.R. 623: Mr. PERLMUTTER and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 695: Mr. GIMENEZ.

H.R. 708: Mr. LIEU.

H.R. 911: Mr. CLEAVER.

H.R. 962: Mr. MANN.

H.R. 971: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1011: Mr. BOST.

H.R. 1012: Ms. JACOBS of California and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.

H.R. 1057: Mr. DOGGETT, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mrs. SPARTZ.

H.R. 1186: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1193: Mrs. FLETCHER.

H.R. 1196: Mr. MFUME.

H.R. 1259: Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mr. FERGUSON, Mr. MANN, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. DAVIDSON.

H.R. 1275: Mr. MEIJER.

H.R. 1282: Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY.

H.R. 1384: Mr. HUDSON.

H.R. 1474: Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. SCHIFF, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, and Ms. KUSTER.

H.R. 1574: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 1577: Mr. BEYER, Ms. ROSS, and Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 1670: Ms. BOURDEAUX.

H.R. 1771: Mr. CRAWFORD.

H.R. 1829: Mr. ROSENDALE and Mr. CHABOT.

H.R. 1978: Mr. BUCHANAN.

H.R. 2067: Ms. GARCIA of Texas.

H.R. 2120: Ms. WILD.

H.R. 2130: Ms. UNDERWOOD.

H.R. 2174: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2192: Mr. SUOZZI and Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.

H.R. 2230: Mr. SWALWELL.

H.R. 2248: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2249: Mr. STEUBE, Mr. YARMUTH, Mr. CRIST, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. MEEKS, and Ms. OMAR.

H.R. 2265: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.

H.R. 2269: Mr. DESJARLAIS.

H.R. 2303: Ms. TENNEY.

H.R. 2489: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2503: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2558: Mr. WALBERG and Mr. BILIRAKIS.

H.R. 2759: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2805: Ms. MENG and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 2811: Mr. VARGAS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. OMAR, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2827: Ms. STEFANIK.

H.R. 2840: Mr. DESAULNIER, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. EVANS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. OMAR, and Mrs. BUSTOS.

H.R. 2954: Mrs. AXNE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. MFUME, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. ROGERS of Alabama.

H.R. 2998: Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 3093: Ms. SÁNCHEZ.

H.R. 3113: Mr. CROW.

H.R. 3155: Ms. SALAZAR.

H.R. 3165: Ms. BASS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 3172: Mr. VALADAO.

H.R. 3207: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 3225: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.

H.R. 3265: Mr. LATURNER.

H.R. 3297: Ms. STRICKLAND.

H.R. 3320: Mr. QUIGLEY and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 3446: Ms. PRESSLEY.

H.R. 3525: Mr. ESPAILLAT and Ms. CLARKE of New York.

H.R. 3549: Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3577: Mr. HUDSON, Mr. EMMER, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. NORMAN.

H.R. 3626: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 3630: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Ms. NORTON, Mr. COSTA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. STANTON, and Mr. QUIGLEY.

H.R. 3699: Ms. SCHAKOWSKY.

H.R. 3749: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3780: Mr. YARMUTH.

H.R. 3811: Mr. EMMER.

H.R. 3848: Ms. SHERILL.

H.R. 3855: Mr. AMODEI and Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 3932: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 3982: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. COLE, and Mr. GALLEGU.

H.R. 4017: Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 4096: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS and Mr. TIMMONS.

H.R. 4108: Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, and Mr. JEFFRIES.

H.R. 4150: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 4239: Ms. MCCOLLUM.

H.R. 4290: Mr. BABIN.

H.R. 4297: Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma.

H.R. 4331: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 4406: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 4429: Mr. CARTER of Texas and Mrs. LAWRENCE.

H.R. 4565: Mr. VAN DREW.

H.R. 4571: Mr. YOUNG.

H.R. 4587: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4598: Mr. PAYNE.

H.R. 4612: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. COHEN, and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 4785: Mr. HILL.

H.R. 4801: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 4816: Mr. CRENSHAW.

H.R. 4833: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 4853: Ms. SHERILL.

H.R. 4878: Mr. MCKINLEY.

H.R. 4942: Ms. ROSS.

H.R. 4996: Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 5008: Mr. HIMES.

H.R. 5119: Mr. COLE and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.

H.R. 5142: Mr. NUNES, Mr. WENSTRUP, and Mr. BAIRD.

H.R. 5256: Ms. NORTON.

H.R. 5261: Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. DEFazio, and Mr. POSEY.

H.R. 5344: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 5360: Mr. PERRY and Mrs. CAMMACK.

H.R. 5402: Ms. PORTER.

H.R. 5411: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 5428: Mr. GRIJALVA, Mr. COHEN, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. BONAMICI, Ms. DEAN, and Mrs. DINGELL.

H.R. 5441: Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. STEIL, and Mr. GOMEZ.

H.R. 5444: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 5445: Mr. STEWART.

H.R. 5450: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 5471: Mr. ROSENDALE.

H.R. 5520: Mr. NADLER.

H.R. 5527: Mr. MULLIN.

H.R. 5546: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. CASE.

H.R. 5564: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 5577: Ms. BONAMICI, Mr. STANTON, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. RASKIN, Mr. HOYER, Mr. SCOTT of Virginia, Ms. ROSS, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HUFFMAN, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Mr. AGUILAR, Mr. KAHELE, and Ms. HOULAHAN.

H.R. 5586: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. OBERNOLTE, and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 5602: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 5605: Ms. CHU.

H.R. 5606: Ms. TITUS.

H.R. 5608: Mr. POCAN, Mr. COOPER, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. ROUZER, and Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota.

H.R. 5619: Mr. LATURNER, Mr. LAMALFA, and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 5639: Mr. ISSA.

H.R. 5645: Mrs. AXNE and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 5665: Mr. CASTRO of Texas.

H.R. 5672: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 5699: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois.

H.J. Res. 48: Mrs. KIRKPATRICK and Mr. LIEU.

H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina.

H. Con. Res. 54: Ms. WATERS and Mr. BROWN.

H. Con. Res. 55: Ms. STEVENS.

H. Res. 47: Mr. ALLRED.

H. Res. 50: Mrs. LURIA.

H. Res. 159: Mr. PETERS and Mr. RUTHERFORD.

H. Res. 332: Ms. STANSBURY.

H. Res. 338: Mr. TRONE.

H. Res. 550: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. LEVIN of California.

H. Res. 569: Mr. KILDEE, Mr. MEUSER, and Mr. MEIJER.

H. Res. 583: Ms. ADAMS, Ms. WATERS, Mr. CRIST, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. TONKO.

H. Res. 670: Mr. PAYNE.

H. Res. 735: Mrs. RODGERS of Washington and Mr. JACOBS of New York.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Everlasting Father, enable us to love You with all our hearts, souls, minds, and strength. Give us humility so we can see Your divine image in the people around us and serve You by serving them. Let this love expressed in service transform our Senators, Nation, and world.

Lord, guide our lawmakers. Make them kind in thought, gentle in speech, and generous in actions. Help them to avoid the arena of combative words and seek a caring community of integrity, respect, and civility.

Lord, teach them that it is better to give than to receive, as You lead them to a humility that seeks great things for others.

We pray in Your precious Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore 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.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

The Senator from Hawaii.

Ms. HIRONO. I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. HIRONO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader is recognized.

NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate begins this week with votes to confirm two more highly qualified Biden nominees—one to serve in his administration and another to serve on the Federal bench.

First, we will vote to confirm Mr. Douglas Parker to serve as an Assistant Secretary of Labor for OSHA. A veteran of the Labor Department from the Obama administration, Mr. Parker will be the first Senate-confirmed OSHA head since the Obama Presidency.

He has a proven track record of protecting everyday Americans in the workplace—more important now than ever before—and I look forward to his confirmation later today.

The fact that the previous administration left OSHA empty for 4 years shows how little they cared about worker safety and protecting our workers, as many of them often do difficult jobs.

Second, the Senate will also proceed to the confirmation of a truly outstanding judicial nominee, Myrna Perez, to serve as circuit judge for the Second Circuit, which includes my home State of New York. It is a good day for the Second Circuit and for the entire Federal judiciary.

If confirmed, Myrna Perez would be a remarkable, remarkable addition to the bench. She would be the only Hispanic jurist to sit on the Second Circuit and the first since Justice Sonia Sotomayor.

And just as I was proud to support Justice Sotomayor's nomination—I

even suggested her name for the Supreme Court to President Obama, a fact I am proud of—I am also, today, proud to champion Myrna's elevation to the bench.

Myrna's life was the embodiment of the American dream. The daughter of Mexican immigrants, she grew up in San Antonio, TX, where her father was an Army veteran who worked as a consultant with Bexar County, while her mother worked in the post office.

As Myrna herself will tell you, growing up in a family of immigrants often meant breaking through linguistic, cultural, and racial barriers. And of all places, perhaps nowhere else did these barriers leave an important imprint on Myrna than when her aunt took her to the polls on election day. It was there where Myrna realized how an election system built from Byzantine rules shut out countless citizens from the political process. This experience instilled in Myrna a thirst for making our democracy work for all, and that has become her life's work.

After graduating from Yale, Harvard, and Columbia, Myrna eventually joined the Brennan Center for Justice, becoming the director of its Voting Rights and Elections Program. Over the course of her career, Myrna has become one of the Nation's top voting rights and elections lawyers, playing a key role in making sure Americans could vote safely in the 2020 election. She also has fought unlawful purges of voting rolls, spoken out against long wait times at polling locations in diverse neighborhoods, and has played major roles preparing six amicus briefs before the Supreme Court, including one for the Shelby case in 2013.

But Myrna's qualifications are not limited to her experience as a voting rights litigator. She is also a brilliant attorney with experience in fair housing law, disability rights, and employment discrimination. In the words of one former colleague, her skills as a lawyer are simply "off the charts."

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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The cupboards of the Federal judiciary have long been filled with attorneys who have taken the traditional route on their way to the bench—a big law firm, corporate experience, prosecutorial experience. Many of those jurists have done commendably on the bench, and I have been proud to support many of them over the years. But Myrna Perez represents something different, something wonderfully different: a sorely needed boost in both the personal and professional diversity of the Federal bench.

Especially now, we need more election lawyers in black robes. We need more Federal defenders in black robes. We need more immigrants and civil rights lawyers and diverse candidates assuming positions on the bench. We need, in other words, for our courts to reflect the rich mosaic that is the American people. With Myrna Perez's nomination, I am glad we are taking a step closer to that goal, and I hope she is confirmed later today.

JUDICIAL NOMINATIONS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now, in addition to Myrna Perez's nomination, I have also filed cloture on five additional judicial nominations, which we will begin working on tomorrow. It is my hope that we can work to process these nominees through the Chamber quickly. They are all outstanding individuals with proven records of fidelity to the rule of law.

As we keep making progress on many pressing issues to help the American people, Senate Democrats will also continue working swiftly to fill judicial vacancies with qualified, mainstream jurists who, again, add to the bench's diversity, both demographic and occupational. All year long, that is precisely what we have done.

This year, the Senate has already confirmed the first Native American and Muslim Americans to the Federal bench, as well as multiple civil rights attorneys, public defenders, voting rights experts, and more. This is how we work to strengthen not only diversity in our judiciary but the public's trust that it truly represents all Americans.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Mr. SCHUMER. Now on Build Back Better, we had a productive weekend as we continue to close in on a final agreement for President Biden's Build Back Better plan.

Yesterday morning, I traveled to Delaware to meet with the President and Senator MANCHIN about our agenda. It was a very good meeting. I thank the President for his leadership, and I also thank my colleagues in both Chambers for their shared commitment to getting this consequential and desperately needed legislation across the finish line.

No one ever said passing transformational legislation like this would

be easy, but we are on track to get this done because it is so important and it is what the American people need and what they want. The progress of last week illustrated that if we stick together and work toward finding that legislative sweet spot, then we can get big things done for the American people.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Republican leader is recognized.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, the biggest tax hikes in 50 years; the biggest peacetime tax hikes ever recorded in American history—that is what Washington Democrats are cooking up. Our Democratic colleagues and President Biden are behind closed doors, dreaming up creative new ways to grab literally historic amounts of the American people's money.

Remember, the same socialist spending plans that Democrats claim cost zero dollars somehow also need staggering new tax hikes to pay for them. So, even with significant inflation, runaway gas prices, and runaway energy costs already hitting American families in their pocketbooks, Washington Democrats have spent months dreaming up new cash grabs for the IRS.

Democrats have talked about massively hiking business taxes, to a level that would leave industries paying more than their competitors in communist China. They have talked about jacking up marginal income tax rates in ways that would hammer small businesses and family businesses that file as passthroughs. They have talked about adding a second death tax to give the IRS an even bigger bite out of family farms. They have even promised something that our country has never seen before: a new IRS surveillance dragnet where the IRS would get to track ordinary citizens' inflows and outflows. Banks and credit unions would be forced to hand over Americans' private information to the IRS. The Democrats are so desperate to shake down the American people for money that they are proposing to essentially treat everybody—everybody—like they are under audit.

For months now, our Democratic colleagues have been toying with one staggering tax increase after another. We have seen one disappointing jobs re-

port after another, one historic inflation report after another, but Democrats are still convinced that the biggest peacetime tax hikes on record in American history are just what the doctor ordered.

As one news report explained, “the scramble has opened the door to potential tax proposals [that] progressives could only have dreamed of”—just dreamed of—“just a few months ago.”

The far left is officially calling the shots, and that is where the latest new craziness comes into the picture. If public reporting has it right, the Democrats are so desperate to raise taxes that they are now proposing to tax money the American people haven't even made yet. Let me say that again. They are now proposing to tax money the American people haven't even made yet. Yes, you heard me right. So much for the quaint idea that you had to actually make money first before the IRS could tax it. Now Democrats want to tax money you haven't made yet.

There are already capital gains taxes that Americans pay when they cash out an investment, when they sell what they have been holding and realize actual gains. Now Democrats want to go much further and tax certain citizens just because their holdings have gone up in value, regardless of whether they have actually sold them and made any money.

Get this: In parallel with taxing people on hypothetical gains they haven't realized, they apparently also want to hand out tax breaks for hypothetical losses—losses—that people haven't realized. So they want to tax gains they haven't realized and hand out tax breaks for losses people haven't realized.

This harebrained scheme would have the IRS penalizing people who have invested wisely and compensating people who have invested poorly, all independent of whether they have actually made or lost any money. Let's just think of the unintended consequences, like the fact that, in the event of a market crash or financial crisis, the government would be on the hook for massive automatic tax cuts for billionaires or the fact that some experts suggest this new scheme would drive the wealthiest Americans away from stocks and bonds, push them into other tax shelters, and thereby reduce the growth in ordinary Americans' investments that households rely on for college funds and 401(k)s.

Or the fact that new, innovative entrepreneurs whose startups begin to grow in value could now get hit with a crushing tax bill long before their company is actually cash-flow positive. The next visionary startup founder could have to sell away ownership prematurely just to pay Uncle Sam.

Our Democratic colleagues have become so tax hike happy that they are throwing spaghetti at the wall to see what sticks. Now they are talking about rewiring the entire economy

after a couple of days' discussions on the back of an envelope. It is a massive and untested change that has not received any—any—meaningful study or scrutiny.

Even the Democratic chairman of the House Ways and Means Committee is complaining:

It hasn't been marked up, and there's been no vetting of it.

Our Democratic colleague, the senior Senator from Montana, says:

Anytime you get into stuff that's not proven in the tax code, it becomes a bit dangerous.

The senior Senator from Virginia says:

My fear is that we're going to try some innovative new ideas and if we don't have time to develop them . . . we could mess some of this up.

No kidding, Madam President.

This is just the latest saga in this long parade of Democratic tax hikes. Nonpartisan analysts have shown that various aspects of the Democrats' plans would shatter President Biden's promise to leave the middle class alone. I guarantee you, the middle class will get hit.

When Republicans had power, we prioritized giving Americans a big tax cut. We wanted families to keep more of their own money and make American businesses more competitive all around the world.

Democrats want the opposite—historic tax hikes. So families keep less, Washington gets more, and our competitors, like China, can pop the champagne.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

BUILD BACK BETTER

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it is possible—it is just possible—that the Republican Senator from Kentucky, who is the minority leader on the floor, has been sitting in on the revenue negotiations for the reconciliation. But it is possible—I don't rule that out—it is possible that we didn't know it, but he was actually sitting for breakfast in Wilmington, DE, with Schumer, Manchin, and other leaders as they were hammering out the revenue and tax portions, but I doubt it.

I doubt that the Senator from Kentucky has really been in the inner workings and decision process of what is going to be in the revenue package when it comes to the reconciliation bill. I couldn't tell you.

Maybe the Presiding Officer knows more than I do; but it is a matter of negotiation, and it is ongoing, and it has not been agreed to. Yet when you hear the Senator from Kentucky come to the floor, he is announcing what is going to be in the package as if he knows. I don't think he does.

There are a couple of things that we do know for sure. We know what the Republican vision of tax policy in America is because they have shown it to us over and over again. When Donald Trump was elected President, the Republican Senators had a chance to do their reconciliation package, and they devoted it to changing the Tax Code.

And to no one's surprise, they came through with their time-honored approach: cut taxes on the wealthiest people in America and the poor and middle-class people will be happy as clams.

Well, they did it and did it again and added to the deficit in the process. In fact, under their Republican President, Donald Trump, we had the largest increase—36 percent—in the debt than under any President in history.

So when they come talking to us about tax policy, they favor the rich; and the impact on the deficit, they don't pay any attention to it when they have a President of their own party. I think we know that the facts speak for themselves.

Here is what we do know as well: One of the provisions in the American Rescue Plan under President Biden really specifically went after helping working families and lower-income families. And it bears remembering and repeating that not a single Republican was willing to vote for that package in either the Senate or the House. They all voted against it.

One of the things included in it was a tax break for families with kids. How about that? A tax break for families with kids instead of a tax break for the multimillionaires and billionaires which were part of the Republican package 4 years ago.

So it basically came down to kids under the age of 6, parents received \$300 a month in a tax break; and those between 6 and 17—I think these figures are correct—received \$250 a month. That money flowing to these families with children was the largest tax cut—it really dwarfed anything that the Republicans ever did to help working families. And we are trying to keep it on the books. I am, and I think you are too, and all of us are.

Do you know why? Because we have too darn many families struggling in America, and they are in poverty.

And we talk a lot about it, and we say: "Isn't it a darn shame in a great country like this? That you can't afford food for your children, you can't

afford a roof over your head, you are facing eviction, you can't afford the basics to send them to school, you can't afford new clothes and a new pair of shoes."

We say, Isn't it a darn shame. But now we have done something about it in the American Rescue Plan without a single Republican vote, not one. So our tax policy helps lower-income families, particularly those with children, and if we can do it—I think we can—we can engineer that tax cut to make it permanent to help families.

I just heard President Biden—he was in New Jersey speaking about infrastructure and Build Back Better, the reconciliation plan. He said that in the State of New Jersey, this child tax credit, which we enacted without a single Republican vote helping us, has reduced child poverty in that State by 36 percent. I will bet you it has done the same thing in my State if it has done it in New Jersey.

So we are getting practical results that help working families. If we have our way in reconciliation, we are going to give the largest tax cut in the history of this country to middle-income and working families, exactly the opposite of what the Senator from Kentucky just said: "Oh, it'll be the biggest tax increase in history."

Well, there will be a tax increase, I hope, for those who can afford to pay it, and that means the same people who got a benefit 4 years ago from the Trump Republican tax policy.

A lady named Lydia in my home State of Illinois described what this means to her. She wrote to my office, and she said: "With the child tax credit, I'll be able to buy my kids their school supplies, clothes, things they need to go back to school," and she added, "be able to buy some groceries."

Think about the last time that any Senator stopped and thought: I wonder if I will have enough money to buy groceries this week.

Here is a mom in Illinois, with kids, who says that our tax policy—the one that was just criticized by the Senate Republican leader—is helping her.

Well, if the Republicans were in charge, I am afraid they would take that money that Lydia, who wrote to me, is talking about buying groceries and put it right in Jeff Bezos' pocket.

Now, I have nothing against Mr. Bezos. He has done fabulously well. I have talked to him once, maybe twice, a long, long time ago. I am not opposed to people investing in business, being successful, and making money, but I don't believe that his income should be somehow walled off from the Tax Code. I believe he ought to pay his fair share. And if I remember correctly—and I will stand corrected if I am wrong—I don't believe he paid taxes last year.

So we are looking at that and saying: Mr. Bezos, congratulations. Amazon is a big deal. It is making a lot of money, and all of us—most of us—are participating in it, but you ought to pay some taxes. If you can build rockets and

take your friends up for a little shot into space, shouldn't you pay a few bucks in taxes?

I don't think it is unreasonable.

The same thing holds true for these corporations. When we look at the biggest corporations and most profitable in America, too darned many of them pay no Federal taxes.

What is going on here?

We live in a country where success leads to wealth, and wealth leads, I think, to some social responsibility, and that includes paying your taxes.

Under President Biden's Build Back Better agenda, we want to extend the child tax credit, give working families a little breathing room, and reduce child poverty in America. Now, if they want to come up and criticize us for reducing child poverty in America, so be it, but call it for what it is. We are putting our tax policy on the side of families with kids.

For our Republican colleagues who say families like Lydia's don't need any help, they do. And we cannot walk away from them.

Not a single Republican will vote for this reconciliation bill. We know it. They didn't vote for the rescue plan. That is just their choice. I'm sorry to say that we are not going to build back America better unless we change some policy and tax policy to help working families makes a difference.

I mentioned to you how the deficit skyrocketed during the Trump administration. Well, the Senator from Kentucky comes and repeats over and over again: Well, they are going to do it again; they are going to run up the deficit.

We have a plan to pay for the programs that we are talking about, and it means putting a new tax responsibility on people who are wealthy.

The President made it clear: I don't want taxes going up on anybody making less than \$400,000 a year.

So any tax policy we have will affect the wealthy and corporations that aren't paying their fair share. That is our approach. It is quite a bit different than the Republican approach.

Building back better is also going to do something about easing long-term inflationary pressure and making life affordable for families. The things we will invest in, in the Build Back Better agenda, are spread over a number of years, and they will pave the way for an enduring economic recovery. These policies will help parents get back to work by making safe, reliable childcare more accessible.

I don't know what the final negotiations will be on Build Back Better. We know the amount of money involved is going to be less than we originally thought. We are going to have to change some things, but I certainly hope that this idea of childcare—affordable, quality, safe childcare—is part of the final package.

It means so much to so many working families, particularly to moms who can't get back to work unless they

have peace of mind and have their kids in good hands while they are working.

Everyone, from single mothers to our Nation's economists, can tell you the best way to stabilize the American economy is by supporting working families.

In fact, the report by Moody's concluded that the Republican fearmongering about inflation—and we hear it every day on the floor—Moody's called it “overdone.” Moody's is hardly a Democratic publication. But the fear of inflation is one of the reasons Republicans give for not wanting to even talk about changing tax policy in America.

This pandemic has shown us the cracks in our economy. This Build Back Better package will get us to the point where we can start to rebuild it in the right way—give families financial relief, invest in our Nation's economic potential.

The President said in New Jersey—and I couldn't agree with him more—we have never gone wrong in America investing in the people in this country. We have a lot of hard-working people. They do it every single day for their families. Those who come to this country keep up the tradition.

But they need the tools to succeed. One of those tools is education. I hope we can find a way to expand opportunities in education for training for our workers into the 21st century.

Talk about giving the store to the Chinese, if we don't invest in our workers and their training and education in the next generation to make sure that it is smarter than the last, then, we are going to lose ground to the Chinese.

I wanted to say one last word here. I see the Senator from Ohio is here so I am going to be quick about this.

It is easy to overlook—take a look at this chart. It is easy to overlook computer chips, small pieces of silicon. They power so many products and appliances, that we use every day, that we don't pay much attention. They are in our computers, smartphones, life-saving medical equipment, appliances, microwaves, and our cars—dozens even in the cars that we drive.

There is a global shortage of microchips. That is one of the reasons why it has slowed down production of new vehicles and why the market for used vehicles is tighter than usual, because of these little chips. And we have become too reliant on foreign countries to produce them.

In a bill that we considered a few months ago, we put direct investment in America in building microchips. I think that is money well spent. I hope it works. I think it can. If we can provide these microchips, we don't have to wait for some company in Taiwan or China to send us this critical element that is needed to build all of these products.

The global shortage of computer chips and the higher cost to consumers is one example of how we failed to invest in our Nation's resilience. I have

to say that education and investment in American production and workers is the best way to get this economy moving again. We need to have a reserve supply of these chips so that we can build the autos and provide for the assembly lines and stabilize prices for everything from toasters to tractors.

It is an important undertaking, and I hope my colleagues will realize that Build Back Better, the reconciliation bill, is dedicated to the same premise.

NOMINATION OF MYRNA PEREZ

Madam President, let me close with reference to a vote that we face today.

We have another qualified nominee, Myrna Perez, for the Second Circuit Court of Appeals. She is really competent and experienced. She has been handling complex civil litigation and will be ready to serve on the Second Circuit on day one.

She has earned degrees from Yale University, Harvard University, and Columbia Law School. After graduating, she clerked for the U.S. District Court for the District of Pennsylvania and the Third Circuit Court of Appeals. She has dedicated her career to defending Americans' right to vote through her work at the Brennan Center for Justice, where she serves as the director of the Voting Rights and Election section. In this capacity, she has led their efforts to defend the Voting Rights Act and to protect, as John Lewis said, this “precious, almost sacred right.”

Far too few nominees to the Federal bench have significant experience in handling civil rights and voting rights matters. In Ms. Perez, the Senate has the opportunity to confirm a competent judge who will bring this experience to the bench. Importantly, she understands the difference between being an advocate and a judge. I have every confidence she will serve with diligence, fairness, and impartiality.

And she will also bring demographic diversity to the Second Circuit. She will be the first Latina to serve on that court since former Judge Sonia Sotomayor—now Justice Sotomayor.

Ms. Perez's nomination has received broad support—across the spectrum—from national civil rights groups, leaders in law enforcement, academics, faith leaders, as well as Senators from her own State, Senators Schumer and Gillibrand.

One group of police chiefs and sheriffs and prosecutors sent a letter extolling her virtues. I ask unanimous consent to have it printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

JULY 9, 2021.

Re Law Enforcement Support for Nomination of Myrna Pérez to the U.S. Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit.

Hon. CHARLES SCHUMER,
Majority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RICHARD DURBIN,
Chairman, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

Hon. MITCH MCCONNELL,
Minority Leader, U.S. Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. CHARLES GRASSLEY,
Ranking Member, Committee on the Judiciary,
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MAJORITY LEADER SCHUMER, MINORITY LEADER MCCONNELL, CHAIRMAN DURBIN, and RANKING MEMBER GRASSLEY: As members of law enforcement, across the political spectrum, we write to express our support for the confirmation of Myrna Pérez to serve on the United States Court of Appeals for the Second Circuit. The undersigned include current and former police chiefs, sheriffs, and federal, state, and local chief prosecutors from jurisdictions throughout the United States.

Ms. Pérez' distinguished legal career includes leading the Brennan Center for Justice's Voting Rights and Election Program, serving as the Civil Rights Fellow at Relman, Dane & Colfax, and clerking for the Honorable Anita B. Brody of the United States District Court for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania and Honorable Julio M. Fuentes of the United States Court of Appeals for the Third Circuit. For nearly two decades, Ms. Pérez' primary concern has been honoring the Constitution to ensure that our nation's democracy is inclusive, voting rights are protected, and elections are administered fairly.

As leaders in law enforcement, we are deeply concerned with the rule of law and view public safety as intrinsically linked with the public's confidence and trust in our nation's democracy. Ms. Pérez has spent her entire career as a civil rights attorney and public servant, frequently working alongside the law enforcement community in efforts to restore federal and state voting rights for ex-offenders disenfranchised by a felony conviction. We are confident that Ms. Pérez will bring diversity of thought and experience to the federal bench and that her conviction for what is fair and just will strengthen the integrity of our nation's judiciary.

We respectfully urge the Senate Committee on the Judiciary to swiftly advance Ms. Pérez's nomination and for the Senate to confirm this exceptional nominee without delay.

Sincerely,

Jim Bueermann, Former President, National Police Foundation, Former Police Chief, Redlands, California;

Zachary W. Carter, Former Corporations Counsel, New York, New York, Former U.S. Attorney, Eastern District of New York;

Steve Conrad, Former Police Chief, Louisville, Kentucky;

Barry Grissom, Former U.S. Attorney, Kansas;

Ronald Hampton, Former Executive Director, National Black Police Association;

Peter Holmes, City Attorney, Seattle, Washington;

John Hummel, District Attorney, Deschutes County, Oregon;

James E. Johnson, Former Corporation Counsel, New York, New York, Former Undersecretary for Enforcement, U.S. Department of the Treasury;

Joel Merry, Sheriff, Sagadahoc County, Maine, Former President, Maine Sheriffs Association;

Melba Pearson, Former President, National Black Prosecutors Association, Former Assistant State Attorney, Miami-Dade County, Florida;

Richard Pocker, Former U.S. Attorney, Nevada;

Donald Raley, Former Police Chief, Artesia, New Mexico;

Kathleen O'Toole, Former Police Chief, Seattle, Washington, Former Police Commissioner, Boston, Massachusetts, Former Public Safety Secretary, Massachusetts.

Mr. DURBIN. Several faith leaders also submitted letters, including Rev. Allison DeFoor, who wrote that Ms. Perez is "an individual of the highest integrity. She is thoughtful and sound in her judgment and committed to principles of justice that transcend politics. She embodies the true meaning of public service and would be an exceptional federal judge."

Ms. Perez's nomination received bipartisan support in the Judiciary Committee.

In short, she is a seasoned litigator, ready to take on an important job. I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting her.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Ohio.

INFRASTRUCTURE BILL AND GOVERNMENT SPENDING

Mr. PORTMAN. Madam President, I am here on the floor again this evening to talk about the legislation that is before us.

One is the bipartisan infrastructure legislation that passed this Chamber with 69 votes. It is great for America. It addresses real problems we have in upgrading our infrastructure, but it also deals with competitiveness.

My colleague from Illinois just made a good point that we are in a global competition with other countries, including China. One reason we are not doing as well as we should is that the other countries are putting a lot more of their money into infrastructure—because it is good for their economies—and we are not.

As an example, China spends a lot more, as a percent of their GDP, on infrastructure than we do—much more. So bridges and roads and railways and ports—ports are a big problem right now—all of these would be improved and would make our economy, therefore, more efficient. As the economists say, that makes us more productive as a country and allows us to be able to compete globally.

Right now, with these supply chain issues, whether it is freight on the rail system or whether it is our highway system, or whether it is our port system or our waterway system, all of which need help, it would be easier for us to deal with this transition we are going through if we had better infrastructure.

This infrastructure bill, unfortunately, has gotten intertwined with another bill over in the House of Representatives. So, although it passed here on its own merits—standing alone as an infrastructure bill with no new

tax increases, no tax increases—when it got to the House of Representatives, the Speaker of the House wanted to combine it with another bill, which is what has been called around here the reconciliation bill, which refers to a process here in the U.S. Senate—a rare process—where, instead of having the normal 60 votes—a supermajority for legislation—under reconciliation, a couple of times a year, you can have something that only needs to get 50 votes, assuming that you have the Presidency in your party because then the Vice President, as the President of the Senate, can come and break the tie to get to 51. So that is the reconciliation process that the Democrats want to use for this other bill.

What is the other bill?

It is a huge tax-and-spend bill.

Just as I believe infrastructure would be good for our country, it is actually counterinflationary based on the economists.

Why?

Because you are doing long-term investments in capital assets. That is good for pushing back against inflation. More spending on social programs, which is what is in the reconciliation bill, would add to inflation at a time when we already have a huge problem there.

Also, the huge amount of spending would be unprecedented. We will talk about that in a minute, depending on how much spending is in there.

So that is one bill, and the infrastructure bill is separate.

I, again, call on my colleagues in the House of Representatives—the leadership over there—to let the infrastructure bill go, allow it to be voted on on its merits. Don't tie it as a political hostage to this reconciliation bill, the tax-and-spend bill, that the Democrats have had a really hard time passing through the system. Infrastructure needs to stand on its own. The American people deserve that. It has been almost 3 months—almost 3 months—since the Senate passed it, and people are waiting, and they deserve the help.

By the way, it helps in a broad range, not just on the roads and bridges and the rail and the ports and the waterways I talked about; it helps with resilience to push back against an actual disaster—something all of our States are experiencing.

It is something that helps with regard to our energy policy—it makes us more competitive—and, yes, it encourages us to use the resources we have but to do so through carbon capture. And it encourages us to move to more electric vehicles; it encourages us to be more competitive on that front as well.

Infrastructure means, also, digital infrastructure. It actually, for the first time ever, provides a huge boost to having high-speed broadband spread all around the country, particularly in our rural areas, like in Ohio, where we have some areas—about a third of our State—that do not have access to it. People can't do the appropriate telehealth that they want to do. They certainly can't do the telelearning they

want to do. It is difficult to even go to school these days and do your homework if you don't have access to the internet. Of course, it helps us back in Ohio, if we have the internet, to be able to start businesses in these rural areas of Ohio.

So this is all in the infrastructure bill. That is why, again, it got 69 votes here in the U.S. Senate. That is not usual around here. It is truly bipartisan. President Biden says he will sign it. Let's pass it. If we pass it in the House, it will be signed into law, and it will begin to help our country at a time when we need the help.

We also could use a little bipartisan spirit around here, don't you think?

This is one we can agree on.

Why should it be held political hostage to something that is strictly partisan and controversial and, in my view—in my view—would be dangerous to our economy right now?

Now, why do I say that?

Well, this new spending that would be in the bill would be the highest level of spending that we have ever seen in the U.S. Congress. Remember, originally it was \$3.5 trillion because originally it was \$6 trillion, and then \$3.5 trillion. Now there is discussion—I just read a report this afternoon in one of the media sources—saying it may be as low as \$2 trillion—\$2 trillion. That is two thousand billion dollars in additional spending at a time of record deficits and debt.

Now, people say: Well, that is a lot less than 3.5.

Yes, but it would still be the largest bill ever passed by the U.S. Congress—ever. The \$1.9 trillion that was passed in March—not that long ago—which was supposed to be for COVID but most of which is not going for COVID purposes, was the largest ever. This would be \$2 trillion—a little larger than that—adding up together to almost \$4 trillion of new spending.

Again, when the \$1.9 trillion was passed, a lot of people said, including me: This is a risk to our economy right now. We are coming out of the pandemic with a growing economy. Why overheat the economy right now?

But we did, and it caused much of the inflation we are now experiencing.

The Secretary of the Treasury under the Obama administration and an economist in the Clinton administration, Larry Summers, a Democrat, said the same thing, and he continues to say it today because he believes that all of this new spending is going to add to more overheating of the economy and more inflation.

We don't need that right now. We have inflation that is not transitory. It, unfortunately, looks like it is very much permanent in terms of this year and next year, at least.

That is a huge problem because it is the lower-income and middle-income workers who are hurt the worst. It is a tax—a hidden tax. So, for the people who are seeing wage gains this year, those are being eaten up, for the most

part, by inflation. The annual inflation right now, based on the last month, is 5.4 percent. So, unless your wage rate is above that, you are in trouble.

Plus, everything is just more expensive. So gasoline, if you go to the pump, is 42 percent higher this year as compared to last year—42 percent. Natural gas is expected to be in about that range, about 40 percent higher.

I did some research recently about pumpkins—you know, we are going into the holiday season this year—for Halloween.

What does a pumpkin cost?

Well, guess what. It costs, on average, 14.7 percent more this year as compared to last year. Groceries, clothes, your utility bills—everything is going up. So it is not the time to pump a lot more stimulus spending into the economy, which, again, people say is going to lead to higher inflation on everything.

Remember, before the pandemic started, back in February of 2020, we had a strong economy. We had the 19th straight month then of wage gains of over 3 percent every month for 19 months. Exactly what we wanted—right?—were wages going up. We had the lowest poverty rate in the history of our country since we started keeping track of it back in the 1950s. We had the lowest unemployment rate ever for certain groups in our economy—Hispanics, Blacks. We had the lowest unemployment ever, overall, for the last 50 years. So things were going pretty well.

Yet, now, when we look at what is happening, we are not seeing these wage increases. In fact, on average, when you take inflation into account, they say that during the Biden years, during the Biden administration over the last several months, wages have gone down an average of 1.9 percent largely because, again, of this inflation.

The legislation also includes big tax increases so it is not just about more spending; it is also about tax increases to pay for the spending. In recent days, it has come out that some of these tax hikes might not be supported by all Democrats, so they might not be able to include them all. I suppose, you know, that would be better for the economy, but as the economy is coming out of the pandemic and growing, the last thing we want to do is to raise taxes. Again, back in 2017, when tax reform occurred, it had a lot of good impacts, including, again, higher wages; we talked about the poverty rate; we talked about unemployment being low.

Another thing that it did on the global competitiveness side, on the international side, is that it actually changed the way our economy worked. Prior to that, you had a number of companies that literally were voting with their feet and leaving the United States of America because of the Tax Code. It drove all of us crazy—Democrats and Republicans alike—that you had companies that were inverting, as

they say, and these inversions meant a company that was a U.S. company one day became a foreign company the next day.

This happened in Ohio. We had companies leaving Ohio to become Irish companies, as an example, because they had a lower tax rate, and we had the highest corporate tax rate of any of the developed countries, of the countries in the OECD.

That is a terrible thing. Of course, we wanted to stop that, so we put the reforms in place to say: We are going to lower our rates so our rate is competitive, and we are going to change the way we tax internationally.

And guess what. All of the inversions stopped—all of them.

And now, unbelievably, the administration and the Democratic leadership want to raise those taxes again—once again, to make us uncompetitive globally. And, again, you will see some companies say, when they look at the analysis from, you know, their tax experts: Why are we an American company?

You would hope no company would ever do that, but they were doing it before 2017. During the Obama administration, at the beginning of the Trump administration, they were leaving. So we don't want that to happen again.

In fact, we want our workers and our businesses to be competitive. I say "workers" because, when you raise the business taxes, guess who takes the hit. Ask the CBO, the Congressional Budget Office, here. What CBO will tell you, which is a nonpartisan group here in the U.S. Congress, is that their analysis is that about 70 percent of the increase in corporate taxes is borne by workers; about 70 percent of the cut in taxes helps workers—higher wages, higher benefits. The Tax Foundation has the same analysis. The Joint Committee on Taxation, when they look at this legislation before us, the 3.5 trillion that was reported—that was introduced—they said it will raise taxes on middle-income workers, well below 400,000. A lot of that was because of this issue—because, again, the nonpartisan Joint Committee on Taxation up here in Congress looked at it and said: Well, who is going to bear the brunt of this? It is going to be workers. So workers' wages are going to go down if you raise taxes on these individual companies that are global companies.

So that is what we are facing. Now, again, it looks like there are going to be some changes in the legislation. I mentioned that the amount may go down some. I mentioned \$2 trillion, still the largest spending bill ever.

I, also, on the tax front, am told that some of the tax hikes may be taken out; some of them may be kept in. One that they are talking about keeping in—that the administration, in particular, seems adamant about keeping in—I just don't get because it, again, makes our companies less competitive globally.

It is a complicated provision in the international tax code. It is called the global intangible low-taxed income, also known as GILTI. What does GILTI say?

Well, when we changed our Tax Code back in 2017, we put in place, in effect, a minimum tax for our companies that do business overseas.

Our competitive countries—countries like ours, developed countries—for the most part, almost all of them do not tax their companies for their foreign income. So if a company—I mentioned Ireland earlier—from Ireland or Germany, whatever, does business over here, their government doesn't tax them on the income they get from the United States. It lets the United States handle that.

And we changed our Tax Code to say, well, we are not going to do that either, but we are going to add a minimum tax no matter what, and that was called the GILTI tax. It was put in place in 2017 as part of, again, a broad and successful group of tax reforms that took bold steps to reassert our competitiveness, and it worked.

They took our rate from 35 percent down to 21 percent, putting it at about the middle of the developed countries. Now it is actually above the middle because other countries have gone below us again.

We went to what is called a territorial-type system. So it all worked.

About over 1.5 trillion was reinvested in America, by the way, from overseas. So it worked in that sense too. We stopped the corporate inversions.

But this GILTI, or the minimum tax on foreign income, was put in place as a way to make sure that foreign income wouldn't be shifted to low-tax jurisdictions.

Right now, this GILTI rate stands at 13.125 percent. So it is 13 percent, roughly, for American companies. Again, most of our competitors don't have it at all, but it is 13 percent.

Treasury Secretary Yellen has now worked with countries around the world to say everybody ought to have a global minimum tax, and she has made progress on that. So some of these countries that have not had a minimum tax are now looking at one and to put one in place. The one that she wants for everybody is 15 percent.

So here we are, globally telling these other countries in the world: You have to have a global minimum tax of 15 percent. OK. So wouldn't you think, then, you would want America not to have a tax above that amount?

No, they want to change the GILTI amount from 13.125 percent to an effective rate of 17.4 percent. They started off at 21 percent in the original introduced bill. But even 17.4 percent—why would you want to put American companies above, again, this global average of 15 percent? If you are going to require companies to go to 15, why would you want the United States to be above that? But that is what is being proposed—believe it or not.

And, by the way, they are saying that we would go ahead and go to 17.4 percent before any other countries in the world would have to do it—2 years before they would have to do it. Whether they do it or not is a question.

Let's be honest. Some countries don't want to do it, and they may not do it. Their legislatures may not let them do it.

But let's assume that they do follow suit. We would be out there 2 years earlier with a higher tax rate on our workers. Remember who bears the brunt of this tax increase. Our companies would be noncompetitive. Our workers would be noncompetitive.

So I would hope that, as my colleagues are looking at this—I know it seems easy: Let's just tax the international companies—that they would look at what happened in 2017, the positive impacts of that and the negative if we reverse course and go back and raise our taxes above what other countries charge.

By the way, to do this would mean nullifying tax treaties that we have with other countries all around the world because it is a different way of approaching it. We do not have a minimum tax in place now. So the tax treaties would have to be amended. That means, obviously, to me, that you would have to have a tax treaty change here in America. In other words, you can't change tax treaties just on one side. It is bilateral. So we would have to change our tax treaties here.

Treaties have to go through the U.S. Senate. As you probably know, they have to go through the U.S. Senate, and it is a two-thirds vote to change a treaty. There is a reason for that. It is part of our checks and balances to be sure that treaties, which are a very serious undertaking, are something that you get a strong bipartisan support for.

And yet my understanding is that the Secretary of the Treasury and others in the administration are saying that they are not sure that we have to get this GILTI change or these treaty changes that we have with other countries through the U.S. Senate. We just might do it through some other way, administratively or through an Executive legislative action.

I sure hope they don't do that. That would set a terrible precedent. It would mean that this whole constitutionally based rule we have with regard to treaties would be very difficult to uphold in the future for anything.

Let me be clear. This is bad for workers as well as bad for companies. The National Association of Manufacturers just did a recent study, and they found that hiking the GILTI rate in a way we just talked about could cost up to 1 million U.S. jobs.

Again, CBO here in the Capitol, the Tax Foundation, the Joint Committee on Taxation—all of them believe this would saddle our workers with lower wages and lost jobs by making our businesses less competitive globally.

I am also concerned that the administration is talking about imposing a

burdensome new information reporting requirement that would require far more information from taxpayers than is needed to enforce our tax laws. That represents an unprecedented invasion of taxpayer privacy.

You have probably heard about this because it is getting more and more attention—the so-called \$600 limit. Now, this would mean that the IRS would receive a report from you every year for any expenditure. Think about an expense or a payment going in or out of your checking account of \$600 or more.

Recently, again, based on a report I saw today, the administration and Democratic leadership here on Capitol Hill are talking about changing that \$600 to \$10,000. So it would be a higher threshold. Now, that higher threshold is something that most Americans would reach pretty quickly.

Think about it. Ten thousand dollars a year in total expenditures. Eight hundred thirty dollars per month is what that is.

So think about that: Do you spend 830 bucks a month on groceries, gas, clothes, essentials? If you do, then be prepared for the IRS to be able to look through your tax records in ways they never have before.

Don't get me wrong. I believe enforcing our tax laws is important, and I am actually one of the Republicans—that there may not be many of us—who believes that the IRS should have more resources for things like improving their computer system because it is so antiquated.

I spent 2 years of my life studying this. Several years ago I came up with some reforms out of a commission. We improved it. It needs to be improved again.

The computer systems they have, both the software and the hardware, and, frankly, their ability to use them, is way outdated, and it is not good for taxpayers. It is bad for small business, and it is bad for individuals because the right hand often doesn't know what the left hand is doing. So I am for that. I am for better taxpayer service and providing more funding for that.

But I am not for providing tons more data to the IRS that has nothing to do with income that is unprecedented that their systems cannot handle. There is no way that they would be able to handle these millions and millions of new data that they would be getting from all of us—hundreds of millions of accounts from financial institutions; e-payment apps, like Venmo; and cryptocurrency exchanges, like Coinbase, are going to be subjected to more paperwork and confusion if this happens.

If you have one of the 403 million active PayPal accounts, watch out. Your personal account information may be sent to the IRS. And, boy, that is going to result in some confusion at some point.

Again, if you are one of the vast majority of Americans who spend more than 830 bucks a month on anything,

then you are going to have to report that.

So there are some people who are pretty smart about this, who have looked at it and said: This doesn't make sense.

One of them is Steven Rosenthal. He is at the left-leaning Tax Policy Center. He stated that this would "bury the agency in a sea of unproductive information."

That is how I feel about it. Again, I would like to have the IRS be better in terms of what they could do with technology and be able to handle their job better to be able to ensure that every taxpayer gets a fair shake, because sometimes, right now, again, the left hand doesn't know what the right hand is doing because their computer system is so antiquated—software, hardware, everything. But as he said, they can't handle the data they have.

Mark Everson, who is a former IRS Commissioner, wrote a really interesting op-ed that I read yesterday. He wrote that this proposal would "prove all but impossible for the IRS to handle and engulf the service in a damaging political firestorm." That is from Mark Everson.

By the way, Mark Everson wants to give the IRS more money to improve their computer systems. He thinks there is not enough enforcement with regard to partnerships right now, as an example, or he thinks taxpayer service should be improved. So he is not someone who says we should starve the IRS, but he is saying: Don't do this. Don't do this, add this new information reporting that is not information about income and that the IRS is not going to be able to handle, and it is an intrusion into our lives that is unnecessary.

That is in the legislation.

So, again, I have come down to the floor here every week since the original introduction of this tax-and-spend legislation we have talked about today. This is the sixth straight week that I have come to the floor. When we are in session, every week, I am going to come—continue to come—as long as this bill is out there, because I want the American people and my colleagues to know what is in this legislation and why it would be so damaging to our country right now.

And, again, I distinguish the infrastructure bill—good for the economy, the right thing to do to counter inflation; something every President in modern times has tried to do, by the way, for good reason. Let it stand on its own. It should be voted on, on its own merits. Don't entangle it with this tax-and-spend legislation that is reckless, at a time of rising inflation and higher debts and deficits, at a time when our economy is finally getting on its feet. Let's not add job-killing tax hikes. Let's not add this massive new spending.

It is in our national interest to move forward with regard to the infrastructure bill, and it is in our national interest to stop the reckless tax-and-spend legislation.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The Senator from Alabama.

NATIONAL DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION ACT

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, after being in Washington, DC, for 10 months, I have seen this town jump from one issue to another. Sadly, many of the issues we face are self-inflicted—illegal immigrants on the southern border, Americans who remain trapped in Afghanistan, and rampant inflation, just to name three.

But we face a more serious threat in this Nation, an issue larger than left or right, a threat that goes beyond conservative and liberal—China.

China seeks to shackle the United States economically, technologically, and militarily. The Communist leaders of China are employing every instrument of national power to diminish our standing and influence in the world. Last month, President Biden told world leaders during his maiden U.N. General Assembly speech that the United States "is not seeking a cold war." Well, the United States may not be seeking out a new Cold War, but China is, so we shouldn't give them the shovel to bury us.

When asked this week if China's hypersonic missile testing over the summer was a surprise to U.S. officials, White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki joked that the Biden administration "welcomes stiff competition." Businesses that are struggling under unfair competition from China didn't laugh at the Press Secretary's joke.

Intelligence analysts who watch week after week as China hacks its way to technological superiority know the competition is cheating.

Military leaders who stand the watch for us worry that the United States public may be asleep at the wheel to this enormous threat.

In 2001, then-Senator Biden said:

The United States welcomes the emergence of a prosperous integrated China on the global stage because we expect this is going to be a China that plays by the rules.

President Biden, China is not playing by the rules.

The Director of National Intelligence, Avril Haines, said the following in her Annual Threat Assessment:

The Chinese Communist Party . . . will continue . . . to . . . undercut . . . the United States, drive wedges between Washington and its allies and partners, and foster . . . international norms that favor the authoritarian Chinese system.

The four-star admiral in charge of our nuclear oversight, ADM Charles Richard, warned the country that China's growth and strategic nuclear capability was "breathtaking."

To those paying attention, we know that China seeks to play a very dangerous game—a game they intend to win and a game they will win unless we stand united as a nation and work together to face this growing threat.

So let's take a look at the most recent breathtaking development. China

recently conducted their ninth hypersonic missile test since 2014—their ninth.

By the way, 2014 was when then-President Obama was forced to start investing in missile defense after he ended or slowed funding for several programs early in his first term.

What was important about China's most recent test, however, is that it showed off China's advanced space capabilities. Hypersonic missiles are weapons that fly at more than five times the speed of sound, 3,800 miles per hour. They don't follow a fixed trajectory; their path is flexible and maneuverable. This is what makes them so hard to defend against.

A recent congressional report on hypersonic weapons revealed that the United States will not have a defensive capability against hypersonic weapons until the mid-2020s at the earliest.

Unlike our government, which, by the way, is wasting money on civilian climate corps and bailing out poorly run liberal blue States, China spends its resources on deadliness—a new and larger navy, a modernized nuclear arsenal, advanced space assets, and artificial intelligence. Yes, China is moving ahead and investing in killing machines.

Developing hypersonics is costly. The Pentagon noted as much recently, which is ironic given how little this administration has showed it cares about throwing trillions of dollars around on other programs not related to national security. China continues to outspend us on national security. In just the last 10 years, China's defense spending has increased by \$200 billion, while we, the United States of America, have decreased by \$400 billion.

That brings me to a very important point. Senator SCHUMER needs to bring up the National Defense Authorization Act for a vote here on the Senate floor. Every year since 1960, we have passed the National Defense Authorization Act, better known as the NDAA. The NDAA is one of few bills that the House and Senate, Democrats and Republicans, work together on. That is because our military deserves it, and our national security depends on it.

One of the most important items we agreed on this year in the NDAA was that our military needs more support.

Earlier this year, President Biden sent Congress a laughable military budget. In a stunning referendum on the President's disappointing and dangerous military budget, Democrats and Republicans on the Armed Services Committee came together to increase our military budget by \$25 billion.

You know, we cannot ask our military to do more with less. We cannot expect our military to defend new threats from our adversaries like China without the resources required to do the job. Republicans understand this. We have continuously fought to prioritize national security. Democrats on the Armed Services Committee also understand this. So I would like to ask

a simple question: What are we waiting for?

The best way to thank our men and women in uniform for their service is to pass this bill. The best way to ensure our armed services have resources they need to defend our country against China is to pass this bill, especially in light of the news we have seen recently about China's hypersonic missile testing.

Earlier this year, as the Senate Armed Services Committee crafted the NDAA, I fought to prioritize robust funding authorization for high-energy lasers and hypersonic missile development. This investment accelerates the country's timeline to a fully capable hypersonic missile while at the same time assisting our missile defense capabilities with tracking hypersonic, ballistic, and cruise missiles. This is an offensive and defensive approach.

China is actively trying to outpace us, and keeping pace is not enough. To do that, we need to have sustained, strategic investment in our military. That is what the NDAA provides and why we need a vote on the Senate floor. So what does it say about Leader SCHUMER's priorities that passing our military authorization is at the bottom of his list?

But investment in their military is not the only means by which China is seeking to get ahead. We have seen increased efforts by China to infiltrate our economy—we have seen this—to undermine our free market values, and to steal our international property.

In a recent survey, a greater number of Americans said that China is more powerful economically than the United States. This is a reversal from 2 years ago when most Americans said the United States had the economic upper hand.

When it comes to taking over the economic upper hand, China has no rules, and Chinese companies definitely do not play by ours. Our country has already seen Chinese companies, backed by the Chinese Communist Party, attempt to invest in and even take over companies. This grave national security threat will only grow if we allow China to invest in our critical industries.

Our government has a process to investigate offers made by foreign companies and governments that want to acquire or invest in America. This process is designed to protect our national security. It is handled by a government entity called the Committee on Foreign Investment in the United States, better known as CFIUS. But if there is a loophole, communist China will try to slip through it.

Our goal as Members of Congress should be to strengthen this vetting process. One way to do that is to add a permanent agricultural perspective to this committee, which is not on there as we speak. The COVID pandemic showed us just how important it is to have strong supply chains, especially when it comes to our food supply.

Every American is supported by a safe and secure food supply. It is critical to our country's prosperity.

Not everyone thinks about food security in relation to national security, but they are linked. Global corporations have already become more involved with our domestic food supply and agricultural businesses. Recent data shows that 192,000 acres of farmland or forest in the United States of America are linked to Chinese ownership, including land used for farming, ranching, and forestry—192,000 acres here within our borders. That is why we need more transparency.

Our food supply must remain secure from foreign governments like China that have no business being in the American economy and actively trying to harm our country. That is why I introduced a bill called the Foreign Adversary Risk Management, or FARM, Act, to put more protections in place for America's agriculture industry. My bill will ensure that our agriculture industry has a permanent seat at the table of CFIUS, which reviews agriculture-related investments. As we speak, we do not have representation from the agriculture community. By adding agriculture supply chains as a covered transaction that CFIUS has to review, we can make sure food supply chains remain strong and free of damaging foreign government interference.

Like China's communist leaders, leftists in this country believe that when it comes to the economy, bureaucrats know best. They think raising the corporate rate to be higher than communist China's will strengthen our economy. Nonsense. That is like standing in a bucket and trying to lift yourself by the handle. The far-left cheers for mandates, hyperregulation, and massive taxes. They sneer at your freedoms and are triggered by the American flag and our constitutional rights. Their way is not the way to combat China; it is the way to become China.

We all know China wants to overtake the United States as a superpower. But what makes the United States a superpower is not just our economic and military might; we are a superpower for what our military is fighting to defend and to protect: our freedoms and our values and the American spirit of innovation and ingenuity, of hard work and grit. These values pose a direct threat to communist China. They are why China wants to surpass our country as the world's No. 1 superpower.

We need leadership that protects our national security and our economic security. It is the only way to combat the aggression that the Biden administration's weakness has invited.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. CORNYN. Madam President, in the coming days, thousands of politicians from 200 different companies will convene in Glasgow, Scotland, for the U.N. climate summit. They will step

off their private planes and into meetings about the need to reduce global emissions, and I am not sure many of them will see the irony of their actions. These leaders will try to paint fossil fuels as the world's greatest enemy. They will make lofty and, yes, unrealistic commitments to eventually transition to clean energy sources. At the same time, they will completely ignore the realities of the current energy landscape.

Around the world, energy shortages are having a costly impact on working families. Here at home, Americans are experiencing sticker shock at the gas pump. Gas prices, after all, have gone up by more than 55 percent from just 1 year ago. If you are driving a pickup truck, you will spend almost \$32 more to fill up your tank today than you did last October.

In States like California, the problems are even worse. Last week, the price of a gallon of regular gas in one town hit \$7.59 a gallon, and premium was nearly \$8.50 a gallon. It is hard to imagine how somebody operating on a fixed income or working a minimum-wage job would cover those sorts of expenses, especially since it is lower income Americans who typically have to travel farther because of the high cost of living and housing in our major urban areas. So low gas prices are the only thing that will allow them to get by.

But gas prices are not the only growing energy expense in family budgets. As we head into winter, heating bills are expected to soar. Households could pay up to 54 percent more than they did last winter. It will cost more to heat your home, more for your family to visit for the holidays, more to put holiday meals on the table, and more to buy gifts for under the Christmas tree. This holiday season is shaping up to be a pricey one.

Costs at home are growing by the day, and our friends across the Atlantic aren't faring any better. Europe, in fact, is in the midst of an unprecedented energy crisis. A supply shortage has caused prices to skyrocket. For example, since the start of the year, natural gas prices are up almost 600 percent. The situation is so dire that utility companies have switched from natural gas, which is the cleanest burning fossil fuel, to coal and fuel oil.

This global energy crisis serves as the backdrop for this summit in Glasgow, where the world leaders will discuss plans to further reduce the use of fossil fuels. They are not saying what they would do as an alternative; they just want to kill the goose that laid the golden egg when it comes to low cost, cleaner burning energy like natural gas. Now, making promises to curb emissions sounds pretty good if you could, in fact, do it. It sounds good until you realize this is what you get: unreliable and unaffordable energy.

In Europe's case, there is also a very dangerous power dynamic at play. The supply of energy to the continent could

be increased, but the guy controlling the spigot—his name is Vladimir Putin. One of Russia's top priorities is Nord Stream 2, a pipeline to carry more gas directly from Russia to Europe. This project, of course, has been years in the making and has faced considerable opposition around the world, especially among our colleagues on this side of the aisle.

President Biden has already handed Moscow a massive victory by stepping aside and refusing to impose sanctions on the company building Nord Stream 2. Now Putin is withholding desperately needed gas from Europe until the pipeline is approved. Yes, he is using energy as a weapon against those who are totally dependent on Russia for that energy.

This is a problem with the global efforts to quickly move—too quickly—before we are ready, away from fossil fuels. Phrases like “energy transition” appeal to some activists but fail to deliver results in the real world in real time. Renewables are great, but they don't come close to generating enough reliable energy to power our world because the wind doesn't always blow, and the Sun doesn't always shine.

We can't just sit in the dark until Mother Nature lets us turn the lights back on. We need a base supply of reliable energy, and as much as some of our colleagues hate to admit it, natural gas is our best current option. If the United States and our allies scale back production to pursue arbitrary emission benchmarks, they will leave the world turning to countries like Russia, Iran, and Venezuela for their energy. Today, we are experiencing how costly that reliance is, and in years past, we acknowledged how downright dangerous it is. In January 2009, Russia effectively turned the gas off to Ukraine for almost 3 weeks, and at least 10 countries in Europe were affected.

By transitioning solely to renewables before the output matches the demand, we are placing ourselves in a very, very vulnerable position, and the same is true for our allies. President Putin has demonstrated as much.

Unfortunately, I don't expect those kinds of real-world concerns to dominate the conversations at this summit in Glasgow, and President Biden certainly won't be advocating for America's energy independence—to the contrary. We were only a few hours into the Biden administration when they launched the first attack on American-produced energy. Within hours of taking the oath of office, President Biden canceled the permit for the Keystone XL Pipeline. For some strange reason, he is OK with Nord Stream 2 from Russia to Europe, but he is not OK with the Keystone XL Pipeline here in America. I don't get it.

There is no question that the biggest losers from this decision were the energy workers whose jobs evaporated and the communities that stood to benefit from the tax revenue. The biggest

winners, unfortunately, from President Biden's decision include countries like Russia and Saudi Arabia, who now hold too much power on the global energy market. We will see how that is playing out.

That same day, the Biden administration halted all new leasing permits on Federal lands and waters. Rather than responsibly harvest our greatest natural resources and share those resources with the rest of the world, the administration sent more business to our adversaries and to OPEC producers.

President Biden piled on with another attack on our energy producers by rejoining the Paris climate accord—an agreement that no one seems to follow. Yes, they will pay lip service to it, but they actually don't do anything about it. A report published last week found that countries around the world aren't sticking to the lofty commitments that they made. The world's major economies are not on track to meet the climate goals set in the Paris accord. In fact, according to this report, by 2030, these countries are expected to produce more than double the amount of fossil fuels required to meet the goals of the Paris climate accord.

Then there is the fact that China, which plays by nobody's rules except their own, which also happens to be the world's leading polluter, is completely AWOL from any of these efforts. Not only is China ignoring global efforts to curb emissions, the country is in the process of building hundreds of new coal-powered powerplants. Last year, China built three times as many new coal powerplants as any other country in the world combined—three times all the other countries in the world combined.

Rather than pull out of the agreement that is weakening our global energy security, President Biden is making even bigger promises—promises that he cannot keep. He nearly doubled the emissions reduction goals set by President Obama in 2015. President Obama pledged to reduce emissions by 26 to 28 percent by 2025, and we are nowhere close to meeting that goal. But President Biden has doubled down and vowed to cut emissions by 50 to 52 percent by 2030—a complete fantasy. He hasn't explained how he would accomplish meeting that goal, nor, if he tried, would he be able to explain it because it is simply infeasible.

To be clear, I am a strong supporter of efforts to reduce emissions. There are more ways than one to skin the cat. Texas has been a leader, in fact, in efforts to develop cleaner and more diverse sources of energy. We are truly an “all of the above” State. We produce more electricity from wind turbines than any other State in the Nation. New solar farms are being built all across our State, and private companies are making incredible investments in carbon capture and other emission-reducing technologies. I am proud of this work and a staunch supporter of efforts to preserve our great-

est natural resources for future generations. But what we are seeing from the administration isn't a thoughtful effort to reduce emissions; it is virtue signaling.

When the President addressed a joint session of Congress earlier this year, he spoke about the challenges to reduce carbon emissions. He said: If we do it perfectly, it is not going to matter. How he expects to do it perfectly, he did not say, nor could he. But if that is what he is thinking, why drive up energy costs to the point that Americans can't afford to turn the heat on in winter? Why would he give Putin the power to regulate Europe's only source of energy—natural gas? Why curb domestic energy production and let China run wild? These actions may earn votes in support from some corners, but they will inflict serious pain on the American people, as well as our allies around the world.

As an armada of Biden administration officials pack their bags for Glasgow, I want to remind them that there is far more at stake than just the President's credibility on this score. It is our future economy. It is our ability to provide good, well-paying jobs to hardworking American families, and it is our ability as Americans to export energy, which allows some of our friends and allies around the world not to depend solely on the tender mercies of Vladimir Putin.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

POLICE DEPARTMENTS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Madam President, it has been a while since congressional Democrats have used the words “defund the police.” That was a very popular phrase in 2021, but after the last election, Democrats learned how truly toxic those words were with ordinary Americans. Now they dare not say the words “defund the police,” but make no mistake about it, liberals are still trying to defund the police.

A recent nominee for a high-level post at the Department of Justice said that she wasn't in favor of defunding the police, but she talked about it—“overspending on criminal justice system infrastructure and policing.” That was just a fancier way of saying “cut police budgets.”

Fortunately, the voters are standing up to these people, and I want to give just two examples.

First, voters in Minneapolis will go to the polls November 2 and decide whether to replace the city's police department with a department called the Department of Public Safety. This supposed Department of Public Safety would take a “comprehensive public

health approach" in trying to keep the city safe. Under this idea, police officers could be employed if necessary. Well, the American voters have news for the people who got this initiative on the ballot in Minneapolis: Police officers are absolutely necessary in Minneapolis, and they are necessary in every other community as well.

Another example. In Austin, TX, voters will have a chance to restore funding for their police force—funding that the city council slashed a great deal last year.

The murder rate in Austin is higher than it has ever been. So far, 71 people have been killed in Austin, passing the previous record of 59 murders set all the way back in 1984. And with 71 murders, we still have 2 months left in this year, if you want to compare it to all the murders that took place in 1984, a previous high.

Some Austin voters have had enough of this sort of thinking, and they are trying to restore some common sense there in Austin. Under the Proposition A ballot initiative, the city would have to maintain at least 2 police officers for every 1,000 residents, which is more than they have at the present time.

But not everybody likes that, and liberal dark money groups have pumped a half million dollars into defeating this Proposition A because they want to keep defunded police still defunded.

Those same groups recently subsidized the campaigns of hard-left district attorneys all throughout the country. That includes the San Francisco district attorney, who has let drug and property crimes skyrocket. San Francisco is now getting hammered with out-of-control drug use, and shoplifting there happens to be a way of life.

That isn't CHUCK GRASSLEY saying that; that is anybody watching television who sees pictures of people just going into stores and just picking up whatever they want. In one city, if it is under \$950, you won't be prosecuted. So it is a license to shoplift.

I hope Austin, TX, voters will make sure that their city doesn't go the same way. I would like to think they would want to be safe from criminals and the drugs that criminals push.

Liberal politicians are no longer saying it out loud, "defund the police." But make no mistake about it, many of them still want to defund police.

If Minneapolis and Austin let their police forces wither away on the vine, voters all across the Nation and all across the political spectrum will send a very clear message to the hard left in the next election. So voters everywhere should stand up and say no to defunding the police.

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. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

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

SOCIAL MEDIA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, last week, a Tennessee director of schools named Russell sent me an email about a problem he is having with some of his students. The so-called devious lick TikTok trend caught on in his district, and it is more than just a viral gag. The idea behind this devious lick TikTok trend is to destroy school property and document it on TikTok so that all the world can see—the more violent, the better.

Here is how Russell described what is going on in his schools:

In Cleveland City Schools, we have seen fire extinguishers stolen, mirrors removed from walls, a toilet was removed from its foundation, and multiple other acts of vandalism. I know of stories from other school districts, where even more serious types of vandalism and theft have taken place.

He went on to tell me that this trend has caused thousands of dollars in damage, and that he has had to resort to threatening suspensions, court citations and other actions to deter students from demolishing school property—all from a TikTok video trend.

I want to state for the record that this is absolutely insane. This is not normal teenage behavior. It is criminal activity, and these kids are posting it online thinking that they are building social media clout.

TikTok banned the trending hashtag, but last night, it took a member of my staff about 10 seconds to unearth posts featuring students trashing their school bathrooms.

Russell is at a loss as to how to get his students to stop body slamming doors off their hinges, and so are thousands of parents all across Tennessee who are wondering how it is even possible that a tech company is getting away with encouraging criminal behavior in its underage users.

They want more than just an apology and a tweak to an algorithm. They are looking for accountability, and I am happy to say that we at the Senate Commerce Committee are working to get that accountability from these Big Tech companies.

The issue of Big Tech's toxic influence on children and teens is finally getting some much-needed bipartisan attention from the Senate. Earlier this month, I hosted a hearing in the Commerce Committee's Consumer Protection Subcommittee with Chairman BLUMENTHAL, where we examined Facebook's role in promoting content to teenagers that drove young users into spirals of despair, eating disorders, self-harm, and suicidal thoughts.

Now, our ideas about what Congress should do to force accountability into the equation might differ a bit, but maybe for the first time ever, the relationship between Republicans and Democratic tech watchdogs in this Chamber is far less contentious than the relationship between Big Tech and Members of Congress. And, Madam

President, that is something worth noting.

If we keep this up, Silicon Valley, as they currently operate, is in for some big changes because, as much as I appreciate our role as lawmakers, I also believe in the importance of our ability to compel transparency from officials and companies that refuse to offer it up voluntarily. Sunlight is often a better disinfectant than legislation.

Fortunately, at least some players in tech are reading the writing on the wall. Tomorrow, representatives from YouTube, Snapchat, and TikTok will testify before the Consumer Protection Subcommittee regarding safety protocols they have inserted between underage users and the seediest corners of the internet. Yes, I did say "underage users."

I want to thank them in advance for agreeing to appear because we are not going to take it easy on them. They should not expect a comfortable day. We have evidence that these platforms have endangered children and teens while collecting—yes, collecting—their personal data and leveraging it through the advertising side of their businesses. The danger is real.

As we were preparing for the hearing, my staff hopped on YouTube and searched for "how to slit your wrists," and the videos YouTube spit out—well, let's just say that any questions about how to do such a thing were answered in full, unfortunately.

Earlier this year, a 9-year-old boy in Memphis died trying to participate in a TikTok "strangulation challenge" that had gone viral.

And we know for a fact that child predators use Snapchat to troll for victims. This spring, law enforcement arrested a 48-year-old man for statutory rape after they caught him with a 16-year-old girl.

Where did he meet her?

On Snapchat.

We also have serious questions about data collection and disclosure policies and whether or not the market research tactics that are used by YouTube, Snapchat, and TikTok are as invasive and dangerous as the ones that we now know Facebook uses.

As the saying goes, if the service is free, you are the product. And if we let them, tech companies will continue grooming our kids into accepting status as commodities and being their product, regardless of who it hurts.

Big Tech's relationship with children is a problem, but we also need adult tech enthusiasts to care about their own entanglements with these companies. We need everyone to care about how their own "virtual you" is harvested and sold to the highest bidder.

Many adult users believe that, because they have lived so much of their lives online, these things don't matter anymore. But, yes, indeed, it does matter, and I will give you just one example of why.

For a long time now, we have raised serious concerns about the connection

between TikTok and the Chinese Communist Party. We suspect, with very good reason, that ByteDance, which is TikTok's parent company, handed over biometrics and other sensitive user data to the Chinese Communist Party. This app has been Beijing's very best detective, a fact most users aren't aware of and don't want to give a second thought to.

Parents are completely unaware that TikTok is owned by ByteDance and that they are in cahoots with the Chinese Communist Party. Parents are unaware that the biometrics and other sensitive data of their precious children is now in the hands of the Chinese Communist Party.

Madam President, we just cannot afford to continue this. This one app on its own is a master class on artificial intelligence, machine learning, and facial recognition technology, and our most dangerous competitor is using it to corner the market on the world's most valuable commodity: the virtual you.

It is all part of Beijing's grand strategy to gain control over strategically important sectors of the global economy. Yes, indeed, they intend to be globally dominant by the time we get to the midpoint of the century; and, yes, indeed, they are an adversary.

We see them carrying out more of this agenda via the Belt and Road Initiative programs. And they are doing it online by training us to consume content that is so twisted that it drives young users to violence and to self-destructive behavior.

Interconnectivity has benefits and consequences, and, Madam President, it is an urgent need to take action against the consequences. We know from previous investigations that digital content is a weapon. It can damage self-esteem, destroy relationships, and tip the balance of global power in the wrong direction.

I hear from Tennesseans like Russell regularly. They will say: We saw this coming a mile away. We have watched this become a snowball rolling toward us.

They are appreciative that Congress has finally caught up to them—parents and teachers who are watching what is happening on social media—and they are ready for us to pull all those Big Tech skeletons out of the closet and put them on display.

I will say this: These teachers and parents are not people who are anti-innovation. They don't want to get in the way of private companies offering exciting new products. They appreciate interconnectivity, and they appreciate technology. But what they won't do is tolerate these companies—tolerate them trolling the data of our children, selling it as a product, and then turning around and weaponizing the content against us, the American people.

Big Tech needs to understand that we are not going to hold back, and it would be in their best interest to work with us on the issues of online privacy,

children's online privacy, data security, and make the virtual space a safe space.

Thank you, Madam President.
I yield the floor.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Parker nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Parker nomination?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 41, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 425 Ex.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Portman
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Collins	Markey	Stabenow
Coons	Menendez	Tester
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—41

Barrasso	Fischer	Paul
Blackburn	Graham	Risch
Blunt	Grassley	Romney
Boozman	Hagerty	Rubio
Braun	Hawley	Scott (FL)
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Scott (SC)
Capito	Johnson	Shelby
Cassidy	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Crapo	Lummis	Tuberville
Cruz	Marshall	Wicker
Daines	McConnell	Young
Ernst	Moran	

NOT VOTING—9

Cramer	Inhofe	Sasse
Feinstein	Murkowski	Toomey
Hoeben	Rounds	Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of the Perez nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Perez nomination?

Mr. MENENDEZ. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be. 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 California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER), the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS), the Senator from Nebraska (Mr. SASSE), and the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY).

Further, if present and voting, the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) would have voted "nay."

The result was announced—yeas 48, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 426 Ex.]

YEAS—48

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Peters
Bennet	Hirono	Reed
Blumenthal	Kaine	Rosen
Booker	Kelly	Sanders
Brown	King	Schatz
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Schumer
Cardin	Leahy	Shaheen
Carper	Luján	Sinema
Casey	Manchin	Smith
Coons	Markey	Stabenow
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Tester
Duckworth	Merkley	Van Hollen
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Gillibrand	Murray	Warren
Hassan	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Padilla	Wyden

NAYS—43

Barrasso	Daines	Marshall
Blackburn	Ernst	McConnell
Blunt	Fischer	Moran
Boozman	Graham	Paul
Braun	Grassley	Portman
Burr	Hagerty	Risch
Capito	Hawley	Romney
Cassidy	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cornyn	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Cotton	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Crapo	Lankford	Shelby
Cruz	Lee	
	Lummis	

Sullivan
ThuneTillis
TubervilleWicker
Young

NOT VOTING—9

Cramer
Feinstein
HoevenInhofe
Murkowski
RoundsSasse
Toomey
Warner

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Under the previous order, the motions to reconsider are considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, before I get into the procedural stuff, I just want to say what a great judge Myrna Perez will be, so I am so glad that she passed tonight. She is an amazing person, an amazing history: one of the leading voting rights lawyers in America and will be the second Latina on the Second Circuit, the first being Sonia Sotomayor.

So it is a very good, good vote.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Now, Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 367.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 367, Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, John Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 347.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 347, Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Robert Menendez, Patrick J. Leahy, Patty Murray, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Debbie Stabenow, Catherine Cortez Masto, Christopher A. Coons, Ron Wyden, Margaret Wood Hassan, Edward J. Markey, Benjamin L. Cardin, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Elizabeth Warren, Angus S. King, Jr.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 263.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 263, Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard J. Durbin, Elizabeth Warren, John Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard Blumenthal, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Christopher A. Coons, Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 368.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 368, Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, John Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 413.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 413, Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States.

Charles E. Schumer, Patty Murray, Sheldon Whitehouse, Ben Ray Lujan, Martin Heinrich, Cory A. Booker, Jack Reed, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie Hirono, Christopher A. Coons, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Gary C. Peters, Chris Van Hollen, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Michael F. Bennet.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 471.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 471, Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Jeff Merkley, Tammy Duckworth, Sheldon Whitehouse, Brian Schatz, Patrick J. Leahy, Alex Padilla, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen, Christopher Murphy, Jacky Rosen, Edward J. Markey, Martin Heinrich, Christopher A. Coons.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 363.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 363, Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit.

Charles E. Schumer, Ben Ray Lujan, Richard J. Durbin, Christopher A. Coons, Elizabeth Warren, John Hickenlooper, Jacky Rosen, Brian Schatz, Tammy Baldwin, Patrick J. Leahy, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Richard Blumenthal, Benjamin L. Cardin, Catherine Cortez Masto, Cory A. Booker, Raphael Warnock, Alex Padilla.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, October 25, be waived.

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

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam 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.

NICARAGUA

Mr. LEAHY. Madam President, it has now been more than 4 months since Daniel Ortega's police arrested and subsequently disappeared political opposition leaders Felix Maradiaga and Juan Sebastian Chamorro in Nicaragua. On June 8, police stopped Maradiaga's vehicle, forcibly removed him, and took him away. Later that day, over 40 police officers forced their way into Chamorro's home and arrested him as well. For nearly 3 months, they were held in undisclosed locations, without access to their lawyers, doctors, or families and without being charged with any crime. They were reportedly kept in solitary confinement, subjected to frequent interrogations, deprived of sleep, and they have each lost 20 to 25 pounds.

In August, they were indicted for operating an international conspiracy to funnel foreign resources "to provide logistical support and create favorable conditions to harm the supreme interests of the nation." These charges, which are blatantly political, were brought before an unnamed judge in a secret hearing in which their lawyers were not permitted to be present. This is what is called "justice" in Nicaragua today. Nothing more than a sham process intended to silence Daniel Ortega's political opposition, and it is yet another example of the flagrant repression and abuses of human rights that have become a trademark of his government.

This summer alone, more than 30 other opposition leaders were subjected to similar abuses, and the government is reportedly currently unlawfully detaining more than 150 political prisoners, including former Ambassador to the United States Arturo Cruz who is known to many of us. He was kept in solitary confinement for approximately 80 days, has reportedly lost 40 pounds, and is even denied access to reading material so he has almost no way of learning about current events outside the prison walls.

There is only one explanation for such blatant injustices and cruelty inflicted on individuals who have done nothing that would remotely amount to a crime under international law or in most countries of the world, and that is that Daniel Ortega is afraid. He knows that if he allows a free and fair election, he and his wife Rosario Murillo, the Vice President, would almost certainly lose.

The sad reality is that it did not have to be this way. Ortega could have chosen a different path, and won the support of the Nicaraguan people by trusting them and treating them with respect, and allowing those with different views to speak freely. Instead, he chose repression and has held onto power through force and by blaming everyone but himself for Nicaragua's chronic under-development. On November 7, with the opposition silenced and hidden away, he and his wife will likely be victorious in another sham election, a farce that will fool nobody.

I join those in condemning the repressive tactics of the Ortega government and in calling for the immediate and unconditional release of Felix Maradiaga, Juan Sebastian Chamorro, Arturo Cruz, and the many other political prisoners falsely accused or imprisoned without charge. I urge the Nicaraguan Government to end the repression of dissidents, the shootings of peaceful protestors, and the crackdown on press freedom and voting rights.

It is no secret that the United States and Nicaragua have had a difficult history. The United States was the primary benefactor of the dictatorial Somoza family, which ruled the country for more than four decades, enriching themselves and their cronies, and brutalizing their opponents. Daniel Ortega had the opportunity to be different, but to many Nicaraguans and international observers, he and his wife are even worse.

The Biden administration has already responded to this summer's arrests by imposing sanctions on four members of the Ortega government and has denied access to visas for 169 Nicaraguans in response to the political crackdown. The U.S. actions encouraged the EU and Canada to also impose targeted sanctions on Nicaraguans complicit in politically motivated crimes.

I commend the Biden administration, the EU, and the Canadian Governments for standing up for the rule of law and the rights of the people of Nicaragua. I urge the White House to investigate the assets and holdings of the Nicaraguan armed forces in the U.S. and to consider appropriate actions to hold its leadership accountable for their role in the gross violations of human rights in that country. I encourage President Biden to use every diplomatic tool and every form of targeted sanctions to obtain the release of Daniel Ortega's prisoners and to create the conditions for a genuinely free, fair, and transparent election in Nicaragua.

TRIBUTE TO JOSH BAKER

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise to commend Josh Baker, a British national, on behalf of the U.S. Senate, for his vital and lifesaving contributions to the allied evacuation of Afghanistan.

Mr. Baker, of course, is internationally acclaimed for his courageous and

award-winning work documenting armed conflict and war crimes worldwide. His sacrifices in the production of vital, world-class journalism included the sacrifice of his own body, when his spine was fractured by a vehicle-borne improvised explosive device detonated by a suicide bomber in Iraq while Baker was on assignment for PBS.

Mr. Baker's achievements include the production of landmark reports exposing ISIS war crimes against Yazidi women and girls, investigations of international terrorism, and vital reporting on refugee crises. His work has documented for the historical record and for the education of the global public the brutality and indignity imposed on innocent human beings by armed conflict.

When, on August 15, 2021, the Afghan capital of Kabul fell to Taliban forces, hundreds of thousands of foreign nationals and Afghan allies were trapped in harm's way. Mr. Baker sprung into action. In August and September of this year, Mr. Baker remotely coordinated and supported multiple lifesaving extractions of vulnerable civilians from Afghanistan.

He applied his deep experience of complex operations in hostile environments and the trust built over years of communication with journalists, sources, and contributors in the military, intelligence, and political domains, in civil society and at humanitarian agencies, to remotely coordinate and support multiple lifesaving extractions of vulnerable civilians from Afghanistan.

Mr. Baker's contributions to these historic evacuation efforts included the coordination of a lifesaving mission to rescue Afghan orphans and the coordination of logistics necessary for the safe evacuation of hundreds of Afghan women and girls.

And so let the U.S. Senate commend Josh Baker for his vital and lifesaving contributions to the allied evacuation of Afghanistan.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

REMEMBERING RUDOLFO ANAYA

• Mr. HEINRICH. Madam President, Rudolfo Anaya's writing captured the beauty of New Mexico's landscapes and the strength and resilience of our people. It is a testament to the power of his literary work that so many New Mexicans recognize themselves and their families in the characters of his award-winning novels. Known to many as the godfather of Chicano literature, Mr. Anaya taught all of us to cherish the rich traditions, cultural heritage, and deep-rooted communities in our State.

Mr. Anaya was born and raised in Pastura and Santa Rosa, small communities in Guadalupe County. His childhood experiences on the desert flatlands of the Llano Estacado later inspired much of his best work. After

his family moved to the historic Babelas neighborhood of Albuquerque, Mr. Anaya attended Albuquerque High School and the University of New Mexico. Through many decades as a lifetime educator, Mr. Anaya taught and mentored students in Albuquerque Public Schools and at the University of New Mexico.

In 1972, Mr. Anaya published his coming-of-age novel, "Bless Me, Ultima," about a young boy's search for spirituality and his sense of place. The novel broke new ground by centering the unique experiences, complex cultural identities, and deep-rootedness of Hispanic and Chicano New Mexicans. "Bless Me, Ultima" has stirred the hearts of countless readers over the years and inspired adaptations for theater, a feature film, and an opera. On a personal note, reading "Bless Me, Ultima," was also an important part of the experiences and events that led my wife, Julie, and I to settle and raise our family in New Mexico.

Over the course of his prolific literary career, Mr. Anaya wrote a wide range of novels, stories, nonfiction essays, and poetry that captured the spirit and culture of New Mexico. In 2002, he was awarded the National Medal for the Arts by President George W. Bush and the National Endowment for the Arts. He was awarded the National Humanities Medal by President Barack Obama and the National Endowment for the Humanities in 2016.

Rudolfo Anaya leaves behind a legacy that will never be forgotten. As we remember his incredible life, my thoughts are with his family, the countless people he mentored and taught, and everyone who experienced the power of reading his work. I am certain I join so many others in our State in honoring and lifting up the life of this quintessential New Mexican. ●

350TH ANNIVERSARY OF SUFFIELD, CONNECTICUT

• Mr. MURPHY. Madam President, I rise today to commemorate the 350th anniversary of the town of Suffield, CT. The celebration of this historic milestone, actually achieved last year in the height of the pandemic, is just as deserved as it is overdue.

How lucky Connecticut is to have won Suffield away from neighboring Massachusetts in 1749. With roots dating back to the 1600s, Suffield's early days were defined by the bounty of its fertile farmland along the western banks of the Connecticut River. Soon, beautiful Colonial and Victorian-era homes were built along the town's now iconic Main Street. Industry and commerce began to flourish, and by the 1900s, Suffield was a model Connecticut town, able to marry together agrarian humility and forward-looking modernity into one common identity.

Today, Suffield still boasts bucolic farms, breathtaking views from the Metacomet Ridge, and historic architecture. But a thriving small business

community, a top-rate school system, and active civic groups are showing the way to the future.

For three and a half centuries, Suffield has been a foundational part of the rich history of the Connecticut River Valley. The town has come a long way since its inception and continues to evolve with the times, while maintaining its idyllic, small-town charm. Congratulations again to the entire town of Suffield on this impressive anniversary: I am grateful to represent a town with such a storied past and an equally bright future.●

PRESIDENTIAL MESSAGE

REPORT ON THE CONTINUATION OF THE NATIONAL EMERGENCY THAT WAS ORIGINALLY DECLARED IN EXECUTIVE ORDER 13413 OF OCTOBER 27, 2006, WITH RESPECT TO THE SITUATION IN OR IN RELATION TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF THE CONGO—PM 14

The PRESIDING OFFICER laid before the Senate the following message from the President of the United States, together with an accompanying report; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:

To the Congress of the United States:

Section 202(d) of the National Emergencies Act (50 U.S.C. 1622(d)) provides for the automatic termination of a national emergency unless, within 90 days prior to the anniversary date of its declaration, the President publishes in the *Federal Register* and transmits to the Congress a notice stating that the emergency is to continue in effect beyond the anniversary date. In accordance with this provision, I have sent to the *Federal Register* for publication the enclosed notice stating that the national emergency with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2021.

The situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo, which has been marked by widespread violence and atrocities that continue to threaten regional stability, continues to pose an unusual and extraordinary threat to the foreign policy of the United States. Therefore, I have determined that it is necessary to continue the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13413 with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo.

JOSEPH R. BIDEN, Jr.
THE WHITE HOUSE, October 25, 2021.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, an-

nounced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 3110. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to expand access to breastfeeding accommodations in the workplace, and for other purposes.

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 Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself, Ms. HIRONO, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 3057. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to enhance criminal penalties for health related stalking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY:

S. 3058. A bill making appropriations for the Department of Homeland Security for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mr. COONS, Mr. KENNEDY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. 3059. A bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to provide for a periodic transaction reporting requirement for Federal judicial officers and the online publication of financial disclosure reports of Federal judicial officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Ms. SMITH, and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 3060. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to establish an Office of Prison Education, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and Ms. SMITH):

S. 3061. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mrs. MURRAY:

S. 3062. A bill making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Appropriations.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Con. Res. 16. A concurrent resolution commemorating the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 79

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) were added as cosponsors of S. 79, a bill to eliminate the disparity in sentencing for cocaine offenses, and for other purposes.

S. 488

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 488, a bill to provide for congressional review of actions to terminate or waive sanctions imposed with respect to Iran.

S. 535

At the request of Ms. ERNST, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) were added as cosponsors of S. 535, a bill to authorize the location of a memorial on the National Mall to commemorate and honor the members of the Armed Forces that served on active duty in support of the Global War on Terrorism, and for other purposes.

S. 644

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 644, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to restore State authority to waive for certain facilities the 35-mile rule for designating critical access hospitals under the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 697

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Mr. MARKEY), the Senator from Ohio (Mr. BROWN) and the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) were added as cosponsors of S. 697, a bill to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint commemorative coins in recognition of the Bicentennial of Harriet Tubman's birth.

S. 749

At the request of Ms. HASSAN, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) and the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) were added as cosponsors of S. 749, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to enhance tax benefits for research activities.

S. 766

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 766, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow an above-the-line deduction for attorney fees and costs in connection with consumer claim awards.

S. 854

At the request of Ms. ERNST, her name was added as a cosponsor of S. 854, a bill to designate methamphetamine as an emerging threat, and for other purposes.

S. 912

At the request of Ms. HIRONO, the names of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 912, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide information regarding vaccines for seniors as part of the Medicare & You handbook and to ensure that the treatment of cost sharing for vaccines under Medicare part D is consistent with the treatment of vaccines under Medicare part B, and for other purposes.

S. 1106

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the names of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN), the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. MENENDEZ) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 1106, a bill to prohibit the sale of shark fins, and for other purposes.

S. 1125

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1125, a bill to recommend that the Center for Medicare and Medicaid Innovation test the effect of a dementia care management model, and for other purposes.

S. 1378

At the request of Ms. COLLINS, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1378, a bill to amend the Animal Welfare Act to allow for the retirement of certain animals used in Federal research, and for other purposes.

S. 1568

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) and the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) were added as cosponsors of S. 1568, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide a waiver of the cap on annual payments for nursing and allied health education payments.

S. 1613

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1613, a bill to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to establish a grant program for certain fitness facilities, and for other purposes.

S. 1813

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Hawaii (Ms. HIRONO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1813, a bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to support research on, and expanded access to, investigational drugs for amyotrophic lateral sclerosis, and for other purposes.

S. 2011

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2011, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to honor the

contributions of all those whose efforts led to the successful development of life saving vaccines to combat the novel coronavirus.

S. 2086

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW), the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) and the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) were added as cosponsors of S. 2086, a bill to improve the identification and support of children and families who experience trauma.

S. 2151

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2151, a bill to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to provide that COPS grant funds may be used for local law enforcement recruits to attend schools or academies if the recruits agree to serve in precincts of law enforcement agencies in their communities.

S. 2283

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2283, a bill to improve the Veterans Crisis Line of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes.

S. 2395

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2395, a bill to require an annual feasibility report on cooperation between the National Guard and Taiwan, and for other purposes.

S. 2427

At the request of Mr. WICKER, the name of the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO) was added as a cosponsor of 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. 2456

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the names of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) were added as cosponsors of S. 2456, a bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to take certain actions to increase diversity of ownership in the broadcasting industry, and for other purposes.

S. 2740

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. Kaine) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 2740, a bill to establish a strategic active pharmaceutical ingredient reserve to maintain a domestic supply of active pharmaceutical ingredients and key starting materials

needed for the manufacturing of essential generic medicines, and to build a pipeline for domestic active pharmaceutical ingredient production.

S. 2881

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2881, a bill to assist States in improving guardianship oversight and data collection.

S. 2918

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2918, a bill to keep children safe and protect their interests on the internet, and for other purposes.

S. 2937

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2937, a bill to authorize humanitarian assistance and civil society support, promote democracy and human rights, and impose targeted sanctions with respect to human rights abuses in Burma, and for other purposes.

S. 3011

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3011, a bill to amend title VI of the Social Security Act to allow States and local governments to use coronavirus relief funds provided under the American Rescue Plan Act for infrastructure projects, improve the Local Assistance and Tribal Consistency Fund, provide Tribal governments with more time to use Coronavirus Relief Fund payments, and for other purposes.

S. 3056

At the request of Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, the name of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3056, a bill to prohibit the implementation of new requirements to report bank account deposits and withdrawals.

S.J. RES. 10

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 10, a joint resolution to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 377

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 377, a resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization.

S. RES. 390

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 390, a resolution expressing appreciation for the State of Qatar's efforts to assist the United States during Operation Allies Refuge.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Ms. COLLINS (for herself and
Ms. SMITH):

S. 3061. A bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to eliminate the 190-day lifetime limit on inpatient psychiatric hospital services under the Medicare Program; to the Committee on Finance.

Ms. COLLINS. Mr. President, I rise today with my colleague, Senator TINA SMITH, to introduce the Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act, legislation that eliminates Medicare's arbitrary 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals. Given the steps that Congress has already taken to establish parity and improve coverage of mental health services, this change is long overdue, particularly as the COVID-19 pandemic has worsened the already alarming trends in the mental health of some Americans.

Notably, an estimated 13.1 million adults aged 18 or older in the United States are living with serious mental illness, representing 5.2 percent of all adults nationwide. These illnesses, such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder, are chronic conditions that require ongoing treatment and care over a lifetime. When left untreated, they can be some of the most debilitating and destructive illnesses afflicting Americans.

Unfortunately, our current mental health system is fragmented, and these individuals all too often lack access to the care that they need. That is why I have worked to improve mental health services across the lifespan and break down barriers to treatment. The legislation I am introducing today eliminates another barrier in Medicare, the 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals.

Most Medicare beneficiaries treated in inpatient psychiatric facilities qualify because of a disability. As such, this current restriction disproportionately impacts non-elderly Medicare beneficiaries—mainly those living with schizophrenia and bipolar disorder who may be diagnosed at a younger age and stay on Medicare longer as a result. Sadly, it is young adults aged 18 to 25 years who currently have the highest prevalence of serious mental illness of any age group.

Furthermore, no other Medicare inpatient service has these types of arbitrary caps, which is why elimination of Medicare's lifetime cap was a recommendation of the 2016 White House Mental Health and Substance Use Disorder Parity Task Force. While I recognize that this cap was originally intended to limit the Federal Government's role in paying for long-term custodial support of the mentally ill, keeping a cap on inpatient days at psychiatric hospitals—particularly for patients who have been living with serious mental illness from a young age—undermines patient treatment options and can lead to disruptive transitions of care.

During their life, people with serious mental illnesses may need repeated psychiatric inpatient hospital stays to manage their condition and regain quality of life in their community of choice. The 190-day lifetime limit can hurt people by arbitrarily ending coverage and can disrupt care from a provider who is most familiar with the patient. Moreover, when individuals with mental illness cannot receive care in the right setting, they often end up in hospital emergency rooms, in jails, or on the streets—leading to worse long-term outcomes for the individual, more pain and suffering for family members, and a greater cost to the taxpayer.

Outside a psychiatric inpatient hospital, it is difficult for many healthcare facilities to meet the treatment needs of those suffering with severe mental illness. Many general hospitals lack psychiatric care capacity, and there are countless examples of psychiatric boarding in emergency departments. Skilled nursing facilities may also not be best suited to provide the complex and specialized psychiatric care these beneficiaries need. Finally, too many patients find themselves receiving care in prisons, or not at all, if they are on the streets or are on long waitlists for care. As one local sheriff in Aroostook County recently told me, “Law enforcement is not equipped to handle individuals with mental health challenges and yet we are faced with that reality every day.” Similarly, a behavioral health provider in Presque Isle, ME, said, “Imposing a limit may appear to reduce cost; however, the true cost-and toll-on community resources is far greater than any savings incurred by Medicare.”

On top of all of these existing challenges, it is clear the COVID-19 pandemic has increased stress and isolation, disrupted care services, and dramatically changed everyday life and even living environments for many Americans. With research pointing to greater psychological distress during the pandemic for people with mental illnesses, already a particularly vulnerable population, I fear we will be trying to make up for lost strides in behavioral health care for years to come. Now more than ever, we must work on commonsense reforms that provide parity between behavioral and physical health care, as well as strive to increase access to support and improve care coordination.

As the American Hospital Association, which endorses this bill, said, “As we work to further integrate physical and behavioral health to better address the nation's behavioral health needs, one major obstacle to parity remains in the Medicare program—the 190-day lifetime limit on coverage for certain inpatient psychiatric treatment. With the nation's population aging and an increasing number of seniors and people with disabilities seeking inpatient care to address their behavioral health needs, now is the time to repeal this discriminatory policy and ensure that

Medicare beneficiaries can receive necessary inpatient psychiatric care.”

The pandemic may have had a disastrous effect on the mental health of the Nation, but it has also led to more visibility and the understanding that individuals with serious mental illness, their families, and the communities in which they live do not have access to the care and resources they need. I hope we can use what we have learned throughout the pandemic as an opportunity to reduce stigma and make overdue reforms like removing the 190-day lifetime cap on inpatient services in psychiatric hospitals.

Our legislation, the Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act, is supported by a wide range of organizations, including the American Hospital Association and the Mental Health Liaison Group, a coalition of 57 national organizations representing consumers, family members, and mental health and addiction providers. This includes support from the National Association of Behavioral Healthcare, the American Psychiatric Association, the American Psychological Association, the National Alliance on Mental Illness, and Mental Health America.

I urge my colleagues to support this important critical legislation to bring greater mental health parity to the Medicare Program and give those suffering with serious mental illness access to the care they so desperately need.

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the material be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

AMERICAN HOSPITAL ASSOCIATION,
Washington, DC, October 20, 2021.

Hon. SUSAN M. COLLINS,

Senate,

Washington, DC.

Hon. TINA SMITH,

Senate,

Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATOR COLLINS AND SENATOR SMITH: On behalf of our nearly 5,000 member hospitals, health systems and other health care organizations, our clinician partners—including more than 270,000 affiliated physicians, 2 million nurses and other caregivers—and the 43,000 health care leaders who belong to our professional membership groups, the American Hospital Association (AHA) is pleased to support your legislation, the Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act.

On the front lines of the COVID-19 pandemic, America's hospitals and health systems witness firsthand its far-reaching effects on behavioral health. The stress from unemployment or underemployment, isolation due to quarantine or COVID-19 restrictions, and grief over loved ones lost to the pandemic are possible to manifest in increases in already high rates of deaths from suicides and substance use disorder. Beyond COVID-19, we know that as a country to prioritize resources that support the behavioral health needs of the country. These investments will not only help to stymie the wave of unmet demand for behavioral health services that has been exacerbated by the COVID-19 pandemic, but also improve America's overall health.

As we work to further integrate physical and behavioral health to better address the nation's behavioral health needs, one major obstacle to parity remains in the Medicare program—the 190-day lifetime limit on coverage for certain inpatient psychiatric treatment. With the nation's population aging and an increasing number of seniors and people with disabilities seeking inpatient care to address their behavioral health needs, now is the time to repeal this discriminatory policy and ensure that Medicare beneficiaries can receive necessary inpatient psychiatric care.

We are grateful for your leadership on this issue and stand ready to work with you to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

STACEY HUGHES,
Executive Vice President.

MENTAL HEALTH LIAISON GROUP,
Washington, DC, October 18, 2021.

Hon. SUSAN COLLINS,

Senate,
Washington, DC.

Hon. TINA SMITH,
Senate,
Washington, DC.

DEAR SENATORS COLLINS AND SMITH: The Mental Health Liaison Group (MHLG)—a coalition of national organizations representing consumers, family members, mental health and addiction providers, advocates and other stakeholders committed to strengthening Americans' access to mental health and addiction care—is writing to express our strong support for the Medicare Mental Health Inpatient Equity Act. This critical legislation eliminates the discrimination against mental illnesses that continues to exist in the Medicare program as Medicare beneficiaries are limited to 190 days of inpatient psychiatric hospital care during their lifetime. This lifetime limit does not apply to psychiatric units in general hospitals and there is no such lifetime limit for any other Medicare specialty inpatient hospital service.

Through passage of landmark legislation, the Paul Wellstone and Pete Domenici Mental Health Parity and Addiction Equity Act of 2008, Congress put coverage for mental health and substance use disorders on par with other medical disorders. Also, that year, Congress enacted legislation to equalize the Medicare outpatient coinsurance for mental and physical health. Despite this progress, discrimination against Medicare patients with mental health disorders who require ongoing psychiatric treatment and hospitalizations, when in crisis, continues to exist.

The Medicare Payment Advisory Commission reported that most Medicare beneficiaries treated in inpatient psychiatric facilities qualify for Medicare because of disability, hence they tend to be younger and poorer than the typical Medicare beneficiary. These Medicare beneficiaries live with serious mental illnesses (such as schizophrenia and bipolar disorder) and who are living with these disorders from a relatively young age. These illnesses are chronic and will require ongoing treatment and care over their lifetimes, including hospitalization when in crisis.

The elimination of the 190-day limit will equalize Medicare mental health coverage with private health insurance coverage, increase access for the most seriously ill, improve continuity of care and create a more cost-effective Medicare program.

The MHLG applauds your bipartisan leadership and looks forward to working with

you and your staff to enact this important legislation.

Sincerely,

2020 Mom; American Art Therapy Association; American Association for Marriage and Family Therapy; American Association for Psychoanalysis in Clinical Social Work; American Association of Child & Adolescent Psychiatry; American Association of Suicidology; American Association on Health and Disability; American Counseling Association; American Dance Therapy Association; American Foundation for Suicide Prevention; American Group Psychotherapy Association; American Mental Health Counselors Association; American Nurses Association; American Psychiatric Association; American Psychoanalytic Association; American Psychological Association; American Society of Addiction Medicine; Anxiety and Depression Association of America; Association for Ambulatory Behavioral Healthcare; Association for Behavioral and Cognitive Therapies.

Centerstone; Children and Adults with Attention-Deficit Hyperactivity Disorder; Clinical Social Work Association; Confederation of Independent Psychoanalytic Societies; Depression and Bipolar Support Alliance; Eating Disorders Coalition; Global Alliance for Behavioral Health and Social Justice; International Certification & Reciprocity Consortium; International OCD Foundation; International Society for Psychiatric Mental Health Nurses; The Kennedy Forum; Maternal Mental Health Leadership Alliance; Mental Health America; NAADAC, the Association for Addiction Professionals; National Alliance on Mental Illness; National Alliance to Advance Adolescent Health; National Association for Behavioral Healthcare; National Association for Children's Behavioral Health.

National Association for Rural Mental Health; National Association of County Behavioral Health and Developmental Disability Directors; National Association of Pediatric Nurse Practitioners; National Association of Social Workers; National Association of State Alcohol and Drug Abuse Directors (NASADAD); National Association of State Mental Health Program Directors; National Board for Certified Counselors; National Council for Mental Wellbeing; National Disability Rights Network; National Federation of Families; National League for Nurses; National Register of Health Service Psychologists; NIMH—No Health without Mental Health; Psychotherapy Action Network; Residential Eating Disorders Consortium; Schizophrenia & Psychosis Action Alliance; Treatment Communities of America; Vibrant Emotional Health; Well Being Trust.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION 16—COMMEMORATING THE 30TH ANNIVERSARY OF OPERATION PROVIDE COMFORT

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following concurrent resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Foreign Relations:

S. CON. RES. 16

Whereas, after the uprising against Saddam Hussein in March 1991, Hussein turned tanks and helicopter gunships on the defenseless citizens of Iraqi Kurdistan;

Whereas, overwhelmed by the superior firepower of the Hussein regime, and having already experienced the genocidal death of ap-

proximately 200,000 Iraqi Kurds, the wanton destruction of approximately 4,500 Iraqi Kurdish villages, and deadly chemical bombardment, hundreds of thousands of Iraqi Kurdish men, women, and children fled to the northern and eastern borders of Iraq, fearing that the regime would use poison gas against them, as during the Anfal campaign and in Halabja only 3 years before;

Whereas, at one point in the early days of the 1991 refugee crisis, the daily death toll of fleeing Iraqi Kurds exceeded 1,000, with victims having no time to gather any possessions or winter protective gear and thus succumbing to exposure, malnutrition, and disease;

Whereas the United States, in response to the unfolding human catastrophe, led what became the largest humanitarian operation of its kind ever, Operation Provide Comfort, delivering humanitarian relief and enforcing a no-fly zone;

Whereas Operation Provide Comfort saved the lives of countless thousands of Iraqi Kurds from near certain death on the freezing and rugged border mountains of Iraqi Kurdistan;

Whereas, to this day, Iraqi Kurds credit United States-led Operation Provide Comfort, particularly the no-fly zone that protected the Iraqi Kurdish people until 2003, for helping support security and stability in Iraqi Kurdistan;

Whereas Iraqi Kurdistan has long served as a safe haven for people fleeing conflict and religious and political persecution; and

Whereas the Kurdistan Regional Government and the Kurdish Peshmerga remain steadfast partners of the United States in the fight against extremism and terrorism: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved by the Senate (the House of Representatives concurring), That Congress—

(1) commemorates the 30th anniversary of Operation Provide Comfort;

(2) recognizes and honors the heroic soldiers, diplomats, political leaders, and coalition partners of the United States who implemented Operation Provide Comfort;

(3) recognizes and honors the bravery of the nearly 2,000,000 Iraqi Kurdish women, children, and men who struggled to survive starvation and exposure, welcomed the aid that came, and embraced the opportunity for a new life;

(4) encourages Iraqi Kurdish leaders to continue to uphold the values of democracy, human rights, and freedom that have made Iraqi Kurdistan an oasis in a troubled region; and

(5) reaffirms—

(A) the strong partnership between the United States and the Iraqi Kurds, which exists in complementarity with the United States' strong partnership with the Government of Iraq; and

(B) the enduring respect and support of Congress for Iraqi Kurdish friends of the United States who courageously stand with the United States in shared opposition to extremism and terrorism.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 3868. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3869. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3870. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3871. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KING, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3872. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3873. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3874. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3875. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

SA 3876. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, supra; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 3868. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. 1. THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING ADDITIONS TO TOXICS RELEASE INVENTORY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 7321 of the PFAS Act of 2019 (15 U.S.C. 8921) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “Subject” in the matter preceding subparagraph (A) of paragraph (1) and inserting the following:

“(b) IMMEDIATE INCLUSION.—Subject”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by striking “subparagraph (A)” and inserting “paragraph (1)”;

(D) in subparagraph (D), by striking “subparagraph (C)” and inserting “paragraph (3)”;

(E) in subparagraph (G), by striking “subparagraph (F)” and inserting “paragraph (6)”;

(F) by redesignating subparagraphs (A) through (I) as paragraphs (1) through (9), respectively, and indenting the paragraphs appropriately; and

(G) in paragraph (5) (as so redesignated)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “class” and inserting “category”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) and (ii) as subparagraphs (A) and (B), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately; and

(iii) in subparagraph (B) (as so redesignated), by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking paragraph (2);

(B) in paragraph (1), by striking “class” each place it appears and inserting “category”;

(C) by striking the subsection designation and heading and all that follows through “Subject” in the matter preceding clause (i) of paragraph (1)(A) and inserting the following:

“(c) INCLUSION FOLLOWING ASSESSMENT.—

“(1) DATE OF INCLUSION.—Subject”;

(D) by redesignating subparagraph (B) as paragraph (2);

(E) in paragraph (1) (as so designated)—

(i) in the matter preceding clause (i), by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(ii) by redesignating clauses (i) through (iv) as subparagraphs (A) through (D), respectively, and indenting the subparagraphs appropriately; and

(iii) in subparagraph (D) (as so redesignated), by redesignating subclauses (I) and (II) as clauses (i) and (ii), respectively, and indenting the clauses appropriately; and

(F) in paragraph (2) (as so redesignated), by striking “this paragraph” and inserting “this subsection”;

(3) in subsection (d)—

(A) by striking “classes” each place it appears and inserting “categories”;

(B) by striking “class” each place it appears and inserting “category”;

(C) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b)”;

(ii) in subparagraph (L), by striking “subsection (b)(1)(F)” and inserting “subsection (b)(6)”;

(4) in subsection (e)—

(A) in paragraph (1), in the matter preceding subparagraph (A), by striking “subsection (b)(1), (c)(1)” and inserting “subsection (b), (c)”;

(B) by striking “class” each place it appears and inserting “category”;

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“(g) REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(1) THRESHOLD FOR REPORTING REQUIREMENTS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) THRESHOLD.—Subject to subparagraph (C), the threshold for reporting under section 313 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11023) shall be met if, for a facility, the aggregate of the sums of quantities described in clause (ii) is not less than 100 pounds.

“(ii) SUMS OF QUANTITIES DESCRIBED.—The sums of quantities referred to in clause (i) are—

“(I) the sum of the quantities of substances and categories of substances described in subsections (b), (c), and (d)(3) manufactured by a facility;

“(II) the sum of the quantities of substances and categories of substances de-

scribed in subsections (b), (c), and (d)(3) processed by a facility; and

“(III) the sum of the quantities of substances and categories of substances described in subsections (b), (c), and (d)(3) otherwise used by a facility.

“(B) METHOD OF REPORTING.—After a threshold determination described in subparagraph (A)(i) has been made, a toxic chemical release form shall be reported separately for each substance or category of substances described in subsections (b), (c), and (d)(3) for which a facility conducted a manufacturing, processing, or other use activity.

“(C) REVISIONS.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or category of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is included in the toxics release inventory under subsection (b), (c), or (d)(3), the Administrator shall—

“(i) determine whether revision of the threshold, category, or threshold and category under subparagraph (A)(i) is warranted for the substance or category of substances; and

“(ii) if the Administrator determines a revision to be warranted under clause (i), initiate a revision under section 313(f)(2) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11023(f)(2)).

“(2) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) CONDITIONAL ADDITION TO LIST OF LOWER THRESHOLDS FOR CHEMICALS OF SPECIAL CONCERN.—The Administrator shall revise section 372.28 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), to add a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or category of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances described in subsection (b), (c), or (d)(3) to that section unless the Administrator, in accordance with paragraph (1)(C), revises the threshold for reporting that substance or category of substances to 10,000 pounds or greater.

“(B) NOTIFICATION ABOUT TOXIC CHEMICALS.—A perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or category of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances described in subsection (b), (c), or (d)(3) shall not be eligible for the exemption from supplier notification under section 372.45(d)(1) of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations).

“(C) REVISIONS.—Not later than 5 years after the date on which a perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substance or category of perfluoroalkyl or polyfluoroalkyl substances is included in the toxics release inventory under subsection (b), (c), or (d)(3), the Administrator shall—

“(i) determine whether revision of the supplier notification requirement under section 372.45 of title 40, Code of Federal Regulations (or successor regulations), is warranted for the substance or category of substances; and

“(ii) if the Administrator determines a revision to be warranted under clause (i), initiate a revision pursuant to section 328 of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11048).”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—Section 313(c)(2) of the Emergency Planning and Community Right-To-Know Act of 1986 (42 U.S.C. 11023(c)(2)) is amended—

(1) by striking “subsections (b)(1), (c)(1)” and inserting “subsections (b), (c)”;

(2) by striking “2019” and inserting “2019 (15 U.S.C. 8921)”.

SA 3869. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year

2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

Subtitle —Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins

SEC. 1. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION FOR CERTAIN DISEASES ASSOCIATED WITH EXPOSURE TO BURN PITS AND OTHER TOXINS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter II of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“§ 1119. Presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins

“(a) PRESUMPTION OF SERVICE CONNECTION.—(1) For the purposes of section 1110 of this title, and subject to section 1113 of this title, a disease specified in paragraph (2) becoming manifest in a veteran described in paragraph (3) shall be considered to have been incurred in or aggravated during active military, naval, or air service, notwithstanding that there is no record of evidence of such disease during the period of such service.

“(2) The diseases specified in this paragraph are the following:

“(A) Asthma that was diagnosed after service in a country or territory for which a medal described in paragraph (3) was awarded.

“(B)(i) Head cancer of any type.

“(ii) Neck cancer of any type.

“(iii) Respiratory cancer of any type.

“(iv) Gastrointestinal cancer of any type.

“(v) Reproductive cancer of any type.

“(vi) Lymphoma cancer of any type.

“(vii) Lymphomatic cancer of any type.

“(viii) Kidney cancer.

“(ix) Brain cancer.

“(x) Melanoma.

“(C) Chronic bronchitis.

“(D) Chronic obstructive pulmonary disease.

“(E) Constrictive bronchiolitis or obliterative bronchiolitis.

“(F) Emphysema.

“(G) Granulomatous disease.

“(H) Interstitial lung disease.

“(I) Pleuritis.

“(J) Pulmonary fibrosis.

“(K) Sarcoidosis.

“(L) Any other disease listed under subsection (a)(2) of section 1116 of this title or for which a presumption of service connection is warranted pursuant to regulations prescribed under section subsection (b)(1) of such section.

“(M) Any other disease with respect to which final regulations have been prescribed under subsection (c)(3).

“(3) A veteran described in this paragraph is any veteran who on or after August 2, 1990, was awarded any of the following:

“(A) The Afghanistan Campaign Medal.

“(B) The Armed Forces Expeditionary Medal.

“(C) The Armed Forces Reserve Medal with M-device.

“(D) The Armed Forces Service Medal.

“(E) The Global War On Terrorism Expeditionary Medal.

“(F) The Inherent Resolve Campaign Medal.

“(G) The Iraqi Campaign Medal.

“(H) The Southwest Asia Service Medal.

“(b) PROCESS TO ADD DISEASES THROUGH WRITTEN PETITION.—(1) In the case that the Secretary receives a written petition from an interested party to add a disease to the list of diseases specified in subsection (a)(2), not later than 90 days after the date of receipt of such petition, the Secretary shall request a determination by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the ‘National Academies’) with respect to whether there is a positive association between—

“(A) the exposure of humans to one or more covered toxins; and

“(B) the occurrence of the disease in humans.

“(2) For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘interested party’ includes a representative of—

“(A) a congressionally chartered veterans service organization;

“(B) an organization that—

“(i) is described in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 and exempt from taxation under section 501(a) of such Code;

“(ii) serves veterans or members of the Armed Forces; and

“(iii) has continuously operated for a period of five years or more preceding the date of the submittal of the written petition under paragraph (1);

“(C) a collective bargaining agent for civilian employees of the United States Government;

“(D) a nationally recognized medical association;

“(E) the National Academies; or

“(F) a State or political subdivision of a State.

“(c) DETERMINATIONS BY NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—(1) If the Secretary receives a determination described in paragraph (2), not later than 180 days after receipt of such determination, the Secretary shall—

“(A) publish in the Federal Register proposed regulations to add the disease covered by the determination to the list of diseases specified in subsection (a)(2);

“(B) publish in the Federal Register, and submit to the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans’ Affairs of the House of Representatives—

“(i) the decision of the Secretary not to publish such proposed regulations; and

“(ii) the basis for such decision, including specific medical science refuting the determination; or

“(C) publish in the Federal Register a decision that insufficient evidence exists to take action under subparagraph (A) or (B).

“(2) A determination described in this paragraph—

“(A) is a determination by the National Academies that there is a positive association between—

“(i) the exposure of humans to one or more covered toxins; and

“(ii) the occurrence of the disease in humans; and

“(B) may be made pursuant to—

“(i) a request from the Secretary under subsection (b); or

“(ii) an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under section 3 of the Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021.

“(3)(A) Not later than 180 days after the date on which the Secretary publishes any proposed regulations under paragraph (1)(A) for a disease, the Secretary shall prescribe final regulations for that disease.

“(B) Such regulations shall be effective on the date of issuance.

“(d) REFERENCE TO NATIONAL ACADEMIES.—In the case that the Secretary enters into an agreement with another organization as described in section 3(h)(1) of the Presumptive Benefits for War Fighters Exposed to Burn Pits and Other Toxins Act of 2021, any reference in this section to the National Academies shall be treated as a reference to the other organization.

“(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered toxin’ includes the following:

“(A) Any toxic chemical or toxic fume.

“(B) Hazardous waste, mixed waste, solid waste, or used oil (as those terms are defined in section 1004 of the Solid Waste Disposal Act (42 U.S.C. 6903)).

“(C) Radiological waste.

“(D) Any other carcinogen.

“(2) The term ‘veterans service organization’ means an organization recognized by the Secretary for the representation of veterans under section 5902 of this title.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on the date that is 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) WRITTEN PETITIONS.—With respect to a written petition described in section 1119(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by subsection (a), that was received by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs before the effective date described in paragraph (1), the Secretary shall make a request of the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine under such section, as so added, not later than 90 days after such effective date.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 11 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1118 the following new item:

“1119. Presumption of service connection for certain diseases associated with exposure to burn pits and other toxins.”.

(d) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 1113 of such title is amended by striking “or 1118” each place it appears and inserting “1118, or 1119”.

SEC. 3. AGREEMENT WITH THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE CONCERNING THE EXPOSURE OF HUMANS TO BURN PITS AND OTHER TOXINS.

(a) AGREEMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the “National Academies”) to perform the services covered by this section.

(2) TIMING.—The Secretary shall seek to enter into the agreement described in paragraph (1) not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REVIEWS OF SCIENTIFIC EVIDENCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies, the National Academies shall review and summarize the scientific evidence, and assess the strength thereof, concerning the association between the exposure of humans to covered toxins and each disease suspected to be associated with such exposure.

(2) REVIEWS UPON REQUEST.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, the National Academies shall conduct a review described in paragraph (1) in response to each request made by the Secretary under section 1119(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a).

(c) SCIENTIFIC DETERMINATIONS CONCERNING DISEASES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—For each disease reviewed under subsection (b), the National Academies shall determine (to the extent that available scientific data permit meaningful determinations) whether there is a positive association between the exposure of humans to one or more covered toxins and the occurrence of the disease in humans, taking into account the strength of the scientific evidence and the appropriateness of the statistical and epidemiological methods used to detect the association.

(2) SUBMISSIONS FOR REVIEWS UPON REQUEST.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, not later than 270 days after the date on which the Secretary transmits a request to the National Academies with respect to a disease under section 1119(b)(1) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a), the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary the determination made with respect to that disease under paragraph (1).

(d) RECOMMENDATIONS FOR ADDITIONAL SCIENTIFIC STUDIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, the National Academies shall make any recommendations it has for additional scientific studies to resolve areas of continuing scientific uncertainty relating to the exposure of humans to covered toxins.

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In making recommendations for additional scientific studies, the National Academies shall consider—
(A) the scientific information that is available at the time of the recommendation;

(B) the value and relevance of the information that could result from additional studies; and

(C) the feasibility of carrying out such additional studies.

(e) SUBSEQUENT REVIEWS.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, the National Academies shall—

(1) conduct as comprehensive a review as is practicable of the evidence referred to in subsection (b)(1) that became available since the last review of such evidence under this section; and

(2) make determinations and estimates on the basis of the results of such review and all other reviews conducted for the purposes of this section.

(f) REPORTS.—

(1) INITIAL REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, not later than 540 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives a report on the activities of the National Academies under the agreement.

(B) ELEMENTS.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) The determinations described in subsection (c)(1).

(ii) An explanation of the scientific evidence and reasoning that led to such determinations.

(iii) Any recommendations of the National Academies under subsection (d).

(2) PERIODIC UPDATES.—Under an agreement between the Secretary and the National Academies under this section, not less frequently than once every two years, the National Academies shall submit to the Secretary and the Committee on Veterans' Af-

fairs of the Senate and the Committee on Veterans' Affairs of the House of Representatives an updated report on the activities of the National Academies under the agreement.

(g) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY.—The authority to enter into agreements under this section shall be effective for a fiscal year to the extent that appropriations are available.

(h) ALTERNATIVE CONTRACT SCIENTIFIC ORGANIZATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Secretary is unable within the period prescribed in subsection (a)(2) to enter into an agreement with the National Academies on terms acceptable to the Secretary, the Secretary shall seek to enter into such an agreement with another appropriate scientific organization that—

(A) is not part of the Government;
(B) operates as a not-for-profit entity; and
(C) has expertise and objectivity comparable to that of the National Academies.

(2) TREATMENT.—If the Secretary enters into an agreement with another organization as described in paragraph (1), any reference in this section, section 4, and section 1119 of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a), to the National Academies shall be treated as a reference to the other organization.

(i) COVERED TOXIN DEFINED.—In this section, the term "covered toxin" has the meaning given that term in section 1119(e) of title 38, United States Code, as added by section 2(a).

(j) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to the Department of Veterans Affairs such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 4. ACCESS OF THE NATIONAL ACADEMIES OF SCIENCES, ENGINEERING, AND MEDICINE TO INFORMATION FROM FEDERAL AGENCIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Upon request by the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine (referred to in this section as the "National Academies"), the head of any Federal agency with relevant information shall provide to the National Academies information in the possession of the agency that the National Academies determines useful in conducting a review under section 3(b).

(b) FEDERAL AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term "Federal agency" means any agency as that term is defined in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 5. PRESUMPTION RELATING TO PERSONAL INJURY OF CERTAIN FEDERAL EMPLOYEES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 8102 of title 5, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(c)(1) In this subsection, the term 'covered employee' means an employee of the Department of State, the Department of Defense, or an element of the intelligence community (as defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003)) who, on or after August 2, 1990, carried out the job responsibilities of the employee for not fewer than 30 total days in a country or territory while the United States was conducting a contingency operation (as defined in section 101 of title 10) in that country or territory.

"(2) Disability or death from a disease described in paragraph (2) of such section suffered by a covered employee is deemed to have resulted from personal injury sustained while in the performance of the duty of the covered employee, whether or not the covered employee was engaged in the course of employment when the disability or disability resulting in death occurred."

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendment made by subsection (a) shall take effect on

the date that is 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Subsection (c) of section 8102 of such title, as added by subsection (a), shall not be construed to apply to a contractor of a Federal department or agency.

SA 3870. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title V, add the following:

SEC. 530C. AUTHORIZATION OF CLAIMS BY MEMBERS OF THE ARMED FORCES AGAINST THE UNITED STATES THAT ARISE FROM SEX-RELATED OFFENSES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 163 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2733a the following new section:

"§ 2733b. Claims arising from sex-related offenses

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with this section and under such regulations as the Secretary of Defense shall prescribe under subsection (d), the Secretary may allow, settle, and pay a claim against the United States for personal injury or death of a claimant arising from—

"(1) a sex-related offense committed by a covered individual; and

"(2)(A) the negligent failure to prevent such sex-related offense; or

"(B) the negligent failure to investigate such sex-related offense.

"(b) REQUIREMENT FOR CLAIMS.—A claim may be allowed, settled, and paid under subsection (a) only if—

"(1) the claim is filed by the claimant who is the victim of the sex-related offense, or by an authorized representative on behalf of such claimant who is deceased or otherwise unable to file the claim due to incapacitation;

"(2) the claimant was a member of an armed force under the jurisdiction of the Secretary of a military department at the time of the sex-related offense;

"(3) the claim is presented to the Department in writing within two years after the claim accrues;

"(4) the claim is not allowed to be settled and paid under any other provision of law; and

"(5) the claim is substantiated as prescribed in regulations prescribed by the Secretary of Defense under subsection (d).

"(c) PAYMENT OF CLAIMS.—(1) If the Secretary of Defense determines, pursuant to regulations prescribed by the Secretary under subsection (d), that a claim under this section in excess of \$100,000 is meritorious, and the claim is otherwise payable under this section, the Secretary may pay the claimant \$100,000 and report any meritorious amount in excess of \$100,000 to the Secretary of the Treasury for payment under section 1304 of title 31.

"(2) Except as provided in paragraph (1), no claim may be paid under this section unless the amount tendered is accepted by the claimant in full satisfaction.

“(d) REGULATIONS.—(1) The Secretary of Defense shall prescribe regulations to implement this section.

“(2) Regulations prescribed by the Secretary under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

“(A) Policies and procedures to ensure the timely, efficient, and effective processing and administration of claims under this section, including—

“(i) the filing, receipt, investigation, and evaluation of a claim;

“(ii) the negotiation, settlement, and payment of a claim; and

“(iii) such other matters relating to the processing and administration of a claim, including an administrative appeals process, as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(B) A process through which any claimant who pursues an administrative appeal of a claim will be provided with an opportunity to participate in a live hearing regarding such appeal, which may be attended by the claimant in-person or remotely through electronic means.

“(C) Uniform standards consistent with generally accepted standards used in a majority of States in adjudicating claims under chapter 171 of title 28 (commonly known as the ‘Federal Tort Claims Act’) to be applied to the evaluation, settlement, and payment of claims under this section without regard to the place of occurrence of the sex-related offense giving rise to the claim or the military department of the covered individual, and without regard to foreign law in the case of claims arising in foreign countries, including uniform standards to be applied to determinations with respect to—

“(i) whether an act or omission by a covered individual was negligent or wrongful, considering the specific facts and circumstances;

“(ii) whether the personal injury or death of the claimant was caused by a negligent or wrongful act or omission of a covered individual;

“(iii) requirements relating to proof of duty, breach of duty, and causation resulting in compensable injury or loss, subject to such exclusions as may be established by the Secretary of Defense; and

“(iv) calculation of damages, except that any standard establishing a maximum limit on noneconomic damages may not limit such damages to less than \$800,000.

“(D) A requirement that any maximum limit on noneconomic damages shall be not less than \$800,000.

“(E) Such other matters as the Secretary considers appropriate.

“(3) In order to implement expeditiously the provisions of this section, the Secretary may prescribe the regulations under this subsection—

“(A) by prescribing an interim final rule; and

“(B) not later than one year after prescribing such interim final rule and considering public comments with respect to such interim final rule, by prescribing a final rule.

“(e) LIMITATIONS ON ATTORNEY FEES.—(1) No attorney shall charge, demand, receive, or collect for services rendered, fees in excess of 20 percent of any claim paid pursuant to this section.

“(2) Any attorney who charges, demands, receives, or collects for services rendered in connection with a claim under this section any amount in excess of the amount allowed under paragraph (1), if recovery be had, shall be fined not more than \$2,000, imprisoned not more than one year, or both.

“(3) The United States shall not be liable for any attorney fees of a claimant under this section.

“(f) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not less frequently than annually until 2026, the Secretary of

Defense shall submit to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a report—

“(1) indicating the number of claims processed under this section;

“(2) indicating the resolution of each such claim; and

“(3) describing any other information that may enhance the effectiveness of the claims process under this section.

“(g) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) The term ‘covered individual’ means a member of the armed forces or an employee of the Department of Defense.

“(2) The term ‘sex-related offense’ has the meaning given that term in section 1044e(h) of this title.”.

(2) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 163 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2733a the following new item:

“2733b. Claims arising from sex-related offenses.”.

(b) INTERIM BRIEFING ON DEVELOPMENT OF REGULATIONS.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Defense shall provide to the Committees on Armed Services of the Senate and the House of Representatives a briefing on the development of regulations under section 2733b(d) of title 10, United States Code, as added by subsection (a)(1).

(c) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—

(1) Section 2735 of such title is amended by inserting “2733b.” after “2733a.”.

(2) Section 1304(a)(3)(D) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting “2733b.” after “2733a.”.

(d) EFFECTIVE DATE AND TRANSITION PROVISION.—

(1) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to any claim filed under section 2733b of such title, as added by subsection (a)(1), on or after January 1, 2022.

(2) TRANSITION.—Any claim filed in calendar year 2021 shall be deemed to be filed within the time period specified in section 2733b(b)(2) of such title, as so added, if it is filed within three years after it accrues.

SA 3871. Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. KING, and Ms. COLLINS) submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the appropriate place in title X, insert the following:

SEC. ____. **RECOGNITION AND HONORING OF SERVICE OF INDIVIDUALS WHO SERVED IN UNITED STATES CADET NURSE CORPS DURING WORLD WAR II.**

Section 106 of title 38, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(g)(1)(A) Service as a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during the period beginning on July 1, 1943, and ending on December 31, 1948, of any individual who was honorably discharged therefrom pursuant to subparagraph (B) shall be considered active duty for purposes of eligibility and entitlement to benefits under chapters 23 and 24 of this title (including with respect to

headstones and markers), other than such benefits relating to the interment of the individual in Arlington National Cemetery provided solely by reason of such service.

“(B)(i) Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of Defense shall issue to each individual who served as a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during the period beginning on July 1, 1943, and ending on December 31, 1948, a discharge from such service under honorable conditions if the Secretary determines that the nature and duration of the service of the individual so warrants.

“(ii) A discharge under clause (i) shall designate the date of discharge. The date of discharge shall be the date, as determined by the Secretary, of the termination of service of the individual concerned as described in that clause.

“(2) An individual who receives a discharge under paragraph (1)(B) for service as a member of the United States Cadet Nurse Corps shall be honored as a veteran but shall not be entitled by reason of such service to any benefit under a law administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, except as provided in paragraph (1)(A).

“(3) The Secretary of Defense may design and produce a service medal or other commendation, or memorial plaque or grave marker, to honor individuals who receive a discharge under paragraph (1)(B).”.

SA 3872. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title VIII, add the following:

SEC. 821. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORTING REQUIREMENTS FOR COVERED CONTRACTORS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter V of chapter 325 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 4892 the following new section:

“**§ 4893. Diversity and inclusion reporting requirements for covered contractors**

“(a) COVERED CONTRACTOR REPORTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Defense shall require each covered contractor awarded a major contract to submit to the Secretary of Defense by the last day of each full fiscal year that occurs during the period of performance of any major contract a report on diversity and inclusion.

“(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include, for the fiscal year covered by the report—

“(A) a description of each major contract with a period of performance during the fiscal year covered by the report, including the period of performance, expected total value, and value to date of each major contract;

“(B) the total value of payments received under all major contracts of each covered contractor during such fiscal year;

“(C) the total number of participants in the board of directors of each covered contractor, nominees for the board of directors of the covered contractor, and the senior leaders of the covered contractor, disaggregated by demographic classifications

“(D) with respect to employees of each covered contractor—

“(i) the total number of such employees; and

“(ii) the number of such employees (expressed as a numeral and as a percentage of the total number), identified by membership in demographic classification and major occupational group;

“(E) the value of first-tier subcontracts under each major contract entered into during such fiscal year;

“(F) with respect to employees of each covered subcontractor—

“(i) the total number of such employees;

“(ii) the number of such employees (expressed as a numeral and as a percentage of the total number), identified by membership in demographic classification and major occupational group;

“(G) whether the board of directors of the covered contractor has, as of the date on which the covered contractor submits a report under this section, adopted any policy, plan, or strategy to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among the members of the board of directors of the covered contractor, nominees for the board of directors of the covered contractor, or the senior leaders of the covered contractor; and

“(H) a description of participation by the contractor in diversity programs, to include hours spent, funds expended in support of, and the number of unique relationships established by each such diversity program.

“(b) ANNUAL SUMMARY REPORT.—

“(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the first day of each fiscal year, the Secretary shall submit to the congressional defense committees a report summarizing the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (a).

“(2) ELEMENTS.—Each report under paragraph (1) shall include—

“(A) an index of the reports submitted pursuant to subsection (a);

“(B) a compilation of the data described in such subsection, disaggregated as described in such subsection;

“(C) an aggregation of the data provided in such reports; and

“(D) a narrative that analyzes the information disclosed in such reports and identifies any year-to-year trends in such information.

“(c) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.—Each report required under this subsection shall be posted on a single publicly available website of the Department of Defense and made available in a machine-readable format that is downloadable, searchable, and sortable.

“(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) COVERED CONTRACTOR.—The term ‘covered contractor’ means a contractor awarded a major contract.

“(2) COVERED SUBCONTRACTOR.—The term ‘covered subcontractor’ means a subcontractor performing a subcontract that is one of the 10 highest aggregate value subcontracts under a major contract.

“(3) DEMOGRAPHIC CLASSIFICATIONS.—The term ‘demographic classifications’ means classifications by race, gender, veteran status, or ethnicity.

“(4) DIVERSITY PROGRAM.—The term ‘diversity program’ means—

“(A) a program conducted under section 3904 of this title;

“(B) a mentor-protege relationship established under section 831 of the National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 1991;

“(C) a program conducted under section 250 of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283; 10 U.S.C. 2192a note); or

“(D) any other program designated by the Secretary of Defense as designed to increase the diversity of the workforce of the defense industrial base.

“(5) MAJOR CONTRACT.—The term ‘major contract’ has the meaning given the term in section 2342 of this title.

“(6) MAJOR OCCUPATIONAL GROUP.—The term ‘major occupational group’ means a major occupational group as defined by the Bureau of Labor Statistics.

“(7) SENIOR LEADER.—The term ‘senior leader’ means—

“(A) the president of a covered contractor;

“(B) any vice president in charge of a principal business unit, division, or function of a covered contractor;

“(C) any other officer of a covered contractor who performs a policy-making function; or

“(D) an individual responsible for the direct or indirect management of more than 200 individuals.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections for subchapter V of chapter 325 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding after the item related to section 4892 the following:

“4893. Diversity and inclusion reporting requirements for covered contractors.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE AND APPLICABILITY.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect on July 1, 2022, and shall apply with respect to contracts entered into on or after July 1, 2022.

SA 3873. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle C of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2825. AUTHORITY TO CONVEY AND LEASE LAND AND FACILITIES TO SUPPORT CONTRACTS WITH FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 159 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by inserting after section 2688 the following new section:

“§ 2689. Conveyance and lease of land and facilities to support contracts with federally funded research and development centers

“(a) LEASE OF LAND, FACILITIES, AND IMPROVEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary of a military department may, for no consideration, lease land, facilities, and improvements to a federally funded research and development center sponsored by, and contracted to, the Department of Defense to further the purposes of such contract for a period not to exceed 30 years.

“(2) Any lease entered into under paragraph (1) with a federally funded research and development center with respect to which the Department of Defense has entered into a contract described in such paragraph shall terminate upon the termination or nonrenewal of such contract.

“(b) CONVEYANCE OF FACILITIES AND IMPROVEMENTS.—(1) The Secretary of a military department may, for no consideration, convey to a federally funded research and development center sponsored by, and contracted to, the Department of Defense ownership of facilities and improvements located on land leased to such center to further the purposes of such contract.

“(2) Ownership of facilities and improvements conveyed under paragraph (1) shall re-

vert to the United States upon the termination or nonrenewal of the underlying land lease.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections at the beginning of chapter 159 of such title is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 2688 the following new item:

“2689. Conveyance of land and facilities to support contracts with federally funded research and development centers.”.

SA 3874. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle D of title XXVIII, add the following:

SEC. 2836. TREATMENT OF FEDERALLY FUNDED RESEARCH AND DEVELOPMENT CENTERS UNDER MILITARY CONSTRUCTION LAWS.

Section 2801 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(e)(1) This chapter does not apply to real property, including facilities, leased to, furnished to, or placed under the responsibility of (through a base support agreement or other contractual mechanism) a federally funded research and development center that is sponsored by and contracted to the Department of Defense for the performance of research, development, and rapid prototyping.

“(2) On real property leased, conveyed, or made available to a federally funded research and development center from the Department of Defense, such center may use funds for research and development under a base support agreement or other contractual mechanism to construct new infrastructure and facilities, demolish leased facilities, and repair and refurbish leased facilities consistent with the requirements of such agreement or other contractual mechanism.”.

SA 3875. Ms. WARREN submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle E of title III, add the following:

SEC. 376. MODIFICATION OF DEFINITION OF COMMUNITY INFRASTRUCTURE FOR PURPOSES OF MILITARY BASE REUSE STUDIES AND COMMUNITY PLANNING ASSISTANCE.

Clause (i) of section 2391(e)(4)(A) of title 10, United States Code, is amended to read as follows:

“(i) is located—

“(I) off of a military installation; or

“(II) on land under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense under a long-term

real estate instrument, such as a lease or easement, that provides support to a military installation; and”.

SA 3876. Mrs. GILLIBRAND submitted an amendment intended to be proposed to amendment SA 3867 submitted by Mr. REED and intended to be proposed to the bill H.R. 4350, to authorize appropriations for fiscal year 2022 for military activities of the Department of Defense, 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; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

At the end of subtitle B of title III, add the following:

SEC. 318. CONSIDERATION UNDER DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM FOR STATE-OWNED FACILITIES OF THE NATIONAL GUARD WITH PROVEN EXPOSURE OF HAZARDOUS SUBSTANCES AND WASTE.

(a) **DEFINITION OF STATE-OWNED NATIONAL GUARD FACILITY.**—Section 2700 of title 10, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) The term ‘State-owned National Guard facility’ means land owned and operated by a State when such land is used for training the National Guard pursuant to chapter 5 of title 32 with funds provided by the Secretary of Defense or the Secretary of a military department, even though such land is not under the jurisdiction of the Department of Defense.”.

(b) **AUTHORITY FOR DEFENSE ENVIRONMENTAL RESTORATION PROGRAM.**—Section 2701(a)(1) of such title is amended, in the first sentence, by inserting “and at State-owned National Guard facilities” before the period.

(c) **RESPONSIBILITY FOR RESPONSE ACTIONS.**—Section 2701(c)(1) of such title is

amended by adding at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(D) Each State-owned National Guard facility being used for training at the time of actions leading to contamination by hazardous substances or pollutants or contaminants.”.

APPOINTMENT

The **PRESIDING OFFICER.** The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 116-260, on behalf of the Republican Leader of the Senate, appoints the following individual as a member of the Smithsonian American Women’s History Museum Advisory Council: Bridget Bush of Kentucky.

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Finally, Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, October 26; 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 Cobb nomination; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Cobb nomination, the Senate immediately vote on cloture on the Williams and Giles nominations, in the order listed; and that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Giles nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further,

that at 2:30 p.m., the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the Nachmanoff and Nagala nominations, in the order listed; and that if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations during Tuesday’s session, all postcloture time be considered expired and the confirmation votes be at a time to be determined by the majority leader in consultation with the Republican leader; finally, if any nominations are confirmed during Tuesday’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 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:23 p.m., stands adjourned until Tuesday, October 26, 2021, at 10 a.m. tomorrow.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate October 25, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

DOUGLAS L. PARKER, OF WEST VIRGINIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF LABOR.

THE JUDICIARY

MYRNA PEREZ, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SECOND CIRCUIT.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF WILLIAM OTIS FITCH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. William Otis Fitch who passed away on September 22, 2021. My thoughts and deepest condolences are with his family, friends, and loved ones.

Mr. Fitch was born on August 1, 1933. He was raised in Holly Springs, Mississippi and graduated from Holly Springs High School in 1951. Bill was an avid outdoorsman and enjoyed hunting and riding horses. After graduating high school, he enlisted with the U.S. Navy and joined the flight team. With this team he made lifelong friendships and considered it an honor to serve his country.

After his Naval service, Bill began his career in consumer finance and lending. He joined City Finance Corporation in Memphis as the Vice President. In 1974 Bill and his wife, Clydean, opened their own consumer lending company, First National Loans. He expanded the company throughout Tennessee. He sold the company and opened a new chain of consumer finance companies, Fidelity Loan Company. Over the course of his career he served as President and board member of the Mississippi Consumer Finance Association and Memphis Consumer Credit. He was a lifetime member of the Shriners.

Preceding him in death are his wife, Clydean; mother, Lurline; father, Theodore; and brothers Robert, James, and Jerry. Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Aleita; daughters Lynn and Lisa; six loving grandchildren, and three great-grandsons.

I am grateful for Mr. Fitch's service and join countless others in mourning his loss.

COST ESTIMATE FOR H.R. 3263, THE DHS MEDICAL COUNTER- MEASURES ACT

HON. BENNIE G. THOMPSON

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD the cost estimate prepared by the Congressional Budget Office for H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act. The cost estimate was not available at the time of the Committee report filing.

U.S. CONGRESS,
CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET OFFICE,
Washington, DC, October 22, 2021.

Hon. BENNIE G. THOMPSON,
Chairman, Committee on Homeland Security,
House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: The Congressional Budget Office has prepared the enclosed cost

estimate for H.R. 3263, the DHS Medical Countermeasures Act.

If you wish further details on this estimate, we will be pleased to provide them. The CBO staff contact is Lindsay Wylie.

Sincerely,

PHILLIP L. SWAGEL,
Director.

Enclosure.

H.R. 3263, DHS MEDICAL COUNTERMEASURES ACT AS
PASSED BY THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES ON JULY
20, 2021

	By fiscal year, millions of dollars		
	2022	2022-2026	2022-2031
Direct Spending (Outlays) ..	0	0	0
Revenues	0	0	0
Increase or Decrease (—) in the Deficit	0	0	0
Spending Subject to Approp- riation (Outlays)	1	5	*

* = not estimated.

Statutory pay-as-you-go procedures apply? No.

Increases on-budget deficits in any of the four consecutive 10-year periods beginning in 2032? No.

Mandate Effects:

Contains intergovernmental mandate? No.

Contains private-sector mandate? No.

H.R. 3263 would require the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to establish a medical countermeasures program, led by the Chief Medical Officer, to facilitate the agency's preparedness for a chemical, biological, radiological, or similar attack, disease outbreak, or pandemic. The act would require DHS to maintain a stockpile of countermeasures (including antibiotics, antivirals, and treatment for radiation exposure), ensure deployment of these resources, and provide training to its employees. H.R. 3263 also would require the Chief Medical Officer to establish a countermeasures working group, develop an integrated logistics plan within 120 days, and report to the Congress on implementation of the program within six months.

DHS currently maintains a medical countermeasures stockpile. Using information provided by the agency, CBO estimates DHS would need three new employees to modernize the program and meet the training, oversight, and reporting requirements in H.R. 3263. Furthermore, the agency would require about \$500,000 per year to replace and modernize materials in the stockpile. On that basis, CBO estimates DHS would spend \$5 million over the 2022-2026 period to implement the legislation; such spending would be subject to the availability of appropriated funds.

The CBO staff contact for this estimate is Lindsay Wylie. The estimate was reviewed by Leo Lex, Deputy Director of Budget Analysis.

REMEMBERING DWIGHT ORVILLE BOYD

HON. TROY A. CARTER

OF LOUISIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. CARTER of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and remember Dwight Orville Boyd, a son of Louisiana, who transitioned to his eternal heavenly rest late night on Saturday, October 16, 2021.

He was at peace in his final moments beside his loving family.

He was 65 years old.

As the oldest of five sons, Dwight's family was always at the center of his world.

His brothers, including Glynn Boyd, one of my dearest friends, looked up to their older brother and recounted many stories from his life.

He shared how Dwight was the first to get a part-time job at Winn-Dixie, and that even as a young man, Dwight always made sure to give all his siblings gifts during the holidays.

Friends remember him graciously blessing them through his angelic voice when singing at church, in weddings, or at the 50-yard line during a high school football game.

He loved the New Orleans Saints, celebrating Christmas with family, music, and politics.

He made lifelong friends that described him as being the pillar of the community. Dwight still held childhood friends from Hahnville High School, where he was known as "Mr. Hahnville High School."

He studied journalism at LSU, and throughout his life was never afraid to speak his mind, but always respected the views of others.

He shined a light on everyone he encountered.

My thoughts are with Dwight's mother Mrs. Beverly H. Boyd, his loving family, friends, and neighbors as they reel with this loss.

Rest easy, and may God bless his memory.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. KEVIN BRADY

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. BRADY. Madam Speaker, I was unexpectedly withheld. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on rollcall No. 330, and NAY on rollcall No. 331.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF VICKY RUSSELL

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Vicky Russell who passed away September 19 at North

• 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.

Mississippi Medical Center. She was 61 years old.

Vicky was born on May 20, 1960 to Raymond and Donna Gaines Yeager. She had lived all her life in Saltillo. She attended Saltillo schools and managed the B-Quick. For 13 years she worked at Hunter Sadler Mfg. before pursuing a career as a law enforcement officer. She served under Lee County Sheriff Harold Ray Presley and Sheriff Larry Presley. Fifteen years ago she joined the Itawamba County Sheriff's Department. She had risen to the rank of Major and served as a Jail Administrator.

Left to cherish her memory are her beloved daughter, Jessica; grandchildren, Carson, Maisy, Delaney and Dylan; mother, Donna; sister, Patty; and countless friends, colleagues, and loved ones.

I join the Saltillo community in mourning the loss of an outstanding woman and member of the law enforcement community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. GREG PENCE

OF INDIANA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. PENCE. Madam Speaker, I am not recorded for votes on Thursday, October 21, 2021 due to a family medical emergency. Had I been present, I would have voted "nay" on rollcall No. 327; "nay" on rollcall No. 328; and "nay" on rollcall No. 329.

CELEBRATING TEXAS SOUTHMOST COLLEGE'S 95TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. FILEMON VELA

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. VELA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Texas Southmost College (TSC) as they celebrate their 95th anniversary, making it the oldest institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley.

Texas Southmost College is the first accredited community college in the State of Texas. Originally named The Junior College of the Rio Grande Valley, TSC was established on August 9, 1926, with 84 students attending the first classes held on September 21, 1926. In 1931 it was renamed Brownsville Junior College, before its final renaming to Texas Southmost College in 1949. After a 20-year partnership with University of Texas at Brownsville, TSC's Board of Trustees voted to re-establish the college as an independent institution in 2011 and it was operating independently by 2013. The campus, spanning over 48 acres, is located in Brownsville, Texas on the historic site of Fort Brown, the first United States military post in the state.

TSC was selected as a "Bright Spot" by the White House Initiative on Educational Excellence for Hispanics in 2015 for its efforts to bridge the achievement gap and expand access to quality higher education. In addition to offering high-quality programs that lead to careers that are in demand, TSC is the most affordable institution of higher learning in the Rio Grande Valley, thanks to TSC's Board of

Trustees decision in 2013 to reduce tuition by 40 percent. TSC currently offers two-year academic credential progression in over 50 programs of study for students pursuing bachelor's degrees, and career and technical education leading to industry certifications and associate degrees. They also offer dual-credit academic, career, and technical courses at no cost to students, saving families in the Lower Rio Grande Valley \$28 million in tuition and related fees since 2017.

In 2018, TSC earned the designation of fastest-growing community college in the state of Texas, and their graduation rate now outpaces the Texas state average by more than three percent. The Board of Trustees, along with TSC President Jesus Roberto Rodriguez, Ph.D., continue to set goals to ensure the long-term viability of the institution with a focus on fostering student success, leading regional workforce development, enriching student experiences, enhancing community connections, and investing in each other.

Texas Southmost College prides itself on fostering a welcoming environment and a sense of belonging for all. Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in congratulating TSC on 95 years of invaluable service to the Lower Rio Grande Valley. Through education, community outreach and the promotion of individual success, Texas Southmost College continues to strengthen the state of Texas' prosperity and talent.

COMMEMORATING THE 75TH ANNIVERSARY OF WKDK RADIO

HON. RALPH NORMAN

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commemorate the 75th anniversary of WKDK Radio and celebrate the success of James Coggins and his son Jimmie Coggins.

WKDK opened its doors on October 26, 1946. Three years later, James received an offer to manage the station. James bought WKDK in 1951, and the radio station has been a Coggins family-owned business ever since.

James, also known as "Mr. C," believed radio was supposed to serve the community, and that's exactly what WKDK has been doing for the last 75 years. WKDK covers local, state, and national events each day and has kept the public informed on major events, such as the assassination of President John F. Kennedy, the tornado of 1984, the 9/11 attacks, and the eclipse of 2017. The station also serves as a source of connection and entertainment and reports on important community initiatives, such as local election news, Coffee Hour, weather updates, and the announcement of anniversaries and birthdays.

After the passing of Mr. C, his son Jimmie took over management and ownership of the radio station. In addition to continuing his father's success at WKDK, Jimmie has also kept his civic-minded and community-centered spirit alive. Each year, Jimmie takes time out of his schedule to train and mentor students interested in journalism and radio broadcasting.

As testament to the station's accomplishments, WKDK has received numerous honors and recognitions, including the March of Dimes Award, the South Carolina National

Guard Certificate of Appreciation, the Rotarian Radio Appreciation Award, the Red Cross Appreciation Award, and an award from the Newberry County Board of Education for Outstanding Contributions to Newberry County Public Schools. The success of WKDK would not be possible without the outstanding leadership of James and Jimmie, who are also recipients of numerous individual accolades. Both James and Jimmie have been honored by the Newberry Touchdown Club and have been recognized as the Rotarian of the Year for multiple years. In 2010, James was also awarded the Order of the Palmetto, the state of South Carolina's highest civilian honor presented in recognition of a lifetime of extraordinary achievement, service, and contributions on a national or statewide scale.

On behalf of the 5th district of South Carolina, I thank WKDK for serving as the voice of Newberry County for the last 75 years. I congratulate them on their outstanding success, and I look forward to hearing about their future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF CAROLYN CLAYTON

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Carolyn Clayton who passed away Saturday, September 11 at the Baptist Memorial Hospital in New Albany. I join her family, friends, and loved ones in mourning her loss.

Carolyn was born on February 14, 1941 to Marlin and Maggie Curtis Evans. She worked at the Lee County Chancery Clerk's Office. She found joy in attending yard sales, gardening, and spending time with family.

Carolyn was the founder of the nonprofit organization, Survival Incorporated. The organization works to advocate for the victims of violent crimes across the state of Mississippi. She was awarded Victims Advocate of the Year.

Carolyn was married for 58 years to her husband, Joe, who passed away two months prior. Left to cherish her memory are her sons, Brad and Rob; grandchildren, Nikki, Kattie, Jack and Carson.

I am grateful for Mrs. Clayton's lifetime of service to the state of Mississippi.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of October 22, 2021. Had I been present for the roll call vote on the Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3110, the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 330: No.

SUPPORT OF THE U.S. FLAG
MARITIME FLEET**HON. ELAINE G. LURIA**

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mrs. LURIA. Madam Speaker, today I want to highlight the importance of the U.S. flag maritime fleet to our economic and national security. While only two percent of our country's imports and exports move on U.S. ships, the U.S. shipping industry supports, over 650,000 U.S. jobs, has over \$150 billion in annual U.S. economic impact, and plays a critical role in supporting our military's ability to project power and meet wartime requirements.

Shipping is the most energy efficient way to move cargo, and we heavily rely on the U.S. flag fleet for trade security, diplomatic and maritime strength, and our readiness to defend and support American interests overseas.

The U.S. has only 84 international deep sea trading vessels, but the rest of the world has over 50,000. China alone has nearly 7,000.

The United States needs a robust U.S. flag maritime industry and a trained and qualified mariner workforce to support our surge sealift capabilities in responding to crises and military operations around the world when called upon. Further, the U.S. flag fleet routinely responds to disasters and emergencies, moves critical government and military cargo around the world, and carries American farm products in support of U.S. international development programs to help developing countries in need.

The shipping industry is facing unprecedented challenges today, but one thing we know all too well is that a strong commercial maritime capability enhances our national security. The Maritime Security Program which has broad bipartisan support in Congress is the single most important program to assist U.S. flag ships in foreign trade and helps ensure that we retain this important military capacity.

While the U.S. is the largest trading nation in the world based on exports and imports of goods and services, without strong sustained support, the U.S. flag fleet faces difficult challenges which have significant potential to negatively impact America's national security. I want to thank the U.S. flag fleet and the U.S. merchant mariners who work every day to support our military and our Nation.

HONORING THE 90TH BIRTHDAY OF
GERALD E. TALBOT, MAINE'S
FIRST BLACK LEGISLATOR**HON. CHELLIE PINGREE**

OF MAINE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Ms. PINGREE. Madam Speaker, today I rise to honor my constituent, Gerald E. Talbot, who is celebrating his 90th birthday this year and who I wish to recognize for his instrumental role in advancing civil and human rights in Maine and across the nation.

After serving in the U.S. Army, Gerry Talbot's activism was sparked when he participated in voter registration drives and was among only a handful of Mainers at the his-

toric 1963 March on Washington, after which he became the founding president of the Portland, Maine, chapter of the NAACP. In that role, he helped pass the Maine Fair Housing Bill and the Maine Human Rights Act. As the state's first African American legislator, Gerry fought for a state holiday honoring Martin Luther King, Jr. and championed issues not traditionally addressed at the time, ranging from gun control and protections for migrant workers to fair housing and tribal sovereignty. In 1977, he sponsored Maine's first gay rights legislation.

Throughout his life, Gerry Talbot has worked to educate people about the Black experience. As an avid collector of books, posters, photographs, and other artifacts, as well as personal papers and records, he has helped document Black history in Maine and throughout the country. In 2006, he co-authored Maine's Visible Black History: The First Chronicle of its People. A sought-after speaker, Gerry generously shared access to his historical memorabilia wherever he went, and in order to inform generations to come, he donated it to the African American Collection of the Jean Byers Sampson Center for Diversity at the University of Southern Maine.

In Maine, public service and a commitment to others is the backbone of our communities, and Gerry Talbot is a shining example of these important values and commitments. Schools and parks have been named in his honor, and honorary degrees have been awarded. Today I am privileged to recognize his (or Gerald E. Talbot's) contributions to my state by entering his story into the official record of our great nation.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
MATTHEW WADE BUTE**HON. TRENT KELLY**

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Staff Sergeant Matthew Bute, a veteran and member of the Mississippi Rifles—the 155th Infantry Regiment in the Mississippi National Guard. He passed away September 10, 2021 in his home in Gulfport, Mississippi. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Matthew grew up in DeKalb, Illinois and graduated from Long Beach High School in Mississippi. He was an outstanding student and athlete—a defensive outside linebacker on the football team. In his civilian life, Matt worked for Inland Dredging and was known for his hard work. In the Mississippi National Guard, he was a dedicated leader and a selfless Soldier. He was a devoted friend and model of Army leadership.

SSG Matthew Bute served as a Dismounted Infantry Squad Leader in 2nd Platoon, Company B, 1st Battalion, 155th Infantry Regiment, 155th Armored Brigade Combat Team, Mississippi Army National Guard. He was responsible for training a squad of infantry Soldiers. His military career began in 2012 and he has served in the Mississippi Guard for 9 years. He was promoted to the rank of Staff Sergeant in May of this year. He deployed under the command of my current Legislative Director, Major Rodney Hall Jr., in support of Oper-

ation Spartan Shield and served in Kuwait and Iraq. Most recently, SSG Bute volunteered to protect our Nation's Capital during Operation Civil Unrest in Washington, D.C.

Left to cherish his memory are his older brother Brad and his nieces, Brooklyn and Raine. He is preceded in death by his mother, Jennifer Holmes, and younger brother, Nathan Thumm.

SSG Matthew Bute was a brave Soldier, a remarkable leader, and an outstanding friend to many. I am grateful for his service to our state and nation.

PROVIDING URGENT MATERNAL
PROTECTIONS FOR NURSING
MOTHERS ACT

SPEECH OF

HON. DAVID N. CICILLINE

OF RHODE ISLAND

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Friday, October 22, 2021

Mr. CICILLINE. Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of the Providing Urgent Maternal Protections for Nursing Mothers Act—known as the PUMP Act.

All too often, the workplace is not an equal place for women as they face unequal pay for equal work and other forms of gender-based discrimination. Mothers face even greater barriers.

Mothers who choose to breastfeed should not be forced to choose between returning to work and breastfeeding. And they certainly should never have to pump in a place that is not safe, private, or comfortable.

The PUMP Act takes the long-overdue step of ensuring that every employee who chooses to breastfeed will have the time and a designated, private space to pump without penalty.

Nine million American workers will be covered by these new protections, ending unfair, discriminatory practices and allowing more mothers and infants to receive the scientifically proven health and nutritional benefits of breastfeeding.

I want to thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her leadership on this important, bipartisan bill to support working mothers, and her historic leadership on supporting working women and families.

I am proud to support this vital legislation, and I urge all of my colleagues to support it as well.

HONORING CAROL COON

HON. DANIEL MEUSER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, it is my honor to formally acknowledge the ordination of Carol Coon, who was ordained a minister in the River of Life Fellowship Church.

Carol has been a devout Christian all her life and has lived her life in a manner focused always on glorifying God. Her ordination is the fulfillment of a long-held dream and consummates her lifelong journey of faith in God. As the Member of Congress for Pennsylvania's Ninth District as well as Carol's nephew

and Godson, it is my honor to congratulate her on her ordination and let her know how proud her family, church, and community are of her wonderful accomplishment.

In addition to wishing her well and praying for her in her ministry, I also know that many people will benefit spiritually from Carol's ministry.

May God continue to bless Carol, her family, and her church.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MIKIE SHERRILL

OF NEW JERSEY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Ms. SHERRILL. Madam Speaker, regretably, I was unable to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted: NO on the Republican Motion to Recommit on H.R. 3110; and YEA on final passage of H.R. 3110, the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF ANDREW CARTER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Mr. Andrew Carter who recently celebrated his 100th birthday. He is a member of the greatest generation, and I am very proud to have men like Mr. Carter representing the state of Mississippi.

Mr. Carter is a native of Tippah county. He joined the U.S. Navy on May 17, 1944. He loves to tell stories of his time aboard the SS *Felipe De Nerve*, a French liner used to transport troops and supplies during heavy fighting. He survived and returned home to Mississippi. In December of 1946, Mr. Carter married Naomi Street. The couple had six children together.

Mr. Carter currently resides in Ripley. He enjoys trips to the local coffee shop to spend time with his friends, mowing the lawn, and exercising. He is a natural storyteller and has no shortage of experience.

I am so thankful for Mr. Carter's lifetime of service to this country and the state of Mississippi. I wish him many more years of good health and happiness.

HONORING KAY VANAGS AS IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Kay Vanags as Iowan of the week. Kay has provided valuable services to constituents in Iowa's 3rd Congressional District for over 20 years through her work as LifeLong Links Director at Aging Resources of Central Iowa. The organization provides services to individuals in Dallas, Madison, Warren, and Polk

counties in our district, as well as Boone, Story, Jasper, and Marion counties in Iowa. Kay's work has had a widespread impact on Iowa's senior community and their family caretakers.

Kay has a background in teaching, but she was led to a career in social service following her experience as a caretaker for in-laws who had memory and physical issues requiring attentive care. Her experience motivated her to advocate for family caregivers and the elderly who are experiencing similar situations.

Kay's service to family caregivers ensures that they have the information and resources they need to properly care for their loved ones. She advises and connects folks with housing, transportation, and health insurance issues—which are often difficult areas for people to navigate on their own without the institutional knowledge Kay can share. Kay also provides counseling, as the change in roles and relationships between a caregiver and their loved ones often provides a unique challenge for families to navigate. Based on her own experience as well as additional training, Kay also provides education to caregivers about care strategies—particularly to those caregivers who have loved ones with memory issues—and those who struggle with the stresses of work/life balance.

Kay enjoys advocating for folks as they navigate some of the most difficult and personal situations and having the opportunity to share information and guidance for those in need. Aging Resources of Central Iowa receives approximately 1,000 calls per month, and about half of those are from family caregivers. Kay continues to engage with community health provider groups, which build relationships and important partnerships that benefit the entire community. Particularly throughout the COVID pandemic, as calls increased, Kay and her team successfully shifted their operations so they could continue to provide direct assistance to those in need. It is important to highlight Kay and the team at Aging Resources of Central Iowa for their continued service to our district and the people of Iowa.

I am proud to honor Kay Vanags as Iowan of the Week.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. CHERI BUSTOS

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Mrs. BUSTOS. Madam Speaker, I was unable to vote on the Legislative Day of October 22, 2021. Had I been present for the roll call vote on the passage of H.R. 3110, the PUMP for Nursing Mothers Act, I would have cast the following vote:

Roll Call 331: Yes.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. TERESA LEGER FERNANDEZ

OF NEW MEXICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, October 25, 2021

Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ. Madam Speaker, had I been present on October 20, 2021 during Roll Call vote No. 322 for H.R. 3635,

the Strengthening America's Strategic National Stockpile Act of 2021, I would have voted YEA.

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 Tuesday, October 26, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

OCTOBER 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner, of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

SH-216

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Carlton Waterhouse, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, and Amanda Howe, of Virginia, and David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, both to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, and 2 General Services Administration resolutions; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Jennifer Clyburn Reed, of South Carolina, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Ben Wagner, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority.

SD-406

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the Department of State and Department of State authorizations.

SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice.

SD-106

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations
Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation

To hold hearings to examine Black Sea security, focusing on reviving U.S. policy toward the region.

SD-G50

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management

To hold hearings to examine strategies for improving critical energy infrastructure.

VTC

Committee on Indian Affairs

Business meeting to consider H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine voting matters in Native communities.

SD-628

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine women entrepreneurs.

SR-301

Joint Economic Committee

To hold hearings to examine a stronger labor market for robust growth.

210-CHOB

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

To hold hearings to examine improving Veterans' employment, education, and home loan opportunities, focusing on success after service.

SR-418

OCTOBER 28

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 2428, to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify False Claims Act procedures, S. 998, to provide grants to States that do not suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a driver's license of a person or refuse to renew a registration of a motor vehicle for failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee, and the nominations of Lucy Haeran Koh, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Jane M. Beckering, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Shalina D. Kumar, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Armando O. Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Jonathan Kanter, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice.

SD-106

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Bradley Sherman, of Texas, to be Chief Information Officer, and Ashish S. Vazirani, of Maryland, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of Defense.

SD-G50

Special Committee on Aging

To hold hearings to examine building a stronger retirement system for all Americans, focusing on a financially secure future.

SD-562

10 a.m.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's Semi-Annual Report to Congress.

SD-538

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine social media platforms and the amplification of domestic extremism and other harmful content.

SD-342/VTC

NOVEMBER 2

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on State Department and USAID Management, International Operations, and Bilateral International Development

To hold hearings to examine training the Department of State's workforce for the 21st century diplomacy.

SD-G50/VTC

NOVEMBER 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine programs at the Economic Development Administration.

SD-406

NOVEMBER 16

10 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Homeland Security.

SD-106

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S7323–S7347

Measures Introduced: Six bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 3057–3062, and S. Con. Res. 16. **Page S7338**

Appointments:

American Women's History Museum Advisory Council: The Chair, pursuant to Public Law 116–260, on behalf of the Republican Leader of the Senate, appointed the following individual as a member of the Smithsonian American Women's History Museum Advisory Council: Bridget Bush of Kentucky. **Page S7347**

Message from the President: Senate received the following message from the President of the United States:

Transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on the continuation of the national emergency that was originally declared in Executive Order 13413 of October 27, 2006, with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo; which was referred to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs. (PM–14) **Page S7338**

Cobb Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia. **Pages S7325–34**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, October 26, 2021; that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate immediately vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nomination of Karen McGlashan Williams, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and the nomination of Patricia Tolliver Giles, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, in the order listed; that at 2:30 p.m., Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nomination of Michael S. Nachmanoff, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and the nomination of Sarala Vidya Nagala, of Connecticut, to be United States

District Judge for the District of Connecticut, in the order listed; and if cloture is invoked on any of the nominations during the session of Tuesday, October 26, 2021, all post-cloture time be considered expired and the confirmation votes be at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S7347**

Williams Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. **Page S7335**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, October 27, 2021. **Page S7335**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7335**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7335**

Olsen Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7335**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Omar Antonio Williams, of Connecticut, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut. **Page S7335**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7335**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7335**

Schroeder Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7335**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Matthew G. Olsen, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7335**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7335**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7335**

Dellinger Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7335**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7335**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7335**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7335**

Prelogar Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Department of Justice. **Page S7336**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Hampton Y. Dellinger, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S7336**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Pages S7335–36**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7336**

Robinson Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. **Page S7336**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition

of the nomination of Elizabeth Prelogar, of Idaho, to be Solicitor General of the United States, Department of Justice. **Page S7336**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7336**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7336**

Heytens Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Toby J. Heytens, of Virginia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fourth Circuit. **Page S7336**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Beth Robinson, of Vermont, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. **Page S7336**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S7336**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S7336**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 50 yeas to 41 nays (Vote No. EX. 425), Douglas L. Parker, of West Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary of Labor. **Page S7334**

By 48 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 426), Myrna Perez, of New York, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit. **Pages S7334–35**

Messages from the House: **Page S7338**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S7338–39**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S7340–41**

Additional Statements: **Pages S7337–38**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S7341–47**

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total—426) **Pages S7334–35**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:23 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, October 26, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S7347.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

No committee meetings were held.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 18 public bills, H.R. 5705–5722; and 3 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 56; and H. Res. 744–745 were introduced. **Page H5872**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H5873–74**

Report Filed: A report was filed today as follows:

H.R. 4035, to amend the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 to prioritize veterans court treatment programs that ensure equal access for racial and ethnic minorities and women, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–154). **Page H5872**

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Casten to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H5837**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:04 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H5837**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 5 p.m. **Page H5838**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Sovereign Debt Contract Capacity Act: H.R. 4111, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to direct the United States Executive Director at the International Monetary Fund to advocate that the Fund provide technical assistance to Fund members seeking to enhance their capacity to evaluate the legal and financial terms of sovereign debt contracts, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 391 yeas to 29 nays, Roll No. 332; **Pages H5838–40, H5854**

Financial Transparency Act of 2021: H.R. 2989, amended, to amend securities, commodities, and banking laws to make the information reported to financial regulatory agencies electronically searchable, to further enable the development of RegTech and Artificial Intelligence applications, to put the United States on a path towards building a comprehensive Standard Business Reporting program to ultimately harmonize and reduce the private sector's regulatory compliance burden, while enhancing transparency and accountability, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 400 yeas to 19 nays, Roll No. 333; **Pages H5840–48, H5854–55**

Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2021: H.R. 2265, amended, to amend the Investment Company Act of 1940 to postpone the date of payment or satisfaction upon redemption of certain se-

curities in the case of the financial exploitation of specified adults; and **Pages H5848–50**

Awarding posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport: H.R. 5142, amended, to award posthumously a Congressional Gold Medal, in commemoration to the servicemembers who perished in Afghanistan on August 26, 2021, during the evacuation of citizens of the United States and Afghan allies at Hamid Karzai International Airport. **Pages H5850–53**

Announcement by the Chair: The Chair announced that, pursuant to House Resolution 730, the Speaker had certified to the United States Attorney for the District of Columbia the refusal of Stephen K. Bannon to produce documents in compliance with a subpoena to the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol. **Page H5854**

Recess: The House recessed at 6:01 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m. **Page H5854**

Discharge Petition: Representative Greene (GA) presented to the clerk a motion to discharge the Committee on Energy and Commerce from the consideration of the bill, H.R. 2316, to reduce the salary of the Director of the National Institute of Allergy and Infectious Diseases, to provide for an audit of the correspondence, financial statements, and policy memoranda within the Office of the Director during the COVID–19 outbreak, and for other purposes (Discharge Petition No. 7).

Presidential Message: Read a message from the President wherein he notified Congress that the national emergency declared with respect to the situation in or in relation to the Democratic Republic of the Congo is to continue in effect beyond October 27, 2021—referred to the Committee on Foreign Affairs and ordered to be printed (H. Doc. 117–67). **Pages H5853–54**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5854 and H5855.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 9:54 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, OCTOBER 26, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine security in Afghanistan and in the regions of South and Central Asia; to be followed by a closed session in SVC–217 at 12:15 p.m., 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Reta Jo Lewis, of Georgia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, Brent Neiman, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Joshua Frost, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Christopher S. Wilson, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Innovation and Intellectual Property Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), all of the Department of State, Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael D. Smith, of Virginia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Larry D. Turner, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of Labor, Sandra D. Bruce, of Delaware, to be Inspector General, and Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Ca-

reer, Technical, and Adult Education, both of the Department of Education, and Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, Gerald W. Fauth, of Virginia, and Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, each to be Member of the National Mediation Board, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Rules and Administration: to hold hearings to examine emerging threats to election administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture; and Subcommittee on Biotechnology, Horticulture, and Research, joint hearing entitled “Agricultural Biotechnology: 21st Century Advancements and Applications”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Defense, hearing entitled “Workforce Development and the Department of Defense”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Subcommittee on Workforce Protections; and Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, joint hearing entitled “Protecting Lives and Livelihoods: Vaccine Requirements and Employee Accommodations”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Caring for America: Legislation to Support Patients, Caregivers, and Providers”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on Investor Protection, Entrepreneurship and Capital Markets, hearing entitled “Taking Stock of ‘China, Inc.’: Examining Risks to Investors and the U.S. Posed by Foreign Issuers in U.S. Markets”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4349, the “DHS Office of Civil Rights and Civil Liberties Authorization Act”; H.R. 4476, the “DHS Trade and Economic Security Council Act of 2021”; H.R. 5574, the “TRANSLATE Act”; H.R. 5615, the “Homeland Security Capabilities Preservation Act”; H.R. 5616, the “DHS Basic Training Accreditation Improvement Act of 2021”; H.R. 5633, the “DHS Inspector General Transparency Act”; H.R. 5652, the “DHS Acquisition Review Board Act of 2021”; H.R. 5658, the “DHS Roles and Responsibilities in Cyber Space Act”; H.R. 5681, the “Shadow Wolves Enhancement Act”; H.R. 5682, the “CBP Donations Acceptance Program Reauthorization Act”; H.R. 5683, the “DHS Border Support Services Contracts Review Act”; and S. 658, the “National Cybersecurity Preparedness Consortium Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation; and Subcommittee on Transportation and Maritime Security, joint hearing entitled “Transportation Cybersecurity: Protecting Planes, Trains, and Pipelines from Cyber Threats”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Courts, Intellectual Property, and the Internet, hearing entitled “Judicial Ethics and Transparency: The Limits of Existing Statutes and Rules”, 2 p.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing entitled “Protecting Human Rights in International Conservation”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled “Strengthening Indigenous Communities Through Cultural and Environmental Preservation”, 12 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, Subcommittee on Economic Development, Public Buildings, and Emergency Management, hearing entitled “Are FEMA’s Assistance Programs Adequately Designed to Assist Communities Before, During, and After Wildfire?”, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity, hearing entitled “A Whole Government Approach in Support of Servicewomen”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of October 26 through October 29, 2021

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

At approximately 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Karen McGlashan Williams, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Patricia Tolliver Giles, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

At 2:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Michael S. Nachmanoff, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Sarala Vidya Nagala, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: October 27, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rostin Behnam, of Maryland, to be Chairman, and to be a Commissioner, of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, 10 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Armed Services: October 26, to hold hearings to examine security in Afghanistan and in the regions of South and Central Asia; to be followed by a closed session in SVC-217 at 12:15 p.m., 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

October 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of John Bradley Sherman, of Texas, to be Chief Information Officer, and Ashish S. Vazirani, of Maryland, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, both of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: October 26, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Reta Jo Lewis, of Georgia, to be President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and Elizabeth de Leon Bhargava, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, 10 a.m., SD-538.

October 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau’s Semi-Annual Report to Congress, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: October 26, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, Product Safety, and Data Security, to hold hearings to examine protecting kids online, focusing on Snapchat, TikTok, and YouTube, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: October 27, business meeting to consider the nominations of Carlton Waterhouse, of Virginia, to be Assistant Administrator, Office of Solid Waste, and Amanda Howe, of Virginia, and David M. Uhlmann, of Michigan, both to be an Assistant Administrator, all of the Environmental Protection Agency, and 2 General Services Administration resolutions; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Henry Christopher Frey, of North Carolina, to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, Jennifer Clyburn Reed, of South Carolina, to be Federal Cochairperson of the Southeast Crescent Regional Commission, Ben Wagner, to be Inspector General of the Tennessee Valley Authority, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: October 26, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Maria L. Pagan, of Puerto Rico, to be a Deputy United States Trade Representative (Geneva Office), with the rank of Ambassador, Brent Neiman, of Illinois, to be a Deputy Under Secretary, and Joshua Frost, of New York, to be an Assistant Secretary, both of the Department of the Treasury, Samuel R. Bagenstos, of Michigan, to be General Counsel of the Department of Health and Human Services, and Christopher S. Wilson, of the District of Columbia, to be Chief Innovation and Intellectual Property Negotiator, Office of the United States Trade Representative, with the rank of Ambassador, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: October 26, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Marc R. Stanley, of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Argentine Republic, Rashad Hussain, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for International Religious Freedom, and Ramin Toloui, of Iowa, to be an Assistant Secretary (Economic and Business Affairs), all of the Department of State, Chantale Yokmin Wong, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Director of the Asian Development Bank, with the rank of Ambassador, Adriana Debora Kugler, of Maryland, to be United States Executive Director of the International Bank for Reconstruction and Development, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., VTC.

October 27, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the Department of State and Department of State authorizations, 10 a.m., SD–G50.

October 27, Subcommittee on Europe and Regional Security Cooperation, to hold hearings to examine Black Sea security, focusing on reviving U.S. policy toward the region, 2:30 p.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: October 26, business meeting to consider the nominations of Michael D. Smith, of Virginia, to be Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation for National and Community Service, Jose Javier Rodriguez, of Florida, to be an Assistant Secretary, and Larry D. Turner, of North Carolina, to be Inspector General, both of the Department of Labor, Sandra D. Bruce, of Delaware, to be Inspector General, and Amy Loyd, of New Mexico, to be Assistant Secretary for Career, Technical, and Adult Education, both of the Department of Education, and Deirdre Hamilton, of the District of Columbia, Gerald W. Fauth, of Virginia, and Linda A. Puchala, of Maryland, each to be Member of the National Mediation Board, 10 a.m., SH–216.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: October 27, Subcommittee on Government Operations and Border Management, to hold hearings to examine strategies for improving critical energy infrastructure, 2:30 p.m., VTC.

October 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine social media platforms and the amplification of domestic extremism and other harmful content, 10:15 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on Indian Affairs: October 27, business meeting to consider H.R. 1688, to amend the Indian Child Protection and Family Violence Prevention Act; to be immediately followed by an oversight hearing to examine voting matters in Native communities, 2:30 p.m., SD–628.

Committee on the Judiciary: October 27, to hold an oversight hearing to examine the Department of Justice, 10 a.m., SD–106.

October 28, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2428, to amend title 31, United States Code, to modify False Claims Act procedures, S. 998, to provide grants to States that do not suspend, revoke, or refuse to renew a driver's license of a person or refuse to renew a registration of a motor vehicle for failure to pay a civil or criminal fine or fee, and the nominations of Lucy Haeran Koh, of California, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit, Jane M. Beckering, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Michigan, Shalina D. Kumar, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Michigan, Armando O. Bonilla, of the District of Columbia, and Carolyn N. Lerner, of Maryland, both to be a Judge of the United States Court of Federal Claims, and Jonathan Kanter, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Rules and Administration: October 26, to hold hearings to examine emerging threats to election administration, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: October 27, to hold hearings to examine women entrepreneurs, 2:30 p.m., SR–301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: October 27, to hold hearings to examine improving Veterans' employment, education, and home loan opportunities, focusing on success after service, 3 p.m., SR–418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: October 26, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

October 27, Full Committee, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH–219.

Special Committee on Aging: October 28, to hold hearings to examine building a stronger retirement system for all Americans, focusing on a financially secure future, 9:30 a.m., SD–562.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, October 27, Subcommittee on State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs, hearing entitled “United States Global COVID–19 Response: Actions Taken and Future Needs”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, October 28, Subcommittee on Readiness, hearing entitled “Depot Modernization and Optimization”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, October 27, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled “Examining the Policies and Priorities of the Office of Federal Student Aid”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, October 27, Subcommittee on Environment and Climate Change, hearing entitled “TSCA and Public Health: Fulfilling the Promise of the Lautenberg Act”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, October 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Bringing Consumer Protection Back: A Semi-Annual Review of the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, October 27, Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights, hearing entitled “Combating Global Human Trafficking”, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

October 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Administration's FY22 Budget Request for the Peace Corps, Development Finance Corporation, and Millennium Challenge Corporation”, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

October 28, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled “U.S. Engagement in the Western Balkans”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, October 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Ensuring Equity in Disaster Preparedness, Response, and Recovery”, 10 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, October 27, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 2377, the “Federal Extreme Risk Protection Order Act of 2021”; H.R. 4777, the “Nondebtor Release Prohibition Act of 2021”; H.R. 963, the “FAIR Act”; H.R. 5677, to make technical amendments to titles

2, 50, and 52, United States Code; H.R. 5679, to make technical amendments to titles 7, 20, and 43, United States Code; H.R. 5695, to make technical amendments to title 25, United States Code; and H.R. 5705, to make technical amendments to title 34, United States Code, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, October 27, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing entitled “Wildland Firefighting Workforce Reforms”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

October 27, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “The Federal Coal Program: A Bad Deal for Taxpayers and a Threat to Climate”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, October 27, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled “How the Meatpacking Industry Failed the Workers Who Feed America”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

October 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Fueling the Climate Crisis: Exposing Big Oil’s Disinformation Campaign to Prevent Climate Action”, 9 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, October 27, Subcommittee on Economic Growth, Tax, and Capital Access, hearing entitled “A Review of the SBIC Program”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, October 27, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4042, the “Aviation Funding Stability Act of 2021”; legislation on Stop Sexual Assault and Harassment in Transportation Act; H.R. 1066, the “Wildfire Recovery Act”; H.R. 5641, the “SPEED Recovery Act”; H.R. 5689, the “Resilient AMERICA Act”; H.R. 5673, the “Safeguarding Tomorrow through Ongoing Risk Mitigation Technical Correc-

tions Act”; H.R. 5343, the “FEMA Caseworker Accountability Act”; H.R. 5547, the “CEDS Act”; H.R. 4771, to designate the Federal Building and United States Courthouse located at 111 North Adams Street in Tallahassee, Florida, as the “Joseph Woodrow Hatchett United States Courthouse and Federal Building”; H.R. 246, to designate the Federal building and United States courthouse located at 180 West Main Street in Abingdon, Virginia, as the “H. Emory Widener, Jr., Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; and General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions, 10 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, October 27, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Lessons Learned? Building a Culture of Patient Safety Within the Veterans Health Administration”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, October 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Diversity, Equity, Inclusion and Accessibility in the Intelligence Community: An Enduring Mission Imperative”, 9:30 a.m., HVC-210.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, October 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “International Climate Challenges and Opportunities”, 10:30 a.m., 210 Cannon and Zoom.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, October 27, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Strengthening the Lawmaking Process: How Data Can Inform and Improve Policy”, 1 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Zoom.

Joint Meetings

Joint Economic Committee: October 27, to hold hearings to examine a stronger labor market for robust growth, 2:30 p.m., 210-CHOB.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 26

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, October 26

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia.

At approximately 11 a.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Jia M. Cobb, of Virginia, to be United States District Judge for the District of Columbia, Karen McGlashan Williams, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey, and Patricia Tolliver Giles, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia.

At 2:30 p.m., Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Michael S. Nachmanoff, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of Virginia, and Sarala Vidya Nagala, to be United States District Judge for the District of Connecticut.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Patricia Tolliver Giles until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 2119—Family Violence Prevention and Services Improvement Act of 2021.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

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