



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

No. 102

House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mrs. TORRES of California).

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
June 15, 2022.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NORMA J. TORRES 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 10, 2022, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

BUILDING A BETTER AMERICA

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

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize President Biden's and House Democrats' work in reducing the budget deficit, fighting inflation, and lowering the cost of goods in America.

Madam Speaker, it is no secret Russia's cruel war against Ukraine is driving up prices not only here in America but all over the globe. Putin's price hike has increased gas prices by \$2 a

gallon in many places since Russian troops began to threaten Ukraine, and families are seeing higher prices in the grocery aisles also.

But President Biden and House Democrats won't stand by and watch rising costs and inflation continue to burden our hardworking families. Putin may raise prices temporarily, but President Biden and House Democrats are fighting back with key legislation, and we will win.

This week alone, Democrats acted to lower costs and crack down on outrageous ocean shipping fees by passing the bipartisan Ocean Shipping Reform Act. These shipping fees have made goods more expensive for American small businesses and American consumers. This bill will correct this inequity and make sure that American consumers are not being overcharged.

Democrats soon will pass the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, which aims to lower prices for American families in the grocery aisle and at the gas pump by giving American farmers and ranchers the support they need to thrive. This bill will take massive steps, including lowering fertilizer costs in the field to lower prices at the grocery store; lowering meat and poultry costs by increasing meatpacking competition and capacity; and lowering prices at the pump by making cheaper, cleaner Unleaded 88 more available.

These are meaningful and practical steps we are taking to ensure lower prices and to lower inflation. But that is not all.

This week, Democrats have delivered for the American people and will continue to do so. Last March, we passed the COMPETES Act. Now it is in conference, and we are negotiating with the Senate. The COMPETES Act will strengthen our supply chain and lower costs big time.

This bill also will help us make more products right here in America. We will see "Made in the USA."

It also will include my bill, which has language to provide critical grants for maritime centers that would ensure our supply chain is not interrupted by work shortages and to ensure a pipeline of the future workforce. This will lower prices for our districts, like mine in Texas-29, and it will also create many good-paying local jobs for people in my district and all hardworking Texans.

Madam Speaker, I am hopeful that our negotiations with the Senate while we are in the conference committee will soon end and that we can find final passage of this very critical bill because this bill will make sure that America competes and that America will see products that say "USA."

Madam Speaker, one major accomplishment less talked about but so important to all of us today and tomorrow is President Biden's historic Federal deficit cut. In a nutshell, President Biden has delivered the largest Federal deficit cut in the past 16 months than any other President's first 16 months.

You see, Democrats understand that building a better America is not only about today, but it is also about our future generations. It is about building a better America for all of us here today but also for generations to come. That is why Biden is on track to drop the budget deficit by more than \$1.6 trillion this year alone.

In contrast, the Trump administration and my Republican colleagues raised the deficit every year that Mr. Trump was in office.

President Biden and House Democrats will remain committed to lowering costs for working families, and I promise we will make good on that promise. We will continue delivering results for today and for generations to come.

□ 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.



Printed on recycled paper.

H5549

EXCESSES OF JANUARY 6 AND THE JANUARY 6TH COMMITTEE

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

Mr. MCCLINTOCK. Madam Speaker, on February 27, 1933, the Reichstag, Germany's capitol building, was set on fire. Who was responsible remains in dispute even today.

But what is undisputed is that the Nazis, barely holding on to power in a coalition government, used the attack to besmirch their political opponents, consolidate their grip on the government, arrest hundreds of political opponents, and, ultimately, rescind the due process rights and fundamental freedoms of the German people. It remains a cautionary tale, for obvious reasons.

The January 6 riot at the Capitol has become the centerpiece of the Democrats' agenda. No other issue facing our country, not the worst inflation in 40 years, not the highest gasoline prices in history, not the fastest increase in homicides ever recorded, not the historically unprecedented illegal mass migration across our southern border, none of these crises has commanded prime-time congressional hearings from the Democrats.

What happened here on January 6 was an affront to our Constitution and a national disgrace. Those who entered the Capitol with the intent to disrupt the counting of electoral votes deserved to be denounced by their fellow citizens and prosecuted to the fullest extent of the law.

More importantly, questions involving the authority of Congress to refuse to count electoral votes, or why adequate security was not present to protect the Capitol, or whether there were conspiracies to break into the Capitol are all important to resolve to ensure that this never happens again.

What is unfolding, instead, is a sick mockery of the principles of fairness and due process that this House is founded upon. It promises to discredit those proceedings and to dishonor its participants.

Congress has a time-honored process to get at the truth. It guarantees the right of both sides to appoint their representatives, who then question and debate the facts, offer conflicting evidence, and hold an issue to every light.

For the first time in the history of this institution, the Speaker arrogated to herself not only the selection of the majority members but the minority members as well, thus assuring only one side, her side, could be heard.

Without having both sides represented, it becomes impossible to test the accuracy of facts, the truth of the narratives, and the soundness of opinions. It robs the process of the credibility that is a necessary prerequisite to legitimacy.

Instead of the sober inquiry that should have been undertaken a year and a half ago, we have a Soviet-style

show trial, all carefully choreographed by an ABC television producer.

To add hypocrisy to outrage, some of the Speaker's representatives played a crucial role in developing and fanning the Russia collusion hoax that groundlessly challenged the legitimacy of the Trump election and Presidency. Some were themselves involved in challenging electoral votes counted after the 2016 election. Some were apologists for the violent riots that consumed this country in 2020. Some have been eerily silent as Supreme Court Justices have been intimidated in their own homes.

Now, the FBI thoroughly examined the riot last year. They found no evidence that President Trump conspired with protesters to enter the Capitol, nor have the Democrats offered any now. They instead repackage and rehash the snap impeachment trial in which the President was acquitted by the Senate.

Indeed, this committee knows but has deceptively suppressed the stunning fact that 4 days before the riot, President Trump offered the use of National Guard troops to keep the peace. The Democrat leadership turned it down.

Do they really expect us to believe that the same guy who meticulously planned the riot also authorized the National Guard to prevent the riot? This is insane.

Insurrection? The constitutional process immediately resumed once these yahoos were kicked out of this building. Do the Democrats actually expect us to believe that some lunatic wearing buffalo horns was moments away from seizing control of our government?

The narrative cannot survive in open debate, and the Democrats know it. That is why they are not permitting one.

Our institutions are strong because they are backed by the common sense of the American people. Our traditions of due process and fairness are too deeply ingrained in the American character to succumb to this madness.

After Americans have reported their verdict in the upcoming election, perhaps we can forge a bipartisan consensus on the measures necessary to assure that the excesses of both January 6 and the January 6th Committee never threaten us again.

SUMMIT OF THE AMERICAS AND CARIBBEAN TRADE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the Virgin Islands (Ms. PLASKETT) for 5 minutes.

Ms. PLASKETT. Madam Speaker, I have just returned from the Ninth Summit of the Americas in Los Angeles, which gathered the heads of state and senior government officials from nearly every country in the Western Hemisphere, as well as hundreds of businesses, civil society, and youth leaders from across the region.

Members of a 20-person congressional delegation met with leaders from many of our neighboring countries, Chile, Jamaica, Canada, Haiti.

I had the opportunity to speak with the heads of state of many of our Caribbean neighbors. From these conversations, one thing was clear: Now more than ever, it is necessary for the United States to deepen its relationship with Latin America, Central America, and the Caribbean.

With threats of the COVID-19 pandemic, democratic erosion, and climate change, my constituents in the Virgin Islands know all too well the collective challenges facing the hemisphere.

I thank the Biden administration for its commitment to productive engagement with Latin and Central America and the Caribbean. In Los Angeles, the administration announced the Americas Partnership for Economic Prosperity, which calls for sustainable and inclusive trade; the U.S.-Caribbean Partnership to Address the Climate Crisis 2030; and the Los Angeles Declaration on Migration.

I strongly urge this administration to follow up on these commitments and promises with concrete actions that will deliver tangible results, particularly in the Caribbean because the Caribbean is facing an economic crisis. The pandemic has exacted a harsh toll on the region, with regional economic activity falling by 9.9 percent in 2020, significantly worse than the rest of the region.

Climate change poses a particularly dire threat to the lives, livelihood, and businesses in the Caribbean. For years, the harmful trend of financial de-risking by banks has economically strangled the Caribbean islands.

The Caribbean, which is our third border, is essential to U.S. national and economic security. From the early days of the American Revolution to the Cold War, the Caribbean has played a vital role in U.S. defense. It, alone, is the United States' sixth largest trade partner, with \$35.3 billion of trade in 2018. And 13 million people in the U.S. share Caribbean ancestry.

Despite these common interests between the U.S. and the Caribbean, China is making significant inroads in this area. Indeed, total Chinese trade with Latin America and the Caribbean rose from \$18 billion in 2002 to \$449 billion in 2021, and China is now South America's largest trade partner.

Therefore, improving the U.S.-Caribbean relationship and strengthening the U.S.-Caribbean trade and economic partnership must be a priority for the administration and this Congress.

First, we must follow up on our commitments made at the summit with tangible results and concrete investments that correspond to the Caribbean's needs and for our national security.

□ 1015

Second, this Chamber must pass H. Res. 1047, which will reaffirm the economic partnership between the United

States and the Caribbean nations, recognizing the need to strengthen trade and investments.

Third, we must authorize a general capital increase for the Inter-American Development Bank to ensure that the premier lending institutions for South America and the Caribbean have the resources to support the region in this difficult time.

I have introduced H.R. 7726 to do so, and the Senate has already approved such a capital increase in the United States Innovation and Competition Act. It is essential that this capital increase be included in the final version of the House COMPETES Act.

Fourth, the administration must work to counter the misguided trend of de-risking from U.S. banks, which has unfairly cut Caribbean nations off from access to capital and credit and economically harmed the region.

Madam Speaker, the Caribbean is inextricably linked to the security, economic prosperity, and cultural heritage of the United States. It is time for us to recognize this importance and prioritize U.S.-Caribbean relationships.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JOHN WALTER REVELL

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. SCHRIER). The Chair recognizes the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. NORMAN) for 5 minutes.

Mr. NORMAN. Madam Speaker, as a Member of the 117th Congress, I rise today to celebrate the life of John Walter Revell. John is the son of Jeanie Tanner Revell and Dr. Walter J. Revell, Jr., and the brother of Letty and Marie Revell.

John was born on March 8th, 1980, and tragically died on June 19th, 1993, as a result of being hit by a car as he was riding his bicycle on his way to his family farm. The driver of the car was a person under the influence of drugs, which are ravaging our Nation today.

John was 13 years old at the time of his death. However, his life epitomizes the words, "While he was alive, he lived."

The fond memories our family has of John include his Rollerblading around the neighborhood, the family ski trips, the sleepovers he had with our children and friends at our house, the words others would have this 13-year-old boy tell me during the children work week, "Ralph, we want to take today off to swim at Shiland Pool and play," the sight of him standing in our back door when dinner was being served with that smile, indicating I am hungry.

He was an athlete. He was a Boy Scout. He was an honor student. He was a musician. He was a child who loved to laugh and brought a ray of sunshine to everyone he encountered.

June 19, 2022, will mark the 29th year of John's passing. On March 8 of this year, he would have been 42 years of age.

The biblical passage that gives comfort to all those left behind who knew

and loved John Revell can be found in Romans 8:38-39, "For I am persuaded, that neither death, nor life, nor angels, nor principalities, nor powers, nor things present, nor things to come, nor height, nor depth, nor any other creature, shall be able to separate us from the love of God, which is in Christ Jesus our Lord."

HONORING THE LIFE OF DR. PRESTON PHILLIPS

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

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Dr. Preston Phillips.

Dr. Phillips was a gracious and loving husband, father, and brother who dedicated his life to his family, his community, and to saving lives.

Earlier this month, Dr. Phillips was murdered during a tragic mass shooting at a hospital in Tulsa, Oklahoma, by a shooter who purchased an AR-15 2 hours before the shooting and a handgun less than 2 days before the shooting.

Nothing we say can bring back a devoted father who did so much to save the lives of others as a doctor. Nothing will ease the pain of his wife and his three children who have to bury him far too soon. My heart goes out to all the families of the four people killed and the community in Tulsa that still grieves.

This tragedy has also struck close to home for me. Dr. Phillips was the father of Elise Phillips, a valued member of my staff here in D.C., a member of our House of Representatives family who has spent the last year tirelessly serving the people of Washington's Seventh Congressional District as my legislative counsel. I, and our whole office, grieve with Elise and her family.

This past weekend, I was honored to attend Dr. Phillips' funeral service in Tulsa at the invitation of the family. It was immediately clear to me what an exceptional community Dr. Phillips and his strong and courageous wife, Melody, have built around themselves over their life together. Everyone I met described Dr. Phillips as a man of extraordinary warmth, brilliance, and compassion.

Dr. Phillips came from humble beginnings, and his life is a testament to what can be achieved with determination. He got his first job at the age of 8 shining shoes and gathering shopping carts. He used this money to pay for veterinary bills for his family's dog, Blackie.

In high school, he discovered his love for medicine and focused on his studies with great dedication. Dr. Phillips was then granted admission to Emory University where he graduated with bachelor's degrees in religion and chemistry and a master's degree in organic chemistry.

He continued his education at Harvard Medical School and then com-

pleted his residency at Yale University School of Medicine. Dr. Phillips began his formal medical career in my home district of Seattle in 1997, and he practiced there for 8 years before moving to Tulsa, Oklahoma.

As the Representative for Seattle's Seventh Congressional District, I want to convey how proud we are of Dr. Phillips and his significant contributions to our community.

During his career, Dr. Phillips emphasized giving back to community. At Yale, he founded the Yale Minority Medical Association, which focused on recruitment, mentorship, and retention of minority students in the medical field.

His generosity was boundless, and he touched countless lives here and abroad. A prime example were his annual trips to Togo in Africa to perform pro bono surgeries for underserved communities and where a clinic operating room still bears his name.

For many of his patients, Dr. Phillips was not just a medical professional. He was family. Throughout his decades of orthopedic practice, his patients became informal grandparents, aunts, uncles, and lifelong friends for him and his three children, whose childhoods were defined by these relationships. I am so honored to have met so many of these people at the funeral service.

Even more so, his son and two daughters were defined by living in a household where love, warmth, and patience were the norm from Dr. Phillips and his wife, Melody.

I, and all those I represent, have benefited from their love and warmth both during his time practicing medicine in Seattle and through his brilliant daughter, Elise.

I am incredibly grateful to have Elise as part of my D.C. staff, and I see in her the same virtues that made her father such a respected and loved man in his community.

Those at Dr. Phillips' service asked me to ensure that Congress passes sensible gun reforms to honor Dr. Phillips and to do all we can to ensure that tragedies like this never happen again.

Last week, the House of Representatives passed the Protecting our Kids Act, a lifesaving package of gun safety legislation to raise the age of purchase for assault rifles to 21, control the sale of ghost guns, limit the number of rounds in a magazine, and require the safe storage of firearms.

Legislation won't bring Dr. Phillips back or the thousands of gun violence victims back, but I hope that it brings a degree of comfort to Dr. Phillips' family and to all the families of the ones we lost that we, in Congress, will not stop until we bring an end to the gun violence crisis that has plagued our country for far too long.

Rest in power. Rest in peace, Dr. Preston J. Phillips.

THE INCREDIBLE TRANSITION

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentleman from

California (Mr. LAMALFA) for 5 minutes.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, so what have we had so far under the Biden plan? Well, what we have heard about lately is that for Republicans trying to be more fiscally responsible, we hear that he is complaining that we are worried about deficits and spending.

He says we are affecting lives. Boy, are we affecting lives with the policy coming out of Washington, D.C. Inflation. Energy crisis. But that is part of the incredible transition, we are told, that is being forced upon us to put us out of our vehicles or not being able to use gas appliances, if they have their way.

On the Republican side, crisis acting is the new term. We are crisis acting. Well, I guess if we want to talk about crisis acting, let me remind everybody that carbon dioxide is only 0.04 percent of our atmosphere, right. You would think it is 40 or 50 percent by the way the hype is on that, and everybody has to change their lives in this incredible transition as we get forced into electric cars and have our appliances taken away, and who knows what else, as part of the Green New Deal that is being forced upon us, indeed, by executive action because it is not passing Congress.

So when you are looking at the American people out there, they think of you in Washington, D.C. as the great reset. You are the spring in the great reset button. You are not being listened to. Your pain is not being felt by Washington, D.C.

Inflation? Oh, not a big deal. It was 8.6 percent this month, right. Wages—though some of them have gone up for some people or are being forced up by legislation—are being outstripped by inflation. Wages up a little bit, inflation up a lot more.

Why? Trillions and trillions of spending and policies that take energy options away from Americans being productive. Oh, Well, let's get it from Russia—until we finally banned that. Let's get more from Saudi Arabia.

Why don't we get it here? Why don't we do more here instead of cutting off leases, cutting off permits for known reserves we have in this country? No, no. We are going to have the incredible transition forced upon us by these policies.

It doesn't matter what it costs. It doesn't matter what it is taking off the table. So live with it. Inflation and wages. Let them eat cake, as Senators drive past in an electric car, laughing at what the costs are at the gas stations.

Well, not everybody can turn around and go buy an electric car at \$50,000 or \$70,000, or even any new car right now with the way they are living paycheck to paycheck, and it is going to be more and more so.

So what is the Federal Government's answer? Well, we are doing something about inflation and the deficit. Yeah.

Instead of borrowing trillions and trillions, I guess by not borrowing the trillions, it makes the deficit go lower.

So let's put things back on track, have our energy policy be one that actually produces in the United States of America by our American workers producing more things in the USA.

Food, for example. In my home State of California, as the water gets cut off more and more so they can flush water out to the ocean, hundreds of thousands of acres of food crops are being left out, not grown.

It isn't all because of a drought. We still get lots of rainfall. We had an incredible amount of rainfall and snow in December. Of course, the planters decided well, we are going to go ahead and let all the water run out through the delta in northern California instead of being able to cut back some of it and keep it in storage, although our lakes were at record lows last year. No, no, no. We will keep doing the environmental thing on that, saving nonexistent fish.

In the meantime, the price for food keeps going up. In America, we see empty store shelves in the land of plenty. It is an incredibly dumb policy that has been put in place, piled on by energy that is almost unaffordable.

Ask any trucker when the price of diesel has gone basically from 3 bucks a gallon to 6 or 7, even, in my home State, what does that mean?

That means all the input costs of bringing fertilizer and seed to a field to grow your food and bringing the finished product from the harvest to the mill and from the mill to the store shelf, it all has to be passed along. There is no free lunch.

So we haven't even seen the full effects of this yet because in 2022, some of the people had these inputs carried into the crop year. It hasn't been fully felt yet.

Wait until 2023 when the price of a bale of hay, that you need in order to feed cattle or what have you, kicks into place. Wait until that all happens because then, chicken might triple in price from today, beef, or maybe even just a loaf of bread.

So what are we supposed to think about that? Oh, Americans can afford that. We can just cut back on other disposable income or disposable items, you know, maybe less frivolous spending.

Well, is your government telling you what you can spend on? Basically, they are dictating that by these policies, yes.

When your energy goes up, when your water gets taken away, you will feel it all the way through, all the way through your whole economy, and your wages will be outstripped by inflation.

□ 1030

THE LCS IS A LEMON

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

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, everyone knows what a lemon car is, but we have a fleet of lemon ships. They are called littoral combat ship, except it is a misnomer because it is not survivable in combat.

Today, we are calling them the leaking, cracked ships, and let me tell you why. If the LCS was a car sold in America today, they would be deemed lemons, and the automakers would be sued into oblivion. But in the Federal Government it is big business as usual—\$50 billion over the lifetime of the program. That is a lot of rotten lemons.

My concerns and warnings about the LCS go back a decade, along with the late Senator John McCain. It is costing taxpayers billions of dollars, yet has failed to produce a reliable ship. So I was stunned and outraged to see that the proposed 2023 defense appropriations bill only decommissions four LCS, when it should be nine, as President Biden and the Navy have proposed. The annual cost of five LCS ships could pay for eight childcare centers in the military, four barracks, or a \$1,000 bonus for every enlisted E-3 and below.

The LCS program's legendary failures have made it the subject of two Government Accountability Office reports. Those reports found each LCS costing an astounding \$59 million a year to operate. Or actually, not to operate because they are, more often than not, in dock because they aren't working. That is three-quarters of the cost of operating a destroyer, which has three times the crew and a much greater capability, such as antisubmarine warfare.

LCS is notoriously unreliable, plagued by breakdowns that have seen some ships spend more time in the repair yard than in deployment. On this chart, you will see the USS *Little Rock*, commissioned in 2017, lost power at sea in 2022. In March 2018, it was stranded in ice for 3 months on its maiden voyage.

Or how about the USS *Milwaukee*? Commissioned in November 2015. In December 2015, it broke down due to software malfunctions and was towed 40 miles.

Or how about the USS *Freedom*? Commissioned in 2008; in 2011, had a 6-inch crack in the hull; in 2013, immobilized during trial run; in February 2016, coupling cracked; in August of 2016, engine replacement needed.

What do we have going here? The GAO found that the LCS experienced engine failure in 10 of the 11 deployments reviewed. The aluminum hull of the *Independence*-class punctures easily. I mean, this is not funny. This is real money. And the combining gear for all *Freedom*-class ships must be replaced.

One major reason for the excessive cost of LCS? Contractors. Unlike other ships where sailors do the maintenance, LCS relies almost exclusively on contractors who own and control

the technical data needed to maintain and repair.

So what is this ship's mission and what does it contribute to national security? Nothing.

The Navy says it plans to use the LCS for partner engagement, as a replacement for obsolete minesweepers for long-range fire capability, and for counterdrug activities. But the LCS are not well-suited for minesweeping due to their lack of endurance, and their already years-late mine countermeasure package isn't even operational.

Our top priority in national defense strategy is China and Russia. We can't waste scarce funds on costly LCS when there are more capable platforms like destroyers, attack submarines, and the new *Constellation*-class frigate. Most importantly, the cost of sustaining LCS isn't just felt in lost dollars, but lost lives.

The Navy has a severe undermanning problem. Our surface fleet is 15 percent undermanned compared to required levels for safe operation. The average sailor is overworked and gets 6 hours or less of sleep per night. A recent GAO report on pierside maintenance found undermanning was so bad on some ships that half of the electrician slots were empty. On others, the crew members had to work 80 to 100 hours per week to prepare to deploy.

On these ships, the operational tempo is so high, several sailors have left due to behavioral health needs. At least one has died from suicide. This is unacceptable, especially in the wake of the deadly *McCain* and *Fitzgerald* collisions that killed 17 sailors 5 years ago. The key contributors? Undermanning and fatigue.

We can and must prevent this. Let's decommission all nine ships.

GOD BLESS FIRST RESPONDERS AND MENTAL HEALTH PROFESSIONALS

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

Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the first responders in Uvalde. It has been 22 days since the terrible incident in Uvalde occurred, and many of the discussions have been about the victims. I will talk about some of the survivors. Some of those survivors are first responders.

In particular, one gentleman, Javier Martinez, is a lieutenant for the Uvalde Police Department. He was one of the first people on the scene. He engaged with the shooter. He was actually wounded. He goes in there and he clears the room.

But afterwards he wasn't done. There are a lot of copycat threats, and Javier Martinez, even though he was going through all that, went down to the high school, and he secured the high school. The next day, he was on duty.

He put his uniform on, and he went to work the next day and the next day.

There are many stories just like this. When the fire happened, everyone ran to the incident, and they didn't stop. Some of the law enforcement officers, Border Patrol agents, after they got done clearing that room, they went to other elementary schools. There are seven elementary schools in Uvalde. This happened days on.

I mention that because while the community of Uvalde, while my district is healing, there are all these heroes that are walking among us.

Another person I will mention is Ann. Ann is the director of the ER there in Uvalde. She helped save lives.

There are so many people that have just helped. After the cameras are gone, after everyone stops listening or even remembering what happened in Uvalde, we will be there as one community coming together.

Over a year ago, my community asked me for a mental health hospital. Last year, we secured \$2 million for that. When I hosted the President a couple weeks ago, we asked for \$23 million on that. Mental health is at the core of all of this. There is a mental health crisis not only in Uvalde, but I would argue across the country. We have to make sure that we are devoting the resources necessary to protect our children, to protect ourselves.

My whole community of Uvalde, I would argue, needs mental health assistance right now. A lot of us are getting that. My own staff, essentially, we turned into a FEMA office, and we were dealing with all these crises.

Someone reminded me yesterday that I essentially have relived this crisis 22 days now. A lot of us are in that exact same boat. I mention that to say, we have to get rid of this stigma behind mental health. We have to realize all of us, from a young age to an old age, go through things in life, and we need mental health professionals in order to get through that.

Today, I thank all the first responders in Uvalde for everything they are doing, the men and women, just like Javier Martinez, who put their uniform on, go to work. There are heroes walking among us that sometimes get forgotten. They are not forgotten today nor every other day. God bless them.

RECOGNIZING OAK HILL CHARTER SCHOOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. FOXX) for 5 minutes.

Ms. FOXX. Madam Speaker, I rise to congratulate the staff, volunteers, and board members of Oak Hill Charter School in Caldwell County, North Carolina.

The school was unanimously approved by the North Carolina Charter Schools Advisory Board, and its doors will officially open this August.

This accomplishment is amplified by the fact that Oak Hill is one of only

two accelerated schools to earn this opportunity this year. Let me tell you, Madam Speaker, this is no small feat.

Recently, I received a heartfelt email from Kelly McIntyre, the board chair of the school. She marveled at how God has guided the journey of everyone involved at Oak Hill and how along the way the right people and resources came together in perfect harmony.

Kelly, I agree with you wholeheartedly. God's hand has been in your work every step of the way.

Right now, nearly every single class at Oak Hill has a waiting list. Families are beyond enthusiastic at this opportunity for their children.

The outpouring of support from the surrounding community must also be recognized. Donations of furniture, school supplies, and other essential items continue to stream in on a weekly basis, and volunteers continue without delay to see projects through.

Madam Speaker, there is a quote from American anthropologist Margaret Mead that encapsulates the story of Oak Hill perfectly: "Never doubt that a small group of thoughtful, committed citizens can change the world; indeed, it's the only thing that ever has."

It is clear that these committed citizens are also working in the will of God. In Kelly's email to me, she remarked that, "It's the most amazing thing to see this mission that started as just a thought, a spark, grow into a force that I believe will be life-changing for many."

Madam Speaker, that sentiment is profound, and it is a direct reflection of the opportunity that charter schools provide across the country.

Parents, teachers, and communities recognize the value of charter schools because they challenge a failing status quo. Charter schools are guaranteed operational autonomy to provide rich alternatives to students and families. Most importantly, they provide educational freedom and choice, two fundamental principles that are desperately needed in education right now.

Instead of being held accountable to the education bureaucracy, charter schools are accountable to students, families, and their communities, as they should be, Madam Speaker.

Congratulations again to everyone at Oak Hill Charter School. The work you will undertake and the opportunities you will provide to our next generation of leaders in the coming months and years will be nothing short of spectacular.

May God continue to bless you in your mission of serving the Caldwell County community.

FARM BILL IMPACT SERIES

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, in preparation for reauthorizing the farm bill

in 2023, I rise today to deliver the eleventh installment of my farm bill impact series, where I am highlighting various aspects of the farm bill that deserve Congress' awareness and support. We need robust biosecurity in America not only because we need to eat in order to survive, but also because strong American agriculture will help keep our country free and self-determining as a Nation.

Manhattan, Kansas, the home of my alma mater, Kansas State University, is also home of the National Bio and Agro-Defense Facility or NBAF. This state-of-the-art 700,000-square foot facility will be a national asset that helps protect our Nation's agriculture against the threat and potential impact of serious animal diseases. Experts believe that 75 percent of new and emerging infectious animal diseases can be transmitted from animals to humans. NBAF will be home to the only maximum biocontainment space in the country, where USDA will conduct comprehensive research, develop vaccines and antivirals, and explore enhanced diagnostic and training capabilities.

The United States Department of Agriculture is currently working with the Department of Homeland Security to bring NBAF online by December and to begin establishing partnerships between two key sectors heavily invested in animal health: academia and industry. Working with scientists and other industry professionals, NBAF will create new safety and security guidelines that will be critical for the prevention of future pandemics. Currently, scientists are conducting this very important research in New York at the Plum Island Animal Disease Center, which is more than 60 years old. NBAF will replace this aging facility, create 400 local jobs for Kansans, generate over \$100 million in total economic benefit for our State, and make Kansas the home of internationally recognized animal disease experts. NBAF isn't just an exciting development for Kansas, it also marks the future of biodefense research that will protect the United States and the rest of the world.

□ 1045

The 2018 farm bill contained special authorization for biosecurity planning and response, which helped make NBAF possible. That version of the farm bill explicitly mentioned the coordination of "tactical science activities . . . that protect the integrity, reliability, sustainability, and profitability of the food and agricultural system of the United States against biosecurity threats from pests, diseases, contaminants, and disasters." NBAF is a concrete example of the impact that we can have when we authorize the farm bill in careful and creative ways.

During National Agriculture Month in March, I brought House Agriculture Committee Republican leader GT Thompson on an ag tour of Kansas, where I was proud to show him NBAF.

The technology, scale, and international significance of the facility are truly second to none. Once fully operational in December, NBAF won't just support and protect agriculture; it will protect our country and the world.

I will be back on the floor soon to deliver another installment of my farm bill impact series and highlight more programs and titles within the bill that I believe Congress must understand and support to ensure that agriculture thrives in America.

IMPORTANCE OF LIVESTOCK INDEMNITY

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to follow up on a speech that I gave in March about the importance of the farm bill emergency assistance programs like livestock indemnity.

Agriculture is a risky business, and Mother Nature is a tough business partner. Over the past couple of weeks, Kansas producers have been losing cattle due to extreme temperatures, and qualified producers will be able to recoup some of their losses through the livestock indemnity program.

Just like the flooding and wildfires we saw in Natoma and the surrounding areas last year, this is another example of how essential the farm bill emergency assistance programs are to our country's food supply and the people who produce it.

Emergency programs like livestock indemnity are investments in the future of our country, and they help ensure that America remains food secure and self-determining as a Nation.

Natural disasters, diseases, and weather emergencies happen, and we can't afford to let them cripple the business of the men and women who keep us fed, fueled, and clothed. That is why emergency assistance programs like livestock indemnity must remain strong in the 2023 farm bill.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 47 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

Sovereign God, we pray to You again on behalf of the Ukrainian people. They continue to call to You, O Lord, in their distress. They call to You, our God. Hear their voices.

Relieve them of the hardship of their oppression.

Free them from the abuse of their captors.

Loose them from the chains of their enemy and give them the freedom of their own sovereignty and the blessing of peace in their homeland.

Then gracious God, allow us, we who are observers to this travesty, to be inspired by the faith of the Ukrainians in the face of their adversity. Open our eyes to the spiritual warfare being waged which has called forth their unshakable faith in You. They are living proof of the victory they have already won in You.

For they are hard-pressed on every side, but not crushed. They are perplexed, but not in despair; persecuted, but not abandoned; struck down, but not destroyed.

Almighty God, may we receive their testimony of Your saving grace. Then may we be found as steadfast in the living of our days.

In Your merciful 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.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. RUIZ led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

MESSAGE FROM THE SENATE

A message from the Senate by Ms. Byrd, one of its clerks, announced that the Senate has passed bills of the following titles in which the concurrence of the House is requested:

S. 407. An act to provide redress to the employees of Air America.

S. 1787. An act to amend title 28 of the United States Code to prevent the transfer of actions arising under the antitrust laws in which a State is a complainant.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 117-81, the Chair, on behalf of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individual to serve as a member of the Commission on the National Defense Strategy:

Eric S. Edelman of Virginia.

The message also announced that pursuant to Public Law 105-292, as amended by Public Law 106-55, Public Law 107-228, and Public Law 112-75, the Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, upon the recommendation of the Republican Leader, appoints the following individuals to the United States Commission on International Religious Freedom:

Mr. Abraham Cooper of California.
Mr. Eric M. Ueland of Oregon.

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.

URGING SENATE PASSAGE OF THE HONORING OUR PACT ACT

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

Mr. RUIZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to call on the Senate to immediately pass the Honoring our PACT Act.

In 2017, I met a veteran from Cathedral City, Jennifer Kepner, who developed pancreatic cancer due to her exposure to burn pits during her service in Iraq.

Despite being a young and otherwise healthy mother of two with no family history of cancer, she and her family faced roadblocks to getting the care that she needed from the VA.

At her kitchen table, she asked me to lead this fight, and I promised her I would. Now, 5 years later, we are closer than ever before to fulfilling Jennifer's vision for her fellow veterans.

With my provision included to get veterans the presumptive benefits they have earned and deserve, the Honoring our PACT Act will ensure that no other veteran will have to fight like Jennifer did for the care they need.

I urge the Senate to fulfill our Nation's promise to our veterans, honor Jennifer's memory, and pass the Honoring our PACT Act without delay.

WORLD UNIFICATION AGAINST PUTIN

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

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Mr. Speaker, yet again, the world is uniting against war criminal Putin and his murderous invasion of Ukraine.

The European Union is set to sign an agreement with Israel and Egypt which will free itself from Putin energy reliance. EU leaders say they will reduce Russian oil and gas imports, cutting financial resources to the Putin war machine where young Russians are sacrificed by Putin for personal gain of oil, money and power, while conducting mass murder in Ukraine.

In the plan, Israel will export natural gas in a pipeline to Egypt where it will be turned into liquified natural gas, then delivered to EU member states. I appreciate the service of Egyptian Ambassador to the U.S. Motaz Zahran.

During a trip to Israel this week, European Commission President Ursula von der Leyen said, The Kremlin's be-

havior only strengthens our resolve to break free of Russian fossil fuels.

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

As the co-chair of the EU Caucus and the Israel Caucus, I especially appreciate the cooperation we see today.

10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

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

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, today I rise in honor of the 10th anniversary of the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals program or DACA.

Today, Dreamers are doctors, soldiers, nurses, frontline workers, police officers, and firefighters, and many, many DACA recipients have made the ultimate sacrifice for this country.

Here is a picture of one of my constituents, Jose Angel Garibay. Jose Angel Garibay was killed in action. He was the first marine to make the ultimate sacrifice in Iraq from Orange County.

There are many, many more soldiers—DACA recipients—that have made the ultimate sacrifice for their new country. It is time to give them permanent status in the United States.

PROTECTING INDEPENDENT CONTRACTORS

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

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, with inflation at a 40-year high and a sluggish economy, attacking workers' freedoms should be the furthest thing from the President's mind.

President Biden's Department of Labor is in the process of changing the definition of an employee to include independent contractors. This would be devastating for the 19 million Americans who currently enjoy the flexibility that comes with building wealth by participating in the American Dream.

Under this change, workers classified as independent contractors would be subject to the same employment-related restrictions as traditional employees. This is an assault on the modern American worker.

Independent contractors were responsible for over 70 percent of the job growth during the last economic expansion before COVID. If we want to spur economic growth, we must remove barriers and allow our workforce to flourish.

Fortunately, my legislation, the Employee Rights Act, would codify protections for independent contractors, shielding them from these overreaching classifications.

NATIONAL DAIRY MONTH

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

Mr. VALADAO. Mr. Speaker, June is National Dairy Month, an opportunity to honor the contributions of dairy farmers throughout the country.

I am proud to represent our Nation's largest dairy district and the hard-working men and women in the Central Valley who work tirelessly to provide our Nation with milk, cheese, ice cream, and all the other dairy products we enjoy.

There are over 30,000 dairy farms across the United States, and many of those are farmer-owned and operated. As a lifelong dairy farmer, I know firsthand the impact that these burdensome government regulations have on day-to-day operations of these family farms and businesses.

We need to reduce the regulatory burdens on our domestic agriculture producers and incentivize more production here at home. Supporting American agriculture and our dairy industry will bring food costs down and provide stability to our global food supply.

Thank you to our dairy farmers and manufacturers in the Central Valley and across the country for their contributions to our community. Happy Dairy Month.

2022 PHILANTHROPISTS OF THE YEAR

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

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to congratulate Ron and Terry Prill for being recognized as the 2022 Philanthropists of the Year.

For two decades, Ron and Terry have dedicated their lives to worthy causes, positively impacting residents across southwest Washington.

After retiring and moving to Camas, Ron served on the board of the Boys and Girls Club of Southwest Washington, helping make a difference in the lives of countless kids in our communities.

This venture inspired the Prills to continue giving back through other organizations. Among their numerous acts of charity, Ron and Terry have been highly supportive of several healthcare-related nonprofits and were critical in expanding PeaceHealth Southwest Washington's operations.

This includes a remodeled cardiology unit with state-of-the-art equipment and a cardiac education center, which provides care to countless patients and their families.

Ron and Terry, thank you for your unwavering support of our communities, and congratulations again on this well-deserved recognition.

RECOGNIZING THE LIBERTY CHRISTIAN ACADEMY BULLDOGS

(Mr. CLINE asked and was given permission to address the House for 1

minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. CLINE. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Liberty Christian Academy Bulldogs on winning the VHSL baseball Class 3 State title game.

The academy was founded in 1967, and in addition to its academic and biblical teachings, the school excels in sports. Their baseball State title this year marked their second State crown, as they won the 4A State title in 2017.

This game all came down to the seventh inning at the field in Spotsylvania, Virginia. Their opponent, the Abingdon Falcons, had taken the lead in the top of the seventh when Lane Duff of the academy walked three straight batters, sending home Cole Lambert for the go-ahead run.

The Falcons scored again on a bases-loaded walk to Jack Ferguson that scored Daniel Fellhauer and made it 5 to 3.

Yet, when the Bulldogs got their chance in the bottom of the seventh, they started a rally as Logan Duff led off with a triple. Then a sac fly by Tanner Thomas scored Duff to cut the Abingdon Falcons' lead to 5 to 4.

Finally, Lane Duff's two-run, walk-off single marked a three-run Liberty Christian Academy rally that propelled the Bulldogs to a 6 to 5 win last Saturday in the coveted VHSL Class 3 State title game.

Congratulations to the players, coaches, and parents on a great season.

HONORING KYLE PATTERSON

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

Mr. MAST. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Florida Fish and Wildlife Senior Investigator Kyle Patterson.

Just 5 days ago on June 9, Senior Investigator Patterson was involved in a fatal crash while on duty.

Senior Investigator Patterson faithfully served the people of St. Lucie County for more than 15 years. From his first assignment at the age of 19 to time spent with the Agriculture Crimes Intelligence Unit and Marine Intelligence Unit, he was dedicated. He was a public servant, committed to the safety of our homes and our community.

Senior Investigator Patterson was passionate about baseball, steer, his family, and God. He dedicated his time to numerous organizations, including the St. Lucie County Farm Bureau and Christ Fellowship, the church that we share.

His memory will absolutely live on with those who knew him and loved him best: his wife, Alisha; his children, Kole and Kinsley; and his parents and sisters.

Please honor the life of Special Investigator Patterson and salute him because he gave a lifetime of service, and service did take his life.

□ 1215

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF RENEE VAN NETT

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

Mr. STAUBER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate and honor the life of Renee Van Nett from Duluth, Minnesota, who bravely battled her diagnosis of terminal cancer and recently passed away.

Renee was well-known and well-loved across the northland. She was a dedicated mother, city council member, and active community member. Her tragic passing has affected many, showing the countless lives she touched and made a difference in.

Though the loss leaves a hole in the lives of many, the work Renee accomplished has left a legacy that will live on beyond any of us.

As the first Native American person to have been elected to the Duluth City Council, Renee will always be remembered as an inspiration to her fellow Red Lake Nation members and to the entire Native American community.

I am grateful for Renee sharing her compassion, dedication, and love for Duluth and all its people. May we all continue to help carry on her legacy.

CRISIS AT OUR SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. ROSE. Mr. Speaker, our Nation is facing a lot of problems: historic inflation, sky-high prices at the pump, and a shortage of baby formula.

But it is important not to lose sight of another crisis going on more than 1500 miles southwest of where we are gathered right now: 2.6 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at our southern border since President Biden took the oath of office.

There were more than 234,000 migrant encounters at the border just in April. That is the most for any month in history. That is also a 1,268 percent increase from April of 2020.

Border Patrol seized more than 340,000 pounds of drugs since last October, including enough fentanyl to kill more than 2 billion people.

Yet, this administration is still fighting to repeal title 42. It is past time to put an end to these open border policies and put the American people first.

REMEMBERING DR. EUGENE TALMADGE MADDOX

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in memory of Dr. Eugene Talmadge Maddox, a veterinarian and a remarkable Georgian.

Mr. Speaker, 1954 was an eventful year for Gene, as he graduated from Alexander Baldwin Agricultural College and married the love of his life, Patsy Copeland. He went on to receive his veterinary degree from the University of Georgia in 1959.

Following his graduation, they moved to Thomasville, Georgia, where he worked at Clanton Veterinary Hospital. He founded his own animal hospital, Cairo Animal Hospital, in 1963, and served Grady and surrounding cities until he retired in 2004 to serve as a Georgia State representative for Grady and Decatur counties in 2012.

In 2006, he was honored by the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association as Veterinarian of the Year. In 2015, he received the prestigious J.T. Mercer Lifetime Achievement Award.

An active member of his community, Gene was the former president of the American Veterinary Medical Association, the Georgia Veterinary Medical Association, and a member of the Georgia Cattlemen's Association. He also served as chief veterinary medical examiner under four Governors during his career.

A loving father and husband, an outdoorsman, a community advocate, and a dedicated veterinarian, Gene is sure to be missed.

FEDERAL RESERVE RACIAL AND ECONOMIC EQUITY ACT

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 1170, I call up the bill (H.R. 2543) to amend the Federal Reserve Act to add additional demographic reporting requirements, to modify the goals of the Federal Reserve System, and for other purposes, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Financial Services printed in the bill, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117-49, modified by the amendment printed in part A of House Report 117-366, is adopted and the bill, as amended, is considered read.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2543

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 Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act”.

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

Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.

TITLE I—EQUITY IN MONETARY POLICY

Sec. 101. Duty to minimize and eliminate racial disparities.

Sec. 102. Appearances before and reports to the Congress.

TITLE II—DIVERSITY DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Subtitle A—Diversity and Inclusion Data Accountability and Transparency

Sec. 211. Disclosures by regulated entities.

Subtitle B—LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment

Sec. 221. Small business loan data collection.

TITLE III—ACCESS TO HOUSING AND LENDING

Subtitle A—Improving Language Access in Mortgage Servicing

Sec. 311. Language access requirements and resources.

Subtitle B—Fair Lending for All

Sec. 321. Office of Fair Lending Testing.

Sec. 322. Prohibition on credit discrimination.

Sec. 323. Criminal penalties for violations of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

Sec. 324. Review of loan applications.

Sec. 325. Mortgage data collection.

Subtitle C—Promoting and Advancing Communities of Color Through Inclusive Lending

Sec. 331. Strengthening diverse and mission-driven community financial institutions.

Sec. 332. Capital investments, grants, and technology support for MDIs and CDFIs.

Sec. 333. Supporting Young Entrepreneurs Program.

Sec. 334. Map of minority depository institutions and community development financial institutions.

Sec. 335. Report on certified community development financial institutions.

Sec. 336. Consultation and minimization of data requests.

Sec. 337. Access to the discount window of the Federal Reserve System for MDIs and CDFIs.

Sec. 338. Study on securitization by CDFIs.

TITLE IV—DIVERSITY IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CORPORATIONS

Subtitle A—Promoting New and Diverse Depository Institutions

Sec. 411. Study and strategic plan.

Subtitle B—Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Banking

Sec. 421. Diversity and inclusion ratings.

Subtitle C—Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity

Sec. 431. Submission of data relating to diversity by issuers.

Sec. 432. Diversity advisory group.

Subtitle D—Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking

Sec. 441. Short title.

Sec. 442. Sense of Congress on funding the loan-loss reserve fund for small dollar loans.

Sec. 443. Definitions.

Sec. 444. Inclusion of women's banks in the definition of minority depository institution.

Sec. 445. Establishment of impact bank designation.

Sec. 446. Minority Depositories Advisory Committees.

Sec. 447. Federal deposits in minority depository institutions.

Sec. 448. Minority Bank Deposit Program.

Sec. 449. Diversity report and best practices.

Sec. 450. Investments in minority depository institutions and impact banks.

Sec. 451. Report on covered mentor-protégé programs.

Sec. 452. Custodial deposit program for covered minority depository institutions and impact banks.

Sec. 453. Streamlined community development financial institution applications and reporting.

Sec. 454. Task force on lending to small business concerns.

Subtitle E—Expanding Opportunity for Minority Depository Institutions

Sec. 461. Establishment of Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program.

TITLE V—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement

Sec. 511. Sense of Congress.

Sec. 512. Guarantees for bonds and notes issued for community or economic development purposes.

Sec. 513. Report on the CDFI bond guarantee program.

Subtitle B—Expanding Financial Access for Underserved Communities

Sec. 521. Credit union service to underserved areas.

Sec. 522. Member business lending in underserved areas.

Sec. 523. Underserved area defined.

Sec. 524. Reports by the National Credit Union Administration.

TITLE I—EQUITY IN MONETARY POLICY

SEC. 101. DUTY TO MINIMIZE AND ELIMINATE RACIAL DISPARITIES.

The Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 221 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 2B the following:

“SEC. 2C. DUTY TO MINIMIZE AND ELIMINATE RACIAL DISPARITIES.

“The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Federal Open Market Committee shall exercise all duties and functions in a manner that fosters the elimination of disparities across racial and ethnic groups with respect to employment, income, wealth, and access to affordable credit, including actions in carrying out—

“(1) monetary policy;

“(2) regulation and supervision of banks, thrifts, bank holding companies, savings and loan holding companies, and nonbank financial companies and systemically important financial market utilities designated by the Financial Stability Oversight Council;

“(3) operation of payment systems;

“(4) implementation of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977;

“(5) enforcement of fair lending laws; and

“(6) community development functions.”.

SEC. 102. APPEARANCES BEFORE AND REPORTS TO THE CONGRESS.

Section 2B of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 225b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by striking “and” at the end; and

(B) by striking subparagraph (B) and inserting the following:

“(B) economic developments and prospects for the future described in the report required in subsection (b), including a discussion of disparities in employment, income, and wealth across racial and ethnic groups as well as other specific segments of the population; and

“(C) plans, activities, and actions of the Board and the Federal Open Market Committee to minimize and eliminate disparities across racial and ethnic groups with respect to employment, wages, wealth, and access to affordable credit pursuant to section 2C.”; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) by striking “The Board” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Board”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) TREND INFORMATION.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Each report required under paragraph (1) shall include recent trends in the unemployment rate, labor force participation rate, employment to population ratio, median household income, and change in real earnings.

“(B) DEMOGRAPHIC INFORMATION.—The trends required to be reported under subparagraph (A)

shall include a comparison among different demographic groups, including race (White, African-American, Latino, Native American, and Asian populations), ethnicity, gender, and educational attainment.”.

TITLE II—DIVERSITY DATA COLLECTION AND REPORTING

Subtitle A—Diversity and Inclusion Data Accountability and Transparency

SEC. 211. DISCLOSURES BY REGULATED ENTITIES.

Section 342(b) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5452(b)) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) DISCLOSURES BY REGULATED ENTITIES.—The Director of each Office shall require entities with 100 employees or greater regulated by the applicable agency to provide such information as may be required to carry out the duties of the Director.”.

Subtitle B—LGBTQ Business Equal Credit Enforcement and Investment

SEC. 221. SMALL BUSINESS LOAN DATA COLLECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c-2) is amended—

(1) by inserting “LGBTQ-owned,” after “minority-owned,” each place such term appears;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(G), by inserting “, sexual orientation, gender identity” after “sex”; and

(3) in subsection (h), by adding at the end the following:

“(7) LGBTQ-OWNED BUSINESS.—The term ‘LGBTQ-owned business’ means a business—

“(A) more than 50 percent of the ownership or control of which is held by 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer; and

“(B) more than 50 percent of the net profit or loss of which accrues to 1 or more individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer.”.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of the Congress that the term “sex”, as used within the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, includes an individual’s sexual orientation and gender identity, and that this section, in part, clarifies that the sex, sexual orientation, and gender identity of the principal owners of a business should be collected under section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act as three separate forms of information.

TITLE III—ACCESS TO HOUSING AND LENDING

Subtitle A—Improving Language Access in Mortgage Servicing

SEC. 311. FINDINGS

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Housing is the largest portion of most household budgets in the United States and therefore a foundational component of financial access and opportunity.

(2) Due in part to a legacy of discrimination in the United States, people of color are disproportionately experiencing homelessness, are disproportionately renting, and disproportionately paying unaffordable rents, which acts as a barrier to homeownership.

(3) Access to fair and affordable housing, both rental and homeownership opportunities, is critical to upward economic mobility. This includes addressing language barriers in mortgage servicing to ensure borrowers have culturally sensitive, in-language access to critical lending information, can enter into fair and sustainable homeownership, and preserve their home equity.

SEC. 312. LANGUAGE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS AND RESOURCES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 2 of title I of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 129H the following:

“§ 1291. Language access requirements.

“(a) STANDARD LANGUAGE PREFERENCE FORM.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall, after consulting with the Secretary of Agriculture, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and the Commissioner of the Federal Housing Authority, issue a rule establishing a standard language preference form that includes a standard language preference question asked in each of the 8 languages most commonly spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency, as determined by the Director of the Bureau using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census.

“(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR CREDITORS.—

“(1) USE OF STANDARD LANGUAGE PREFERENCE FORM BY CREDITORS.—

“(A) INCLUSION IN APPLICATION.—Each creditor shall include, as part of the application package used in connection with a residential mortgage loan, the standard language preference form established by the Director of the Bureau under subsection (a).

“(B) INCLUSION OF DISCLOSURE.—Each creditor may include with such standard language preference form a disclosure stating that—

“(i) documents and services may not be available in the preferred language indicated by the consumer on the standard language preference form; and

“(ii) the English version of any document to which such form applies is the official and operative document and the translated version is for informational purposes only.

“(C) DOCUMENTATION AND TRANSFER OF PREFERRED LANGUAGE INFORMATION.—If a creditor, receives information about a language preference of a consumer through the standard language preference form, from another creditor or a servicer or a borrower, such creditor shall document this language preference in each file and electronic file of information associated with such consumer and shall transfer such information and the standard language preference form to any servicer of the loan.

“(2) PROVISION OF TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS.—If a Federal agency or a State or local agency in the State or locality in which the residential property is located has produced a translation of a document used in association with the origination of a residential mortgage loan in the preferred language of a consumer documented by a creditor pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), such creditor shall—

“(A) provide such translated document in addition to any English version of such document that is provided to such consumer who indicated such preferred language; and

“(B) include in the English and translated versions—

“(i) a notice indicating that the English version of such document is the official and operative document and the translated version is for informational purposes only;

“(ii) the website established under paragraph (6); and

“(iii) a notice of any available oral interpretation services described in paragraph (3).

“(3) ORAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—If a creditor receives information about a language preference of a consumer through the standard language preference form, from another creditor or a servicer or a borrower, such creditor shall provide oral interpretation services to such consumer.

“(B) CREDITOR-PROVIDED ORAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—If a creditor is required under subparagraph (A) to provide oral interpretation to a consumer, such creditor—

“(i) shall ensure qualified oral interpretation services, as defined by the Director of the Bureau, are made available in the preferred language of the borrower for all oral communications between the creditor and the borrower; and

“(ii) may provide such services through qualified staff of the creditor or a third party.

“(4) NOTICE OF AVAILABLE LANGUAGE SERVICES.—If a creditor receives information about a language preference of a consumer through the standard language preference form from another creditor or a servicer or a borrower, such creditor shall not later than 30 business days after receiving such information and not less than 14 days before any closing, notify such consumer in writing, in the preferred language of the consumer, of any language services available, including the services described in paragraphs (2) and (3).

“(5) TRANSFER OF LANGUAGE PREFERENCE INFORMATION.—If a creditor transfers the servicing associated with a residential mortgage loan, such creditor shall notify the transferee servicer at the time of transfer of any known language preference of the consumer associated with such residential mortgage loan.

“(6) INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.—Each creditor shall publish on the website of the creditor—

“(A) links to and explanatory information about the websites maintained by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection that identify housing counselors approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

“(B) a link to and explanatory information about the language resources website established by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 311(e) of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

“(c) TRANSLATION OF MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS.—With respect to each document published by the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Department of Veterans Affairs, and the Department of Agriculture and used in association with a residential mortgage loan, including origination and servicing documents, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall jointly—

“(1) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, publish versions of such documents translated into each of the 8 languages most commonly spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency, as determined by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census; and

“(2) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, publish versions of such documents translated into at least 4 additional languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency that are regionally prevalent in the United States, as determined by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census.

“(d) RULEMAKING.—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall, not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, issue regulations to implement this section that shall take effect not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section.”

(b) REQUIREMENTS FOR SERVICERS.—Section 6 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(n) LANGUAGE ACCESS REQUIREMENTS.—**“(1) IN GENERAL.—**

“(A) INCLUSION IN NOTICES.—Each servicer shall include the standard language preference form established by the Director of the Bureau under subsection (a) with—

“(i) any notice required under section 1024.39(b) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(ii) any notice required under section 5(c);

“(iii) any notice required under section 1024.41(b)(2) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations;

“(iv) any notice required under section 1024.41(c)(2)(iii) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations; and

“(v) any other additional notice as the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection determines necessary.

“(B) INCLUSION OF DISCLOSURES.—A servicer may include with the standard language preference form a disclosure stating that documents and services may not be available in the preferred language of the borrower indicated by the consumer on the standard language preference form.

“(C) DOCUMENTATION AND TRANSFER OF PREFERRED LANGUAGE INFORMATION.—If a servicer receives information about a language preference of a borrower through the standard language preference form from another servicer or creditor or from the borrower, such servicer shall document this language preference in each file or electronic file of information associated with such borrower.

“(2) REQUIRED LANGUAGE SERVICES FOR SERVICERS.—

“(A) PROVISION OF TRANSLATED DOCUMENTS.—If a Federal agency, or a State or local agency in the State or locality in which the property securing the federally related mortgage loan is to be located has produced a translation of a document used in association with the servicing of a federally related mortgage loan in the preferred language of a borrower as documented by the servicer pursuant to paragraph (1)(C), the servicer shall—

“(i) provide such translated document in addition to any English version of such document that is provided to such borrower; and

“(ii) include a notice on the English and translated versions, in the preferred language of the borrower, indicating that the English version is the official and operative document and the translated version is for informational purposes only.

“(B) ORAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—

“(i) IN GENERAL.—If a servicer receives information about a language preference of a borrower through the standard language preference form, from another creditor or a servicer or from the borrower, such servicer shall provide oral interpretation to such borrower.

“(ii) ORAL INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—If a servicer is required under subparagraph (A) to provide oral interpretation services to a borrower, such servicer—

(I) shall ensure qualified oral interpretation services, as defined by the Director of the Bureau, are made available in the preferred language of the borrower for all oral communications between the servicer and the borrower; and

(II) may provide such services through qualified staff of the borrower or a qualified third party.

“(3) NOTICE OF AVAILABLE LANGUAGE SERVICES.—If a servicer receives information about a language preference of a borrower through the standard language preference form from another creditor or a servicer or from the borrower, such servicer shall, not later than 30 business days after receiving such information and not less than 30 days before any foreclosure sale of the property secured by the federally related mortgage loan of the borrower, notify such borrower in writing, in the preferred language of the borrower, of any language services available, including the services required under paragraph (2).

“(4) TRANSFER OF LANGUAGE PREFERENCE INFORMATION.—If a servicer transfers the servicing associated with a federally related mortgage loan, such servicer shall notify the transferee

servicer at the time of the transfer of servicing of any known language preference of the borrower associated with such federally related mortgage loan.

“(5) STANDARD LANGUAGE PREFERENCE FORM DEFINED.—The term ‘standard language preference form’ means the standard language preference form established by the Director of the Bureau under section 129I of the Truth in Lending Act.

“(6) INFORMATION ON WEBSITE.—Each servicer shall publish on its website, in a clear and conspicuous manner—

“(A) links to and information about the websites maintained by the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection that identify housing counselors approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development; and

“(B) a link to and information about the language resources website established by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under section 311(e) of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

“(7) TRANSLATION OF MORTGAGE DOCUMENTS.—With respect to each document published by the Federal Housing Finance Agency and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, and used in association with a federally related mortgage loan, including origination and servicing documents, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency shall, jointly—

“(A) not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this section, publish versions of such documents translated into each of the 8 languages most commonly spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency, as determined by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census; and

“(B) not later than 3 years after the date of the enactment of this section, publish versions of such documents translated into at least 4 additional languages spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency that are regionally prevalent in the United States, as determined by the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census.”.

“(8) RULEMAKING.—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall issue regulations to implement this subsection. A final rule shall be issued by the Director not later than 12 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, and the effective date shall be not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection.”.

(c) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of sections in chapter 2 of the Truth in Lending Act (15 U.S.C. 1631 et seq) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 129H the following:

“129I. Preferred language requirements.”.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, and each year thereafter, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall submit a report to the Congress that contains—

(1) regulatory recommendations to enhance mortgage origination and servicing processes for persons with a preferred language that is not English;

(2) a description of any legislative changes needed to provide authority necessary to implement the regulatory recommendations; and

(3) a description of any progress on the implementation of any legislative or regulatory recommendation made in a previous report.

(e) LANGUAGE RESOURCE WEBSITE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs shall jointly not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section establish and maintain a website that provides language resources for creditors, servicers, and consumers.

(2) WEBSITE REQUIREMENTS.—The website developed pursuant to paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) the translations of documents published pursuant to section 129I(c) of the Truth in Lending Act and section 6(n)(7) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974;

(B) a glossary of terms relating to residential mortgage loans and federally related mortgage loans, provided in each commonly spoken language;

(C) guidance for creditors and servicers working with persons who have a preferred language that is not English; and

(D) examples of notices that may be used by creditors and servicers to inform persons of available language services, provided in accordance with section 6(n)(2) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 and section 129I of the Truth in Lending Act.

(f) ADVISORY GROUP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall establish an advisory group consisting of stakeholders, including industry groups, consumer groups, civil rights groups, and groups that have experience improving language access in housing finance transactions, to provide advice to the Director about—

(A) issues that arise relating to mortgage origination and servicing processes for persons with a preferred language that is not English;

(B) the development of the standard language preference form by the Director under section 129I(a) of the Truth in Lending Act; and

(C) updates to the language resource website established by the Director, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the Secretary of Veterans Affairs under subsection (e).

(2) REQUIRED CONSULTING.—The Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall consult with the advisory group established pursuant to paragraph (1) with respect to any issues that arise relating to mortgage origination and servicing processes for persons with a preferred language that is not English.

(g) HOUSING COUNSELING AGENCY LANGUAGE RESOURCES.—

(1) ENHANCED SEARCH CAPABILITIES.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section—

(A) the Secretary shall update the website maintained by the Secretary that identifies housing counselors approved by the Department of Housing and Urban Development, to allow for searching for housing counseling agencies based on provided language services; and

(B) the Director shall update the website maintained by the Director that identifies housing counselors approved by the Secretary to allow for searching for housing counseling agencies based on provided language services.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, such sums as are necessary to support language training for housing counselors, housing counseling agencies, and staff that are approved by the Secretary.

(h) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CREDITOR.—The term “creditor” has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the

Truth in Lending Act and shall include any assignee of a creditor.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development.

(4) SERVICER.—The term “servicer” has the meaning given the term in section 6(i) of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.

(5) RESIDENTIAL MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term “residential mortgage loan” has the meaning given the term in section 103 of the Truth in Lending Act.

(6) FEDERALLY RELATED MORTGAGE LOAN.—The term “federally related mortgage loan” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974.

Subtitle B—Fair Lending for All

SEC. 321. OFFICE OF FAIR LENDING TESTING.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection an Office of Fair Lending Testing (hereinafter referred to as the “Office”).

(b) DIRECTOR.—The head of the Office shall be a Director, who shall—

(1) be appointed to a 5-year term by, and report to, the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection;

(2) appoint and fix the compensation of such employees as are necessary to carry out the duties of the Office under this section; and

(3) provide an estimated annual budget to the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(c) CIVIL SERVICE POSITION.—The position of the Director shall be a career position within the civil service.

(d) TESTING.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Office, in consultation with the Attorney General and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall conduct testing of compliance with the Equal Credit Opportunity Act by creditors, through the use of individuals who, without any bona fide intent to receive a loan, pose as prospective borrowers for the purpose of gathering information.

(2) REFERRAL OF VIOLATIONS.—If, in carrying out the testing described under paragraph (1), the Office believes a person has violated the Equal Credit Opportunity Act, the Office shall refer such violation in writing to the Attorney General for appropriate action.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Section 707 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691f) is amended by adding at the end the following: “In addition, each report of the Bureau shall include an analysis of the testing carried out pursuant to section 321 of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act, and each report of the Bureau and the Attorney General shall include a summary of criminal enforcement actions taken under section 706A.”.

SEC. 322. PROHIBITION ON CREDIT DISCRIMINATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) of section 701 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691) is amended to read as follows:

“(a) It shall be unlawful to discriminate against any person, with respect to any aspect of a credit transaction—

“(1) on the basis of race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), marital status, or age (provided the applicant has the capacity to contract);

“(2) on the basis of the person’s zip code, or census tract;

“(3) because all or part of the person’s income derives from any public assistance program; or

“(4) because the person has in good faith exercised any right under the Consumer Credit Protection Act.”.

(b) REMOVAL OF CERTAIN REFERENCES TO CREDITORS AND APPLICANTS AND DEFINITION

ADDED.—The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 701(b)—

(A) by striking “applicant” each place such term appears and inserting “person”; and

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking “applicant’s” each place such term appears and inserting “person’s”;

(2) in section 702—

(A) by redesignating subsection (g) as subsection (h); and

(B) by inserting after subsection (f) the following:

“(g) The term ‘aggrieved person’ includes any person who—

“(1) claims to have been injured by a discriminatory credit practice; or

“(2) believes that such person will be injured by a discriminatory credit practice.”;

(3) in section 704A—

(A) in subsection (b)(1), by striking “applicant” each place such term appears and inserting “aggrieved person”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “applicant” and inserting “aggrieved person”;

(4) in section 705—

(A) by striking “the applicant” each place such term appears and inserting “persons”; and

(B) in subsection (a)—

(i) by striking “a creditor to take” and inserting “taking”; and

(ii) by striking “applicant” and inserting “person”; and

(5) in section 706—

(A) by striking “creditor” each place such term appears and inserting “person”; and

(B) by striking “creditor’s” each place such term appears and inserting “person’s”;

(C) by striking “creditors” each place such term appears and inserting “persons”; and

(D) in subsection (f), by striking “applicant” and inserting “aggrieved person”.

SEC. 323. CRIMINAL PENALTIES FOR VIOLATIONS OF THE EQUAL CREDIT OPPORTUNITY ACT.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 706 the following:

“§ 706A. Criminal penalties

“(a) INDIVIDUAL VIOLATIONS.—Any person who knowingly and willfully violates this title shall be fined not more than \$50,000, or imprisoned not more than 1 year, or both.

“(b) PATTERN OR PRACTICE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Any person who engages in a pattern or practice of knowingly and willfully violating this title shall be fined not more than \$100,000 for each violation of this title, or imprisoned not more than twenty years, or both.

“(2) PERSONAL LIABILITY OF EXECUTIVE OFFICERS AND DIRECTORS OF THE BOARD.—Any executive officer or director of the board of an entity who knowingly and willfully causes the entity to engage in a pattern or practice of knowingly and willfully violating this title (or who directs another agent, senior officer, or director of the entity to commit such a violation or engage in such acts that result in the director or officer being personally unjustly enriched) shall be—

“(A) fined in an amount not to exceed 100 percent of the compensation (including stock options awarded as compensation) received by such officer or director from the entity—

“(i) during the time period in which the violations occurred; or

“(ii) in the one to three year time period preceding the date on which the violations were discovered; and

“(B) imprisoned for not more than 5 years.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 706 the following:

“706A. Criminal penalties.”.

SEC. 324. REVIEW OF LOAN APPLICATIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle C of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5531

et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 1038. REVIEW OF LOAN APPLICATIONS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Bureau shall carry out reviews of loan applications and the process of taking loan applications being used by covered persons to ensure such applications and processes do not violate the Equal Credit Opportunity Act or any other Federal consumer financial law.

“(b) PROHIBITION AND ENFORCEMENT.—If the Bureau determines under subsection (a) that any loan application or process of taking a loan application violates the Equal Credit Opportunity Act or any other Federal consumer financial law, the Bureau shall—

“(1) prohibit the covered person from using such application or process; and

“(2) take such enforcement or other actions with respect to the covered person as the Bureau determines appropriate.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 1037 the following:

“Sec. 1038. Review of loan applications.”.

SEC. 325. MORTGAGE DATA COLLECTION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 304(b)(4) of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 2803(b)(4)) is amended by striking “census tract, income level, racial characteristics, age, and gender” and inserting “the applicant or borrower’s zip code, census tract, income level, race, color, religion, national origin, sex, marital status, sexual orientation, gender identity, and age”.

(b) PROTECTION OF PRIVACY INTERESTS.—Section 304(h)(3)(A) of the Home Mortgage Disclosure Act of 1975 (12 U.S.C. 2803(h)(3)(A)) is amended—

(1) in clause (i), by striking “and” at the end;

(2) by redesignating clause (ii) as clause (iii); and

(3) by inserting after clause (i) the following: “(ii) zip code, census tract, and any other category of data described in subsection (b)(4), as the Bureau determines to be necessary to satisfy the purpose described in paragraph (1)(E), and in a manner consistent with that purpose; and”.

Subtitle C—Promoting and Advancing Communities of Color Through Inclusive Lending

SEC. 331. STRENGTHENING DIVERSE AND MISSION-DRIVEN COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTION SET-ASIDE IN PROVIDING ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Section 108 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4707) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(i) SUPPORTING MINORITY INSTITUTIONS.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law, in providing any assistance to community development financial institutions, the Fund shall reserve 40 percent of such assistance for minority lending institutions.”.

(2) DEFINITIONS.—Section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(22) MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTION.—The term ‘minority lending institution’ has the meaning given that term under section 523(c) of division N of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021.”.

(b) OFFICE OF MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTIONS.—Section 104 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(1) CDFI OFFICE OF MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTIONS.—There is established within the Fund an Office of Minority Lending Institutions, which shall oversee assistance provided by the Fund to minority lending institutions.”.

(c) REPORTING ON MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTIONS.—Section 117 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4716) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(g) REPORTING ON MINORITY LENDING INSTITUTIONS.—Each report required under subsection (a) shall include a description of the extent to which assistance from the Fund are provided to minority lending institutions.”.

(d) SUBMISSION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY BY COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—Section 104 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(m) SUBMISSION OF DEMOGRAPHIC DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘executive officer’ has the meaning given the term in section 230.501(f) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection;

“(B) the term ‘gender identity’ means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual’s designated sex at birth;

“(C) the term ‘sexual orientation’ means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality; and”.

“(B) the term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

“(2) SUBMISSION OF DISCLOSURE.—Each Fund applicant and recipient shall provide data regarding such factors as may be determined by the Fund, which may include:

“(A) Demographic data, based on voluntary self-identification, on the racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation position of—

“(i) the board of directors of the institution; and

“(ii) the executive officers of the institution.

“(B) The status of any member of the board of directors of the institution, any nominee for the board of directors of the institution, or any executive officer of the institution, based on voluntary self-identification, as a veteran.

“(C) Whether the board of directors of the institution, or any committee of that board of directors, has, as of the date on which the institution makes a disclosure under this paragraph, adopted any policy, plan, or strategy to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among—

“(i) the board of directors of the institution;

“(ii) nominees for the board of directors of the institution; or

“(iii) the executive officers of the institution.

“(3) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 24 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every other year thereafter, the Fund shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and make publicly available on the website of the Fund, a report—

“(A) on the demographic data and trends of the diversity information made available pursuant to paragraph (2); and

“(B) containing any administrative or legislative recommendations of the Fund to enhance the implementation of this title or to promote diversity and inclusion within community development financial institutions.”.

(e) OFFICE OF DIVERSE AND MISSION-DRIVEN COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—

(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Department of the Treasury the Office of Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions.

(2) LEADERSHIP.—The Office of Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions shall be led by a Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions, who shall be appointed by the Secretary of the Treasury, in

consultation with the Department of the Treasury's Director of Office of Minority and Women Inclusion.

(3) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Office of Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions, pursuant to the direction of the Secretary, shall seek to provide support for diverse and mission-driven community financial institutions and have the authority—

(A) to monitor and issue reports regarding—

(i) community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and minority lending institutions; and

(ii) the role such institutions play in the financial system of the United States, including the impact they have on providing financial access to low- and moderate-income communities, communities of color, and other underserved communities;

(B) to serve as a resource and Federal liaison for current and prospective community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and minority lending institutions seeking to engage with the Department of the Treasury, the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund ("CDFI Fund"), other Federal government agencies, including by providing contact information for other offices of the Department of the Treasury or other Federal Government agencies, resources, technical assistance, or other support for entities wishing—

(i) to become certified as a community development financial institution, and maintain the certification;

(ii) to obtain a banking charter, deposit insurance, or otherwise carry on banking activities in a safe, sound, and responsible manner;

(iii) to obtain financial support through private sector deposits, investments, partnerships, and other means;

(iv) to expand their operations through internal growth and acquisitions;

(v) to develop and upgrade their technology, cybersecurity resilience, compliance systems, data reporting systems, and their capacity to support their communities, including through partnerships with third-party companies;

(vi) to obtain grants, awards, investments and other financial support made available through the CDFI Fund, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Central Liquidity Facility, the Federal Home Loan Banks, and other Federal programs;

(vii) to participate as a financial intermediary with respect to various Federal and State programs and agencies, including the State Small Business Credit Initiative and programs of the Small Business Administration; and

(viii) to participate in Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program of the Department of the Treasury and other Federal programs designed to support private sector partnerships;

(C) to provide resources to the public wishing to learn more about minority depository institutions, community development financial institutions, and minority lending institutions, including helping the Secretary implement the requirements under section 334, publishing reports issued by the Office on the website of the Department of the Treasury and providing hyperlinks to other relevant reports and materials from other Federal agencies;

(D) to provide policy recommendations to other relevant Federal agencies and Congress on ways to further strengthen Federal support for community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and minority lending institutions;

(E) to assist the Secretary in carrying out the Secretary's responsibilities under section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) to preserve and promote minority depository institutions in consultation with the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, and the Chairperson of

the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation;

(F) to carry out other duties of the Secretary of the Treasury required by this Act and the amendments made by this Act, and to perform such other duties and authorities as may be assigned by the Secretary.

(f) **STRENGTHENING FEDERAL EFFORTS AND INTERAGENCY COORDINATION TO PROMOTE DIVERSE AND MISSION-DRIVEN COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**—

(1) **SENIOR OFFICIALS DESIGNATED.**—The Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall each, in consultation with their respective Director of Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, designate a senior official to be their respective agency's officer responsible for promoting minority depository institutions, community development financial institutions, and minority lending institutions, including to fulfill obligations under section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) to preserve and promote minority depository institutions.

(2) **INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP.**—The Department of the Treasury shall regularly convene meetings, no less than once a quarter, of an interagency working group to be known as the "Interagency Working Group to Promote Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions", which shall consist of the senior officials designated by their respective agencies under paragraph (1), along with the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Diverse and Mission-Driven Community Financial Institutions, the Director of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, and such other government officials as the Secretary of the Treasury may choose to invite, to examine and discuss the state of minority depository institutions, community development financial institutions, and minority lending institutions, and actions the relevant agencies can take to preserve, promote, and strengthen these institutions.

(3) **ANNUAL REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury, the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Chairman of the National Credit Union Administration, the Chairperson of the Board of Directors of the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection shall submit a joint report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate regarding the work that has been done the prior year to preserve, promote, and strengthen community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and minority lending institutions, along with any policy recommendations on actions various government agencies and Congress should take to preserve, promote, and strengthen community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and minority lending institutions.

SEC. 332. CAPITAL INVESTMENTS, GRANTS, AND TECHNOLOGY SUPPORT FOR MDIS AND CDFIS.

(a) **AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATION.**—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Emergency Capital Investment Fund \$4,000,000,000. Such funds may be used for administrative expenses of the Department of the Treasury.

(b) **CONFORMING AMENDMENTS TO ALLOW FOR ADDITIONAL PURCHASES OF CAPITAL.**—Section 104A of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c), by striking paragraph (2); and

(2) in subsection (e), by striking paragraph (2).

(c) **USE OF FUNDS FOR CDFI FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—Section 104A of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703a) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(p) **USE OF FUNDS FOR CDFI FINANCIAL AND TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Secretary shall transfer no less than \$1,000,000,000 in the Emergency Capital Investment Fund to the Fund for the purpose of providing financial and technical assistance grants to community development financial institutions certified by the Secretary. The Fund shall provide such grants using a formula that takes into account criteria such as certification status, financial and compliance performance, portfolio and balance sheet strength, diversity of CDFI business model types, and program capacity."

(d) **TECHNOLOGY GRANTS FOR MDIS AND CDFIS.**—

(1) **STUDY AND REPORT ON CERTAIN TECHNOLOGY CHALLENGES.**—

(A) **STUDY.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall carry out a study on the technology challenges impacting minority depository institutions and community development financial institutions with respect to—

(i) internal technology capabilities and capacity of the institutions to process loan applications and otherwise serve current and potential customers through the internet, mobile phone applications, and other tools;

(ii) technology capabilities and capacity of the institutions, provided in partnership with third party companies, to process loan applications and otherwise serve current and potential customers through the internet, mobile phone applications, and other tools;

(iii) cybersecurity; and

(iv) challenges and solutions related to algorithmic bias in the deployment of technology.

(B) **REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary shall submit 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 that includes the results of the study required under subparagraph (A).

(2) **TECHNOLOGY GRANT PROGRAM.**—

(A) **PROGRAM AUTHORIZED.**—The Secretary shall carry out a technology grant program to make grants to minority depository institutions and community development financial institutions to address technology challenges impacting such institutions.

(B) **APPLICATION.**—To be eligible to be awarded a grant under this paragraph, a minority depository institution or community development financial institution shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary may require.

(C) **USE OF FUNDS.**—A minority depository institution or community development financial institution that is awarded a grant under this paragraph may use the grant funds to—

(i) enhance or adopt technologies that—

(I) shorten loan approval processes;

(II) improve customer experience;

(III) provide additional services to customers;

(IV) facilitate compliance with applicable laws, regulations, and program requirements, including testing to ensure that the use of technology does not result in discrimination, and helping to satisfy data reporting requirements; and

(V) help ensure privacy of customer records and cybersecurity resilience; or

(ii) carry out such other activities as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary may use amounts in the Emergency Capital Investment Fund to implement and make grants under paragraph

(2), but not to exceed \$250,000,000 in the aggregate.”.

(4) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, the terms “community development financial institution” and “minority depository institution” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(e) **PILOT PROGRAM FOR ESTABLISHING DE NOVO CDFIS AND MDIS.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Fund and the appropriate Federal banking agencies, shall establish a pilot program to provide competitive grants to a person for the purpose of providing capital for such person to establish a minority depository institution or a community development financial institution.

(2) **APPLICATION.**—A person desiring a grant under this subsection shall submit to the Secretary an application in such form and containing such information as the Secretary determines appropriate.

(3) **DISBURSEMENT.**—Before disbursing grant amounts to a person selected to receive a grant under this subsection, the Secretary shall ensure that such person has received approval from the appropriate Federal banking agency (or such other Federal or State agency from whom approval is required) to establish a minority depository institution or a community development financial institution, as applicable.

(4) **FUNDING.**—The Secretary may use amounts in the Emergency Capital Investment Fund to implement and make grants under paragraph (2), but not to exceed \$100,000,000 in the aggregate.”.

(5) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection, the terms “appropriate Federal banking agency”, “community development financial institution”, “Fund”, and “minority depository institution” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(f) **GUIDANCE FOR SUBCHAPTER S AND MUTUAL BANKS.**—Not later than 30 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Secretary shall issue guidance regarding how Emergency Capital Investment Program investments (whether made before or after the date of enactment of this Act) are considered for purposes of various prudential requirements, including debt to equity, leverage ratio, and double leverage ratio requirements with respect to subchapter S and mutual bank recipients of such investments.

(g) **COLLECTION OF DATA.**—Section 111 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4710) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Fund” and inserting the following:

“(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fund”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(b) **COLLECTION OF CERTAIN DATA BY CDFIS.**—Notwithstanding the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.)—

“(1) a community development financial institution may collect data described in section 701(a)(1) of that Act (15 U.S.C. 1691(a)(1)) from borrowers and applicants for credit for the sole purpose and exclusive use to ensure that targeted populations and low-income residents of investment areas are adequately served and to report the level of service provided to such populations and areas to the Fund; and

“(2) a community development financial institution that collects the data described in paragraph (1) shall not be subject to adverse action related to that collection by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection or any other Federal agency.”.

SEC. 333. SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.

Section 108 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994

(12 U.S.C. 4707), as amended by section 331(a)(1), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) **SUPPORTING YOUNG ENTREPRENEURS PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fund shall establish a Supporting Young Entrepreneurs Program under which the Fund may provide financial awards to the community development financial institutions that the Fund determines have the best programs to help young entrepreneurs get the start up capital needed to start a small business.

“(2) **NO MATCHING REQUIREMENT.**—The matching requirement under subsection (e) shall not apply to awards made under this subsection.

“(3) **FUNDING.**—In carrying out this subsection, the Fund may use—

“(A) amounts in the Emergency Capital Investment Fund, but not to exceed \$100,000,000 in the aggregate; and

“(B) such other funds as may be appropriated by Congress to the Fund to carry out the Supporting Young Entrepreneurs Program.”.

SEC. 334. MAP OF MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the CDFI Fund and the Federal banking agencies, shall establish an interactive, searchable map showing the geographic locations of the headquarters and branch locations of minority depository institutions, which shall be provided by the Federal banking agencies, and community development financial institutions that have been certified by the Secretary. Such map shall also provide a link to the website of each such minority depository institution and community development financial institution.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CDFI FUND.**—The term “CDFI Fund” means the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund established under section 104(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

(2) **COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “community development financial institution” has the meaning given in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

(3) **FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY.**—The term “Federal banking agency”—

(A) has the meaning given in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act; and

(B) means the National Credit Union Administration.

(4) **MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.**—The term “minority depository institution” has the meaning given in section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989.

SEC. 335. REPORT ON CERTIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.

Section 117(a) of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4716(a)) is amended—

(1) by striking “The Fund” and inserting the following:

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Fund”; and

(2) by striking “and the Congress” and inserting “, the Congress, and the public”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) **REPORT ON CERTIFIED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.**—The annual report required under paragraph (1) shall include a report on community development financial institutions (“CDFIs”) that have been certified by the Secretary of the Treasury, including a summary with aggregate data and analysis, to the fullest extent practicable, regarding—

“(A) a list of the types of organizations that are certified as CDFIs, and the number of each type of organization; and

“(B) the geographic location and capacity of different types of certified CDFIs;

“(C) the lines of business for different types of certified CDFIs; and

“(D) human resources and staffing information for different types of certified CDFIs, including—

“(E) the types of development services provided by different types of certified CDFIs; and

“(F) the target markets of different types of certified CDFIs and the amount of products and services offered by CDFIs to those target markets, including—

“(i) the number and amount of loans and loan guarantees made in those target markets; and

“(ii) the number and amount of other investments made in those target markets; and

“(iii) the number and amount of development services offered in those target markets; and

“(G) such other information as the Director of the Fund may determine necessary to promote transparency of the impact of different types of CDFIs, while carrying out this report in a manner that seeks to minimize data reporting requirements from certified CDFIs when feasible, including utilizing information gathered from other regulators under section 104(l).”.

SEC. 336. CONSULTATION AND MINIMIZATION OF DATA REQUESTS.

Section 104 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4703) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(l) **CONSULTATION AND MINIMIZATION OF DATA REQUESTS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—In carrying out its duties, the Fund shall—

“(A) periodically, and no less frequent than once a year, consult with the applicable Federal regulator of certified CDFIs and applicants to be a certified CDFI (“applicants”); and

“(B) seek to gather any information necessary related to Fund certification and award decisions on certified CDFIs and applicants from the applicable Federal regulator, and such regulators shall use reasonable efforts to provide such information to the Fund, to minimize duplicative data collection requests made by the Fund of certified CDFIs and applicants and to expedite certification, award, or other relevant processes administered by the Fund.

“(2) **APPLICABLE FEDERAL REGULATOR DEFINED.**—In this subsection, the term “applicable Federal regulator” means—

“(A) with respect to a certified CDFI or an applicant that is regulated by both an appropriate Federal banking agency and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection; and

“(B) with respect to a certified CDFI or an applicant that is not regulated by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the appropriate Federal banking agency for such applicant; or

“(C) the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, with respect to a certified CDFI or an applicant—

“(i) that is not regulated by an appropriate Federal banking agency; and

“(ii) that offers or provides consumer financial products or services (as defined in section 1002 of the Consumer Financial Protection Act of 2010 (12 U.S.C. 5481)).”.

SEC. 337. ACCESS TO THE DISCOUNT WINDOW OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE SYSTEM FOR MDIS AND CDFIS.

Within 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall establish a process under which minority depository institutions and community development financial institutions may have access to the discount window, at the seasonal credit interest rate most recently published on the Federal Reserve Statistical Release on selected interest rates (daily or weekly).

SEC. 338. STUDY ON SECURITIZATION BY CDFIS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund and such other Federal agencies as the Secretary determines appropriate, shall carry out a study on—

(1) the use of securitization by CDFIs;
 (2) any barriers to the use of securitization as a source of liquidity by CDFIs; and
 (3) any authorities available to the Government to support the use of securitization by CDFIs to the extent it helps serve underserved communities.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Secretary 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 containing—

(1) all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under subsection (a); and

(2) any legislative or administrative recommendations of the Secretary that would promote the responsible use of securitization to help CDFIs in reaching more underserved communities.

(c) CDFI DEFINED.—The term “CDFI” has the meaning given the term “community development financial institution” under section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

TITLE IV—DIVERSITY IN FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS AND CORPORATIONS **Subtitle A—Promoting New and Diverse Depository Institutions**

SEC. 411. STUDY AND STRATEGIC PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Federal banking regulators shall jointly—

(1) conduct a study about the challenges faced by proposed depository institutions, including proposed minority depository institutions, seeking de novo depository institution charters; and

(2) submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and publish publicly, not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section—

(A) an analysis based on the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1);

(B) any findings from the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1); and

(C) any legislative recommendations that the Federal banking regulators developed based on the study conducted pursuant to paragraph (1).

STRATEGIC PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this section, the Federal banking regulators shall jointly submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate and publish publicly a strategic plan based on the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) and designed to help proposed depository institutions (including proposed minority depository institutions) successfully apply for de novo depository institution charters in a manner that promotes increased availability of banking and financial services, safety and soundness, consumer protection, community reinvestment, financial stability, and a level playing field.

(2) CONTENTS OF STRATEGIC PLAN.—The strategic plan described in paragraph (1) shall—

(A) promote the chartering of de novo depository institutions, including—

(i) proposed minority depository institutions; and

(ii) proposed depository institutions that could be certified as community development financial institutions; and

(B) describe actions the Federal banking regulators may take that would increase the number of depository institutions located in geographic areas where consumers lack access to a branch of a depository institution.

(c) PUBLIC INVOLVEMENT.—When conducting the study and developing the strategic plan required by this section, the Federal banking regulators shall invite comments and other feedback from the public to inform the study and strategic plan.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “depository institution” has the meaning given in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act, and includes a “Federal credit union” and a “State credit union” as such terms are defined, respectively, under section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act.

(2) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “community development financial institution” has the meaning given in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994.

(3) FEDERAL BANKING REGULATORS.—The term “Federal banking regulators” means the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Director of the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection.

(4) MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “minority depository institution” has the meaning given in section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989.

Subtitle B—Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Banking

SEC. 421. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION RATINGS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 342 the following:

“SEC. 342A. DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION RATINGS.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Board of Governors, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration Board, in assigning a rating to a depository institution under the Uniform Financial Institutions Rating System (or an equivalent rating by any such agency under a comparable rating system) shall include a diversity and inclusion component that examines—

“(1) whether the depository institution has effective policies in place to encourage diversity and inclusion in the hiring practices of the institution;

“(2) whether the depository institution provides training to the employees of the institution, that is appropriate to the size and resources of the institution, on diversity and inclusion;

“(3) whether the depository institution has policies in place that ensure that employees are able to report workplace discrimination without fear of wrongful retaliation, threats, or coercion; and

“(4)(A) with respect to a depository institution with total consolidated assets of \$1,000,000,000 or less, whether such depository institution has designated an individual to serve as a Diversity and Inclusion Officer who reports to the Chief Executive Officer of the institution on all diversity and inclusion matters; or

“(B) with respect to a depository institution with total consolidated assets of more than \$1,000,000,000, whether such depository institution—

“(i) has designated an individual to serve as a Diversity and Inclusion Officer; and

“(ii) has established a committee for diversity and inclusion that holds meetings quarterly and that includes in its membership the Diversity and Inclusion Officer designated under clause (i) and the Chief Executive Officer of the institution.

“(b) APPLICATION TO MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.—In carrying out subsection (a) with respect to minority depository institutions, the Board of Governors, the Comptroller of the Currency, the Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration Board shall—

“(1) assign such institutions the most favorable rating with respect to the diversity and inclusion component described under subsection (a); and

“(2) exempt such institutions from any examination procedures related to the diversity and

inclusion component described under subsection (a).

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘depository institution’ means a depository institution or a credit union.

“(2) MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘minority depository institution’ means an entity that is—

“(A) a minority depository institution, as defined in section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note); or

“(B) considered to be a minority depository institution by—

“(i) the appropriate Federal banking agency; or

“(B) the term ‘gender identity’ means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual’s designated sex at birth;

“(C) the term ‘sexual orientation’ means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality; and

“(ii) the National Credit Union Administration, in the case of an insured credit union.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 342 the following:

“Sec. 342A. Diversity and inclusion ratings.”.

Subtitle C—Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity

SEC. 431. SUBMISSION OF DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY BY ISSUERS.

Section 13 of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78m) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(s) SUBMISSION OF DATA RELATING TO DIVERSITY.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘executive officer’ has the meaning given the term in section 230.501(f) of title 17, Code of Federal Regulations, as in effect on the date of enactment of this subsection; and

“(B) the term ‘veteran’ has the meaning given the term in section 101 of title 38, United States Code.

“(2) SUBMISSION OF DISCLOSURE.—Each issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) shall disclose in any proxy statement and any information statement relating to the election of directors filed with the Commission the following:

“(A) Data, based on voluntary self-identification, on the racial, ethnic, gender identity, and sexual orientation composition of—

“(i) the board of directors of the issuer;

“(ii) nominees for the board of directors of the issuer; and

“(iii) the executive officers of the issuer.

“(B) The status of any member of the board of directors of the issuer, any nominee for the board of directors of the issuer, or any executive officer of the issuer, based on voluntary self-identification, as a veteran.

“(C) Whether the board of directors of the issuer, or any committee of that board of directors, has, as of the date on which the issuer makes a disclosure under this paragraph, adopted any policy, plan, or strategy to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among—

“(i) the board of directors of the issuer;

“(ii) nominees for the board of directors of the issuer; or

“(iii) the executive officers of the issuer.

“(3) ALTERNATIVE SUBMISSION.—In any 1-year period in which an issuer required to file an annual report under subsection (a) does not file with the Commission a proxy statement or an information statement relating to the election of directors, the issuer shall disclose the information required under paragraph (2) in the first annual report of issuer that the issuer submits to the Commission after the end of that 1-year period.

“(4) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of enactment of this subsection, and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, and publish on the website of the Commission, a report that analyzes the information disclosed under paragraphs (2) and (3) and identifies any trends with respect to such information.

“(5) BEST PRACTICES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of the Commission shall, not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this subsection, and every 3 years thereafter, publish best practices for compliance with this subsection.

“(B) COMMENTS.—The Director of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of the Commission may, pursuant to subchapter II of chapter 5 of title 5, United States Code, solicit public comments related to the best practices published under subparagraph (A).”.

SEC. 432. DIVERSITY ADVISORY GROUP.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—For the purposes of this section:

(1) ADVISORY GROUP.—The term “Advisory Group” means the Diversity Advisory Group established under subsection (b).

(2) COMMISSION.—The term “Commission” means the Securities and Exchange Commission.

(3) ISSUER.—The term “issuer” has the meaning given the term in section 3(a) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78c(a)).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Commission shall establish a Diversity Advisory Group, which shall be composed of representatives from—

- (1) the Federal Government and State and local governments;
- (2) academia; and
- (3) the private sector.

(c) STUDY AND RECOMMENDATIONS.—The Advisory Group shall—

(1) carry out a study that identifies strategies that can be used to increase gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among members of boards of directors of issuers; and

(2) not later than 270 days after the date on which the Advisory Group is established, submit to the Commission, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report that—

(A) describes any findings from the study conducted under paragraph (1); and

(B) makes recommendations regarding strategies that issuers could use to increase gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among board members.

(d) ANNUAL REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after the date on which the Advisory Group submits the report required under subsection (c)(2), and annually thereafter, the Commission shall submit to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate a report that describes the status of gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among members of the boards of directors of issuers.

(e) PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF REPORTS.—The Commission shall make all reports of the Advisory Group available to issuers and the public, including on the website of the Commission.

(f) INAPPLICABILITY OF FEDERAL ADVISORY COMMITTEE ACT.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply with respect to the Advisory Group or the activities of the Advisory Group.

Subtitle D—Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking

SEC. 441. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act”.

SEC. 442. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON FUNDING THE LOAN-LOSS RESERVE FUND FOR SMALL DOLLAR LOANS.

The sense of Congress is the following:

(1) The Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (the “CDFI Fund”) is an agency of the Department of the Treasury, and was established by the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994. The mission of the CDFI Fund is “to expand economic opportunity for underserved people and communities by supporting the growth and capacity of a national network of community development lenders, investors, and financial service providers”. A community development financial institution (a “CDFI”) is a specialized financial institution serving low-income communities and a Community Development Entity (a “CDE”) is a domestic corporation or partnership that is an intermediary vehicle for the provision of loans, investments, or financial counseling in low-income communities. The CDFI Fund certifies CDFIs and CDEs. Becoming a certified CDFI or CDE allows organizations to participate in various CDFI Fund programs as follows:

(A) The Bank Enterprise Award Program, which provides FDIC-insured depository institutions awards for a demonstrated increase in lending and investments in distressed communities and CDFIs.

(B) The CDFI Program, which provides Financial and Technical Assistance awards to CDFIs to reinvest in the CDFI, and to build the capacity of the CDFI, including financing product development and loan loss reserves.

(C) The Native American CDFI Assistance Program, which provides CDFIs and sponsoring entities Financial and Technical Assistance awards to increase lending and grow the number of CDFIs owned by Native Americans to help build capacity of such CDFIs.

(D) The New Market Tax Credit Program, which provides tax credits for making equity investments in CDEs that stimulate capital investments in low-income communities.

(E) The Capital Magnet Fund, which provides awards to CDFIs and nonprofit affordable housing organizations to finance affordable housing solutions and related economic development activities.

(F) The Bond Guarantee Program, a source of long-term, patient capital for CDFIs to expand lending and investment capacity for community and economic development purposes.

(2) The Department of the Treasury is authorized to create multi-year grant programs designed to encourage low-to-moderate income individuals to establish accounts at federally insured banks, and to improve low-to-moderate income individuals’ access to such accounts on reasonable terms.

(3) Under this authority, grants to participants in CDFI Fund programs may be used for loan-loss reserves and to establish small-dollar loan programs by subsidizing related losses. These grants also allow for the providing recipients with the financial counseling and education necessary to conduct transactions and manage their accounts. These loans provide low-cost alternatives to payday loans and other nontraditional forms of financing that often impose excessive interest rates and fees on borrowers, and lead millions of Americans to fall into debt traps. Small-dollar loans can only be made pursuant to terms, conditions, and practices that are reasonable for the individual consumer obtaining the loan.

(4) Program participation is restricted to eligible institutions, which are limited to organizations listed in section 501(c)(3) of the Internal Revenue Code and exempt from tax under 501(a) of such Code, federally insured depository institutions, community development financial institutions and State, local, or Tribal government entities.

(5) According to the CDFI Fund, some programs attract as much as \$10 in private capital for every \$1 invested by the CDFI Fund. The Administration and the Congress should prioritize appropriation of funds for the loan loss reserve fund and technical assistance pro-

grams administered by the Community Development Financial Institution Fund.

SEC. 443. DEFINITIONS.

In this subtitle:

(1) COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “community development financial institution” has the meaning given under section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4702).

(2) MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “minority depository institution” has the meaning given under section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note), as amended by this Act.

SEC. 444. INCLUSION OF WOMEN'S BANKS IN THE DEFINITION OF MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.

Section 308(b)(1) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subparagraphs (A), (B), and (C) as clauses (i), (ii), and (iii), respectively;

(2) by striking “means any” and inserting the following: “means—

“(A) any”; and

(3) in clause (iii) (as so redesignated), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; or”; and

(4) by inserting at the end the following new subparagraph:

“(B) any bank described in clause (i), (ii), or (iii) of section 19(b)(1)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act—

“(i) more than 50 percent of the outstanding shares of which are held by 1 or more women; and

“(ii) the majority of the directors on the board of directors of which are women.”.

SEC. 445. ESTABLISHMENT OF IMPACT BANK DESIGNATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Each Federal banking agency shall establish a program under which a depository institution with total consolidated assets of less than \$10,000,000,000 may elect to be designated as an impact bank if the total dollar value of the loans extended by such depository institution to low-income borrowers is greater than or equal to 50 percent of the assets of such bank.

(b) NOTIFICATION OF ELIGIBILITY.—Based on data obtained through examinations of depository institutions, the appropriate Federal banking agency shall notify a depository institution if the institution is eligible to be designated as an impact bank.

(c) APPLICATION.—Regardless of whether or not it has received a notice of eligibility under subsection (b), a depository institution may submit an application to the appropriate Federal banking agency—

(1) requesting to be designated as an impact bank; and

(2) demonstrating that the depository institution meets the applicable qualifications.

(d) LIMITATION ON ADDITIONAL DATA REQUIREMENTS.—The Federal banking agencies may only impose additional data collection requirements on a depository institution under this section if such data is—

(1) necessary to process an application submitted by the depository institution to be designated an impact bank; or

(2) with respect to a depository institution that is designated as an impact bank, necessary to ensure the depository institution’s ongoing qualifications to maintain such designation.

(e) REMOVAL OF DESIGNATION.—If the appropriate Federal banking agency determines that a depository institution designated as an impact bank no longer meets the criteria for such designation, the appropriate Federal banking agency shall rescind the designation and notify the depository institution of such rescission.

(f) RECONSIDERATION OF DESIGNATION; APPEALS.—Under such procedures as the Federal

banking agencies may establish, a depository institution may—

(1) submit to the appropriate Federal banking agency a request to reconsider a determination that such depository institution no longer meets the criteria for the designation; or

(2) file an appeal of such determination.

(g) RULEMAKING.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal banking agencies shall jointly issue rules to carry out the requirements of this section, including by providing a definition of a low-income borrower.

(h) REPORTS.—Each Federal banking agency shall submit an annual report to the Congress containing a description of actions taken to carry out this section.

(i) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT DEFINITIONS.—In this section, the terms “depository institution”, “appropriate Federal banking agency”, and “Federal banking agency” have the meanings given such terms, respectively, in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

SEC. 446. MINORITY DEPOSITORIES ADVISORY COMMITTEES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Each covered regulator shall establish an advisory committee to be called the “Minority Depositories Advisory Committee”.

(b) DUTIES.—Each Minority Depositories Advisory Committee shall provide advice to the respective covered regulator on meeting the goals established by section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) to preserve the present number of covered minority institutions, preserve the minority character of minority-owned institutions in cases involving mergers or acquisitions, provide technical assistance, and encourage the creation of new covered minority institutions. The scope of the work of each such Minority Depositories Advisory Committee shall include an assessment of the current condition of covered minority institutions, what regulatory changes or other steps the respective agencies may be able to take to fulfill the requirements of such section 308, and other issues of concern to covered minority institutions.

(c) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Minority Depositories Advisory Committee shall consist of no more than 10 members, who—

(A) shall serve for one two-year term;

(B) shall serve as a representative of a depository institution or an insured credit union with respect to which the respective covered regulator is the covered regulator of such depository institution or insured credit union; and

(C) shall not receive pay by reason of their service on the advisory committee, but may receive travel or transportation expenses in accordance with section 5703 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) DIVERSITY.—To the extent practicable, each covered regulator shall ensure that the members of the Minority Depositories Advisory Committee of such agency reflect the diversity of covered minority institutions.

(d) MEETINGS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Each Minority Depositories Advisory Committee shall meet not less frequently than twice each year.

(2) NOTICE AND INVITATIONS.—Each Minority Depositories Advisory Committee shall—

(A) notify the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate in advance of each meeting of the Minority Depositories Advisory Committee; and

(B) invite the attendance at each meeting of the Minority Depositories Advisory Committee of—

(i) one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party of the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate; and

(ii) one member of the majority party and one member of the minority party of any relevant subcommittees of such committees.

(e) NO TERMINATION OF ADVISORY COMMITTEES.—The termination requirements under section 14 of the Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. app.) shall not apply to a Minority Depositories Advisory Committee established pursuant to this section.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) COVERED REGULATOR.—The term “covered regulator” means the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration.

(2) COVERED MINORITY INSTITUTION.—The term “covered minority institution” means a minority depository institution (as defined in section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note)).

(3) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “depository institution” has the meaning given under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

(4) INSURED CREDIT UNION.—The term “insured credit union” has the meaning given in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

(g) TECHNICAL AMENDMENT.—Section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(3) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘depository institution’ means an ‘insured depository institution’ (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)) and an insured credit union (as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752)).”

SEC. 447. FEDERAL DEPOSITS IN MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) is amended—

(1) by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) FEDERAL DEPOSITS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall ensure that deposits made by Federal agencies in minority depository institutions and impact banks are collateralized or insured, as determined by the Secretary. Such deposits shall include reciprocal deposits as defined in section 337.6(e)(2)(v) of title 12, Code of Federal Regulations (as in effect on March 6, 2019).”; and

(2) in subsection (b), as amended by section 6(g), by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(4) IMPACT BANK.—The term ‘impact bank’ means a depository institution designated by the appropriate Federal banking agency pursuant to section 445 of the Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act.”

(b) TECHNICAL AMENDMENTS.—Section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “section—” and inserting “section.”; and

(2) in the paragraph heading for paragraph (1), by striking “FINANCIAL” and inserting “DEPOSITORY”.

SEC. 448. MINORITY BANK DEPOSIT PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1204 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1811 note) is amended to read as follows:

“SEC. 1204. EXPANSION OF USE OF MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.

“(a) MINORITY BANK DEPOSIT PROGRAM.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established a program to be known as the ‘Minority Bank Deposit Program’ to expand the use of minority depository institutions.

“(2) ADMINISTRATION.—The Secretary of the Treasury, acting through the Fiscal Service, shall—

“(A) on application by a depository institution or credit union, certify whether such depository institution or credit union is a minority depository institution;

“(B) maintain and publish a list of all depository institutions and credit unions that have been certified pursuant to subparagraph (A); and

“(C) periodically distribute the list described in subparagraph (B) to—

“(i) all Federal departments and agencies;

“(ii) interested State and local governments; and

“(iii) interested private sector companies.

“(3) INCLUSION OF CERTAIN ENTITIES ON LIST.—A depository institution or credit union that, on the date of the enactment of this section, has a current certification from the Secretary of the Treasury stating that such depository institution or credit union is a minority depository institution shall be included on the list described under paragraph (2)(B).

“(b) EXPANDED USE AMONG FEDERAL DEPARTMENTS AND AGENCIES.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the establishment of the program described in subsection (a), the head of each Federal department or agency shall develop and implement standards and procedures to prioritize, to the maximum extent possible as permitted by law and consistent with principles of sound financial management, the use of minority depository institutions to hold the deposits of each such department or agency.

“(2) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 2 years after the establishment of the program described in subsection (a), and annually thereafter, the head of each Federal department or agency shall submit to Congress a report on the actions taken to increase the use of minority depository institutions to hold the deposits of each such department or agency.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

“(1) CREDIT UNION.—The term ‘credit union’ has the meaning given the term ‘insured credit union’ in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

“(2) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘depository institution’ has the meaning given in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813).

“(3) MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term ‘minority depository institution’ has the meaning given that term under section 308 of this Act.”

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The following provisions are amended by striking “1204(c)(3)” and inserting “1204(c)”:

(1) Section 808(b)(3) of the Community Reinvestment Act of 1977 (12 U.S.C. 2907(b)(3)).

(2) Section 40(g)(1)(B) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1831q(g)(1)(B)).

(3) Section 704B(h)(4) of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c-2(h)(4)).

SEC. 449. DIVERSITY REPORT AND BEST PRACTICES.

(a) ANNUAL REPORT.—Each covered regulator shall submit to Congress an annual report on diversity including the following:

(1) Data, based on voluntary self-identification, on the racial, ethnic, and gender composition of the examiners of each covered regulator, disaggregated by length of time served as an examiner.

(2) The status of any examiners of covered regulators, based on voluntary self-identification, as a veteran.

(3) Whether any covered regulator, as of the date on which the report required under this section is submitted, has adopted a policy, plan, or strategy to promote racial, ethnic, and gender diversity among examiners of the covered regulator.

(4) Whether any special training is developed and provided for examiners related specifically

to working with depository institutions and credit unions that serve communities that are predominantly minorities, low income, or rural, and the key focus of such training.

(b) **BEST PRACTICES.**—Each Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of a covered regulator shall develop, provide to the head of the covered regulator, and make publicly available best practices—

(1) for increasing the diversity of candidates applying for examiner positions, including through outreach efforts to recruit diverse candidate to apply for entry-level examiner positions; and

(2) for retaining and providing fair consideration for promotions within the examiner staff for purposes of achieving diversity among examiners.

(c) **COVERED REGULATOR DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “covered regulator” means the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, and the National Credit Union Administration.

SEC. 450. INVESTMENTS IN MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND IMPACT BANKS.

(a) **CONTROL FOR CERTAIN INSTITUTIONS.**—Section 7(j)(8)(B) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1817(j)(8)(B)) is amended to read as follows:

“(B) “control” means the power, directly or indirectly—

“(i) to direct the management or policies of an insured depository institution; or

“(ii)(I) with respect to an insured depository institution, of a person to vote 25 per centum or more of any class of voting securities of such institution; or

“(II) with respect to an insured depository institution that is an impact bank (as designated pursuant to section 445 of the Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act) or a minority depository institution (as defined in section 308(b) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989), of an individual to vote 30 percent or more of any class of voting securities of such an impact bank or a minority depository institution.”.

(b) **RULEMAKING.**—The Federal banking agencies (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813)) shall jointly issue rules for de novo minority depository institutions and de novo impact banks (as designated pursuant to section 445) to allow 3 years to meet the capital requirements otherwise applicable to minority depository institutions and impact banks.

(c) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal banking agencies shall jointly submit to Congress a report on—

(1) the principal causes for the low number of de novo minority depository institutions during the 10-year period preceding the date of the report;

(2) the main challenges to the creation of de novo minority depository institutions and de novo impact banks; and

(3) regulatory and legislative considerations to promote the establishment of de novo minority depository institutions and de novo impact banks.

SEC. 451. REPORT ON COVERED MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAMS.

(a) **REPORT.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report on participants in a covered mentor-protege program, including—

(1) an analysis of outcomes of such program;

(2) the number of minority depository institutions that are eligible to participate in such program but do not have large financial institution mentors; and

(3) recommendations for how to match such minority depository institutions with large financial institution mentors.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.**—The term “covered mentor-protege program” means a mentor-protege program established by the Secretary of the Treasury pursuant to section 45 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 657r).

(2) **LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term “large financial institution” means any entity—

(A) regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the National Credit Union Administration; and

(B) that has total consolidated assets greater than or equal to \$50,000,000,000.

SEC. 452. CUSTODIAL DEPOSIT PROGRAM FOR COVERED MINORITY DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS AND IMPACT BANKS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of the Treasury shall issue rules establishing a custodial deposit program under which a covered bank may receive deposits from a qualifying account.

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—In issuing rules under subsection (a), the Secretary of the Treasury shall—

(1) consult with the Federal banking agencies;

(2) ensure each covered bank participating in the program established under this section—

(A) has appropriate policies relating to management of assets, including measures to ensure the safety and soundness of each such covered bank; and

(B) is compliant with applicable law; and

(3) ensure, to the extent practicable that the rules do not conflict with goals described in section 308(a) of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note).

(c) **LIMITATIONS.**—

(1) **DEPOSITS.**—With respect to the funds of an individual qualifying account, an entity may not deposit an amount greater than the insured amount in a single covered bank.

(2) **TOTAL DEPOSITS.**—The total amount of funds deposited in a covered bank under the custodial deposit program described under this section may not exceed the lesser of—

(A) 10 percent of the average amount of deposits held by such covered bank in the previous quarter; or

(B) \$100,000,000 (as adjusted for inflation).

(d) **REPORT.**—Each quarter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to Congress a report on the implementation of the program established under this section including information identifying participating covered banks and the total amount of deposits received by covered banks under the program.

(e) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **COVERED BANK.**—The term “covered bank” means—

(A) a minority depository institution that is well capitalized, as defined by the appropriate Federal banking agency; or

(B) a depository institution designated pursuant to section 445 of the Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act that is well capitalized, as defined by the appropriate Federal banking agency.

(2) **INSURED AMOUNT.**—The term “insured amount” means the amount that is the greater of—

(A) the standard maximum deposit insurance amount (as defined in section 11(a)(1)(E) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1821(a)(1)(E))); or

(B) such higher amount negotiated between the Secretary of the Treasury and the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation under which the Corporation will insure all deposits of such higher amount.

(3) **FEDERAL BANKING AGENCIES.**—The terms “appropriate Federal banking agency” and “Federal banking agencies” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act.

(4) **QUALIFYING ACCOUNT.**—The term “qualifying account” means any account established in the Department of the Treasury that—

(A) is controlled by the Secretary; and

(B) is expected to maintain a balance greater than \$200,000,000 for the following 24-month period.

SEC. 453. STREAMLINED COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT FINANCIAL INSTITUTION APPLICATIONS AND REPORTING.

(a) **APPLICATION PROCESSES.**—Not later than 12 months after the date of the enactment of this Act and with respect to any person having assets under \$3,000,000,000 that submits an application for deposit insurance with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation that could also become a community development financial institution, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, in consultation with the Administrator of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, shall—

(1) develop systems and procedures to record necessary information to allow the Administrator to conduct preliminary analysis for such person to also become a community development financial institution; and

(2) develop procedures to streamline the application and annual certification processes and to reduce costs for such person to become, and maintain certification as, a community development financial institution.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION REPORT.**—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation shall submit to Congress a report describing the systems and procedures required under subsection (a).

(c) **ANNUAL REPORT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 17(a)(1) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1827(a)(1)) is amended—

(A) in subparagraph (E), by striking “and” at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (F) as subparagraph (G);

(C) by inserting after subparagraph (E) the following new subparagraph:

“(F) applicants for deposit insurance that could also become a community development financial institution (as defined in section 103 of the Riegle Community Development and Regulatory Improvement Act of 1994), a minority depository institution (as defined in section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989), or an impact bank (as designated pursuant to section 445 of the Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act); and”.

(2) **APPLICATION.**—The amendment made by this subsection shall apply with respect to the first report to be submitted after the date that is 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

SEC. 454. TASK FORCE ON LENDING TO SMALL BUSINESS CONCERNS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall establish a task force to examine methods for improving relationships between the Small Business Administration and community development financial institutions, minority depository institutions, and impact banks (as designated pursuant to section 445) to increase the volume of loans provided by such institutions to small business concerns (as defined under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632)).

(b) **REPORT TO CONGRESS.**—Not later than 18 months after the establishment of the task force described in subsection (a), the Administrator of the Small Business Administration shall submit to Congress a report on the findings of such task force.

Subtitle E—Expanding Opportunity for Minority Depository Institutions

SEC. 461. ESTABLISHMENT OF FINANCIAL AGENT MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Section 308 of the Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement

Act of 1989 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note) is amended by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(d) **FINANCIAL AGENT MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary of the Treasury shall establish a program to be known as the ‘Financial Agent Mentor-Protégé Program’ (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Program’) under which a financial agent designated by the Secretary or a large financial institution may serve as a mentor, under guidance or regulations prescribed by the Secretary, to a small financial institution to allow such small financial institution—

“(A) to be prepared to perform as a financial agent; or

“(B) to improve capacity to provide services to the customers of the small financial institution.

“(2) **OUTREACH.**—The Secretary shall hold outreach events to promote the participation of financial agents, large financial institutions, and small financial institutions in the Program at least once a year.

“(3) **EXCLUSION.**—The Secretary shall issue guidance or regulations to establish a process under which a financial agent, large financial institution, or small financial institution may be excluded from participation in the Program.

“(4) **REPORT.**—The Office of Minority and Women Inclusion of the Department of the Treasury shall include in the report submitted to Congress under section 342(e) of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act information pertaining to the Program, including—

“(A) the number of financial agents, large financial institutions, and small financial institutions participating in such Program; and

“(B) the number of outreach events described in paragraph (2) held during the year covered by such report.

“(5) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this subsection:

“(A) **FINANCIAL AGENT.**—The term ‘financial agent’ means any national banking association designated by the Secretary of the Treasury to be employed as a financial agent of the Government.

“(B) **LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘large financial institution’ means any entity regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the National Credit Union Administration that has total consolidated assets greater than or equal to \$50,000,000,000.

“(C) **SMALL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.**—The term ‘small financial institution’ means—

“(i) any entity regulated by the Comptroller of the Currency, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, or the National Credit Union Administration that has total consolidated assets lesser than or equal to \$2,000,000,000; or

“(ii) a minority depository institution.”.

(b) **EFFECTIVE DATE.**—This section and the amendments made by this section shall take effect 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act.

TITLE V—COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT

Subtitle A—CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement

SEC. 511. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that the authority to guarantee bonds under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) (commonly referred to as the “CDFI Bond Guarantee Program”) provides community development financial institutions with a sustainable source of long-term capital and furthers the mission of the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund (established under section 104(a) of such Act (12 U.S.C. 4703(a)) to increase economic opportunity and promote community development investments for underserved populations and distressed communities in the United States.

SEC. 512. GUARANTEES FOR BONDS AND NOTES ISSUED FOR COMMUNITY OR ECONOMIC DEVELOPMENT PURPOSES.

Section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2), by striking “, multiplied by an amount equal to the outstanding principal balance of issued notes or bonds”;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by striking “\$100,000,000” and inserting “\$25,000,000”; and

(3) in subsection (k), by striking “September 30, 2014” and inserting “the date that is 4 years after the date of enactment of the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement Act of 2022”.

SEC. 513. REPORT ON THE CDFI BOND GUARANTEE PROGRAM.

Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, and not later than 3 years after such date of enactment, the Secretary of the Treasury 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 effectiveness of the CDFI bond guarantee program established under section 114A of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994 (12 U.S.C. 4713a).

Subtitle B—Expanding Financial Access for Underserved Communities

SEC. 521. CREDIT UNION SERVICE TO UNDERSERVED AREAS.

Section 109 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1759) is amended—

(1) in subsection (c)(2)—

(A) by striking “the field of membership category of which is described in subsection (b)(2),”; and

(B) by amending subparagraph (A) to read as follows:

“(A) the Board determines that the local community, neighborhood, or rural district is an underserved area; and”;

(C) in subparagraph (B), by inserting “not later than 2 years after having such underserved area added to the credit union’s charter,” before “the credit union”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(h) **CHANGE OF FIELD OF MEMBERSHIP TO INCLUDE UNDERSERVED AREAS.**—

“(1) **IN GENERAL.**—If an existing Federal credit union applies to the Board to alter or expand the field of membership of the credit union to serve an underserved area, the credit union shall submit a business and marketing plan with such application that explains the credit union’s ability and intent to serve the population of the underserved area through the change in field of membership.

“(2) **REPORT BY CREDIT UNION.**—Not later than 2 years after the date on which a Federal credit union’s application described under paragraph (1) is approved, the credit union, as part of the ordinary course of the examination cycle and supervision process, shall submit a report to the Administration that includes—

“(A) an estimate of the number of members of the credit union who are members by reason of the application;

“(B) a description of the types of financial services utilized by members of the credit union who are members by reason of the application; and

“(C) an update of the credit union’s implementation of the business and marketing plan described under paragraph (1).”.

SEC. 522. MEMBER BUSINESS LENDING IN UNDERSERVED AREAS.

Section 107A(c)(1)(B) of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1757a(c)(1)(B)) is amended—

(1) in clause (iv), by striking “or” at the end;

(2) in clause (v), by striking the period and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(vi) that is made to a member or associated borrower that lives in or operates in an underserved area.”.

SEC. 523. UNDERSERVED AREA DEFINED.

Section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752) is amended—

(1) in paragraph (8), by striking “; and” and inserting a period;

(2) in paragraph (9), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(10) The term ‘underserved area’ means a geographic area consisting of one or more population census tracts or one or more counties, that encompass or are located within—

“(A) an investment area, as defined under section 103(16) of the Community Development Banking and Financial Institutions Act of 1994;

“(B) groups of contiguous census tracts in which at least 85 percent individually qualify as low-income communities, as defined under section 45D(e) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986; or

“(C) an area that is more than ten miles, as measured from each point along the area’s perimeter, from the nearest branch of a depository institution (as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) or credit union.”.

SEC. 524. REPORTS BY THE NATIONAL CREDIT UNION ADMINISTRATION.

(a) **INITIAL REPORT.**—Not later than 3 years after the date of enactment of this Act, but no sooner than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the National Credit Union Administration 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 implementation of the amendments made by this subtitle.

(b) **UPDATE.**—The National Credit Union Administration shall issue an updated report on the implementation of the amendments made by this subtitle to the committees described under subsection (a) on the date that is 5 years after the date on which the Administration issues the initial report under subsection (a).

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

The gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 30 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks on H.R. 2543 and to insert extraneous material thereon.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2543, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act, landmark legislation focused on promoting racial and economic justice.

This bill was introduced by Financial Services Committee Chairwoman, the Honorable MAXINE WATERS, and it includes several provisions authored by members of the committee. Unfortunately, Chairwoman WATERS couldn’t

be here today, but I would like the RECORD to reflect not only her authorship of this bill but also her unwavering commitment to achieving equity and inclusion on behalf of communities of color.

Today's House consideration of H.R. 2543 is historic in that for the first time in our Nation's history, the U.S. House of Representatives is voting on a comprehensive package of legislation to finally address inequity with equity and inclusion in terms of financial access, economic mobility, and fair treatment.

Today, I boldly and proudly say that this would not have been possible without the Honorable Chairwoman WATERS' leadership. This bill is needed because racial disparities in lending, homeownership, and wealth creation are all too real.

For some, invidious discrimination, Mr. Speaker, is only a phrase. However, for too many others, it is a fact of life. According to the Brookings Institution, the racial wealth gap between White and Black households is more than \$10 trillion. The onerous wealth gap is perpetuated by the toleration of ongoing discrimination, redlining, and systemic barriers to accessing financial credit and services.

Some of my colleagues across the aisle may say that the House shouldn't address this important issue. They may say that the House should ignore these very real, well-documented disparities and focus on getting inflation under control, to which I say, this bill deals with the very real inflationary pressures that people of color experience in their daily lives. Too often, Mr. Speaker, consumers and businesses from low-income communities and communities of color suffer invidious discrimination as they struggle to access capital and credit.

Chairwoman WATERS said it best, and I was there to hear her say it, when she spoke before the Rules Committee this week. She noted that this type of discrimination is a form of inflation in communities of color. She indicated that when you add up inflated fees in tandem with inflated interest rates, simple loans cost more for people of color than others taking out the same loan in a different community.

This, of course, assumes that you are lucky enough to qualify for the loan in the first place. If you are not, then your options to build wealth are severely limited because you can't buy a home or start a small business. In fact, your only option for credit might be an inflated predatory payday loan that leaves you worse off, not better.

This is inflation that people of color experience each day, and we should be just as outraged and concerned about these needlessly inflated high costs as we are about the general inflation we are experiencing during the pandemic. And I would further argue that addressing this form of inflation will bring down costs for everyone because, as my colleagues across the aisle are

fond of saying, a rising tide lifts all boats.

We also know that general inflation disproportionately hurts people of color, which is why this bill directs the Federal Reserve, as it carries out its duties to rein inflation in and promote full employment, to also consider racial disparities so that all people—all people—will benefit from the Fed's dual mandate.

Members of the LGBTQIA-plus community also face discrimination in lending. This is why it leads to higher costs for them as well. We shouldn't stand for this during any time of the year, but I am pleased to be among those fighting for LGBTQIA-plus justice during Pride Month. This is why H.R. 2543 includes my bill H.R. 166, the Fair Lending for All Act, which furthers fair lending by clarifying that lending discrimination is prohibited not only on the basis of race, Mr. Speaker, but also on the basis of gender identity, sexual orientation, and geography. This bill enhances supervision and establishes criminal penalties for fair lending violations.

Let's take a closer look at fair lending at this time. Every person who purchases a home should be able to read and understand their mortgage documents. This is why common sense should prevail. However, that is not the reality for many home buyers in our country today. This is why the bill includes robust language, robust language to access the requirements for a mortgage, and these mortgage conditions should be made clear in languages that people understand. It requires servicers to expand and preserve the dream of homeownership for borrowers with limited English proficiency. Chairwoman WATERS' bill will also support the efforts of community development financial institutions, or CDFIs, and minority depository institutions, or MDIs, that fill a historic lending gap in underserved communities across this country. And it would mitigate banking deserts by allowing credit unions to serve areas that banks have ignored or abandoned.

Moreover, this legislation includes another bill of mine, H.R. 2516, the Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Banking Act, which would require Federal banking regulators to evaluate policies and procedures banks and credit unions have to promote diversity and inclusion.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her continued leadership, her bold leadership, as well as my colleagues and members of the Financial Services Committee for their tireless work, including Representatives MEEKS, CLEAVER, BEATTY, GARCIA of Texas, TORRES, and AUCHINCLOSS.

Mr. Speaker, the pandemic has exacerbated and exposed many truths about our Nation's inequitable housing and financial systems, as well as its outsized impact on low-income families and communities of color. It is incumbent on this Congress to finally address

these disparities, and that is precisely what Chairwoman WATERS' bill will do.

Hence, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2543, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

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

□ 1230

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2543, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

This week, Democrats have a bill on the floor to "address inflation and help bring costs down for Americans."

Just last week, President Biden stated that inflation is his "top domestic priority." So, let's talk about inflation if we are going to talk about the Federal Reserve. Let's look at the numbers. Let's look at the stats.

The President announced that his focus is going to be on the economy this month. To kick it off, his Treasury Secretary, Secretary Yellen, finally admitted that she was wrong when she called inflation transitory last year.

To the Biden administration and congressional Democrats, I would like to say to you: Welcome to the party. You are a year late. The American people have been feeling this pain of inflation, and I am glad you are coming to the realization that we have to do something about it. Republicans welcome the conversation.

Inflation has surged to a 40-year high. Stats across the board are terrible. Everyday goods and services are more unaffordable today, especially for low-and middle-income Americans and those on fixed incomes. Skyrocketing consumer prices are outpacing wage gains. U.S. households will spend an extra \$5,200 this year compared to last year for the same basket of goods and services they normally buy.

The national average for the price of gasoline has reached a staggering \$5 a gallon. If that weren't bad enough, our economy is now shrinking. The U.S. GDP came in at a negative 1.4 percent in the first quarter of this year. That is problematic. That is bad.

Democrats want to blame everything from Putin to so-called corporate profiteering for the inflation crisis. They are still looking for who did it. Well, guess what, folks. The call is coming from within the house. They are the ones that put this on the American people.

This is all the result of Democrats' bad economic policies, and this crisis is of their own making. The American people know it. They see it. They feel it. They experience it.

In a recent poll released by The Wall Street Journal, 83 percent of respondents rated current economic conditions as poor or not good. This is the result of Democrat economic policies. Since they control the fullness of the Federal Government, they have put their economic policies into place, and we are living with the bad consequences. All across the board, inflation is way up.

In another poll released by RealClearPolitics, 60 percent of the American people disapprove specifically of President Biden's handling of the economy.

What is the Democrats' strategy? It is to distract struggling families with this bill that we have on the floor today, a bill that might sound good but does nothing to bring down consumer prices or help struggling families.

Let's talk about the contents of the bill. Republicans support improving diversity in financial services, but H.R. 2543, this bill, misses the mark. Committee Democrats had the opportunity to work with Republicans on a bipartisan legislative package to achieve that goal. In fact, five of the bills that make up this package received some Republican support, either in markup, in committee, or on the floor in previous Congresses. But instead of working with Republicans, committee Democrats injected this package with another eight partisan poison pills.

First, this bill blatantly politicizes the Federal Reserve. In fact, it tasks the Fed with a third mandate, and that third mandate is to close socioeconomic disparities instead of focusing on what we have asked the Fed to focus on, which is price stability and maximum employment possible. So much for the President saying he is not going to politicize the Fed or he is going to respect the Fed's independence. This bill goes completely counter to that.

This bill will make credit more expensive and less accessible to those who need it the most.

This bill will also pile regulatory costs on small businesses, forcing them to divert resources from business operations to report on diversity and inclusion metrics outlined in this bill. Currently, businesses can self-assess the makeup of their workforce. This bill would impose a one-size-fits-all mandate on all job creators, regardless of size, geographic location, or business model.

This bill is a boon for litigious trial lawyers, and it is a boon for them because it expands ECOA, and it opens businesses up to new lawsuits. This creates uncertainty in the credit markets, ultimately increasing the cost of credit and making it more difficult to assess credit risks for financial institutions and businesses.

Finally, while Americans are reeling from higher prices, this bill will make it more expensive for families to purchase a home. This bill will impose additional costs on creditors and servicers, which will inevitably be passed on to those applying for loans.

The bottom line, this is just another attempt by House Democrats to divert voters' attention from the big issues of the day, and that is their dismal economic record that they have foisted upon the American people.

If House Democrats are serious about addressing inflation, as the Biden administration has claimed and as the

President has specifically said he is focused on this month, if they were serious, they would abandon a partisan messaging bill like the one we have on the House floor.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS), my dear friend.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Representative GREEN for yielding, and, of course, I thank Chairwoman Waters for bringing this important piece of legislation to the floor.

I heard Ranking Member McHENRY talk today, and I think that the American people understand that inflation is all over the world. It is not a United States problem; it is a global problem predicated by Putin's aggression in Ukraine and coming out of the greatest pandemic that we have had in over 100 years. Democrats are focused on working with the globe to make a difference.

I want to focus on this bill and talk about the Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act and the Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking Act portions of this bill. On that, I thank Ranking Member McHENRY and other Republicans for the bipartisan support both bills received when they unanimously passed out of the Financial Services Committee.

We need to continue all efforts to promote racial and economic justice in our communities, and this package of legislation does exactly that. Investors want to know whether the C-suites and the boardrooms in corporate America are actually working in their interests and reflecting their ideals. I, along with Representatives CAROLYN B. MALONEY and RITCHIE TORRES, worked to enhance the SEC's disclosure regime by requiring public companies to disclose race, ethnicity, gender identity, sexual orientation, and veteran status of these companies. We want these spaces to truly reflect the diversity of this Nation.

Also included in this package is my bill that emphasizes the importance of minority banks and credit unions in serving our communities. The Ensuring Diversity in Community Banking section will address the issue of banking deserts and strengthen programs that provide capital to these critical and crucial institutions. It also creates an impact bank designation in order to promote banks that predominantly serve low-income communities.

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), my colleague and friend and the ranking member of the National Security, International Development, and Monetary Policy Subcommittee of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, for over a year, Democrats have dismissed the historic inflation crushing American households.

First, they said it was transitory. Then, they played it down as a high-class problem. Now, President Biden ridiculously and falsely refers to rising prices as Putin's price hike.

But the American people know that Democrats' failed policies created this inflation crisis. Their overspending created excess demand. Their war against domestic energy production constrained supply. And this supply-demand mismatch pushed prices to a four-decade high.

In March 2021, the Consumer Price Index was at 2.6 percent and gas prices were \$2.70 per gallon. That month, President Biden's American inflation plan was signed into law. What happened as a result? We have 8.6 percent inflation on the CPI from last Friday, the highest in over 40 years. On top of that, we are seeing historic energy prices. Fuel oil is up 106 percent, the highest ever, and regular gasoline is up over 50 percent year over year. For the first time ever, gas prices reached \$5 per gallon nationally last week.

Instead of addressing the cause of inflation, such as Big Government spending, radical energy policies, and politicization of access to capital, they continue to push partisan packages that will do absolutely nothing to correct historic inflation that is plaguing the middle class. Case in point is this bill, the Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

At a time of historic inflation, the central responsibility, the core job, of the Federal Reserve is to ensure price stability. But instead of responding to Democrats' fiscal policy errors, the Fed failed to tighten monetary policy fast enough to address this inflation crisis, especially at this time when they should be focused on price stability.

What does the Democrat majority do? They want to give the Fed more responsibilities. They want to give them responsibilities beyond their core competency or expertise.

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

Mr. McHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 30 seconds to the gentleman from Kentucky.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, instead of diverting the Fed's focus away from their responsibility of tackling inflation, the Federal Reserve should be focused on dealing with inflation.

If Democrats were truly interested in helping low- and moderate-income households, fixed-income households, and communities of color, who are suffering the most under Biden's inflation crisis, they need to keep the Fed's eye on the ball. Don't have them weigh into social policies and controversial policies that are in the responsibility and jurisdiction of Congress. The Fed needs to be focused on helping tame inflation. This bill gives the Fed responsibilities it doesn't need to have.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, we are witnessing now why we have the invidious discrimination that exists in this country. Not one word has been said about the invidious discrimination, the high cost in loans that people of color suffer. Not one word is being said about it. Rather, there is always an effort to deflect. This has been going on for centuries, but not today. It ends today.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY).

Mrs. BEATTY. Mr. Speaker, let me first thank Chairman GREEN for yielding and for his outstanding job of managing the floor today.

I also thank Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for her leadership in bringing diversity and inclusion to the forefront of the conversation in the financial services industry. It was her vision to create the Financial Services Committee's Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion, and I have had the honor to serve as its chair since its inception.

The racial justice equity package before us today is very much the product of the subcommittee's work over the past 3-plus years, and I am proud to say that many of its provisions were authored by subcommittee members. Republicans participated in the hearing, and today, when we deflect to issues like what we are hearing, it is very alarming. There is nothing controversial in this package or the bills I am going to reference.

Two of my bills are included in this package, the Diversity and Inclusion Data Accountability and Transparency Act, referred to as the D&I DATA Act, that will direct the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion to collect data on the financial institutions they oversee. This will allow us to measure the progress that banks and other financial institutions are making on diversity performance.

□ 1245

My second bill is the Expanding Opportunity for Minority Depository Institutions Act that will codify a program at Treasury that pairs mentor businesses with protege MDIs, giving the smaller lenders access to things like technical assistance and contracting opportunities.

I am so pleased; in my Third Congressional District of Ohio a new MDI has been approved.

I also note that my bill, the Ensuring Diverse Leadership Act, has been made in order as an amendment and will be considered later. That amendment will require the Fed to consider candidates of diverse ethnicity and gender when filling vacancies in the Federal Reserve Bank.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN), the ranking member of the Natural Resources Committee.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding.

I rise today to speak against H.R. 2543. This bill does not address the un-

derlying causes restricting access to credit or inflation that has eroded many Americans' borrowing power. It is just a mixed bag of extra mandates on the Federal Reserve and new regulatory burdens on small businesses.

I don't hear my small businesses asking for more regulation, additional compliance burdens, or the imposition of a sweeping social agenda.

Families are struggling to afford food and gas. Small businesses are struggling to hire employees, and my local banks and credit unions are feeling the pinch of inflation and rising interest rates every day.

If the majority was serious about helping Americans, they would have made my amendments in order to examine the effects of inflation and bank consolidation on access to credit for those in low-income census tracts, rural counties, racial minorities, women, and veterans, the very communities that Democrat policies have hurt the most. My amendments would have been a step in the right direction, but the Democrat majority blocked them.

Mr. Speaker, digging the hole deeper is no way to get out of the crisis the Democrat administration and Democrat majorities in Congress have created.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I will read from an article entitled: "Examining the Black-White wealth gap" from the Brookings Institution dated February 27, 2020. "A close examination of wealth in the U.S. finds evidence of staggering racial disparities. At \$171,000, the net worth of a typical White family is nearly 10 times greater than that of a Black family (\$17,150) in 2016. Gaps in wealth between Black and White households reveal the effects of accumulated inequality and discrimination, as well as differences in power and opportunity that can be traced back to this Nation's inception."

And this is why it continues, because people on that side of the aisle are willing to tolerate invidious discrimination. They will talk about anything but invidious discrimination. They have no remedies.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Missouri (Mr. CLEAVER), my friend.

Mr. CLEAVER. Mr. Speaker, first of all, I thank the floor manager, Mr. GREEN of Texas, and I stand with my colleagues and Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS of California who I know is watching this debate in support of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. I wish her a speedy return, but I thank her for the tremendous amount of work put into this piece of legislation, which would transform countless American lives for the better.

I specifically highlight the inclusion of the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program Improvement Act—Community Development Financial Institutions—a priority of the CDFI community. I thank

Congressman WILLIAM TIMMONS from South Carolina for his partnership in advancing the bill through the Financial Services Committee by voice vote in committee markup last month.

According to the CDFI Fund in 2019, 33 percent of CDFI lending was in high-poverty areas, but we have got to do better. Seventeen percent was in rural areas.

CDFIs are instrumental in providing affordable capital to communities typically excluded or underserved by the mainstream financial system. I am proud of committee efforts to provide additional resources to these mission-driven community institutions that have faced several challenges in recent years.

Prior to the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program, CDFIs were extremely limited in their ability to access capital to make large-scale investments in community facilities, basic infrastructure projects, or job-generating businesses. The CDFI Bond Guarantee Program was enacted to provide long-term, low-cost capital to CDFIs which use the funding for economic development activities in low-income urban, rural, and indigenous communities.

My bill would authorize the program and reduce the minimum issuance from \$100 million to \$25 million, opening up the program to smaller CDFIs and to support more community development projects such as loans to small businesses, commercial real estate, affordable housing, and healthcare facilities all across the Nation.

Mr. Speaker, I urge the passage of this bill.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. DAVIDSON), the ranking member of the Fintech Task Force on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. DAVIDSON. Mr. Speaker, I rise to oppose this bill. The Fed is not meant to be a political weapon. With inflation above 8 percent and the economy on the verge of a recession, this is one of the most inopportune times in our Nation's history to suggest that we turn the Fed into a political pawn.

Our Nation is suffering from too much government. Inflation is a policy choice, and this delivers more government to an agency that is supposed to be insulated from it.

We know the recipe. We need more freedom, less government, and sound money. This thing distracts the Federal Reserve.

Inflation doesn't care about your race. The price of groceries, the price of healthcare, education, rent, it doesn't care about your race or your gender. We have to stop the politicization of our government agencies as Democrats—really the radical left—stays committed to this long march through our Nation's institutions to try to push an agenda at odds with the American public. If this bill does anything, it highlights that disconnect.

Mr. Speaker, I urge every one of our colleagues to oppose this bill.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, inflation does care about your race if you happen to be a person of color and you are applying for a loan.

Inflation does care about your race if you happen to have fees added on that you shouldn't have simply because you are a person of color.

People of color have to deal with general inflation and the specific inflation associated with invidious discrimination, and it is the intolerance by my colleagues across the aisle through the centuries that has perpetuated this level of inflation.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA).

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 2543, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act. Let me repeat the words, this is what we are talking about: racial equity, inclusion, and economic justice.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this legislation forward and for her leadership on all these important issues. I thank Chairman GREEN who is the chair of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations for navigating us through this bill being heard today.

Specifically, I will speak about two bills which have been included in this important package, such as the Improving Language Access in Mortgage Servicing Act.

According to the U.S. Census, over 20 percent—that is one out of five—households in the United States speak a language other than English, and nearly 9 percent of households lack a proficient English speaker.

Homeownership is an opportunity to build generational wealth and speaking another language should never be a barrier in home buying and mortgaging.

This legislation will establish language access requirements in the eight most commonly spoken languages in the United States, besides English, for creditors and servicers to ensure that Americans who lack English proficiency are not at a disadvantage while buying a home.

Imagine getting something from your mortgage company telling you you owe something or that you are at risk of maybe being foreclosed on, but it is all in English, and you speak no English. Of course, you will end up being in foreclosure because you don't understand the notice that you are getting. This is what my bill is about.

The second bill is the Studying Barriers to Housing Act, which has also been included in this package.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield an additional 20 seconds to the gentlewoman.

Ms. GARCIA of Texas. Mr. Speaker, this legislation will require the GAO to conduct a study to identify housing barriers that contribute to the issue of homelessness.

This study will find laws, regulations, common practices, and funding formulas that create barriers to housing in an effort to pinpoint the problems in our system that cause homelessness to continue and grow.

I am proud of both of these bills, and I hope that both of these bills pass to increase expanded language access and to find the root causes of homelessness.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), my friend and colleague, and a leader on the Financial Services Committee.

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

H.R. 2543 will do nothing to resolve the long list of crises the Biden administration's policies have caused, such as runaway, devastating inflation; massive Federal debt; unacceptably high gas prices; a skyrocketing crime rate; and an open border that allows millions of illegal immigrants and tons of deadly fentanyl into our country.

This bill, which has no chance of becoming law and is dead on arrival in the Senate, would impose additional and burdensome reporting requirements on public companies, reduce access to credit, distract the Federal Reserve from pursuing its statutory mandate, and further politicize our regulatory agencies.

Families in middle Tennessee can't find baby formula and are struggling to pay for groceries and gas while Democrats are jamming through a partisan bill just to score political points with their leftwing progressive base. We must do better for our constituents and for our country.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

People of color are constituents. People of color are Americans. People of color deserve the opportunity to have equality of opportunity.

Hundreds of years have gone by, and this is what we are getting as a result of those who would ignore the concerns of Americans of color.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. AUCHINCLOSS), a member of the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Mr. Speaker, our economy has not always worked for everyone equally. This is evident in the glaring wealth disparities for American families emphasized in the 2019 Survey of Consumer Finances Federal Reserve report. Chairwoman WATERS' Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act is an effort to ease economic disparities across racial and ethnic groups. The bill will also expand access to financial services for consumers and small businesses in underserved communities.

Consumers should have access to affordable banking services, which requires competition in the market. Over the last several decades, there has been consolidation amongst banks and credit unions. This has effectively limited the products available to consumers and artificially driven up costs while closing banking branches for people who already did not have many choices.

The Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act includes my bipartisan bill, the Promoting New and Diverse Depository Institutions Act, which is the first step to expand competition and increase the supply of banking services. My bill directs banking regulators to work together to address the challenges that new depository institutions, including MDIs and CDFIs, face when applying for a charter.

Starting and maintaining a new bank or credit union is hard work. It is the banking regulators' responsibility to measure and mitigate the challenges that new banks face. My bill will help new banks, and in doing so will expand access to affordable services for underbanked communities.

The legislation we are considering today also includes other necessary equity bills, such as Congresswoman GARCIA's, which expands language access in mortgage services. Congressman GREEN's bill would clarify that sexual orientation and gender identity are protected classes under credit discrimination.

I applaud Chairwoman WATERS' leadership on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

□ 1300

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. BUDD), my friend and colleague.

Mr. BUDD. Mr. Speaker, in the month of June, I asked a poll question on one of my telephone town halls. I asked: Has your family noticed a sharp rise in prices? And 94 percent of them said: Yes. The crazy part of this is that I am not talking about this June, I am talking about last June.

The average family will be spending \$5,200 more this year because of Joe Biden's inflation. We are not debating solutions to this crisis today, we are debating economic justice. But for most Americans, the most economically just thing that we can do right now is to lower gas prices for everyone, and to help seniors on fixed incomes afford their groceries.

This crisis is real. It is not transitory. It is not a so-called high-class problem. It is a tax and a burden on every citizen in our country. And as long as the Democrat majority in this Congress remains plagued by denial and distraction, the harder life will become for American families.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 1 minute.

Mr. Speaker, the Brookings Institution indicates that the Black and

White wealth gap reflects a society that has not and does not afford equality of opportunity to all of its citizens. This is evidenced today by the responses that we are getting.

No effort to deal with the centuries of inequality. No desire to deal with invidious discrimination. Always a reason why we can't get to it right now. I have been in Congress for years—never addressing this problem.

Mr. Speaker, today is a day of reckoning for all of those who have been hiding behind other issues. Today they have to confront the truth. There is invidious discrimination in America, it impacts the LGBTQ-plus, it impacts people of color, and women as well, and today we have legislation because of the Honorable MAXINE WATERS' efforts that can deal with these issues.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. STEIL), a leader on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. STEIL. Mr. Speaker, we are here at a point in time when prices are out of control. The American people are getting punched in the face by higher prices every day.

Gas is over \$5 a gallon. The American people are paying hundreds of dollars more per month because prices are out of control. The Federal Reserve has a mandate to maintain price stability. The Federal Reserve is failing in that mandate. My colleagues across the aisle—the outgoing majority—continue to try to add another mandate to the Federal Reserve.

The Federal Reserve is failing on step one—price stability. Let's address price stability so people aren't getting clobbered every day by higher prices; so people aren't getting clobbered when they go to fill up their car with gas; clobbered when they go to the gas station; clobbered when they go to the grocery store to get groceries.

The outgoing majority wants to add another mandate to the Federal Reserve at a period of time when the Federal Reserve is failing in their current mandate. Nothing could be more illogical. We need to get prices under control.

We can do that by unleashing American energy and we can do that by controlling wasteful spending in Washington, D.C. This bill is misplaced. This bill moves us in another direction. Instead, we should be focusing on actually controlling costs.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 30 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, people of color are clobbered every day by higher interest rates. They are clobbered every day by loans that have fees that are higher than loans for people of a different hue. These are the things that are being perpetuated when they tolerate this kind of behavior. For centuries they tolerated it.

Now we have the opportunity to do something about it. Let's eliminate

these costs for some people so that we can deal with the costs for everybody. Until that is done, we have to have this bill.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. DONALDS).

Mr. DONALDS. Mr. Speaker, the measure in front of us today just makes no sense. This measure is actually going to make inflation worse. Why? Because you are going to put a third mandate on the Federal Reserve—a Federal Reserve that has done a poor job of actually managing price stability.

The same price stability that hurts poor Americans whether you are Black, whether you are Hispanic, or whether you are White. The same price stability that hurts middle-income Americans whether you are Black, whether you are Hispanic, or whether you are White.

The only group of Americans who might even escape the sting of inflation in the United States are rich Americans who happen to be Black, rich Americans who happen to be Hispanic, and rich Americans who happen to be White.

The common denominator with massive inflation is that if you are poor, regardless of your race, you are being crippled. To have the majority party say today that they are going to add a third mandate onto the Federal Reserve is ludicrous. That does not address the systemic disparities that exist with respect to wealth in America between Black families and White families.

We all know the history. We understand why there are Black families who do not have the same size of net worth as White families on an average basis. What you do not do is saddle our economy with more regulation and more silly policies, which will actually make our economy more efficient.

How are Black families in the future going to actually increase their net worth if being able to apply for loans is more expensive? How do Black families actually increase their wages if our economy is saddled with more inflation? It does not help Black people going forward, it actually hurts them, and it hurts everybody along the way.

We should be getting the Federal Reserve back to one mandate—of sound money. That would actually help matters for poor Americans, regardless of their race. That is a bill myself and my colleague from Arkansas (Mr. HILL) have sponsored to get the Federal Reserve back into the right place.

If you want to seriously have a conversation about systemic inequities, if you want to have a conversation about the difference in net worth between Black Americans and White Americans, what you cannot do is shut off the economy, which would actually hurt Black families from growing their wealth into the future.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 10 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, we have just heard a great recitation on how to do nothing; how to maintain the status quo; how to be proud that you can stand up in the House of Representatives and defend the status quo for some 300 years.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. LEE).

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, first of all, let me thank Congressman GREEN who is a lifelong warrior for racial justice, for his tremendous leadership, and for the time to speak this morning.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 2543, and I thank Chairwoman WATERS and the full committee and the Speaker for bringing this important bill to the floor.

America's racial wealth gap divide directly results from generations of slavery, segregation, and institutional racism. Black and Brown communities have never had—I mean, never have had—the same opportunities to build wealth as White communities. The gap has only increased and widened in recent decades. This is a fact.

This bill will ensure that Federal monetary policy focuses on reducing racial and ethnic disparities. It will reorient our financial systems to support wealth creation in historically underserved communities. It will support a more level playing field for Black and Brown families—whether they are buying a home or building equity.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield the gentlewoman an additional 30 seconds.

Ms. LEE of California. Mr. Speaker, to close the racial wealth gap, we must confront the systemic and institutional racism that has long stunted wealth creation in communities of color. In California, my home State, we didn't even have a fair housing law until I believe it was 1964. Come on. That is generations of my family who weren't even able to buy a house. They didn't acquire equity to be able to live the life that White people live in this country.

Come on, please. H.R. 2543 is an important step in the direction to close these racial gaps. I urge my colleagues to support it.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Mrs. KIM).

Mrs. KIM of California. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2543. This bill threatens the independence of the Federal Reserve and does nothing to address the rising cost of living and the highest inflation that our country has seen in over four decades. In my home State of California, gas prices are averaging \$6.40 per gallon, and the cost of everyday goods continues to rise.

The way the Fed can address socioeconomic disparities for all groups, including our most vulnerable communities, is by focusing on the existing

dual mandate of price stability and maximum employment. Instead of letting the Fed use its existing tools, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle are attempting to politicize it.

Congress should be focusing on addressing real wages being down 4.2 percent and helping the Fed achieve a price stability mandate instead of enacting partisan policies.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “no” vote on H.R. 2543.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Oklahoma (Mr. LUCAS), a longtime member and leader on the Agriculture Committee and the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. LUCAS. Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 2543. The U.S. economy faces tremendous challenges. We have 40-year high inflation, persistent supply chain disruptions, and tight labor markets.

The American people are grappling with increased costs across every aspect of their life. Food is more expensive, energy and gasoline prices have skyrocketed, and the cost of housing is surging.

In 1977, when I first started out as a young farmer, we slid into the inflationary period of the Carter years, and went through Chairman Volker’s dramatic tightening of the money supply. This period was devastating to my neighbors and the entire U.S. economy, and left a profound impact on how I view fiscal and monetary policy.

Now is not the time to take the Federal Reserve’s eyes off the ball. Congress should be focused on the issues that currently weigh on the economy and aim to strengthen the financial well-being of the American people.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose H.R. 2543.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL), a great leader on the Financial Services Committee.

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I do rise in opposition to H.R. 2543. I thank my friend from Houston, Texas, and our colleagues on both sides of the aisle that worked on many of the bills that are in the package today.

□ 1315

It is a shame that that package was not put together in such a way that we could be here in a bipartisan visit about the ones that we actually support and that we think could be enacted into law. Instead, Democrats have put together a partisan package of bills that politicize our central bank and do nothing to address the insidious inflation that is hurting all American families and workers—Black, Brown, and White.

Mr. Speaker, one thing I know is that H.R. 2543 will not become law. Mr. Speaker, on Monday, Arkansans woke up and as they went to work and filled

up their tanks for the week, they had to pay \$5 for gas. That is not as high as it is here in Washington, but \$5 is hurting all of the hardworking families in my State.

While Treasury Secretary Janet Yellen is still toeing the economically illiterate party line on inflation, even economists from the left of center admit that government spending was too much and not targeted.

Don’t believe me?

Listen to President Biden’s key advisers.

Former Treasury Secretary Larry Summers predicted, a month after President Biden took office, that the proposed American Rescue Plan would “set off inflationary pressures of a kind we have not seen in a generation.”

Now Larry Summers is forecasting a recession.

Steve Rattner, Mr. Obama’s former economic adviser on his staff, said Mr. Biden was “wrong to omit the important contribution to inflation from excessive fiscal and monetary stimulus.”

The truth is, after the CARES Act and the December appropriations bill of 2020, there was plenty of COVID money left over, and the economy was well on its way to recovery with vaccines being distributed.

But House Democrats supercharged demand-side stimulus by adding another \$2 trillion in unpaid-for spending in that so-called American Rescue Plan. Mr. Speaker, Americans aren’t feeling rescued. They are feeling like hostages—hostages to the daily theft of the Biden inflation.

Now, Mr. Speaker, the President fashions himself as a budget hawk, saying last month that he personally reduced the deficit last year, and he is complaining that we on this side of the aisle aren’t giving him any credit. But what he doesn’t tell you, Mr. Speaker, is that he is taking credit for deficits that were falling due to those expiring COVID programs.

The facts are, Mr. Biden has not reduced deficits. In fact, he has increased them. The Congressional Budget Office’s latest numbers project \$16 trillion in additional debt between now and 2032.

So I hear a lot of talk about deflection on our House floor today, and the deflection of this bill, Mr. Speaker, is the deflection from the insidious inflation that our families are facing. If House Democrats were serious, then they would target and spend less money. They would stop blaming Putin and accusing American companies of price gouging. They would stop cutting off capital to American energy companies through ESG mandates and intimidating banks, and they would stop threatening trillions in more taxes.

While government spending and supply chain constraints have contributed to higher prices, this inflation also stems from the Fed’s loose monetary policy—too loose, too lax, and for too long.

Just as House and Senate Republicans worked to tailor and end the

COVID funds at the end of 2020, we also urged the Federal Reserve to end zero interest rates and begin shrinking their balance sheet. Instead of doing anything to address these root causes of inflation, H.R. 2543 on the House floor would instead expand the Fed’s mandate to address socioeconomic disparities.

Two weeks ago, Mr. Biden met with Fed Chair Jerome Powell in the Oval Office where Mr. Biden said that he embraced the Fed’s independence. Apparently, House Democrats didn’t get the memo. At a time when our central bank has failed to carry out its current mandate for sound money and price stability, Democrats want the Fed to not only be a climate regulator but also to end racial inequity. Expanding the Fed’s mandate to address socioeconomic disparities would further inject uncertainty and risk into the Fed’s monetary policy and politicize our historically independent central bank.

House Republicans believe Congress should return to pre-pandemic debates on our spending priorities, abandon economic pop science fads like modern monetary theory, and urge our Federal Reserve to return to its core mission.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to reject this bill, H.R. 2543.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no additional speakers, and I am prepared to close.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, 80 percent of Americans say inflation is the most important issue facing the country, that is according to ABC News/Ipsos poll. We can’t get 80 percent of the American people to agree on anything in our political discussion, but they agree that this economy and this inflation are problematic.

We have been given our marching orders. Congress must act to address skyrocketing prices and provide relief to struggling families. That is what the American people are telling us we should be focused on.

Instead, here we are debating a messaging bill that stands no chance of becoming law.

I have already run through a long list of bad things in this bill. I did that in my opening, so I would rather spend the rest of my time discussing what western North Carolinians are most worried about, what my constituents are most worried about.

In the core part of my district known as the Catawba Valley, the cost of housing alone has increased more than 15 percent since last year. Where I live in the Lake Norman region, local food banks are struggling to keep up with the surging cost of food and increased demand stemming from those costs.

One food bank operator said: “We are out of staples.”

That is a frightening thing.

They also added: We are tired of high grocery bills. We are tired of gas prices

going up. One of my constituents from Winston-Salem said that on a local Fox affiliate.

North Carolinians are fed up. The American people are fed up. They don't like what they see economically, and they deserve real answers and real solutions to address that core problem—the core issue of inflation.

So let me be clear. There is no mystery of why we have runaway inflation. It is Democrats' reckless spending that is the driver of this. They have managed the fiscal house for a year and a half, and they have managed to drive our economy into the ditch.

So we have got to get it out of the ditch. We have got to get it back on the road. We have to be in the right direction with a growing economy, not a shrinking economy, and with wages increasing more than the cost of the goods that people need to live.

So instead of addressing this crisis of their own making, Democrats would rather distract Americans with a bill that does nothing to bring down costs. This is yet another attempt to distract the American people from that basic challenge and that basic fact of high inflation.

But to my colleagues on the other side of the aisle: you aren't fooling anyone. The American people are on to who caused inflation, who started inflation, and who is driving up the cost of energy bills, both at home and in their car. They understand why, and there are real consequences for not addressing the needs of the American people.

Thankfully, I have faith in the American people to get this right. I hope our elected officials will follow suit. We, on the Republican side of the aisle, are hearing this loud and clear, and that is why we are trying to return to fiscal stability and fiscal sanity and return to sound money. That is our focus.

Mr. Speaker, this bill doesn't address the core problems the American people are telling us we should address, and that is why we should reject this bill that does nothing to answer the call the American people have made.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. HILL).

Mr. HILL. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member on the House Financial Services Committee, Mr. MCHENRY, for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I have a motion to recommit. It addresses the core flaw that House Republicans believe presides today. We hear the voices of those 80 percent of Americans who say that \$5,000 extra coming out of our pockets is what is hurting the working families, Black, White, and Brown, in my home State of Arkansas. We know inflation is the top issue facing this House and facing our families that we represent.

That is why if we were to adopt my motion to recommit, we would instruct

the Committee on Financial Services to adopt my amendment to H.R. 2543. This amendment, Mr. Speaker, is straightforward. It would simply focus the Federal Reserve, as Representative BYRON DONALDS so eloquently outlined, on a single mandate: price stability.

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, it is painful to hear a Member of Congress talk about reckless spending when that spending is what was necessary during the pandemic.

Is it reckless spending to allow people to receive some sort of help when they couldn't go to work, Mr. Speaker?

My colleagues across the aisle would not have helped the American people who were out of work during a pandemic because it would be reckless spending.

Is it reckless spending to keep people in their homes and not allow them to be foreclosed on?

My colleagues across the aisle would have allowed people to be evicted and their things thrown in the streets because to them, helping people in a time of crisis is reckless spending.

Is it reckless spending to put food on the table of people who can't go to work?

Is it reckless spending to make sure babies and children who are going to school get proper schools that can protect them during a virus and a pandemic that was killing people worldwide?

We put money into schools. We put money into police departments and fire departments. But that is reckless spending to my colleagues across the aisle.

They are the best on the planet at doing nothing. Do-nothing politics is what that is all about. They find clever ways to find an opportunity to do nothing by saying things that mean nothing to the people who need help.

Reckless spending. How dare they call it reckless spending when people are suffering and need help.

Now, let me continue with the Brookings Institution with my final minutes.

This is from the Brookings Institution: "Efforts by Black Americans to build wealth can be traced back throughout American history. But these efforts have been impeded in a host of ways, beginning with 246 years of chattel slavery and followed by congressional mismanagement. . . ."

Let me repeat that: by congressional mismanagement.

" . . . of the Freedmans Savings Bank, which left 61,144 depositors with

losses of nearly \$3 million in 1874, the violent massacre decimating Tulsa's Greenwood District in 1921, a population of 10,000 that thrived as the epicenter of African-American business and culture, commonly referred to as Black Wall Street, and discriminatory policies throughout the 20th century including the Jim Crow Eras 'Black Codes' strictly limiting opportunity in many Southern States"

Mr. Speaker, today has been the best evidence we need of why invidious discrimination exists in this country, because there are people across the aisle who will tolerate it and who will come to this floor and talk about Americans as though you have to be White to be an American, as though people of color don't count, as though the LGBTQ-plus community doesn't count, and that women don't count. To them, Mr. Speaker, if you are a White man, you are an American.

But what about the rest of the people in this country who suffer?

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day to hear my colleagues across the aisle speak of reckless spending when people were suffering.

I thank God that we have the courage to help people in a time of need. If I could do it again, I would do it because I saw the suffering. Perhaps they don't see the suffering that I see. But I saw it, and I was prepared to do something about it.

I believe that in the final analysis, those who refuse to tolerate the kind of invidious discrimination that we suffer each day in this country, they will be vindicated. They will be vindicated.

I am grateful for the time, Mr. Speaker, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CICILLINE. Mr. Speaker, this Pride Month we need to both celebrate the LGBTQI+ community and take action to further LGBTQI+ equality. A vote for today's bill is a vote to do just that.

The Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act includes a portion of my bill—the Equality Act—to explicitly prohibit discrimination on the basis of sexual orientation and gender identity in credit.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill and my amendment to explicitly clarify that all forms of sex discrimination are prohibited by the Equal Credit Opportunity Act. Importantly, my amendment makes clear that discrimination on the basis of sex stereotypes, pregnancy, childbirth, sexual orientation, gender identity, and sex characteristics, including intersex traits, are all forms of unlawful sex discrimination under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act.

No one should be denied access to credit because of who they are or who they love. Yet, 7.7 million LGBT adults 18 and older live in states without statutes explicitly prohibiting LGBT discrimination in credit.

A vote for today's bill and my amendment will ensure long-lasting explicit nondiscrimination protections for the LGBTQI+ community and others in credit.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS for introducing this bill and ensuring it is inclusive of the LGBTQI+ community. I urge my colleagues to

stand with the LGBTQI+ community this Pride Month and vote for my amendment and the underlying bill.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 2543, the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

The Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act would direct the Federal Reserve to provide reports on racial and ethnic disparities in employment, income, wealth, and access to affordable credit. It also includes provisions that would establish language access requirements for creditors and servicers to better serve borrowers with limited English proficiency, allow all federal credit unions to expand their membership to include underserved communities, and clarify that financial institutions be required to collect their self-identified sexual orientation and gender identity information to help combat discriminatory practices against lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender and queer (LGBTQ+) business owners. This bill also includes an amendment that I authored with my colleague from Rhode Island, Congressman JIM LANGEVIN, to require disparities for individuals with disabilities to be published in the Federal Reserve's reports.

Let me share a brief example of why this legislation is necessary. Last year, a local news agency led an investigation in my district that revealed a long and tragic pattern of discriminatory lending practices in South Dallas. It became apparent that several banks refused to give home loans to residents in low-income areas, in direct contradiction to federal laws protecting borrowers regardless of race or economic status. This is a failure of both policy and oversight, and is the exact type of issue that this bill would require the Federal Reserve to address.

I want to thank Chairwoman WATERS and the members of the Financial Services Committee for bringing the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act to the floor. I also want to thank the Chairwoman for joining my roundtable on the discriminatory lending practices in South Dallas last year. These stories are not unique to my district—they are found in communities across the country. That's why we need a federal approach, and I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting this bill.

□ 1330

The SPEAKER pro tempore. All time for debate has expired.

Each further amendment printed in part B of House report 117-366 not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 1170 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated as read, shall be debatable for the time specified in the report equally divided and controlled by the proponent and an opponent, may be withdrawn by the proponent at any time before the question is put thereon, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

It shall be in order at any time after debate for the chair of the Committee on Financial Services or her designee

to offer amendments en bloc consisting of further amendments printed in part B of House Report 117-366, not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 20 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Financial Services or their respective designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 1170, I offer amendments en bloc No. 1.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 CONSISTING OF AMENDMENT NOS. 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 7, 8, 9, 11, 12, 13, 14, 15, 16, 17, 18, 20, 21, 22, 23, 25, 26, AND 27, PRINTED IN PART B OF HOUSE REPORT 117-366, OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS:

AMENDMENT NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. BOWMAN OF NEW YORK

Page 43, after line 4, insert the following:

(3) PROMOTING FAIR HOUSING AND COLLECTIVE OWNERSHIP OPPORTUNITIES.—

(A) INITIAL REPORT.—Not later than 18 months after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Secretary of Treasury, jointly with the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, shall issue a report to the covered agencies and the Congress examining different ways financial institutions, including community development financial institutions, can affirmatively further fair housing and be encouraged and incentivized to carry out activities that expand long-term wealth-building opportunities within low-income and minority communities that support collective ownership opportunities, including through investments in worker cooperatives, consumer cooperatives, community land trusts, not-for-profit-led shared equity homeownership, and limited-equity cooperatives, and to provide recommendations to the covered agencies and the Congress in the furtherance of these objectives.

(B) PROGRESS UPDATES.—Beginning not later than three years after the date of the enactment of this subsection, and every five years thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall, after receiving the necessary updates from the covered agencies, issue a report examining the progress made on implementing relevant recommendations, and providing any additional recommendations to the covered agencies and the Congress in furtherance of the objectives under subparagraph (A).

(C) COVERED AGENCIES.—For purposes of this subsection, the term “covered agencies” means the Community Development Financial Institutions Fund, the Department of Housing and Urban Development, the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Federal Housing Finance Agency.

Page 43, line 5, strike “(3)” and insert “(4)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 2 OFFERED BY MRS. BEATTY OF OHIO

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—ENSURING DIVERSE LEADERSHIP OF THE FEDERAL RESERVE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Ensuring Diverse Leadership Act of 2022”.

SEC. 602. CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.

The Congress finds that—

(1) while significant progress has occurred due to the antidiscrimination amendments to the Federal Reserve Act, barriers continue to pose significant obstacles for candidates reflective of gender diversity and racial or ethnic diversity for Federal Reserve bank president positions in the Federal Reserve System;

(2) the continuing barriers described in paragraph (1) merit the following amendment;

(3) Congress has received and reviewed testimony and documentation of the historical lack of gender, racial, and ethnic diversity from numerous sources, including congressional hearings, scientific reports, reports issued by public and private agencies, news stories, and reports of related barriers by organizations and individuals, which show that race-, ethnicity-, and gender-neutral efforts alone are insufficient to address the problem;

(4) the testimony and documentation described in paragraph (3) demonstrate that barriers across the United States prove problematic for full and fair participation in developing monetary policy by individuals reflective of gender diversity and racial or ethnic diversity; and

(5) the testimony and documentation described in paragraph (3) provide a strong basis that there is a compelling need for the below amendment to address the historical lack of gender, racial, and ethnic diversity in the Federal Reserve regional bank presidents selection process in the Federal Reserve System.

SEC. 603. FEDERAL RESERVE BANK PRESIDENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The provision designated “fifth” of the fourth undesignated paragraph of section 4 of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 341) is amended by inserting after “employees,” the following: “In making the appointment of a president, the bank shall interview at least one individual reflective of gender diversity and one individual reflective of racial or ethnic diversity.”.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than January 1 of each year, each Federal reserve bank shall submit to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate, the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, and the Office of Inspector General for the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection a report describing the applicant pool demographic for the position of the president of the Federal reserve bank for the preceding fiscal year, if applicable.

SEC. 604. TECHNICAL ADJUSTMENTS.

(a) AMERICAN COMPETITIVENESS AND WORKFORCE IMPROVEMENT ACT OF 1998.—Section 418(b) of the American Competitiveness and Workforce Improvement Act of 1998 (8 U.S.C. 1184 note) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(b) BRETTON WOODS AGREEMENTS ACT.—The Bretton Woods Agreements Act (22 U.S.C. 286 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 4(a), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(2) in section 45(a)(1), by striking “chairman of the board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(c) DODD-FRANK WALL STREET REFORM AND CONSUMER PROTECTION ACT.—The Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer

Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board” each place such term appears and inserting “Chair of the Board”.

(d) EMERGENCY ECONOMIC STABILIZATION ACT OF 2008.—The Emergency Economic Stabilization Act of 2008 (12 U.S.C. 5201 et seq.) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board” each place such term appears and inserting “Chair of the Board”.

(e) EMERGENCY LOAN GUARANTEE ACT.—Section 2 of the Emergency Loan Guarantee Act (15 U.S.C. 1841) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(f) EMERGENCY STEEL LOAN GUARANTEE AND EMERGENCY OIL AND GAS GUARANTEED LOAN ACT OF 1999.—The Emergency Steel Loan Guarantee and Emergency Oil and Gas Guaranteed Loan Act of 1999 (15 U.S.C. 1841 note) is amended—

(1) in section 101(e)(2)—

(A) by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(B) by striking “Chairman,” and inserting “Chair,”; and

(2) in section 201(d)(2)(B)—

(A) by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(B) by striking “Chairman,” and inserting “Chair,”.

(g) FARM CREDIT ACT OF 1971.—Section 4.9(d)(1)(C) of the Farm Credit Act of 1971 (12 U.S.C. 2160(d)(1)(C)) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(h) FEDERAL DEPOSIT INSURANCE ACT.—The Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.) is amended—

(1) in section 7(a)(3), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(2) in section 10(k)(5)(B)(ii), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(i) FEDERAL RESERVE ACT.—The Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 226 et seq.) is amended—

(1) by striking “chairman” each place such term appears and inserting “chair”;

(2) by striking “Chairman” each place such term appears other than in section 11(r)(2)(B) and inserting “Chair”;

(3) in section 2, in the sixth undesignated paragraph—

(A) in the second sentence, by striking “his” and inserting “the Comptroller of the Currency’s”; and

(B) in the third sentence, by striking “his” and inserting “the director’s”;

(4) in section 4—

(A) in the third undesignated paragraph, by striking “his office” and inserting “the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency”;

(B) in the fourth undesignated paragraph, in the provision designated “fifth”, by striking “his” and inserting “the person’s”;

(C) in the eighth undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the chair’s”;

(D) in the seventeenth undesignated paragraph—

(i) by striking “his” and inserting “the officer’s”; and

(ii) by striking “he” and inserting “the individual”;

(E) in the twentieth undesignated paragraph—

(i) by striking “He” each place such term appears and inserting “The chair”;

(ii) in the third sentence—

(I) by striking “his” and inserting “the”; and

(II) by striking “he” and inserting a comma; and

(iii) in the fifth sentence, by striking “he” and inserting “the chair”; and

(F) in the twenty-first undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” each place such term appears and inserting “the agent’s”;

(5) in section 6, in the second undesignated paragraph, by striking “he” and inserting “the Comptroller of the Currency”;

(6) in section 9A(c)(2)(C), by striking “he” and inserting “the participant”;

(7) in section 10—

(A) by striking “he” each place such term appears and inserting “the member”;

(B) in the second undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the member’s”; and

(C) in the fourth undesignated paragraph—

(i) in the second sentence, by striking “his” and inserting “the chair’s”;

(ii) in the fifth sentence, by striking “his” and inserting “the member’s”; and

(iii) in the sixth sentence, by striking “his” and inserting “the member’s”;

(8) in section 12, by striking “his” and inserting “the member’s”;

(9) in section 13, in the tenth undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the assured’s”;

(10) in section 16—

(A) by striking “he” each place such term appears and inserting “the agent”;

(B) in the seventh undesignated paragraph—

(i) by striking “his” and inserting “the agent’s”; and

(ii) by striking “himself” and inserting “the agent”;

(C) in the tenth undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the Secretary’s”;

(D) in the fifteenth undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the agent’s”;

(11) in section 18, in the eighth undesignated paragraph, by striking “he” and inserting “the Secretary of the Treasury”;

(12) in section 22—

(A) in subsection (f), by striking “his” and inserting “the director’s or officer’s”; and

(B) in subsection (g)—

(i) in paragraph (1)(D)—

(I) by striking “him” and inserting “the officer”; and

(II) by striking “he” and inserting “the officer”; and

(ii) in paragraph (2)(A), by striking “him as his” and inserting “the officer as the officer’s”; and

(13) in section 25A—

(A) in the twelfth undesignated paragraph—

(i) by striking “he” each place such term appears and inserting “the member”; and

(ii) by striking “his” and inserting “the member’s”;

(B) in the fourteenth undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” and inserting “the director’s or officer’s”; and

(C) in the twenty-second undesignated paragraph, by striking “his” each place such term appears and inserting “such individual’s”.

(j) FEDERAL RESERVE REFORM ACT OF 1977.—Section 204(b) of the Federal Reserve Reform Act of 1977 (12 U.S.C. 242 note) is amended by striking “Chairman or Vice Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair or Vice Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(k) FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS REFORM, RECOVERY, AND ENFORCEMENT ACT OF 1989.—The Financial Institutions Reform, Recovery, and Enforcement Act of 1989 is amended—

(1) in section 308 (12 U.S.C. 1463 note)—

(A) in subsection (a), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(B) in subsection (c), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”;

(2) in section 1001(a) (12 U.S.C. 1811 note), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(3) in section 1205(b)(1)(A) (12 U.S.C. 1818 note)—

(A) by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(B) by striking “Chairman’s” and inserting “Chair’s”.

(l) FOOD, CONSERVATION, AND ENERGY ACT OF 2008.—Section 13106(a) of the Food, Conservation, and Energy Act of 2008 (7 U.S.C. 2 note) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(m) HOUSING AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT ACT OF 1992.—Section 1313(a)(3) of the Housing and Community Development Act of 1992 (12 U.S.C. 4513(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in the heading, by striking “CHAIRMAN” and inserting “CHAIR”;

(2) by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(3) by striking “Chairman regarding” and inserting “Chair regarding”.

(n) INSPECTOR GENERAL ACT OF 1978.—Section 8G of the Inspector General Act of 1978 is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” each place such term appears and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(o) INTERNATIONAL LENDING SUPERVISION ACT OF 1983.—Section 908(b)(3)(C) of the International Lending Supervision Act of 1983 (12 U.S.C. 3907(b)(3)(C)) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(p) NEIGHBORHOOD REINVESTMENT CORPORATION ACT.—Section 604(a)(3) of the Neighborhood Reinvestment Corporation Act (42 U.S.C. 8103(a)(3)) is amended by striking “Chairman” each place it appears and inserting “Chair”.

(q) PUBLIC LAW 93-495.—Section 202(a)(1) of Public Law 93-495 (12 U.S.C. 2402(a)(1)) is amended—

(1) by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(2) by striking “his” and inserting “the Chair’s”.

(r) SARBANES-OXLEY ACT OF 2002.—Section 101(e)(4)(A) of the Sarbanes-Oxley Act of 2002 (15 U.S.C. 7211(e)(4)(A)) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(s) SECURITIES EXCHANGE ACT OF 1934.—Section 17A(f)(4)(C) of the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 (15 U.S.C. 78q-1(f)(4)(C)) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(t) TITLE 31.—Title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in section 1344(b)(7), by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”; and

(2) in section 5318A, by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” each place such term appears and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(u) TRADE ACT OF 1974.—Section 163(b)(3) of the Trade Act of 1974 (19 U.S.C. 2213(b)(3)) is amended by striking “Chairman of the Board of Governors” and inserting “Chair of the Board of Governors”.

(v) DEEMING OF NAME.—Any reference in a law, regulation, document, paper, or other record of the United States to the Chairman of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System shall be deemed to be a reference to the Chair of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System.

AMENDMENT NO. 3 OFFERED BY MS. BROWN OF OHIO

Page 5, line 25, after “gender,” insert “individuals with dependent children under the age of 18 (to the extent possible).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 4 OFFERED BY MS. BUSH OF MISSOURI

Page 5, line 25, after “gender,” insert “age.”.

Page 5, line 25, insert before the first period the following: “, and shall also provide cross-sectional data on the interaction between these groups and note any statistically significant findings, to the extent available”.

AMENDMENT NO. 5 OFFERED BY MR. CICILLINE OF RHODE ISLAND

Page 29, after line 4, insert the following:

(c) ECOA DEFINITIONS.—Section 702 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691a), as amended by subsection (b), is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(h) The term ‘gender identity’ means the gender-related identity, appearance, mannerisms, or other gender-related characteristics of an individual, regardless of the individual’s designated sex at birth.

“(i) The term ‘sex’ includes—

“(1) a sex stereotype;

“(2) pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition;

“(3) sexual orientation or gender identity; and

“(4) sex characteristics, including intersex traits.

“(j) The term ‘sexual orientation’ means homosexuality, heterosexuality, or bisexuality.

“(k) The term ‘race’, ‘color’, ‘religion’, ‘national origin’, ‘sex’ (including ‘sexual orientation’ and ‘gender identity’), ‘marital status’, or ‘age’, used with respect to an individual, includes—

“(1) the race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), marital status, or age, respectively, of another person with whom the individual is associated or has been associated; and

“(2) a perception or belief, even if inaccurate, concerning the race, color, religion, national origin, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), marital status, or age, respectively, of the individual.”.

(d) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—Section 701 of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(f) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.—

“(1) CLAIMS AND REMEDIES NOT PRECLUDED.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to limit the claims or remedies available to any individual for an unlawful practice on the basis of race, color, religion, sex (including sexual orientation and gender identity), or national origin, including claims brought pursuant to section 1979 or 1980 of the Revised Statutes (42 U.S.C. 1983, 1985) or any other law, including a Federal law, regulation, or policy.

“(2) NO NEGATIVE INFERENCE.—Nothing in this title shall be construed to support any inference that any Federal law prohibiting a practice on the basis of sex does not prohibit discrimination on the basis of pregnancy, childbirth, or a related medical condition, sexual orientation, gender identity, or a sex stereotype.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 7 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 32, line 4, after “identity,” insert “disability status, veteran status.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 8 OFFERED BY MR. DESAULNIER OF CALIFORNIA

Page 47, line 23, strike “and”.

Page 48, line 3, strike “or” and insert “; and”.

Page 48, after line 3, insert the following: “(VI) reduce the unbanked and underbanked population; or”.

AMENDMENT NO. 9 OFFERED BY MS. GARCIA OF TEXAS

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—STUDYING BARRIERS TO HOUSING

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Studying Barriers to Housing Act”.

SEC. 602. GAO STUDY AND REPORT ON REDUCING HOMELESSNESS THROUGH PUBLIC HOUSING AND SECTION 8 RENTAL ASSISTANCE.

(a) STUDY.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study to identify any barriers that limit the ability of a public housing agency in attempting to provide housing assistance under the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs under title I of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437 et seq.) for populations experiencing homelessness, which shall include—

(1) identification of any laws, regulations, and any other notices or guidance pertaining to—

(A) waiting lists, documentation requirements, or tenant screening that effect the ability of a public housing agency to accept persons and families experiencing homelessness into the public housing or voucher program; and

(B) funding formulas and performance measures that may penalize public housing agencies trying to serve persons and families experiencing homelessness;

(2) analyzing and determining the effect of the limitation under section 8(o)(13)(B) of the United States Housing Act of 1937 (42 U.S.C. 1437f(o)(13)(B); relating to the maximum amount of housing voucher assistance that a public housing agency may use for project-based assistance) has on the ability of public housing agencies to serve persons and families experiencing homelessness; and

(3) identification of barriers to fair housing and the coordination of Federal housing assistance and homelessness funds, including outreach and marketing of such funds, to affirmatively further fair housing for protected classes under the Fair Housing Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3601 et seq.) that are disproportionately experiencing homelessness.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than the expiration of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General shall submit a report to the Congress describing the study conducted pursuant to subsection (a) and setting forth the results and conclusions of the study.

AMENDMENT NO. 11 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 50, line 18, insert before the period the following: “, with a focus on supporting young women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs who are Black, Hispanic, Asian or Pacific Islander, and Native American or Native Alaskan and other historically underrepresented groups or first time business owners”.

AMENDMENT NO. 12 OFFERED BY MS. HOULAHAN OF PENNSYLVANIA

Page 103, line 22, strike “and”.

Page 103, line 25, strike the first period and all that follows and insert “; and”.

Page 103, after line 25, insert the following: “(D) a description of the types of financial education programs made available to members of the credit union, including those who are members by reason of the application and those in rural areas, where applicable.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 13 OFFERED BY MS. JACKSON LEE OF TEXAS

Page 4, line 12, strike “Section” and insert the following:

(a) Section

Page 5, after line 25, insert the following:

(b) The Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, in consultation with the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration, and the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, shall issue a report to Congress containing the plans, activities, and actions of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to minimize and eliminate disparities across racial and ethnic groups with respect to access to financial products for the purpose of restoration, renovations, or repair following a federally-declared disaster.

AMENDMENT NO. 14 OFFERED BY MS. JAYAPAL OF WASHINGTON

Page 5, line 21, strike “include a comparison” and insert “include—

“(i) a comparison”.

Page 5, line 25, strike the first period and all that follows and insert “; and

“(ii) data disaggregated by ethnic subgroup, to the extent available.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 15 OFFERED BY MS. JOHNSON OF TEXAS

Page 5, line 25, after “gender,” insert “disability (as such term is defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990).”.

AMENDMENT NO. 16 OFFERED BY MS. KUSTER OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

Page 20, after line 21, insert the following (and redesignate subsequent subsections and conform cross-references accordingly):

(e) COMMUNITY FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS REPORT.—Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall study and report to Congress on the effects of the implementation of this section and the amendments made by this section on insured depository institutions with less than \$10,000,000,000 in total assets, and the communities they serve, along with any regulatory or legislative recommendations to advance the purposes of this section.

AMENDMENT NO. 17 OFFERED BY MRS. LAWRENCE OF MICHIGAN

Page 36, line 19, insert before the semicolon the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States) and Tribal government entity”.

Page 51, line 17, insert before the period the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States), Tribal government entity, and congressional district”.

Page 53, line 17, insert before the semicolon the following: “, including overall impact breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States) and Tribal government entity”.

Page 67, line 21, insert before the period the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States), Tribal government entity, and congressional district”.

Page 70, line 3, insert before the period the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States), Tribal government entity, and congressional district”.

Page 92, line 22, insert before the period the following: “, including breakdowns by

each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States) and Tribal government entity”.

Page 98, line 22, insert before the semicolon the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States), Tribal government entity, and congressional district”.

Page 103, line 18, insert before the period the following: “, including breakdowns by each State (including the District of Columbia and each territory of the United States), Tribal government entity, and congressional district”.

AMENDMENT NO. 18 OFFERED BY MRS. LEE OF NEVADA

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—STATE OF HOUSING IN THE UNITED STATES

SEC. 601. INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP REPORTS.

There is established an interagency working group consisting of the Secretary of the Treasury, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development, and the Director of the Federal Housing Finance Agency, which shall produce two reports, in consultation with the Attorney General, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Secretary of Veterans Affairs, the Secretary of Transportation, and the Executive Director of the United States Interagency Council on Homelessness, each year detailing the state of housing in the United States, including recommendations related to housing fairness, affordability, and supply.

SEC. 602. TESTIMONY ON THE STATE OF HOUSING AFFORDABILITY AND SUPPLY.

After each report is produced under section 601, each member of the interagency working group described under section 601 shall appear before the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate to testify on the contents of such report.

AMENDMENT NO. 20 OFFERED BY MS. PRESSLEY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 67, after line 2, insert the following:

“(D) The disability status, based on voluntary self-identification, of any member of the board of directors of the issuer, any nominee for the board of directors of the issuer, or any executive officer of the issuer.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 21 OFFERED BY MS. PRESSLEY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 9, line 21, after “orally” insert “, in American Sign Language.”.

Page 11, line 4, after “orally” insert “, in American Sign Language.”.

Page 11, after line 20, insert the following:

“(C) AMERICAN SIGN LANGUAGE INTERPRETATION SERVICES.—If a creditor is required under subparagraph (A) to provide oral interpretation services to a consumer, and if such consumer has indicated a preference for American Sign Language, such creditor shall ensure qualified American Sign Language interpretation services, as defined by the Director of the Bureau, are made available to the consumer for all oral communications between such creditor and the consumer, where such American Sign Language interpretation services may be provided by qualified staff of the creditor or a qualified third party.”.

Page 11, line 24, after “orally” insert “, in American Sign Language.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 22 OFFERED BY MS. PRESSLEY OF MASSACHUSETTS

Page 27, line 1, strike “or”.

Page 27, line 2, insert before the semicolon the following: “, or disability (as such term

is defined in section 3 of the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990)”.

AMENDMENT NO. 23 OFFERED BY MR. DAVID SCOTT OF GEORGIA

Page 69, line 6, insert “, and diversity with respect to individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer,” after “diversity”.

Page 69, line 18, insert “, and diversity with respect to individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer,” after “diversity”.

Page 70, line 2, insert “, and the status of diversity with respect to individuals self-identifying as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, or queer,” after “diversity”.

AMENDMENT NO. 25 OFFERED BY MS. TLAIB OF MICHIGAN

Page 5 beginning on line 23, strike “(White, African-American, Latino, Native American, and Asian populations),”.

Page 5, after line 25, insert the following: “(C) ETHNIC SUBGROUP DEFINED.—The term ‘ethnic subgroup’ means a social group that—

“(i) has a distinct social, racial, geographic, national origin, or cultural identity; and

“(ii) is susceptible to being disadvantaged.”.

AMENDMENT NO. 26 OFFERED BY MR. TORRES OF NEW YORK

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—REPORT ON HOUSING FOR LGBTQ+ PERSONS

SEC. 601. HUD REPORT.

Not later than the expiration of the 6-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall submit a report to the Congress describing all efforts and activities of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, recently taken, ongoing, or planned, to provide or facilitate access to affordable permanent and temporary housing for persons who identify as lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, questioning/queer, or another identity other than heterosexual, including such person who are youth, elderly, and homeless.

AMENDMENT NO. 27 OFFERED BY MS. WILLIAMS OF GEORGIA

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—“EXPANDING ACCESS TO CREDIT THROUGH CONSUMER-PERMISSIONED DATA”

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Expanding Access to Credit through Consumer-Permissioned Data Act”.

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

The Congress finds the following:

(1) Using alternative data in mortgage lending (either through alternative credit scores or in underwriting) has the potential to increase access to credit for individuals with little or no credit history with the national credit reporting agencies (NCRAs), according to a review of alternative data use in mortgage lending by the Government Accountability Office in December 2021.

(2) Approximately 45 million consumers do not have any credit history with the NCRAs or did not have enough credit history to be scored, according to a 2015 report by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection (CFPB), entitled “Data Point: Credit Invisibles”. The CFPB also reported that this population disproportionately included low-income consumers, younger consumers, and consumers of color.

(3) The use of alternative data to establish a low- or moderate-income borrower’s credit history for the purpose of extending mort-

gage credit can help lenders meet goals of the Community Reinvestment Act.

(4) Mortgage underwriting systems that allow lenders to use consumer-permissioned alternative credit information may help expand access to mortgages for borrowers with lower credit scores and communities of color. On September 21, 2021, Fannie Mae updated its automated underwriting system so that it notifies lenders that a borrower may benefit from the inclusion of consistent rental payment information, and with the consumer’s permission, the underwriting system will automatically identify rental payments within bank statement data and include this in its credit assessment. According to a fair lending and credit risk analysis by Fannie Mae and the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the populations most likely to benefit from this change are applicants with lower credit scores, who are disproportionately consumers of color.

SEC. 603. REQUIREMENT TO CONSIDER ADDITIONAL CREDIT INFORMATION WHEN MAKING MORTGAGE LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 701 the following:

“§ 701A. Requirement to consider additional credit information when making mortgage loans

“(a) IN GENERAL.—A creditor extending a mortgage loan shall, in evaluating the creditworthiness of an applicant, consider credit information not reported through a consumer reporting agency, if—

“(1) the applicant—

“(A) requests such consideration, and has not retracted such request;

“(B) provides the credit information to be considered; and

“(C) states that the applicant does not believe that credit information reported through consumer reporting agencies fully or accurately reflects the applicant’s creditworthiness in the absence of such information; and

“(2) the credit information relates to the types of information that the creditor would consider if otherwise reported and includes current payment and transaction information, such as bank statement information or rental payment information.

“(b) TREATMENT OF ADDITIONAL INFORMATION.—A creditor shall treat any information provided pursuant to subsection (a) in the same manner and with the same weight as the creditor would treat the same information if it were provided by a consumer reporting agency, unless the creditor reasonably determines that the information is the result of a material misrepresentation.

“(c) NOTICE TO APPLICANTS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A creditor described under subsection (a) shall provide each applicant for a mortgage loan with a notice that includes—

“(A) an explanation of the applicant’s right under this section to provide additional credit information to the creditor for consideration, including examples of such additional information, as well as the benefits of providing such information;

“(B) the right of the creditor to disregard any such information if the creditor determines that the information is the result of a material misrepresentation; and

“(C) the right of an applicant to retract the applicant’s request to use such additional credit information at any point in the application process.

“(2) NOTICE LANGUAGES.—Notices required under paragraph (1) shall be made available in each of the 8 languages most commonly spoken by individuals with limited English proficiency, as determined by the Director of the Bureau using information published by the Director of the Bureau of the Census.

“(3) FORM LANGUAGE.—The Director of the Bureau shall establish form language, which shall be used by each creditor when providing the notices required under this subsection, providing—

“(A) the examples described under paragraph (1)(A);

“(B) the description of the benefits described under paragraph (1)(A); and

“(C) the non-English language versions of the notices described under paragraph (2).

“(d) CONSIDERATION OF ALTERNATIVE DATA; TREATMENT OF UNDERWRITING SYSTEMS.—A creditor shall ensure that the alternative data provided under the requirements of subsection (a) shall be considered as part of the decisioning process. Any creditor who develops or maintains an underwriting system for mortgage loans shall ensure such system complies with the requirements described under subsection (a).

“(e) CONSUMER REPORTING AGENCY DEFINED.—In this section, the term ‘consumer reporting agency’ has the meaning given that term under section 603 of the Fair Credit Reporting Act.”

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for the Equal Credit Opportunity Act is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 701 the following:

“701A. Requirement to consider additional credit information when making mortgage loans.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the 23 amendments offered in this en bloc are a terrific example of a working legislative process, a process through which well-considered legislation is further strengthened by the intellect, experience, and values of the House Democratic Caucus.

These amendments broaden this package's commitment to equity by ensuring that information is gathered regarding loans made to veterans, people with disabilities, and the LGBTQ-plus community, which will help reveal unfair or discriminatory practices against these communities.

We also have amendments that will ensure economic data are disaggregated within racial and ethnic groups, in recognition of the lived experiences across different communities.

The package is further bolstered by timely and necessary reporting ensuring that communities of color and low-income communities have access to wealth-building opportunities, including purchasing their first home and accessing capital.

Furthermore, this package includes amendments that will help us to better understand and address the country's growing affordable housing and homelessness crises that have disproportionately affected people of color.

For these reasons, I urge my colleagues to support these amendments being considered en bloc.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition.

Mr. Speaker, I oppose the amendment en bloc. We know that Democrats' reckless spending and bad economic policies are hurting the American people.

Let's look at the inflation numbers. You have fuel oil, gasoline, used cars, groceries, and public transit all dramatically up.

Inflation is the big issue. Inflation is at a 40-year high of 8.6 percent—a 40-year high. Food is up 10 percent, gas 50 percent, shelter 5.5 percent from just last year. This is a result of Democrat policies.

The American people will pay \$5,200 more this year than last year for the same goods and services. This is a direct result of bad economic policies.

Instead of working with Republicans to address these crises, Democrats are jamming through a partisan messaging bill that stands no chance of becoming law. This is bad policy. It is bad politics, bad process, the whole thing. The en bloc is more of the same.

Now, I will say that there are a few of the amendments that Republicans could support. I will give you an example.

Ms. GARCIA offered an amendment that focused on onerous HUD regulations or unfair funding formulas. Committee Republicans and House Republicans agree that HUD should not get in the way of local public housing authorities' ability to provide assistance to the homeless.

A recent Government Accountability Office study examines—well, there is a request in the bill that we have a study to examine and report on the impediments that HUD is putting in place so that we can actually better serve the very people that we intend for the Housing and Urban Development Department to serve and for public housing authorities to serve.

But rather than work with committee Republicans on this issue, Democrats poisoned the well with partisan amendments to score political wins with their progressive base.

For example, in this en bloc, Democrats want to further politicize the Federal Reserve by adding a third mandate to address socioeconomic issues. This will divert the Fed's attention from its dual mandate of maximum sustainable employment and price stability. It will also threaten the stability of the monetary policy authorities we have given the Fed and add uncertainty and risk to the Fed's responsibilities.

The Federal Reserve is independent for a reason. It ensures that it is accountable to the American people and long-term economic growth, not to political whims or serving one party here in Washington. Even President Biden acknowledged the importance of the Fed's independence in his so-called plan for fighting inflation.

Additionally, this en bloc continues Democrats' government-knows-best ap-

proach. For example, it directs HUD and Treasury to create another inter-agency task force to focus on the state of housing in this country. Housing doesn't need another task force. It needs results.

To be clear, HUD's mission is to “create strong, sustainable, inclusive communities and quality affordable homes for all.”

After 50 years, and nearly \$2 trillion in spending, this amendment says that HUD is not getting the job done. An additional interagency task force isn't going to fix that.

Congress needs to reform how HUD operates so that it can assist the families and individuals it is tasked with serving.

In conclusion, this en bloc is more of the same. It will politicize the Fed, expand the CFPB's authority, and make credit harder to access and more expensive, ultimately harming the very consumers Democrats are claiming to help.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this en bloc, and I urge my colleagues to oppose the bill. I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself 15 seconds.

Mr. Speaker, this is not another mandate. This is simply a requirement that the Fed fulfill its two mandates, the dual mandates to all of its people, to make sure that all people have price stability. This is what it is about.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ).

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the en bloc amendment.

The COVID-19 pandemic exacerbated the wealth and economic inequalities faced by many individuals, families, and small business owners in our Nation's LMI and communities of color.

As chair of the House Small Business Committee, I fought to ensure our Nation's women-, LGBTQ-, and minority-owned small businesses had access to Federal recovery programs and mainstream sources of credit to the same degree as White-owned firms or those with preestablished relationships with the big banks. Unfortunately, structural barriers and historical inequities in our society continue to cause women and small business owners of color to face ongoing challenges when applying for affordable and timely credit.

This bill will help break down these structural barriers, root out discrimination where it exists, and promote entrepreneurship and other wealth-building opportunities for women, LGBTQ individuals, and people of color. By addressing these disparities, we can create a more resilient economy and one that works for everyone.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a “yes” vote on this bill.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, how much time do we have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 7¼ minutes remaining. The gentleman from North Carolina has 6 minutes remaining.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Mr. Speaker, I thank our incredible Chairwoman WATERS and our committee staff for working with me on an amendment and, again, for their leadership on the bill as a whole.

I am proud to represent Michigan's 13th Congressional District, a community that is incredibly diverse. Our diversity, as we all know, is our strength.

We also know, though, that the way our government currently tracks race and ethnicity is outdated and definitely needs to change. Our government currently considers all people of Middle Eastern and North African descent to be "White," a categorization that myself and many in our community consider to be very inaccurate. Our government currently has broad categories that lump together whole continents, ignoring the vast diversity of our people living here.

So my amendment simply builds on Congresswoman JAYAPAL's amendment to ensure that we are providing the maximum flexibility possible to Americans so that they can accurately reflect their race and ethnicity on government forms. This, in turn, will help us in Congress and our government at large to better identify issues affecting specific communities so that we can have programs that effectively serve our diverse communities.

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, for too long, our policies and financial systems have exacerbated inequities and disparities throughout our country. I rise in support of our disabled neighbors who have been subjected to a second-class standard of living.

By passing the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act, the House will move one step closer to addressing these systemic injustices.

Today, I rise in support of a series of amendments I have offered to advance disability justice. My amendments will prohibit financial creditors from discriminating against consumers who are disabled and increase access to interpretation services, including American Sign Language.

My amendment will also hold corporations accountable to disclose the disability status, based on voluntary self-identification, of their board of directors and executive officers.

The status quo will not change until we recognize that disability rights are human rights and call out and address the barriers the disability community faces.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my amendments and support the underlying bill.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BROWN).

Ms. BROWN of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congressman GREEN for yielding. I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her leadership on this bill.

For far too long, consumers and businesses in the underserved communities have been blocked from accessing safe and affordable capital and credit. These systemic barriers worsen racial and economic inequality and cut off opportunity for too many Americans.

This critical bill recognizes these changes and supports efforts to eliminate racial disparities in lending.

My amendment is simple. It requires the Federal Reserve's "Monetary Policy Report" to include demographic information on individuals with dependent children in its analysis of labor force trends.

Why is it important? Because while the unemployment rate is near historic lows, women with children have been one of the slowest groups to return to work. Solutions like the child tax credit and affordable childcare would help working families better balance childcare responsibilities and their careers. This amendment would ensure we have the data to understand this problem and begin to address it.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS, again, for her leadership.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support my amendment and the underlying bill.

□ 1345

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE).

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2543 represents a seismic and powerful response to racial discrimination in financial products. Thank you to Chairwoman WATERS, and to my colleague who is managing, for the leadership given.

My amendment is very important. I am pleased that my amendment is included in the en bloc amendment that the Financial Services Committee has today.

It requires the Federal Reserve Board to submit a report to Congress about the prevalence of racial discrimination in lending to victims of a Federally declared disaster. I know it well.

This amendment merits the support of all of my colleagues because no district is exempt from natural disasters. I am reminded of 2017, among others, in my district where it was devastated by Hurricane Harvey over an area of 41,500 square miles, 21 trillion gallons of rainfall, and one-third of Houston underwater.

There was major discrimination against Black and Brown Houstonians who sought loans or home loans or financing to pay for repairs. They faced obstacles, delays, and outcomes that were different than their neighbors.

Mr. Speaker, this endemic discrimination was seen in efforts to gain as-

sistance from the Small Business Administration.

Mr. Speaker, as an outspoken advocate for equity in this country's economy, I rise in support of the Financial Services Racial Equity, Inclusion, and Economic Justice Act.

This bill requires that financial services regulators and companies establish procedures to ensure racial equity and eliminate racial disparities in all aspects of their operations including employment, income, wealth, and access to affordable credit.

In addition to the reforms in H.R. 2543, the bill requires regulators to provide reports to Congress about economic inequality, especially within the labor force, and enact plans to minimize said inequalities.

America's economy has only rarely worked to the advantage of working-class people. Worse still, there has been an endemic and vile trend of implicit and perhaps explicit discrimination against people of color within policies and overall economic policy.

However, unfair monetary policy is not just an anachronism from long ago or a relic from a different era. It is happening now.

Recent analyses have found that algorithms used by lenders often are designed in such a way that they result in black and brown Americans being charged higher interest rates.

This legislation takes a major step toward fixing long-overdue—disparities and fundamentally changing the financial services industry to make it proactive in fighting economic discrimination.

I am also very pleased that my amendment is included in the En Bloc Amendment that the Financial Services committee is bringing before the House today.

My amendment requires the Federal Reserve Board to submit a report to Congress about the prevalence of racial discrimination in lending to victims of a federally declared disaster.

This amendment merits the support of all of my colleagues because no district is exempt from natural disasters, and with the acceleration of climate change, it is increasingly likely that these events will occur even in areas of the country that previously felt insulated from them.

When disasters occur, our Nation has a moral and legal duty to facilitate their recovery and rebuilding. It is totally unacceptable and abhorrent for racial or ethnic discrimination to be injected into decisions on financial factors impacting remedial action.

However, in some instances, discrimination—whether by intent or effect—has occurred during these moments of greatest need.

For example, in 2017, my district in Houston was one of the many in Texas devastated by Hurricane Harvey. Over an area of 41,500 square miles spanning Texas and Louisiana, the storm dropped nearly 21 trillion gallons of rainfall and damaged 203,000 homes, of which 12,700 were destroyed.

At its peak on September 1, 2017, one third of Houston was underwater, and over 300,000 structures of all types were flooded in southeastern Texas, where extreme rainfall hit many areas that are densely populated.

Hurricane Harvey was the largest housing disaster to strike the U.S. in our Nation's history. When the cleanup began, thousands of Houstonians needed loans to help rebuild their homes and their lives.

But black and brown Houstonians who sought loans or home loan refinancing to pay for repairs faced obstacles, delays, and outcomes that were different from their other neighbors. This endemic discrimination was seen in efforts to gain assistance from the Small Business Administration.

If there was ever a moment when our financial systems need to fully support minority communities, it is after they have been decimated by a natural disaster.

For majority Houstonians who applied and received a \$200,000 loan from the Small Business Administration or \$25,000 by virtue of a government declaration, the process was streamlined. They could also apply for and receive \$40,000 from the SBA to replace or repair personal property—such as clothing, furniture, cars, and appliances—that was damaged or destroyed in the disaster.

The SBA asks applicants for collateral, such as a first or second mortgage on the damaged real estate, which are common forms of collateral for an SBA disaster loan.

In the case of majority applicants, it was found that the SBA usually would not decline a loan for lack of collateral.

However, for black and brown families, the system worked differently. Financing was difficult to access. Applications for loans from black and brown residents were less likely to be approved than applications from their white counterparts.

My amendment protects black and brown Americans who face the consequences of a debilitating natural disaster. It would guarantee their protection from unfair policies in their most vulnerable moments.

Fighting economic discrimination should be a bipartisan issue. No American deserves to be left behind because of antiquated monetary policy or a federal government that refuses to fight on their behalf.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to recognize the discrimination and to fix it by adding the Jackson Lee amendment.

I include in the RECORD an article titled: “Black Communities are Last in Line for Disaster Planning in Texas.”

[From the Washington Post, May 12, 2022]

BLACK COMMUNITIES ARE LAST IN LINE FOR DISASTER PLANNING IN TEXAS

HOUSTON.—Lawrence Hester worries every time it rains. During heavy storms, water overflows the dirt drainage ditch fronting his yard and the bayou at the end of his block—flooding the street, creeping up his front steps, pooling beneath the house, and trapping his family inside. “We are always underwater here,” said Hester, 61. And yet, the state of Texas allocated none of the \$1 billion in federal funds it received to protect communities from future disasters to neighborhoods in Houston that flood regularly, according to an investigation by the U.S. Department of Housing and Urban Development.

HUD has now found the exclusion of those majority Black and Hispanic urban communities to be discriminatory. The state “shifted money away from the areas and people that needed it the most,” disproportionately benefiting White residents living in smaller towns, the agency concluded. Houston has faced seven federally declared disasters in the last seven years and suffered an estimated \$2 billion in damage from Hurricane Harvey in 2017. That storm devastated Kashmere Gardens, where Hester has lived his entire life. The floodwaters from Harvey

deposited black mold throughout Hester’s home and left his daughter chronically short of breath.

The state, which is appealing HUD’s findings, denied discriminating, saying the Texas General Land Office administered the federal grant program based on HUD approval. The situation in Texas illustrates the challenge facing the Biden administration, which has pledged to focus on racial equity but is struggling to protect low-income communities of color from the growing threat of climate change. Even after HUD’s finding of discrimination, the agency said it does not have the power at this time to suspend the rest of the \$4.3 billion in disaster mitigation money awarded to the state under criteria approved by the Trump administration. “What is happening here with these federal dollars going through the state and not one dime coming to the City of Houston post-Hurricane Harvey is absolutely crazy, and it cannot be justified,” said Houston Mayor Sylvester Turner. “What do I say to the people in Kashmere Gardens when these storms keep coming, and we are not putting in the infrastructure that they desperately need to mitigate the risk of future flooding?”

Black and Hispanic communities in northeast Houston, including Kashmere Gardens, are especially vulnerable to the more frequent storms and catastrophic flooding expected due to climate change, according to the Federal Emergency Management Agency. Many of the residential streets lack curbs and gutters—common storm drainage infrastructure in predominantly White neighborhoods in Houston—and rely instead on open ditches dating back to the 1930s.

“Sometimes we can’t get out because the water is so high,” said Jackie Spradley, Hester’s wife. “You’re literally trapped until the water starts to subside.” She can’t get to work. Their 12-year-old daughter can’t get to school. The whoosh of traffic and trains permeates the triangular neighborhood of modest single-family homes penned between two highways and two sets of railroad tracks. During large storms, runoff from impervious highway surfaces flows onto residential streets.

Piles of trash—old tires, mattresses, furniture, home insulation—accumulate for weeks in the drainage ditches along many streets, blocking water from flowing through the ditches to the bayou. Silt and other debris clog many of the culverts beneath narrow driveways and footpaths spanning the ditches. In the summers, standing water breeds mosquitoes. The city of Houston had hoped to use \$95 million in federal grants to upgrade Kashmere Gardens’ storm drainage infrastructure. The proposed improvements, including converting some of the ditches to a curb and gutter system, would have removed the flood risk to nearly 1,400 properties. But without the money, the city shelved those plans.

Hester’s daughter Ashlei was 7 years old in 2017 when Harvey floodwaters breached their family room, lapping at the legs of the card table on which the family played dominoes. Her cough worsened, and doctors prescribed four different medications for asthma. She was hospitalized in 2018 for more than a week. But doctors still did not know what was causing her illness. It wasn’t until December 2019, more than two years after Harvey, when Hester and his wife discovered the black mold that was making their daughter so sick. A city inspector recommended that the house be condemned.

“I was so ashamed,” Hester said. “We didn’t have nowhere else to go.”

His mother had purchased the home in 1960, paying the mortgage with wages from her job flipping burgers 16 hours a day. Hester was born in the house months later. He

had stayed in the house after Hurricane Alicia flooded the home in 1983. And after Ike in 2008. Even after Harvey, Hester stayed, hoping to someday pass the three-bedroom ranch-style home onto his daughter. But Hester, who is on disability for herniated disks in his back and neck from his years as a long-haul truck driver, and his wife, who sells insurance, never had the money to adequately repair the storm-ravaged roof and mold-covered walls. Hester said the city informed him after Harvey that he was ineligible for funding to fix the home because of unpaid property taxes “It’s not just about the storm drainage,” Hester said. “It’s about everything.”

Hester said that the rainbow-hued oily waters he had splashed in while playing in the drainage ditches as a child had been polluted with cancer-causing creosote used to treat wooden railroad ties and utility poles. A 2019 state health department investigation confirmed elevated cancer rates among residents in the southern end of Kashmere Gardens, located near two Superfund sites. Residents fear that flooding will carry toxic deposits into their yards. Hester’s mother had died of cancer. So had his father. And one of his brothers. “Cancer is killing the whole neighborhood,” said Hester, who is too afraid to visit the doctor about his own health problems.

Federal disaster mitigation grants are supposed to improve the inferior flood infrastructure in lower income communities. But the HUD investigation found that competition rules set by the Texas General Land Office unfairly favored smaller towns with less urgent needs and where residents are more likely to be White and less likely to be lower income. The state knowingly adopted scoring criteria that prioritized lower-density areas and excluded communities that HUD designated as the most impacted by disasters from half the grants, HUD said. “Because the criteria had these unjustified discriminatory effects, their use failed to comply with HUD’s regulations,” the agency found.

No other state adopted Texas’ method of distributing the funds, according to HUD’s Office of Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity. The agency concluded that without Texas’s discriminatory criteria, nearly four times as many Black residents and more than twice as many Hispanic residents would have benefited from the grants. The General Land Office said in its April 1 appeal that the state “does not discriminate, and the projects it has funded help minority beneficiaries across Texas.” The state said more than two-thirds of residents in communities that received awards are Black, Hispanic or Asian. The state pointed out that its plan was approved two years ago and characterized HUD’s new objections as “politically motivated.”

In addition to Houston and surrounding Harris County, the General Land Office denied grants to the predominantly Black and Hispanic cities of Port Arthur, Beaumont and Corpus Christi as well as Jefferson and Nueces counties—all of which experienced significant flooding from Harvey, according to the civil rights complaint. Texas Housers, a nonprofit focused on housing in low-income communities, and Northeast Action Collective, a grassroots advocacy group of Houston residents, filed the complaint with HUD last year. Instead, funds were steered toward inland, Whiter communities that were far less severely impacted by hurricanes and used to fund routine infrastructure, the complaint said. That includes \$17.5 million for a new community center in Caldwell County that is supposed to double as an evacuation center; \$10.8 million to install a sewage system in the 379-person town of Iola; \$6 million for a new sheriff’s department radio tower and

radios for Gonzales County; and \$4.2 million for a 2,000-foot-long road in Bastrop County to connect a Walmart parking lot and a Home Depot, justified as an alternate path for emergency vehicles in case the adjacent freeway is clogged with hurricane evacuees from the Gulf Coast 161 miles away.

"These mitigation funds are a strategy to undo the systemic racism of the past, but that's not what we're seeing Texas interested in at all," said John Henneberger, codirector of Texas Housers. "This is a test of how serious HUD and the Biden administration are in enforcing civil rights." HUD's Office of Community Planning and Development, which oversees disaster mitigation aid, wrote to the Texas General Land Office in March expressing "grave concerns" over the distribution of the first round of grants. "The State has not identified a plan to protect communities while guarding against competition criteria that could disadvantage minority residents," HUD wrote. If a voluntary resolution cannot be reached, HUD said it could refer the matter to the Department of Justice for enforcement. But advocates worry that could come too late for communities like Kashmere Gardens. While HUD said it cannot stop the state from awarding the rest of the grants "due to prior decisions," it would begin monitoring how the money is distributed and warned it could claw back the funds if necessary.

"Texas has a history of sending money to those who are politically connected," said Shannon Van Zandt, a professor of urban planning at Texas A&M University whose research focuses on hazard reduction and housing. She noted that racial disparities occurred with the distribution of disaster funds after Hurricane Ike in 2008. Civil rights advocates say HUD has the authority to suspend Texas's ability to spend federal grant money; it has done so under previous administrations. But Sara Pratt, former deputy assistant secretary in HUD's fair housing office who is now representing Texas Housers as an attorney, said there is long-standing division among HUD staff over enforcing civil rights violations when making funding decisions.

"There is deep disagreement internally," Pratt said. "The secretary's job is to resolve disputes like this." HUD Secretary Marcia L. Fudge declined to comment because the Texas investigation remains open, HUD spokesman Michael Burns said. "Her commitment to civil rights and fair housing is well documented and unwavering, and she is committed to ensuring that all HUD funds are used in compliance with all relevant laws and program requirements," Burns said. In response to widespread criticism over how the first \$1 billion in Harvey disaster grants was distributed, Texas now plans to allocate \$750 million to Harris County. Houston is due to receive an additional \$9 million out of \$488 million that the state plans to send to the Houston-Galveston region. City officials point out that the \$9 million amounts to less than one tenth of the cost of its proposed improvements to Kashmere Gardens.

In Kashmere Gardens on a recent morning after a thunderstorm inundated streetside drainage ditches, bulldozers and dump trucks worked to widen and deepen Hunting Bayou to absorb runoff from future storms. The work is a small portion of a \$2.5 billion flood protection bond that Harris County passed in 2018. The bulk of the bond money was directed to wealthier neighborhoods because the county expected to receive federal disaster funds for poorer ones, according to county commissioner Rodney Ellis. But without money to upgrade the ditch system to drain storm water from neighborhood streets, it's unclear if the bayou expansion will be effective.

"This is the Texas two-step in Houston. You have to get the water from the neigh-

borhoods to the bayous. And then you have to get the water from the bayous to the Gulf of Mexico," said Ellis, who represents the area. Residents, too, remain skeptical. "It's a wait and see situation," said Dorothy Wanza, another Kashmere Gardens resident whose street turned into a river during Harvey and flooded her home with more than a foot of water. The experience left the 50-year-old so traumatized that "every time it rains, I get the hell out of dodge."

She spent the previous night fully dressed, prepared to evacuate to one of her children's homes. "The ditches overflow, and once they are full, the water comes back on you," Wanza said. On the other side of the bayou, Hester said the city had recently cleaned out part of a ditch lining his street for the first time he could recall in more than a decade. Dirt and bricks still block some of the culverts.

"Right up under there, look," he said, pointing beneath the concrete walkway leading from the street to his front yard. "It's stopped up on both sides." He nodded farther down the street to another culvert: "That whole drain hole was flooded." He and his next door neighbor had removed as many bricks as they could to move the water through. "If we don't do things around here, ain't nothing going to get done. I have to go around here and try to help, and I'm in bad shape myself." Hester limped around the perimeter of his home and pointed two feet up the siding where Harvey floodwaters had reached—a reminder of the catastrophe he says he failed to protect his daughter from.

A nonprofit had removed the mold inside when it fixed up the house in 2020, installing new cabinets, a new roof and laminate flooring. But the entryway still slopes. The floor joists need to be repaired. The porch is lopsided, its wood rotted. Hester is stooped from years of pain. Yet he remains intent on doing what he can to make things right. "It's not my life I'm worried about. It's my daughter's," Hester said. "I'm half dead."

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

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from Pennsylvania (Ms. HOULAHAN).

Ms. HOULAHAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my commonsense amendments that, one, ensure community banking institutions will work better to support young women and people of color, and two, that credit unions help us advance financial literacy.

As a businessowner and entrepreneur myself, I understand the challenges of getting product from the garage or trunk of your car into a storefront window or onto the online sales opportunities.

We know that Community Development Financial Institutions, or CDFIs, are all key partners in successful business development, but they cannot do it alone.

My first amendment builds on past successes by revising the Young Entrepreneurs Program to ensure that women and people of color receive the focus and financial support that they need.

Simply put, our local economies truly grow and thrive when we support all of our budding entrepreneurs. We have an established partner to help us do that already, which is credit unions. That brings me to my second effort,

which would require credit unions to include a description of financial education programs in their reports to ensure that information is accessible and transparent.

Financial management, budgeting, and making informed and effective decisions with resources are keys to business success.

I thank Chairwoman WATERS for bringing this.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, according to a recent National Bureau of Economic Research report, the racial wealth gap is on track to grow wider in the coming decades. It is estimated that the White-to-Black wealth ratio will increase from 5.6 to 1 in 2019 to 8.4 to 1 by 2200.

The time to act is now. These amendments will help ensure that everyone will have a fair chance, and in too many instances, a first chance at economic opportunity.

I thank our colleagues for offering their amendments, and I urge my colleagues to vote in support of these amendments because these amendments are principally about transparency.

If you have nothing to hide, you celebrate transparency. If you have something to hide, you want to eschew transparency.

These amendments seek to provide transparency so that we can get a better understanding of how we can better cure the invidious discrimination that has plagued our country for centuries.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, let's focus on the main thing. The main thing to the American people right now is what they see when they fill up their tank at the pumps and buy gas. It is what they see when they go to the grocery store. It is what they see in their daily lives.

What they are seeing in their daily lives is inflation at a 40-year high. Here are fantastic examples that are horrible, horrible things to see, but they are important that we see because this is what the American people are facing.

Inflation is at a 40-year high. Food prices are up 10 percent, gas 50 percent, and shelter 5.5 percent from just last year. The American people will pay \$5,200 more this year than they did last year for the same goods and services.

This is a direct result of Democrats' fiscal plans. It is a direct result of the Democrats' economic strategy, and we are suffering the consequences from it.

This bill, and the amendments that pass on the floor today, will do nothing to help struggling American families. Nothing.

Instead, they will politicize the Fed, expand the CFPB's authority, and make credit more expensive and harder to get. This is bad news. It is bad policy. It is a bad process.

We should reject it. We should make sure this bill does not become law.

I urge a “no” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution Number 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 question are postponed.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to section 3 of House Resolution 1170, I offer amendments en bloc No. 2.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will designate the amendments en bloc.

Amendments en bloc No. 2, consisting of amendment Nos. 6 and 24, printed in part B of House Report 117-366, offered by Mr. GREEN of Texas.

AMENDMENT NO. 6 OFFERED BY MR. RODNEY DAVIS OF ILLINOIS

Strike subtitle B of title II and insert the following:

Subtitle B—Repeal of Small Business Loan Data Collection

SEC. 221. REPEAL.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 704B of the Equal Credit Opportunity Act (15 U.S.C. 1691c-2) is hereby repealed.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENTS.—The Equal Credit Opportunity Act is amended—

(1) in section 701(b) (15 U.S.C. 1691(b))—

(A) in paragraph (3), by adding “or” at the end;

(B) in paragraph (4), by striking “; or” and inserting a period; and

(C) by striking paragraph (5); and

(2) in the table of contents for such Act, by striking the item relating to section 704B.

Page 86, strike lines 14 and 15.

AMENDMENT NO. 24 OFFERED BY MR. TIMMONS OF SOUTH CAROLINA

Strike title I, title II, title III, subtitle B of title IV, and subtitle B of title V.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 10 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, the Republican amendments presented here today stand as a testament to Republican values; namely, a tolerance for wealth inequality and racial discrimination.

Let's be clear. The amendment from Mr. TIMMONS will strike large portions of the bill and make no attempt to improve it.

As for the amendment from Mr. DAVIS, it will strike provisions requir-

ing the reporting of small business lending data, effectively allowing banks to continue to hide the extent to which they are denying small business owners of color access to affordable credit.

According to a Fed survey, 46 percent of Black-owned firms that applied for financing received none of the financing they sought compared to just 22 percent of White-owned firms. We need more granular data on these trends to root out discrimination in lending once and for all.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Republican en bloc, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

The amendments in this en bloc are where we should have started this debate. These amendments would improve the bill and provide real solutions for the American people who are suffering under the weight of misguided Democrat economic policies.

In whole, this amendment package would make the bill bipartisan and give us a real chance to pass the Senate and become law. These amendments would preserve the sections of the bill that Republicans supported during committee consideration, such as promoting new and diverse depository institutions, improving corporate governance through diversity, ensuring diversity in community banking, expanding opportunity for minority depository institutions, and improving the CDFI Bond Guarantee Program.

These are the bipartisan pieces of the bill. These five bills are the result of bipartisan discussions and compromise. They show that Congress is capable of working together and putting the American people first rather than really a far-left agenda that the rest of the bill is pushing.

These bills collectively would help to identify and implement solutions to support small banks and credit unions in the communities they serve.

Furthermore, this amendment en bloc would strike section 1071 of the Dodd-Frank Act which requires the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—which is an unaccountable agency, by the way—to issue a rule to force banks and credit unions to collect and report demographic data on small business loan applications.

We have seen what the CFPB can do under Director Chopra's scorched-earth policies. This proposed rule will make small business lending more costly and difficult for financial institutions of all shapes and sizes. It will also choke off the very access to credit those small businesses need right now.

So instead of limiting small business credit options and saddling them with unnecessary regulations, as the underlying bill does, we should focus on fostering growth and help small businesses succeed.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this en bloc, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

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

In closing, I would just reiterate the amendments in this en bloc are how we should have started this debate and how we should have started this bill.

These amendments would improve the bill and provide real solutions for American people who are suffering under the weight of misguided Democrat policies.

I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on this en bloc, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. GREEN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, what we have been witnessing today is the behavior of persons who chose not to help the American people in a time of need.

When the American people were being evicted from their homes, they chose not to help. When schools were plagued by a virus and needed funding so that they could secure our children from the virus, they chose not to help. When people were out of work and needed help to put food on the table, fuel in their cars, they chose not to help.

Because they chose not to help, they have to call any help that was given reckless, and they have to call it bad policy.

But the truth is, if you do nothing, you put yourself in a position such that you cannot appreciate the suffering of people who are in the midst of a worldwide pandemic. They chose not to help. We choose to help, and we continue to help.

Mr. Speaker, it is a sad day when people will call saving homes and keeping children safe from a virus reckless policy.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution Number 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

The question is on the amendments en bloc.

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

Mr. GREEN 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 question are postponed.

□ 1400

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 10 printed in part B of House Report 117-366.

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk made in order by the rule.

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

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Insert after section 524 the following:

SEC. 525. RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.

Nothing in this subtitle or the amendments made by this subtitle may be construed to prevent or otherwise impede the ability of insured depository institutions (as defined in section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act) to establish branches and provide banking services in underserved areas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

My amendment to H.R. 2543, the Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act, ensures no changes made by this bill will prohibit community banks from expanding into underserved areas as defined by the bill.

Access to credit is a building block for aspiring entrepreneurs and small business owners and helps create jobs and boost local economic power and growth.

My amendment helps increase banking opportunities in rural and underserved areas, and I urge my colleagues to support it and the base legislation.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I claim time in opposition, but I am not opposed to the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Without objection, the gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

There was no objection.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate Mr. GONZALEZ's attempt to help community banks. I would say that this amendment really doesn't do anything substantive to the bill. It doesn't help community banks compete and survive in the current regulatory environment.

In fact, if we were really serious about helping community banks, we would be looking at the Dodd-Frank Act and the additional regulatory burdens in place on these financial institutions, but we are not. This bill doesn't do that. We would be looking at the regulatory burdens that Dodd-Frank keeps on institutions that keeps them from lending to their consumers, the compliance cost burdens that make accessing credit more difficult, especially for hard-to-reach communities.

Last year, Democrats got rid of the true lender doctrine, which focused on providing legal certainty to banks and fintech partnerships. The true lender doctrine would have actually helped provide clarity and lower the cost and access to credit. It is these partnerships between fintechs and community banks that harness and scale tech-

nology and provide consumers with the financial products that they want and need, particularly in underserved communities.

If we are really serious about reaching underserved communities—and I think we should be—we should restore the true lender doctrine and rightsize overly burdensome regulations on community banks.

Those are the important points I would like to make in light of this amendment. I welcome a discussion about those issues. I think we have a lot of mutual concerns about the challenges the American people are facing, but I think it is important that we get to the big issues that are central in this economy, given the economic circumstances we are currently in as a result of Democrat policies, and we should be working to fix those big issues.

While I am not opposed to the amendment—I think it is fine; I am not going to oppose it—I think it is important that we highlight the big and essential things we should be about.

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

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further remarks. I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I just reiterate that this amendment really doesn't do anything substantive. If we are serious about helping community banks, rightsizing burdensome regulations would be the way to go, and reinstating the true lender doctrine would be a strong first step. There are bigger things that we should be doing to help these institutions.

While I am not opposed to the amendment, I think we should be doing the big, substantive items that are important for us to have a competitive economic situation for working Americans. We should be about these bigger items and focus on them.

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

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, again I urge my colleagues to support this amendment and the chairwoman's underlying bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

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

Mr. POSEY. 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 question are postponed.

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. PAYNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. It is now in order to consider amendment No. 19 printed in part B of House Report 117–366.

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I have an amendment at the desk.

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

The text of the amendment is as follows:

Add at the end the following:

TITLE VI—PAYMENT CHOICE

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This subtitle may be cited as the “Payment Choice Act of 2022”.

SEC. 602. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that every consumer has the right to use cash at retail businesses who accept in-person payments.

SEC. 603. RETAIL BUSINESSES PROHIBITED FROM REFUSING CASH PAYMENTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subchapter I of chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“§ 5104. Retail businesses prohibited from refusing cash payments.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Any person engaged in the business of selling or offering goods or services at retail to the public with a person accepting in-person payments at a physical location (including a person accepting payments for telephone, mail, or internet-based transactions who is accepting in-person payments at a physical location)—

“(1) shall accept cash as a form of payment for sales of less than \$2,000 (or, for loan payments, payments made on a loan with an original principal amount of less than \$2,000) made at such physical location; and

“(2) may not charge cash-paying customers a higher price compared to the price charged to customers not paying with cash.

“(b) EXCEPTIONS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Subsection (a) shall not apply to a person if such person—

“(A) is unable to accept cash because of—

“(i) a sale system failure that temporarily prevents the processing of cash payments; or

“(ii) a temporary insufficiency in cash on hand needed to provide change; or

“(B) provides customers with the means, on the premises, to convert cash into a card that is either a general-use prepaid card, a gift card, or an access device for electronic fund transfers for which—

“(i) there is no fee for the use of the card;

“(ii) there is not a minimum deposit amount greater than 1 dollar;

“(iii) amounts loaded on the card do not expire, except as permitted under paragraph (2);

“(iv) there is no collection of any personal identifying information from the customer;

“(v) there is no fee to use the card; and

“(iv) there may be a limit to the number of transactions.

“(2) INACTIVITY.—A person seeking exception from subsection (a) may charge an inactivity fee in association with a card offered by such person if—

“(A) there has been no activity with respect to the card during the 12-month period ending on the date on which the inactivity fee is imposed;

“(B) not more than 1 inactivity fee is imposed in any 1-month period; and

“(C) it is clearly and conspicuously stated, on the face of the mechanism that issues the card and on the card—

“(i) that an inactivity fee or charge may be imposed;

“(ii) the frequency at which such inactivity fee may be imposed; and

“(iii) the amount of such inactivity fee.

“(c) RIGHT TO NOT ACCEPT LARGE BILLS.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), for the 5-year period beginning on the date of enactment of this section, this section shall not require a person to accept cash payments in \$50 bills or any larger bill.

“(2) RULEMAKING.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in this section referred to as the Secretary, shall issue a rule on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this section with respect to any bills a person is not required to accept.

“(B) REQUIREMENT.—When issuing a rule under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall require persons to accept \$1, \$5, \$10, \$20, and \$50 bills.

“(d) ENFORCEMENT.—

“(1) PREVENTATIVE RELIEF.—Whenever any person has engaged, or there are reasonable grounds to believe that any person is about to engage, in any act or practice prohibited by this section, a civil action for preventive relief, including an application for a permanent or temporary injunction, restraining order, or other order may be brought against such person.

“(2) CIVIL PENALTIES.—Any person who violates this section shall—

“(A) be liable for actual damages;

“(B) be fined not more than \$2,500 for a first offense; and

“(C) be fined not more than \$5,000 for a second or subsequent offense.

“(3) JURISDICTION.—An action under this section may be brought in any United States district court, or in any other court of competent jurisdiction.

“(4) INTERVENTION OF ATTORNEY GENERAL.—Upon timely application, a court may, in its discretion, permit the Attorney General to intervene in a civil action brought under this subsection, if the Attorney General certifies that the action is of general public importance.

“(5) AUTHORITY TO APPOINT COURT-PAID ATTORNEY.—Upon application by an individual and in such circumstances as the court may determine just, the court may appoint an attorney for such individual and may authorize the commencement of a civil action under this subsection without the payment of fees, costs, or security.

“(6) ATTORNEY'S FEES.—In any action commenced pursuant to this section, the court, in its discretion, may allow the prevailing party, other than the United States, a reasonable attorney's fee as part of the costs, and the United States shall be liable for costs the same as a private person.

“(7) REQUIREMENTS IN CERTAIN STATES AND LOCAL AREAS.—In the case of an alleged act or practice prohibited by this section which occurs in a State, or political subdivision of a State, which has a State or local law prohibiting such act or practice and establishing or authorizing a State or local authority to grant or seek relief from such act or practice or to institute criminal proceedings with respect thereto upon receiving notice thereof, no civil action may be brought hereunder before the expiration of 30 days after written notice of such alleged act or practice has been given to the appropriate State or local authority by registered mail or in person, provided that the court may stay proceedings in such civil action pending the termination of State or local enforcement proceedings.

“(e) GREATER PROTECTION UNDER STATE LAW.—This section shall not preempt any law of a State, the District of Columbia, a Tribal government, or a territory of the United States if the protections that such law affords to consumers are greater than the protections provided under this section.

“(f) RULEMAKING.—The Secretary shall issue such rules as the Secretary determines

are necessary to implement this section, which may prescribe additional exceptions to the application of the requirements described in subsection (a).”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents for chapter 51 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 5103 the following:

“5104. Retail businesses prohibited from refusing cash payments.”.

(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—The amendments made by this section may not be construed to have any effect on section 5103 of title 31, United States Code.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE) and a Member opposed each will control 5 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New Jersey.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to encourage everyone to support adding our bipartisan amendment, the text of the bipartisan Payment Choice Act, to the bill.

Recently, the bill passed the Financial Services Committee on a bipartisan vote. I thank Chairwoman WATERS for her work in helping to advance my legislation. I thank the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. GARCIA) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH) for their leadership and support of it.

The Payment Choice Act guarantees that every consumer has the choice to pay cash for goods and services. Right now, there is an attack on American currency. Companies are trying to ban cash in their stores, but cash is simple, common, and anonymous. And it is the necessary form of payment for 55 million Americans. That is right, 55 million Americans in this country.

The bill does not prohibit digital or other payments. Instead, it protects cash as a payment in this Nation, as it has been throughout our history. It protects Americans from being rejected from stores because they can only pay in cash.

Several cities and States have enacted their own laws to protect the right to pay cash already. This bill would provide a single law to protect cash nationwide. More important, the bill would protect the privacy of Americans. There is no data collection with cash transactions. Cash is a private transaction.

Customers should have the right to refuse to hand over their personal information for a simple purchase. It is not a partisan issue because Democrats and Republicans support this bill. Therefore, it is an American issue to protect American currency. I encourage all Members to support my amendment.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I claim the time in opposition to this amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina is recognized for 5 minutes.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this amendment is a solution in search of a problem and provides a pathway for frivolous lawsuits in Federal court. Cash continues to be an important form of payment in many communities across America. However, businesses that have a substantial number of customers who wish to transact in cash already accept cash.

The amendment's requirements will impact small business owners in particular, who will be required to accept cash payment whether or not it makes economic or business sense.

Additionally, this amendment would give preferential treatment to ancillary service providers that may be facing a downturn in demand for services due to an increasing electronic payment usage desire among consumers.

Let's look at the bill. Let me try to explain it. The bill would prohibit retail businesses from refusing cash payments below \$2,000. It would prohibit the retail business from charging a higher price to any customer who pays by cash than is customarily going to be charged for using other forms of payment. It provides a private right of action—that means that they can sue—in Federal court for consumers who are aggrieved.

The amendment provides exceptions to these prohibitions, including if the business provides a mechanism to convert cash to prepaid cards.

This is really the desire to force basically ATMs into retail establishments. That is the construct of the bill. So imagine you are a small business, and now under Federal law, you are required to take a \$2,000 cash payment. That seems onerous. Imagine you are a small businessperson who is now going to be faced potentially with lawsuits in Federal court for a failure to provide an ATM machine in your establishment. This seems quite onerous.

We can get into the question of the soundness of a fully digitized world. There is a serious debate to be had here, and there is an economic inclusion debate that is necessary for us to have. In a world of digital payments, not everyone is digital, so we have to make sure that we get to those key issues.

But this bill is rather convoluted, and it provides a number of requirements for businesses that are not in keeping with trying to get at the question of cash acceptance. I think we should have some serious discussions about cash acceptance, especially for our communities across America that are not online and don't have credit cards or prepaid cards in their pocket.

I think there are things we can still work on in this space. Unfortunately, this bill is too convoluted with too many mechanisms that would provide too many opportunities for new lawsuits, so I oppose it. I think it is important that we oppose this amendment, as I did in committee.

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

Mr. PAYNE. Mr. Speaker, I really appreciate the gentleman's wonderful summary of my bill up until the point where he raised the issue around preferential businesses, such as ATMs. There is no preferential treatment for any industry in this bill. All retail transactions are treated the same.

As the gentleman speaks on businesses being able to charge a higher price, I don't know about North Carolina, but in New Jersey, when I go to the gas station, there is a higher price charged for credit, not cash. So I think he kind of had that in reverse.

Mr. Speaker, this is an opportunity for 55 million Americans who don't have banking accounts or are underbanked, to continue to be a part of this economy. There is a population in this country, believe it or not, who would rather not be in the banking system.

□ 1415

I am just trying to protect the underserved and the underbanked. I don't know the makeup of the gentleman's district in North Carolina, although I think his attire is splendid with the bowtie. But back in his district, I don't know if they are affluent or not. I have some of the poorest Americans in my district, and they are reaching out to me saying: What do I do?

What happens to the grandmother who lives in a two-flight walkup and the store that she uses is on the first floor? Mr. Speaker, now, this business decides that they are not going to accept her cash anymore. You are asking this woman to walk another three or four blocks to find someone, like a pauper: "Who will take my cash? Who will take my cash? Will you take my money? Will you take my cash?"

"No, no cash allowed here. Be gone."

That is what we are looking at. That is what we are trying to prevent.

Mr. Speaker, I just say that we are here to fight for the underserved, the underbanked, and the unbanked.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, has the gentleman's time fully expired?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's time has entirely expired.

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

Mr. Speaker, I agree with the gentleman from New Jersey. I agree with Mr. PAYNE on his choice of attire. I think the fact that two of us, who are very well dressed—appropriately dressed, I would say—are having a debate and are on different sides of this issue is very unbecoming of the bowtie community. We stand together more closely than this.

Mr. Speaker, I welcome my colleague—the fact that he has an undertaking in this arena to talk about the question of cash acceptance, I think, is important.

There are a number of questions that I have raised about this bill that I think are important. The private right of action in Federal court is problem-

atic for us on this side of the aisle. The requirement to have a machine on site—on page 2 of the bill, it says the retail facility, or whatever the facility is, that is accepting payment, they have to provide customers with the means on the premises to convert cash into a card that is either a general-use prepaid card, a gift card, or an access device for electronic funds transfer. So it is a very specific requirement to have on premises.

Imagine the same scenario of this nice lady that lives in his district, Mr. PAYNE's district, who goes downstairs to purchase whatever, whether it is from a grocery store or whatever. Now, imagine they had an ATM that was two doors down. Under the construct of this bill, that wouldn't be sufficient.

There are important things to get at here. I oppose the amendment, but I welcome the debate.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 1170, the previous question is ordered on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

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

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

Mr. MCHENRY. 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 question are postponed.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

Votes will be taken in the following order:

The following amendments to H.R. 2543:

Amendments en bloc No. 1;

Amendments en bloc No. 2;

Amendment No. 10; and

Amendment No. 19;

A motion to recommit H.R. 2543, if offered; and

Passage of H.R. 2543, if ordered.

The first vote in this series will be a 15-minute vote. Remaining votes in this series will be 5-minute votes.

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 1 OFFERED BY MR. GREEN OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the adoption of amendments en bloc No. 1, printed in part B of House Report 117-366, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 217, nays 192, not voting 19, as follows:

[Roll No. 270]

YEAS—217

Adams	Golden	Ocasio-Cortez
Aguilar	Gomez	Omar
Allred	Gonzalez,	Pallone
Auchincloss	Vicente	Panetta
Axne	Gottheimer	Pappas
Barragan	Green, Al (TX)	Pascarell
Bass	Grijalva	Payne
Beatty	Harder (CA)	Perlmutter
Bera	Hayes	Peters
Beyer	Higgins (NY)	Phillips
Bishop (GA)	Himes	Pingree
Blumenauer	Horsford	Pocan
Blunt	Rochester	Porter
Bonamici	Hoyer	Pressley
Bourdeaux	Huffman	Price (NC)
Bowman	Jackson Lee	Quigley
Boyle, Brendan	Jacobs (CA)	Raskin
F.	Jayapal	Rice (NY)
Brown (MD)	Jeffries	Ross
Brown (OH)	Johnson (GA)	Roybal-Allard
Brownley	Johnson (TX)	Ruiz
Bush	Jones	Ruppersberger
Bustos	Kahele	Rush
Butterfield	Kaptur	Ryan
Carbajal	Keating	Sanchez
Cárdenas	Kelly (IL)	Sarbanes
Carson	Khanna	Scanlon
Carter (LA)	Kildee	Schakowsky
Cartwright	Kilmer	Schiff
Case	Kim (NJ)	Schneider
Castor (FL)	Kind	Schrier
Castro (TX)	Kirkpatrick	Schriener
Cherfilus-	Krishnamoorthi	Scott (VA)
McCormick	Kuster	Scott, David
Chu	Lamb	Sewell
Ciulline	Langevin	Sherman
Clark (MA)	Larsen (WA)	Sherrill
Clarke (NY)	Larson (CT)	Sires
Cleaver	Lawrence	Slotkin
Clyburn	Lawson (FL)	Smith (WA)
Cohen	Lee (CA)	Soto
Connolly	Lee (NV)	Spanberger
Cooper	Leger Fernandez	Speier
Correa	Levin (CA)	Stansbury
Costa	Levin (MI)	Stanton
Courtney	Lieu	Stevens
Craig	Lofgren	Strickland
Crist	Lowenthal	Suozi
Crow	Luria	Swalwell
Cuellar	Lynch	Takano
Davids (KS)	Malinowski	Thompson (CA)
Davis, Danny K.	Maloney,	Thompson (MS)
Dean	Carolyn B.	Titus
DeFazio	Maloney, Sean	Tlaib
DeGette	Manning	Tonko
DeLauro	Matsui	Torres (CA)
DelBene	McBath	Torres (NY)
Demings	McCollum	Trahan
DeSaulnier	McEachin	Trone
Deutch	McGovern	Underwood
Dingell	McNerney	Vargas
Doggett	Meeks	Veasey
Doyle, Michael	Meng	Velázquez
F.	Mfume	Wasserman
Escobar	Moore (WI)	Schultz
Eshoo	Morelle	Waters
Españillat	Moulton	Watson Coleman
Evans	Mrvan	Welch
Fletcher	Nadler	Wexton
Foster	Napolitano	Wild
Frankel, Lois	Neal	Williams (GA)
Gallo	Neguse	Wilson (FL)
Garamendi	Newman	Yarmuth
Garcia (IL)	Norcross	
Garcia (TX)	O'Halleran	

NAYS—192

Aderholt	Bentz	Buck
Allen	Bergman	Bucshon
Amodei	Bice (OK)	Budd
Arrington	Biggs	Burchett
Babin	Bilirakis	Burgess
Bacon	Bishop (NC)	Calvert
Baird	Boebert	Cammack
Balderson	Bost	Carey
Banks	Brooks	Carl
Barr	Buchanan	Carter (GA)

Carter (TX) Herrera Beutler
Cawthorn Hice (GA)
Chabot Higgins (LA)
Cline Hill
Cloud Hinson
Clyde Hollingsworth
Cole Hudson
Comer Huizenga
Conway Issa
Crawford Jackson
Crenshaw Jacobs (NY)
Curtis Johnson (LA)
Davidson Johnson (OH)
DesJarlais Johnson (SD)
Diaz-Balart Jordan
Donalds Joyce (OH)
Duncan Joyce (PA)
Dunn Katko
Ellzey Keller
Emmer Kelly (MS)
Estes Kelly (PA)
Fallon Kim (CA)
Feenstra Kinzinger
Ferguson Kustoff
Fischbach LaHood
Fitzgerald Lamborn
Fitzpatrick Latta
Fleischmann LaTurner
Foxy Lesko
Franklin, C. Letlow
Scott Long
Fulcher Lucas
Gaetz Luetkemeyer
Gallagher Mace
Garcia (CA) Malliotakis
Gibbs Mann
Gimenez Massie
Gohmert Mast
Gonzales, Tony McCarthy
Gonzalez (OH) McCaul
Good (VA) McClain
Gooden (TX) McClintock
Gosar McHenry
Granger McKinley
Graves (LA) Meijer
Graves (MO) Miller (WV)
Green (TN) Miller-Meeks
Greene (GA) Moolenaar
Griffith Mooney
Grothman Moore (AL)
Guthrie Moore (UT)
Harris Mullin
Harshbarger Murphy (NC)
Hartzler Newhouse
Hern Norman

NOT VOTING—19

Armstrong Herrell
Brady LaMalfa
Casten Loudermilk
Cheney Meuser
Davis, Rodney Miller (IL)
Garbarino Murphy (FL)
Guest Nehls

□ 1459

Mr. WALBERG, Mrs. HINSON, Messrs. MOORE of Utah, and KATKO changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the en bloc amendments were agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 270.

Mr. STAUBER. Madam Speaker, the vote closed prior to me being able to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 270.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei Crist Gohmert (Weber
(Balderson) (Wasserman
Brooks (Weber) Schultz
(TX) Davids (KS)
Bustos (Mrvan) (Neguse)
Carter (TX) Davis, Danny K.
(Weber (TX)) (Beyer)
Connolly (Beyer) Evans (Beyer)

Obernolte
Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise
Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Tiffany
Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack

Johnson (TX) (Jeffries)
Kahale (Mrvan)
Katko (Moore
(UT))
Kelly (IL)
(Neguse)
Lamb (Blunt
Rochester)
Lawrence
(Stevens)
Lawson (FL)
(Wasserman
Schultz)
Lowenthal
(Beyer)

AMENDMENTS EN BLOC NO. 2 OFFERED BY MR.
GREEN OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on the adoption of amendments en bloc No. 2, printed in part B of House Report 117–366, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendments en bloc.

The Clerk redesignated the amendments en bloc.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendments en bloc offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GREEN).

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 217, not voting 9, as follows:

[Roll No. 271]

YEAS—202

Aderholt
Allen
Amodei
Arrington
Babin
Bacon
Baird
Balderson
Banks
Barr
Bentz
Bergman
Bice (OK)
Biggs
Bilirakis
Bishop (NC)
Boebert
Bost
Brady
Brooks
Buchanan
Bucshon
Budd
Burchett
Burgess
Calvert
Cammack
Carey
Carl
Carter (GA)
Carter (TX)
Cawthorn
Chabot
Cheney
Cline
Cloud
Clyde
Cole
Comer
Conway
Crawford
Crenshaw
Curtis
Davidson
Davis, Rodney
DesJarlais
Diaz-Balart
Donalds
Duncan

Dunn
Ellzey
Estes
Fallon
Feenstra
Ferguson
Fischbach
Fitzgerald
Fitzpatrick
Fleischmann
Foxy
Franklin, C.
Scott
Fulcher
Gaetz
Gallagher
Garbarino
Garcia (CA)
Gibbs
Gimenez
Gohmert
Long
Gonzales, Tony
Gonzalez (OH)
Good (VA)
Gooden (TX)
Gosar
Granger
Graves (LA)
Graves (MO)
Green (TN)
Greene (GA)
Griffith
Grothman
Guthrie
Harris
Harshbarger
Hartzler
Hern
Herrera Beutler
Hice (GA)
Higgins (LA)
Hill
Hinson
Hollingsworth
Hudson
Huizenga
Issa
Jackson
Jacobs (NY)

Mace (Carter
(GA))
McEachin
(Beyer)
Moore (WI)
(Beyer)
Newman (Beyer)
O'Halleran
(Schrader)
Palazzo
(Fleischmann)
Peters (Jeffries)
Pingree
(Wasserman
Schultz)
Price (NC)
(Manning)

Rice (SC)
(Meijer)
Stanton
(Huffman)
Suozi (Beyer)
Taylor (Van
Duyn)
Tenney
(Jackson)
Titus (Pallone)
Walorski
(Bucshon)
Waters (Takano)
Watson Coleman
(Pallone)

Owens
Palazzo
Palmer
Pence
Perry
Pfluger
Posey
Reschenthaler
Rice (SC)
Rodgers (WA)
Rogers (AL)
Rogers (KY)
Rose
Rosendale
Rouzer
Roy
Rutherford
Salazar
Scalise

Schweikert
Scott, Austin
Sessions
Simpson
Smith (MO)
Smith (NE)
Smith (NJ)
Smucker
Spartz
Stauber
Steel
Stefanik
Steil
Steube
Stewart
Taylor
Tenney
Thompson (PA)
Tiffany

NAYS—217

Adams
Aguilar
Allred
Auchincloss
Axne
Barragán
Bass
Beatty
Bera
Beyer
Bishop (GA)
Blumenauer
Blunt Rochester
Bonamici
Bourdeaux
Bowman
Boyle, Brendan
F.
Brown (MD)
Brown (OH)
Brownley
Bush
Bustos
Butterfield
Carbajal
Cárdenas
Carson
Carter (LA)
Cartwright
Case
Castor (FL)
Castro (TX)
Cherfilus-
McCormick
Chu
Ciilline
Clark (MA)
Clarke (NY)
Cleaver
Clyburn
Cohen
Connolly
Cooper
Correa
Costa
Courtney
Craig
Crist
Crow
Cuellar
Davids (KS)
Davis, Danny K.
Dean
DeFazio
DeGette
DeLauro
DelBene
Demings
DeSaulnier
Deutch
Dingell
Doggett
Doyle, Michael
F.
Escobar
Eshoo
Espallat
Evans
Fletcher
Foster
Frankel, Lois
Gallego
Garamendi
García (IL)
García (TX)

Golden
Gomez
Gonzalez,
Vicente
Gottheimer
Green, Al (TX)
Grijalva
Harder (CA)
Hayes
Higgins (NY)
Himes
Horsford
Houlahan
Hoyer
Huffman
Jackson Lee
Jacobs (CA)
Jayapal
Jeffries
Johnson (GA)
Johnson (TX)
Jones
Kahale
Kaptur
Keating
Kelly (IL)
Khanna
Kildee
Kilmer
Kim (NJ)
Kind
Krishnamoorthi
Kuster
Lamb
Langevin
Larsen (WA)
Larson (CT)
Lawrence
Lawson (FL)
Lee (CA)
Lee (NV)
Leger Fernandez
Levin (CA)
Levin (MI)
Lieu
Loifgren
Lowenthal
Luria
Lynch
Malinowski
Maloney,
Carolyn B.
Maloney, Sean
Manning
Matsui
McBath
McCollum
McEachin
McGovern
McNerney
Meeks
Meng
Mfume
Moore (WI)
Morelle
Moulton
Mrvan
Murphy (FL)
Nadler
Napolitano
Neal
Neguse
Newman
Norcross
O'Halleran

Timmons
Turner
Upton
Valadao
Van Drew
Van Duyn
Wagner
Walberg
Walorski
Waltz
Weber (TX)
Webster (FL)
Wenstrup
Westerman
Williams (TX)
Wilson (SC)
Wittman
Womack

Ocasio-Cortez
Omar
Pallone
Panetta
Pappas
Pascrell
Payne
Perlmutter
Peters
Phillips
Pingree
Pocan
Porter
Pressley
Price (NC)
Quigley
Raskin
Rice (NY)
Ross
Roybal-Allard
Ruiz
Ruppersberger
Rush
Ryan
Sánchez
Sarbanes
Scanlon
Schakowsky
Schiff
Schneider
Schrader
Schrier
Scott (VA)
Scott, David
Sewell
Sherman
Sherrill
Sires
Slotkin
Smith (WA)
Soto
Spanberger
Speier
Stansbury
Stanton
Stevens
Strickland
Suozi
Swalwell
Takano
Thompson (CA)
Thompson (MS)
Titus
Tlaib
Tonko
Torres (CA)
Torres (NY)
Trahan
Trone
Underwood
Vargas
Veasey
Velázquez
Wasserman
Schultz
Watson Coleman
Welch
Wexton
Wild
Williams (GA)
Wilson (FL)
Yarmuth

NOT VOTING—9

Armstrong	Emmer	Kirkpatrick
Buck	Guest	Miller (IL)
Casten	Herrell	Zeldin

□ 1510

Mr. GARAMENDI changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the en bloc amendments were rejected.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mrs. KIRKPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I was absent for a vote today. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 271.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Palazzo
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Brooks (Weber	Kahele (Mrvan)	Peters (Jeffries)
(TX))	Katko (Moore	Pingree
Bustos (Mrvan)	(UT))	(Wasserman
Carter (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Schultz)
(Weber (TX))	(Neguse)	Price (NC)
Connolly (Beyer)	Lamb (Blunt	(Manning)
Crist	Rochester)	Rice (SC)
(Wasserman	Lawrence	(Meijer)
Schultz)	(Stevens)	Stanton
Davids (KS)	Lawson (FL)	(Huffman)
(Neguse)	(Wasserman	Suoizzi (Beyer)
Davis, Danny K.	Schultz)	Taylor (Van
(Beyer)	Lowenthal	Duynne)
Evans (Beyer)	(Beyer)	Tenney
Gohmert (Weber	Mace (Carter	(Jackson)
(TX))	(GA))	Titus (Pallone)
Gonzalez (OH)	McEachin	Walorski
(Meijer)	(Beyer)	(Bucshon)
Green (TN)	Moore (WI)	Waters (Takano)
(Fleischmann)	(Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Newman (Beyer)	(Pallone)
(Manning)	O'Halleran	(Schrader)

AMENDMENT NO. 10 OFFERED BY MR. VICENTE GONZALEZ OF TEXAS

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mrs. DEMINGS). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 10, printed in part B of House Report 117-366, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 297, nays 123, not voting 8, as follows:

[Roll No. 272]

YEAS—297

Adams	Blunt Rochester	Cárdenas
Aderholt	Bonamici	Carson
Aguilar	Bost	Carter (GA)
Allred	Bourdeaux	Carter (LA)
Auchincloss	Bowman	Cartwright
Axne	Boyle, Brendan	Case
Bacon	F.	Castor (FL)
Barragán	Brown (MD)	Castro (TX)
Bass	Brown (OH)	Chabot
Beatty	Brownley	Cheney
Bera	Buchanan	Cherfilus-
Bergman	Budd	McCormick
Beyer	Burchett	Chu
Bice (OK)	Bush	Cicilline
Biggs	Bustos	Clark (MA)
Bilirakis	Butterfield	Clarke (NY)
Bishop (GA)	Calvert	Cleaver
Bishop (NC)	Cammack	Cloud
Blumenauer	Carbajal	Clyburn

Cohen	Kahele	Perlmutter
Cole	Kaptur	Peters
Connolly	Katko	Phillips
Conway	Keating	Pingree
Cooper	Kelly (IL)	Pocan
Correa	Khanna	Porter
Costa	Kildee	Posey
Courtney	Kilmer	Pressley
Craig	Kim (CA)	Price (NC)
Crawford	Kim (NJ)	Quigley
Crenshaw	Kind	Raskin
Crist	Kinzinger	Rice (NY)
Crow	Kirkpatrick	Rice (SC)
Cuellar	Krishnamoorthi	Rodgers (WA)
Davids (KS)	Kuster	Rogers (AL)
Davidson	LaMalfa	Rogers (KY)
Davis, Danny K.	Lamb	Ross
Dean	Lamborn	Roybal-Allard
DeFazio	Langevin	Ruiz
DeGette	Larsen (WA)	Ruppersberger
DeLauro	Larson (CT)	Rush
DelBene	LaTurner	Rutherford
Demings	Lawrence	Ryan
DeSaulnier	Lawson (FL)	Sánchez
DesJarlais	Lee (CA)	Sarbanes
Deutch	Lee (NV)	Scanlon
Diaz-Balart	Leger Fernandez	Schakowsky
Dingell	Lesko	Schiff
Doggett	Levin (CA)	Schneider
Doyle, Michael	Levin (MI)	Schrader
F.	Lieu	Schrier
Escobar	Lofgren	Scott (VA)
Eshoo	Lowenthal	Scott, Austin
Espallat	Lucas	Scott, David
Evans	Luria	Sewell
Fischbach	Lynch	Sherman
Fitzpatrick	Mace	Sherrill
Fleischmann	Malinowski	Sires
Fletcher	Malliotakis	Slotkin
Foster	Maloney,	Smith (WA)
Frankel, Lois	Carolyn B.	Soto
Gallego	Maloney, Sean	Spanberger
Garamendi	Manning	Speier
Garcia (CA)	Mast	Stansbury
Garcia (IL)	Matsui	Stanton
Garcia (TX)	McBath	Staubert
Gimenez	McCarthy	Steube
Gohmert	McClain	Stevens
Golden	McCollum	Stewart
Gomez	McEachin	Strickland
Gonzales, Tony	McGovern	Suoizzi
Gonzalez (OH)	McKinley	Swalwell
Gonzalez,	McNerney	Takano
Vicente	Meeks	Taylor
Gottheimer	Meijer	Thompson (CA)
Green, Al (TX)	Meng	Thompson (MS)
Griffith	Mfume	Thompson (PA)
Grijalva	Miller-Meeks	Tiffany
Guthrie	Moore (AL)	Titus
Harder (CA)	Moore (UT)	Tlaib
Hayes	Moore (WI)	Tonko
Herrera Beutler	Morelle	Torres (CA)
Higgins (NY)	Moulton	Torres (NY)
Himes	Mrvan	Trahan
Hinson	Murphy (FL)	Trone
Hollingsworth	Nadler	Underwood
Horsford	Napolitano	Upton
Houlahan	Neal	Valadao
Hoyer	Neguse	Vargas
Hudson	Newman	Veasey
Huffman	Norcross	Velázquez
Jackson Lee	O'Halleran	Wasserman
Jacobs (CA)	Oberholte	Schultz
Jacobs (NY)	Ocasio-Cortez	Waters
Jayapal	Omar	Watson Coleman
Jeffries	Owens	Welch
Johnson (GA)	Palazzo	Wexton
Johnson (LA)	Pallone	Wild
Johnson (SD)	Panetta	Williams (GA)
Johnson (TX)	Pappas	Wilson (FL)
Jones	Pascrell	Womack
Joyce (OH)	Payne	Yarmuth

NAYS—123

Allen	Carl	Feenstra
Amodei	Carter (TX)	Ferguson
Babin	Cawthorn	Fitzgerald
Baird	Cline	Foxx
Balderson	Clyde	Franklin, C.
Banks	Comer	Scott
Barr	Curtis	Fulcher
Bentz	Davis, Rodney	Gaetz
Boebert	Donalds	Gallagher
Brady	Duncan	Garbarino
Brooks	Dunn	Gibbs
Buck	Ellzey	Good (VA)
Bucshon	Emmer	Gooden (TX)
Burgess	Estes	Gosar
Carey	Fallon	Granger

Graves (LA)	Luetkemeyer	Sessions
Graves (MO)	Mann	Simpson
Green (TN)	Massie	Smith (MO)
Greene (GA)	McCaul	Smith (NE)
Grothman	McClintock	Smith (NJ)
Harris	McHenry	Smucker
Harshbarger	Meuser	Spartz
Hartzler	Miller (WV)	Steel
Hern	Moolenaar	Stefanik
Hice (GA)	Mooney	Steil
Higgins (LA)	Mullin	Tenney
Hill	Murphy (NC)	Timmons
Huizenga	Nehls	Van Drew
Issa	Newhouse	Van Dуйne
Jackson	Norman	Wagner
Johnson (OH)	Palmer	Walberg
Jordan	Pence	Walorski
Joyce (PA)	Perry	Waltz
Keller	Pfluger	Weber (TX)
Kelly (MS)	Reschenthaler	Webster (FL)
Kelly (PA)	Rose	Wenstrup
Kustoff	Rosendale	Westerman
LaHood	Rouzer	Williams (TX)
Latta	Roy	Wilson (SC)
Letlow	Salazar	Wittman
Long	Scalise	
Loudermilk	Schweikert	

NOT VOTING—8

Armstrong	Guest	Turner
Arrington	Herrell	Zeldin
Casten	Miller (IL)	

□ 1519

Mr. LONG changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

Stated against:

Mr. TURNER. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained. Had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 272.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Palazzo
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Brooks (Weber	Kahele (Mrvan)	Peters (Jeffries)
(TX))	Katko (Moore	Pingree
Bustos (Mrvan)	(UT))	(Wasserman
Carter (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Schultz)
(Weber (TX))	(Neguse)	Price (NC)
Connolly (Beyer)	Lamb (Blunt	(Manning)
Crist	Rochester)	Rice (SC)
(Wasserman	Lawrence	(Meijer)
Schultz)	(Stevens)	Stanton
Davids (KS)	Lawson (FL)	(Huffman)
(Neguse)	(Wasserman	Suoizzi (Beyer)
Davis, Danny K.	Schultz)	Taylor (Van
(Beyer)	Lowenthal	Duynne)
Evans (Beyer)	(Beyer)	Tenney
Gohmert (Weber	Mace (Carter	(Jackson)
(TX))	(GA))	Titus (Pallone)
Gonzalez (OH)	McEachin	Walorski
(Meijer)	(Beyer)	(Bucshon)
Green (TN)	Moore (WI)	Waters (Takano)
(Fleischmann)	(Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Newman (Beyer)	(Pallone)
(Manning)	O'Halleran	(Schrader)

AMENDMENT NO. 19 OFFERED BY MR. PAYNE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the question on amendment No. 19, printed in part B of House Report 117-366, on which further proceedings were postponed and on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk will redesignate the amendment.

The Clerk redesignated the amendment.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the amendment offered by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PAYNE).

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 224, nays 198, not voting 6, as follows:

[Roll No. 273]

YEAS—224

Adams Gonzalez, Norcross
 Aguilar Vicente O'Halleran
 Allred Gooden (TX) Ocasio-Cortez
 Auchincloss Gottheimer Omar
 Axne Green, Al (TX) Pallone
 Barragán Grijalva Panetta
 Beatty Harder (CA) Pappas
 Bera Hayes Pascrell
 Beyer Higgins (NY) Payne
 Bishop (GA) Himes Perlmutter
 Blumenauer Horsford Peters
 Blunt Rochester Houlihan Pingree
 Bonamici Hoyer Pocan
 Bourdeaux Huffman Porter
 Bowman Jackson Lee Posey
 Boyle, Brendan Jacobs (CA) Pressley
 F. Jayapal Price (NC)
 Brown (MD) Jeffries Quigley
 Brown (OH) Johnson (GA) Raskin
 Brownley Johnson (TX) Rice (NY)
 Bush Jones Rose
 Bustos Kahele Ross
 Butterfield Kaptur Roybal-Allard
 Carbajal Keating Ruiz
 Cárdenas Kelly (IL) Ruppersberger
 Carson Khanna Rush
 Carter (LA) Kildee Ryan
 Cartwright Kilmer Sánchez
 Case Kim (NJ) Sarbanes
 Castor (FL) Kind Scanlon
 Castro (TX) Kirkpatrick Schakowsky
 Cherfilus-McCormick Krishnamoorthi Schiff
 Chu Kuster Schneider
 Cicilline Kustoff Schrader
 Clark (MA) LaMalfa Scott (VA)
 Clarke (NY) Lamb Scott, David
 Cleaver Larsen (WA) Sewell
 Clyburn Larson (CT) Sherman
 Clyde Lawrence Sherrill
 Cohen Lawrence Sires
 Connolly Lee (CA) Slotkin
 Cooper Lee (NV) Smith (NJ)
 Correa Leger Fernandez Smith (WA)
 Costa Levin (CA) Soto
 Courtney Levin (MI) Speier
 Craig Lieu Stansbury
 Crist Lofgren Stauber
 Crow Lowenthal Stevens
 Cuellar Luria Strickland
 Davidson Lynch Suozzi
 Davis, Danny K. Malinowski Swallow
 Dean Maloney, Takano
 DeFazio Carolyn B. Thompson (CA)
 DeGette Maloney, Sean Thompson (MS)
 DeLauro Manning Titus
 DelBene Matsui Tlaib
 Demings McBeth Tonko
 DeSaulnier McCollum Torres (CA)
 Deutch McEachin Torres (NY)
 Dingell McGovern Trahan
 Doggett McKinley Trone
 Doyle, Michael McNerney Underwood
 F. Meeks Upton
 Escobar Meng Van Drew
 Eshoo Mfume Vargas
 Espallat Mooney Veasey
 Evans Moore (WI) Velázquez
 Fletcher Morelle Wasserman
 Foster Moulton Schultz
 Frankel, Lois Mrvan Waters
 Gallego Murphy (FL) Watson Coleman
 Garamendi Nadler Welch
 Garcia (IL) Napolitano Wild
 Gohmert Neal Williams (GA)
 Gomez Neguse Wilson (FL)
 Newman Yarmuth

NAYS—198

Aderholt Boebert Chabot
 Allen Bost Cheney
 Amodei Brady Cline
 Arrington Brooks Cloud
 Babin Buchanan Cole
 Bacon Buck Comer
 Baird Bucshon Conway
 Balderson Budd Crawford
 Banks Burchett Crenshaw
 Barr Burgess Curtis
 Bass Calvert Davids (KS)
 Bentz Cammack Davis, Rodney
 Bergman Carey DesJarlais
 Bice (OK) Carl Diaz-Balart
 Biggs Carter (GA) Donalds
 Bilirakis Carter (TX) Duncan
 Bishop (NC) Cawthorn Dunn

Ellzey Johnson (SD)
 Emmer Jordan
 Estes Joyce (OH)
 Fallon Joyce (PA)
 Feenstra Katko
 Ferguson Kelly (MS)
 Fischbach Kelly (PA)
 Fitzgerald Kim (CA)
 Fitzpatrick Kinzinger
 Fleischmann LaHood
 Foe Franklin, C.
 Scott Latta
 Fulcher LaTurner
 Gaetz Lesko
 Gallagher Letlow
 Garbarino Long
 Garcia (CA) Loudermilk
 Gibbs Lucas
 Gimenez Luetkemeyer
 Golden Mace
 Gonzales, Tony Malliotakis
 Gonzalez (OH) Mann
 Good (VA) Massie
 Gosar Mast
 Granger McCarthy
 Graves (LA) McCaul
 Graves (MO) McClain
 Green (TN) McClintock
 Greene (GA) McHenry
 Griffith Meuser
 Grothman Miller (WV)
 Guthrie Miller-Meeks
 Harris Moolenaar
 Harshbarger Moore (AL)
 Hartzler Moore (UT)
 Hern Mullin
 Herrera Beutler Murphy (NC)
 Hice (GA) Nehls
 Higgins (LA) Hill
 Hill Newhouse
 Hinson Norman
 Hollingsworth Obernolte
 Hudson Owens
 Huizenga Palazzo
 Issa Palmer
 Jackson Pence
 Soto Perry
 Johnson (LA) Pfluger
 Johnson (OH) Phillips

NOT VOTING—6

Armstrong Guest
 Casten Herrell Miller (IL)
 Zeldin

□ 1530

Mr. CARL changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the amendment was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei Johnson (TX) Palazzo
 (Balderson) (Jeffries) (Fleischmann)
 Brooks (Weber) Kahele (Mrvan) Peters (Jeffries)
 (TX)) Katko (Moore) Pingree
 Bustos (Mrvan) (UT) (Wasserman)
 Carter (TX) Kelly (IL) Schultz
 (Weber (TX)) (Neguse) Price (NC)
 Crist Lamb (Blunt) (Manning)
 Connolly (Beyer) Rochester) Rice (SC)
 (Wasserman Lawrence (Meijer)
 Schultz) (Stevens) Stanton
 Lawton (FL) (Huffman)
 Davids (KS) (Wasserman) Suozzi (Beyer)
 (Neguse) Schultz) Taylor (Van
 Davis, Danny K. Lowenthal Duynne)
 (Beyer) (Beyer) Tenney
 Evans (Beyer) Mace (Carter) (Jackson)
 Gohmert (Weber) (GA) (Pallone)
 (TX)) McEachin Titus (Pallone)
 Gonzalez (OH) (Beyer) Walorski
 (Meijer) Moore (WI) (Bucshon)
 Green (TN) (Beyer) Waters (Takano)
 (Fleischmann) Newman (Beyer) Watson Coleman
 Johnson (GA) O'Halleran (Pallone)
 (Manning) (Schrader)

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER). The previous question is ordered on the bill, as amended.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the bill.

The bill was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

MOTION TO RECOMMIT

Mr. HILL. Madam Speaker, I have a motion to recommit at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion to recommit.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hill of Arkansas moves to recommit the bill H.R. 2543 to the Committee on Financial Services.

The material previously referred to by Mr. HILL is as follows:

Strike title I and insert the following:

TITLE I—PRICE STABILITY

SEC. 101. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the “Price Stability Act of 2022”.

SEC. 102. REMOVAL OF DUAL MANDATE.

Section 2A of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 225a) is amended by striking “maximum employment, stable prices,” and inserting “stable prices”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 2(b) of rule XIX, the previous question is ordered on the motion to recommit.

The question is on the motion to recommit.

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

Mr. HILL. Madam 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.

This is a 5-minute vote.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 202, nays 219, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 274]

YEAS—202

Aderholt Conway Green (TN)
 Allen Crawford Greene (GA)
 Amodei Crenshaw Griffith
 Arrington Curtis Grothman
 Babin Davidson Guthrie
 Bacon Davis, Rodney Harris
 Baird DesJarlais Harshbarger
 Balderson Diaz-Balart Hartzler
 Banks Donalds Hern
 Barr Duncan Herrera Beutler
 Bentz Dunn Hice (GA)
 Bergman Ellzey Higgins (LA)
 Bice (OK) Emmer Hill
 Biggs Estes Hinson
 Bilirakis Fallon Hollingsworth
 Bishop (NC) Feenstra Hudson
 Boebert Ferguson Huizenga
 Bost Fischbach Issa
 Brady Fitzgerald Jackson
 Brooks Fitzpatrick Jacobs (NY)
 Buchanan Fleischmann Johnson (LA)
 Buck Foxx Johnson (OH)
 Bucshon Franklin, C. Johnson (SD)
 Budd Scott Jordan
 Burchett Fulcher Joyce (OH)
 Burgess Gaetz Joyce (PA)
 Calvert Gallagher Katko
 Cammack Garbarino Keller
 Carey Garcia (CA) Kelly (MS)
 Carl Gibbs Kelly (PA)
 Carter (GA) Gimenez Kim (CA)
 Carter (TX) Gohmert Kinzinger
 Cawthorn Gonzales, Tony Kustoff
 Chabot Gonzalez (OH) LaHood
 Cheney Good (VA) LaMalfa
 Cline Gooden (TX) Latta
 Cloud Gosar LaTurner
 Clyde Granger Lesko
 Cole Graves (LA) Letlow
 Comer Graves (MO) Long

Aderholt	Duncan	Jackson
Allen	Dunn	Jacobs (NY)
Amodei	Ellzey	Johnson (LA)
Arrington	Emmer	Johnson (OH)
Babin	Estes	Johnson (SD)
Bacon	Fallon	Jordan
Baird	Feenstra	Joyce (OH)
Balderson	Ferguson	Joyce (PA)
Banks	Fischbach	Katko
Barr	Fitzgerald	Keller
Bentz	Fitzpatrick	Kelly (MS)
Bergman	Fleischmann	Kelly (PA)
Bice (OK)	Foxx	Kim (CA)
Biggs	Franklin, C.	Kinzinger
Bilirakis	Scott	Kustoff
Bishop (NC)	Fulcher	LaHood
Boebert	Gaetz	LaMalfa
Bost	Gallagher	Lamborn
Bourdeaux	Garbarino	Latta
Brady	Garcia (CA)	LaTurner
Brooks	Gibbs	Lesko
Buchanan	Gimenez	Letlow
Buck	Gohmert	Long
Bucshon	Golden	Loudermilk
Budd	Gonzales, Tony	Lucas
Burchett	Gonzalez (OH)	Luetkemeyer
Burgess	Good (VA)	Mace
Calvert	Gooden (TX)	Malliotakis
Cammack	Gosar	Mann
Carey	Granger	Massie
Carl	Graves (LA)	Mast
Carter (GA)	Graves (MO)	McCarthy
Carter (TX)	Green (TN)	McCaul
Cawthorn	Greene (GA)	McClain
Chabot	Griffith	McClintock
Cheney	Grothman	McHenry
Cline	Guthrie	McKinley
Cloud	Harris	Meijer
Clyde	Harshbarger	Meuser
Cole	Hartzler	Miller (WV)
Comer	Hern	Miller-Meeks
Conway	Herrera Beutler	Moolenaar
Crawford	Hice (GA)	Mooney
Crenshaw	Higgins (LA)	Moore (AL)
Curtis	Hill	Moore (UT)
Davidson	Hinson	Mullin
Davis, Rodney	Hollingsworth	Murphy (FL)
DesJarlais	Hudson	Murphy (NC)
Diaz-Balart	Huizenga	Nehls
Donalds	Issa	Newhouse

Norman	Scalise	Timmons
Oberholte	Schweikert	Turner
Owens	Scott, Austin	Upton
Palazzo	Sessions	Valadao
Palmer	Simpson	Van Drew
Pence	Smith (MO)	Van Duyne
Perry	Smith (NE)	Wagner
Pfluger	Smith (NJ)	Walberg
Posey	Smucker	Walorski
Reschenthaler	Spartz	Waltz
Rice (SC)	Stauber	Weber (TX)
Rodgers (WA)	Steel	Webster (FL)
Rogers (AL)	Stefanik	Wenstrup
Rogers (KY)	Steil	Westerman
Rose	Steube	Williams (TX)
Rosendale	Stewart	Wilson (SC)
Rouzer	Taylor	Wittman
Roy	Tenney	Womack
Rutherford	Thompson (PA)	
Salazar	Tiffany	

NOT VOTING—6

Armstrong	Guest	Miller (IL)
Casten	Herrell	Zeldin

□ 1554

Mr. GALLAGHER changed his vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the bill was passed.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “nay” on rollcall No. 270, “yea” on rollcall No. 271, “nay” on rollcall No. 272, “nay” on rollcall No. 273, “yea” on rollcall No. 274 and “nay” on rollcall No. 275.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Amodei	Johnson (TX)	Palazzo
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	(Fleischmann)
Brooks (Weber)	Kahele (Mrvan)	Peters (Jeffries)
(TX)	Katko (Moore)	Pingree
Bustos (Mrvan)	(UT)	(Wasserman)
Carter (TX)	Kelly (IL)	Schultz)
(Weber (TX))	(Neguse)	Price (NC)
Connolly (Beyer)	Lamb (Blunt)	(Manning)
Crist	Rochester)	Rice (SC)
(Wasserman)	Lawrence	(Meijer)
Schultz)	(Stevens)	Stanton
Davids (KS)	Lawson (FL)	(Huffman)
(Neguse)	(Wasserman)	Suozi (Beyer)
Davis, Danny K.	Schultz)	Taylor (Van
(Beyer)	Lowenthal	Duyne)
Evans (Beyer)	(Beyer)	Tenney
Gohmert (Weber)	Mace (Carter	(Jackson)
(TX)	(GA))	Titus (Pallone)
Gonzalez (OH)	McEachin	Walorski
(Meijer)	(Beyer)	(Bucshon)
Green (TN)	Moore (WI)	Waters (Takano)
(Fleischmann)	(Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Johnson (GA)	Newman (Beyer)	(Pallone)
(Manning)	O'Halleran	
	(Schrader)	

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 2107

Mr. GAETZ. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 2107.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BURDEAUX). The gentleman's request is accepted.

REMOVAL OF NAME OF MEMBER AS COSPONSOR OF H.R. 5344

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, I hereby remove my name as cosponsor of H.R. 5344.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman's request is accepted.

RISING COSTS ARE SIMPLY UNACCEPTABLE

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

Mr. LANGEVIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

Every day, I hear from Rhode Islanders rightly frustrated by the rising cost of everyday goods.

Exacerbated by Putin's invasion of Ukraine, grocery bills are climbing higher, gas costs more than \$5 per gallon, and tangled supply chains continue to fuel inflation.

The American people are being pushed to the breaking point. The status quo is simply unacceptable.

This bill will provide relief to Americans feeling the pain at the pump by boosting domestic biofuel production, and it will drive down costs at the grocery store.

Best of all, Democrats have worked hand-in-glove with our Republican colleagues to advance this bipartisan legislation out of committee and onto the House floor.

Madam Speaker, this legislation is a great step in the right direction, but we must do more. We must crack down on gas companies exploiting this crisis for profit.

Like President Biden suggested, we must work with oil companies to address supply and capacity shortages.

Finally, if we don't want to be back to this point ever again, we must accelerate our transition away from fossil fuels once and for all. The American people are counting on us.

□ 1600

GAS PRICES HAVE DOUBLED

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, gas prices have doubled under President Biden's failed anti-American energy policies. But I don't know which is worse, that the national average per gallon of gas is 5 bucks or that—in my home State of California, we would like to see 5 bucks once again. Prices are well over \$7, thanks to decades' worth of regulatory assault on American gas in California and now at the Washington level.

While the American people are struggling to keep up financially, the Secretary of Energy and the Secretary of Transportation tell them to go buy electric vehicles. If American families are struggling to afford these outrageous gas prices, what makes these bureaucrats think that they can afford a brand-new \$50,000 electric vehicle? Enough of this “let them eat cake” attitude.

These gas prices weren't caused by Russia's invasion of Ukraine. They were caused by regulatory assault on

our energy industry and domestic production being killed.

President Biden, take responsibility for your failed energy policies. Stand down from your war on American energy, and unleash American energy independence and help our people for a change.

CELEBRATING 10TH ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

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

Mr. CARDENAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the 10th anniversary of DACA, the program that has protected nearly 1 million inspiring young people and given them the opportunity to contribute to our great economy.

Dreamers are our family, friends, and neighbors. They are teachers, doctors and nurses, small business owners, servicemembers, and so much more.

They work hard and contribute to our great economy. They make America a better place for everyone. Yet, they face unspeakable hardships and witness the ugliness of anti-immigrant sentiments in our great country. But their resilience has shined through all of that.

Let me be clear. Today is an incredible milestone, but another 10 years without permanent protections and a pathway to citizenship is simply unjust. That is why I will continue to fight to give every single Dreamer that continues to live in our country permanency, because in America, we believe that when given that shot at the American Dream, anything is possible.

RECOGNIZING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, June is Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. Worldwide, there are an estimated 47 million people living with Alzheimer's and other dementias. Without a change, these numbers are expected to grow to 76 million by the year 2030.

Alzheimer's is the sixth leading cause of death in the United States and is the only leading cause of death that cannot be prevented, cured, or even slowed. Sadly, one in three seniors will die with the disease.

This disease took my mother's life.

Alzheimer's has a devastating impact on those who are diagnosed with the disease and their caregivers and loved ones. More than 16 million Americans provide unpaid care to family and friends living with Alzheimer's and other forms of dementia.

Compared with caregivers for people without dementia, twice as many caregivers for people with dementia indicate substantial emotional, financial, and physical stress.

Madam Speaker, the time to act is now. This month, let's wear purple and help raise awareness and advance Alzheimer's care.

SECURITY FOR ALL FEDERAL JUDGES

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

Mr. PAYNE. Madam Speaker, yesterday, I opposed the Supreme Court Police Parity Act.

I fully support expanded security for Supreme Court Justices and their families. I also firmly believe that those expanded protections must apply to all Federal judges and their families—that is right, all Federal judges and their families—who face similar threats with less protective resources.

The safety of our Federal judiciary is a very personal issue for New Jersey. Two years ago, the only child of U.S. District Judge Esther Salas was murdered by a man who had previously appeared before her court.

This bill was an opportunity to improve protections for all Federal judges. Sadly, the Senate abdicated its responsibility when it ignored calls for the inclusion of the Daniel Aderl Judicial Security and Privacy Act, introduced by my colleague MIKIE SHERRILL and Senator MENENDEZ, in this bill.

Democrats are committed, as is every member of the New Jersey delegation, to ensuring that all Federal judicial officials and their families are safe.

PAYING TRIBUTE TO THE HONORABLE GRAYDON K. KITCHENS, JR.

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

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of the Honorable Graydon K. Kitchens, Jr., a giant of a man and my former law partner and mentor.

Judges Kitchens' list of accomplishments is limitless. I could stand at this lectern for an hour listing off all of his accomplishments and barely scratch the surface.

He was a husband of 62 years; father of three; proud grandfather of six; varsity pitcher at LSU, our alma mater; U.S. Army lieutenant; judge; chief justice; deacon; and a man of deep, profound faith.

He provided wise counsel through troubling times to me and to so many countless others, and he is an irreplaceable senior statesman in the Louisiana Bar. I am among so many to consider him to be truly one of the greatest men we have ever known.

As the patriarch of his family, Judge Kitchens planted roots in north Louisiana that will flourish for centuries. Our community lost a towering char-

acter and a leader, and we are so much better for the time that we had when he was here.

Our prayers are with Roberta and the entire Kitchens family and all who loved him.

Rest in peace, Judge Kitchens. God bless.

SUPPORTING ALZHEIMER'S AND BRAIN AWARENESS MONTH

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

Ms. BARRAGÁN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Alzheimer's and Brain Awareness Month. I am wearing purple in support of the millions of Americans, including my mom, who are living with Alzheimer's disease.

The nearly 6 million people with Alzheimer's are our sisters, our brothers, our parents, our grandparents, and our neighbors—our fellow Americans. Many are suffering in silence because there is so much stigma around having Alzheimer's.

I want every patient, family member, and caregiver to know that you matter. Your quality of life matters. Know that you have a champion in Congress who knows how hard it is for family and caregivers.

That is why I will continue to push for more investments in Alzheimer's research and care and will continue to fight so CMS provides equitable access to promising Alzheimer's drugs.

Our fight against this devastating disease is nowhere near done.

REMEMBERING GUS MACHADO

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

Ms. SALAZAR. Madam Speaker, today, I rise to honor a titan of Miami, Mr. Gus Machado, who passed away last month.

Gus is remembered for his iconic leadership as a pioneering marketer and owner of car dealerships around Miami. Ford Motor Company recognized his leadership by honoring Mr. Machado with the President's Award in 2003, 2009, and 2010.

He was a founder of the United States-Cuba Democracy PAC, but his real legacy will be his heart of service. In 2008, he created the Gus Machado Family Foundation, and every school year, the foundation provides more than 400 children with backpacks full of school supplies. Another impressive example of his generosity was his \$5 million donation to St. Thomas University to establish a business school.

He was one of the best the Cuban-American exile community in Miami has produced. I am proud to stand on the floor of the United States House to pay tribute to Mr. Machado. His life was an example of faith, hard work, determination, family, friends, and a

good community. In other words, he was the best example of the American Dream.

Rest in peace.

DACA FALLS SHORT FOR DREAMERS

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

Mr. VARGAS. Madam Speaker, thousands of young people brought to the U.S. at a young age fought for and have benefited from DACA. This gave recipients and their families a little peace and resulted in economic gains for our country, but the program falls short of a pathway to citizenship.

DACA was a significant achievement for many immigrants, but it is by no means a substitute for fixing our broken immigration system.

Since its inception, DACA has been under attack by far-right politicians. The reality is that DACA has gone back and forth in the courts, leaving DACA recipients and DACA-eligible youth in a state of limbo. This continued legal threat leaves the lives of DACA recipients, DACA-eligible youth, and their families in uncertainty and dread.

Congress introduced and passed H.R. 6, the Dream and Promise Act, more than a year ago, but it is stuck in the Senate. We must end the filibuster and pass a real solution for the millions of people who call the U.S. home.

HONORING KATHY O'NAN

(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 honor the mayor of Mayfield, Kathy O'Nan, for all she has done for her community in the wake of last December's tornado damage.

In a nod to her recovery efforts, Mayor O'Nan was recently named Woman of the Year by the Mayfield-Graves County Chamber of Commerce. I can think of no one more deserving of this high honor.

When the storms hit, the mayor led by example in getting her community back on its feet. She was there for her citizens when they needed her the most, and she continues to work tirelessly to bring all parties together to rebuild the proud community of Mayfield.

A role model to many, she has embodied servant leadership during her time in office, a tenure largely defined by persevering through tragedy.

When the eyes of the world were on Mayfield, Kentucky, Mayor O'Nan stepped up to the plate and delivered the leadership and empathy that west Kentucky needed. I am proud to represent her in Congress, and I look forward to working with her as Graves County rebuilds.

CELEBRATING THE GOOD HOUND

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate Pride Month by recognizing an LGBTQ-owned local business, The Good Hound.

The Good Hound offers off-leash hikes, pet sitting, training, and socialization in my hometown of Newton. I first met owner Shannon Wood when my dog, Donut, joined the group of dogs he helps take care of every day. Every June, we look forward to seeing Donut and all her friends sport pride bandanas as they join Haley for jaunts around our neighborhood.

Pride Month is a time to celebrate the LGBTQ individuals we all know and love who are crucial parts of our communities, economy, and families. Congress must stand up and support small, LGBTQ-owned businesses across the country that serve our constituents every day. My family and Newton as a whole are better for the dedication, cheer, and openness Shannon brings to The Good Hound.

INFLATION

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I want to give a story to my good friends in the press corps because they always feel they have a shortage of interesting things in the paper. This concerns the excessive inflation we have under the current administration.

The current administration claims that inflation last year was 8.6 percent. I am going to focus on two different parts of that, one is 5.5 percent for housing and 16.1 percent for used cars.

I ask the press corps to call some local builders or builders anywhere around the country—builders, landlords, and assessors—and see if you can find anybody who thinks the cost of housing has only gone up by 5.5 percent in the past year. My goodness, the cost of interest by itself has almost doubled in that time. The cost of many parts of a house has gone up. There is no way that it is only 5.5 percent. I think if you look around and ask builders and Realtors, they will laugh at that number.

I would also ask you to call some car dealers around the country and see what they think about the idea that used cars have gone up 16.1 percent in the last year. They, as well, laugh at that. The number has to be significantly higher.

So there is a gift to my friends in the news business.

CELEBRATING JUNETEENTH

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, my family and I have celebrated

Juneteenth for decades, but this year marks only the second year that Juneteenth will be observed as a Federal holiday.

Some may wonder what is the significance of this day and why is national recognition long overdue and notable?

It matters, because as we celebrate Juneteenth—the emancipation of my enslaved ancestors—it is a truth-telling reminder of our Nation's history and founding, but also of what is possible.

When enslaved Black people and allies began the work of abolition, many considered the goal of freedom an improbable or impossible one, but because of their imaginations and sacrifice it did happen.

While we recognize that our fight for equity and justice continues today, on this day, we celebrate the Black family, our culture, our melanin, our resilience, our brilliance, and our joy. We affirm our humanity. We are more than hashtags, sobering statistics, deficits, disparities, and gaps. We are more than our labor, the resistance, and justice-seekers.

From the heart of Texas to kitchen tables in Roxbury, we celebrate the dedicated coalition of Black folks who organize to make this celebration a Federal holiday.

Black lives matter. Black healing matters. Black joy matters. Happy Juneteenth.

HONORING JEFFREY SHERWIN

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

Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Mayor Jeffrey Sherwin of the city of Northlake, Illinois for 25 years of service to that city.

Mayor Sherwin, a lifelong resident of Northlake and Leyden Eagle, has dedicated his life to public service.

Prior to becoming mayor in 1997, he served as trustee for Northlake Public Library and Northlake Fire Protection District.

As mayor, he has worked tirelessly to transform the community by putting education, housing, infrastructure, and protecting the environment at the forefront of his effort.

Mayor Sherwin built senior housing, established many new green and recreational spaces, and restored wetlands.

In celebration of 25 years of service, today, we thank Mayor Jeffrey Sherwin for his career of service.

HELP FEED OUR KIDS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. OMAR) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members

have 5 legislative days in which 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 gentlewoman from Minnesota?

There was no objection.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, we are on the brink of a hunger crisis, both here in the United States and around the globe. Right now, more than 38 million people, including 12 million children, are food insecure in the United States.

Food prices are expected to rise up to 7.5 percent this year, stretching already tight family budgets.

In my home State of Minnesota, dozens of hunger relief organizations are warning of the hungriest summer on record if the State doesn't convene a special session to combat hunger.

At the beginning of the pandemic, I passed the MEALS Act to let districts provide universal meals in the hope of preventing a massive hunger crisis. It worked. Over 30 million kids are now estimated to receive school meals.

In August 2020, when the waivers were on the verge of expiring, Representative PINGREE and I joined 119 of our colleagues in sending a letter to the Secretary of Agriculture urging him to extend the school meal waivers.

Throughout the pandemic, I sent three letters and worked tirelessly to ensure every child can eat. Though we were able to secure these critical waiver extensions, the uncertainty cost millions of families and school administrators to panic and stress.

Now, we find ourselves in a familiar place where at the end of this month—in just 15 days—millions of children are again at risk of going hungry as the school meal waivers are set to expire.

Let me be clear: We cannot let these lifesaving waivers lapse as the pandemic rages on. I am working with the Education and Labor Committee and leadership to ensure that our children are continuing to be fed.

But we can't stop there. We need permanent solutions. As a former community nutrition educator, childhood hunger is an issue I know all too well. That is why one of the first bills I introduced after I was sworn in was the Universal School Meals Program Act with Senators Sanders and Gillibrand.

My bill would provide free breakfast, lunch, and dinner to every student and eliminate school meal debt. No child in the wealthiest country in the world should experience food insecurity. We here in the United States must lead to end child hunger here at home and we must continue to lead to stop this global hunger crisis.

Every night up to 811 million people around the globe go to bed hungry. Of the 811 million, 276 million people are facing acute food insecurity and about 50 million people are facing what the U.N. World Food Programme describes as "emergency levels of hunger."

While the United States has provided \$2.6 billion to help other countries with

food shortages, we need other countries to step up and do their part. With 49 million people around the world on the verge of famine, we need to rally all leaders to increase the supply of food and fertilizers; support basic safety nets for those without food; and fund humanitarian operations to reduce famine and hunger.

We have to remember what got us to this point: Putin's illegal invasion of Ukraine has disrupted exports from two of the world's biggest wheat producers making wheat unaffordable and unattainable for millions.

Right now, India, Argentina, Australia, and Canada collectively have the power to make up for most of the wheat lost due to the war or the restrictions that are being created by some other countries. That is why we need countries around the world to step up and do their part to combat the wheat shortage, which is especially being felt in the Horn of Africa.

The U.N. has warned about the imminent "explosion of child deaths" due to food insecurity and malnutrition in the Horn of Africa. In Somalia, 29 percent of children are experiencing acute malnutrition. About 7 million livestock in Ethiopia, Kenya, and Somalia have died since last fall due to widespread drought.

This food crisis in the Horn of Africa and all parts of the globe will only get worse unless we take steps to stop this catastrophe from taking hold.

We have to act to address the nexus of inflation, war, and climate change. Now is the time to act.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. STANSBURY).

Ms. STANSBURY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to urge this body to pass urgent legislation to help feed our children.

If we do not act, millions of children across the United States and across New Mexico will lose access to vital school meals—breakfast and lunches that are helping to address an epidemic of food insecurity that is impacting every single corner of our State and our country.

Food insecurity has many faces. Like so many children from New Mexico, I was a school lunch kid. I qualified for 100 percent free and reduced-price lunch throughout my entire childhood. In fact, one in four children in New Mexico are facing food insecurity and hunger, and for many of these kids, school meals are the only reliable meal of the day.

In New Mexico food is the center of our cultures, of our families, of our ways of life, and yet, so many of our families are struggling every single day to put food on the table.

For every family food insecurity looks different. It may mean skipping meals, not being able to buy groceries every week, relying on school lunches in order to feed children, and getting help from a local food pantry and a local food bank.

In many cases, we know the pandemic has caused our families to struggle even more, made the situation worse, intensified food and hunger insecurity across our Nation, and that is why the work of this body here in Congress to expand funding for nutrition programs to extend these waivers and include school meals for every child in America is quite literally a lifeline for our families and for our children.

If Congress, and especially the Senate, do not act, millions of children across America will actually lose access to school meals that have carried them through the pandemic. This comes as our Nation is grappling with disruptions to supply chains, inflation, rising costs, and putting stresses on families across our country.

In exactly one month—days from now—our country will be facing a hunger cliff as Federal waivers for school meals are set to expire and children will lose access to 95 million meals across the country this summer.

I have worked on food and hunger issues across my entire public policy career. In New Mexico, we are working every day to reimagine our food systems, to lift up our State's diverse and crucial food and agriculture traditions and support our families who are struggling.

As a State legislator, I was deeply proud to partner with our Governor and my colleagues in the State house and hunger advocates and agricultural entities across the State to address food insecurity and to pass a bill to end school meal copays.

Here in Congress, I am proud to continue this work alongside antihunger champions like yourself, Madam Speaker, and as part of the Hunger Caucus led by Chairman MCGOVERN.

I am also proud to cosponsor H.R. 3115, the Universal School Meals Program Act, which would address this crisis permanently by providing three locally sourced meals a day to every school child in America.

The time to act is now. Our kids are counting on us. During the pandemic, Congress made a game-changing decision—to feed all children without barriers, without bureaucratic obstacles.

This is about the dignity and well-being of our families and meeting the most basic needs of our children.

We have the opportunity to chart a new path forward for our country. Will we decide to be a nation that lets our kids go hungry or will we decide to be a nation where no child should ever have to experience food insecurity again?

This is the choice facing this body, and this, Madam Speaker, is why we must extend school meals.

□ 1630

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS).

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding and her great work.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to address the hunger crisis in our communities and in our schools.

Millions of children will go hungry on June 30, just 2 weeks from now, if we fail to act. Let me say that again for anyone who may not have heard me. Millions of children will go hungry on June 30 if we do not act.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article from the Charlotte Observer outlining how the children in my district will be affected.

NO MORE FREE LUNCH FOR SOME CMS STUDENTS STARTING NEXT YEAR

(By Anna Maria Della Costa)

A program that has provided free meals to K-12 students in Charlotte-Mecklenburg Schools will stop at the end of this school year.

The U.S. Department of Agriculture's universally free school meals arose out of pandemic-era waivers that allowed all K-12 students to get school breakfast and lunch at no cost regardless of their family's income beginning in March 2020. Those waivers are set to expire June 30, despite school nutrition advocates urging Congress for an extension in the federal 2022 spending bill.

School meal programs will return to pre-pandemic procedures for the 2022-23 school year, which means free breakfast continues and lunch may not.

"I just want to remind everybody, it's the U.S. Department of Agriculture that this falls under, this is not the CMS Board of Education trying to give everybody a tough time on free and reduced lunch," Interim Superintendent Hugh Hattabaugh said during the board's meeting Tuesday. "We were hopeful that maybe the bill that was set forward would be approved, but it was not extended out."

IN CMS, BREAKFAST WILL STILL BE FREE FOR ALL STUDENTS

Cassie Fambro, a media relations specialist with CMS, told the Observer that breakfast will continue to be provided in all of the district's schools at no charge for the 2022-23 school year. For each of CMS' summer camps and programs, free breakfast and lunch also will be provided.

CMS will not raise lunch meal prices for 2022-23, keeping them at pre-pandemic rates for students. For pre-K students, the lunch meal price is \$2.50; K-8 students pay \$2.75 and 9-12 students pay \$3. The reduced price lunch meal is 40 cents.

PARENTS: FILL OUT THE PAPERWORK

Students attending some CMS schools will have to qualify for free or reduced-price lunch through direct certification, which could include families receiving food stamps, students who are homeless or foster children. Students can also receive free meals from an approved free or reduced-price meal benefit application.

Students not approved for free lunch will need to have cash or money on account to pay for lunch. Fambro said.

Applications will be available online or on paper beginning August 1.

"We're not going to let any child walk away without a meal," Hattabaugh said. "We need help from parents and the community to assist everybody."

Board member Margaret Marshall said it's concerning that the waiver is not going to be extended.

"We're going to have a lot of families who if they don't qualify and fill out paperwork are going to have some problems with food this year," Marshall said. "Make sure families fill out the paperwork so we can have

the funds to feed those students and they won't rack up meal debt which has to come due at some point. This is really important."

68 CMS SCHOOLS NOT AFFECTED

CMS has 68 schools that fall into the Community Eligibility Provision, an option for schools and districts in low-income areas. The program allows schools to serve meals at no charge to all enrolled students, and families do not have to fill out an application.

Hattabaugh said these schools will not be affected by the change in meal service.

"They will still have what they had during the pandemic," he said.

The following CMS schools are in the Community Eligibility Provision:

Albemarle Road Elementary, Albemarle Road Middle, Allenbrook Elementary, Ashley Park (K-8), Charles Parker Academic Center, Berryhill School, Briarwood Elementary, Bruns Avenue Elementary, Walter G. Byers School, Charlotte East Language Academy, Cochrane Collegiate Academy, Coulwood STEM Academy, David Cox Road Elementary, Devonshire Elementary, Druid Hills Academy, Eastway Middle, First Ward Creative Arts Academy, Garinger High, Greenway Park Elementary, Joseph W. Grier Academy, J.H. Gunn Elementary, Harding University High, Hickory Grove Elementary, Hidden Valley Elementary, Highland Renaissance Academy, Hornets Nest Elementary.

Idlewild Elementary, Martin Luther King, Jr. Middle, Lawrence Orr Elementary, Lebanon Road Elementary, Charlotte Mecklenburg Academy, Marie G. Davis (K-8), James Martin Middle, McClintock Middle, Merry Oaks International Academy, Montclair Elementary, Nations Ford Elementary, Newell Elementary, Oakdale Elementary, Oakhurst STEAM Elementary, Paw Creek Elementary, Pinewood Elementary, Piney Grove Elementary, Rama Road Elementary.

Ranson Middle, Reid Park Academy, Renaissance West STEAM Academy, Sedgefield Middle, Shamrock Gardens Elementary, Statesville Road Elementary, Sterling Elementary, Stoney Creek Elementary, Thomasboro Academy, Tuckaseegee Elementary, Turning Point Academy, University Meadows Elementary, University Park Creative Arts Elementary, Julius L. Chambers High, Villa Heights Elementary, West Charlotte High, West Mecklenburg High, Westerly Hills Academy, Whitewater Academy, Whitewater Middle, Wilson STEM Academy, Winding Springs Elementary, Windsor Park Elementary, Winterfield Elementary.

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, at the beginning of the pandemic, this body authorized waivers to help make it easier for schools to offer meals to kids, and we gave access to healthy, nutritious foods to 10 million more school-age children because finding reliable food sources became a problem.

In case my Republican friends need a reminder, President Trump signed that legislation into law. Even as the pandemic continues and food prices are on the rise, these waivers are set to expire at the end of the month.

As a 40-year educator, I know that hunger has been a crisis in our schools and our communities since long before the pandemic. That is also why when I came to Congress, I founded the Adams Hunger Initiative to help coordinate the response to the hunger crisis in my community, and why hunger has been one of my top priority issues in Congress.

In my home State of North Carolina, food insecurity has been a tragic fact

of life for our kids and our students. In fact, I just heard from members of the North Carolina PTA today about their ever-present concerns about food insecurity and how it will impact our students.

In 2018, 441,000 North Carolina children participated in SNAP, and 207,351 residents participated in the Women, Infants, and Children program, or WIC. In 2019, 92,010 students participated in the summer food service program. Almost 100,000 students needed help from their school, so they didn't go hungry—again, that was before the pandemic.

In Charlotte, the hunger crisis led at least 24 elementary, middle, and high schools in the Charlotte-Mecklenburg School District to open food pantries to serve students in need during summer breaks and the vacation.

For example, at Windsor Park Elementary in east Charlotte, members of the Windsor Park Neighborhood Association donated food to keep the shelves stocked for scores of food-insecure and housing-insecure children.

In west Charlotte, University Park Creative Arts School is restocked on a regular basis by Friendship Missionary Baptist Church, and thanks to local donors it has a refrigerator and a large freezer to offer diverse options for students and families. The need is real, and it is staring us in the face.

It is also important to note that these two schools, along with 66 other local schools that will fall into the Community Eligibility Provision, will still be able to offer meals and food to students at the same levels of service as the past 2 years.

However, approximately 114 of our district's schools are not eligible for that provision, meaning that access to summer nutrition will become a patchwork. When students return at the end of the summer, fewer students will get the meals that they need.

Our choice is clear: we can choose to act, or we can let millions of children go hungry. As always, I am standing with our students.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman OMAR and the Congressional Progressive Caucus for hosting this important Special Order hour tonight.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. MCGOVERN), who also chairs the Caucus on Hunger.

Mr. MCGOVERN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Minnesota, Congresswoman OMAR, for leading this Special Order hour, at such a critical time for our Nation's children.

Congresswoman OMAR has been a champion for expanding access to universal school meals and ending childhood hunger, and indeed, all hunger in this country and around the globe, and I recognize her for her leadership.

Madam Speaker, my two sisters are schoolteachers in the Worcester public school system in Massachusetts. They remind me all the time that school meals are as important to a child's ability to learn as a textbook or a

laptop. They wonder all the time why Congress, State governments, and the Federal Government don't get that.

They see children show up to school on Mondays hungry because they haven't eaten all weekend. It takes a while to get them the nutrition that they need so they can focus again. If you are hungry, you can't focus. If you can't focus, you can't learn. If you can't learn, you fall behind. It is that simple.

They also tell me that Fridays are a tough day because those same children come to them and ask if there is any food that they can take home, not just for them but for their families. I have heard heartbreaking story after heartbreaking story of children who are food insecure, who are hungry in this country.

If you ever meet a child or see a child who is hungry, it breaks your heart. It, quite frankly, angers me because we live in the richest country in the history of the world. Even before the pandemic, close to 40 million Americans didn't know where their next meal was going to come from.

I tell people all the time that hunger is a political condition. It is not a partisan condition. It shouldn't be a partisan condition. It is a political condition. By that I mean we have the food, we have the resources, we have the infrastructure, we have the knowledge of what we need to do. We have everything but the political will.

As has been pointed out here today, we are about to reach a hunger cliff at the end of June. Waivers are going to run out. Money is going to run out. If we don't do something, millions and millions of children will lose their school meals and will lose their summer meals as well.

During the pandemic, thankfully, schools received flexibility and funding to make sure their students got a healthy breakfast and lunch at school. This has been a lifeline for families and school districts facing rising costs and supply chain shortages.

We are coming to an end. All those safety measures that were put in place during the pandemic will expire. I think what we are coming to appreciate is that those safety measures should have been in place even if there wasn't a pandemic. We can't go back to the days when close to 13 million kids went to bed hungry every night in the country.

With the group of leaders who are here on the floor, members of the Progressive Caucus, as well as working with Speaker PELOSI, Chairman BOBBY SCOTT, Chairwoman ROSA DELAURIO, and working with Chairwoman STABENOW over in the Senate, we have been trying to figure out ways to extend the flexibility and funding needed to get healthy food to America's students.

I believe that we will get there. The amazing leadership of Speaker PELOSI will get us all together and we will find a way forward. We will avoid this hunger cliff.

Madam Speaker, I am a liberal Democrat. I serve in this Congress, both in the House and Senate, with many conservative Republicans, and I understand that not everybody agrees on everything here. For example, I want free universal school meals for every kid to be part of our educational policy, and I want it there forever. I commend States like California, Vermont, and Maine for taking a lead in their States. Their legislatures have passed universal meals for their students. I want Massachusetts to follow. I want every State to follow.

I get it. Not everybody shares my view. I also get that in order to get anything to the President's desk we are going to have to navigate through the Senate, which is always a challenge because in the Senate you need 60 votes to have a cup of coffee, never mind pass a piece of legislation.

We are going to have to figure out what it is we can get done in the next couple of weeks. There are some who don't want as big a package as others. There are some who are insisting on offsets. There are some who are insisting on other things. We have to figure it out. We are going to have figure it out because our kids are important. They are 100 percent of our future, and we ought to treat them as such.

Finally, one last point. America used to think big about solving problems like hunger. In 1969, we held the first and only White House Conference on Hunger. It was the same year we landed on the moon. That conference led to a major expansion of the school lunch program and the creation of the Women, Infants, and Children program, among other things.

As a proud member of the Progressive Caucus, I have long thought that it is time for America to think big once again to solve problems like hunger. To think big the way we used to, not to manage problems, but to solve them. We have the food to end child hunger in America.

Again, it is a matter of building the political will. I personally believe that food ought to be a fundamental human right here in this country and around the world. I say this because I am thrilled that President Biden recently announced that he will host a White House Conference on Hunger, Nutrition, and Health to bring together experts from across the country, and all agencies within the Federal Government to create a plan, not to manage hunger in America, to end hunger in America.

It will be an opportunity for people with lived experiences to have their voices heard because sometimes we make decisions here and we don't talk to the people who are most affected by what we are trying to do.

We have the opportunity to prevent child hunger and to make universal free school meals a reality. This is our moment to make it happen. In the lead-up to this conference, Members of Congress have the opportunity to host

listening sessions to hear directly from local educators and families who benefit from free school meals.

I encourage my colleagues to host these sessions and to transmit their findings to the White House so that the recommendations that come out of this conference reflect the power of school meals to change lives and improve nutrition among children.

Madam Speaker, I encourage not just progressive Members, I encourage moderate Members, and conservative Members to do listening sessions in their districts to hear about not only the extent of this problem, which is a costly problem, but hear about potential solutions so we can end hunger. If you are interested, you can reach out to my office, and we can point you in the right direction.

Madam Speaker, I, again, thank Congresswoman OMAR for bringing us together at such a critical moment. There are some problems that we are faced with that I don't know what the solution is, but hunger is not one of them. This is a solvable problem that we can solve in a matter of a few years if we put our minds to it and if we work together.

Let's do something big, something bold, something that will reflect the goodness of the people of this country and make a real difference. It may be an example for the rest of the world.

□ 1645

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman for his remarks.

The chairman is right that when we invest in our children, who are assets to our future, it pays dividends. It is important that we recognize that it shouldn't be a partisan issue to want to feed the bellies of our children before we try to feed their brains. We know from study after study that kids do better in school when they are fed. When they have adequate nutrition, they show up to school much more ready to learn, and their behavior in itself is much different.

Example after example, we found, as we looked into this, schoolwide free meals improve math performance in districts where relatively few students qualify under the income-based programs Brookings found. A study found that students in schools with universal school meals fare better on tests than their peers without these meals. That is according to Maxwell School of Citizenship and Public Affairs at Syracuse University.

The nutrition quality of school meals has improved. Students with universal school meal programs are being offered more fruits, vegetables, and whole grains. That means that they are getting the nutrients that will help with their development. New York City, where there have been universal school meals, a study found that regardless of poverty status, the universal school meals program improved students' perception of bullying, fighting, and safety at their schools.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. BOWMAN).

Mr. BOWMAN. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman OMAR for continuing to be a champion on this issue, and I thank the Congresswoman for being here this evening.

As it was said before, we are the wealthiest nation on Earth. We should be able to feed every child and every person, period, point-blank. We have the resources—financial, natural, and intellectual—to help feed every child on the planet. The fact that we are choosing not to do so is a policy choice. It is not a choice based on a lack of resources.

As we focus on school lunches and children in our schools, we often talk about education. The conversation that has been happening over the last several decades is a conversation that focuses on something called the achievement gap.

We often look at the achievement gap through the lens of race. We say that Black and Latino students are outperformed by their White and Asian counterparts. What we don't often talk about is the achievement gap through the lens of economic distress and poverty.

What we know is children who suffer from poverty and live in poverty do more poorly in school than their middle-class and upper-middle-class counterparts. Poverty is obviously related to food insecurity and hunger.

Poverty and everything that comes with it is a complex trauma. Hunger is also a complex trauma. Children will not thrive in a school setting if we continue to allow them to be hungry.

This is not just about their academic performance. This is about their physical development. This is also about their social and emotional development as well. It is also about their mental health both in school and out of school.

This is not something that is only confined to what happens in our schools. We have to look at, consider, and think about what happens in their post-graduation environment. Children who are hungry and children who suffer from the complex traumas that I mentioned before will have lower or less positive health and economic outcomes over the course of their lives.

It is our duty and responsibility as the United States Government, with the power of the purse and the power of the intellectual and natural resources, to make sure we have preschool lunches in our schools and to make sure our children are fed.

I also want to mention a few other components that take place in schools that we don't often talk about as it relates to school lunches, poverty, and hunger. When we look at the school-to-prison pipeline, when we look at school suspensions, and when we look at school expulsions, when we look at these things, when we look at who is placed in special education, these are children who come from challenging

circumstances rooted in poverty and also rooted in hunger and the trauma in their communities and in their homes.

Again, it is our duty and responsibility to get this done. To use language used by some of my more conservative colleagues, this is a national security issue because if we are not feeding our children, then we are not educating our children. If we are not educating our children, then we do not have a healthy society and we do not have a healthy democracy.

The well-being of our children is a pillar of our country going forward, and in order for them to receive the nourishment and education that they need, we must make sure they are fed and fed well and are not food insecure.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY).

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative OMAR for bringing us together this afternoon and for her steadfast leadership on the issue of hunger and food insecurity, an issue that she has been leading on since she was in the Minnesota State Legislature. We are grateful for her shining a light consistently on this and the need for us to address rising hunger and its impact on communities here and around the globe.

Madam Speaker, across Massachusetts' Seventh District and across the Nation, families are facing unprecedented levels of food insecurity. I am reminded of the words of Coretta Scott King, who said: "Starving a child is violence. Neglecting schoolchildren is violence."

We can, in fact, do something about this violence.

I am picking up on the words of Congressman MCGOVERN, a global champion in the fight against hunger and food insecurity, when he said that we should stop managing problems and solve them. This is a solvable problem.

A recent survey by the Greater Boston Food Bank found that nearly 2 million adults across the Commonwealth struggled to get enough to eat last year. It was Black, Latinx, and LGBTQ people and their families with children who were most likely to struggle.

No one should know hunger. No parent should know the heartache of putting their baby to sleep with an empty belly.

Our communities were already in the midst of a hunger crisis, one that we knew would be exacerbated by the pandemic. In response, my congressional colleagues and I acted to provide critical resources and flexibilities to support schools and communities in serving and meeting the needs of families and children in need. Schools across the Nation were able to keep school meal programs afloat while providing free meals to an additional 10 million students each day.

Boston Public Schools, the largest school district in my district, was able to serve over 330,000 students with free

breakfasts and lunches across all city neighborhoods.

For many families, these meals were the only reliable source of nutrition throughout the day. They were a saving grace and a lifeline for families across my district and across the Nation, Madam Speaker.

In less than 2 weeks, these school lunch flexibilities are set to expire. We must act with urgency to avoid a hunger cliff that will fall hardest on our most vulnerable children. We must act to avoid a scenario where children will face a loss of 95 million meals over the course of the summer alone.

States and districts have been sounding the alarm. It was these calls from the community that prompted my colleagues, Representatives MCGOVERN, LEE, and me, to send an urgent letter to House and Senate leaders, 1 month ago now, urging them to do everything in their power to extend these essential lifelines. Senate Minority Leader MCCONNELL continues to block efforts to get this done. It is shameful yet unsurprising.

In one of the richest nations in the world, it is an absolute disgrace that millions of children struggle with food insecurity every single day. The clock is running out, and we have a mandate and a duty to get this done.

To my Republican colleagues, I urge them to join us in getting this done. Children, families, and school district leaders across the Nation simply cannot wait.

Once again, I thank my sister in service, Representative OMAR, for her steadfast leadership.

Ms. OMAR. Madam Speaker, I thank Representative PRESSLEY for her remarks.

Madam Speaker, I want for us to zoom out a little bit when we think about the kind of poverty that exists in our country.

There are 37.2 million Americans who live in poverty. As I have stated earlier, we have 38 million people, including 12 million children, who are food insecure.

One in 25 households in the U.S. experience very low food security, where families regularly skip meals because they can't afford more food.

One in 15 U.S. seniors faces hunger. That is 5.2 million seniors who are food insecure.

Madam Speaker, 2.1 million households living in rural communities face hunger. Americans living in rural communities face hunger at higher rates than those in urban areas, and BIPOC communities are especially hard-hit by hunger. Rural communities make up to 63 percent of the counties in the U.S. and 91 percent of counties with the highest rates of overall food insecurity.

In 2019, SNAP and school meals lifted 3.2 million people out of poverty.

If we just look at Minnesota alone, 432,000 people are facing hunger, and of them, 147,000 are children. That is 1 in 13 people and 1 in 9 children who face hunger in Minnesota.

In April 2022, Minnesotans made 463,000 visits to their food shelves. That is a 70 percent increase compared to April 2021.

Since January 2022, food shelf visits statewide have increased by 39 percent.

Madam Speaker, 2021 was the first year since 2014 that Minnesota didn't see an annual increase in food shelf visits. The reason for that, Madam Speaker, is because of the pandemic relief programs.

We heard from so many people from across Minnesota and across the country, and I would just like to share some of their stories on how some of these pandemic relief programs have helped them.

Eric from Willmar, Minnesota, recently shared how he struggles to provide for himself and his siblings. Right before the pandemic, his mother passed away, and he became the legal guardian of his younger siblings. Concerned about providing enough food to eat, he was grateful for the meals his siblings could get at school because of the MEALS Act.

Amber, a mother from Duluth, Minnesota, shared how putting four kids through school has been a financial struggle. Both she and her husband work, making just above the threshold to qualify for the traditional free lunches. When my bill was passed out of the House, the MEALS Act allowed schools to provide school meals to all students, including Amber's four children, and she called it "godsent and a blessing."

Yesterday, we got an email from a school food service director for a group of 16 school districts in upstate central New York.

She wrote: "It has been an incredibly difficult few years for school food service with supply chain issues, rising costs of food, virtue, hybrid schedules, different serving models, labor shortages . . . but it has been a joy and privilege to see the direct impact of serving breakfast and lunch for free to all students."

"Our program has grown from serving about 1,500 breakfasts and 5,600 lunches pre-pandemic to 3,500 breakfasts and 7,500 lunches per day this school year. The stigma of free meals is gone since we are serving all students on a truly even playing field."

She went on to say: "The end of the child nutrition waivers, most significantly the one that allows free meals for all students, will be a crushing blow to our program, our students, and our communities."

□ 1700

"Families have come to appreciate and rely on the free meals," she says. "We anticipate spending the next year having to have hard conversations with upset parents who are struggling to pay their account balances."

"The argument that students who really need it can apply for free and reduced meals just doesn't cut it. There is a huge gap between the income

guidelines and truly being able to cover all of life's expenses, including school meals.

"Our school nutrition program, students, and community thrived with universal free meals. Without them, the future looks dim."

That is why we are urgently asking Minority Leader MITCH MCCONNELL to not allow for these waivers to lapse. It is detrimental for us not to act and do the right thing.

We also heard from a registered dietitian and the food service director for a small rural school district. She wrote: "Our enrollment pre-K-12 is only 660 students, but well over half of them live in food-insecure homes. Prior to the waivers, in February of 2020, only 20 percent of our youngest students in pre-K-6 ate breakfast with us.

"They would come in from the buses separate from their peers, singled out as 'free breakfast kids' while the others waited to start their day. . . . The last 2½ years has seen a sea change for our tiny school district.

"Due to free meals for all, we are able to transition our students starting in September 2020 to a Breakfast in the Classroom Program. Every day, they have a choice of the hot, nutritious meal of the day or cereal, both options served with fruit and ice-cold milk.

"Students take menus home at the beginning of the month, decide on which days they would like what meals. Teachers work collaboratively with the food service department to preorder breakfast daily. . . . Our breakfast participation has skyrocketed from 20 percent in February 2020 to 85 percent as of Friday of last week. Our numbers continue to grow. And even better? Eating breakfast together as a school community has become part of the woven fabric of our little district. . . . What will September look like without these waivers?" she asks.

"It will be heartbreaking. . . . With the inflation we have seen reflected in grocery store prices, some of these students may well come to school with empty bellies. We will lose the sense of community, solidarity, and unity we have built over these past 2½ years. The stigma of 'needing help' will be stamped upon the kids who are lucky enough to qualify while many others slip through the cracks, unlucky to have adults in their households who make enough to disqualify them from receiving benefits but poor enough to struggle as they balance \$5 per gallon gasoline, food, and increased rent.

"We are literally begging all of you in Congress to please help us keep our kids fed. So many of them depend upon us. As we know, it is so hard to learn on an empty stomach."

I will end with where I started. This is a crisis. As I have always said, as someone who has lived in a war-engulfed country, who has lived in a refugee camp, who has experienced what severe hunger can look like for a child who doesn't have access to food, it is

baffling to me that we see some of these stories coming out of communities here in the United States, in one of the wealthiest countries in the world.

If we truly care about our children, and if we truly care about building a future generation that is ready to lead in our country, we have to care about getting them educated and ready. You cannot feed the brains of children if their bellies are not fed. We must act, and we must act now.

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

INFLATION AND OUR ECONOMY

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

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, Democrats have enjoyed unilateral control of Washington for the last 17 months, and we all know the results: record inflation, soaring gas prices, unhinged crime in our cities, and uninhibited illegal immigration.

In the midst of all this, what issue gets their prime-time billing? Very simple. They are displaying their seething hatred for Donald Trump and anybody who ever supported him.

For nearly a year now, they have invested thousands of hours, millions upon millions of taxpayer dollars. They have interviewed hundreds and hundreds of witnesses. They compiled 100,000 pages of documents. They hired lawyers, consultants, and even big network TV producers. And all for what?

They are doing this production, this rehash, this replay of a moment-by-moment dissection of a terrible event that took place here a year and a half ago. They thought the American people would be riveted by their production, but the ratings have proven what everybody already knew. The American people have lived through all this, and they have moved on.

In fact, we thought it was interesting, according to one report, CBS' decision to bump a "Young Sheldon" rerun from its prime-time slot in favor of Thursday's January 6 hearing resulted in fewer viewers than the identical time slot the prior week. Reruns of "Young Sheldon" played better than the January 6 drama.

The American people have moved on. They have moved on to caring about things that actually affect their daily lives.

Look, the criminals involved in January 6 are being prosecuted. Lessons about Capitol security were learned here. We will never know the true facts about all that, of course, because Speaker PELOSI's partisan committee will not look into why we didn't have adequate security here.

But the Senate produced a bipartisan report on all these events a year ago. The truth is the Democrats could hire an army of broadcast media executives and specialists to try to boost their ratings, but it will not change the simple facts.

The election this fall is going to be about three things. It is going to be about inflation, immigration, and incompetence, the staggering levels of incompetence that the Democrats in charge of Washington put on display here every single day.

If the Democrats want to reverse their political fortunes, they need to reverse their policies. But we all know, of course, they refuse to do that. So hardworking American families will continue, very sadly, to struggle as our country becomes less safe, less secure, and less stable by the hour.

I am grateful to my colleagues for joining me tonight to discuss the myriad crises facing our country. They are all taking a back seat to the Democrats' reality show, but we think it is important to point out to the American people the realities here, the true realities of what is happening and what we are facing as a country, these unprecedented challenges.

Madam Speaker, I yield first to the fine gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER).

Mr. KELLER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana for hosting this Special Order.

Madam Speaker, this week, President Biden visited Philadelphia and attempted to spin a narrative fully detached from the reality Americans face every day. Speaking to a group of labor unions, the President professed to be advancing a pro-worker agenda. He proclaimed, "We are changing people's lives."

Well, he is right, only not for the better. Inflation is at a 40-year high, costing Pennsylvania families an additional \$517 more per month.

Gas prices are above \$5 a gallon, forcing families to spend \$2,800 more at the pump than last year.

Pennsylvanians are smart, hard-working people. They know that they are not better off today than they were just 18 short months ago.

While the President continues to blame Republicans in Congress for the economic disaster he has created, the fact remains that Democrats control the House, the Senate, and the White House. If the President truly cared about stopping skyrocketing inflation, he would stop calling for more out-of-control spending, stop shutting down American energy production, and stop blaming others for his failures.

It is time that he has faith in the American people and gets out of the way.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend. That is so well said. Just get out of the way. Let the American people do it.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to another great gentleman from the State of Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Louisiana (Mr. JOHNSON) for his leadership.

Madam Speaker, President Biden's plan to tame escalating inflation passes the buck to Americans once again. Costs for driving to work, feeding families, housing, and utilities are under unimaginable increases and strain on my constituents, thanks to the disastrous policies.

President Biden largely puts responsibility on the Federal Reserve to stabilize inflation. However, the shocks that the Biden administration has brought to our economy are out of the Fed's control. Sure, they play a role here. A majority of the inflation, however, has been caused by the assault on domestic energy, excessive government spending, and incentivizing a lack of American productivity.

President Biden then wonders why we don't embrace his plan to reduce inflation by tapping the emergency energy reserves. Somehow that is going to lower gas prices. Well, it hasn't. It is a bad idea, and it hasn't made a dent.

Shockingly, against every fundamental of economics that we are even taught back in the seventh grade, Madam Speaker, he wants to raise taxes on American businesses, which, according to the Biden administration, will reduce the deficit, slow inflation, and create jobs. I am surprised it wouldn't put food on the table as well.

Americans, in their opinion, need relief right now, not in some far off, far out way. Small businesses are rightfully concerned about surviving after having to absorb huge new costs since the Biden administration came into office. And this is factual. The data is there, and the graphs are there.

Bidenomics has greatly worsened what was and is a challenging time for our economy. But digging a hole much deeper than necessary and exacerbating pain for Americans who are struggling to cope with one economic hardship after another is certainly not the answer.

There is no doubt the Federal Reserve's delay in acting did make inflation worse, and America's overreliance on goods made in China also contributed to inflation, along with the COVID supply chain setbacks. However, we would be nowhere near the position we are in now if it were not for the terrible Bidenomics that they put in place. These reckless actions have turned economic challenges into a full-blown, as some describe, hurricane of an economic crisis.

These policies have spearheaded an assault, an absolute assault, on our domestic energy—this is unforgivable—over the last 18 months.

President Biden canceled the Keystone pipeline. That was just the start

of it. He halted issuance of other pipeline and drilling permits—far less were issued than were ever issued during the Obama years; mitigated LNG exports; threatened domestic banks and investment companies against investing in carbon fuels.

Our domestic energy went from a state of independence and surplus to a high level of dependency. After these Biden administration policies kicked in, the U.S. became at the mercy, once again, to the energy players like OPEC and Russia, meaning any geopolitical disruption would spike gas prices, leading to cascades of issues for Americans, consumers, and businesses.

Madam Speaker, we have seen this before. This is a rerun. This is why U.S. domestic energy independence is so crucial.

However, the administration, and many in this Chamber, have a “go green now or else” mentality, which has generated \$5-plus gasoline prices and caused natural gas to go so far high up in price that fertilizer costs have caused farmers' prices and costs to skyrocket. Of course, food on everybody's table soon followed.

□ 1715

Biden and the Democrats—and it is far too many Democrats, frankly—in Congress continued spending trillions which exacerbated inflation, leading to predictable inflation where even Democrats such as Larry Summers, an economist, stated, look out for a rapid rise and a sustained inflationary period.

Many others said, Oh, no, Larry's wrong this time. Well, Larry was not wrong. Now, with the threat of tax increases and a laundry list of every regulatory antigrowth measure imaginable, this woke, go-broke economy is going to continue to fail American families.

Madam Speaker, we must encourage responsible domestic energy production. We must lower taxes to rev up our economy. The United States must have the most competitive economy in the world, job creation machine and perhaps a job creation tax credit.

We must support production of items made in America. We must do our very best to buy American, and we need to pivot from this awful path that we continue to be on.

I will wrap up by simply stating that we must recognize where the problem started, what the problem is, have a plan for solutions, and that means having the courage to change course now.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you for that expertise. You sound like a former Secretary of Revenue or something from the State of Pennsylvania.

As you pointed out, my friend, you don't have to be an economist to figure this out. Every freshman economics student knows if you keep printing money and dropping it into the economy, you are going to cause inflation. This is not rocket science, but you know what? The President of the

United States apparently doesn't get it.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted next to yield to the good doctor from Texas (Mr. BABIN).

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Louisiana, the gentleman, for his leadership. I really appreciate it.

If Joe Biden valued America, if he valued our freedoms, our prosperity, our success, our influence on the world, he would value the security of our economy. He would value a balanced budget, and he would value your financial future.

But, of course, we know he doesn't. Your financial stability gets in the way of his agenda. The money that Biden asked for and that Democrats in this Chamber incessantly spend is not only just random dollars and cents from who knows where, but also money that you have earned from your hard work, money that should have been used to ensure you and your family see a stable and prosperous future.

Plain and simple, these antigrowth and pro-tax policies have us hurtling toward a recession and will destroy your ability to build the future that you want to have. It is no wonder that consumer confidence and the Democrats' agenda is reeling nationwide.

Last month, inflation increased at the quickest pace since December of 1981—8.6 percent over the past year. Those aren't just words. Inflation means that everything costs you more.

Inflation this high, rising that quickly, means that American families are now facing the very harsh reality that they could be on the brink of financial ruin which many respected economists now are fearing that the wheels may come off of our economy.

Commonsense solutions could have prevented most of this. Reckless socialist spending sparked the fire and paying workers to stay home fanned that flame.

The irresponsible policies coming out of the Democrat party spurred on a manufacturing and supply chain disaster like we have never seen before in our history—all for the sake of a woke socialist agenda.

I hope that they are proud of themselves. I hope that they are proud that they have caused energy prices to rise by more than 30 percent. I hope they are proud that gasoline is \$5 a gallon across the country, nearly a 100 percent increase.

I hope they are proud that we still don't have baby formula on the shelves and that people cannot put food on the table because prices are way up, over 12 percent now, and that wages are shrinking, and that fewer women and minorities are in the workforce, and that the stock market is volatile and has lost trillions of Americans' wealth. I could go on and on.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle are responsible for this, and it is time that they take responsibility and shift course before it is too late. Our very future hangs in the balance.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, that was so well said.

Dr. Babin, that woke socialist policy has brought some real pain to the American people. I think they have had enough.

Mr. BABIN. Amen.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. November can't get here soon enough.

Madam Speaker, I am happy to yield next to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. GROTHMAN).

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, we will talk a little bit about the border again and what I think is kind of an inappropriate way to handle some recent events that happened down there.

First of all, we have got to give the backdrop, right. We are all familiar with the most recent statistics available. For April of 2022, 184,000 people crossed in the country that were not appropriately vetted and we do not particularly want here.

A year ago, that 184,000 number was at 66,000. Two years ago, under the prior administration, it was 5,700. So, first of all, the American public should kind of let that sink in: 5,700 a month to 66,000 a month to 184,000 a month. Horrific.

Part of monitoring the border is showing respect for the Border Patrol. I have been on the border eight times over the last 2 years, and I think they are the most professional of law enforcement agencies I have run into.

Last September, when potential Haitian immigrants tried to cross the Rio Grande and get up on shore, agents on horses used reins to protect the Haitians from the horses' hooves.

Every agent I have talked to felt this was an entirely appropriate way to protect the Haitians who were trying to come into our country. But President Biden, the new expert on horsemanship, felt that the new immigrants were strapped, whatever that meant, and said that they would have to pay.

Now, the Department of Homeland Security claims that the Border Patrol agents should be disciplined for protecting the Haitians from the horses' hooves.

Since then, President Biden's budget, the last budget which he signed, the last appropriation bill, provided millions of dollars for monitoring and disciplining the Border Patrol.

This is kind of a mental problem we have seen before in Washington. It reminds me when we had record murders in our big cities, and Washington responded by saying that we had to pass a bill making it easier to sue the police. In other words, all these people dying, records in the last 2 years in Milwaukee—which is adjacent to my district, and they think the problem is the police.

In any event, that is what the Biden administration did. They claimed the police were racist, making it easier to sue police. Obviously, that is inappropriate.

The other thing I think is inappropriate is we hired a new Border Patrol head who used to be a police chief. When he was a police chief, he wouldn't cooperate with ICE when they had problems with people who they were trying to deport or people who were here illegally.

I mean, can you imagine what type of effect that has on the Border Patrol agents when the person who is supposed to be the boss doesn't seem to be on board with the underlying mission?

I believe he also had a problem in which he was accused of some harassment in his prior job. Now, we have got to hire some more Border Patrol agents here, and the way to do it is to not have the administration treat these brave, honorable people inappropriately.

So I call upon Congress to try to weigh in with the President. If you have taken a trip down to the border, tell him how great the Border Patrol agents are.

Make that an attractive job because we need top-flight agents to save our country from people who don't belong here and also to save our country from the sea of fentanyl that is flowing in here and that apparently is not something that concerns Congress a whole lot.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you, my friend. That border crisis continues to grow by the hour. Right now as we speak, there is the largest caravan we think that has ever been spotted currently headed to our southern border.

It was incentivized, of course, by the Biden administration's open border agenda. The caravan has as many as maybe 15,000 people, most from Venezuela, Nicaragua, and Cuba.

Here is the key point. One of the migrants is reported to have told FOX News that he hopes President Biden will keep his amnesty promise to the caravan. You know, that is exactly why people from more than 160 countries have been flooding over that border since right after Joe Biden took office.

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Thank you, Vice Chairman JOHNSON, for yielding valuable time out of your very busy schedule. Madam Speaker, thank you, ma'am.

The Biden administration's response to the baby formula crisis has been a joke. President Biden has tried to deflect the blame by claiming he wasn't aware of the severity of the shortage until April of 2022.

To me, Madam Speaker, Mr. Chairman, this claim just shows he either has no idea about what is going on in his administration or in this country, or he is a liar, or maybe both.

The FDA received a whistleblower's report, as you well know, in October of 2021 about the sanitation issues at the Abbott manufacturing plant, but they

didn't do anything about it. They didn't have any intention to do anything about it.

They only closed the facility in February of 2022 when two precious little babies died after drinking formula from that plant, and to me, that is criminal.

Unfortunately, the Biden administration's signature move, as always, is see a problem, don't do anything, then blame others when things go wrong.

I always remember the words of Harry Truman, "The buck stops here." This President has repeated those, and he has yet to follow his own advice, and I believe things have certainly gone wrong.

The out-of-stock rate for baby formula was recently 70 percent across our great country—70 percent. This means that parents across this Nation are going to be unable to feed their little ones.

This disproportionately affects our low-income families because folks with money generally are going to find something. They are going to find it on the internet, find a friend or somewhere else.

Of course, House Democrats' solution was to give \$28 million to a bloated bureaucracy at the FDA to address the shortage. But, of course, \$23 million of it was for staff salaries and the administration.

Of course, the bill that passed that was bipartisan cleared up some of the bureaucracy, but that was completely ignored by the media.

It is mainly because the media, by and large, except for a few exceptions, is totally in the tank for this administration. They have so much invested in him that they can't stand to see him fail, which he is—horribly.

I believe throwing money at a problem is not going to make it go away. You need a plan to go with it. You need to cut some of this red tape and bureaucracy. It gets in the way of enacting real solutions.

We still likely won't see any formula hitting the shelves until mid-July—mid-July. I think that is unacceptable, Mr. Chairman. We need to feed our babies today.

Mr. Chairman, thank you for your leadership, and as you have told me many times when I was a freshman, that when you are sitting at the table, there will be time enough for counting when the dealing is done. You, sir, are the gambler.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. And you have got to know when to fold.

Madam Speaker, Tennessee is going so well, I may as well yield to another good friend, another gentleman from the State of Tennessee (Mr. ROSE), one that is even more reputable than the last speaker.

Mr. ROSE. So true. Thank you, Vice Chairman JOHNSON. I appreciate that.

Madam Speaker, the average cost of a gallon of gas in this country just passed \$5 per gallon for the very first time. I repeat: The average cost of a

gallon of gas in this country just passed \$5 per gallon for the very first time.

I would like to remind Americans, especially those on the other side of the aisle who may not be affected because they drive electric vehicles, that prices at the pump started to go up well before Vladimir Putin's disgraceful invasion of Ukraine.

In fact, they started climbing shortly after President Biden took office. It is not a coincidence. It is not an unintended consequence. It was the President's intended outcome.

The President doesn't beat around the bush on the topic of fossil fuels. On the campaign trail, he pledged to get rid of them. I would say he is well on his way to keeping that promise.

Remember, this country was a net exporter of oil. Now we are stuck hoping the President has a good meeting with the Crown Prince of Saudi Arabia, the same country he called a pariah, one that we hope results in them producing more oil and, hopefully, lowering global prices.

This administration has taken many steps to make it next to impossible to expand drilling here at home. We all remember how quickly the President killed the Keystone XL pipeline with no regard for the impact that would have on those jobs or how dependent it would make us on foreign oil suppliers.

This administration has also proposed more than \$80 billion in tax increases on energy producers in the first two budget cycles since being in office.

□ 1730

We know the war in Ukraine has impacted fuel prices, but we Republicans argue that we didn't have to be reliant on foreign countries. If we just used the oil we have here at home, we probably could have kept prices down. Now, we are asking OPEC to produce more. It makes no sense.

The President calls this moment an incredible transition. I see nothing incredible about it. In fact, the only transition I see is the American people going from being able to provide for their families to being stuck at home because of record inflation and gas prices that have more than doubled.

We are not going to go from oil to electric consumption overnight. The grid isn't ready for an all-electric future. We should pursue an all-of-the-above approach that includes oil. The Tennessee Valley Authority uses 39 percent nuclear, 19 percent coal, 26 percent natural gas, 11 percent hydro, and 3 percent wind and solar to power millions of homes across the Tennessee valley. That is how you make sure you are not just energy independent, but you are energy dominant.

The answer isn't raiding our Strategic Petroleum Reserve. The answer certainly isn't relying on foreign countries for supply. The answer is tapping into the resources with which our Nation happens to be abundantly blessed.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend is correct. That en-

ergy crisis haunts every American. We see no end in sight because the White House will not reverse its policies.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. BILIRAKIS).

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to discuss the misguided priorities of this Chamber.

At a time when Americans are facing extreme hardship—grappling with the highest rates of inflation in more than 40 years; \$5 per gallon, at least, gas; workforce and food shortages; and unprecedented crime and illegal border crossings—House Democrats continue to ignore urgent matters and, instead, engage in deflection.

For example, the majority scheduled three irrelevant bills for consideration on the House floor.

The first allocated \$1.3 billion in annual mandatory spending, Madam Speaker, for a new regulatory agency to protect endangered species. This is the type of tone-deaf policy proposals that show Democrats are out of touch with the American people, unfortunately.

The second bill brought up for consideration targets the Federal Reserve at a crucial time. The Federal Reserve is supposed to be an independent, non-political, agency tasked with managing our Nation's monetary policy, yet House Democrats want to divert the Fed's attention away from addressing an impending recession and instead impose its woke agenda. Out of touch, Madam Speaker.

This truly defies common sense, in my opinion. Inflation hurts all Americans, regardless of race, and turning the Federal Reserve into a social justice warrior will only serve to compound the hurt for everyone, unfortunately, Madam Speaker.

The third measure brought to the floor this week is more deflection. In essence, it adds more costs to U.S. producers. That is no way to do it. This will only serve to increase the cost of doing business. Those increased costs will get passed along to the consumer, like you and me.

Another attempted distraction is the sham January 6 hearings hosted during prime-time TV in a gross display of partisan gamesmanship. These are not fact checking.

It is no secret I voted against the creation of this panel. It was clear from the onset that Democrat leaders had no interest in an open and unbiased review of what occurred that day when they denied all Republican-named nominees to the panel.

Any doubt that this would be anything more than a bogus, made-for-TV drama was put to rest when footage surfaced that the committee was relying on teleprompters, and when ratings weren't good, they canceled or postponed hearings. My goodness.

Madam Speaker, I will not be distracted from the real problems facing American families. I will keep fighting to do the right thing by my constitu-

ents. If House Democrats had any sense of urgency, they would put aside the political charade and join me and my Republican colleagues to get the hard stuff done.

Time is of the essence. The American people cannot wait any longer.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend said it well. He is right, time is of the essence. Every day that we belabor and continue these radical leftist policies, the American people feel more and more pain.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to my good friend from Georgia (Mr. CLYDE).

Mr. CLYDE. Madam Speaker, I thank Vice Chairman JOHNSON for hosting this Special Order tonight and for allowing us to highlight the various crises that are affecting our Nation today.

Last week, inflation hit a whopping 8.6 percent, the highest since 1981, and gas prices have soared to \$5 a gallon nationwide for the first time in history. In fact, just last week, for the first time in my life, I paid more than \$100 just to fill up the gas tank of my pickup truck. As the good Speaker knows, if our own home State had not temporarily suspended the gas tax in Georgia, it would have been \$110 to fill up my pickup truck.

Consumer confidence has plunged to a record low, and I don't blame them. Gas, groceries, utilities, common goods, they are all going up. Month after month, the sticker shock continues to burden American workers and families, with no end in sight.

Yet President Biden comically claims he is, and I quote, changing people's lives. Well, I think he really is, but it is not changing for the better. Dare I say the President's policies are actually ruining people's lives, destroying the middle class, and dismantling our economy. Our Nation is in full buyer's remorse.

The American people are increasingly fearful of a recession. What are the Democrats here in Congress doing about it right now? As of late, their focus has been prime time political hearings, aimed at smearing President Trump and his supporters, as well as infringing on Americans' constitutional right to keep and bear arms.

Not to mention, earlier this afternoon, the Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy of the Committee on Oversight and Reform held our very first hearing in 2022. The subject? Investigating tick and flea collars. I just can't make this stuff up. It was not Jimmy Carter-era inflation. It didn't make the cut.

And then we have the news reports from this morning that suggest some of my Democrat colleagues are focused on instituting gender-neutral bathrooms throughout Capitol Hill.

What in the world is going on? I can assure my Democrat colleagues that my constituents in Georgia's Ninth District are far more concerned about putting food on the table and filling their gas tanks than any of the liberal nonsense that this body is so fixated on.

Democrats' severely misguided priorities are a disgrace, but maybe they are actually intended to be a distraction because tackling inflation head-on would require Democrats and President Biden to face the undeniable reality that their Big Government, socialist agenda caused this mess in the first place.

The American people deserve better, period. Congress must refocus its attention on implementing effective solutions in order to get our economy and our country back on track, just like it was under President Trump's leadership.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, my friend from Georgia made a great summary of the crisis that we are in. I thank him for bringing that.

Madam Speaker, I yield next to the gentlewoman from Tennessee (Mrs. HARSHBARGER), my dear friend, and the third speaker from the good State of Tennessee, can't have enough of those Vols.

Mrs. HARSHBARGER. Madam Speaker, I had a lot of problems to choose from tonight, but I rise today to talk about the border crisis.

I remind the American people that our national security is still in jeopardy as our southern border remains wide open. Since Joe Biden took office, over 2.6 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at the southern border.

Because of President Biden's failed open border policies, more drugs have been smuggled into our neighborhoods than ever before. CBP estimates that nearly 5,300 pounds of deadly fentanyl analogues have been apprehended, and that is enough to kill 2.4 billion people. I don't know of a person that I talk to or that I see that hasn't been touched by the loss of somebody concerning overdoses.

As a pharmacist, I know this all too well, that the illegal fentanyl analogues flowing through Joe's open border have caused unthinkable harm by poisoning our communities.

According to the Metro Public Health Department in Nashville last year, 74 percent of overdose-related toxicology reports detected fatal fentanyl analogues.

Wondering how all that fentanyl is getting into a State like mine? I am not even a border State.

It is no coincidence that Border Patrol agents reported a 1,066 percent increase in fentanyl seizures at just one stretch of the U.S.-Mexico border last year.

The influx of dangerous, illegal drugs is making its way through all our neighborhoods, and this is no longer a geographically tied tragedy. As I said before, Tennessee isn't a border State, but we are all border States. The Biden administration's failure has had deadly consequences, and my home State has not been immune.

As I stand here today, the largest caravan of people intending to illegally reside in the United States is heading

to our southern border. Word has gotten around that Joe Biden is soft on crime and that he has opened his arms and our border to anyone and everyone.

This caravan could total up to 15,000 people, and that far outnumbers our Border Patrol agents who are already struggling to protect our borders. These thousands are just crumbs compared to the millions who have entered our country illegally in the last year.

I have been to the border more times now in my first term in the House of Representatives than Joe Biden has in nearly half a century in public service. What I saw there at both Eagle Pass and the Rio Grande Valley Sector was heartbreaking and infuriating.

I had the opportunity to speak with our Border Patrol agents who just want to do their job and keep our Nation safe, but they are struggling under the conditions this administration has boxed them into. They don't have enough resources, manpower, or support to turn away the hordes of invaders that come through the border every single day, and the illicit and illegal criminals that are coming, the got-aways, we don't know who they are, where they came from, or where they are going. That is of even more concern.

In fact, they have been encouraged to help transport these individuals to every corner of the Nation without a way of knowing who they are or where they are going. What we do know is who is paying for all this, and that is a simple answer. It is the American taxpayer.

This year, Secretary Mayorkas admitted that Americans are out \$72 million just from President Biden's order to halt the border wall construction. We are paying not to build the border wall. Plainly speaking, the American people are being charged to ensure they are less safe. This crisis greatly benefits the cartels and gravely threatens Americans.

Every State is a border State as Joe Biden's border crisis damages our national security. This crisis has gone on long enough. Americans deserve better, and they deserve a closed border.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I have another colleague or two on the way. How much time is remaining on the clock in this Special Order?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman has 21 minutes remaining.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Thank you so much, Madam Speaker. I will read a quote here that is very familiar to everyone now because it has been repeated over and over in the last several days. It is from CHUCK SCHUMER. Of course, he is the Democrat leader on the Senate side. He stood on the steps of the United States Supreme Court, and he exclaimed to a crowd, to their applause, and to all the television cameras, what is now a quote that lives in infamy, "I want to tell you, Gorsuch; I want to tell you, Kavanaugh: You have released the whirlwind, and you will

pay the price. You won't know what hit you if you go forward with these awful decisions."

□ 1745

The leader of the Democrats in the Senate stood on the steps of the United States Supreme Court and threatened the Justices by name.

Now, what is happening? What is happening now? Well, people are heeding that advice. There was a leaked opinion, an unprecedented, terribly tragic event there that will harm the institution permanently, the Supreme Court. Some clerk, we suspect—I think it is one of the liberal law clerks for one of the liberal Justices, the three Justices on that Court committed to that ideology. Somebody leaked the draft opinion, and it has caused a whirlwind.

All of these protesters are criminals. They are not really protesters. They are criminals because this is blatantly against the black letter of the Federal law. 18 U.S.C. 1507 openly makes this a crime. You can't protest at the home of a judge to try to influence their opinion. Yet, that is exactly what is happening.

As we speak right now, there are liberal activists on the lawns of the Justices of the Supreme Court, the conservative Justices.

Do you know what? Their lives are in danger because we now know, just a few days ago, a would-be assassin was apprehended on the lawn of Justice Kavanaugh. He was home with his wife and his two young daughters.

This is a dangerous thing, and this is what is wrought when so-called leaders tell the American people to get in the faces of their political opponents, to release the whirlwind, you won't know what hit you, and all the rest. That is what is happening right now.

What are Republicans doing about it? What is Congress doing about it? Nothing at all. The Democrat majority won't even acknowledge that this is a problem. In fact, on this floor last night, we had 27 progressives, 27 of the Democrats in this House, vote against a simple bill, a measure that would provide security and protection for the innocent children of these Justices. They voted against that. It is unbelievable.

People back home ask me, my constituents, say: What are they thinking? What in the world is going on? Do they want people to be harmed?

Look, I think the motive is that they want to send a message to the radical left that we like you violating the law. We want you on the lawns of conservative judges. We want you to try to intimidate them into changing their opinions because they may overturn Roe, or they may interpret the Constitution in a way that the radical left disagrees with.

This is a tinderbox. This is a dangerous time in the country. The so-called leaders here are encouraging and inflaming this. Heaven forbid if someone actually gets hurt.

We filed a resolution here within a few days of that leak last month. Forty-five Members joined me in that resolution. We called upon the Department of Justice to enforce 18 U.S.C. 1507, to enforce the law that makes it a crime to picket or parade to influence a judge. Do you know what? Crickets. The Department of Justice hasn't done anything.

Can you imagine if a threat was made to one of the liberal Justices? Can you imagine the outcry? The mainstream media and the Democrats here, the radical left, they would be demanding action. But if it is a conservative judge, hey, fair game, apparently. It is open season on conservative judges. That is what we have now.

We also filed, last month, the Leaker Accountability Act that would make it a crime to knowingly share confidential information from the Supreme Court. I authored that legislation. I think it ought to be punishable by a fine or up to 5 years imprisonment.

We have to send a message. This behavior, the leak, the violence that has ensued because of it, is unacceptable. The idea, again, that our colleagues would vote against protection for the children of these judges is, to me, unconscionable and an unforgivable vote.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA), my good friend.

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from Louisiana for leading these important topics here.

There is such a broad range of things we can be talking about, but one of the key issues that finally we got action on was the issue with the crazy radicals that have illegally protested outside of the Supreme Court Justices' homes, threatening them, going so far as even implicating that they are going to have an assassination attempt on a Supreme Court Justice.

What kind of system of government will we have if they have to worry about whether they are going to be assaulted or even killed over doing their job?

After weeks of twiddling their thumbs as this violence escalated, finally, we were able to pass the Supreme Court Police Parity Act.

Meanwhile, inflation rates have skyrocketed for months, and prices on everything are going up dramatically because of supply chain issues that could be fixed if the administration and this Congress were focused on the American people instead of pie-in-the-sky things like the Green New Deal or others.

We have seen little action from the left on these issues. It looks like we will be too busy to bring to the floor these solutions that we have been working on in the Committee on Agriculture and others. Instead, we get the soap opera, complete with prime time and production from ABC News executives, otherwise known as the January 6th Select Committee. Select what?

The hearings are being broadcasted in prime time, although the ratings are

actually going in the toilet for that, as reruns from other programs are outstripping them, including the TV show called "Young Sheldon," which is actually kind of entertaining, I guess. What it really shows is that viewers would rather watch paint dry than watch a bunch of lawmakers using teleprompters in their made-for-TV drama.

We didn't need a whole partisan production when BENNIE THOMPSON objected to the 2004 Presidential election, and we had a Senator join in on that, to bring that to a vote. I guess that all is different when it is a Republican coming in.

We need to look into the security failures of the day, on January 6, and ask the real questions that need to be asked. The select committee is, instead, doctoring evidence, texts, and other things to make it look like a one-sided deal. If we had balance on the committee, we would actually be getting to ask the real questions and get down to real solutions.

With many reviews conducted of the security vulnerabilities in the Capitol, we have a lot to do in order to make it more secure and something that people can have confidence in, in the process we are supposed to have here, including on that day, January 6, when we were supposed to constitutionally complete our work, though I had colleagues saying: "Are we going to actually go back in there and complete it?" Yes, we have to do our job. We have those duties on January 6 following each Presidential election.

Is it politics or is it solutions? Soaring gas prices; baby formula shortages, for crying out loud; sky-high inflation; rising crime rates; illegal aliens flooding across our border.

The only thing the Dems really want to run on is bashing President Trump. Well, he is not President anymore. Even though he is living rent-free inside their heads, we need to move on to something else, getting the work done, the job done, for the American people, who are suffering right now because of the policies and the inattention to the details that would help them.

Let's get to work on the real things.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend for faithfully coming to this floor and speaking to his constituents and the American people about these very serious issues that face us as a country. His voice is an important one.

I am grateful to him and our many colleagues for joining us tonight to discuss all of these crises facing our country that are taking a back seat to the Democrat reality show and the most radical set of domestic and foreign policies that America has ever seen.

As we close, I remind everybody—we heard it last night—the President exclaimed in his now infamous speech, he said: "We are changing people's lives." You saw that?

Mr. LAMALFA. Yes.

Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana. There is zero doubt about that, Mr. President. Lives are being devastated under your policies.

I will just say this, as we conclude: November cannot get here soon enough.

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

RECOGNIZING CHILDREN'S WEEK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from California (Ms. JACOBS) for 30 minutes.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I am proud to be here during Children's Week, alongside a number of my colleagues, to elevate the ongoing need to invest in and support kids.

This year, Children's Week comes at a time when we are facing critically important policy decisions that could lift millions of kids out of poverty. Over the last 2 years, Congress made the most significant investment in kids in decades. Legislation passed during the pandemic, including the expanded and improved child tax credit, which I was proud to for vote in the American Rescue Plan, increased the share of Federal spending on children by nearly 50 percent.

But as emergency measures expire, children are experiencing a backslide. More than 3 million children have been pushed back into poverty since the expiration of the child tax credit. More than 6 million children are poised to lose Medicaid or CHIP coverage when the public health emergency is revoked. Thousands of school meal providers could be forced to shut down if child nutrition waivers expire at the end of this month, leaving millions of kids without healthy meals this summer.

The expiration of these provisions comes at a time when children are navigating incredible challenges, including an epidemic of gun violence, a wave of anti-LGBTQ-plus legislation, and a mental health crisis. These examples serve as a reminder that every issue is a kids issue.

As a member of the Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, ending child poverty has been one of my top priorities. Children are currently the poorest demographic group in the United States, and our child poverty rate remains shockingly high compared to our economic peers. Even in some of our

wealthiest States, like California, which I am proud to represent, and in some of our wealthiest areas, like my district in San Diego, more than 40 percent of kids were in families experiencing poverty before the pandemic.

America's kids deserve better, and the good news is that we know what works. The expanded child tax credit showed how much progress we can make when families have the cash they need to make ends meet. Child poverty fell by nearly 30 percent, and families overwhelmingly used these funds to pay for food and other basic needs.

Since the start of the pandemic, the number of kids receiving vital health coverage has soared, and over 10 million more students have received free school lunches, saving families from completing complicated applications that can isolate children from their peers.

There is so much more to do to support children and their families, including expanding access to affordable, accessible childcare. I am proud to be leading a letter, alongside Representatives Bonamici, Castro, Houlahan, Himes, and McEachin, in support of including childcare in any future reconciliation package.

As a country, we also need a clear national goal to reduce child poverty, and we need data to inform our decisions and make sure no child is falling through the cracks. That is why I am proud to be an original cosponsor of the Child Poverty Reduction Act and why I was proud to lead a letter, alongside Congresswoman DELBENE and Congresswoman JAYAPAL, calling for funding in the 2023 appropriations bill to improve our measures on child poverty and family material hardship.

Investing in children isn't just the right thing to do to give kids and families a strong start. It is also the fiscally responsible thing to do.

Child poverty costs our economy up to \$1.1 trillion a year in lost economic output, increased healthcare spending, and more. The investments we make in kids pay off across a lifetime.

A study from Harvard's Opportunity Insights found that the investments we make in kids consistently have the highest returns. For every \$1 we invest in high-quality early childhood education, we save \$6 down the road.

While some of my colleagues might say we can't afford to invest in kids, the fact of the matter is, we can't afford not to. The case for prioritizing kids is so strong, and I look forward to working with my colleagues not just this week but every week to improve outcomes for kids and build a better future.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. FOSTER).

Mr. FOSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to speak as a father and a new and excited grandfather to advocate for a country that is dedicated to helping all of its children thrive.

As a scientist, I recognize that one of the most important issues our children

face is the fragility of children's brain development. Early brain development in children lays the foundation for their success in adulthood. During the first few years of life, millions of new neural connections are formed every second. It is during this time that the brain is the most flexible but also the most vulnerable to the environment around it.

Polluted environments, chronic stress, extreme poverty, or repeated abuse are toxic for brain development, and this has a lasting negative impact on a child's success in life.

It is important to continue research on the impact of children's environment on early brain development and then to take action to provide early intervention services for children whose brain development is at risk.

In fact, as Representative JACOBS mentioned, early childhood intervention has one of the highest returns on investment of any investment that our country can make.

Although my grandson is growing up in a supportive, loving, and hopefully chemically nontoxic environment, I recognize that many children in the United States are not. But I remain hopeful that we will continue to combat the challenges that all of our children face and continue to provide them with the best future possible.

Ms. JACOBS of California. Madam Speaker, I congratulate the gentleman on the birth of his grandchild.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, it is very meaningful that we are holding this special order today in honor of the First Focus Children's 4th Annual Children's Week.

I would like to thank Congresswoman Sara Jacobs for leading today's effort, which serves as a reminder that we must always be mindful of the needs of our nation's children in all our efforts.

As a mother and grandmother, I am intimately invested in First Focus Children's invaluable work to bring awareness and attention to the needs of our nation's children, and I applaud recognition provided by the 4th annual Children's Week.

This week, we celebrate the successes made in the fight to improve the lives of children across the country and lament the many heavy burdens still weighing on the shoulders of our youth.

I have been fighting on Capitol Hill for the rights and needs of children and families for over 25 years.

Why are we still fighting for so many of the same things we were fighting for in 1995?

Why in one of the richest countries in the world are children still going to bed hungry? Why are families begging for affordable childcare? Why are mothers and fathers choosing between making rent and keeping the lights on?

I speak to you today with a heart full of grief, anger, and still unrelenting hope.

Hope, because what are our children if not the promise of a better tomorrow—if we can only be watchful stewards of today?

Frederick Douglas once said that "it is easier to build strong children, than to repair broken men."

As the founding Chairperson of the Congressional Children's Caucus, I overwhelmingly urge Congress—let us work together in bipartisan action. Let us build strong children.

When passing the American Rescue Plan, Congress demonstrated its commitment to keeping children fed, cared for, and supported.

The bill provided direct housing assistance and nutrition assistance for 40 million Americans, expanded access to safe and reliable childcare and affordable health care, extended unemployment insurance so that 18 million American workers could pay their bills, and supported 27 million children with an expanded Child Tax Credit.

As a direct result of this legislation, 7.8 million children were prevented from falling into poverty.

Importantly, the American Rescue Plan made the provision of safe and affordable childcare a priority.

At the age of 5 most American children are ushered into schools where they and their families will be provided with community and supports.

And yet children under 5, who have as many if not more needs than their older counterparts, have no such universal resources available to them.

How is a caregiver expected to work to provide for their family if they have a young one at home?

Each of us, whether a parent or not, has a stake in the success of child care in this country.

High-quality, accessible, affordable childcare will allow our early learning system to provide opportunities for self-reliance, agency, and personal growth for millions of caregivers—ultimately leading to the success of our children and our national economy.

I had the pleasure of congratulating a class of exemplary high school graduates in Texas over the weekend.

Before receiving their accolades, regalia, and diplomas, these young scholars had to overcome many obstacles—obstacles that many of my fellow Congressmen did not face in our childhoods.

I implore us today to absorb the impact of the First Focus Children's 4th Annual Children's Week.

Let us remember the core of our responsibility to our nation, to create and preserve a future in which our country's children can flourish.

□ 1800

THE PGA TOUR

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

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, it is always good to be here in a nice empty Chamber, the definition of debate here in the people's House. But such is the way of our current process of debate.

I always try to remind the American people that as they are no doubt all gathered around their living rooms watching C-SPAN, sitting around talking about the issues of the day that there are two Members of the House of Representatives here, and that this is somehow what debate looks like.

We just passed an inauspicious milestone last week in which we had the 6-year anniversary of not having offered an amendment on the floor of the House of Representatives in open debate. Not one Member of the House of Representatives for the last 6 years has been able to go down to the desk and offer an amendment to change a piece of legislation. That is not what the American people think we do. They think we actually sit down here and offer an amendment and we debate and go through stuff, but that never happens. I think that really is kind of endemic of the problem why people are so frustrated with this town, but I think there is something deeper going on in our country, something deeper that merits focus.

As the Marquis de Lafayette has famously said something along the lines of America is great because America is good. I believe that. But I am increasingly curious if all Americans do. We have a cultural problem in this country. We should be honest. We have been kind of fat and happy for a while. Robust economy, generally peaceful and secure communities over the last several decades, low interest rates, housing.

But now the chickens seem to be coming home to roost. Interest rates are rising. National debt is skyrocketing. Inflation is off the charts. Food prices are up. Home prices are up. Gas prices are at \$5 a gallon and rising. Crime is rising in our communities, big cities in particular but across the country. Fentanyl is pouring in. RECORD deaths. Opioid poisonings and overdoses. Wide open borders. The cartels have control of our borders. The price of goods and services are crushing American families. That is the reality of what we are facing right now.

And I talk about those things a lot, and there is something that has been on my mind this week. This week for a lot of fathers is Father's Day. This week for fans of college baseball is the week of the College World Series. I am a big fan of college baseball, as is my son. I brought him up here to see the University of Virginia play in 2014 and again in 2015. It is next week. We have got the University of Texas, my law school alma mater, Texas A&M University, and six other schools playing in the College World Series.

But my pure sports love is golf. I was a not very good walk-on at the University of Virginia. Had I been better, then I wouldn't be relegated to this Chamber. I would be out and about making money playing the tour. But alas, here I am as a Member of Congress, and I am going to use floor time on the House of Representatives to talk about the PGA Tour, something I never really thought that I would do. It never really seems to rise to the level of something you would talk about in the people's House.

But here is the problem: Today, we have a few American players on the PGA Tour that are bolting for enor-

mous, guaranteed checks by the Saudi Arabian bankrolled LIV Golf league. Now, that catches my attention because it gets to the heart of something that is wrong in this country. Those individuals are doing themselves, their reputations, their chosen sport, and the American communities in which they have previously allegedly invested, a very deep disservice in the process. The PGA Tour is absolutely right to sanction them for it.

This week is the week of the United States Open Championship. It is at The Country Club in Brookline, Massachusetts. That is particularly noteworthy for golf fans because it is the site of an epic story of a young, American man, Francis Ouimet, who was able to win the United States Open unexpectedly back in, I think, 1913—I'm pulling that from my memory—over a century ago. It was the site of the epic comeback of the American Ryder Cup team in 1999 when University of Texas Longhorn, Justin Leonard, sunk a 40-foot putt on the 17th hole. It is a historic venue right outside of Boston, a historic American city deeply rooted in our history.

And yet, there is a cloud hanging over the United States Open this week. And that cloud is the greed and the absurd self-absorbed nature of a handful of the PGA Tour's elites who are willing to sell their athletic soul, their professional soul to a Saudi Arabian league for their shekels. And it is absolutely an abomination.

Thankfully, most of the best players in the world are proudly and loudly holding firm, players like Rory McIlroy, Jordan Spieth, Justin Thomas, to name a few. But this issue is bigger than just a few players or a mere competition within the game of golf that some want to dismiss it as.

The LIV Golf league, as I said, is beholden to the Saudis and helping them whitewash their global reputation and history of human rights abuses and supporting terrorists, the very terrorists that attacked America 21 years ago.

The Saudi golf league is bad for professional golf for a host of reasons, from the Saudi's human rights abuses to the gouging of Americans on gas. The Saudis are not our friends. LIV is ignoring Saudi Arabia's connections to the national tragedy of 9/11 or the many other grave human rights abuses that the country has faced over the years, and it is disappointing to witness.

Handing tens of millions of dollars to professional golfers like Bryson DeChambeau, Dustin Johnson, and Phil Mickelson who can look the other way, ignore the questions all for their personal enrichment. What does that say about who we are?

Let's talk about the PGA Tour for a second. Total charitable dollars from the PGA Tour and its tournaments have totaled \$3.37 billion for thousands of charities across this country in most States across the Union. \$3.37 billion.

Let me stop for a second for those who don't follow golf and say, Why are you talking about golf on the floor of the House?

There are dozens of PGA Tour events across this country. There is one in the district I represent in central Texas, the Valero Texas Open. The Valero Texas Open is the sixth oldest professional golf tournament worldwide, including the majors, the third oldest on the PGA Tour not counting the majors, and the longest tournament held in the same city, the hundredth year in 2022.

Their charitable giving is one of the leaders in the clubhouse on the PGA Tour with \$209 million in total and a record \$22 million from the 2022 tournament. That is 209 million charitable dollars flowing in through the Valero Texas Open into the communities I represent. So many good things come out of that.

Now, let's talk a little bit about the guys that are bolting for the deep pockets of the Saudi Arabians. Phil Mickelson, famously six-time major winner. \$133,772,000 in career earnings on the PGA Tour. Dustin Johnson, \$107.5 million. Sergio Garcia, \$66 million. Bryson DeChambeau, \$35 million. Tiger Woods, \$186 million.

Now, let me stop. Tiger said no. Tiger was offered, I have heard, upwards of a billion dollars, certainly something like \$750 million to attach his brand and go join this so-called LIV Golf league, and he said no so far. That is the right thing to do. How many of us would have turned down \$750 million or a billion dollars? How many of us would have turned that down? So far Tiger has turned that down, and he should be thanked for that.

Rory McIlroy has had \$106 million of earnings on the tour. Jordan Spieth has had \$75.8 million of winnings on the tour. They have all said no. But not Phil, not Dustin, not Sergio, not Bryson, not a handful of others who have all said, I am going to go sell my soul for \$200 million. In the case of Phil Mickelson, \$200 million of guaranteed money that came from the Saudi Arabians.

How can we condone a league funded by the same people who orchestrated the 9/11 attacks, murdered journalists, promote anti-Semitism, and stage mass executions?

I had family who had to work in Saudi Arabia; one in the State Department, one in oil and gas. They had to be careful about whether they had a Bible with them. They had to be careful about what they said, how they acted. My female family members had to be careful about where they were, what they were wearing, what they were doing.

And now you have the 9/11 Families United that have spoken out against this LIV Golf league due to Saudi Arabia's role in training and financing the 9/11 hijackers, 15 of whom were citizens of Saudi Arabia. It feels like a betrayal, the national chair of the 9/11 Families United said. My husband, who

died in the 9/11 attacks, was a scratch golfer. He was a Phil Mickelson fan. He even tried to be a pro before he worked on Wall Street. My youngest is the captain of his golf team. Our family understands the integrity that the sport requires, but these guys are not interested in any of that. And that is the story.

For those that are watching this or this clip, if you are watching this, if you are a golf fan, you have lived and breathed watching these majors over the last several decades. Phil Mickelson is about my age. When he was playing golf out in Arizona I was at the University of Virginia. We overlapped a couple years. He was good. I was terrible. Here I am. But I have been watching him his whole career as a fan. I have some friends who have been on tour. I have friends that are in the golf industry. But I am watching Phil Mickelson. We all cheered when he finally won the Masters in 2004. We cheered again when he won again in 2006, and again when he won in, I think, 2010. Then when he won the PGA Championship last year we thought, Oh my gosh, he won this over the age of 50. That is extraordinary. He is going to be able to sail off into the sunset and go out and get the adulation he deserves and carry golf forward.

Then over the last year he and all these others say, You know what, no, that is not good enough. The whole purpose of the PGA Tour is a meritocracy. You go out and earn it. Nobody gives you anything. It is a great American sport because no one gives you anything.

□ 1815

You walk out on the course, you tee it up, and you better your peers, and for that you win the purse. It is what draws people to the sport. An individual alone standing on the course, standing on a green with thousands of people watching, millions on TV, with a club in their hand and one ball and they have to execute.

What does Mickelson do? What does Sergio do? What does Bryson do? They sell their reputations. They sell their soul for Saudi blood money, the very money, the same wealth funds that are being used to challenge our national security and our well-being.

This isn't competition, as some say. What are you afraid of? This is another tour competing with the PGA tour. Okay. Then go prove an economic model and go out and compete, but don't go sell your soul to someone buying it.

The Saudi Golf League is exhibition golf. As many say, the PGA tour is for people who want to earn their success in the game of golf and compete against the best. Importantly, as I said—there is an old adage: Dance with the one who brung ya.

The PGA tour goes back a century. The game of golf is moving from the aristocracy of the gentlemen's amateur ranks to the world of the mid-20th cen-

tury with Ben Hogan, a Texan; Byron Nelson, a Texan; and Sam Snead from Virginia, and they built a tour.

They literally followed the sun: tournaments in California, tournaments in Florida, Texas, the South, they move up and they play up the East Coast. They follow the sun—it is a tour—and they made peanuts. They did it for the love of the game. They did it building a league. They came out in the sixties—Arnie's Army—Arnold Palmer and Jack Nicklaus, and they built this tour up to what I just said, \$3.37 billion in charitable giving.

In communities across the country—the Valero Texas Open, which I represent. All of the great spots around this country: Pebble Beach, Riviera, Colonial in Fort Worth. These are integral in our communities. These guys just walk away. Whatever. I don't care about building up the next generation. I don't care about what this sport means. I don't care about the fact that the PGA tour has to compete against the NFL, the Major League Baseball, the NBA, NHL, all the other forms of entertainment, college football, college basketball.

No. No. I want to look out for me. I want to look out for myself. I am going to go take \$200 million in guaranteed money—or \$120 million in guaranteed money, if you are Dustin Johnson, \$20 to \$30 million for Ian Poulter, and \$100 million if you are Bryson DeChambeau.

Getting guaranteed money so you can go play golf with not the best—with money that came from Saudi Arabia, the purpose of which is to target and disrupt the PGA tour, and nothing more. It is an absolute embarrassment.

As I said before, as I sit here on the floor of the House, why am I spending time on this? First of all, I have great passion for it as a personal matter. I have devoted a lot of my life to this sport. I love it. I teach my kid this sport. It is a sport based on honor. It is a sport based on integrity.

That is why things like The First Tee program are valuable. You learn the rules. You follow the rules. It is a meritocracy. You win by going to the course and beating the course. You treat each other with respect. It is a great sport. Now these guys are just throwing that away. Throwing the honor of your commitment to an entity, an organization, that made you wealthy for playing a game; you throw that away to go kiss the ring of Saudi royalty and get your check. Go cash your check.

Is that what life is all about? Is that where we are? I started this talking about America is great because America is good. Well, what is good about that? I am all for competition. I am all for people prospering and succeeding based on their skills and their talents: starting a business, playing a sport, whatever they are, artists. Go forward and sell your product.

You want to go start a rival league, a Canadian football league that competes with the NFL. We had the USFL

for a while. Way back in the day we had the NBA and the ABA. We had the NFL and then we had the AFL, then they merged. We got the NFL with an NFC and AFC. I get that. Time changed.

But you are going to go sell your soul to the Saudis? Have some self-respect. Actually stand up for the sport that you said you love, and you want to share with the world. Stand alongside the tour, the sports franchise, that actually is building up the game, creating development leagues like the Korn Ferry Tour, which was built out of the Hogan tour, helping our communities across the country.

One last point of all this. I have heard the former President, President Trump, endorsing the LIV Golf League. Could that possibly be because Trump National Doral or Trump National Golf Club Bedminster in New Jersey will host tournaments? I suspect so. Sure as heck not because it is an advocacy for what is good for the sport. It is not an advocacy for the tour that has allowed those individuals to be elevated and compete against the sports that get, frankly, greater notoriety.

Here is what is interesting about what the tour has done. These are the highest paid athletes of all time, as reported by Sportico: Number two, Tiger Woods, \$2.1 billion—this is all in, endorsements and dollars earned; Arnold Palmer at \$1.5 billion at number 3; Jack Nicklaus at number 4 with \$1.38 billion; Phil Mickelson, \$1 billion; Greg Norman, \$815 million. These guys are all in the top 15.

The tour has made these guys wealthy, and they turn around and they stab the tour in the back to go chase their 30 shekels. It is absolutely unconscionable.

I stand with the tour. I stand with the players that I mentioned before, the Jordan Spieths, the Justin Thomases, the Rory McIlroys, the guys that are standing up and saying: No thanks, I am going to stick with the tour. I am going to dance with the one who brung ya.

I stand up for the tour events throughout this country that are raising millions of dollars for charity, providing jobs, providing economic growth and activity. And, importantly, standing up for this great sport, this great institution. As we sit here in U.S. Open week, what I believe is the greatest golf tournament in the world because it is open to anyone who can compete.

If you can go string together seven rounds of golf, you can be the United States Open champion. In the spirit of the country club right outside of Brookline, and the story of Francis Ouimet—made into a movie, by the way—that is the spirit of what you can do in America if you just set out to go do it.

The Good Book in Luke 12:48 says: To whom much is given, much is expected, much is demanded—depending on your translation.

These guys have made hundreds of millions of dollars playing a game.

They owe the respect to the tour and to the guys they play alongside. They owe to the communities that have enriched them and rallied around them, their courtesy of defending and standing up for the sport and the league and the PGA tour in this country that has enabled them to prosper and has helped grow this game into one of the great economic engines and sport franchises in the world.

Shame on them for walking away from the PGA tour. God bless the PGA tour for pushing back and saying: You don't get to do that. God bless the members of the tour that are standing strong, standing alongside the community members, standing alongside all of the sponsors and the people that have made that work and have built such a great institution.

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

SOCIAL SECURITY

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

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, it is an honor to be here this evening with you and to talk about—during this time of the COVID pandemic—something that is near and dear to the hearts of the people impacted the most by this pandemic.

Madam Speaker, as you know, more than a million people now have perished because of the COVID pandemic, and 750,000 of them are American citizens over the age of 65. In addition, because of the war in Ukraine, because of this pandemic, and because of this inflation, who is the group in America that is most impacted by the pandemic and the ensuing inflation? It is the senior citizens of our country, and it is people over the age of 65. They are people who are on fixed income.

These individuals need the help of the United States Congress. I commend Chairman RICH NEAL, chairman of the Ways and Means Committee, and a Social Security recipient himself, who knows and understands the necessity and the absolute dependence that so many of our fellow Americans have on the Nation's number one insurance program.

The insurance program that keeps our seniors off of poverty. It also happens to be the number one insurance plan for children. Madam Speaker, it is the number one plan for veterans who rely more on Social Security Disability than they do the VA.

For more than half of our fellow citizens who are on Social Security, it is the only benefit that they have. That benefit, on average, is \$16,000 per individual. Nobody gets wealthy on Social Security. Yet, it is our number one anti-poverty program for the elderly. It is the number one anti-poverty program for children. It has incredible benefits for people on disability, like our veterans.

Yet, here today, and just last Thursday, and before that, we learn of new plans from the Republican Study Committee and from Senator SCOTT—these are plans that will end Social Security. These are plans that say in 5 years these benefits will disappear.

The Ways and Means Committee has a bill to say: No, this is not the time to end Social Security, this is the time to enhance the benefits in Social Security. This is the time when our fellow seniors, who need this money to sustain themselves at base levels, are crying out for help from their country.

This is not the time, Senator SCOTT, for us to kill Social Security. It is not the time, I say to the Republican Study Committee, for us to end Social Security, cutting its benefits. For every year you call upon someone to raise the age of Social Security, that is a 7 percent cut.

How in God's name, in the face of this pandemic and with people living longer, do they need lesser benefits?

□ 1830

Madam Speaker, if you listen to the logic that people are living longer so we have to hike the age, how does that possibly benefit someone struggling to make ends meet? Those are the same people who are putting food back on the shelves or can't afford their prescription drugs.

How does that allow them to subsist by cutting their benefits because they are living longer?

Democrats have a plan, and basically that is what Congress should be all about: the vitality of ideas and placing those ideas side by side.

While the Republican Study Committee has said that, yes, they have a plan, it is former Congressman Sam Johnson's plan to make sure that Social Security is solvent. I served with Sam Johnson. There is no more honorable person who served in this body. His bill was never allowed to be brought forward by the Republican leadership. There was never a vote on that. The reason there was never a vote on it was because it cut benefits. It made Social Security solvent by cutting benefits. That is not the way to fix Social Security.

Social Security does not need to be cut. The benefits need to be enhanced.

More than 3 million of our fellow Americans receive below-poverty-level checks from Social Security after they have paid into Social Security for a lifetime, Madam Speaker. That is flat-out wrong.

The COLA for Social Security has been so ineffective that it is long overdue to have a change that embraces a COLA based on the actual expenses that seniors incur, whether that is heating and cooling their home or paying for home heating oil or just simply paying for their pharmaceuticals. It is long overdue that Congress enhances the benefits of Social Security so that people can subsist and survive.

Nobody is getting wealthy on Social Security or reserving a condo in Flor-

ida with the money they receive from this. These are people who are struggling to make ends meet.

Congressman NEAL's committee on social equity most recently pointed out, as well, that the equity and the difference between what people of color and specifically women of color receive in terms of benefits is appalling. They receive below-poverty-level checks after contributing to the program their entire life.

Poverty level is \$12,600.

How would you subsist on less than that, Madam Speaker?

Americans need to rise up. They need to understand that what we need now during this pandemic and during this time of inflation is to assist people so that they get the money that they need to make the payments they richly deserve.

That is why the proposal before the Ways and Means Committee enhances benefits. It provides a 2 percent across-the-board increase. It makes sure that nobody can retire into poverty, and it makes the new floor for Social Security 125 percent of what the poverty level is. It makes sure that a new COLA is instituted, and, yes, it also makes sure, as President Biden has called for, the repeal of WEP and GPO.

Where is the Republican plan?

Their committee says that they are following Sam Johnson, and yet the subcommittee has never received a bill in the last 4 years that would indicate what their plan of action is—though it is detailed here, as Mr. SCOTT has outlined, to end Social Security in 5 years. Ending Social Security—killing Social Security—is not any way to help out those citizens—those fellow Americans—who need this assistance the most.

It is long overdue in this Chamber and also in the Senate. And even though MITCH MCCONNELL may stand up and deny that they are going to take forward Senator SCOTT's proposal, he very smugly says when asked what his agenda is that they don't have an agenda. They will tell the American voters what their agenda is after they win.

America can take it to the bank, Madam Speaker: just like they did under the Biden administration, they are coming for your Social Security and Medicare. They outline it in no uncertain terms, both in Senator SCOTT's proposal and also in the Republican Study Group's proposal as well.

They are coming after your Social Security at a time when Americans need it most.

There is a difference. Democrats are here to recognize that it has been 51 years since Congress has enhanced Social Security. It has been 51 years since Congress has done anything to enhance the number one insurance program for our elderly and the number one insurance plan for our children.

It also is the Nation's most effective program. I hail from a part of the country that is an insurance center, and

there they know what a 99 percent loss ratio means. What that means is that Social Security has been able to operate, function, and be the most efficient governmental agency because it does so with less than 1 percent administrative costs to make sure that Americans receive the benefits that they need.

The truth of the matter is that the Social Security Administration needs more funding so that they can become more efficient because this pandemic has also hit both governmental employees as well as it has our citizens and has made servicing more challenging, which is all the more reason for government not to be talking about cutting Social Security, as our Republican colleagues are, but enhancing Social Security so that both administratively and individually people are getting the services that they need and that they richly deserve. It has been 51 years since Congress has taken any positive action to enhance people's benefits.

Madam Speaker, a gallon of milk cost 72 cents in 1971. Look at the cost today. Look at the burden that people on fixed incomes have.

Help is on the way. The Ways and Means Committee will mark up and send to the floor Social Security 2100: A Sacred Trust. A sacred trust is what President Biden labeled Social Security because the American people understand this.

How do they know?

It is simple. We don't have to go back to 1935 and Franklin Delano Roosevelt. We only have to go back to 2008 and 2009, during the Great Recession, when people saw their 401(k) become a 101(k). Yet during that same time period, Social Security never missed a payment—not a pension payment, not a spousal payment, not a dependent child payment, and not a disability payment.

It is America's number one insurance program. It is America's most efficient and effective program, and it needs to be enhanced. It needs to be augmented with benefits that haven't been adjusted in 51 years.

During this same time period—and we could go back, as Chairman NEAL often talks about, to the S&L crisis. What happened during that?

People at the bottom lost everything. People at the top managed to protect their benefits and pensions. And the same was true in 2008 and 2009. People who endured that recession saw their 401(k)s become a 101(k)s. People at the top kept their pensions and benefits.

Thank God for Social Security. Americans understand this, and that is why they overwhelmingly—Democrats, Republicans, and Independents—support enhancing these benefits.

Madam Speaker, how can you go home to your district in this pandemic during this time and say to your brothers, your sisters, your mothers, fathers, aunts and uncles, the people you work with, the people in your community whom you go to church with, that no, this is the time to cut benefits?

This is the time we should end Social Security in 5 years?

This is the time we should raise the age so that you can't receive benefits?

How about we do something simple? How about we vote to enhance Social Security? The simple thing is to vote.

If you agree with Senator SCOTT's proposal to end Social Security, then by all means vote for it. Put it out there. Let's contrast the programs: the Democratic initiative to enhance Social Security and the Republican position to cut the benefits.

It would be great to have people join together, as we often do here, and come up with a solution; but instead, we have been waiting for 4 years now on the Social Security Subcommittee and haven't received a single piece of legislation that would address this, that outlines these bills, and that says exactly what they would do to enhance Social Security.

Instead, as has been reported in the news, what these proposals do is end Social Security or cut Social Security. That is death by 1,000 slashes.

Whom are they hurting?

Whom are they slashing here?

Our fellow American citizens.

So if we want to come together, we are open. We have accepted many good ideas that have come forward with regard to enhancing Social Security.

Congress hasn't done its responsibility. There is nothing the President can do through executive authority and nothing the Supreme Court is going to act on.

□ 1845

This requires congressional action. The American people are watching, and either these bodies, the House and Senate, are going to take action or they are going to doom people to Senator SCOTT's proposal to end Social Security in 5 years.

The Republican Study Committee said this is immoral, that Social Security, if nothing was done, would be cut by 24 percent in 2034. They propose raising the age and cutting people's benefits in order to make Social Security solvent.

That is not the way to make the system solvent, on the backs of American people who are already overburdened and suffering.

In this time of inflation, let us make sure that we are sending the relief to the people who need it the most, people who have worked all their lives, paid into a system, and understand that this is an earned benefit.

Rise up, America. Let your elected representatives in the Senate and House know that help is on the way, and either you are for enhancing benefits to deal with inflation during this pandemic or you are for cutting them. Let your message ring loud and clear to elected officials who are about to vote on this very important agenda.

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 9 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon (at 6 o'clock and 47 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 9 a.m.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-4345. A letter from the President and Chair, Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a transaction pursuant to section 2(b)(3) of the Export-Import Bank Act of 1945, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 635(b)(3); July 31, 1945, ch. 341, Sec. 2 (as added by Public Law 102-266, Sec. 102); (106 Stat. 95); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-4346. A letter from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's FY 2017 Report to Congress on Community Services Block Grant Discretionary Activities — Community Economic Development and Rural Community Development Programs; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-4347. A letter from the Chair, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting the Commission's June 2022 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 1395b-6(b)(1)(D); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title XVIII, Sec. 1805(b)(1)(D) (as amended by Public Law 111-148, Sec. 2801(b)(2)); (124 Stat. 332); jointly to the Committees on Energy and Commerce and Ways and Means.

EC-4348. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on the Treaty Between the Government of the United States of America and the Government of Australia Concerning Defense Trade Cooperation (Treaty Doc. 110-10), Section 2(8); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4349. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Memorandum of Justification for the Drawdown Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Immediate Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4350. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Determination Under Section 506(a)(1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (FAA) to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-4351. A letter from the Chair, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the six-month period ending March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4352. A letter from the Deputy Secretary, Department of Defense, transmitting the Department's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress for the period of October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4353. A letter from the Chairman and Chief Executive and Administrative Officer, Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting the Authority's 67th Semiannual Inspector General Report for the period October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4354. A letter from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting the Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2021, to March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4355. A letter from the Acting Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting the Administration's Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress from the period October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4356. A letter from the Chairman, Surface Transportation Board, transmitting the Board's FY 2021 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4357. A letter from the Chairman, Board of Governors, United States Postal Service, transmitting the Service's Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report to Congress, for the period October 1, 2021, through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-4358. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a Report to Congress on the Extension of Jackson-Vanik Waiver Authority for Turkmenistan, pursuant to 19 U.S.C. 2432(d)(1); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 402(d)(1); (88 Stat. 2056) and 19 U.S.C. 2439(b); Public Law 93-618, Sec. 409(b); (88 Stat. 2064); to the Committee on Ways and Means.

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:

Ms. WATERS: Committee on Financial Services. H.R. 3009. A bill to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to establish language access requirements for creditors and servicers, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-370, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas: Committee on Science, Space, and Technology. H.R. 7180. A bill to authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID-19 infection, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-371). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia: Committee on Agriculture. H.R. 7675. A bill to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish an Agricultural and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force, and for other purposes; with an amendment (Rept. 117-372). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Veterans' Affairs discharged from further consideration. H.R. 3009 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 Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ (for herself, Mr. COLE, Mr. O'HALLERAN, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas):

H.R. 8068. A bill to amend the Energy Policy Act of 2005 to include in a report the amount available to the Secretary of Energy to make certain loan guarantees, to amend the Energy Policy Act of 1992 to provide for direct loans to Indian tribes and tribal energy development organizations for energy development, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Science, Space, and Technology, and 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. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. MANN, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. BOST, Mr. ELLZEY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GIBBS, Mr. JACKSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. ROSE, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, Mr. WESTERMAN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. BACON, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. LUCAS, Mr. ALLEN, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. PFLUGER):

H.R. 8069. A bill to reduce farm input costs and barriers to domestic production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Natural Resources, Transportation and Infrastructure, Financial Services, and Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. BEYER (for himself and Mr. ROY):

H.R. 8070. A bill to amend section 552 of title 5, United States Code, to require the public availability of certain information relating to certain speeches and meetings of the heads of agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. BUSTOS (for herself, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. RYAN, and Ms. BROWN of Ohio):

H.R. 8071. A bill to require the purchase of domestically made flags of the United States of America for use by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas (for himself, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. TITUS):

H.R. 8072. A bill to review the termination characterization of former employees of the Department of State who were fired by reason of the sexual orientation of such employees, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COURTNEY (for himself, Mr. GALLAGHER, Mr. KILMER, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. PERLMUTTER):

H.R. 8073. A bill to direct the Secretary of Defense to establish a joint training pipeline between the United States Navy and the Royal Australian Navy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committee on Armed Services, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within

the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. CROW (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 8074. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to make grants to modify and upgrade structures to serve as interim and permanent housing to accommodate unhoused individuals with pets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mrs. DEMINGS (for herself and Mr. KEATING):

H.R. 8075. A bill to authorize the Open Technology Fund of the United States Agency for Global Media to make grants to surge and sustain support for internet freedom technologies to counter acute escalations in censorship in closed countries, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DESJARLAIS (for himself, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. ROSE, and Mr. CLOUD):

H.R. 8076. A bill to prohibit the mass cancellation of student loans; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. FOSTER (for himself, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. CÁRDENAS, Ms. NORTON, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. RUSH, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. BONAMICI, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. AXNE, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. BEATTY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia):

H.R. 8077. A bill to include reasonable costs for high-speed internet service in the utility allowances for families residing in public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 8078. A bill to ensure that prior authorization medical decisions under Medicare are determined by physicians; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia (for himself, Mr. SAN NICOLAS, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. BROWN of Ohio, Mr. CARSON, Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, and Mr. EVANS):

H.R. 8079. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to remove the exclusion of certain small business concerns from the disadvantaged business enterprise program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, and in addition to the Committee on Small Business, 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. KAHELE (for himself, Mr. CASE, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, and Mr. PALAZZO):

H.R. 8080. A bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to authorize travel and transportation allowances for certain members of the Armed Forces who attend a professional military education institution or training classes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MAST (for himself, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. WALTZ, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mrs. MILLER-

MECKS, and Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida);

H.R. 8081. A bill to amend title 10, United States Code, to preserve the authority of the Secretary of the military department concerned over a member of the Armed Forces undergoing medical treatment or evaluation for medical disability, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MOONEY (for himself and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia):

H.R. 8082. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 101 West Washington Street in Charles Town, West Virginia, as the "Corporal Frank Buckles Post Office"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 8083. A bill to modify the requirements of the annual report on military and security developments involving the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 8084. A bill to amend the Watershed Protection and Flood Prevention Act to allow additional flood prevention measures on certain lands, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN (for himself and Mr. SCHWEIKERT):

H.R. 8085. A bill to direct the Secretary of Agriculture to establish a grant program to remove nonnative plant species that contribute to drought conditions, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 8086. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to provide direct hire authority for Job Corps graduates, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, 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. PASCRELL (for himself, Mr. BACON, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 8087. A bill to amend title 5, United States Code, to provide that for purposes of computing the annuity of certain law enforcement officers, any hours worked in excess of the limitation applicable to law enforcement premium pay shall be included in such computation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. PETERS (for himself and Mr. BERA):

H.R. 8088. A bill to establish the United States-India Climate and Clean Energy Partnership to facilitate clean energy cooperation with India, to enhance cooperation with India on climate mitigation, resilience, and adaptation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. PHILLIPS (for himself and Mr. GALLAGHER):

H.R. 8089. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to prohibit Members of Congress from making direct and personal solicitations of campaign funds when Congress is in session, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 8090. A bill to reauthorize funding for the Reclamation Climate Change and Water Program; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington (for herself and Mr. NEWHOUSE):

H.R. 8091. A bill to restore employment and educational opportunities in, and improve the economic stability of, counties containing National Forest System land, while also reducing Forest Service management costs, by ensuring that such counties have a dependable source of revenue from timber sales conducted on National Forest System land, to reduce payments under the Secure Rural Schools and Community Self-Determination Act of 2000 to reflect such counties receipt of timber sale revenues, to strengthen stewardship end result contracting, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, 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 Mrs. SPARTZ (for herself, Mr. JEFFRIES, Mr. RESCIENTHALER, Mr. TRONE, Mr. GRIFFITH, Ms. BASS, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. ARMSTRONG):

H.R. 8092. A bill to protect the constitutional right to trial and discourage imposition of extended sentences for defendants who elect to go to trial instead of accepting a plea offer, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 8093. A bill to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to require the display by the Department of Homeland Security of appropriate signage throughout airports to increase the public's awareness of the signs of human trafficking, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. WITTMAN (for himself, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. WALBERG):

H.R. 8094. A bill to provide for the independent and objective conduct and supervision of audits and investigations relating to the programs and operations funded with amounts appropriated or otherwise made available to Ukraine for military, economic, and humanitarian aid; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Armed Services, and Oversight and Reform, 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. HUIZENGA (for himself and Mr. MCHENRY):

H.J. Res. 88. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Securities and Exchange Commission related to "The Enhancement and Standardization of Climate-Related Disclosures for Investors"; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois (for himself, Mr. BURGESS, Ms. LEE of California, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. OWENS, and Mr. BLIRAKIS):

H. Res. 1176. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 19, 2022, as "World Sickle Cell Awareness Day" in order to increase public alertness across the United States and global community about sickle cell disease, the continued need for empirical research, early detection screenings for sickle cell trait carriers, novel effective treatments leading to a cure, and preventative care programs with respect to complications from sickle cell anemia and conditions related to sickle cell disease; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. PENCE (for himself and Ms. SEWELL):

H. Res. 1177. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives regarding the Centers for Medicare & Medicaid Services developing a mobility metric to guide providers in preventing mobility loss among hospitalized older adults; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. COOPER (for himself, Mr. HUDSON, and Mr. RYAN):

H. Res. 1178. A resolution expressing support for the designation of the week of June 27 through July 3, 2022, as "National Tire Safety Week" in the United States, and supporting the goals and ideals of National Tire Safety Week to educate American motorists about the importance of proper tire care and maintenance; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. GALLAGHER (for himself and Mr. KIND):

H. Res. 1179. A resolution recognizing and promoting the role of demonstration farm networks in expanding the adoption of conservation farming practices that improve the health of watersheds and agricultural lands; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, and 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. OWENS (for himself and Mr. DONALDS):

H. Res. 1180. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives that fatherhood is essential to the development of all children, and that the increased involvement of fathers in the home will lead to economic prosperity, educational excellence, and improved social mobility for children across all racial and ethnic groups; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. TORRES of New York:

H. Res. 1181. A resolution expressing support for the recognition of June 2022 as "Immigrant Heritage Month", a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants and their children in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

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 Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ:

H.R. 8068.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 8069.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the U.S. Constitution in that the legislation exercises legislative powers granted to Congress by

that clause “to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers and all other Powers vested by the Constitution in the Government of the United States or any Department or Office thereof.”

By Mr. BEYER:

H.R. 8070.

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

Article I Section 8

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 8071.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CASTRO of Texas:

H.R. 8072.

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

Article I Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 8073.

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

clause 14 of section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. CROW:

H.R. 8074.

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

U.S. Const. art. 1, Sec. 8, cl. 13

By Mrs. DEMINGS:

H.R. 8075.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 1 provides Congress with the power to “lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises” in order to “provide for the . . . general Welfare of the United States.”

By Mr. DESJARLAIS:

H.R. 8076.

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

The Constitutional authority of Congress to enact this legislation is provided by Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. FOSTER:

H.R. 8077.

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

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clauses 1 and 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. GREEN of Tennessee:

H.R. 8078.

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

Clause 18 of Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution of the United States of America.

By Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia:

H.R. 8079.

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

U.S. Constitution, Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. KAHELE:

H.R. 8080.

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

Article 1

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 8081.

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

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

By Mr. MOONEY:

H.R. 8082.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 7:

[The Congress shall have Power . . .] To establish Post Offices and post Roads; . . .

By Mrs. MURPHY of Florida:

H.R. 8083.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 authorizing Congress to provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States.

Article I, Section 8, Clause 12 authorizing Congress to raise and support armies.

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 8084.

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

Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 8085.

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

Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. O'HALLERAN:

H.R. 8086.

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

Clause 18, section 8 of article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. PASCRELL:

H.R. 8087.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. PETERS:

H.R. 8088.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. PHILLIPS:

H.R. 8089.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18. Congress has the power to make all Laws which Shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

By Ms. PORTER:

H.R. 8090.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. RODGERS of Washington:

H.R. 8091.

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

Article IV

By Mrs. SPARTZ:

H.R. 8092.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 8093.

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

The Congress shall have power to lay and collect taxes, duties, impost and excises, to pay the debts and provide for the common defense and general welfare of the United States; but all duties, impost and excises shall be uniform throughout the United States;

By Mr. WITTMAN:

H.R. 8094.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3: “To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.”

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.J. Res. 88.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 provides:

Congress has the power:

To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 198: Mr. PAYNE.
H.R. 426: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.
H.R. 475: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H.R. 852: Mr. WALBERG.
H.R. 911: Mr. FOSTER.
H.R. 997: Mr. BILIRAKIS.
H.R. 1179: Ms. SCHRIER, Mr. BOWMAN, and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 1381: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
H.R. 1735: Mr. BANKS.
H.R. 1748: Mr. DONALDS.
H.R. 1800: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Mrs. TRAHAN.
H.R. 1926: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 1927: Mr. GOSAR.
H.R. 2187: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.
H.R. 2373: Mr. RUPPERSBERGER.
H.R. 2447: Ms. ROSS and Mr. GOLDEN.
H.R. 2717: Mr. OWENS.
H.R. 2811: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 2840: Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK.
H.R. 2974: Mr. MCNERNEY, Mr. UPTON, Mr. VARGAS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. SABLAN, and Ms. BARRAGAN.
H.R. 3109: Mr. MANN, Mr. HERN, and Mr. LATURNER.
H.R. 3290: Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 3294: Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 3425: Mr. VALADAO.
H.R. 3552: Mr. FEENSTRA.
H.R. 3572: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 3836: Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. LYNCH, and Ms. JACOBS of California.
H.R. 3962: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, Mr. KIND, and Ms. SCHRIER.
H.R. 4110: Mr. MORELLE.
H.R. 4239: Mr. KAHELE and Ms. ROSS.
H.R. 4366: Mr. BOWMAN and Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4379: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER.
H.R. 4387: Mr. LIEU.
H.R. 4390: Mr. FEENSTRA, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, and Ms. KAPTUR.
H.R. 4403: Mr. GREEN of Texas.
H.R. 4587: Ms. VAN DUYN.
H.R. 4603: Mr. TONKO, Ms. DELAURO, Mrs. DINGELL, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. MALINOWSKI, Mr. DOGGETT, and Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 4870: Mr. GRIFFITH and Ms. PINGREE.
H.R. 4942: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
H.R. 5008: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 5026: Mr. RUIZ.
H.R. 5029: Mr. NEGUSE and Mr. GARBARINO.
H.R. 5064: Mr. RUTHERFORD.
H.R. 5218: Mr. MALINOWSKI.
H.R. 5508: Ms. TITUS.
H.R. 5726: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 5819: Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.R. 5919: Mr. CARTER of Louisiana.
H.R. 6100: Mr. LEVIN of California.
H.R. 6145: Mr. CARL.
H.R. 6161: Mr. BARR and Mr. TRONE.
H.R. 6411: Mr. PETERS.
H.R. 6532: Mr. BOWMAN.
H.R. 6543: Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ.
H.R. 6557: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6577: Mr. SOTO.
H.R. 6681: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 6860: Mr. POCAN, Ms. SPEIER, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. PINGREE, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
 H.R. 6901: Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
 H.R. 6940: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
 H.R. 7055: Ms. ROSS.
 H.R. 7109: Mr. MORELLE and Mrs. RODGERS of Washington.
 H.R. 7151: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
 H.R. 7179: Mr. GOSAR.
 H.R. 7213: Mr. SOTO, Mr. CURTIS, Ms. SCHA-KOWSKY, Mr. CARL, and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 7223: Mr. BUCK, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. SOTO, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. LOUDERMILK, Mr. PAPPAS, Mrs. WALORSKI, Ms. TENNEY, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BANKS, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ELLZEY, and Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
 H.R. 7236: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia and Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.
 H.R. 7240: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois.
 H.R. 7260: Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER.
 H.R. 7294: Mr. GOSAR and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.
 H.R. 7398: Ms. DEGETTE.
 H.R. 7437: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky.
 H.R. 7477: Ms. SEWELL, Mr. COURTNEY, and Mr. LAMALFA.
 H.R. 7559: Mr. PETERS.
 H.R. 7585: Ms. DELBENE.
 H.R. 7615: Mr. NEWHOUSE.
 H.R. 7624: Ms. CLARKE of New York and Mr. TONKO.
 H.R. 7647: Mr. MICHAEL F. DOYLE of Pennsylvania.
 H.R. 7665: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H.R. 7721: Mr. NEGUSE and Ms. HERRELL.
 H.R. 7752: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
 H.R. 7779: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 7789: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.
 H.R. 7806: Mrs. HARSHBARGER, Mr. GOSAR, and Mr. JACKSON.
 H.R. 7847: Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER and Ms. ESHOO.
 H.R. 7851: Mr. GOHMERT.
 H.R. 7857: Ms. DEAN.
 H.R. 7917: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.R. 7925: Mr. CORREA.
 H.R. 7931: Mr. BABIN and Mr. JACKSON.
 H.R. 7961: Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.
 H.R. 7975: Mr. JACOBS of New York.
 H.R. 7987: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
 H.R. 7992: Mr. BOWMAN and Mr. WELCH.
 H.R. 7993: Mr. LYNCH and Ms. JAYAPAL.
 H.R. 7998: Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. FALLON, Mr. BILIRAKIS, and Mr. FULCHER.
 H.R. 8006: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia and Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina.
 H.R. 8007: Ms. JACOBS of California.
 H.R. 8050: Mr. WENSTRUP, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. BROWN of Maryland.
 H.R. 8065: Ms. MACE.
 H.J. Res. 53: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. PRICE of North Carolina, Ms. PINGREE, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. SMITH of Washington.
 H.J. Res. 81: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
 H.J. Res. 87: Ms. WATERS, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, and Mr. JEFFRIES.
 H. Con. Res. 33: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
 H. Con. Res. 65: Mr. CASE and Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H. Con. Res. 95: Ms. STEFANIK.
 H. Res. 159: Ms. BONAMICI.
 H. Res. 289: Mr. POCAN, Mr. HORSFORD, Mr. LANGEVIN, and Mr. GALLEGO.

H. Res. 349: Mr. MOONEY.
 H. Res. 366: Mr. ESTES.
 H. Res. 892: Ms. JACKSON LEE.
 H. Res. 1041: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. BACON.
 H. Res. 1129: Mr. SIREY.
 H. Res. 1148: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.
 H. Res. 1165: Mrs. HAYES, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Mrs. LEE of Nevada, and Mr. CORREA.
 H. Res. 1167: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.

CONGRESSIONAL EARMARKS, LIMITED TAX BENEFITS, OR LIMITED TARIFF BENEFITS

Under clause 9 of rule XXI, lists or statements on congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits were submitted as follows:

The amendment to be offered by Representative KHANNA, or a designee, to H.R. 7606, the Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act, does not contain any congressional earmarks, limited tax benefits, or limited tariff benefits as defined in clause 9 of rule XXI.

DELETIONS OF SPONSORS FROM PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

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

H.R. 2107: Mr. GAETZ.
 H.R. 5344: Mr. CARTWRIGHT.



United States
of America

Congressional Record

PROCEEDINGS AND DEBATES OF THE 117th CONGRESS, SECOND SESSION

Vol. 168

WASHINGTON, WEDNESDAY, JUNE 15, 2022

No. 102

Senate

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a Senator from the State of New Mexico.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, every good and perfect gift comes from You alone. For with You, there is no variation or shadow of turning. May we place our hope in You and never forget how You have sustained us in the past.

Lord, give our Senators the wisdom to trust You in the small things, realizing that faithfulness with the least prepares them for fidelity with the much. May they trust You to do what is best for our Nation and world during these challenging and turbulent times.

And, Lord, bless Ukraine.

We pray in Your matchless Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, June 15, 2022.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable BEN RAY LUJÁN, a

Senator from the State of New Mexico, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Mr. LUJÁN thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

HONORING OUR PROMISE TO ADDRESS COMPREHENSIVE TOXICS ACT OF 2021—Resumed

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of H.R. 3967.

The clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (H.R. 3967) to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Pending:

Tester-Moran amendment No. 5051, in the nature of a substitute.

Schumer amendment No. 5065 (to amendment No. 5051), to add an effective date.

Schumer amendment No. 5076 (to the text proposed to be stricken by amendment No. 5051), to add an effective date.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Republican leader is recognized.

INFLATION

Mr. MCCONNELL. Mr. President, American families are being crushed by a giant backdoor inflation tax, and it

has been fueled, in large part, by Democrats' huge mistakes.

Month after month, families pick up the newspaper, flip on the television, and hear that Democrats' inflation is setting new 40-year records.

Month after month, families find themselves shelling out hundreds upon hundreds of extra dollars per month just to actually tread water. Forget about saving and getting ahead.

In this Democrat-run economy, working Americans have to shell out hundreds of extra dollars every month just to remain standing still. Even when you factor in the nominal pay raises that workers have earned, the average American worker got a 3.9 percent pay cut—pay cut—last year due to Democrats' inflation.

According to the Joint Economic Committee, inflation cost the average American household \$635 last month alone—\$635 in 1 month.

For families in Colorado, combined effects of Democrats' inflation and higher household spending put that number at a staggering \$825. In Arizona, it is \$733 extra per month. In Nevada it is \$731. For New Hampshire families, it is \$653. It is \$599 in Washington State, and \$598 in Georgia.

Everybody knows why this is. Food costs are up more than 10 percent, year on year. Gas is up nearly—listen to this—50 percent. Rent is at a 35-year high, and would-be home buyers are being squeezed between high prices and soaring interest rates.

In my home State, Kentucky, that monthly inflation bill comes out to more than \$500 every month.

Right before Senate Democrats spent \$2 trillion last spring, the Democratic leader said he wasn't worried—wasn't worried—about the possibility of inflation. Now, working families are paying dearly for that incredibly bad judgment.

I hear from hard-working Kentuckians who are falling behind on home payments or late on their utility bills

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



Printed on recycled paper.

S2947

or cutting back at the grocery store, families who are skipping—literally skipping—summer vacation.

Every month, the average Kentucky household now spends over \$500 more than they did before the Biden Presidency.

One of my constituents from Beaver Dam wrote to tell me:

Things are looking pretty grim for me and my family right now. Everything—

Everything.

—is too expensive.

His family was already giving up buying chicken and beef at the grocery store. Next they may have to stop making car payments. They are literally out of slack.

Another constituent from Science Hill told me that his family is maxing out credit cards to stay above water. He is watching as the Democrats who control Congress continue—continue—to advocate for more reckless spending and laments that Washington does not appear to understand what is happening—what is happening—to our heartland.

A third constituent from Paint Lick is struggling because—clarifies that she is not asking for a handout because she doesn't believe it would help. "After all," she writes, "money is not free; taxpayers must pay it back." If only Washington Democrats had that much wisdom. If only our one-party government had exercised that much common sense back last spring.

Three of the most basic duties that any government owes its citizens are stable prices, public safety, and secure borders—stable prices, public safety, and secure borders.

Unfortunately for our country, the Democrats have struck out—struck out—swinging.

POLITICAL VIOLENCE

Mr. President, now on a completely different matter, yesterday marked 5 years since the attempted assassination of numerous Congressmen on a baseball field across the river.

The perpetrator was a far-left activist who doublechecked that it was Republicans on the field before he started shooting.

Five years on, political violence and threats are again making national headlines. The far left has spent weeks fomenting rage and panic over the possibility that one or more upcoming Supreme Court rulings may not deliver the liberal policy outcomes they would prefer.

Last week, the authorities arrested a deranged person who traveled to Washington from California with a premeditated plan to assassinate an Associate Justice for ideological reasons—fruit of a toxic culture that is fueled by the precedent-breaking leak of a draft opinion last month and a torrent of reckless talk from prominent Democrats.

It took that assassination attempt and then another week of wasted—wasted—time for House Democrats to

stop slow-walking a bipartisan bill to beef up Supreme Court security that passed the Senate unanimously more than a month ago. The same people—the same people—fanning the flames of fear and anger blocked that non-controversial bill for more than a month—more than a month—before they finally sent it to the President.

Meanwhile, as mobs continue to mount angry demonstrations outside these Justices' private family homes, President Biden's Department of Justice continues to assiduously ignore—ignore—the fact that this is totally illegal now under existing law. Section 1507 of the Criminal Code makes it perfectly clear: It is flat-out illegal to demonstrate at a judge's private family residence to pressure them in a pending case. That is the fact set that we have here. It is not just immoral; it is not just civically toxic; it is literally a Federal crime.

Where is Attorney General Garland? As the former chief judge of the DC Circuit, he should understand the need for judicial security and independence as well as anyone. But the same soft-on-crime ethos that pervades the modern Democratic Party apparently extends even—even—to ignoring illegal pressure campaigns aimed at Federal judges.

Two years ago, a New Jersey judge had a gunman show up to her front door in disguise and murder her son. Just recently, somebody murdered a retired judge in Wisconsin, and then last week's near assassination. But where is President Biden? He won't even denounce the ongoing protests at Justices' private homes, and our supposedly nonpolitical Attorney General will not lift a finger—a finger—to enforce existing Federal law.

Today, every Republican member of the Judiciary Committee and I are sending another—another—letter to Attorney General Garland. His dereliction of duty on this subject must come to an end.

The far-left political violence and intimidation efforts do not stop with judges. In the weeks since the draft opinion suggested the Court may—may—overturn an abortion decision that even Justice Ruth Bader Ginsberg acknowledged was poorly reasoned, a spate of vandalism, threats, and even some arson attacks have been unleashed upon Catholic churches—upon Catholic churches—and pro-life crisis pregnancy centers all around the country. In 2022, simply being a Christian or being pro-life seems to be sufficient cause for angry radicals to call in threats, graffiti your door, or firebomb your office. Once again, President Biden and his Justice Department have been totally silent—not word about any of it; unable to even simply denounce the hatred.

The same Democrats who want to make a national spectacle out of their supposed opposition to political violence will not even call out violence and intimidation from their own side,

let alone—let alone—fulfill their oaths and put a stop to it.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

H.R. 3967

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, we continue a productive week here on the Senate floor.

Today, the Senate will take another step closer to passing the largest veterans' healthcare bill in decades, the Honoring our PACT Act. In a few moments, the Senate will vote to adopt the substitute amendment and then immediately vote on cloture on the bill, bringing us to the brink of passing this long-sought piece of legislation.

Frankly, the Senate should come to an agreement to finish the PACT Act work A-S-A-P. We should pass this bill as soon as we can and finally tell our veterans that the long wait for their well-earned benefits is over.

Let me say it again.

There is no reason not to finish the PACT Act A-S-A-P. Our Nation's veterans have waited long enough for this bill. Since 9/11, nearly 3.5 million veterans have been exposed to toxic burn pits in the line of duty. Scores of Americans went off to serve our country in perfect health only to come back home and get sick from toxic exposure, and when many of these veterans applied to the VA for healthcare benefits, they oftentimes discovered that they didn't qualify.

It is a confounding indignity for our Nation's heroes to sacrifice everything for our country only to come home, get sick, and discover that the VA ain't there for them—they have to fend for themselves.

What kind of message does it send to future veterans when we can't guarantee they will get the healthcare benefits they rightfully deserve and when the VA will not deal with injuries that occurred on the battlefield because of toxic burn pits and other issues? With the PACT Act, we have a chance to answer that question with a resounding yes.

Question: Well, if I enlist, am I going to really be taken care of when my service is complete?

We are going to have a chance to answer that question with a resounding yes. Yes, we will take care of you. Yes, we will make sure you can live healthy and dignified lives. Yes, we will keep our promise to protect our veterans just as they have sacrificed everything for us.

No great nation can dare afford to turn its back on the multitudes who have served our country. No veterans

should ever have to carry the burden of treating complications from toxic exposure all by themselves, and we can change that simply with a vote on this bill.

Let us pass the PACT Act with all due haste. We have a moral obligation in the Chamber to get this done.

NOMINATIONS

Now, Mr. President, on the nominations front, we are moving ahead with confirming President Biden's critical and well-qualified nominees.

Later today, we will vote on the confirmation of Alan Leventhal to serve as the U.S. Ambassador to Denmark.

Later this week, once we conclude the PACT Act, we will also move forward on the nomination of Mary Boyle for the Consumer Product Safety Commission, whose confirmation would give that Agency a Democratic majority.

We will also soon vote to confirm another historic judicial nominee, Ana Isabel de Alba, to serve as a district judge for the Eastern District of California. Judge de Alba will be the first ever Latina to serve as a Federal judge in California's Eastern District, joining the more than 65 qualified judicial nominees that this majority has confirmed under President Biden.

I am proud of the historic progress this Senate Democratic majority has made in confirming well-qualified and diverse nominees to the executive branch, to independent boards, and to the Federal bench, and we are going to keep going.

GUN LEGISLATION

Mr. President, on gun safety, Democrats and Republicans continue negotiations over the legislative text for the first major gun safety bill to pass the Senate in 30 years.

Just a few weeks ago, such an effort would have seemed unimaginable. If there were any issue that encapsulates the gridlock of the past few decades, gun safety would be near the very top of the list. For too long, Americans have gotten used to a frustrating pattern—tragedy strikes; families grieve; but gridlock in the Senate ensues.

Perhaps this time—hopefully, this time—it will be different. Many in this Chamber are working, right now, in the hopes that it will be different. We are not over the finish line yet, but there is a real hunger to finally accomplish what has escaped the Senate for far too long: passing meaningful gun safety reform.

Again, not too long ago, this debate would have been hard to have fathomed, but despite the long odds, we gave negotiators space to do their work. I am glad we did because we now have the best chance in decades to act on gun violence. I spoke to both Senators MURPHY and CORNYN this morning. They are eager to get the text completed. There will be meetings all day long in the hopes that we can get the text done so we can put it on the floor as soon as possible and get it passed. If we can prevent even one

death from gun violence in the future, our efforts at this moment will have been worth it.

Gun safety is near and dear to my heart. As the Acting President pro tempore knows, three decades ago, I was a proud author of the Brady Bill in Congress, which won the support of many Republicans and even law enforcement. Back then, I argued we had to get something done because the American people were sick and tired of the insanity and inaction of gun violence as much as they are today. After years of trying, we succeeded back then, but it wasn't on the first try. Yet we enacted a bill that, very likely, saved tens of thousands of lives. There are many, many people—thousands or tens of thousands in all likelihood—walking the streets today because we passed the Brady Law.

Today, the American people are similarly sick and tired of the insanity of the gun violence happening every day across the country. Just thinking about all of the shootings we have suffered over the years is exhausting and debilitating: Columbine, Virginia, Sandy Hook, Parkland, Las Vegas, Orlando, El Paso, Charleston, Atlanta, Buffalo, Uvalde. The list keeps going on and growing. The American people have had enough. They want us to move forward.

If the Senate can come up with a bill that embraces the bipartisan framework, we are going to save lives. I promise that, once the text is done, I will put it on the floor as soon as possible, so I encourage my colleagues to keep working. As I mentioned, our Senators on both sides of the aisle will be working diligently all day to try and come up with the final text as soon as possible. We don't know the next time we will have a chance to make meaningful progress on gun violence, so we have every reason in the world to get to yes.

ELECTIONS

Mr. President, on the elections of last night and election deniers, a year and a half after the 2020 election, Donald Trump's Big Lie is alive and well, unfortunately.

Last night, hard-right candidates who believe the last Presidential election was stolen—it is so incorrect, with no factual basis. But these people with these beliefs were elevated into the general election. Many of these candidates are running in critical swing States and running for offices that will have outsized influence in managing future elections.

The example of Nevada's secretary of state race is especially bone chilling. Jim Marchant—a far-right radical, who openly believes that the 2020 election results were illegitimate, who believes the Big Lie—is now running to be the top elections official in Nevada. Mr. Marchant is someone who openly thinks Donald Trump should be the President right now, and if he wins in November, he will be Nevada's most important election official and would

pose a direct threat—a direct threat—to the democratic process in that State.

He must be rejected by the people of every political persuasion. It doesn't matter if you are a Democrat or a Republican or an Independent, a liberal or a conservative or a moderate. Democracy is at risk if we elevate individuals who don't believe in the sanctity of elections. That is the road to authoritarianism, to dictatorship. This isn't a partisan argument. Undermining democracy endangers all of us—Democrats, Republicans, Independents. If the proponents of the Big Lie are elected to office, they pose a direct threat to our democratic way of life.

The January 6 hearings have made it abundantly clear that even Donald Trump's inner circle knew the Big Lie was utter garbage, so it is nothing short of horrifying to see that radicals who profess the Big Lie are gaining strength across the country.

I urge the American people to reject the credo of lies pushed by Donald Trump and his cronies and, whatever your party, to vote this November for men and women who will safeguard our democracy and preserve the sanctity of our elections. Without it, our country could be on the road to ruin.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The remarks of Mr. THUNE pertaining to the introduction of S. 4409 are printed in today's RECORD under "Statements on Introduced Bills and Joint Resolutions.")

Mr. THUNE. I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOZMAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 3967

Mr. BLUNT. Mr. President, I rise today to recognize the bipartisan accomplishment by the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and the expanded support we are delivering for veterans living with illnesses as a result of toxic exposure due to their service in our Nation's uniform through the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act of 2022. This legislation ensures veterans who need help now can get it. We are all too familiar with the challenges that exist for veterans as a result of toxic exposure.

I have been working to improve veteran services and benefits for more than 20 years as a member of both the Senate and the House VA Committees. During that time, I have heard a lot about toxic exposure issues and have come to understand the immediate need to make improvement to benefits and care for post-9/11 veterans who were exposed to toxic substances as a result of burn pits. This exposure is known to cause serious illness, including rare cancers and respiratory ailments. Those suffering deserve to know they have not been forgotten and their voices have been heard.

The promise our Nation made to the men and women who served in these dangerous conditions must be kept. This bill fulfills that promise and delivers immediate access to healthcare for toxic-exposed veterans. It directs the VA to evaluate diseases for presumption of service connection and streamlines the process for toxic-exposed veterans seeking disability compensation for their illnesses without overwhelming the VA system. The Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson PACT Act also invests in the tools and resources to help the VA process disability claims in a timely manner and deliver quality healthcare to veterans living with toxic exposure illnesses.

With this measure, we continue to correct past failures of the VA to provide healthcare and benefits to previous generations exposed to Agent Orange as well. These challenges have existed for decades, and it is time we fulfill our promise to Vietnam-era veterans once and for all.

The legislation we are poised to approve updates VA policies to provide veterans like Bill Rhodes of Mena, AK—a marine who served in Thailand during the Vietnam war era—provide them access to the care he and the others who served in that area deserve. Mr. Rhodes has been a relentless advocate of toxic exposure benefits.

The VA accepts that herbicides were used along the perimeter of military bases in Thailand but does not recognize the impact of the herbicides inside the perimeter. This current policy makes no sense and is not fair, preventing veterans like Mr. Rhodes from accessing benefits as a result of toxic exposure.

After developing illnesses linked to herbicide exposure, Mr. Rhodes turned to the VA for help, but his claim was denied. I have been working with him for several years to advance a provision that corrects this mistake, and I am pleased that this act eliminates the bureaucratic hurdles that have stood in the way of veterans getting the care they earned.

This legislation is the result of bipartisan cooperation. We can achieve great things for our country when we put partisan politics aside. I appreciate the leadership of Chairman TESTER and Ranking Member MORAN to get this bill to the Senate floor. I am proud to work with them to address these press-

ing needs that face our veterans and their families.

I would also like to recognize and thank the countless veterans, the families, advocates, and veteran service organizations that continued their persistence to ensure Congress fulfills its promise to the men and the women who served in our Nation's uniform.

This legislation is long overdue. We have heard the struggles of veterans and their families living with toxic exposure-related illnesses. We can end the hurdles they experienced and save lives by passing this landmark legislation. I encourage my colleagues to join me in supporting it.

With that, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that I be allowed to speak for up to 5 minutes, followed by the Senator from Montana, Senator TESTER, for up to 5 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall votes.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. MORAN. Mr. President, thank you for the opportunity to address the U.S. Senate and the American people.

In a few moments, the Senate will vote on the Tester-Moran Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

For far too long—way far too long—our Nation's veterans have been living with chronic illnesses as a result of exposures during their time in uniform. Today, we are continuing to take the steps necessary to right this wrong with our legislation that will provide veterans and their families with the healthcare and benefits that they have earned and that they deserve.

In March, Secretary McDonough testified before our committee, the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and he stated that the House toxic exposure bill needed additional work before being brought to the full Senate for a vote. Because of the improvements we have made in the House bill, the VA Secretary yesterday told our committee that he can now "certify" this legislation will be implemented without negative operational impacts on existing disability claims and healthcare for veterans.

All along, I have had concern about the consequences of this legislation and the volume of cases that the VA will now encounter, what it may mean for those veterans as well as veterans who need VA care and benefits who are not toxic-exposed. Secretary McDonough yesterday went on to say: "We're ready for it, we've been pre-

paring for this. . . . I think we can do this and do it well and in all cases do it transparently."

While I appreciate the Secretary's assurance, our committee must continue its oversight of the VA and make certain that this bill is implemented correctly and that all those with toxic exposure and all veterans can rely upon the system for benefits and for healthcare. We still have our work cut out as a Congress, as a Senate, to make sure that the promises that are made in this bill are promises that are kept and that the promises that are made to other veterans are kept.

This bill is designed to fix a broken system that has been cobbled together over decades of patchwork fixes. Congress has been trying to solve these problems. The Department of Veterans Affairs has been trying to solve these problems. Finally, we bring together a solution that should make things significantly better for many.

While I continue to insist my GOP colleagues should be allowed to offer and debate and to vote on amendments, it is time to advance the Tester-Moran substitute and bring us one step closer to connecting all generations of toxic-exposed veterans with the care they need and they deserve and to provide veterans with certainty and support.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The Senator from Montana.

Mr. TESTER. Mr. President, I want to start my remarks by expressing my appreciation for Ranking Member MORAN's leadership. It has been stellar. If you combine him with Senator BOOZMAN and Senator HEINRICH, it has been a great team. I just want to thank Senator MORAN for his leadership and his continued desire to do the right thing for the servicemembers who have served this country in the military.

The Senate has a once-in-a-lifetime opportunity today to make history in passing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our Promise to Address Comprehensive Toxics Act.

Let me be clear. This bill isn't about Democrats versus Republicans. It is not about political posturing. It is about Americans standing up for those who have served and sacrificed on behalf of this country and the freedoms that we have today. In fact, it is even more than that. It is about righting a wrong that has been ignored for too damn long.

It is about Will Thompson, who served our country for 23 years in the Army on Active Duty as a West Virginia National Guardsman.

After his second tour in Iraq in 2009, Will developed pulmonary fibrosis from the effect of his exposures to burn pits, and he endured two double-lung transplants. He testified in front of our committee, less than a year ago. He lost his battle with his illnesses this last December.

It is about SFC Heath Robinson, who answered the call of duty and was deployed to Kosovo and Iraq with the

Ohio National Guard—a picture of Heath right here and his daughter.

While deployed, he was exposed to potent toxins, and 13 years after his deployment—13 short years after his deployment—he lost his life to a rare autoimmune disease and stage IV lung cancer, conditions absolutely and unequivocally caused by burn pits.

Sadly, it is too late to do right by Will and Heath and so many others for them personally, but today this body has a chance to do the right thing by their families and future generations of our All-Volunteer military by advancing the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

I want to talk a little bit about this plaque right here, see the picture of Heath in uniform? But you also see what is the most important thing to Heath, and that is his daughter. His daughter was at a press conference that the ranking member and I were at a little over a week ago. And I said this when I first spoke on this bill a little over a week ago, the first words out of her mouth were: “I love my daddy. Daddy’s not around anymore.” But because of, hopefully, the work that we are going to do here today, she will have a future.

This is not only about our service men and women—the people who served in our military—it is about their families because when folks go to war, it is just not the service person who does it; it is everybody in their family.

And what this bill will do, is it will address decades of inaction and failure by our government, expanding eligibility for VA healthcare to more than 3.5 million combat veterans exposed to burn pits. It supports our post-9/11 and Vietnam-era veterans by removing the burden of proof for 23 presumptive conditions caused by toxins.

These conditions include cancers to lung disease, and it establishes a framework for the establishment of future presumptions and service connections related to toxic exposure, giving the VA the tools it needs to bolster its workforce, establish more healthcare facilities, and improve claims processing.

There is always a cost to war, and that cost is never fully paid when the war ends. Our country didn’t live up to its promise to veterans like Will Thompson and Heath Robinson, but if we do what Senator MORAN and I have done, and that is put politics aside, if we put our American men and women’s bravest first, if we can begin settling our debts to millions of other veterans and their families by getting this bill across the finish line, we will have done something great.

And I would urge my colleagues to support this final procedural vote and a vote that is critical to moving this bill forward.

AMENDMENTS WITHDRAWN

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the remaining pending amendments be withdrawn, with the

exception of the substitute amendment No. 5051.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendments were withdrawn.

Mr. TESTER. I yield the floor.

VOTE ON AMENDMENT NO. 5051

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. All postcloture time has expired.

The question now occurs on agreeing to amendment No. 5051.

Mr. TESTER. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 84, nays 15, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 226 Leg.]

YEAS—84

Baldwin	Fischer	Murray
Barrasso	Gillibrand	Ossoff
Bennet	Graham	Padilla
Blumenthal	Grassley	Peters
Blunt	Hagerty	Portman
Booker	Hassan	Reed
Boozman	Hawley	Risch
Braun	Heinrich	Rosen
Brown	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Cantwell	Hirono	Rubio
Capito	Hoeven	Sanders
Cardin	Inhofe	Sasse
Carper	Kaine	Schatz
Casey	Kelly	Schumer
Cassidy	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Collins	King	Shaheen
Cooms	Klobuchar	Sinema
Cornyn	Leahy	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Stabenow
Cotton	Manchin	Tester
Cramer	Markey	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Van Hollen
Cruz	McConnell	Warner
Daines	Menendez	Warnock
Duckworth	Merkley	Warren
Durbin	Moran	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murkowski	Wyden
Feinstein	Murphy	Young

NAYS—15

Blackburn	Lee	Shelby
Burr	Lummis	Sullivan
Hyde-Smith	Paul	Tillis
Johnson	Romney	Toomey
Lankford	Scott (SC)	Tuberville

NOT VOTING—1

Wicker

The amendment (No. 5051) was agreed to.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, a bill to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes.

Charles E. Schumer, Jon Tester, Tammy Duckworth, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Margaret Wood Hassan, Kyrsten Sinema,

Mark Kelly, Christopher Murphy, Sherrod Brown, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Benjamin L. Cardin, Jack Reed, Tammy Baldwin, Jeanne Shaheen, Mazie Hirono, Ben Ray Lujan.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on H.R. 3967, the bill to improve healthcare and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, and for other purposes, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 76, nays 23, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 227 Leg.]

YEAS—76

Baldwin	Feinstein	Murkowski
Barrasso	Fischer	Murphy
Bennet	Gillibrand	Murray
Blumenthal	Graham	Ossoff
Blunt	Grassley	Padilla
Booker	Hagerty	Peters
Boozman	Hassan	Reed
Braun	Hawley	Rosen
Brown	Heinrich	Rubio
Cantwell	Hickenlooper	Sanders
Capito	Hirono	Schatz
Cardin	Hoeven	Schumer
Carper	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Casey	Kaine	Shaheen
Cassidy	Kelly	Sinema
Collins	Kennedy	Smith
Coons	King	Stabenow
Cornyn	Klobuchar	Tester
Cortez Masto	Leahy	Van Hollen
Cotton	Lujan	Warner
Cramer	Manchin	Warnock
Cruz	Markey	Warren
Daines	Marshall	Whitehouse
Duckworth	Menendez	Wyden
Durbin	Merkley	
Ernst	Moran	

NAYS—23

Blackburn	McConnell	Shelby
Burr	Paul	Sullivan
Crapo	Portman	Thune
Hyde-Smith	Risch	Tillis
Johnson	Romney	Toomey
Lankford	Rounds	Tuberville
Lee	Sasse	Young
Lummis	Scott (SC)	

NOT VOTING—1

Wicker

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 76, the nays are 23.

Three-fifths of the Senators duly chosen and sworn having voted in the affirmative, the motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

JUNETEENTH

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, on Monday, these Chambers will be empty, but our hearts will be full because we will be joining the American people in commemorating a historic moment in our Nation’s story—Juneteenth, the formal end of slavery in the United States.

One year ago today, we stood together, across party lines, to pass this legislation to memorialize this important day as a Federal holiday. Though we celebrate this anniversary today, on

Monday, communities across our Nation have been marking Juneteenth for more than 150 years.

The celebration of Juneteenth dates back to June 19, 1865, when Union soldiers led by Major General Gordon Granger traveled to Galveston, TX, with the announcement that the Civil War had ended and that the enslaved were now free.

This was 2½ years after the date of President Lincoln's Emancipation Proclamation. Either the news of Lincoln's order had not reached many, including those in Texas, or local officials refused to enforce the Emancipation Proclamation.

Decades later, I introduced, along with my partners in service, Senators CORY BOOKER and TINA SMITH and Representative SHEILA JACKSON LEE, the Juneteenth National Independence Day Act to honor the day that these Americans took their first steps into freedom and finally made Juneteenth a Federal holiday.

On June 17, 2021, I was honored to stand with Vice President KAMALA HARRIS, Senator SMITH, Representative JACKSON Lee, Senator CORNYN, Senator WARNOCK, and Ms. Opal Lee, while President Biden signed the National Juneteenth Independence Day Act into law.

And why do I mention Ms. Opal Lee? Well, because she is the grandmother of the Juneteenth movement, who fought for years to make Juneteenth a Federal holiday, from Fort Worth, TX, an activist, an educator, who walked 2½ miles every day, fighting for the United States to finally have Juneteenth a Federal holiday. And at the age of 94, she saw that become a reality in the White House.

And in doing so, Juneteenth finally took its rightful place amongst other Federal holidays so that all Americans in all States can celebrate Juneteenth just like they celebrate Memorial Day. The same way they celebrate Martin Luther King Day, they now celebrate Juneteenth.

Juneteenth is a holiday that requires us to remember, reflect, and recommit to the principles that undergird our Nation, liberty and justice for all, but that we have never fully embodied.

We continue to strive to live up to these principles today. Systemic discrimination and mistreatment of Black and Brown Americans still permeates our society—from our criminal justice system to our schools, to our healthcare systems, that is why it is so important that we can learn from our past and honor the heroes in our history who have bent the moral arc of our Nation toward justice.

We face a long road toward justice and equality in the United States, and for us to move forward, that path must be lit with the recognition of our Nation's history.

Juneteenth is our Nation's history. Disparities and injustices reflect the unfulfilled promise of a nation built upon the notion that all people are created equal.

And it has roots in our Nation's original sin—slavery—a crime against humanity that we have for far too long failed to fully acknowledge or to address.

In commemorating Juneteenth as a Federal holiday, we will not fulfill our obligation to right all these wrongs or fix what remains broken, but it is the truth of our history. We must read these missing chapters to understand our national story of freedom and independence.

And right now, in red States across the country, extremists don't want us to learn from our own history. They are burning books and threatening schoolteachers in an attempt to stop our young people from understanding our Nation's past and how it sheds light on our present.

These extremists are afraid that learning about our Nation's history, including many dark chapters as well as the many triumphs, is a threat. And instead of empowering our children to learn from their example, they wish to silence the stories of the brave women and men who have fought for racial equality, and those who continue to fight today follow in that tradition.

Critics say that this discourse will divide us, but that couldn't be less true. More than 150 years since the freeing of the last slaves in America, our Nation stands at a crossroads on our path to racial justice and equality.

We must recognize our wrongs, acknowledge the pain, acknowledge the suffering of generations of slaves and their descendants, and understand the structures of inequity that continue to oppress communities of color and, importantly, learn how the freedom fighters of yesterday and today embody the truest values of our Nation.

We have them to thank for our march toward a more perfect Union, but there is more work to be done. As Ms. Opal Lee said when talking about Juneteenth as a unifier, "I truly believe that we can do so much more together rather than apart."

Together, thanks to the work of this Chamber and so many Americans across our Nation who have fought to tell the full story of our past, Americans will commemorate Juneteenth on Monday.

In doing so, we will join with one another in honoring our past and recommitting to the work which lies ahead.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

GUN VIOLENCE

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, on Sunday, a bipartisan group of Senators announced principles for addressing the concerns over shootings like occurred in Uvalde, TX, 3 weeks ago, and other places as well.

And I would say we have been making good progress, but we have run into a couple of bumps in the road that have slowed things down a little bit.

One of them is over crisis intervention programs, something we agree is

very important. I believe that we ought to put every State in the position of seeking and receiving funds for crisis intervention programs that they have in place already, even if they don't have a red flag law.

"Red flag" has been what has been discussed and discussed many times, but 19 States have red flag laws, but that means 31 States have other crisis intervention initiatives that are designed to address the same problem, which is people who are a danger to themselves and others because of their mental health. It includes things like assisted outpatient treatment programs, drug courts, mental health courts, and veterans courts.

The other issue that we are wrestling with relates to the domestic violence provision and the way nontraditional relationships are handled. We need to define this in a very crystal clear way. It can't be overly broad or open to interpretation. It needs to be something that can actually be applied because we are talking about very serious consequences here.

Of course, with both of these provisions, we must include rigorous due process protections. That is a redline for folks on my side of the aisle.

I know Senator SCHUMER, the majority leader, wants to put this bill on the floor next week, but unless we can resolve these differences over these two provisions and do it soon, hopefully today, then we won't have time to prepare the text so Senators can read the bill for themselves, which we would expect them to do. And so that is going to require some continued work and good faith negotiations on all sides.

The details of these provisions are critical for support from my colleagues on this side of the aisle, and I hope that our colleagues across the aisle will understand, if we continue down this path without resolution, that we are jeopardizing the timetable that the majority leader has set out for us, or we are jeopardizing the likelihood we can get to 60 votes for anything, and we know how hard this is.

I am eager to wrap up our negotiations, but we are not going to cut corners or capitulate for the sole purpose of passing something. I am not willing to compromise on some of my basic principles or throw the Constitution out the window so we can have something we can hold up and say: Look what we did.

There is a bipartisan appetite to get this done—that is good—and I am optimistic about how far we have come, but we are not there yet, and we need to continue and do so quickly to reach an agreement on language so we can then write the text and have the vote.

From the outset, I said I wanted to identify targeted reforms that could have prevented the recent tragedies in Uvalde and elsewhere. That includes stronger mental health resources, which could have helped Salvador Ramos before he became so sick that he killed innocent children, and he

committed suicide, essentially, in the process. That includes school safety measures, which could have prevented the shooter from actually getting inside Robb Elementary School. It includes reforms to prevent violence by criminals and other dangerous individuals.

The National Instant Criminal Background Check System is one of the most effective tools we have to keep guns out of the hands of criminals and people who suffer from severe mental illness, but it is not a perfect system. It is only as good as the information contained in the system.

For example, in 2017, in the shooting in Sutherland Springs—a little town outside of San Antonio, TX, my hometown—what happened there highlighted the gaping hole in the background check system. Despite the fact that the shooter had a long and disturbing history of violence that should have prohibited him from purchasing a gun, he was able to do so because the Air Force in this instance had not uploaded his felony convictions, his domestic violence conviction, or his mental health commitment.

In response to Sutherland Springs, Senator MURPHY and I introduced the Fix NICS Act to ensure that all Federal Agencies accurately and correctly upload the required conviction records on a timely basis.

Yes, this is the same Senator CHRIS MURPHY whom I am working with now to try to achieve success here. We have done it before, and I believe we can do it again. Our bill was signed into law in March of 2018, and in the first 3 years, 11½ million more records were uploaded into the three national databases that the FBI checks. The number of records in one of those databases increased by more than 30 percent alone. So I think I can say with assurance that what we did together in 2018 has saved lives because if it kept a gun out of the hands of somebody who is already prohibited from getting a gun under current law, we will have saved a life—maybe even the life of the shooter. Sixty percent of the gun deaths in America are suicides. But I know we have saved at least those lives and I think many others as well.

But, as the Uvalde shooting demonstrated, there is another hole in the background check system, and that is juvenile records.

Salvador Ramos showed up at the age of 18 and had a clean record as far as the background check system was concerned because it couldn't look back at his troubled history, struggling with mental health and law enforcement problems. So he showed up as if he had been born the day before, and nothing else previously mattered because it wasn't in the background check system.

If there are disqualifying criminal or mental health records, that information should show up in the NICS system. In other words, if there are things in your life that would disqualify you if

you were an adult but that happened before you turned 18, I think that is the information we need and would want to have for purposes of determining who should be able to purchase or possess a firearm. So that wall that prevents the lookback into pre-18-year-old records is obviously a problem.

Four years ago, the Uvalde Police Department received information about two male juveniles, 13 and 14 years old, who were plotting a school shooting for their senior year. That was 4 years ago, and they were plotting a school shooting when they graduated in—you guessed it—2022. Now, there is no way for us to know for sure whether one of those individuals was Salvador Ramos because those juvenile records are not available to us. But I am here to say that if it is not Salvador Ramos, then we have even a bigger problem. If there are two additional, young, 13- and 14-year-old boys out there saying they are going to shoot up the school when they become seniors, we have even a bigger problem.

One of the provisions we are discussing would encourage the States to upload similar relevant juvenile records into the NICS. This is standard practice in some but not all States, and it is easy to see why it is important.

If an 18-year-old is convicted of aggravated assault—a felony—the record will show up in his background check and prohibit him from purchasing a gun, but if a 17-year-old is convicted of the same crime, the record will not necessarily be uploaded into the National Instant Criminal Background Check System. If he tries to purchase a gun at 18, the background check is likely to come back clean—again, because the system is only as good as the information in it.

Let me give you another example. An individual can be adjudicated mentally ill on his 17th birthday and actually be civilly committed for multiple months in a mental institution, but that same person could likely purchase a gun at the age of 18 without anything showing up on his record. Existing law prohibits that purchase, but not all the States are sending that information to the National Instant Criminal Background Check System.

Those are examples of why it is so important to be able to get that lookback in the pre-18-year-old history for mental health or criminal justice encounters.

This is not actually an expansion of the background check system because it doesn't add any new restrictions to gun ownership, but it would permit the background check system to actually have access to relevant and material information. It is a commonsense step to ensure that the data in the NICS system is accurate.

That is easy enough to say, but we need to ensure this idea would work in practice, and that is exactly what we are examining now.

No. 1, we need to ensure this provision would protect due process of law.

That is a constitutional right that is fundamental. Under current law, anyone who receives a denial has the right to appeal that decision or challenge the accuracy of the record. Of course, those same protections should exist for juvenile records as well.

Secondly, we need to establish an interim plan while these records are being uploaded into the background check system, a process that will take some time.

Now, my colleagues across the aisle suggested a mandatory waiting period for all purchasers under the age of 21, but we didn't agree to that. There is no reason why somebody who passes a background check with all relevant information in the database should be denied the ability to purchase a gun. In fact, we are talking again about a constitutional right. So no mandatory waiting period. But we are looking at extending the investigatory period for juvenile records that are unclear or ambiguous. Let me explain what I am talking about.

Under current law, a person who wants to purchase a gun from their local retailer must complete a background check. We talked about that. In nearly 90 percent of the cases, the background check is resolved almost immediately because these are computerized records. The average processing time is, in fact, less than 2 minutes. In those cases, the seller receives an immediate answer—either the sale can proceed or it cannot.

In the remaining roughly 10 percent of background checks, the system doesn't return a green light or a red light. In short, this happens when there are question marks or other things that need to be inquired about. This could be caused by a number of factors. If the buyer has a common name, the system could pull records on the wrong individual with the same name. It could also be caused by incomplete criminal history records. For example, if somebody was convicted of assault but the record doesn't say whether it was a felony or misdemeanor or in some cases whether the assault was a domestic violence incident, that would have consequences in terms of their ability to purchase a firearm. So further review, further investigation sometimes is necessary to see whether the light should be green or the light should be red.

Under the current law, the FBI has up to 3 business days to complete a background check and give the seller a clean answer on whether the sale can proceed. That is current law, up to 3 days. In many cases, this review that we are talking about adding for persons between 18 and 21—this review can clarify that the sale can proceed, and that is a great thing. That is how we safeguard Second Amendment rights for law-abiding gun owners.

We discussed the idea of extending that investigatory period when there is a question mark surrounding juvenile records. Again, this is the exception to

the rule, where more information is required because the answer that you get is ambiguous or unclear.

Under this enhanced review, an 18-year-old with a clean record would be able to expeditiously purchase a firearm. The extended investigation period would only apply to those rare cases and, again, only for those 18 to 20 for whom the system does not return a clear answer—yes or no, green or red—but, rather, a yellow light.

We believe this is a commonsense and straightforward way to improve the existing background check system without adding new restrictions.

As I said, negotiations are ongoing, but time is of the essence because we need to get to an agreement so we can get text to our colleagues so that the majority leader can bring this bill up on the floor next week after giving everyone a chance to read it and understand it and have their questions answered.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Pennsylvania.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT REQUEST—EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nominations en bloc: Calendar Nos. 732 and 735; that the Senate vote on the nominations en bloc without intervening action or debate; that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nominations be printed in the RECORD; and that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

The Senator from Indiana.

Mr. BRAUN. Mr. President, reserving the right to object, it has come to my attention recently on a couple of the nominees whom the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission is entertaining—this body has been rife with allegations of abuse of power and a hostile work environment, resulting in several whistleblower complaints. Several of these allegations would have occurred during both Mary Lu Jordan's and Timothy Baker's previous tenures at the Agency.

The Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission was created under the Mine Act, which declared that the industry must view the health and safety and consider it the most precious resource of the miner. The Agency does not have its own Office of Inspector General to review these considerations. I think it probably needs one. This has led to ongoing efforts by both House Oversight and Senate Republicans.

It is important to shine a light on Agencies like this, the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, that have little to no oversight currently.

So, until I am satisfied—and I think others as well—that we look into that, that we vet those concerns, and have some type of interim oversight, I do object.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Objection is heard.

The Senator from Pennsylvania.

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have some remarks on the nominations.

As the Senator from Indiana noted, the two individuals talked about are Timothy "T.J." Baker and Mary Lu Jordan to serve on the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. Mr. Baker and Ms. Jordan are highly qualified nominees who were nominated last year.

Mr. Baker currently serves as the associate general counsel of the United Mine Workers of America and previously worked for the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission, first as an attorney-advisor in the Office of Administrative Law Judges in Pittsburgh and then as attorney-advisor in the Office of the Commissioners in Washington, DC. Mr. Baker is also the son of a coal miner.

Ms. Jordan was appointed as a Commissioner on the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission in 1994 and has served in that capacity almost continuously since then. Her most recent term as Commissioner ended in 2020, and she has since served as senior attorney-advisor at the Commission.

Given their expertise and commitment to public service, both Mr. Baker and Ms. Jordan would be assets to the Federal Mine Safety and Health Review Commission. It is past due that the Senate confirm their nominations. Confirming both would give Democrats a majority on the Commission.

Mr. Baker and Ms. Jordan are among the excellent nominees who have been put forward by the Biden-Harris administration. Nominees like Mr. Baker and Ms. Jordan will help us represent our Nation's coal miners, and I hope we can advance their nominations today.

With that, I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. ROSEN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

H.R. 3967

Mr. OSSOFF. Madam President, I rise today to urge my colleagues—Democrats, Independents, Republicans—to seize this opportunity that we have to pass bipartisan legislation to look out for the veterans of wars in Iraq and Afghanistan who are suffering the terrible consequences of exposure to burn pits, toxic fumes, and toxic waste.

When we send Americans to war, caring for them when they return is not a favor, it is not a good deed, it is not a

choice; it is a sacred obligation of the U.S. Government.

I would observe that many of the same Senators who voted to send our forces into harm's way in Iraq and Afghanistan are still serving in this body today.

We have a sacred obligation to pass this legislation to ensure that those who served in those conflicts and anywhere around the world in service to the United States, suffering from the effects of exposure to toxins, get the care they need through the VA.

This is about folks like COL David McCracken of Tyrone, GA, an Army Reservist deployed in defense of our country after 9/11. Colonel McCracken made it home from those deployments. He served his country. He did his duty with valor and bravery. But at the age of 45, when otherwise healthy, Colonel McCracken was diagnosed with brain cancer—a rare occurrence at his age—and 11 months later, he was dead, taken from a wife and three children.

This is about folks like Army SGT Jeff Danovich, who fought in Mosul in 2004, where he lived just 100 yards from a burn pit. Like Colonel McCracken, Sergeant Danovich did his duty. He served in combat. He came home to his family, but just 2 years ago, Sergeant Danovich was diagnosed with leukemia. And when he filed for disability with the VA because of his exposure to burn pits, his claim was denied.

Let me just state again that when this government sends its forces into harm's way, caring for them when they return is not a good deed. We don't get extra credit for doing this. It is not a favor; it is our job. And let me remind my colleagues once again that many of you in this body voted to send these men and women into combat.

So Senator TESTER and Senator MORAN have presented us with a bipartisan bill to do what is right and look after the veterans who did their jobs for us when we sent them to do those jobs. Let's do our jobs for them and pass this legislation.

I yield the floor.

(Ms. BALDWIN assumed the Chair.)

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The Senator from Illinois.

TENTH ANNIVERSARY OF DACA

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, it was 10 years ago today that President Obama walked into the White House Rose Garden and said he had an announcement to make.

He made an announcement which changed the lives of hundreds of thousands of people living in America. He announced the Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals. Now, we call it DACA.

And with that announcement, I joined with, I guess, thousands of young leaders across this country and breathed a sigh of relief.

Over the past decade, DACA has allowed more than 800,000 Dreamers to remain in the only home they have ever known: America. These young people we call Dreamers came to this

country as children, some as young as a few months old. They grew up studying in our classrooms. They grew up befriending our children and grandchildren. They went to church with us, and when they were kids, every morning they stood up in that classroom and pledged allegiance to that flag. And the reason they did it, of course, is they believed it was their flag.

In the years since DACA was announced, a lot has changed in the world. Presidents have come and gone, wars have ended, and a once-in-a-century pandemic has rocked the world.

But in the face of all these changes and upheavals, one thing remains steady, constant, and predictable: the devotion of Dreamers to America. These young people have demonstrated an unwavering commitment to America. They served as our school teachers, first responders, members of the military, essential workers in the pandemic.

More than 200,000 DACA recipients were classified by our government as “essential critical infrastructure workers” during the pandemic—200,000 of them. And, remember, they don’t enjoy the benefit of citizenship yet. Among them are 40,000 healthcare industry workers, doctors, nurses, paramedics.

Over the years, I have come to the floor of the Senate over 125 different times to tell the stories of the Dreamers. These stories show us what is at stake when we consider the fate of DACA and the Dream Act.

Today, I want to tell you the story of Yazmin Ruiz. She is the 130th Dreamer story that I have told on the Senate floor.

This is a photograph of Yazmin.

She arrived in this country at the age of 3, along with her twin sister and her mom. And even though her extended family remained in Mexico, she said she never felt alone growing up in Arizona because “we were surrounded by community.”

But when Yazmin was 16, the family suffered a tragedy that ignited her passion for medicine. Her mother had a stroke, and when the family arrived at the hospital, they were shocked to discover that none of the healthcare providers spoke Spanish.

At a young age, Yazmin, who was grappling with the trauma and fear that her mother might die, was forced to play the role of interpreter and translator to save her mother’s life.

It was at that moment, even as a terrified 16-year-old, that Yazmin resolved to become a healthcare hero if her mom needed her.

She studied hard in high school. She graduated with honors. She made her way to the University of New Mexico, where she earned a bachelor of science in biology and Spanish.

Yazmin then matriculated to the University of New Mexico School of Medicine, but then she hit a speed bump. She discovered that her immigration status was going to stop her from receiving a professional license to

practice medicine. Her dream was interrupted.

What did she do? She said: No way. She wouldn’t accept no for an answer.

She joined a coalition of like-minded students and rallied support in the New Mexico Legislature to change the State law on licensure.

Now Yazmin Ruiz is fulfilling her childhood dream. Every day she delivers care and support to families like her own and offers the guidance that she once sought as a teenager lost in our healthcare system.

Yazmin is in the third year of her general surgeon residency at the University of New Mexico. And at the height of the pandemic, she was deep in the trenches of our healthcare system.

Back in the summer of 2020, when COVID was new and basically unknown, Yazmin was working 80 hours a week, providing daily care to COVID-positive patients, performing CPR, and wearing protective gear from head to toe.

Like so many Dreamers, Yazmin’s commitment to serving her community was unshakeable. Even when her own family members came down with COVID, she didn’t stay home and take care of them. She went to work. Day after day, she put her life on the line to save the lives of others.

And she has continued that journey as a healthcare professional against improbable odds.

Yazmin considers it “a privilege and an honor to serve America in the midst of an unprecedented public health crisis.”

I want to thank Yazmin Ruiz for her service on the frontlines of the coronavirus pandemic. She is an immigrant health hero. She is a DACA health hero. She has put herself and her family at risk to protect American lives. She shouldn’t also have to worry about whether she is going to be deported tomorrow and whether her family will be deported as well.

Think about that for one moment. This young woman, against all the odds, is pursuing her residency in surgery. She is determined to serve this Nation and to make people’s lives better.

And what is our response, our official government response? Sorry. You are not a citizen, and under the current law, you never will be.

So you ask yourself, what are we thinking? If a quality, contributing person like Yazmin Ruiz is willing to defy the odds and to risk everything to be a doctor, why aren’t we applauding that, rewarding that, giving her an incentive and others like her to be a generation of service to America?

Basic question we have to ask, would we be a better nation, a better country, if we deported Yazmin Ruiz? I hope the answer is pretty obvious. It is to me.

Over the past 20 years or more, I have had the privilege of sharing more than 100 stories like Yazmin’s on the floor of the Senate—the stories of Dreamers who have given everything they can to

America and who have more than earned their place in America’s story.

Yet these brilliant young people are still waiting on us, on Congress, to finish the job that President Obama started with DACA. This program was always supposed to be a temporary solution. Ten years ago we knew that. The permanent solution was enacting a piece of legislation that I introduced 20 years ago called the DREAM Act. It provides a path to citizenship for Dreamers, including young immigrants eligible for DACA.

Congress has been on the cusp of passing the DREAM Act for years. In 2013, we included it in a larger immigration package that passed the Senate with 68 votes. It was a glorious day. Can you imagine it—68 votes in the Senate for anything?

And that broad bipartisan support reflected America’s public opinion; that the Dream Act was the right thing to do. In fact, over the years, “Dreamers” have become a household word. When we came up with the name for this legislation over 20 years ago, and you said the word “Dreamers,” people would say: Oh, I know that. That is a rock group, a British rock group, and it might have been Freddie and the Dreamers, but that wasn’t the group we were describing at all.

These Dreamers have touched the hearts of America because in the Dreamers we see our own history as a nation of immigrants. We know that they deserve permanent status in this country, their home. They have earned it, but time and again the Senate has failed DACA recipients.

Instead of making these protections permanent, we have left them in doubt. The former President of the United States, Donald Trump, even attempted to terminate the DACA Program to turn people like Yazmin Ruiz away from the country.

Can you imagine what that would have meant to her, to her family, to New Mexico, to America, for all the Americans whose lives have been saved by Dreamers like Yazmin or for the Nation’s classrooms and businesses that count on these idealistic, hard-working people who want to be part of our future?

And our failure to protect Dreamers is not only a human disaster, it is an economic disaster. It doesn’t add up.

DACA recipients and their households pay more than \$5 billion in Federal taxes, more than \$3 billion in State and local taxes every single year. That is money that funds the construction of roads and bridges, pays Social Security, Medicare, and Medicaid. And the economic upside of enacting the Dream Act is even bigger.

Last year, the House passed the bipartisan Dream and Promise Act. If the Senate just followed their lead and passed that legislation today, we could increase America’s GDP by more than \$800 billion over the next decade and create hundreds of thousands of jobs in the process.

Our broken immigration system is embarrassing. It is failing America, and it is failing our families. It is also failing our economy. Beyond the Dream Act, Congress on both sides of the political spectrum agree, comprehensive immigration reform would boost our economic growth and help ease inflationary pressures in the United States. The United States Chamber of Commerce even called for doubling the number of legal immigrants in America to address the worker shortage and in turn alleviate inflation. With the Dream Act, we are talking about a bipartisan measure that is very simple in scope. It allows young people who have grown up in America to continue contributing to our economy. For decades now, Dreamers have been stuck in legislative purgatory. Only a subset of them have been able to secure DACA protections, and even for those who do, they have to renew their status every 2 years, which means they can only plan their lives in uncertain 2-year increments. That is unfair. No, it is cruel.

Dreamers are living with the sword of Damocles hanging over their head. In the coming weeks, a Federal judge could strike down DACA and deport these young people to countries they barely remember, if they remember at all. Just last year, a Federal judge in Texas limited the program to only renewing applications. That ruling was wrong. It excluded a whole generation of Dreamers from stepping out of the shadows of a broken immigration system.

If there is one lesson we can learn from the bipartisan gun safety framework that is being debated this week in Washington, it is that the Members of this Senate are not as divided as the American people think. We can come together to support commonsense policies that secure a brighter future for America. That is exactly the opportunity we have with the Dream Act.

I can think of no better way to celebrate the 10-year anniversary of DACA than by finally passing this legislation, offering every one of our amazing Dreamers a path to American citizenship, which they deserve and they have earned. An overwhelming bipartisan majority of voters want Congress to pass the Dream Act. They know it will dramatically grow our economy and strengthen our Nation. Most importantly, it is the right thing to do.

It is time for Congress to step up and meet our responsibility—Democrats, Republicans and Independents alike. Let's get this done.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HICKENLOOPER). The Senator from Vermont.

BUDGET RESOLUTION

Mr. SANDERS. Mr. President, at 5:15 this afternoon, we will be voting on a budget resolution written by my colleague Senator RAND PAUL from Kentucky. As chairman of the Budget Committee, I urge a very strong "no" vote.

At a time of a massive incline in wealth inequality, at a time when two people in our country own more wealth than the bottom 42 percent of our population, at a time when the top 1 percent owns more wealth than the bottom 92 percent, at a time when we are looking at more income and wealth inequality than at any time in American history, this budget resolution offered by Senator PAUL would move us in exactly the wrong direction and make a bad situation worse.

Senator PAUL's resolution would make the very wealthiest people in this country even wealthier, while at the same time, it would make tens of millions of middle-class Americans—people in the middle class, people in the working class, lower income Americans—even poorer.

We remain, sadly, the only major country on Earth not to guarantee healthcare to all people as a human right. We pay the highest prices by far in the world for prescription drugs. Half of our people are living paycheck to paycheck, and millions are working at 8, 9, 10 bucks an hour because we still have a disastrous, starvation minimum wage of \$7.25 an hour. Many millions of Americans today, as housing prices soar, are spending half or more of their limited incomes on housing. Forty-five million people in our country are struggling with student debt. At a time when half of older Americans have no savings—people have worked their entire lives, and they have no savings to prepare themselves for retirement. The Social Security benefits that they will receive are inadequate to allow them to live out their remaining years in dignity.

What this budget resolution brought forth by Senator PAUL does is exactly the opposite of what we should be doing. Instead of expanding Medicare to make sure that every man, woman, and child in this country has healthcare as a human right, this is a budget that would lead to devastating cuts to Medicare, cuts to Medicaid, and cuts to other public health programs.

Senator PAUL's budget resolution would cut nutrition assistance at a time when there are children in America today who are going hungry. It would cut Federal aid to education at a time when schools are looking for funding to pay the teachers they need adequate wages. But in the midst of this budget that cuts healthcare, that cuts education, that cuts Social Security, that cuts every benefit needed by ordinary Americans, this is a budget that would give massive tax breaks to the wealthiest people in this country.

So you have a situation where, right now, we have a tax system which is broken, which is corrupt, which allows some billionaires in a given year to pay zero in Federal income taxes—zero. Some of the richest people in this country in a given year do not pay a nickel in Federal income tax. We have a tax system which allows dozens of major, profitable corporations making

billions of dollars a year in profit to pay in a given year zero in Federal income tax. We have an effective tax rate today in which billionaires pay a lower effective rate than nurses and firefighters. That is what we have today. Senator PAUL's budget—well, you guessed it. You are right. It would give even more tax breaks to the 1 percent and to the billionaire class.

Unfortunately, the vision of America that Senator PAUL's budget puts forward—balancing the budget on the backs of working families, the elderly, the children, the sick, and the poor in order to make the richest people in America even richer—is not just the vision of Senator PAUL. I wish it was just his vision, and I have to applaud his honesty for coming forward and putting his vision on paper. Unfortunately, it is the vision of many, many people in the Republican Party, and this is what they want.

Senator PAUL and many in the Republican Party do not believe that it was good enough to provide over \$1 trillion in tax breaks to the top 1 percent and large corporations, as they did when Trump was President—not good enough. The budget that we are debating today, Senator PAUL's proposal, would make those tax breaks for the wealthy and the powerful permanent—permanent—at a cost of more than \$2 trillion over the next decade, cutting nutrition programs for hungry children, throwing millions of people off of Medicare and Medicaid, but providing \$2 trillion in tax breaks for the very wealthy.

Under Trump, Republicans came within 1 vote of passing a bill that would have thrown up to 32 million Americans off of health insurance and eliminated vital protections for people with preexisting conditions like cancer or diabetes and substantially increased premiums for older workers. That was the bill that the Trump administration tried to get passed. It failed by one vote—the late Senator McCain.

Senator PAUL and many Republicans who support this budget resolution believe that what they tried to do a few years ago in decimating the Affordable Care Act—hey, that didn't go far enough.

So the budget that we are talking about right now, Senator PAUL's proposal, would throw up to 35 million Americans off of Medicaid.

So what do you do in the middle of a pandemic when you have no health insurance? Well, right now, as a nation today, there are estimates that about 60,000 people a year die because they don't get to a doctor on time. Throw 35 million people off Medicaid, that number will escalate. We are talking about tens and tens of thousands of people who would die because they wouldn't have Medicaid, wouldn't be able to go to a doctor when they are sick.

When Donald Trump was in office, he proposed a budget that would have cut Medicare by nearly \$845 billion. Senator PAUL and the Republicans who

will support this budget do not believe that those cuts went far enough—only \$845 billion in cuts to Medicare. The budget we are debating today would cut Medicare by up to \$3.9 trillion over the next decade and throw some 29 million senior citizens and persons with disabilities off of Medicare.

At a time when tens of millions of Americans struggle with hunger, Senator PAUL and the Republicans who support this budget want to cut the SNAP program by \$300 billion, throwing some 13 million people off of that program.

I don't know what a nation stands for if we cannot feed the hungry and if we cannot provide healthcare to people who need it, but that is what this budget does. Overall, Senator PAUL's budget would make \$15 trillion in cuts over the next 10 years, slashing the Federal budget by nearly 40 percent by the end of this decade.

So that is where we are today, Mr. President. And, again, I would reiterate that this is not just Senator PAUL's budget. And I applaud him for his honesty. He is an honest guy; he is a straightforward guy; and he comes forward and he says: This is what I believe.

It would be bad enough if this were just the views of one U.S. Senator. Unfortunately, it is not. These are the views of many in the Republican Party.

So, Mr. President, it is absolutely imperative that this budget proposal of Senator PAUL be defeated and that we move this country forward in a very different direction. It is a direction which says that the U.S. Government should be representing the needs of all of the people, not just the wealthy and the powerful and Big Money campaign contributors. It is a vision in opposition to Senator PAUL that says that healthcare is a human right, that we have to stand up to the pharmaceutical industry and cut prescription drug costs in this country in half. It is a vision which says that, no, we should not be cutting Social Security; we should be lifting the cap on taxable income, which today is at \$147,000, meaning that somebody making \$10 million pays the same amount into Social Security as somebody making \$147,000. We should be lifting that cap so that we can increase Social Security benefits for all seniors.

So, Mr. President, this is not just a budget resolution on the part of the Senator from Kentucky, Senator PAUL; this really is a contrasting vision of where we want this country to go. Do we want to move into an oligarchic form of society where a handful of people on top have enormous wealth and enormous political power while, at the same time, the middle class continues to become small and we have more and more people living in poverty?

So these are contrasting visions of the future of America, and I hope very much that Senator PAUL's resolution will be soundly defeated.

With that, I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

H.R. 3967

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, I wanted to talk for just a few minutes, if I could, about a bill that is coming to the floor. It is called the PACT Act. And this is something that those of us at the Veterans' Affairs Committee have worked on for quite a period of time.

And we had worked diligently through what we thought was a prescribed and agreed-to process, and we are finding out that the majority leader is pretty much forcing this issue to the floor this week for a vote. And he is calling it "the most ambitious and important expansion of veteran healthcare benefits that we have seen in decades."

Now, Senators Schumer and Tester have, indeed, put forth a bill that when you look at it, when you hear the intent, a first glance at it, you say: Oh, this is exactly what we need to help our servicemembers.

And, indeed, we all are just so grateful for the men and women who have served in this country, who have worn that uniform. But there is a lot to be said for bringing measures to the floor for passage when they are ready, when there has been agreement on critical importance. As the majority leader said, the biggest expansion of benefits that we have seen in decades.

Now, many of us have worked for quite a period of time on the issue of toxic exposure and have worked on how best to make certain that when we address this, that you are going to get care to the veteran in a timely manner—they are not going to have to wait; they are going to receive the care that they need.

So it is frustrating to me, as it is to many of my colleagues, to think about what could have been accomplished had the majority leader just done what he had promised to do and had allowed a thorough amendment process. We should all share the goal of making certain that legislation we pass that deals with our veterans, that deals with our men and women in uniform, is going to be a promise fulfilled and not a false promise or not a frustration.

Yesterday, at Veterans' Affairs Committee, we had a hearing with our VA Secretary. We have had a terrible problem with case backloads on benefits in health services. Currently, the case backlog is about 188,000. That is the backlog. That is what needs to be worked through. And in passing this bill that is before us today, the estimate is that we are going to add about a million cases to that.

Now, I want you to put yourself in the shoes of a veteran who has suffered and is suffering with toxic exposure and has a rare cancer, has a respiratory disease, a cardiovascular disease, and is needing access to care.

What you want is to be able to get that care. What you don't want to do is have to wait for that care. And that is

why we needed to go through this amendment process: to address this issue of how a veteran is going to be able to access that care in a timely manner when they need the care because with some of these rare diseases, days and weeks and months become a life-or-death issue. So the access is important. The amendments that we proposed were as noncontroversial as you can get in these days.

Now, the amendment that I had, which was one of the two amendments that we were to have on the Republican side—by the way, I said that, two amendments. That is what we were going to be allowed. It wasn't an open amendment process—two amendments, two things that would have improved the bill. I proposed an amendment that would have eliminated arbitrary bureaucratic hurdles for toxic exposed veterans, would have eliminated this from the long wait times at their local VA hospitals and clinics. Basically, it would have been that express pass that they need because it would have allowed them to seek care in the community if they could get it there faster than they could through the VA.

Now, the reason for this is because I spend a lot of time talking with veterans in Tennessee. I have veterans who are a part of our team. They talk to me about the issues that many of their friends and their neighbors are experiencing or people who served in their unit or their battalion and how they need this care.

Right now, if you are in the Nashville area, which is where many of our retirees from Fort Campbell and the 101st go for their care—if you are there and you are going to go to the VA over at Vanderbilt there in Nashville and request an appointment, your wait is 72 days. What if you are a veteran and you have a rare respiratory condition that is caused from a burn pit or from toxic exposure or you have developed a cancer and you are needing care, do you really want to have to wait 2½ months to be able to see a general practitioner for an appointment that will refer you to a specialist?

Do we think that is fair to our veterans? Is that the way to treat them—to say, pick up the phone and call and then we will get you an appointment? By the way, it is going to be 72 days on the wait time, and then we will start the clock to try to get you into community care to get you to a specialist.

My amendment would basically have said veterans can take that card out of their wallet, their VA card—they can show it at a care facility in their community, and they can get the care they need then. You are eliminating wait times for them. You are eliminating long lines. You are eliminating the frustration and the fear and the anxiety that comes as every day you think this cancer is growing, and I am being denied care because of the bureaucratic process. Our veterans ought not to have to deal with that bureaucratic process. They have waited a long time.

So this amendment would have improved the bill. And I have it right here in my hands. It is really very simple. Section 121, "Subtitle C—Other Health Care Matters"—that is what is underneath—"REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE CARE UNDER VETERANS COMMUNITY CARE PROGRAM FOR TOXIC-EXPOSED VETERANS." And then it goes through, it strikes an "or," inserts a semicolon, strikes the period at the end of the sentence and inserting "or" and adds "the covered veteran is a toxic-exposed veteran."

Pretty specific. It elevates the care that they need so that they do not have to wait because they have waited long enough. And they don't want to have to wait until the VA hires enough people to do this. Right now, if the VA is going to hire new nurses or doctors, do you know how long it takes them to get them hired? Ninety-seven days. Do they have what they need to meet this load? No, they do not.

Now, in the private sector they can make these hires in about 16 days. And they do. And we have discussed these hiring process changes that need to be made in order to facilitate this care.

Now, some have said: Well, you know, if we allow community care, in essence, that is privatizing—privatizing—the VA. No, it is not. It is not privatizing. What it is doing is saying the VA is seeking a better way to deliver a service in a timely manner to the people who have been promised the service. That is what the amendment would do. It would allow them to avoid that bureaucratic process to take that VA card to go get the care they need that day. But, no, because we have some who are so fearful that the VA or the Federal Government might lose some of their power, some of their control over your life, they will not agree to that.

Now, the fiscal year 2021 NDAA included my K2 Veterans Toxic Exposure Accountability Act, requiring a 180-day study by DOD on toxic exposures at K2 to demonstrate more clearly the associations between exposure to toxic substances and negative health consequence experienced by K2 veterans. That is something that had a tremendous effect on many of our military men and women at Fort Campbell and there with the 160th, with the 101st.

And I have worked with Senator TILLIS on the Toxic Exposure in the Military Act, the TEAM Act, which was largely included in the PACT Act. And I worked with Senator SULLIVAN on the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, which would concede exposure to a list of toxic substances, hazards, and chemicals common to burn pits for veterans who deployed to certain covered locations within certain corresponding periods.

So I thank my colleagues who have put the effort in on this. I will say that I am very disappointed that my colleagues from New York and Montana decided no amendments. Senator MORAN's amendment would have ad-

justed how that wait time is calculated to be more fair to our veterans. My amendment would have allowed them to immediately get the care they need, lifesaving care—lifesaving care. It would have allowed that immediate access. But we have chosen, it appears—or the majority leader and the chairman have chosen—to move forward without an amendment process that would be more fair and more responsive to our veterans. And at the same time, they are daring us to vote no on this bill. I would challenge them.

Take a moment and let's return to the agreed-to amendment process and improve this for the sake—for the sake—and the livelihood of many of our veterans who are experiencing the effects of toxic exposure.

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. PAUL. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

SETTING FORTH THE CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET FOR THE UNITED STATES GOVERNMENT FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023 AND SETTING FORTH THE APPROPRIATE BUDGETARY LEVELS FOR FISCAL YEARS 2024 THROUGH 2032—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, the United States has the largest economy in the world and also has the largest government apparatus in the world. This year, we will bring in \$4.8 trillion and will spend about \$5.8 trillion, and yet we will have no budget this year. How inexcusable, how embarrassing it is for a country—the largest country in the world, the largest government in the world, the largest bureaucracy in the world—to have no budget. Is it any wonder that we are \$30 trillion in debt?

Most small businesses have a budget. Most businesses in our country have a budget and a prediction for what will come in and what will go out for the year, and this year there will be no budget. Not only will there be no Democratic presentation about it, there will be no Republican presentation as a party.

So today I will introduce my budget. This is a budget that balances in 5 years. The reason we chose 5 years is that the constitutional amendment to the budget amendment—the constitutional amendment that would balance the budget—balances in 5 years. We voted on that amendment previously in this body, and the Democrats, in unison, opposed it. They were opposed to a balanced budget amendment to the Constitution. The Republicans were unanimous in voting for the balanced budget amendment, constitutional amendment. In that amendment, the

text of it would balance the budget in 5 years. So you would think, if all 50 Republicans are on record as being for a balanced budget amendment that balances in 5 years, that all 50 Republicans would be for a balanced budget, a budget that actually balances in 5 years.

Now, why is it important to have a budget? Well, you ought to have a blueprint or a plan for what your government is going to do, so it is inexcusable not to have any budget at all.

But also we have another problem that we are facing in our country: We are facing the problem of inflation. Every American is seeing it. You are seeing your gas prices go through the roof. You are seeing your prices at the grocery store going through the roof.

Why do we have inflation? Well, inflation comes from debt. When the United States runs up a debt, it is sold. Foreign countries buy the debt, Americans buy the debt, but the biggest purchaser of our debt is the Federal Reserve.

When the Federal Reserve buys the debt, do they buy it with money that they have sort of laying around? Do you go to the Federal Reserve, and some guy opens a big safe, and here is the money to buy the debt? No. The Federal Reserve doesn't have any money, so the Federal Reserve simply prints up the money and buys the American debt. But what does that mean? When the Federal Reserve prints the money to buy the debt, this floods the system with money. So we are flooded with money right now. In the last 2 years, we borrowed \$6 trillion, so \$6 trillion is entered into the system.

When you look at the amount of money that is being created, there is a measurement of money supply called the M2. If you look at it on an annualized basis, it has been going up at 15 percent a year.

So inflation is an increase in the money supply. It is an increase in the money supply because they are buying the debt. So it is all related to spending.

It is inexcusable that we will have no budget this year. It is inexcusable that the projection is for a trillion-dollar deficit in 1 year and yet there won't even be a budget plan. There will be no plan to try to make the deficit less or to try to manage our money.

But with this debt comes inflation. We are suffering from the worst inflation we have had in 40 years. Who suffers the most from inflation? The working class, those who are on fixed income, those who are retired, they are getting creamed by this. People are spending over \$100 filling up their gas tank now. This is a real problem.

So a balanced budget is not an academic exercise. It is not something that is theoretical. Our deficit has real impacts. Our deficit is leading to inflation. So what I have proposed for the last several years is a balanced budget, a budget that balances gradually over 5 years by having across-the-board cuts.

When I started introducing this budget several years ago, you could simply freeze spending, and if you froze spending, we would grow out of the deficit. By 5 years, by not increasing spending, you would have a balanced budget. That was rejected by all the Democrats and about half of the Republicans.

So then we went another year or two, and spending increased. As spending increased and got worse, a freeze would no longer balance the budget in 5 years, so we introduced the Penny Plan. The Penny Plan was to cut 1 percent a year for 5 years, and it would balance. But still the Congress ignored my admonition on this, and the spending got worse.

In the last couple of years, it has had to have been increased by a two-penny plan, meaning a 2-percent reduction in spending each year for 5 years would still lead to balance in 5 years. But Congress once again has ignored that.

So last year when we introduced the 5-year plan to balance the budget, it was called the Five Penny Plan. You had to reduce spending by 5 percent each year for 5 years.

This year, it has gotten even worse. The \$6 trillion spending spree of the last 2 years when they locked down the economy and basically bankrupted almost every business in the country—when that occurred, there was massive spending, massive debts, and now, this year, in order to balance the budget, it would take a 6-percent cut.

But I would like to put this in perspective. If you ask people in Washington, their heads explode because they could never conceive of ever reducing spending. In fact, spending hasn't gone down really ever in real terms in recent history because the government grows and grows and grows. Your economy may shrink, your income may shrink, you may be unemployed, but the government gets bigger and bigger and bigger.

So if we want to tame government, if we want to get government to live within its means, if we want government to balance its budget, it would take some work. People in Washington seem to think, oh, it could never happen, but if you talk to a business man or woman who has ever been through a recession or ever been through tough times, they will tell you that sometimes a business has to reduce by 10 percent, 20 percent, 30 percent, to live within their means.

What we are calling for here is not no government. We are not even calling for a minimal government. What we are calling for is a government that lives within its means. Right now, living within its means would be a government that brings in \$4.8 trillion, which is how much tax revenue comes in, would spend \$4.8 trillion. So still the vast majority of things the government does, it could still continue to do, but it would have to spend less. We would have to have real restraint in spending.

The best way to perceive it is this: Imagine the thing that you want from

government that you think is so popular, nobody could touch. Let's take for example research for cancer or research for Alzheimer's disease, something that so many people advocate, so many people are emotionally charged with.

Well, when people come to Washington and they ask me about "I have this" or "My parents have this, and I want research money to go to this," what I typically will say to them is "You know we are out of money. You know that we have this massive deficit, and it has led to this great inflation that is across the land. What if we told everybody that they had to have a little bit less?" They look at me and they say "Well, what would that mean?" and I say "Well, let's say that your research project—the cancer research or the Alzheimer's research—got \$100 million last year. In order for all of us to tighten our belt, in order for all of us to balance the budget so we can be stronger, in order to tame the inflation that is eating us alive, you would get \$94 million next year."

So we are not talking about sort of eliminating whole facets of government; what we are talking about is everybody would have to deal with less.

There is so much waste throughout government. You look at the National Science Foundation. The National Science Foundation is one of the most wasteful Agencies in government.

You go back 50 years, and you look at William Proxmire. In the early 1970s, William Proxmire began giving an award called the Golden Fleece Award. What he would give an award for was wasteful spending, and almost always, it came to the National Science Foundation. One of the first ones he gave an award for was \$50,000 to discover what makes people fall in love. He just thought it was ridiculous that we would be spending money on that, and I agree. But it didn't get better; it got worse.

The National Science Foundation has never had a reduction in its money. It always gets more money. This year—and this is why this is a bipartisan problem—the Republicans and Democrats got together, and we nearly doubled the income or nearly doubled the appropriations for the National Science Foundation.

What are some other kinds of great research coming out of this organization?

Well, they did a study to see whether or not selfies make you happy. So if you take a selfie of yourself smiling and then look at it later in the day, does that make you feel better about yourself? That would cost a little over a million dollars.

They did a study also on the mating call of male Panamanian frogs. They said: Well, we want to know whether the country frogs have a different mating call than the city frogs. As someone who comes from the country, I can tell you there is a different mating call in the country than there is in the city.

But that cost us about half-a-million dollars.

Another study was \$2 million to find out if the person in front of you sneezes on the food in the cafeteria, are you more or less likely to take that food?

Another study was three-quarters of a million dollars, studying whether or not Japanese quail, on cocaine—whether or not they are more sexually promiscuous when they use cocaine.

I mean, the studies go on endlessly.

So what did Congress do? Instead of telling them: Why don't we give them one penny less; why don't we give them 99 percent of their budget, or this year why don't we give them 94 percent of the budget, instead we gave them 200 percent of their budget. Do you think the National Science Foundation is going to be more frugal now that we have nearly doubled their budget?

But this is the kind of great ideas that are coming out of Congress, and this one turned out to be a bipartisan idea. All of the Democrats and half the Republicans voted to nearly double the size of the National Science Foundation. So you will get more waste, more abuse, and more debt.

The thing is, we bring in a lot of money. We bring in \$4.8 trillion. Could we not simply spend what comes in? Part of the problem also is most of the bills are not read. Most of the appropriations bills come in here at the last moment, are 2,000 pages, and no one gets to read them until hours beforehand.

And so what they do is they have renewed programs year after year. There is a process up here where we authorize spending. So one committee is supposed to say, is the spending working, and then the other committee appropriates the money. We don't even bother to reauthorize these things. We just keep reappropriating the money year after year.

Someone will have this great idea and say, well, we need to do something about homelessness, and everybody will say, well, that is such a well-meaning—they intend to do it, and they will do it. But nobody looks up the fact that we already have 80 other programs doing the same thing.

Nobody ever looks at whether the program is working. Nobody ever figures out whether anything that we are spending on money is viable and doing us any good, and so it just adds up.

People come and say: Oh, well, this is something we have to do. We have to send \$40 billion to Ukraine. Where does it come from? If you really think it is such a great idea, why don't we have a Ukraine war tax? Why don't we do \$500 per taxpayer, and you would have enough for Ukraine. No, they just want to add it on the tab.

But it is worse than that. It is so irresponsible that the party in charge will produce no budget. So we have nearly \$5 trillion coming in; nearly \$6 trillion going out the door, and there will be no budget. It is inexcusable.

We have the largest economy in the world. We have the largest government

in the world, and we will have no budget this year. So what I have done and will continue to do is to produce a budget that balances in 5 years; this is consistent with the balanced budget amendment to the Constitution.

And the other reason we do 5 years is that some people have come forward in the past and said that we will balance it in 10. It becomes so long and unbelievable with the cuts in years 9 and 10 that they never happen; that it really hasn't become a good document even when budgets are put forward.

I think if we were to balance our budget, I think we would be a stronger Nation. It is the way we would combat inflation. If you see the people representing the party in power, the Democrats, you see them on TV, they are scratching their heads; they have no idea. They are like we have tried everything. But they don't even understand the problem. They have no idea where inflation is coming from.

Inflation comes from debt. When the Federal Reserve buys the debt, that creates the inflation. Because the Federal Reserve has no money, the money is printed up, and the money floods the system.

But it is also part of a bait and switch. These are people who run for office and say: We will bring you free things. We will bring you baubles. We will bring you manna. We will give you free stuff. We all instinctively know that nothing in life is really free.

So the free stuff that they are going to bring to you is paid for through inflation.

So we have to get away from this. We have to get to the point where we say that we are smarter than this. When a politician calls you up and says: Give me your Social Security number and I will send you a thousand dollars, that is what this is. It is an internet scam. It is a phone scam.

They are asking for your vote by saying: We are going to give you free stuff. There is no free lunch. There is nothing in life that you will get without working. But what we have done is political parties and politicians—sometimes in both parties—offer free stuff to people. But right now we are paying the penalty. We are paying the piper. We are paying the inflation tax.

And the inflation tax is a tax because we have overspent. Inflation will continue to get worse until we begin to reduce the debt. You have got to quit digging the hole. We have this massive hole of debt, and we have to quit digging the hole deeper. So this budget will be a budget that balances in 5 years, and I recommend a "yes" vote.

MOTION TO PROCEED

And with that, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. Con. Res. 41.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). The clerk will report the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 397, S. Con. Res. 41, a concurrent resolution setting forth the congressional budget for the United

States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032.

VOTE ON MOTION

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. PAUL. 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 bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY), and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 29, nays 67, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 228 Leg.]

YEAS—29

Barrasso	Grassley	Marshall
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Braun	Hawley	Risch
Cassidy	Hoeben	Romney
Cotton	Hyde-Smith	Rubio
Cramer	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Crapo	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cruz	Lankford	Sullivan
Ernst	Lee	Tuberville
Fischer	Lummis	

NAYS—67

Baldwin	Heinrich	Rosen
Bennet	Hickenlooper	Rounds
Blumenthal	Hirono	Sanders
Blunt	Inhofe	Sasse
Booker	Kaine	Schatz
Boozman	Kelly	Schumer
Brown	King	Shaheen
Burr	Klobuchar	Shelby
Cantwell	Leahy	Sinema
Capito	Lujan	Smith
Cardin	Manchin	Stabenow
Carper	Markey	Tester
Casey	McConnell	Thune
Collins	Menendez	Tillis
Cooms	Merkley	Van Hollen
Cornyn	Murkowski	Warner
Cortez Masto	Murphy	Warnock
Duckworth	Murray	Warren
Durbin	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Feinstein	Padilla	Wyden
Gillibrand	Peters	Young
Graham	Portman	
Hassan	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Daines	Toomey
Moran	Wicker

The motion was rejected.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSSOFF). Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Alan M. Leventhal, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador Extraordinary and Plenipotentiary of the United States of America to the Kingdom of Denmark.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. There will now be 10 minutes of debate, equally divided, on the nomination.

Mr. CARDIN. I ask unanimous consent that all time be yielded back.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, all time is yielded back.

VOTE ON LEVENTHAL NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Leventhal nomination?

Mr. HEINRICH. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Rhode Island (Mr. WHITEHOUSE) is necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES), the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MORAN), the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. TOOMEY) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER).

The result was announced—yeas 63, nays 32, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 229 Ex.]

YEAS—63

Baldwin	Graham	Peters
Bennet	Hassan	Portman
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Risch
Booker	Hirono	Romney
Brown	Kaine	Rosen
Burr	Kelly	Rounds
Cantwell	Kennedy	Sanders
Cardin	King	Schatz
Carper	Klobuchar	Schumer
Casey	Leahy	Shaheen
Cassidy	Lujan	Sinema
Collins	Manchin	Smith
Cooms	Markey	Stabenow
Cornyn	McConnell	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Crapo	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Feinstein	Ossoff	Wyden
Gillibrand	Padilla	Young

NAYS—32

Barrasso	Hagerty	Paul
Blackburn	Hawley	Rubio
Boozman	Hoeben	Sasse
Braun	Hyde-Smith	Scott (FL)
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Johnson	Shelby
Cramer	Lankford	Sullivan
Cruz	Lee	Thune
Ernst	Lummis	Tillis
Fischer	Marshall	Tuberville
Grassley	Murkowski	

NOT VOTING—5

Daines	Toomey	Wicker
Moran	Whitehouse	

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table. The President will be immediately notified of the Senate's actions.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session. The Senator from Arizona.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to executive session to consider the following nomination: Calendar No. 903, Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years; that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action, and the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years.

Thereupon, the Senate proceeded to consider the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Gibson nomination?

The nomination is confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate will now resume legislative session.

JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOAN
SEPARATION ACT

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Committee be discharged from further consideration of S. 1098, and the Senate proceed to its immediate consideration.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the bill by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1098) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the bill.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the Warner substitute amendment at the desk be agreed to; the bill, as amended, be considered read a third time and passed; and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The amendment (No. 5097), in the nature of a substitute, was agreed to as follows:

(Purpose: In the nature of a substitute)

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the "Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act".

SEC. 2. SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION
LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking "A borrower" and inserting the following:

"(1) IN GENERAL.—A borrower"; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

"(2) SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—

"(i) AUTHORIZATION.—A married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, and who received a joint consolidation loan as such married couple under subparagraph (C) of section 428C(a)(3) (as such subparagraph was in effect on June 30, 2006), may apply to the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, for each individual borrower in the married couple (or previously married couple) to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part.

"(ii) ELIGIBILITY FOR BORROWERS IN DEFAULT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, who are in default on a joint consolidation loan may be eligible to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part in accordance with this paragraph.

"(B) SECRETARIAL REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 428C(a)(3)(A) or any other provision of law, for each individual borrower who applies under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

"(i) make a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part that—

"(I) shall be for an amount equal to the product of—

"(aa) the unpaid principal and accrued unpaid interest of the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made) and any outstanding charges and fees with respect to such loan; and

"(bb) the percentage of the joint consolidation loan attributable to the loans of the individual borrower for whom such separate consolidation loan is being made, as determined—

"(AA) on the basis of the loan obligations of such borrower with respect to such joint consolidation loan (as of the date such joint consolidation loan was made); or

"(BB) in the case in which both borrowers request, on the basis of proportions outlined in a divorce decree, court order, or settlement agreement; and

"(II) has the same rate of interest as the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made); and

"(ii) in a timely manner, notify each individual borrower that the joint consolidation loan had been repaid and of the terms and conditions of their new loans.

"(C) APPLICATION FOR SEPARATE DIRECT CONSOLIDATION LOAN.—

"(i) JOINT APPLICATION.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to receive separate consolidation loans under this part, both individual borrowers in a married couple (or previously married couple) shall jointly apply under subparagraph (A).

"(ii) SEPARATE APPLICATION.—An individual borrower in a married couple (or previously married couple) may apply for a separate consolidation loan under subparagraph (A) separately and without regard to whether or when the other individual borrower in the married couple (or previously married couple) applies under subparagraph (A), in a case in which—

"(I) the individual borrower certifies to the Secretary that such borrower—

"(aa) has experienced an act of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower;

"(bb) has experienced economic abuse (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower; or

"(cc) is unable to reasonably reach or access the loan information of the other individual borrower; or

"(II) the Secretary determines that authorizing each individual borrower to apply separately under subparagraph (A) would be in the best fiscal interests of the Federal Government.

"(iii) REMAINING OBLIGATION FROM SEPARATE APPLICATION.—In the case of an individual borrower who receives a separate consolidation loan due to the circumstances described in clause (ii), the other non-applying individual borrower shall become solely liable for the remaining balance of the joint consolidation loan."

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 428C(a)(3)(B)(i)(V) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-3(3)(B)(i)(V)) is amended—

(1) by striking "or" at the end of item (bb);

(2) by striking the period at the end of item (cc) and inserting "; or"; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

"(dd) for the purpose of separating a joint consolidation loan into 2 separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loans under section 455(g)(2)."

The bill (S. 1098), as amended, was ordered to be engrossed for a third reading, was read the third time, and passed.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following Senate resolutions, introduced earlier today: S. Res. 679, S. Res. 680, and S. Res. 681.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. KELLY. I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to; the preambles be agreed to; and that the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

UNANIMOUS CONSENT
AGREEMENT—H.R. 1057

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that if the Senate receives a message from the House that it has passed H.R. 1057, and if the text of H.R. 1057 as passed is identical to S. 1596, that at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee, in consultation with the Republican leader, the bill be considered read a

third time and the Senate vote on passage of the bill, and that the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

MORNING BUSINESS

VOTE EXPLANATION

Mr. HAWLEY. Mr. President, had there been a recorded vote, I would have voted nay on the confirmations of Executive Calendar No. 990, Joshua D. Hurwit, of Idaho, to be United States Attorney for the District of Idaho for the term of four years; Executive Calendar No. 991, Gerard M. Karam, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Middle District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years; and Executive Calendar No. 992, Jacqueline C. Romero, of Pennsylvania, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Pennsylvania for the term of four years.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

120TH ANNIVERSARY OF GAYLORD SPECIALTY HEALTHCARE

• Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, today, I rise to recognize Gaylord Specialty Healthcare as it celebrates 120 years of outstanding service in Connecticut. Throughout its existence, Gaylord has changed with the healthcare needs of the people of Connecticut and indeed across the Nation, while maintaining a reputation for excellence and superior professionalism.

The health system was first founded in 1902 as a tuberculosis sanatorium. Gaylord Sanatorium provided long-term treatment for half a century when the disease was endemic, treating patients including playwright Eugene O'Neill. In 1926, the U.S. Public Health Laboratory National Research Committee selected Gaylord's facilities as the first they used in the country. In 1948, Gaylord Farm Sanatorium was renamed to Gaylord Hospital, restructuring to treat people with chronic illnesses. By 1954, Gaylord Hospital became the first hospital in New England to specialize in comprehensive rehabilitation.

Today, Gaylord Specialty Healthcare is an extensive health system across the State of Connecticut that focuses exclusively on medical rehabilitation. The hospital in Wallingford is a leading center for rehabilitation, and it is one of only two long-term acute care hospitals in the world—and the only one in the United States. Gaylord received certification from the Commission on Accreditation of Rehabilitation Facilities in recognition of its outstanding patient care. They offer an extensive breadth of treatment and accreditation opportunities. Gaylord is further certified by the Joint Commission and the

American Association of Cardiovascular and Pulmonary Rehabilitation thanks to its exemplary standards.

I have had the privilege of visiting Gaylord Hospital on a number of occasions. This April, I was proud to join members of their staff to celebrate their new physical medicine and rehabilitation physicians residency program, made possible thanks to \$1.2 million in Federal funding. This program will be the first of its kind in Connecticut, and it will play a critical role in ensuring our State has sufficient resources for specialty medical professionals. Having spoken with staff and patients at Gaylord, I can attest firsthand to the extraordinary care, compassion, and expertise demonstrated there. Gaylord Hospital's work is a credit to our State.

As Gaylord Hospital celebrates its anniversary this October, I applaud them on their extraordinary record of accomplishment. I hope my colleagues will join me in congratulating Gaylord Specialty Healthcare on 120 years of excellence. •

REMEMBERING STEPHEN "STEVE" H. SACHS

• Mr. CARDIN. Mr. President, next Tuesday, June 21, there will be a memorial service to honor Stephen H. Sachs, who died on January 12 at his home in Baltimore at the age of 87. Steve Sachs was U.S. Attorney for Maryland for 3 years and Maryland's Attorney General for two terms. He was one of the finest lawyers in the Nation—a proud son of Maryland, a proud son of Baltimore. He was an indefatigable, ever optimistic Orioles fan. He had a brilliant intellect and a sparkling sense of humor.

Steve was born in Baltimore on January 31, 1934. His father was director of the Baltimore Jewish Council and a labor arbitrator, and his mother was a homemaker. Steve received a bachelor's degree in 1954 from Haverford College and then served in the Army from 1955 to 1957. He received a Fulbright scholarship to study at the University of Oxford in England. He received his law degree from Yale Law School in 1960. He worked as a prosecutor in the U.S. Attorney's Office for the District of Maryland. In 1967, then-President Lyndon Johnson appointed Steve as the U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland, a position he held until 1970.

Steve prosecuted cases involving white-collar crime and public corruption. In 1968, he prosecuted Vietnam war protesters known as the Catonsville Nine, Roman Catholic anti-war activists who broke into the Selective Service office in Catonsville, MD, in an attempt to destroy draft records. It was a high-profile case. The Rev. Daniel Berrigan and his brother, the Rev. Philip Berrigan, led activists on a raid at Draft Board 33 in Catonsville. Steve secured a guilty verdict in Federal

court for destroying government property.

Fifty years later, in a retrospective article in the "Baltimore Sun", Steve wrote with a searing honesty, "I believed then, and believe now, that the nine were brave men and women who acted out of a conviction that the war in Vietnam was profoundly evil. But I believed then, and I believe now, that the conduct of the nine—particularly their insistence that their action at Catonsville should have been condoned because they were 'right'—offends both the rule of law and a fundamental tenet of the American democracy." I think that statement captures Steve's character perfectly.

Steve was in private practice from 1970 to 1978 when he ran an outsider campaign to become Maryland's Attorney General. He didn't align himself with any gubernatorial candidate, which had been the practice. He stated, "The attorney general should be independent. The attorney general should be the people's lawyer." After several public corruption scandals, Marylanders appreciated Steve's unquestioned integrity and were receptive to his activist, reform-oriented campaign. He served two terms as Attorney General and practically reinvented the position. He established a strong Consumer Protection Division within the Office of Attorney General that assisted Marylanders against corporate abuse. As the State's Attorney General, he argued three cases before the U.S. Supreme Court—and won all three. Steve's 8 years as Attorney General overlapped with my service as speaker of the house of delegates, where I had the benefit of Steven's excellent counsel.

In 1986, Steve decided to run for Governor, but he lost the Democratic primary to then-Baltimore mayor William Donald Schaefer. After that defeat, Steve returned to private practice as a partner in the Washington, DC, office of Wilmer-Hale, then known as Wilmer, Cutler & Pickering. He retired from the firm in 1999.

Steve's political career may have officially "ended" when he was just 52, but over the years, he became an elder statesman of Maryland politics. As his former colleagues at Wilmer-Hale said, "Steve was an elegant writer, a powerful advocate and an extremely accomplished trial lawyer. He was a generous partner, colleague and mentor. He taught a generation of lawyers how to write a brief, take a deposition and try a case . . . He was a mensch."

Steve's passion for justice never waned. After he retired from Wilmer-Hale, he joined the Public Justice Center, where he had a significant impact on the development of the center's Appellate Advocacy Project. Steve was a passionate advocate of the civil right to counsel movement, helping to establish the National Coalition for a Civil Right to Counsel. In 2008, then-Maryland Governor Martin O'Malley appointed Steve to head an independent

review of the Maryland State Police, which had infiltrated activist groups that were lawfully protesting against the death penalty and the war in Iraq.

Steve may be gone, but his legacy is firmly established. Last Friday, I had the honor of attending the investiture of Ereik Baron as the first Black U.S. Attorney for the District of Maryland. Ereik is just one of Steve's countless proteges carrying on his mission. Ereik said, "Steve Sachs was one of the most respected public servants in Maryland's history and a personal mentor to me and many others."

Deuteronomy 16:20 implores us, "Justice, justice you shall pursue . . .". That was Steve Sachs' guiding principle. He did all he could to make the world a better place. It wasn't always easy or comfortable, but he understood the importance of justice under the law. I respected his legal passion, and I am grateful that he shared it with generations of Maryland attorneys as a mentor and a friend. On behalf of the Senate, I send my condolences to his daughter Elisabeth Sachs, his son Leon Sachs, his three grandchildren, and other family members and all those who were fortunate to have him as a friend, colleague, or mentor and mourn his passing.●

REMEMBERING SHERRA FERTITTA

● Mr. CASSIDY. Mr. President, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mrs. Sherra Fertitta of Monroe, LA. Mrs. Fertitta leaves behind a legacy of generosity, optimism, and intellect after a remarkable career as a student, educator, and incredibly engaged member of her community.

Mrs. Fertitta was proud to teach for more than 25 years across three States before retiring in 2010 from Ouachita Parish High School. Upon completion of her impressive teaching career, Ms. Fertitta accepted the title of educational director of Vantage Health Plan of Louisiana. Here, she created an educational series via weekly radio interviews with Representative Michael Echols for public health education purposes.

Ms. Fertitta continued her community involvement as a member and core organizer of OPWRC for more than a decade. She spearheaded many projects during her time with OPWRC, including an event during August 2020 that safely provided a forum for Fifth District congressional candidates and voters to interact ahead of the election season amidst a global pandemic.

I extend my deepest condolences to the family and friends of Ms. Fertitta, who have lost an invaluable loved one. Her memory will live on with her children, grandchildren, great-grandchildren, and all whom she encountered as a dedicated, kindhearted educator.●

TRIBUTE TO PATRICK KOLE

● Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, along with my colleagues Senator JIM RISCH,

Representative MIKE SIMPSON and Representative RUSS FULCHER, we congratulate Pat Kole on his well-earned retirement from serving as vice president, legal and government affairs of the Idaho Potato Commission.

Pat has been a steady hand at the helm of the Idaho Potato Commission, IPC, promoting the iconic Idaho potatoes for more than 25 years. Serving as the IPC's vice president, legal and government affairs, Pat has managed Federal, State, and local government affairs for the IPC, directed its trademark-licensing program, directed its research and education program, and supervised its IT needs. His work has included litigating certification mark cases, registering certification marks in many jurisdictions, testifying before the U.S. Congress and advocating for public policy supporting Idaho potato producers' ability to grow this central agricultural product and feed consumers at home and around the world. To say Pat has gone the extra mile to support Idaho potato production is an understatement, considering in 2005 he ran the Marine Corps Marathon as a representative of the IPC and to help promote the importance of complex carbohydrates, such as those found in Idaho potatoes.

Pat, who earned his undergraduate degree at the University of Michigan and law degree from the University of Denver, has practiced law for more than 40 years. His experience, calm, persistence, and ability to dig into the crux of the problem have been instrumental in facing the challenges that have undoubtedly arisen over the years. This includes his thoughtful advocacy for measured approaches to help with the eradication of the pale cyst nematode, assist producers, and regain markets. More recently, Pat provided critical assistance and advocacy for the needs of Idaho's potato producers as relief efforts were considered for the historic agricultural disruptions caused by the COVID-19 pandemic. Throughout, Pat's efforts and those of the Idaho potato producers he works with and supports have helped fortify the Idaho potato as a standout symbol of Idaho and U.S. agriculture. It is no surprise Pat has received recognitions for his attentive work. This includes Pat being named The Packer's 2022 Potato Person for All Seasons.

Pat is known as someone who always does his homework and who carefully thinks through the details. That has made him an instrumental partner to us as we work on Federal policy affecting the potato industry. We always know that when Pat raises an issue, he does so with scrupulous grounding, and we know we get a straight and accurate response when we reach out to him for guidance. When policy questions arise that we know will affect the potato industry, Pat is the first we call.

Thank you, Pat, for being such a trusted advocate for the Idaho potato industry all these years and your dec-

ades of service to the Gem State. Congratulations, again, on your retirement.●

TRIBUTE TO ERIC ATKINSON

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Eric Atkinson of Topeka, KS.

Growing up on a farm outside of Winfield, KS, Eric would listen to the radio at night as his way to stay connected with current events. Captivated by the transmissions that reached him, he became involved with radio in high school, resulting in a lifelong passion for broadcasting. Eric graduated from Kansas State University with a broadcasting degree and worked several jobs in radio, as well as on the family farm, before the opportunity to host "Agriculture Today" arose. He would go on to host the radio program for 39 years, broadcasting over 9,000 shows and interviewing hundreds of agriculture experts and professionals about the issues most relevant to Kansas agriculture.

In the 39 years Eric hosted "Agriculture Today," he made it his goal for the show to serve as a platform for agriculture professionals to share their expertise. He made an effort to ask the most relevant questions and discuss important research topics during his time on air. Throughout his time on the radio, Eric has been credited as an accomplished professional who always worked hard to make sure the issues at hand were easily relatable for farmers across Kansas. His substantial presence in farm truck radios across the State as the host of "Agriculture Today" will continue to be on the hearts and minds of farmers and agribusiness officials.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the wonderful impact Mr. Eric Atkinson has had on the agriculture industry and to honor him for his 39 years of service to Kansas farmers.●

TRIBUTE TO CHRIS LEON

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize Mr. Chris Leon of Wichita, KS.

Chris started volunteering for Kansas Honor Flight 8 years ago. Kansas Honor Flight is an all-volunteer organization dedicated to honoring Kansas veterans of World War II, Korea, and Vietnam by sending these heroes on an all-expense-paid journey of honor and remembrance to visit their memorials in Washington, DC. Chris has demonstrated outstanding leadership in his volunteer work with ALLmetal Recycling, and thanks to his efforts crushing aluminum cans, Kansas Honor Flight has been able to send countless veterans on a trip of a lifetime to Washington, DC. Chris is now 31 years old and continues to demonstrate his leadership and support for our veterans through his exemplary volunteer work.

I thoroughly enjoyed meeting Chris on his visit to Washington DC, and I can't wait to see what he accomplishes

in the future. It is my honor to congratulate him, and I hope he knows how much his efforts have contributed to financing the Kansas Honor Flight Program. His deep love for his country and his desire to give back to those who have sacrificed so much are truly an inspiration to us all. I now ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing Chris for his wonderful accomplishments, as well as in wishing him nothing but success in the future.●

RECOGNIZING THE ANDOVER, KANSAS, YMCA STAFF

● Mr. MARSHALL. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and recognize the staff of the YMCA in Andover, KS.

On Friday, April 29, 2022, an EF-3 tornado touched down in Sedgewick County, KS, and left a path of destruction nearly 13 miles long behind. The 165-mile-per-hour winds created by the tornado injured four people and damaged well over 300 buildings in Andover. One of the buildings that sustained heavy damage was the Andover YMCA. The damage done by the tornado would certainly have been much more severe if it wasn't for the quick thinking of the YMCA staff.

I would like to honor and thank the staff of the Andover YMCA who helped save those in the building on the evening of the tornado. As the tornado approached, members of the YMCA staff made announcements on the loudspeakers and helped direct individuals to the safest areas of the building, primarily interior locker rooms. As the tornado hit the building, cars were thrown through walls and windows, with many parts of the building being completely destroyed. The staff working at the YMCA that day saved many lives through their quick thinking to move gym-goers to safety.

I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Andover YMCA staff, as well as in thanking them for all they did to keep their fellow Kansans safe.●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Ridgway, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:55 a.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, without amendment:

S. 4160. An act to amend title 40, United States Code, to grant the Supreme Court of the United States security-related authorities equivalent to the legislative and executive branches.

The message also announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 2773. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 7211. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bill, with an amendment, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

S. 516. An act to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 7211. An act to amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

MEASURES PLACED ON THE CALENDAR

The following bill was read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and placed on the calendar:

H.R. 2773. An act to amend the Pittman-Robertson Wildlife Restoration Act to make supplemental funds available for management of fish and wildlife species of greatest conservation need as determined by State fish and wildlife agencies, and for other purposes.

EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-4302. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status for Streaked Horned Lark with Section 4(d) Rule" (RIN1018-BE76) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4303. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule en-

titled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Revision of the Critical Habitat Designation for the Jaguar in Compliance With a Court Order" (RIN1018-AX13) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4304. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Threatened Species Status with Section 4(d) Rule for Panama City Crayfish and Designation of Critical Habitat" ((RIN1018-BC14) (RIN1018-BD50)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4305. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Adding Rice's Whale to and Updating Three Humpback Whale Entries on the List of Endangered and Threatened Wildlife" (RIN1018-BG58) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4306. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Designation of Critical Habitat for Big Sandy Crayfish and Guyandotte River Crayfish" (RIN1018-BE19) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4307. A communication from the Chief of Domestic Listing, Fish and Wildlife Services, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Endangered and Threatened Wildlife and Plants; Endangered Species Status for Peppered Chub and Designation of Critical Habitat" (RIN1018-BD29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4308. A communication from the Senior Wildlife Inspector, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "2022 Inflation Adjustments for Civil Monetary Penalties" (RIN1018-BF67) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4309. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "National Bridge Inspection Standards" (RIN2125-AF55) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4310. A communication from the Regulations Officer, Federal Highway Administration, Department of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Diversion of Highway Revenues; Removal of Obsolete Regulation" (RIN2125-AG04) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4311. A communication from the Supervisor, Human Resources Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, nine (9) reports relative to vacancies in the Environmental Protection Agency, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on May

26, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4312. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Renewable Fuel Standard (RFS) Program: RFS Annual Rules” ((RIN2060-AV11) (FRL No. 8521-01-OAR)) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4313. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “ILLINOIS: Final Authorization of State Hazardous Waste Management Program Revisions” (FRL No. 9898-01-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4314. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Air Quality Implementation Plans; Delaware; Removal of Stage II Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program Requirements and Revision of Stage I Gasoline Vapor Recovery Program Requirements” (FRL No. 9701-01-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4315. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Ohio; Redesignation of the Ohio portion of the Cincinnati, Ohio-Kentucky Area to Attainment of the 2015 Ozone Standard” (FRL No. 9532-02-R5) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4316. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Maryland; Nonattainment New Source Review Requirements for 2015 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standard” (FRL No. 9465-02-R3) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4317. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; Mojave Desert Air Quality Management District, Placer County Air Pollution Control District; Correcting Amendment” (FRL No. 9453-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4318. A communication from the Acting Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; California; San Joaquin Valley Unified Air Pollution Control District; Open Burning” (FRL No. 9246-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4319. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Determination to Defer Sanctions; Air Plan Approval; California; San Diego County Air Pollution Con-

trol District” (FRL No. 9870-03-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4320. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; New York; Ozone and Particulate Matter Controls Strategies” (FRL No. 9439-02-R2) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4321. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Thompson Falls PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request” (FRL No. 9579-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4322. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Approval and Promulgation of Implementation Plans; Montana; Whitefish PM10 Nonattainment Area Limited Maintenance Plan and Redesignation Request” (FRL No. 9595-02-R8) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4323. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Air Plan Approval; Kentucky; Source Specific Changes for Jefferson County” (FRL No. 9775-02-R4) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 7, 2022; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4324. A communication from the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Stormwater Infrastructure Funding and Financing”; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-4325. A communication from the Senior Policy Regulatory Coordinator, Administration for Children and Families, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Paternity Establishment Percentage Performance Relief” (RIN0970-AC85) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 9, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4326. A communication from the Chairman, Medicare Payment Advisory Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “June 2022 Report to the Congress: Medicare and the Health Care Delivery System”; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4327. A communication from the Commissioner, Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to OMB M-22-08, a determination that the Administration does not administer any financial assistance programs for infrastructure as defined under the Act; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4328. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Treatment of Amounts Paid to Section 170(c) Organizations under Employer Leave-Based Donation Programs to Aid Victims of the Further Russian Invasion of Ukraine” (Notice 2022-28) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4329. A communication from the Chief of the Publications and Regulations Branch, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Extension of Temporary Relief from the Physical Presence Requirement Through December 31, 2022, for Spousal Consents Under Qualified Retirement Plans” (Notice 2022-27) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4330. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Old-Age and Survivors Insurance and Federal Disability Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2022 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4331. A communication from the Board of Trustees of the Federal Hospital Insurance and Federal Supplementary Medical Insurance Trust Funds, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board’s 2022 Annual Report; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-4332. A communication from the Secretary of the Senate, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 15, 2022; ordered to lie on the table.

EC-4333. A communication from the Secretary of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to actions that the President has taken concerning Federal recognition of an international exposition; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4334. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled “Determination Under Sections 506(a) (1) and 614(a) (1) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 to Provide Military Assistance to Ukraine”; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4335. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to law, a notification of intent to provide military assistance to Ukraine, including for self-defense and border security operations; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-4336. A communication from the Acting Assistant Secretary, Employee Benefits Security Administration, Department of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled “Annual Information Return/Reports” (RIN1210-AB97) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 8, 2022; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-4337. A communication from the Chairman, Federal Maritime Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General and a Management Report for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4338. A communication from the Secretary of Transportation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s fiscal year 2021 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act); to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4339. A communication from the Assistant Secretary for Legislation, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department’s Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4340. A communication from the Chair of the Board of Governors, Federal Reserve System, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General’s Semiannual Report for

the six-month period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4341. A communication from the Chair of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4342. A communication from the Deputy Secretary of Defense, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4343. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4344. A communication from the Director of Congressional Affairs, Federal Election Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4345. A communication from the Chairman of the Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Board's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4346. A communication from the Secretary of Labor, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation's Office of Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress and the Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation Management's Response for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4347. A communication from the Chairman, National Railroad Passenger Corporation, Amtrak, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Inspector General's Semiannual Report to Congress for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4348. A communication from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Agency's Semiannual Report of the Office of Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4349. A communication from the Commissioner of the Social Security Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Administration's Semiannual Report of the Inspector General for the period from October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022 and the Uniform Resource Locator (URL) for the report; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4350. A joint communication from the Chairman and the General Counsel, National Labor Relations Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of Inspector General Semiannual Report for the period of October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4351. A communication from the Director, Office of Personnel Management, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Office of In-

spector General's Semiannual Report and the Management Response for the period of October 1, 2021 through March 31, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4352. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of Homeland Security, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on June 6, 2022; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4353. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, Government-wide legislative proposals to strengthen the agility and efficiency of Federal acquisition processes while increasing use of products and construction materials made in America; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4354. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-434, "Fiscal Year 2022 Revised Local Budget Adjustment Temporary Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4355. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-435, "Removal and Disposition of Abandoned and Other Unlawfully Parked Vehicles Reform Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-4356. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 24-436, "Department of Motor Vehicles Extension of Deadlines Amendment Act of 2022"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EXECUTIVE REPORTS OF COMMITTEE

The following executive reports of nominations were submitted:

By Mr. REED for the Committee on Armed Services.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Jacquelyn McClelland, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nominations beginning with Rear Adm. (1h) Eric C. Ruttenberg and ending with Rear Adm. (1h) Larry D. Watkins, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2022.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Michael J. Steffen, to be Rear Admiral.

Navy nomination of Capt. Charles Kirol, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. Mark R. Myers, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. David M. Buzzetti, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nomination of Capt. David G. Malone, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Charles M. Brown and ending with Capt. Michael Tanner, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. Robert J. Dodson and ending with Capt. Michael S. Richman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Capt. David J. Faehnle and ending with Capt. Kimberly A. Walz, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on March 15, 2022.

Navy nomination of Capt. David H. Duttlinger, to be Rear Admiral (lower half).
Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Eugene D. Black III, to be Vice Admiral.

*Marine Corps nomination of Lt. Gen. William M. Jurney, to be Lieutenant General.

*Army nomination of Gen. Christopher G. Cavoli, to be General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Richard R. Coffman, to be Lieutenant General.

*Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Richard A. Correll, to be Vice Admiral.

Air Force nomination of Col. Michael D. Tomatz, to be Brigadier General.

*Navy nomination of Rear Adm. Thomas E. Ishee, to be Vice Admiral.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Stacey T. Hawkins, to be Lieutenant General.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Kevin B. Kennedy, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. Richard L. Kemble, to be Major General.

Air Force nomination of Brig. Gen. John J. Bartrum, to be Major General.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Ronald P. Clark, to be Lieutenant General.

*Army nomination of Maj. Gen. Patrick D. Frank, to be Lieutenant General.

Air Force nominations beginning with Brig. Gen. David W. Abba and ending with Brig. Gen. Parker H. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 25, 2022.

*Air Force nomination of Maj. Gen. Leah G. Lauderback, to be Lieutenant General.

Navy nomination of Rear Adm. (1h) Pamela C. Miller, to be Rear Admiral.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Gary M. Brito, to be General.

*Air Force nomination of Lt. Gen. James B. Hecker, to be General.

Army nomination of Col. Michael J. Deegan, to be Brigadier General.

Army nomination of Col. Mark W. Siekman, to be Brigadier General.

*Navy nomination of Vice Adm. Stuart B. Munsch, to be Admiral.

*Army nomination of Lt. Gen. Darryl A. Williams, to be General.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, for the Committee on Armed Services I report favorably the following nomination lists which were printed in the RECORDS on the dates indicated, and ask unanimous consent, to save the expense of reprinting on the Executive Calendar that these nominations lie at the Secretary's desk for the information of Senators.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Air Force nominations beginning with Dwayne A. Baca and ending with Liana Lucas Vogel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Air Force nomination of Marc A. Daigle, to be Major.

Army nominations beginning with Paul E. Boquet and ending with Diana W. Weber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Ivan J. Antosh and ending with D016623, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on April 4, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with John H. Barkemeyer and ending with Myung Y. Ryu, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 2, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Chad C. Black and ending with Matthew D. Wegner,

which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with George A. Barbee and ending with Cleve B. Sylvester, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Joseph H. Afanador and ending with D011573, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Francis K. Agyapong and ending with Lakisha S. Wright, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with George M. Binger III and ending with Timothy M. Zerbe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Laura M. Anderson and ending with Tselane P. Ware, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Tyson G. Baynes and ending with James P. Winstead, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Michael L. Ahrens and ending with D016666, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Chad W. Backus and ending with Frances R. Young, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nomination of Alan R. Boyes, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nomination of Thomas S. Furman, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Dustin M. Albert and ending with D016614, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nominations beginning with Aaron H. Amano and ending with Nicholas D. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 24, 2022.

Army nomination of Philip J. Botwinik, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Arthur R. Mosel, Jr., to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Binhminh T. Nguyen, to be Colonel.

Army nomination of Michael R. Hanneken, to be Colonel.

Army nominations beginning with Robert J. Belton and ending with Rickie E. Wambles, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 7, 2022.

Marine Corps nominations beginning with George H. Forbes III and ending with Ross A. Hrynewych, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on January 5, 2022.

Marine Corps nomination of Johnathan D. Reed, to be Lieutenant Colonel.

Navy nomination of Charles E. Knight II, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua C. Lipps and ending with Ryan M. Mudd, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Richard T. Overkamp, Jr. and ending with Weldon B. Willhite, Jr., which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Stephan M. Bussell and ending with William P. Phillips, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nomination of Julio E. Patron, Jr., to be Captain.

Navy nomination of Michael J. Martin, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Matthew E. Breedlove and ending with Charity C. Hardison, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Ralph E. Hulbert, Jr. and ending with Joseph A. Willis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Brian C. Arena and ending with Peter J. Zeller, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Darren N. Bess and ending with Christopher E. Wear, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Heath J. Brightman and ending with Daniel W. Krowe, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nomination of Robert A. Powell, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with James C. Boyt and ending with Anthony G. Matt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nomination of Mitchell R. Jones, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Suzanna G. Brugler and ending with Shivan Sivalingam, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 12, 2022.

Navy nomination of Jodi C. Beattie, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Randy J. Berti and ending with Michael Windom, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Joshua E. Calloway and ending with Daniel C. Short, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Darrin E. Barber and ending with Michael A. Woehrman, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Benjamin F. Armstrong and ending with Michael H. Sanders, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher J. Carmichael and ending with Marco D. Spivey, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Benjamin P. Abbott and ending with Michael K. Witt, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Brad A. Bauer and ending with John A. Courtial, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Stephen A. Folsom and ending with Ronnie C. Harper, Jr., which nominations were received by the

Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with David F. Etheridge and ending with Michael K. Sims, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Zeverick L. Butts and ending with Roderick V. Little, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nomination of Peter M. B. Harley, to be Captain.

Navy nominations beginning with Kevin D. Barnard and ending with Michael S. Tiefel, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Katie M. Abdallah and ending with Ralph J. Stephens, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Ron J. Arellano and ending with William M. Wilson, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Erin M. Ceschini and ending with Heather H. Quillenderino, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Christopher S. Bernotavicius and ending with Gedion T. Teklegiorgis, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nominations beginning with Nathan J. Christensen and ending with Candice C. Tresch, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on May 19, 2022.

Navy nomination of Cynthia L. Kane, to be Captain.

Space Force nomination of Andrew S. Menschner, to be Colonel.

Space Force nominations beginning with Paul A. Karsten III and ending with Eric J. Perez, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 7, 2022.

Space Force nominations beginning with David A. Beaumont and ending with Nicol R. Stroud, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 7, 2022.

Space Force nominations beginning with Wendy M. Delacruz and ending with Eric S. Schlieber, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 7, 2022.

Space Force nominations beginning with Craig E. Frank and ending with David A. Pheasant, which nominations were received by the Senate and appeared in the Congressional Record on June 7, 2022.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

(Nominations without an asterisk were reported with the recommendation that they be confirmed.)

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. KENNEDY:

S. 4405. A bill to establish a joint task force to improve the collection of restitution and improve oversight of the Bureau of Prisons Inmate Trust Fund Accounts for the purpose of deterring illicit financial activity, money laundering, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina (for himself and Mr. BROWN):

S. 4406. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide incentives for the use of automatic portability arrangements under defined contribution plans, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 4407. A bill to amend the Energy Policy and Conservation Act to prohibit exports of crude and refined oil and certain petroleum products to the People's Republic of China; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. SANDERS):

S. 4408. A bill to prohibit data brokers from selling and transferring certain sensitive data; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4409. A bill to prohibit providers of email services from using filtering algorithms to flag emails from political campaigns that consumers have elected to receive as spam; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. ROMNEY (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, and Mr. HICKENLOOPER):

S. 4410. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for comprehensive student achievement information; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. CRUZ (for himself and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 4411. A bill to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 5302 Galveston Road in Houston, Texas, as the "Vanessa Guillen Post Office Building"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Ms. SINEMA (for herself and Ms. MURKOWSKI):

S. 4412. A bill to authorize the Secretary of Health and Human Services to award grants to States, Indian Tribes, Tribal organizations, and urban Indian organizations to provide safety measures to social workers, health workers, and human services professionals performing services placing such individuals in high-risk and potentially dangerous situations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. OSSOFF:

S. 4413. A bill to amend the Infrastructure Investment and Jobs Act to remove the exclusion of certain small business concerns from the disadvantaged business enterprise program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. BRAUN:

S. 4414. A bill to require the Secretary of Health and Human Services to publish a list of hospitals found to be in noncompliance with the hospital price transparency rule; to

the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. Res. 675. A resolution commemorating the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 676. A resolution expressing support for the designation of June 23, 2022, as "National Pell Grant Day"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BRAUN):

S. Res. 677. A resolution recognizing the exemplary service of the soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division (Old Hickory) of the United States Army during World War I and World War II; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 678. A resolution recognizing the month of June 2022 as "Immigrant Heritage Month", a celebration of the accomplishments and contributions of immigrants and their children in making the United States a healthier, safer, more diverse, prosperous country, and acknowledging the importance of immigrants and their children to the future successes of the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. OSSOFF):

S. Res. 679. A resolution commemorating June 19, 2022, as "Juneteenth National Independence Day" in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. Res. 680. A resolution designating June 2022 as "National Cybersecurity Education Month"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE):

S. Res. 681. A resolution recognizing the service of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine the USS Oklahoma City and the crews of the USS Oklahoma City, who served the United States with valor and bravery; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 111

At the request of Mr. JOHNSON, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 111, a bill to establish the Federal Clearinghouse on School Safety Best Practices, and for other purposes.

S. 391

At the request of Mr. GRASSLEY, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. GRAHAM) was added as a cosponsor of S. 391, a bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to reauthorize and expand the National Threat Assessment Center of the Department of Homeland Security.

S. 650

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from Georgia (Mr. OSSOFF) was added as a cosponsor of S. 650, a bill to enable the payment of certain officers and employees of the United States whose employment is authorized pursuant to a grant of deferred action, deferred enforced departure, or temporary protected status.

S. 1873

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1873, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 2037

At the request of Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2037, a bill to amend title XVIII to strengthen ambulance services furnished under part B of the Medicare program.

S. 2266

At the request of Mr. CARDIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mrs. FEINSTEIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2266, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to improve the historic rehabilitation tax credit, and for other purposes.

S. 2340

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Virginia (Mr. KAINE) was withdrawn as a cosponsor of S. 2340, a bill to improve the safety and security of the Federal judiciary.

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. CASEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2340, *supra*.

S. 2956

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2956, a bill to advance targeted, high-impact, and evidence-based inventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition, to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes.

S. 2960

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor

of S. 2960, a bill to encourage reduction of disposable plastic products in units of the National Park System, and for other purposes.

S. 3304

At the request of Mr. KENNEDY, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3304, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the ability of veterans to electronically submit complaints about the delivery of health care services by the Department of Veterans Affairs.

S. 3421

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. HOEVEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3421, a bill to clarify that section 107 of the Countering America's Adversaries Through Sanctions Act applies sanctions with respect to unmanned combat aerial vehicles following a 2019 change by the United Nations providing additional clarity to the United Nations Register of Conventional Arms.

S. 3494

At the request of Mr. OSSOFF, the name of the Senator from Colorado (Mr. HICKENLOOPER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3494, a bill to amend the Ethics in Government Act of 1978 to require Members of Congress and their spouses and dependents to place certain assets into blind trusts, and for other purposes.

S. 3607

At the request of Mr. WHITEHOUSE, the names of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 3607, a bill to award a Congressional gold medal, collectively, to the First Rhode Island Regiment, in recognition of their dedicated service during the Revolutionary War.

S. 3658

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) and the Senator from Maryland (Mr. VAN HOLLEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 3658, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to provide for interest-free deferment on student loans for borrowers serving in a medical or dental internship or residency program.

S. 3890

At the request of Mr. PETERS, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr. WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3890, a bill to improve intergovernmental cooperation and reduce duplicative spending, and for other purposes.

S. 3909

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Michigan (Mr. PETERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3909, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to make employers of spouses of military personnel eligible for the work opportunity credit.

S. 3956

At the request of Mr. MERKLEY, the name of the Senator from Oregon (Mr.

WYDEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 3956, a bill to direct the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to establish a grant program to improve the effectiveness of education and outreach on "Do Not Flush" labeling, and to require the Federal Trade Commission, in consultation with the Administrator, to issue regulations requiring certain products to have "Do Not Flush" labeling, and for other purposes.

S. 4105

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY), the Senator from Idaho (Mr. RISCH), the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) and the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH) were added as cosponsors of S. 4105, a bill to treat certain liquidations of new motor vehicle inventory as qualified liquidations of LIFO inventory for purposes of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986.

S. 4120

At the request of Mr. REED, the names of the Senator from Illinois (Ms. DUCKWORTH) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. RUBIO) were added as cosponsors of S. 4120, a bill to maximize discovery, and accelerate development and availability, of promising childhood cancer treatments, and for other purposes.

S. 4161

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. LEAHY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4161, a bill to establish effluent limitations guidelines and standards and water quality criteria for perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Federal Water Pollution Control Act, and for other purposes.

S. 4192

At the request of Mr. CASEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4192, a bill amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to end the tax subsidy for employer efforts to influence their workers' exercise of their rights around labor organizations and engaging in collective action.

S. 4213

At the request of Mrs. GILLIBRAND, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4213, a bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to prohibit employers from paying employees in the garment industry by piece rate, to require manufacturers and contractors in the garment industry to register with the Department of Labor, and for other purposes.

S. 4245

At the request of Mr. BOOKER, the name of the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4245, a bill to impose a moratorium on large agribusiness, food and beverage manufacturing, and grocery retail mergers.

S. 4287

At the request of Mr. GRAHAM, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 4287, a bill to permit COPS grants to be used for the purpose of increasing the compensation and hiring of law enforcement officer, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 183

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. LANKFORD) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 183, a resolution condemning the Government of Iran's state-sponsored persecution of its Baha'i minority and its continued violation of the International Covenants on Human Rights.

S. RES. 427

At the request of Mr. MARKEY, the name of the Senator from Illinois (Mr. DURBIN) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 427, a resolution to commemorate the 30-year anniversary of the 1991 Paris Peace Agreements with Cambodia and to call upon all signatories to those Agreements to fulfill their commitments to secure a peaceful, prosperous, democratic, and sovereign Cambodia.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. MCCONNELL, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. BLUNT, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mr. DAINES, Mr. COTTON, Mr. MARSHALL, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. WICKER, Mr. HAWLEY, Mr. RISCH, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. BRAUN, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. MORAN, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Mr. GRASSLEY, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. 4409. A bill to prohibit providers of email services from using filtering algorithms to flag emails from political campaigns that consumers have elected to receive as spam; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, former Google executive chairman Eric Schmidt, in writing with Jared Cohen, once said:

Modern technology platforms [are] even more powerful than most people realize [and that] our future world will be profoundly altered by their adoption and successfulness in societies everywhere.

There is no question that Big Tech plays an ever increasing role in our lives. I imagine most of us wouldn't even be able to count the number of times a day we interact with technology platforms, from checking our email to spending time on social media to searching on Google, and the pandemic only accelerated that trend as our reliance on technology for everything from social connection to food delivery increased.

I don't need to tell anyone that technology platforms offer lots of benefits. They are sources of entertainment and information. They make it easier to stay close to distant loved ones. They allow us to shop, to conduct business, and to connect with friends, and to advocate for causes that we believe in.

But I also don't need to tell anyone that technology platforms have a more problematic side as well. One big problem arises from the increased ability Big Tech has to shape the information we see through the use of opaque algorithms. Gone are the days when you logged into Facebook and just consumed content that had been posted chronologically since your previous login. Now, Facebook and other social media platforms use algorithms to shape your news feed and provide suggestions for additional content, emphasizing posts that the platforms think you will be interested in and deemphasizing other posts.

Now, obviously, algorithms are not all bad. Most of us like it when YouTube automatically plays another video by our favorite band instead of switching to something completely unrelated. But if a 15-year-old kid watches a video and then YouTube's algorithms lead him or her down a path of inappropriate videos—well, I think you could see that is a problem.

A 2021 Wall Street Journal investigation into TikTok revealed how easy it is for young users to be bombarded with inappropriate and disturbing content. And thanks to limited or opaque disclosures, people are often not aware of just how much their experience on technology platforms is being shaped by opaque algorithms.

When we search for something on Google, most of us don't spend a lot of time thinking about the fact that Google is tailoring our search results to what it thinks we want to see or what it wants us to see. But the fact of the matter is that almost all of the information being presented to us by Big Tech platforms like social media and Google is being filtered and tailored to us. And while, again, this can have a positive side, it can also have negative consequences, ranging from political polarization to addictive behavior.

As technology platforms play an ever more dominant role in our lives, I believe platforms should be required to make users aware of the fact that an algorithm is controlling the content they see. To that end, I have offered multiple pieces of legislation to increase Big Tech's transparency and to give consumers more control over their experience.

My bipartisan Filter Bubble Transparency Act would require large-scale internet platforms to notify users that the content they are seeing has been selected for them by secret algorithms, creating a unique universe of information for each user—a phenomenon that is often referred to as the “filter bubble.” Platforms would also be required to give users the choice to switch to a

version of the platform that is filter bubble-free.

I have also introduced the bipartisan Platform Accountability and Transparency Act—or the PACT Act—to shed greater light on the secretive content moderation processes internet platforms use.

The PACT Act would require internet platforms to prepare biannual transparency reports outlining material that they have removed from their sites or chosen to deemphasize. These reports would have to be made available to the public and not in intentionally complicated legalese. Platforms would have to provide clearly understandable versions of these reports to consumers.

The PACT Act would require technology platforms to provide consumers with greater due process when it comes to content these platforms remove or otherwise moderate. So if Facebook, for example, removed one of your posts, it would have to tell you why and would have to provide a way for you to appeal that decision.

Today, I am introducing a third piece of legislation to increase transparency and accountability at Big Tech. This bill is called the Political Bias in Algorithm Sorting Emails Act, otherwise known as the Political BIAS Emails Act. The Political BIAS Emails Act is intended to address the problem political campaigns on both sides of the aisle have faced in getting their campaign emails to Americans.

A recent study from North Carolina State University found that during the 2020 election, Google's Gmail—the largest email provider in the United States—sent greater numbers of Republican campaign emails to spam folders, while Yahoo! and Outlook sent greater numbers of Democratic campaign emails to spam, albeit by lesser margins than Google did for Republican campaign emails. Well, that is a problem.

Americans should have access to political communications from both parties so that they can make their own informed decisions on what candidates they wish to support. Disproportionately filtering out information from candidates of one party—or from a certain candidate within a particular political party, as happened during the Democratic Presidential primary—skews the information available to Americans.

I do not believe that Big Tech should be deciding what information individuals receive. Americans are free to opt out of whatever email communications they wish, including political communications, but Big Tech should not be making that decision for them. My Political BIAS Emails Act would prohibit email services from using filtering algorithms on emails sent from political campaigns where the candidate is running from Federal office.

Gmail and other email services' inboxing practices are a black box to consumers, and they operate with very

little accountability. To address this, my legislation would require email services to submit transparency reports noting the number of emails from both Republican and Democratic campaigns flagged as spam, as well as provide information to political campaigns on request to help ensure that voters are receiving relevant information on every candidate's policy positions.

This legislation would help ensure that Americans and not Big Tech—I emphasize not Big Tech—are making the decisions on what campaign communications they want to receive.

Internet platforms have enhanced Americans' lives in a number of ways, as I have already mentioned. But as these platforms play an ever-greater role in shaping the information we receive, it is vital that we insist on adequate transparency and ensure that Americans are given the opportunity to opt out of the filter bubble. American people ought to be in charge of what they see, not Big Tech companies.

I will continue to work to advance the various bills that I have introduced to promote greater transparency in Big Tech. And as ranking member of the Commerce Committee's Subcommittee on Communications, Media, and Broadband, I will continue to focus on ways to ensure that Big Tech is accountable to consumers.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 4409

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 “Political Bias In Algorithm Sorting Emails Act of 2022” or the “Political BIAS Emails Act of 2022”.

SEC. 2. UNFAIR AND DECEPTIVE ACTS AND PRACTICES RELATING TO FILTERING POLITICAL EMAILS THAT A CONSUMER HAS ELECTED TO RECEIVE.

(a) CONDUCT PROHIBITED.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—It shall be unlawful for an operator of an email service to use a filtering algorithm to apply a label to an email sent to an email account from a political campaign unless the owner or user of the account took action to apply such a label.

(2) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The prohibition under subsection (1) shall take effect on the date that is 3 months after the date of enactment of this Act.

(b) QUARTERLY TRANSPARENCY REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning with the first year that begins on or after the date that is 120 days after the date of enactment of this Act, each operator of an email service shall be required to make publicly available, on a quarterly basis, a transparency report that meets the requirements of this subsection.

(2) CONTENT OF REPORT.—Each quarterly report by an operator of an email service required under this subsection shall include the following:

(A) The total number of instances during the previous quarter in which emails from political campaigns were flagged as spam.

(B) The number of instances during the previous quarter in which emails from political campaigns were flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm without direction from the email account owner or user.

(C) The total number of instances during the previous quarter when emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Republican Party were flagged as spam.

(D) The percentage of emails during the previous quarter of the year flagged as spam from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Republican party.

(E) The number of instances during the previous quarter in which emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Republican Party were flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm without direction from the email account owner or user.

(F) The percentage of emails during the previous quarter of the year flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm without direction from the email account owner or user for emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Republican Party.

(G) The total number of instances during the previous quarter when emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Democratic Party were flagged as spam.

(H) The percentage of emails during the previous quarter of the year flagged as spam from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Democratic party.

(I) The number of instances during the previous quarter in which emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Democratic Party were flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm without direction from the email account owner or user.

(J) The percentage of emails during the previous quarter of the year flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm without direction from the email account owner or user for emails from political campaigns of candidates belonging to the Democrat party.

(K) A descriptive summary of the kinds of tools, practices, actions, and techniques used by an operator of an email service during the previous quarter in determining which emails from political campaigns to flag as spam.

(3) PUBLICATION AND FORMAT.—The operator of an email service shall publish each quarterly report required under this subsection with an open license, in a machine-readable and open format, and in a location that is easily accessible to consumers.

(c) DISCLOSURE FOR POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Beginning 3 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, each operator of an email service shall be required to disclose to a political campaign, upon the request of the campaign and subject to paragraph (3), a report that includes any of the information described in paragraph (2) that is requested by the campaign.

(2) CONTENT OF THE DISCLOSURE.—The information described in this paragraph is the following:

(A) The number of instances during the previous quarter when emails from the political campaign requesting the information were flagged as spam.

(B) The percentage of emails sent from the political campaign requesting the information that were flagged as spam during the previous quarter.

(C) The number of instances during the previous calendar quarter when emails from the political campaign requesting the information were flagged as spam by a filtering algorithm.

(D) The total number of emails sent from the political campaign requesting the information that reached the intended recipient's primary inbox.

(E) The percentage of emails sent from the political campaign requesting the information that reached the intended recipient's primary inbox.

(F) A descriptive summary as to why an email from the political campaign requesting the information did not reach the intended recipient's primary inbox.

(3) FREQUENCY OF REQUESTS.—A political campaign may not request that an operator of an email service provide a report containing any of the information described in paragraph (2) more than—

(A) once per week during election years;

(B) twice per month during non-election years; and

(C) once a week in the 12 months preceding the date of a special election in which a candidate associated with the political campaign is seeking election.

(4) BEST PRACTICES.—An operator of an email service shall provide to a political campaign, upon request, best practices on steps the political campaign should take to increase the number of emails from the political campaign that reach the intended recipient's primary inbox.

(5) DEADLINE FOR PROVIDING DISCLOSURE TO POLITICAL CAMPAIGNS.—An operator of an email service that receives a request from a political campaign for a disclosure report described in paragraph (1) or best practices described in paragraph (4) shall provide such report or best practices to the political campaign not later than 4 days after the operator receives the request.

(d) ENFORCEMENT BY THE FEDERAL TRADE COMMISSION.—

(1) UNFAIR OR DECEPTIVE ACTS OR PRACTICES.—A violation of subsection (a), (b), or (c) shall be treated as a violation of a rule defining an unfair or a deceptive act or practice under section 18(a)(1)(B) of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 57a(a)(1)(B)).

(2) POWERS OF COMMISSION.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Federal Trade Commission shall enforce this section in the same manner, by the same means, and with the same jurisdiction, powers, and duties as though all applicable terms and provisions of the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.) were incorporated into and made a part of this section.

(B) PRIVILEGES AND IMMUNITIES.—Any person who violates subsection (a) shall be subject to the penalties and entitled to the privileges and immunities provided in the Federal Trade Commission Act (15 U.S.C. 41 et seq.).

(C) AUTHORITY PRESERVED.—Nothing in this section shall be construed to limit the authority of the Federal Trade Commission under any other provision of law.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) FILTERING ALGORITHM.—The term “filtering algorithm” means a computational process, including one derived from algorithmic decision making, machine learning, statistical analysis, or other data processing or artificial intelligence techniques, used by an email service to identify and filter emails sent to an email account.

(2) OPERATOR.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “operator” means any person who operates an email service and includes any person that wholly owns a subsidiary entity that operates an email service.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—Such term shall not include any person who operates an email service if such service is wholly owned, controlled, and operated by a person that—

(i) for the most recent 6-month period, did not employ more than 500 employees; and

(ii) for the most recent 12-month period, averaged less than \$5,000,000,000 in annual gross receipts.

(3) POLITICAL CAMPAIGN.—The term “political campaign” includes—

(A) an individual who is a candidate (as such term is defined in section 301(2) of the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 (52 U.S.C. 30101(2));

(B) an authorized committee (as such term is defined in section 301(6) of such Act);

(C) a connected organization (as such term is defined in section 301(7) of such Act);

(D) a national committee (as such term is defined in section 301(15) of such Act);

(E) a State committee (as such term is defined in section 301(15) of such Act); and

(F) a joint fundraising committee that includes any entity described in subparagraphs (A) through (E).

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 675—COMMEMORATING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICAN HELLENIC EDUCATIONAL PROGRESSIVE ASSOCIATION

Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 675

Whereas the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association (referred to in this preamble as “AHEPA”) was founded on July 26, 1922, in Atlanta, Georgia, by 8 visionary Greek immigrants to help unify, organize, and protect individuals of all ethnic, racial, and religious backgrounds against the bigotry, discrimination, and defamation perpetrated predominantly by the Ku Klux Klan;

Whereas the mission of AHEPA is to promote the Hellenic ideals of ancient Greece, which include philanthropy, education, civic responsibility, and family and individual excellence through community service and volunteerism;

Whereas, since the inception of AHEPA, the organization has instilled in the members of AHEPA an understanding of their Hellenic heritage and an awareness of the contributions that Hellenic heritage has made to the development of democratic principles and governance in the United States and throughout the world;

Whereas AHEPA has done much throughout the history of the organization to foster patriotism in the United States;

Whereas members of AHEPA have served in the Armed Forces of the United States to protect the freedom of the people of the United States and to preserve those democratic ideals that are part of the Hellenic legacy;

Whereas, in World War II, members of AHEPA parachuted behind enemy lines in Nazi-occupied Greece to help liberate Greece;

Whereas AHEPA raised more than \$253,000,000 for United States war bonds during World War II, and, as a result of the effort, AHEPA was named an official issuing agent for United States war bonds by the Department of the Treasury, an honor that no other civic organization had yet achieved;

Whereas, in 1990, the members of AHEPA donated \$612,000 toward the restoration of the Statue of Liberty and Ellis Island, New York, for which AHEPA received special recognition by the Department of the Interior;

Whereas the AHEPA National Housing Program has sponsored safe and dignified affordable housing for vulnerable senior citizens under the Section 202 Supportive Housing for the Elderly program (administered by the Department of Housing and Urban Development and authorized under section 202 of the Housing Act of 1959 (12 U.S.C. 1701q)), and the sponsorship has a portfolio of 4,467 units in 87 communities in 19 States;

Whereas AHEPA has engaged in "Track Two Diplomacy" to foster reconciliation and rapprochement in the Eastern Mediterranean, which is in the best interest of the United States, and has enhanced people-to-people ties between countries;

Whereas AHEPA financially supports scholarships, natural disaster and humanitarian relief, medical research, and countless other charitable and philanthropic causes by contributing more than \$2,200,000 annually from the national, district, and local levels of AHEPA;

Whereas generations of Greek American women and Philhellenes have worked to strengthen society through service organizations, such as the Daughters of Penelope, in order to—

(1) provide affordable housing for older adults;

(2) sponsor and support domestic violence shelters;

(3) provide scholarship awards;

(4) raise awareness and provide financial support for medical research and charitable causes; and

(5) help those in need of humanitarian assistance or natural disaster relief;

Whereas, in the spirit of their Hellenic heritage and in commemoration of the Centennial Olympic Games held in Atlanta, Georgia, members of AHEPA raised \$775,000 for the Tribute to Olympism and Hellenism sculpture, the fan-like structure of which helped to save lives during the 1996 Olympic Bombing at Centennial Olympic Park;

Whereas members of AHEPA raised \$110,000 for the creation of the George C. Marshall Statue erected on the grounds of the United States Embassy in Athens, Greece, in celebration of the historic relationship between the United States and Greece and in tribute to General Marshall, an outstanding statesman and Philhellene;

Whereas members of AHEPA raised \$1,000,000 toward the rebuilding of Saint Nicholas Greek Orthodox Church and National Shrine at the World Trade Center, which was the only house of worship destroyed on September 11, 2001;

Whereas members of AHEPA have been Presidents and Vice Presidents of the United States, United States Senators and Representatives, and United States Ambassadors, and have served honorably as elected and appointed officials at local and State levels throughout the United States; and

Whereas President George H. W. Bush cited AHEPA as 1 of the "thousand points of light" in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes the significant contributions to the United States of citizens of Hellenic heritage;

(2) commemorates the 100th Anniversary of the founding of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association, applauds its mission, and commends the many charitable contributions of its members to communities in the United States and around the world; and

(3) requests the President to issue a proclamation recognizing the 100th Anniversary and many accomplishments of the American Hellenic Educational Progressive Association.

SENATE RESOLUTION 676—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JUNE 23, 2022, AS "NATIONAL PELL GRANT DAY"

Mrs. MURRAY (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 676

Whereas June 23 is the 50th anniversary of the signing of the Education Amendments Act of 1972 (Public Law 92-318, 86 Stat. 235) by President Richard Nixon;

Whereas that Act established within the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001 et seq.) the Basic Educational Opportunity Grant, later named the Federal Pell Grant (commonly known as the "Pell Grant") in honor of its sponsor Senator Claiborne Pell;

Whereas, 50 years ago, Senator Pell stated that "for it's through this Act that the dream of access, and opportunity for college education becomes a reality. It's in this Act that we say a lack of financial wealth should not, and will not, stand in the way of a person who has the talent, the desire and the drive to reach out for a college education.";

Whereas, today, the Pell Grant program, which helps low-income students pursue higher education goals, maintains bipartisan support in Congress and with the public;

Whereas, each year, Pell Grants help nearly 7,000,000 students, approximately 40 percent of undergraduate students, pursue and succeed in higher education;

Whereas Pell Grants help students from all 50 States, the District of Columbia, and the territories of the United States and from rural areas to cities to everywhere in between;

Whereas the Pell Grant program is well-targeted to meet the needs of students with demonstrated financial need, with the vast majority of Pell Grant recipients having family incomes of \$40,000 or less;

Whereas extensive research shows that the Pell Grant program increases college enrollment and completion among low- and moderate-income students;

Whereas Pell Grants are critical for students from historically underrepresented backgrounds, including 58 percent of Black students, 47 percent of Hispanic students, 51 percent of American Indian and Alaska Native students, 48 percent of first-generation students, 52 percent of students who are parents, and 39 percent of students who are veterans of the Armed Forces;

Whereas each eligible student may use a Pell Grant at the institution of their choice, which includes public, private, 2-year, and 4-year institutions;

Whereas the Pell Grant program is a proven investment to boost future economic mobility, with college graduates paying more in taxes and earning more in after-tax income than high school graduates; and

Whereas, over the past 50 years, the Pell Grant program has helped more than 80,000,000 students in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates the 50th anniversary of the Federal Pell Grant program on June 23, 2022;

(2) expresses support for the designation of June 23 as "National Pell Grant Day"; and

(3) encourages the people of the United States to celebrate National Pell Grant Day by—

(A) recognizing the more than 80,000,000 individual low- and middle-income students who have benefitted from the Federal Pell Grant program since its establishment; and

(B) celebrating the success stories of such students, and ensuring the same access for future students.

SENATE RESOLUTION 677—RECOGNIZING THE EXEMPLARY SERVICE OF THE SOLDIERS OF THE 30TH INFANTRY DIVISION (OLD HICKORY) OF THE UNITED STATES ARMY DURING WORLD WAR I AND WORLD WAR II

Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. HAGERTY, Mr. TILLIS, and Mr. BRAUN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Armed Services:

S. RES. 677

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army, nicknamed Old Hickory, was first activated in October 1917 for service in World War I;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division was nicknamed Old Hickory in honor of General and President Andrew Jackson;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division was composed of troops from Tennessee, Georgia, North Carolina, and South Carolina and was instrumental in breaking the Hindenburg Line in World War I;

Whereas, when the 30th Infantry Division was reorganized at Fort Jackson in 1941 for service in World War II, the division included two North Carolina National Guard infantry regiments, one Tennessee National Guard infantry regiment, and other elements;

Whereas Company B of the 117th Regiment of the 30th Infantry Division was composed of members of the Tennessee National Guards from Athens, Tennessee, who also served in World War II;

Whereas Company B was composed of 5 officers and 100 troops, all of whom were from Tennessee;

Whereas 22 of those troops became officers in prominent positions in the Army;

Whereas, in 1940, one year after Nazi Germany invaded Poland to trigger World War II, the War Department reactivated the 30th Infantry Division;

Whereas, in 1944, the 30th Infantry Division was deployed to Great Britain to participate in the planned Allied landing in Europe;

Whereas, after arriving in Europe during World War II, the 30th Infantry Division engaged directly in battle alongside the British armed forces;

Whereas, during World War II, the 30th Infantry Division landed at Normandy on June 14, 1944, participated in the advance across Northern France, joined the invasion of the German Rhineland, defended the Ardennes-Alsace, and fought to the final defeat of Germany in May 1945;

Whereas the 823rd and the 743rd Tank Destroyer Battalions were periodically attached to the 30th Division throughout its campaign in Europe;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division played a key role in the breakout of the Allied forces from Normandy at St. Lo and the subsequent advance across Northern France;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division is remembered for its role in the defense of Mortain and St. Barthelmy, France, and Hill 317 against a German counterattack in August 1944, actions in which three infantry regiments of the division (the 117th, 119th, and 120th) and a part of a fourth regiment and other elements of the division participated;

Whereas the 30th Infantry Division also played a key role in stopping the German advance in the Battle of the Bulge and recaptured Malmedy and Stavelot and its vital bridge over the Ambleve River;

Whereas, in March 1945, the 30th Infantry Division crossed the Rhine River and quickly advanced to Madgeburg by April 17;

Whereas, while the 30th Infantry Division moved eastward into Germany, it liberated Weferlingen, a subcamp of the Buchenwald concentration camp, on April 12, 1945;

Whereas, at Weferlingen, the troops found 421 inmates who were in poor physical condition due to malnutrition and in dire need of medical attention;

Whereas representatives of the 30th Infantry Division arranged for mayors of the German towns neighboring Weferlingen to immediately furnish food for the starving inmates;

Whereas, in the report prepared for General Dwight D. Eisenhower rating the American combat units that fought in the European Theater, the Army's official historian, S.L.A. Marshall, rated the 30th Division as first among the infantry divisions that had performed the most efficient and consistent battle service;

Whereas, in 2012, the 30th Infantry Division was recognized as a liberating unit by the United States Army Center of Military History and the United States Holocaust Memorial Museum;

Whereas, in recognition of its exemplary service during World War II, the Headquarters Company of the 30th Infantry Division was awarded the Meritorious Unit Commendation and the French Croix de Guerre; and

Whereas the proud fighting tradition of the 30th Infantry Division is perpetuated by the 30th Armored Brigade Combat Team, North Carolina Army National Guard: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the exemplary service of the soldiers of the 30th Infantry Division of the United States Army during World War I and World War II.

SENATE RESOLUTION 678—RECOGNIZING THE MONTH OF JUNE 2022 AS “IMMIGRANT HERITAGE MONTH”, A CELEBRATION OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN IN MAKING THE UNITED STATES A HEALTHIER, SAFER, MORE DIVERSE, PROSPEROUS COUNTRY, AND ACKNOWLEDGING THE IMPORTANCE OF IMMIGRANTS AND THEIR CHILDREN TO THE FUTURE SUCCESSES OF THE UNITED STATES

Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. WARREN, Mr. CARDIN, Mr. WARNOCK, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. LUJÁN, Mrs. MURRAY, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 678

Whereas the United States is stronger if all individuals have the opportunity to live up to their full potential;

Whereas about 15 percent of health care workers in the United States are immigrants, including (in order of highest percentage of health care workers who are foreign born)—

- (1) 29 percent of physicians;
- (2) 25 percent of nursing, psychiatric, and home health aides;
- (3) 24 percent of dentists;
- (4) 20 percent of pharmacists;

- (5) 19 percent of dental assistants;
- (6) 15 percent of medical assistants;
- (7) 15 percent of registered nurses;
- (8) 15 percent of licensed practical and licensed vocational nurses;
- (9) 12 percent of dieticians and nutritionists; and
- (10) 12 percent of optometrists;

Whereas the Association of American Medical Colleges attested to the Supreme Court of the United States that the health care system of the United States relies on immigrant health care providers in their current roles;

Whereas immigrants working in health care professions serve throughout the United States and often in rural or underserved communities;

Whereas immigrants fill approximately ⅓ of physician roles in the United States;

Whereas immigrants working in a health care occupation range from those granted temporary protected status under section 244 of the Immigration and Nationality Act (8 U.S.C. 1254a) or deferred action pursuant to the memorandum of the Department of Homeland Security entitled “Exercising Prosecutorial Discretion with Respect to Individuals Who Came to the United States as Children” issued on June 15, 2012 (referred to in this preamble as “DACA”) to naturalized United States citizens;

Whereas more than 12 percent of the immigrants working in health care occupations (310,000 individuals) are humanitarian migrants, including refugees, asylees, special immigrant visa holders, and Cuban and Haitian entrants;

Whereas 50,000 DACA recipients perform critical roles in the health care industry;

Whereas the medical students, residents, and physicians who rely on DACA for their ability to practice medicine and provide medical care to approximately 4,600 patients per year;

Whereas, in response to COVID-19, immigrants put their own lives on the line to save lives every day, working as diagnostic and treatment practitioners, physician assistants, physicians, nurses, health aides, nursing assistants and orderlies, health care support workers, medical students and residents, and health technologists and technicians;

Whereas more than 5,200,000 undocumented immigrants, including more than ½ of all DACA recipients (400,000 individuals) and the majority of Temporary Protected Status holders (more than 220,000 individuals) are considered essential critical infrastructure workers;

Whereas immigrant essential workers, including first responders, health care workers, agricultural workers and meat packers, child care providers, and hospitality and transportation workers, have heroically helped provide medical care, food, shelter, and comfort to the individuals of the United States impacted by COVID-19;

Whereas undocumented immigrants alone contribute an estimated \$227,000,000,000 of spending power annually to the United States economy, after the payment of \$49,000,000,000 of combined Federal, State, and local taxes each year;

Whereas the majority of farm workers in the United States are immigrants, and regardless of politics, have been deemed “essential workers” to maintaining a safe food supply for the United States during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas immigrants have served in the Armed Forces since the founding of the United States and have fought in every major conflict in United States history, including the Civil War, World Wars I and II, and conflicts in Vietnam, Afghanistan, and Iraq;

Whereas immigrants have put their lives on the line to protect the ideals of the United States and democracy, as well as lives of the people of the United States, by serving as translators and interpreters for the Armed Forces, including in Afghanistan and Iraq, and performing sensitive and trusted activities for United States military personnel stationed with the International Security Assistance Force;

Whereas immigrants who serve in emerging industries with pronounced labor shortages in the United States, such as artificial intelligence, that rely on science, technology, engineering, and mathematics (referred to in this preamble as “STEM”) skills, not only bolster the economy but also enhance national security and global leadership;

Whereas, when immigrants have a trusting relationship with local law enforcement agencies, immigrants report crime and work with law enforcement agencies on neighborhood crime reduction strategies;

Whereas the United States has the largest number of immigrants in the world and those immigrants represent almost every country in the world, contributing to the rich diversity of people, cultures, cuisine, literature, art, language, academia, music, media, fashion, and customs;

Whereas the United States is more diverse than ever before in its history, with greater shares than ever before of immigrants from India, China, Hong Kong, Taiwan, the Philippines, El Salvador, Vietnam, Cuba, the Dominican Republic, South Korea, and Guatemala, and an increase of more than 90 percent since 2000 of Black immigrants from across the African continent, the Caribbean, Jamaica, and Haiti;

Whereas Black immigrants and their children make up roughly ⅓ of the overall Black population in the United States (21 percent);

Whereas, in response to recent civil unrest in the United States, immigrants of all backgrounds have pledged their support to fight racial injustice, hand-in-hand with Black immigrants, to fight for accountability from law enforcement and the criminal justice system, and to demand that law enforcement protect all individuals, regardless of their skin color;

Whereas celebrating the racial, ethnic, linguistic, and religious differences of immigrants has resulted in a unified, patriotic, and prosperous United States;

Whereas immigration has long been one of the greatest competitive advantages of the United States;

Whereas immigrants of all skill levels have helped make the economy of the United States the strongest in the world, complementing existing businesses in the United States in times of need and founding successful businesses of their own;

Whereas more than 40 percent of Fortune 500 companies were founded by immigrants or their children, which generate \$4,200,000,000,000 in annual revenue and employ millions of individuals in the United States;

Whereas, although approximately 14 percent of the population of the United States is immigrants, a considerably larger share of the labor force (18 percent) is immigrants;

Whereas immigrants are entrepreneurial, self-starters who create their own opportunity and employment opportunities for others, with 12 percent of employed immigrants being self-employed compared to 9 percent of employed, native-born individuals of the United States;

Whereas immigrant-owned businesses provide jobs across the United States, supporting the creation of additional jobs through entrepreneurial activity in addition to the jobs they fill within their business;

Whereas immigrants are more likely to have advanced degrees than native-born people of the United States;

Whereas more than 1,000,000 international students are enrolled in colleges and universities across the United States, comprising about 5 percent of the total higher education population and helping make the United States the global leader in higher education;

Whereas approximately 100,000 international students each year would hope to stay and work in the United States, if an immigration option were available to them;

Whereas the immigration system of the United States has not been meaningfully updated in nearly 30 years and is now outdated and overburdened, turning away highly skilled workers and international student graduates and putting the global leadership of the United States at risk;

Whereas allowing international student graduates interested in remaining in the United States to secure a permanent immigration status would expand the economy by \$233,000,000,000 during the next decade and would help reduce STEM-related talent shortages by 25 percent;

Whereas national security experts agree that it is essential for the United States to maintain its military exceptionalism by being the leader in advanced technologies such as artificial intelligence, cyber, quantum, robotics, directed energy, and hypersonic weapons, which are all STEM fields where immigrants fill dangerous labor shortages in the United States;

Whereas, due to population aging and longer life expectancy of the population in the United States requiring an increase in health care workers, immigrants are expected to fill a crucial need in the future health care system of the United States essential to keeping the people of the United States healthy;

Whereas, if undocumented individuals who came to the United States as children (commonly referred to as “Dreamers”) alone were provided a pathway to citizenship, they would contribute approximately \$799,000,000,000 to the economy of the United States during the next 10 years;

Whereas future population growth in the United States will require increased immigration, and by increasing immigration substantially, will keep the United States economically competitive with China and other global economies and reduce future fiscal imbalances for popular programs like programs under the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 301 et seq.);

Whereas significantly increasing annual immigration levels would double the size of the United States economy by 2050, dramatically lower the ratio of working-age individuals to senior-age individuals, and increase the average income for workers in the United States;

Whereas President Joseph R. Biden, Jr., most recently honored the accomplishments, contributions, and sacrifices of immigrants by proclaiming June 2022 to be “Immigrant Heritage Month” and by asking all people of the United States to observe June 2022 with appropriate programming and activities to remind individuals of the values of diversity, equity, and inclusion; and

Whereas continued integration of immigrants from around the world in a manner that encourages and facilitates a pathway to citizenship, economic and social mobility, and civic engagement will perpetuate the prosperity of the United States and reinforce the patriotism all people of the United States feel for the United States, no matter the color of skin, country of origin, or religious background of the individual: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) recognizes June 2022 as “Immigrant Heritage Month” in honor of the contributions immigrants and their children have made to the United States throughout its history;

(2) pledges to celebrate immigrant contributions to, and immigrant heritages in, each State;

(3) welcomes immigrants presently in the United States and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States to contribute to the health, safety, diversity, and prosperity of the United States by finding their place in the vibrant, multiethnic, and integrated society of the United States;

(4) encourages the people of the United States to work with their immigrant neighbors and colleagues to advance the current and future well-being of the United States; and

(5) commits to working with fellow Members of Congress, the executive agencies that administer immigration laws and policies, and the President to promote smart and just immigration policy for immigrants presently in the United States, their families, and individuals seeking to immigrate to the United States in the future.

SENATE RESOLUTION 679—COMMEMORATING JUNE 19, 2022, AS “JUNETEENTH NATIONAL INDEPENDENCE DAY” IN RECOGNITION OF JUNE 19, 1865, THE DATE ON WHICH NEWS OF THE END OF SLAVERY REACHED THE SLAVES IN THE SOUTHWESTERN STATES

Mr. CORNYN (for himself, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. WICKER, Ms. ROSEN, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. BOOZMAN, Mr. BROWN, Mr. BURR, Ms. CANTWELL, Mrs. CAPITO, Mr. CARPER, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. CRUZ, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mrs. FISCHER, Mr. HAGERTY, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MERKLEY, Ms. MURKOWSKI, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. REED, Mr. RISCH, Mr. RUBIO, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. THUNE, Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina, Ms. SMITH, Mr. WARNER, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. KELLY, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. KAINE, Mr. LUJÁN, and Mr. OSSOFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 679

Whereas news of the end of slavery did not reach the frontier areas of the United States, in particular the State of Texas and the other Southwestern States, until months after the conclusion of the Civil War, more than 2½ years after President Abraham Lincoln issued the Emancipation Proclamation on January 1, 1863;

Whereas, on June 19, 1865, Union soldiers, led by Major General Gordon Granger, arrived in Galveston, Texas, with news that the Civil War had ended and the enslaved were free;

Whereas African Americans who had been slaves in the Southwest celebrated June 19, commonly known as “Juneteenth National Independence Day”, as inspiration and encouragement for future generations;

Whereas African Americans from the Southwest have continued the tradition of observing Juneteenth National Independence Day for more than 150 years;

Whereas Juneteenth National Independence Day began as a holiday in the State of Texas and is now a Federal holiday and celebrated by individuals in the United States from many walks of life as a special day of observance in recognition of the emancipation of all slaves in the United States;

Whereas Juneteenth National Independence Day celebrations have been held to honor African-American freedom while encouraging self-development and respect for all cultures;

Whereas the faith and strength of character demonstrated by former slaves and the descendants of former slaves remain an example for all people of the United States, regardless of background, religion, or race;

Whereas slavery was not officially abolished until the ratification of the 13th Amendment to the Constitution of the United States in December 1865; and

Whereas, over the course of its history, the United States has grown into a symbol of democracy and freedom around the world: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) commemorates June 19, 2022, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day”;

(2) recognizes the historical significance of Juneteenth National Independence Day to the United States;

(3) supports the continued nationwide celebration of Juneteenth National Independence Day to provide an opportunity for the people of the United States to learn more about the past and to better understand the experiences that have shaped the United States; and

(4) recognizes that the observance of the end of slavery is part of the history and heritage of the United States.

SENATE RESOLUTION 680—DESIGNATING JUNE 2022 AS “NATIONAL CYBERSECURITY EDUCATION MONTH”

Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Ms. ROSEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 680

Whereas recent cyberattacks and vulnerabilities present cybersecurity risks to individuals and organizations and increase the urgency to grow and sustain a knowledgeable and skilled cybersecurity workforce in both the public and private sectors;

Whereas, according to CyberSeek.org, as of June 2022, there are 714,548 open jobs in cybersecurity in the United States and 1,091,576 individuals in the cybersecurity workforce;

Whereas a 2017 report entitled “Supporting the Growth and Sustainment of the Nation’s Cybersecurity Workforce: Building the Foundation for a More Secure American Future”, transmitted by the Secretary of Commerce and the Secretary of Homeland Security, proposed a vision to “prepare, grow, and sustain a cybersecurity workforce that safeguards and promotes America’s national security and economic prosperity”;

Whereas expanding cybersecurity education opportunities is important in order to address the cybersecurity workforce shortage and prepare the United States for ongoing and future national security threats;

Whereas cybersecurity education can—

(1) provide learning and career opportunities for students across the United States in kindergarten through grade 12; and

(2) bolster the capacity of the domestic workforce to defend the United States and secure the economy of the United States;

Whereas, in 2021, Congress authorized, as part of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283), the Cybersecurity Education Training Assistance Program (commonly known as “CETAP”), a Department of Homeland Security initiative to provide cybersecurity career awareness, curricular resources, and professional development to elementary and secondary schools;

Whereas CYBER.ORG, a grantee of CETAP, has introduced cybersecurity concepts to more than 3,400,000 students and provided resources to more than 25,000 K-12 educators in all 50 States and 4 United States territories;

Whereas the mission of the National Initiative for Cybersecurity Education (commonly known as “NICE”) is “to energize, promote, and coordinate a robust community working together to advance an integrated ecosystem of cybersecurity education, training, and workforce development”;

Whereas cybersecurity education is supported through multiple Federal programs and other related efforts, including—

(1) the NICE Community Coordinating Council;

(2) the Advanced Technological Education program administered by the National Science Foundation;

(3) the CyberCorps: Scholarship for Service Program administered by the National Science Foundation, in collaboration with the Office of Personnel Management and the Department of Homeland Security;

(4) the DoD Cybersecurity Scholarship Program administered by the Department of Defense;

(5) the Cybersecurity Talent Initiative administered by the Partnership for Public Service;

(6) the National Centers of Academic Excellence in Cybersecurity administered by the National Security Agency;

(7) the Presidential Cybersecurity Education Award;

(8) Career Technical Education (CTE) CyberNet local academies administered by the Office of Career, Technical, and Adult Education of the Department of Education;

(9) the GenCyber Program administered by the National Security Agency, in collaboration with the National Science Foundation;

(10) widely used resources, including CareerOneStop, Occupational Outlook Handbook, and O*NET OnLine administered by the Department of Labor; and

(11) the Registered Apprenticeship Program administered by the Office of Apprenticeship of the Department of Labor; and

Whereas ensuring access to cybersecurity education for all students in the United States regardless of race, ethnicity, socioeconomic status, sex, or geographic location will expand opportunities for high-earning jobs in high-demand fields: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) designates June 2022 as “National Cybersecurity Education Month”;

(2) invites individuals and organizations in the United States—

(A) to recognize the essential role of cybersecurity education; and

(B) to support Federal, State, and local educational efforts;

(3) encourages educational and training institutions to increase the understanding and awareness of cybersecurity education at such institutions; and

(4) commits to—

(A) raising awareness about cybersecurity education; and

(B) taking legislative action in support of cybersecurity education to effectively build and sustain a skilled cybersecurity workforce.

SENATE RESOLUTION 681—RECOGNIZING THE SERVICE OF THE LOS ANGELES-CLASS ATTACK SUBMARINE THE USS OKLAHOMA CITY AND THE CREWS OF THE USS OKLAHOMA CITY, WHO SERVED THE UNITED STATES WITH VALOR AND BRAVERY

Mr. LANKFORD (for himself and Mr. INHOFE) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 681

Whereas the USS Oklahoma City is a nuclear-powered fast attack submarine named after Oklahoma City, the capital and most populous city in Oklahoma, and is the second ship in the history of the Navy to bear that name;

Whereas the motto of the USS Oklahoma City is “The Sooner, The Better”, which is a testament to both the spirit of the people of Oklahoma City and the readiness of the 140-person crew of the USS Oklahoma City;

Whereas the USS Oklahoma City was christened and launched on November 2, 1985, sponsored by Linda M. Nickles, and was commissioned for service on July 9, 1988, with Commander Kevin John Reardon as the first commanding officer of the submarine;

Whereas, since the commissioning of the USS Oklahoma City, the USS Oklahoma City has traveled around the globe multiple times and has served in the Mediterranean, the Persian Gulf, the Pacific, and, most recently, Apra Harbor, Guam;

Whereas, in the aftermath of the April 19, 1995, bombing of the Alfred P. Murrah Federal Building in Oklahoma City, the crew of the USS Oklahoma City donated blood in support of the victims of the deadliest act of homegrown terrorism in the history of the United States, which resulted in the deaths of 168 individuals;

Whereas the USS Oklahoma City was the first Navy submarine to transition from navigation using paper charts to an all-electronic navigation suite;

Whereas, on Friday, May 20, 2022, the inactivation ceremony for the USS Oklahoma City was held in Puget Sound Naval Shipyard to honor nearly 34 years of service; and

Whereas, throughout the career of the USS Oklahoma City, the USS Oklahoma City supported a range of missions, including anti-surface warfare, anti-submarine warfare, targeted strike missions, and intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance missions: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate recognizes the service of the Los Angeles-class attack submarine the USS Oklahoma City and the crew of the USS Oklahoma City, who served the United States with valor and bravery.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 5097. Mr. KELLY (for Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. SMITH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1098, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 5097. Mr. KELLY (for Mr. WARNER (for himself, Mr. CORNYN, Mr. RUBIO, and Ms. SMITH)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 1098, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans; as follows:

At the appropriate place, insert the following:

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act”.

SEC. 2. SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOANS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 455(g) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087e(g)) is amended—

(1) by striking “A borrower” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—A borrower”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) SEPARATING JOINT CONSOLIDATION LOANS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—

“(i) AUTHORIZATION.—A married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, and who received a joint consolidation loan as such married couple under subparagraph (C) of section 428C(a)(3) (as such subparagraph was in effect on June 30, 2006), may apply to the Secretary, in accordance with subparagraph (C) of this paragraph, for each individual borrower in the married couple (or previously married couple) to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part.

“(ii) ELIGIBILITY FOR BORROWERS IN DEFAULT.—Notwithstanding any other provision of this Act, a married couple, or 2 individuals who were previously a married couple, who are in default on a joint consolidation loan may be eligible to receive a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part in accordance with this paragraph.

“(B) SECRETARIAL REQUIREMENTS.—Notwithstanding section 428C(a)(3)(A) or any other provision of law, for each individual borrower who applies under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall—

“(i) make a separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loan under this part that—

“(I) shall be for an amount equal to the product of—

“(aa) the unpaid principal and accrued unpaid interest of the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made) and any outstanding charges and fees with respect to such loan; and

“(bb) the percentage of the joint consolidation loan attributable to the loans of the individual borrower for whom such separate consolidation loan is being made, as determined—

“(AA) on the basis of the loan obligations of such borrower with respect to such joint consolidation loan (as of the date such joint consolidation loan was made); or

“(BB) in the case in which both borrowers request, on the basis of proportions outlined in a divorce decree, court order, or settlement agreement; and

“(II) has the same rate of interest as the joint consolidation loan (as of the date that is the day before such separate consolidation loan is made); and

“(ii) in a timely manner, notify each individual borrower that the joint consolidation loan had been repaid and of the terms and conditions of their new loans.

“(C) APPLICATION FOR SEPARATE DIRECT CONSOLIDATION LOAN.—

“(i) JOINT APPLICATION.—Except as provided in clause (ii), to receive separate consolidation loans under this part, both individual borrowers in a married couple (or previously married couple) shall jointly apply under subparagraph (A).

“(ii) SEPARATE APPLICATION.—An individual borrower in a married couple (or previously married couple) may apply for a separate consolidation loan under subparagraph (A) separately and without regard to whether or when the other individual borrower in

the married couple (or previously married couple) applies under subparagraph (A), in a case in which—

“(I) the individual borrower certifies to the Secretary that such borrower—

“(aa) has experienced an act of domestic violence (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower; or

“(bb) has experienced economic abuse (as defined in section 40002 of the Violence Against Women Act of 1994 (34 U.S.C. 12291) from the other individual borrower; or

“(cc) is unable to reasonably reach or access the loan information of the other individual borrower; or

“(II) the Secretary determines that authorizing each individual borrower to apply separately under subparagraph (A) would be in the best fiscal interests of the Federal Government.

“(iii) REMAINING OBLIGATION FROM SEPARATE APPLICATION.—In the case of an individual borrower who receives a separate consolidation loan due to the circumstances described in clause (ii), the other non-applying individual borrower shall become solely liable for the remaining balance of the joint consolidation loan.”.

(b) CONFORMING AMENDMENT.—Section 428C(a)(3)(B)(i)(V) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1078-3(3)(B)(i)(V)) is amended—

(1) by striking “or” at the end of item (bb);

(2) by striking the period at the end of item (cc) and inserting “; or”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(dd) for the purpose of separating a joint consolidation loan into 2 separate Federal Direct Consolidation Loans under section 455(g)(2).”.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CASEY. Mr. President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON ARMED SERVICES

The Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a closed business meeting.

COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 10:30 a.m., to conduct a classified briefing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session

of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

SUBCOMMITTEE ON INTERNATIONAL TRADE, CUSTOMS, AND GLOBAL COMPETITIVENESS

The Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness of the Committee on Finance is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, June 15, 2022, at 3 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

REPORT OF THE SECRETARY OF THE SENATE

JUNE 15, 2022.

Hon. KAMALA HARRIS,
President of the United States Senate,
Washington, DC.

MADAM: I have the honor to submit a full and complete statement of the receipts and expenditures of the Senate, showing in detail the items of expense under proper appropriations, the aggregate thereof, and exhibiting the exact condition of all public moneys received, paid out, and remaining in my possession from October 1, 2021 to March 31, 2022, in compliance with Section 105 of Public Law 88-454, approved August 20, 1964, as amended.

Sincerely,

SONCERIA A. BERRY,
Secretary of the Senate.

ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 16; and that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of Calendar No. 388, H.R. 3967, postcloture; further, that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and leader remarks count postcloture, and that all time be considered expired at 11:15 a.m.; further, that upon disposition of H.R. 3967, the Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the Alba and Boyle nominations, and that if cloture is invoked on either nomination, all postcloture time be expired and the confirmation votes occur at a time to be determined by the majority leader or his designee, in consultation with the Republican leader.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ORDER FOR ADJOURNMENT

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order, following the remarks of Senators SULLIVAN and LANKFORD.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The Senator from Alaska.

HONORING OUR PACT ACT OF 2021

Mr. SULLIVAN. Mr. President, I am going to talk a little bit about the bill that we have been debating here all week on the Senate floor, the Sergeant First Class Heath Robinson Honoring our PACT Act of 2022.

Now, it is a very important bill. It is named after Sergeant First Class Robinson, an Ohio National Guard soldier who died in 2022 as a result of service-connected toxic exposure.

This bill that we are going to be voting for final passage on tomorrow would deliver immediate access to healthcare for toxic-exposed veterans, direct the VA to evaluate diseases for presumption of service connection, and streamline the process for toxic-exposed veterans seeking disability compensation for their illness that they gained while serving overseas defending our Nation.

I have supported the intent of this bill for years, and I intend to vote in favor of this bill tomorrow when it comes up for final passage.

There is nothing, in my mind, that is more important than taking care of our veterans, but I do want to raise some concerns about how we got to this point, the process of this bill, which, in my view, undermined the likelihood of this massive new program being implemented in a way that benefits all American veterans so we can take care of all American veterans.

Let me explain. Since my time here in the Senate, I have focused on these issues. I serve on the Veterans' Affairs Committee that was responsible, in large measure, for many aspects of this bill. I serve on the Armed Services Committee. I still serve in the military myself, in the Marine Corps Reserves, and I am honored to represent the State in our great Nation, Alaska, that has more veterans per capita than any State in the country.

So veterans and military affairs and their families have been a core focus of mine since I arrived in the Senate in 2015. And in particular, I have been focused on this issue of toxic exposure of our service men and women during wartime. In fact, one of my commitments as a candidate for the U.S. Senate in 2014 was to work to ensure passage of the Blue Water Navy Vietnam Veterans Act, which I cosponsored when I got here and was signed into law in 2019.

That was an outstanding commitment to our Vietnam veterans exposed to Agent Orange during their time, but it was belatedly fulfilled—years, even decades, after their service in Vietnam.

And I took lessons from that. As a matter of fact, I think many Senators took lessons from that, that when the next generation of veterans served overseas and were exposed to toxins during their service, that we needed to act.

So that is what I have done in my career here. I have worked, taking the Vietnam veteran experience, particularly with Agent Orange, to make sure we don't repeat that—the mistakes of Agent Orange where those exposed to toxic substances overseas during their service and later came down with diseases and suffered, that we needed to take care of them.

We know that toxic exposure during military service can add serious complications to a veteran's health, years and even decades after their service has concluded.

And there is science that can correlate certain diseases and symptoms to exposure. That is the model that we want. Veterans suffering from potential exposure understand too well that getting the VA to even recognize and concede exposure can remain a challenging bureaucratic and incredibly frustrating process that leads to denials often from the bureaucracy.

So early in my time here, I have been a relentless advocate on these issues. I will give you a few examples.

I introduced with Senator MANCHIN of West Virginia the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, which was previously passed out of committee in the Veterans' Affairs Committee and enjoys broad bipartisan support. Close to half of the Senate—Democrats and Republicans—was cosponsors of our bill, and almost all of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee were.

This bill would recognize and concede exposure to toxic substances for those veterans who were deployed in areas where burn pits were in use: in Iraq, in Afghanistan, in Uzbekistan—all of these different areas and more.

This bill would do away with the paperwork that made it almost impossible to prove exposure by these veterans. It put the onus on the VA and that bureaucracy.

When crafting this bill with Senator MANCHIN, our offices worked extensively with the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee and many of the veterans service organizations, particularly the Disabled American Veterans organization; and we worked with the VA on the language to make sure we were not getting ahead of the science, making sure that what was exposed and what were the diseases connect with science—not always easy, but the VA does have expertise in that area.

I then cosponsored with Senator BLUMENTHAL the K2 Veterans Advocacy Act. This bill moved the needle on three things that are known systematically now: that toxic substances at the base that we call K2 in Uzbekistan, the medical conditions that K2 veterans have—and they are serious; something really bad was going on at the K2 base in Uzbekistan—and the links between the two.

Now, we worked with the Trump White House before President Trump left office in 2020, before our bill passed here on the Senate floor, to get them

to issue an Executive order for the VA to essentially do those things for K2 veterans.

I introduced and had passed the bipartisan Burn Pits Accountability Act with Senator KLOBUCHAR, which directs the Pentagon to include empirical health assessments and evaluation of whether a servicemember has been exposed to open burn pits or toxic airborne chemicals in their deployments. This bill was included in the fiscal year 2020 National Defense Authorization Act.

And I sponsored the Pandemic Care For Burn Pits Exposure Act of 2020 to ensure that servicemembers and veterans with previous exposure to burn pits received the care they needed during the COVID-19 pandemic.

I am listing these bills and the work and time and the bipartisan nature of them because on the Veterans Affairs Committee there has been no issue I have been more focused on.

We are going to take the lessons from Vietnam, Agent Orange, and not say: You are going to wait three or four or five decades while you die of cancer.

And I am committed to this issue, and I have been. But I am also committed to passing legislation that is worthy of all veterans that we are serving. So I have had some reservations about the current bill and the process by which it has come to the Senate floor, because the process has thwarted opportunities to make this a better bill, to make it serve our veterans in a better, holistic way.

And, again, this is an issue I have been focused on since my first days in the U.S. Senate.

So what are the issues?

Well, as I mentioned, some of the things in there—a lot of the things in this bill are very necessary. The bill that I just mentioned that I cosponsored with Senator MANCHIN, the Veterans Burn Pits Exposure Recognition Act, was incorporated into the PACT Act that we will be voting on tomorrow, the Sergeant Robinson Honoring our PACT Act.

In fact, many bipartisan bills from the Veterans' Affairs Committee were included in this bill that we are going to be voting on tomorrow.

But ultimately, what we had going on in the Veterans' Affairs Committee was an agreement that when we brought this big bill—and it is big—to the Senate floor, we would have the ability to bring amendments to try to improve it, to try to make it better for all veterans in the entire VA system, a system that we know has challenges implementing sweeping mandates from Congress.

This is a sweeping mandate from Congress that we are voting on. As I mentioned, the issue of toxic exposure, which I have been focused on since my first year here in the U.S. Senate, has always been a bipartisan bill. Four bills I just mentioned that I have led on have all had Democratic cosponsors leading with me as well. But what hap-

pened this week and last week was the bipartisan nature of trying to tackle one of the biggest issues facing our veterans was shut down. For whatever reason, and I don't know why—somebody should ask the majority leader—all the amendments that we were going to bring to the floor to make this bill better were shut down. We have not had one amendment on this comprehensive bill, and, like I said, a number of us have been focused on this issue for years.

What were we trying to do with these amendments? We are trying to make this a better bill. Bring your ideas to the floor, debate them, vote on them. Why wouldn't we want to do that? Why wouldn't we want to do that? Don't we owe it to all of our veterans to do that?

My primary concern, as I have mentioned, is making sure that not just the constituency impacted by this legislation, which we need—those exposed to toxic exposure primarily from burn pits are taken care of—but that the whole VA system remains robust and strong. And I think some of the amendments—I know some of the amendments that we were going to bring—as a matter of fact, on the Veterans' Affairs Committee there was a commitment to make sure we were bringing these amendments to the floor—would have made this bill better.

What are the biggest concerns? Well, I pressed the Secretary of the VA just yesterday in his testimony before the Veterans' Affairs Committee on one of the biggest concerns I have and one of the biggest concerns many Senators have and one of the biggest concerns our Veterans' Affairs Committee has, and it is this: This bill that I will be supporting tomorrow is estimated to bring an additional 2.5 million claims to the VA—2.5 million.

My question to the Secretary was simple but really important: Mr. Secretary, is the VA system ready to absorb the roughly 2½ million additional claims that are likely to be generated in the next 3 years by the PACT Act? Are you ready?

We have some ideas and amendments that we think can make it ready. But again, for whatever reason, the majority leader didn't want to hear about those.

In an already stretched VA, with a huge backlog already and challenges as we speak, the Secretary testified about them yesterday, about hiring qualified medical personnel across the country but especially in my State, in Alaska. The concern that I raised with the Secretary yesterday, the concern that we are trying to address with the amendment process here on the Senate floor is this: When you bring that many into a system that is not ready, you can collapse the whole system. You can collapse the whole system.

And then every veteran loses. A young marine with his legs amputated after an IED explosion in Afghanistan who needs help, he is going to be delayed. A Vietnam veteran who needs

care, he is going to be delayed. A Gulf war veteran, she is going to be delayed. If you are collapsing the whole system, every veteran loses. Every veteran loses.

Now, I have actually seen this in my State. And I know the Presiding Officer's State has had some challenges with the VA. Several years ago, I held a field hearing in Arizona on some of the challenges in the VA, but I have seen the system collapse in Alaska. In 2015, my first year in the U.S. Senate, due to legislation that had been passed the year before, we essentially had the system in Alaska collapse. Somehow, some way, legislation and ideas from the VA thought it was really smart to remove the ability to actually make appointments for veterans in Alaska not by officials from the VA who live in Alaska but somewhere in the lower 48—I think it was Louisiana or somewhere—not a good idea. The whole system cratered. I have seen it. And no veteran benefits. No one benefits.

In my first year here in 2015, it was my No. 1 priority to get the VA to fix the broken system in Alaska, and we have made huge progress. But I have seen it firsthand. When a system that is supposed to take care of veterans craters, of course, every veteran suffers.

So we don't want that to happen with the implementation of this important bill. And the Secretary of the VA assured me, assured Senator TILLIS in questioning yesterday, that this won't happen, that the system won't be overburdened, that they are prepared for this.

Well, I hope he is right. I have my doubts, but I hope he is right.

But here is the point: A bipartisan amendment process, particularly from Senators—I will give you one example. Senator MORAN, ranking member on Veterans' Affairs, has been working this issue like me for years. Particularly from Senators who actually know the issue, a bipartisan amendment process would have helped ensure that this possibility would be much less.

I will give you a couple of examples of what, for whatever reason, the majority leader didn't want to bring up on this important legislation. We had amendments to make sure that the VA didn't get ahead of the science. You need to connect the science and exposure to the disease. That is simple. That is what is expected—it is not simple. It is a complicated process, but it is just the rigor of a bill that you want to make sure that those who are exposed and sick and with a disease are the ones who get the care.

Right now, in this bill, there are 23 respiratory illnesses and cancers that will be added to the list of presumptive ailments that will allow a veteran to be diagnosed with toxic exposure and qualify for benefits and any other disease the Secretary of the VA determines is warranted based on a positive association with certain substances, chemicals, or airborne hazards. Some

of those 23 presumptives, as we are calling them, are based on science. Some aren't. I have asked the VA; I have asked the Secretary: Hey, where did we get these 23? The answer, I am still waiting for.

That is what the amendment process is for, to make sure this bill has rigor to take care of all veterans.

Let me mention another amendment offered by Senator MORAN, an amendment that he was promised to get a floor vote on that didn't happen and I think would have made the bill stronger. It would have preserved the Trump-era gains on community care access standards and, importantly, serve as a relief valve for veterans to receive care as millions are going to be added into the system. So, again, if you have 2½ million additional claims and the VA is overwhelmed and now there is a giant backlog for everybody, this amendment would have said: Well, the veterans in the system can go out and get community care. That is a good idea. It is actually how it works in Alaska because we don't have a full-service VA hospital, one of only three States in the country. But that is a really smart idea, a safety valve. If the system looks like it is going to crater because it is overwhelmed, hey, let some doctors in town help the veterans. We couldn't bring that amendment up.

So I pressed the VA Secretary on this because I have seen it when a system collapses, and my veterans were really hurt in Alaska when it did—the VA system in my State. And I am going to take his word for it now that the VA can handle 2½ million more claims in the next 3 years. But I am going to be watching like a hawk—watching like a hawk in my oversight role. Like I said, there is nothing I care more about than our veterans, our military, and their family members. We had the opportunity on an important bill that I will be supporting to make it better. And we sat in the Senate all week and didn't bring up one amendment to even try.

The Secretary is assuring us. OK. All good. Good to go. Well, some of us had ideas to make sure it would have been better to go. We couldn't bring them up.

I hope there aren't problems with this implementation. If the system is in danger of collapsing as a result of this bill, I hope that whoever is majority leader at that time—2, 3, 4 years from now—understands that the care for all veterans is what the VA is all about, and I hope if we need it, we will have the opportunity to bring good ideas to the Senate floor to fix these kind of things because veterans are not a partisan issue in the Senate. They are not. I have seen it my whole career here. I sit on the committee. I sit on the Armed Services Committee. But for whatever reason, our ability, in a bipartisan way, to try to improve this bill that we are going to vote on tomorrow was not granted to other Senators. And I think that was a missed

opportunity because I think we would have made this a better bill.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. KELLY). The Senator from Oklahoma.

INFLATION

Mr. LANKFORD. Mr. President, I want to give today's reality check. The Federal Reserve today raised interest rates 75 basis points—three-quarters of a point—with a statement they may come back and do that again in another month.

A point and a half in 2 months is a pretty dramatic effect. It is going to be a situation where many people, 40 and younger, are about to face interest rates they have never faced in their lifetime. The cost of buying a car that is already high is about to get higher. The cost of buying a home that is already really high is about to get much higher.

Inflation is now at 8.6 percent. A lot of people are beginning to feel what that really means. This is not some strange anomaly. This is inflation over the last decade. It has bounced around about the same level, basically, for a decade until right there—March of 2021—and then it just skyrockets at that point.

This is the reality that we are facing at this point. What does inflation really look like when you say it is 8.6 percent? Well, people know what that feels like. The cost of eggs has gone up 32 percent in the past year—32 percent for eggs. The cost of milk is up 16 percent; the cost of butter, also 16 percent; the cost of coffee, 15 percent; the cost of baby formula, if you can find it, is up 13 percent.

And gas prices? Oh, hello. Gas prices—that really has had an effect. This is gas prices since January of 2017. Again, we look, and it stays about the same until January of 2021. I wonder what happened then.

And then look at this.

Then, with the conversation about gas prices that, per the administration lately, has been about, "Well, it is all Putin's fault," well, here are the rising gas prices since President Biden's inauguration—right there—and right there is the war that began in Russia. So this little increase right here is the part that is actually there.

This is our consumer price inflation. This is on gas prices. It is the same thing. To be able to see this flat line on gas prices, that spike—that is the invasion of Ukraine happening right there—and to be able to see what has been added onto it since then. So this is not just about the invasion in Ukraine. This has been ongoing since late January 2021.

The challenge now is, Is this something intentional or is this something accidental? Quite frankly, I think it is a bit of both.

We all remember very well this moment during the Presidential campaign. It was when President Biden was

campaigning, and he walked over to a young lady on the campaign stop and said:

[L]ook in my eyes. I guarantee you . . . we are going to end fossil fuel.

I guarantee you.

That was this moment that happened here.

This was not something totally accidental. It was a drive to say, We have got to shift to solar; we have got to shift to wind; we have got to shift to hydro; we have got to shift to other things; we are going to get rid of fossil fuels; and we are going to accelerate that as fast as possible.

I have to tell you that I live in a State in which we use a lot of wind power. We use a lot of solar power. We use hydropower. We have a very diverse energy portfolio. But right now, the people in my State are paying much higher prices for gasoline, much higher prices for natural gas, and much higher prices for electricity because the policies that have been put in place are driving up the costs, and people feel it.

This is what it looks like at this point. This is the last 24 months of retail average prices—right there, January 2021—and then to be able to see what is happening with prices all over the country.

Now, the administration's response, just in the past couple of weeks, has been this statement.

President Biden has said:

My administration will continue to do everything it can to lower prices for the American people.

I love the words "continue to do" in there. They are going to continue to do everything that they can. They are going to keep doing these things that clearly have driven up prices overwhelmingly for the American people.

It was, let's say, Putin's fault. It has been the oil companies' fault. It has been the refineries' fault. That is the new one that he actually just put out in the last 24 hours—that it is all the fault of the refineries that are just taking in too much profit.

The challenge has been an ongoing attack on American energy from the very beginning. Literally, on day 1, when President Biden canceled the Keystone Pipeline, he started his process of fulfilling his promise that he made during the campaign: "I guarantee you I am going to end fossil fuels." So day 1 was canceling the Keystone Pipeline and getting crude oil from Canada—about 800,000 barrels a day. What he didn't announce on this day is that we still have to have that same 800,000 barrels a day from somewhere because it is heavy crude. We purchase some of our heavy crude from other places, so we still have to get it. His announcement, though, on day 1 was, We are not going to get it from Canada.

What people don't realize is that this announcement on day 1 was, We are not going to get it from Canada. We are going to get it from Russia.

How did that foreign policy work out? Terribly.

On day 1: We are not going to get oil from Canada. We are going to get it from Russia. We are going to get it from other places instead.

He put a moratorium on new Federal oil and gas leasing. That moratorium, by the way, still stays in place in multiple areas, and 24 percent of our oil and gas in the United States comes from Federal lands and waters—24 percent. So what this did was say, for the future of how we are going to develop, we are not going to develop in those areas anymore. I am going to cut off 24 percent of the supply coming in. Again, this goes back to his campaign promise of "I guarantee you I am going to end fossil fuel."

He declined to defend the gulf lease sale 257. That is offshore. Basically, an environmental group went in and sued and said: We don't think they followed the process.

The administration was, like, We are not going to challenge that. We are going to let the environmental group just take this whole thing down, and we are not going to increase our supply of oil coming from the gulf.

He limited the seismic studies necessary for new production in the gulf.

What does that matter?

Well, he has opened up some areas and said: You can drill for more oil in these areas. Oh, but, by the way, you are allowed to do that, but if you want to do seismic testing before you do it—which is a standard that you have to do seismic testing—oh, we are not doing any more seismic testing this whole year. We are not going to allow you to actually prepare a site. We are just going to tell you that you can do it.

That is this mode that the administration is in: Produce more oil, but I am not going to actually allow you to do that with the permitting.

He has failed to implement a 5-year offshore leasing program.

What difference does that make?

By law—by law, now—the administration is required to be able to put a 5-year offshore leasing proposal in place. The current one expires on June 30 of this year. That is days away. There is no present plan in place to be able to replace it.

In fact, I personally asked Secretary Haaland, the Secretary of the Interior, and she said: "We plan by June 30—the deadline to have a new one in place—to be able to put out a comment of what we could do if we do a new plan."

I said: "When will that be complete?"

Her response to me was, "We don't have a deadline as to when that will be complete."

So, what is required by law to have a plan for how we are going to do offshore leasing, they are going to, instead, by the day it should be in place, begin discussing when they might do it in the days ahead.

Again, it goes back to: We are going to talk about it, but we are actually not going to put this lease sale plan in place.

He canceled a lease sale in Alaska's Cook Inlet, which is where oil comes

from. He closed off half of the National Petroleum Reserve in Alaska to any future energy development.

He pushed regulations that would slow or halt a buildout of natural gas pipelines and liquefied natural gas export infrastructure. This is a FERC piece. They actually put a new leader in place in that spot, and then the first action they took was to make putting pipelines that were heading to the gulf to be able to sell natural gas to Europe harder to do and more expensive to do. If we wanted to put natural gas pipelines across our country, he would also make it more expensive and more complicated. So, literally, as the price is going up for natural gas, he has made it even more expensive to be able to transport natural gas and harder to be able to sell it to our allies.

He proposed new financial regulations designed to drive investment for traditional energy projects. This body will remember nominees who were put up by the Biden administration to go to the Federal Reserve who stated out loud that their goal of going to the Federal Reserve was to cut off access to capital for any kind of energy development that was a fossil fuel. They are literally saying: You can't get loans and money to get access to that.

So they will make it harder to actually move it when you get it, if you can get it at all on Federal lands; and they will make it harder to be able to get access to capital.

He has also proposed raising taxes on oil and gas development. Do you remember my comment—or his comment, actually—saying he is going to continue to do everything he can to lower the prices of energy for the American people? Well, what he has actually done is he has proposed a whole new set of taxes on all energy companies. In fact, even recently, there was a conversation about a windfall profits tax on energy companies.

Now, here is the basic economics that this group knows well: If you tax it more, you get less of it. If you get less of it, the price goes up. This is not hard. This is basic economics. Yet this administration has proposed multiple new taxes in their budget that they just put out in the previous month. At the same time, he said: I am going to continue to do what I can to lower prices, at the same time he put out proposals to dramatically increase oil and gas costs.

Nominate anti-traditional energy activists for key posts. We have seen that. He has turned to hostile nations like Iran and Venezuela to meet the U.S. energy demand instead of turning to U.S. producers.

It has been interesting. I have heard several people say: Well, we have got high numbers of production of oil and gas here in the United States. But the fact is, we are still a half a million barrels less now of production than what we were pre-pandemic. We have not caught up on actual production here; and the Biden administration has made it even harder to go get it.

While the Biden administration is planning a trip to Saudi Arabia to talk to them about getting more oil, our friends in Canada are saying: Why don't you come to Canada and talk to us about production? We can increase supply to the United States.

American producers are saying: We can increase supply to the United States if you will lift regulations, allow us to get permits, stop making it harder to move it, stop making it more expensive to get it, and stop adding more taxes onto us. We can produce more in the United States.

Listen, the price of oil right now is about \$117 a barrel. There is plenty of incentive to go get it, but the administration continues to make it harder and harder and harder and more and more unpredictable to actually go get it, so folks are not going to get more. While the Biden administration blames speculators on Wall Street and rich oil companies and everyone else, the basic facts are that the administration's policies are what are driving this problem.

Are there solutions to this? Of course, there are. There are ways to be able to resolve this. We can restart Federal leasing onshore and offshore. I am not talking about having massive rigs everywhere. We do oil drilling and gas drilling better than anyone else in the world.

While the administration is going over to Saudi Arabia to go get oil to be able to use in the United States, don't we think that we produce it cleaner than Saudi Arabia does? What in the world?

If we are going to need to use it, then why aren't we producing it here in the United States? If this is all about a global climate challenge, then why aren't we focused on production here rather than running overseas and trying to be able to get it there?

Restart the permitting process. Restart the leasing onshore and offshore. Stop all of the regulations that are designed to limit and to punish oil and gas production—the administration just did a moratorium on this; it would make a significant difference—actually put in timelines for permitting and litigation.

Again, I have mentioned Canada several times, but if there is a mine that is going in in Canada for things like lithium and other things that we need and the whole world needs—they have deadlines and timelines to be able to do that—it takes about 5 years to be able to do a mine in those areas. It takes 15 years to be able to do that in the United States, if you can get it done at all, because there are no timelines and deadlines.

It is the same thing with the production of oil and gas. When there is this constant litigation challenge all of the time, it makes it more difficult to go get it.

People need to be engaged in the process. The community needs to be heard—Tribes, local governments. Peo-

ple need to be heard and consulted in the process. But with no deadlines out there, there is no incentive to be able to actually go after it.

Promote projects that enhance mutual security like the Keystone Pipeline and like other pipelines. We learned, when there was a security problem on the Colonial Pipeline—coming out last year to North Carolina—and North Carolina suddenly didn't have refined products, gasoline, the whole east coast discovered: We are dependent on one pipeline—one.

If that one pipeline actually has a structural failure, what happens to the east coast? Listen, you can multiply that all over the country.

While this administration fights every pipeline company that is trying to put in a pipeline, they increase our risk of having a major problem and large sections of the country losing access to energy. They are gambling with our future at this point, while we are watching prices exceed \$5 a gallon. Focus on the solutions that don't raise taxes on energy or limit U.S. energy production.

I did have to laugh last week when the President made a speech and said he was working on bringing down the cost of energy. So the announcement was, I am going to bring down the cost of energy by dropping tariffs on solar panels coming from the Far East.

Talk about out of touch. That is out of touch. That is out of touch. Because, if we are going to produce solar panels, then why aren't we incentivizing the production of solar panels here in America rather than encouraging the production of solar panels overseas in the Far East? How in the world is dropping tariffs on solar panels from the Far East going to help folks filling up their tank with gas next week?

The President said he was going to solve energy issues and the price at the pump by increasing the amount of ethanol that we would use. Remember that one? That was about 5 months ago. He said that we would just have more ethanol. He went to Iowa and made a big announcement: We will just do more ethanol. And the prices continue to be able to skyrocket and rise.

The President then came on and said: All right, we still have a higher and higher and higher price. So the ethanol whole thing didn't work when he put that out here, and so he came back and said: We are going to do this Strategic Petroleum Reserve. We are going to release a million barrels a day from this Strategic Petroleum Reserve. Remember that announcement? That announcement was made right about there on this chart. That is when that announcement was made.

How is it going for gas prices since his announcement that we are going to release a million barrels a day from this Strategic Petroleum Reserve? It still continues to be able to rise.

These prices aren't based on short-term input from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve. They are based on long-term supply. That is basic economics.

Now the talk has been a temporary gas tax holiday: We will do a temporary gas tax holiday, and that is going to give people relief.

Can I remind everyone that we are over \$5 a gallon? The temporary gas tax holiday would drop the price 18 cents. Eighteen cents is what it would drop the price. We are not trying to get an 18-cent drop. We are trying to get it back to where it was over here, or how about over here, where we were at \$2 a gallon, not 18 cents. Besides the fact, if you drop the price by 18 cents just for this year, it puts a \$20 billion hole in our infrastructure—in our building for bridges and highways and roads—to get an 18-cent bump.

There has also been the proposal out there that he is going to take over refineries. That was today. Again, it seems like every week there is a new thing that they throw out. Now it is a letter that he sent to the major refineries. In the letter that the President sent to the major refineries, he wrote:

[M]y administration is prepared to use all reasonable and appropriate Federal Government tools and emergency authorities to increase refinery capacity and output in the near term . . . to ensure that every region of this country is appropriately supplied.

Great. So the President is going to go into the refineries, and he is going to take them over. The same administration that is managing our baby formula is now going to manage our refineries. That is going to work out terrific.

Our refineries right now are running at 95-percent capacity—95 percent. The interesting thing about our refineries is that America has not built a new refinery since 1977. And just in the past 3 years, we have lost almost a million barrels a day of refining capacity in the United States from refineries shutting down.

Maybe the better question the President could ask is "How do we start increasing our ability to refine," not how is he going to take over refineries and run it himself.

We have a major structural problem right now. This is just evidence of what is going on across the whole economy.

There are answers. There are solutions. But they are not raising taxes, and taking over refineries, and putting oil out from the Strategic Petroleum Reserve, or running to Saudi Arabia. That is not going to solve our energy problems.

And I can assure us, we are not going to solve our 8.6-inflation rate until we solve the price of energy, because the price of energy is baked into every single product that we buy—everything. And if this doesn't get solved, this doesn't get better.

Mr. President, do what needs to be done to increase supply in America so that the price will go down. We all believe—we all believe—that, in the decades ahead, we are going to have more electric vehicles; we will have more renewable energy. We all believe that. But 98 percent of the vehicles on the

road right now run on oil and gas, and fulfilling your promise—your promise—that you are going to get rid of fossil fuels right now by making it harder to do pipelines, harder to get capital, harder to do permitting, and more complicated regulations is causing this mess. Thirty years from now, we may all be driving electric vehicles—great. We don't today. Today, we need solutions for how we are going to move in the country. That involves increasing supply. That will get down inflation. That will help us as a nation.

With that, I yield the floor.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senate stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow.

Thereupon, the Senate, at 7:46 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, June 16, 2022, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

RADHA IYENGAR PLUMB, OF NEW YORK, TO BE A DEPUTY UNDER SECRETARY OF DEFENSE, VICE ALAN RAY SHAFFER.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JULIE D. FISHER, OF TENNESSEE, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CYPRUS.

CHRISTOPHER T. ROBINSON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF LATVIA.

STEPHANIE SANDERS SULLIVAN, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE REPRESENTATIVE OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE AFRICAN UNION, WITH THE RANK AND STATUS OF AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY.

THE JUDICIARY

BRADLEY N. GARCIA, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT, VICE JUDITH W. ROGERS, RETIRING.

DANA M. DOUGLAS, OF LOUISIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FIFTH CIRCUIT, VICE JAMES L. DENNIS, RETIRING.

ROOPALI H. DESAI, OF ARIZONA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE NINTH CIRCUIT, VICE ANDREW DAVID HURWITZ, RETIRING.

MARIA DEL R. ANTONGIORGI-JORDAN, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE GUSTAVO ANTONIO GELPI, ELEVATED.

CAMILLE L. VELEZ-RIVE, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE FRANCISCO AUGUSTO BESOSA, RETIRED.

GINA R. MENDEZ-MIRO, OF PUERTO RICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF PUERTO RICO, VICE CARMEN CONSUELO CEREZO, RETIRED.

JERRY W. BLACKWELL, OF MINNESOTA, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MINNESOTA, VICE SUSAN RICHARD NELSON, RETIRED.

CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate June 15, 2022:

DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

VENTRIS C. GIBSON, OF VIRGINIA, TO BE DIRECTOR OF THE MINT FOR A TERM OF FIVE YEARS.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

ALAN M. LEVENTHAL, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF DENMARK.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE BICENTENNIAL ANNIVERSARY OF THE TOWN OF HOOKSETT, NEW HAMPSHIRE

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the bicentennial anniversary of the establishment of the Town of Hooksett, New Hampshire. First known as "Chester Woods" and "Rowe's Corner" upon its founding in 1822, the name was later changed to Hooksett. This town's long and rich history has culminated in the vibrant and caring community we see today.

With a population of just 880, the earliest residents of Hooksett lived in the Martin's Ferry Settlement near what is now Southern New Hampshire University. From the beautiful Head's Pond Trail to the iconic Robie's Country Store, the Town of Hooksett encapsulates the best of New Hampshire.

In 2005, Hooksett was honored as a Preserve America Community, the first community in New Hampshire to receive this prestigious recognition. Hooksett has been at the forefront of the White House's initiative to preserve America's cultural and natural heritage. If the past two centuries are any indication of the future, the Town of Hooksett will remain a wonderful and important part of New Hampshire for generations to come.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate the Town of Hooksett on this incredible milestone. I look forward to a continued partnership with Hooksett and its residents who I am proud to represent in Congress.

HOMETOWN HERO—OFFICER TONY ANDUJAR

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Officer Tony Andujar, who has gone above and beyond to keep our community safe and honor his fallen brothers.

Tony not only serves North Texas every day with the Dallas Police Department, but he recently honored other Dallas Police officers who have paid the ultimate sacrifice by participating in Carry the Load. Carry the Load works to bring all Americans together to participate in honoring our nation's heroes every day. This great mission also raises funds for non-profits for veterans' services and inspires patriotism in America's youth.

Last month, Tony joined the Carry the Load West Coast Route—from Seattle to Dallas—by walking for 8 days in remembrance of his fellow Dallas Police officers who are no longer with us.

Tony embodies the essence of a true public servant. He puts others in front of himself and will stand up to any challenge. Walking for 8 days with a 20-pound pack is a daunting task to many, but for Tony, it was the least he could do in remembrance of his fallen brothers.

As Tony put it, "the weight of my ruck may not physically be heavy, but the weight of their loss is immeasurable."

I thank Tony for his acts of service and inspiration to our community in North Texas.

RECOGNITION OF MICHAEL TATHAM CMG, BRITISH EMBASSY'S SERVICE

HON. RON KIND

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. KIND. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the invaluable service of Michael Tatham CMG, who has served as the Deputy Head of Mission at the British Embassy in Washington, D.C., for the past five years. Throughout his time in D.C., Michael has personified the special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom with his tireless work, diligent commitment, and affable personality.

As one of our key liaisons to the United Kingdom, Michael has facilitated meetings with Congressional members and all levels of the British Government, from Prime Ministers to Cabinet Ministers, Members of Parliament, and members of the Royal Family. During his tenure, Michael also guided the Embassy as Chargé D'Affaires, ensuring we in the United States remain well connected with our allies across the Atlantic. From cooperation in defense, trade, technology, development, and foreign affairs to name a few, Michael has remained steadfast in his ability to ensure the highest levels of diplomatic channels between our two nations remain open and well used.

Michael will be transitioning back to the Foreign, Commonwealth and Development Office in London where I have no doubt he will experience the same levels of success. The special relationship between the United States and the United Kingdom remains special, thanks to the work of diplomats like Michael Tatham. We in Congress will miss his work at the Embassy and wish him nothing but the best for his future endeavors.

RECOGNIZING MR. DON DEVINE

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today with Representative JIM COSTA to honor the life of Central Valley agriculture leader

Don Devine, who passed away on June 4, 2022.

Born in Central City, Kentucky, Mr. Devine personified the American dream. As a young man, he joined the United States Army and spent six years serving in Vietnam. Following his tour of duty, he attended Arizona State University and graduated with a degree in accounting.

After graduating from school and obtaining his CPA license, Mr. Devine joined Harris Ranch Feeding Company, an organization he would spend over forty years working for, eventually working his way up to Senior Vice President of Finance. In the 1980s, Mr. Devine invested in farmland within the Central Valley and co-founded Double D Farms, an institution in our agricultural community, which grew and evolved to grow Pistachios, Almonds, and many other food crops.

In addition to his hard work and success in business, Mr. Devine was also heavily involved in community issues. He was a leader on water issues throughout the Central Valley and served on multiple water board districts such as the Westlands and Pleasant Valley Water Districts.

Mr. Devine was an icon in the Central Valley business and agricultural community. His dedication to his country, community, and family is an inspiration to us all.

We ask our colleagues in the House of Representatives to join us in honoring the extraordinary life of Mr. Don Devine.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. RON ESTES

OF KANSAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. ESTES. Madam Speaker, I was not present for the following Roll Call votes. Had I been present, I would have voted as follows:

Roll Call vote No. 263, On Agreeing to the Amendment (Dingell of Michigan Part D Amendment En Bloc No. 2, I would have voted YEA;

Roll Call vote No. 264, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Kildee of Michigan Part D Amendment No. 4, I would have voted NAY;

Roll Call vote No. 265, On Agreeing to the Amendment, Butterfield of North Carolina Part D Amendment No. 5, I would have voted NAY;

Roll Call vote No. 266, On Motion to Recommit (H.R. 2773) Recovering America's Wildlife Act, I would have voted YEA;

Roll Call vote No. 267, On Passage of the bill (H.R. 2773) Recovering America's Wildlife Act, I would have voted NAY;

Roll Call vote No. 268, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass, as Amended, the bill (S. 516), to plan for and coordinate efforts to integrate advanced air mobility aircraft into the national airspace system, and for other purposes, I would have voted YEA; and for

Roll Call No. 269, On Motion to Suspend the Rules and Pass the bill (H.R. 721), to

• 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.

amend the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act, review a final rule of the Federal Emergency Management Agency, and for other purposes, I would have voted NAY.

RECOGNIZING THE 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF TECH4

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 25th anniversary of Tech4, a design and engineer control systems company, in De Pere.

This business came from humble beginnings when a group of engineers came together on July 8, 1997, to build an automation company that both clients and employees could trust and believe in. The vision of four engineers and their marketing employee came to fruition after identifying a gap in the automation industry. As the business continued to grow, Tech4 continued to live by its founding mission of providing high-quality service and by utilizing a people-first mindset that is the key to the success of each individual project. I commend the founders of Tech4 and their team members for their continued service and dedication to their work.

For the past 25 years, Tech4 has provided services to nearly 400 by improving their manufacturing business through implementing renowned automation and power system solutions. Regardless of the size of the project, the lasting success of Tech4 comes from each employee treating every project as if it was their own. Tech4 has seen significant growth over the past 25 years. Beginning with a team of only 5 employees to nearly 30 has forced Tech4 to add on a second building. Through the expansion of different departments, including its salesforce, Tech4 has remained unchanged in its goal to create successful solutions and to serve industrial manufacturers. I applaud Tech4 for its exceptional work, continued growth, and success for the past 25 years.

Since the beginning, Tech4 has placed an importance on giving back to its employees and to the community. Tech4 began sponsoring the YMCA Chili Cookoff and has continued to be a great supporter of the Green Bay area and surrounding communities. Tech4 employees span from a wide range of backgrounds, from scout leaders to VEX robotics judges, but they come together in their passion to give back to their communities.

I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 25th anniversary of Tech4. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Tech4 team on this outstanding milestone and wish them lasting success for the next 25 years and beyond.

TRIBUTE TO THE LIFE OF NORMAN EARLY

HON. DIANA DeGETTE

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. DeGETTE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize one of Denver's most dedi-

cated public servants, Norman "Norm" Early, who passed away on Thursday, May 5, 2022, at the age of 76.

Norm was born and grew up, right here, in our nation's capital. As a high school track star attending Calvin Coolidge Senior High in Washington, D.C., he was recruited to run track at American University. In addition to attending classes and running track as a member of the university's track and field team, Norm also worked as a member of the school's grounds crew to help pay his way through college.

If all that wasn't enough, Norm decided to run for—and ultimately became—American University's first Black student body president in 1966. And, after graduating from American University in 1967, Norm went on to earn his law degree from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

It was then, as a newly minted lawyer, that Norm decided to move to Denver where he immediately got to work helping some of the most vulnerable members of our community. Norm's passion for helping others knew no bounds. He served 10 years as Chief Deputy District Attorney in Denver, before becoming Denver's first Black District Attorney in 1983 following his appointment by then-Governor Dick Lamm. Norm would serve in this post several years after winning successive elections in 1984, 1988, and 1992.

Throughout his career, Norm used his positions to make Denver a better place to live and work. During his 10-year tenure as Denver's District Attorney, Norm earned numerous awards for his outstanding efforts to help victims of crime and the work he did to help survivors of sexual abuse. And even as he served our community, Norm also worked to found the Sam Cary Bar Association and the National Black Prosecutors Association where he would go on to serve as its first president, a position he would, again, use to promote justice and fairness throughout the country.

There are endless stories from those who knew Norm best about the work he did to make Denver a more just place—and the barriers he broke along the way. Even so, for those of us who considered him a friend, it's Norm's charm and wit that we will miss the most. He always had a kind smile to give and was always the first to offer a good laugh. Truly, I am grateful for the time I had to work with Norm and see firsthand his passion for public service and tireless compassion for survivors.

As our community gathers to remember Norm's life, I offer my heartfelt sympathies to his family, friends, and former colleagues. I hope they find comfort in knowing the lasting legacy Norm leaves behind. The work he did to break barriers and pave the way for a new generation of leaders has had a real impact on our city—and it will never be forgotten.

RECOGNIZING JOSÉ ANDRÉS

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was grateful to have attended the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation's annual Celebration of Serv-

ice to America Awards on Tuesday, June 7th. It was heartfelt to hear the acceptance speech by José Andrés. His support for the people of Ukraine was so moving.

The Service to America Leadership Award recognizes individuals and organizations responsible for improving the lives of others through extraordinary public service. It is the Foundation's highest individual honor.

This year, esteemed chef, bestselling author, educator, and humanitarian José Andrés received the Service to America Leadership Award from the National Association of Broadcasters Leadership Foundation.

Andrés is highly acclaimed globally for his avant-garde cuisine served through his restaurant collective, ThinkFoodGroup. Twice honored in Time Magazine's "100 Most Influential People" and a New York Times bestselling author, Andrés was awarded the National Humanities medal, which honors individuals or groups whose work has deepened the nation's understanding of the humanities, by President Barack Obama in 2015. In 2021, Andrés launched José Andrés Media, which will produce unscripted and scripted television series, books, podcasts, and digital content with a focus on stories about the power of food.

Through his nonprofit World Central Kitchen (WCK), Andrés leads humanitarian efforts to feed communities in need and reduce food insecurity during times of crisis. Andrés and his team have served fresh meals to those affected by man-made and natural disasters across six continents, including serving over 3.6 million meals to those affected by Hurricane Maria in Puerto Rico in 2017.

Most recently, WCK partnered with local leaders, farmers, and restaurants to help those experiencing food insecurity caused by the COVID-19 pandemic and laying the foundation for smarter national food policy. Andrés and WCK have been on the ground in Ukraine cooking nonstop since late February, where they have served nearly 30 million meals.

The NAB Leadership Foundation is proud to present José Andrés with the 2022 Service to America Leadership Award.

HONORING CHRISTINE GALLAGHER

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Christine (Chris) Gallagher upon her retirement from the United States Army Corp of Engineers where she served the San Francisco District's Bay Model Visitor Center (Bay Model) in Sausalito, California for nearly four decades, and for a lifetime of extraordinary public service.

Originally from Maryland, Chris moved to Marin County to complete her B.A. in Environmental Education from Dominican University in 1983. Upon graduating, she joined the National Park Service, working for the Golden Gate National Recreation Area in the Marin Headlands, before transitioning to the Regional Office of the U.S. Forest Service-Pacific Southwest Region. Chris joined the Bay Model in 1986, serving the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers as Education Coordinator and was soon promoted to Park Manager in 2001, a position she held for over twenty years.

During her tenure with the Bay Model, Chris was an integral member of the management team, leading critical improvement projects, including a \$16.5 million renovation that featured the U.S. Army Corps of Engineer's largest solar installation. Hosting 150,000 visitors a year, the Bay Model has long been a pinnacle of community education, and with Chris's exemplary ambassador skills, its significance grew. She fostered and developed partnerships across the local community, government entities, and educational groups. When COVID-19 presented an unprecedented challenge for education centers like the Bay Model, Chris sprang into action, converting the facility into a space for manufacturing Personal Protective Equipment (PPE). Between April and May of 2020, 10,000 face shields were shipped from the Bay Model, directly supporting the pandemic response during a pivotal time for the Nation.

In addition to her exemplary service to the Bay Model, Chris is a dedicated volunteer, sharing her skills and energy as a valued member of the Sausalito Rotary Club, Sausalito Chamber of Commerce, the Sausalito-Sakaide Sister City program, and several other city boards and committees. This service has been recognized with numerous accolades throughout her tenure, including the Commander's Award for Civilian Service and Achievement Medal for Civilian Service.

The breadth and depth of Chris's professional and volunteer career are inspiring, and her many positive contributions will continue to impact the community for years to come. Madam Speaker, I respectfully ask that you join me in expressing gratitude to Chris for her enduring service and extending heartfelt congratulations on her retirement from the U.S. Army Corps of Engineers and Bay Model Visitor Center and best wishes on her next endeavors.

HOMETOWN HERO—MIKE E.
SIMONDS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNÉ

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNÉ. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mike E. Simonds, Senior Chief at Tarrant County Sheriffs Office. We congratulate Senior Chief Simonds on his retirement after dedicating 42 years of service to the citizens of Tarrant County, including 21 years with the Arlington Police Department.

Senior Chief Simonds has served an instrumental role in our community and state through years patrolling our streets, keeping drugs out of our cities and ensuring murderers were put behind bars. His unwavering commitment is unmatched, from assisting in the implementation of the nationwide Amber Alert Program, to helping develop the number one Human Trafficking Unit in North Texas, to building a robust Narcotics Unit, to growing the largest Auto Theft Task Force in the state.

Senior Chief Simonds served the last 5 years as the first Senior Chief for the Tarrant County Sheriffs Office with honor and integrity, bringing exceptional leadership to the agency.

I thank Senior Chief Simonds for his leadership and the lasting impact he has made with our law enforcement partners. He serves as a

role model and mentor to future leaders maintaining the highest of standards. I congratulate him on his retirement and lasting memory of a career of service.

RECOGNIZING INSPECTOR CHRISTOPHER WELSH OF THE FLORIDA DEPARTMENT OF CORRECTIONS OFFICE OF THE INSPECTOR GENERAL ON THE OCCASION OF HIS 28 YEARS OF DISTINGUISHED SERVICE

HON. BILL POSEY

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. POSEY. Madam Speaker, on April 21, 2022, Inspector Christopher Welsh retired after 28 years of distinguished service from the Florida Department of Corrections Office of the Inspector General. Christopher has distinguished himself as leader in his selfless dedication to the law enforcement profession, leaving each post and every person who has worked with him or under his leadership better off. He will be missed by all those who have had the privilege to serve with him.

Christopher began his career with the Florida Department of Correction as a Correctional Officer at Broward Correctional Institution in 1994. He quickly moved up the ranks and by 2007 he was promoted to Inspector at the Martin Correctional Institution handling cases involving employee misconduct and malfeasance within the Florida Department of Corrections. In 2015 he was promoted to Lead Inspector in the Region 5 area where he trained and mentored new inspectors. In 2021 he was again promoted to Inspector Supervisor in Region 5 area and retired in 2022.

Mr. Welsh's noteworthy career extends beyond his time at the Florida Department of Corrections. Before serving in the FDC, Mr. Welsh served as a police officer in the United States Air Force and is a veteran of Operation Desert Storm. We are grateful for his military service. He is also a graduate of the Law Enforcement Academy and a Criminal Justice and Standards training Commission Certified Instructor. Mr. Welsh is a man of faith having served as the Youth and Family Minister at our Savior Lutheran Church in Plantation, FL, and is also an avid volunteer with a decades long commitment to giving back to his community. He coached the wrestling team at Sebastian High School and has coached baseball and football in local recreational leagues.

Mr. Welsh, a hardworking father dedicated to his faith, his family, and his community, embodies the American Dream and all that makes this nation so great. I urge my colleagues to join me in recognizing Mr. Christopher Welsh and his exceptional career on the occasion of his retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE KIWANIS CLUB OF THE STROUDSBURGS' 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MATT CARTWRIGHT

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. CARTWRIGHT. Madam Speaker, today I honor the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs

as its members celebrate its 100th anniversary. The occasion will be celebrated with a dinner on Wednesday, June 15, 2022 at the Shawnee Inn and Golf Resort.

On June 9, 1922, prominent businessmen and professionals gathered at the Penn Stroud Hotel to meet with the state Kiwanis Club organizer to discuss chartering a Kiwanis Club in Monroe County, Pennsylvania. On June 19, 1922, the Club was officially chartered with A.R.J. Wallace elected president and the Penn Stroud Hotel chosen as the headquarters for meetings. Charter Night was celebrated on July 20, 1922 by Club members and delegates from Kiwanis Clubs in Scranton, Easton, and other cities. That first year featured a Ladies' Night, five social events, a joint meeting with Rotary and a Rotary-Kiwanis golf match, youth and adult service activities, and projects to support the community.

Committed to the Kiwanis mission of improving the lives of children, the biggest project done by the Club during its first two decades was the Stroudsburg playground. The Club also financially supported a swimming pool and the East Stroudsburg playground, establishing recreational facilities used by hundreds of children in the region. To encourage literacy, the Club purchased the first bookmobile. The Club also supported several adult activities and actively engaged with the community.

Today, the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburg continues to uphold the original mission of its founders to serve children of the world and their own community. A highlight of the year is the annual Pancake Day event to raise money to support their scholarship program. This year, due to the event's great success, the Club awarded 12 scholarships to high school students in Monroe County totaling more than \$12,000.

As they look toward their next 100 years, the Club is planning to honor the first projects completed by the Club by enhancing six local parks with accessible playground equipment so children of all needs and abilities can enjoy the outdoors at the community's parks and playgrounds.

I am honored to congratulate the Kiwanis Club of the Stroudsburgs for 100 years of giving back to the Monroe County community and supporting our region's youngest citizens. I wish them great success and many fulfilling years to come.

RECOGNIZING AND CELEBRATING THE CENTENNIAL OF PLANTERS DAYS

HON. JAIME HERRERA BEUTLER

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. HERRERA BEUTLER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor a community I serve, Woodland, Washington, and the greater Clark and Cowlitz Counties, as we celebrate the centennial of Planters Days.

This festival, which began 100 years ago, has withstood the test of time and has been a bedrock event in this community. Originally, the festival was created to celebrate the construction of dikes along the Columbia and Lewis rivers to prevent flooding and allow farmers to safely plant crops. The first Planters Day was a single-day event, which included tours of the recently completed dikes,

a barbecue lunch, a viewing of a silent movie, and a community dance. Since that time, Planters Days has expanded and has become the longest-running celebration within my great state of Washington, attracting thousands of people to Woodland to join the festivities.

Once again, I'd like to honor my community of Woodland and the greater Clark and Cowlitz Counties as we mark the centennial of Planters Days.

RECOGNIZING ROSA MALONE

HON. RASHIDA TLAIB

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, today I want to honor Rosa Malone, long-time Detroit resident and community Mother. Rosa passed away in 2019, but the new Rosa cafe named in her honor will carry her legacy.

When Rosa and her husband Elijah moved to Detroit's Rosedale Park neighborhood in 1973, it was segregated and predominately white. Initially prohibited from purchasing the home, the Malones fought systemic racism to become one of the first African-American families to become homeowners in the neighborhood. The Malones' home was at the center of countless family gatherings, and beyond that a symbol of justice and change. Rosa believed in honoring the past while being in the present to build a community.

The 13th District and Grandmont Rosedale Communities are honored to celebrate and commemorate the memory of Rosa and the opening of this local neighborhood business. Spaces such as this are essential to our community's fabric and we look forward to seeing the success of Rosa.

Please join me in celebrating Rosa Malone's legacy and memory on this special day, on the opening of the Rosa coffee shop.

HOMETOWN HERO—CHRISTINA O'REAR

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Grapevine Police Detective Christina O'Rear, who was recently named Mental Health Peace Officer of the Year by the Texas Crisis Intervention Team Association.

As May is Mental Health Awareness Month, this recognition is a timely reminder of the incredible work Detective O'Rear is doing to better our community.

Detective O'Rear not only serves as the primary liaison between Grapevine PD and North Texas mental health resources and hospitals, but she has gone above and beyond by following up with individuals dealing with mental health crises even after their police cases are terminated.

This extra and oftentimes life changing step is an excellent display of the kind of person Detective O'Rear is. By putting others ahead of herself and ensuring these individuals receive the proper care they need, I can think of

no one more deserving of the Mental Health Peace Officer award.

I have gotten to see what a remarkable and dedicated public servant Detective O'Rear is after I selected her to serve on my Texas-24 Law Enforcement Advisory Board. It is rare to find someone who is as passionate and skilled at their job as she is. It is an honor to recognize her today.

I thank Detective O'Rear for her constant service to Texas-24.

HONORING VICE PRESIDENT MATT MCLOGAN ON HIS RETIREMENT FROM GRAND VALLEY STATE UNIVERSITY

HON. FRED UPTON

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. UPTON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Mr. Matt McLogan for his 35 years of distinguished service as Vice President of University of Relations of Grand Valley State University.

After obtaining his bachelor's and master's degrees from Western Michigan University (Go Broncos), Mr. McLogan worked at WOOD TV as a journalist and news manager, making sure folks across west Michigan were kept informed. Later, he served as the Public Service Commissioner for the state of Michigan, overseeing the state's investor-owned utilities.

Matt's dedication and passion for higher education has allowed him to serve students at several Michigan institutions. Matt served as an adjunct faculty member at Grand Rapids Community College where he taught political science. He also served at Michigan State University as a faculty member of the annual Regulatory Studies Program.

Over the course of his distinguished tenure at Grand Valley State University, he has ensured the university not only has met but exceeded its goals. He has led government relations, University Development, and the communications team, which included the university's public radio and TV stations. He has worked with many leaders at the local, state and national levels to obtain essential funding and support for GVSU, including for the Medical Mile in downtown Grand Rapids. During his tenure, the university's enrollment nearly tripled, expanding from one campus to five.

Aside from his work at Grand Valley State University, he also has served on numerous boards, including the Grand Rapids Art Museum, the Public Education Fund, Frederik Meijer Gardens, and Opera Grand Rapids, ensuring all in West Michigan have access to a strong and vibrant cultural life.

Madam Speaker, as the Grand Valley State University community gathers this month to celebrate a truly remarkable leader, I want to congratulate Mr. McLogan on 35 years of extraordinary service to GVSU and West Michigan. I thank Mr. McLogan for his decades of service and extend congratulations on a well-deserved retirement.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN LEGION POST 283 ON ITS 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to congratulate the American Legion Post 283 Harold C. Anderson on its 100th Anniversary.

Post 283 was founded on January 24, 1922, when 15 founding members came together to sign the Legion constitution forming the Suring American Legion Post. For 100 years, the Suring American Legion Post 283 has upheld the vision of legions across the country to the highest degree. Post 283 proudly carries the name of Maple Valley native and World War One veteran, Private Harold Christian Anderson, Private Anderson enlisted in the armed forces in 1917, joining the 32nd Infantry Division in Waco, Texas before quickly being shipped to France. Private Anderson was wounded in action in France on October 7, 1917, and succumbed to his wounds 6 days later just weeks before his 22nd birthday. He was buried in France until he was exhumed and returned home to Oconto County.

The legion carries on the memory, service, and sacrifice of Private Anderson through their vision of strengthening America by improving the lives of veterans, the military, and their families.

Post 283 has continued to grow from their beginnings of 15 founding members 100 years ago. Post 283 now has over 80 members located across the United States, who work together to teach future generations about the importance of service. The members of Post 283 are a true inspiration and example for all Americans. The continued service and dedication that the members of Post 283 have shown to not only the Suring community, but to the United States of America is deserving of the highest degree of recognition. As we celebrate the 100th Anniversary of Post 283, we must recognize the outstanding services that they have and continue to provide to Suring and surrounding communities. Post 283 enjoys supporting the local Suring High School and other organizations in countless ways.

Post 283 has been a voice for the men and women who have served our country. At Post 283 every day they put country before self, just as they did the day they joined the service. American Legion Post 283 Harold C. Anderson is a true credit to Northeast Wisconsin.

Madam Speaker, please join me in honoring the Suring American Legion Post 283 Harold C. Anderson as they come together to celebrate their 100th Anniversary.

RECOGNIZING CHIEF GEORGE TUREGANO

HON. DAVID G. VALADAO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. VALADAO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Chief George Turegano for his service to the Central Valley and over 40 years of law enforcement experience.

After 16 years of service to the Capitola Police Department, Chief Turegano began his service to the Central Valley on August 1, 2012, after a unanimous decision by the Huron City Council. Throughout his career, he has found success in multiple positions in different departments. This includes solving a 1972 homicide case, the department's oldest, in 2007.

Under his leadership, the Huron Police Department has exceeded expectations. Chief Turegano helped obtain grants that would add police officers for community outreach, prevent tobacco sales to minors, and purchase an ambulance as well as an ambulance facility. Chief Turegano coordinated the location and funding for a Boys & Girls Clubs of America facility in Huron and has created employment opportunities for high school students at the Harris Ranch Inn & Restaurant.

Chief Turegano's dedication, leadership, and commitment to excellence serves as an incredible model for all those who will follow in his footsteps.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues in the United States House of Representatives to join me in recognizing Chief George Turegano for his lifetime of service.

RECOGNIZING JORDAN DASHOW
AND HIS SERVICE TO THE
HOUSE COMMITTEE ON THE JU-
DICARY

HON. JERROLD NADLER

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. NADLER. Madam Speaker, I rise to thank Jordan Dashow for his service to the House Committee on the Judiciary.

Jordan received his bachelor's degree from Tufts University and began his career in public policy as a Legislative Assistant with the Religious Action Center of Reform Judaism. After a further three years of civil and human rights advocacy as a Federal Policy Manager with the Human Rights Campaign, Jordan joined the Judiciary Committee as a Professional Staff Member in 2019.

Jordan supported the full committee's senior staff and me directly. As part of my administrative team, Jordan innovated and systematized many areas of personnel management. Over time, Jordan's duties grew to include helping me prepare for the weekly meeting of Committee Chairs. He contributed to countless projects with keen research, writing, and policy analysis.

Jordan also worked closely with the Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties. Building on his past experience with the legislation as an advocate, Jordan contributed significantly to our work on the Equality Act which passed the House both in the previous Congress and this Congress. Jordan also supported the Subcommittee's efforts on reproductive rights issues, church and state issues, and anti-Muslim and anti-Asian discrimination issues. Reflecting our high regard for his work, Jordan assisted Counsel in preparing Committee Members for the markup of the PRESS Act and wrote the initial draft of the committee report for the CROWN Act.

Finally, Jordan played an integral role in the growth and development of our Committee in-

ternship program, an essential source of substantive support for myself and the Committee staff. As a coordinator of the program, Jordan successfully advocated for interns to receive pay, well before that became the norm, and managed professional development programming such as detailed orientations and our weekly Intern Speaker Series. Furthermore, Jordan always worked to ensure that my commitment to diversity, equity, and inclusion was reflected in our intern hiring practices and culture. He is already remembered as a determined advocate and committed mentor by the many classes of interns that he shepherded through our Committee, and I am grateful to Jordan for helping make our internship program one of the strongest on Capitol Hill.

For three years, I have been fortunate to count Jordan among my staff. I, and the American people, have greatly benefited from his passion for public service, his intellect, and his commitment to excellence. Jordan has all the qualities of an excellent staffer and the clear potential to be a great lawyer when he graduates from Georgetown Law in the coming years. We will greatly miss Jordan as he embarks on the next chapter of his career on Capitol Hill.

We thank Jordan Dashow for his service to the Committee and wish him the best of luck with this new chapter.

TRIBUTE TO DEE LACEY—CALI-
FORNIA'S 24TH CONGRESSIONAL
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. SALUD O. CARBAJAL

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. CARBAJAL. Madam Speaker, each year, through the Women of the Year Award, my office extends special recognition to women on the Central Coast who have made a difference in our community. I would like to recognize one outstanding Woman of the Year Award recipient, Dee Lacey of Paso Robles, California.

A longtime Paso Robles resident and leader in San Luis Obispo County, Dee Lacey is dedicated to Paso Robles and the surrounding county. Her extensive efforts contribute to Paso Robles's strong sense of community and tradition.

San Luis Obispo County was built on a bustling agriculture industry in which Dee is an active leader. She has co-owned Lacey Livestock since 1963, maintaining a cattle ranch while serving terms on the San Luis Obispo County Farm Bureau Board of Directors, the California Mid State Fair Board of Directors and as president of both the San Luis Obispo County Cattle Women's Association and the California Cattle Women's Association. Dee's advocacy has been vital to promoting the SLO County beef industry raising awareness of activities that impact ranch life and helping to preserve the local agricultural heritage that shaped the county.

Dee's civic engagement stretches beyond the agriculture industry and over 50 years, beginning with the local school board. She is determined to provide quality education for San Luis Obispo County residents of all ages, in school and out. In addition to 20 years of service on the Paso Robles School Board, Dee

has served on the Cuesta Community College District Board of Trustees and the Cuesta College Foundation Board of Directors. Dee was also a founding member of the Paso Robles Library Foundation and the Paso Robles Children's Museum.

Dee's passion for her community is further highlighted by her leadership and continued involvement in countless organizations. From the San Luis Obispo Community Foundation, the San Luis Obispo County Botanical Foundation and Community Action Partnership of San Luis Obispo, Dee is committed to creating opportunity across the community. She co-chaired the Paso Robles 125th Anniversary celebration and Studios on the Park, events that celebrate the best of Paso Robles. For her continued dedication, she has already been recognized as Paso Robles Citizen of the Year, San Luis Obispo County Cattle Woman of the Year, and the 33rd Assembly District Woman of the Year for 2005. Dee's lifetime of service to Paso Robles and the San Luis Obispo County community is an inspiration to women and men throughout the district. Dee's tireless work sets a sterling example for a community of cattle ranchers as well as students and activists across the county. She is a worthy candidate for this honor and a role model for community leaders of all kinds.

I am honored to recognize Dee Lacey for her continued commitment to San Luis Obispo County. I ask all Members to join me today in honoring an exceptional woman of California's 24th Congressional District, Dee Lacey, for her incredible service to her community.

HOMETOWN HERO—LEGION POST
NO. 379

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor our Texas 24 Hometown Heroes of the week, the incredible veterans of the American Legion Post No. 379 in Bedford, TX.

American Legion Post No. 379 holds a significant place in Texas history. Since 1964, they have dutifully upheld the four pillars of the American Legion: Americanism, Children and Youth, National Security, and Veterans Affairs and Rehabilitation. In doing so, they have exemplified pride for our country, mentored and inspired our future generations, promoted strong national security, and displayed devotion to their fellow service members and veterans.

Furthermore, as the largest veterans post in the DFW area, they have played an integral part in preserving the legacy of our heroes and increasing awareness for our veterans. They have given returning vets more than activities, but a community.

Last week, Post No. 379 was awarded a Texas historical marker. I can't think of a better group to receive this honor than these men and women. Without their efforts to bring together North Texas veterans and keep the flame of history lit for generations, the legacy they have had on our country would likely be lost. I thank Post No. 379 for everything they have done for their country and community.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. JOE WILSON

OF SOUTH CAROLINA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. WILSON of South Carolina. Madam Speaker, I was unavoidably detained on June 14, 2022. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 259.

HONORING SAGE LADIEU

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today in recognition of Sage Ladieu, who is being honored for his retirement from the military. Sage first answered the call to service in 1992, when he enlisted in the U.S. Navy as an aviation firefighter in California. Over the next 29 years, he moved up the ranks and most recently served as Command Sergeant Major for the 54th troop Command Brigade, providing guidance on the training, development, standards, traditions, discipline and welfare of the enlisted soldiers. Throughout his various roles in New Hampshire, across the country, and overseas, Sage had a profound impact on the lives of countless others.

Prior to his work as Command Sergeant Major for the 54th troop, Sage served as a Senior Enlisted Leader for both the 195th Regiment and the New Hampshire Army National Guard Recruiting and Retention Battalion. His responsibilities included supervising and mentoring staff, instructors, and recruiters in the implementation of focused and effective programs.

Despite being deployed to Saudi Arabia in 1993 and Iraq in 2004, Sage never wavered in his commitment to bettering Granite State communities. He worked to connect with younger generations as a Noncommissioned Recruiting Officer and a Professor of Military Science at the University of New Hampshire ROTC. He has continuously served as a supervisor, recruiter, mentor, and friend to so many in the community. Sage has worked tirelessly for his state and country and has rightfully earned numerous service medals and commendations.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to thank Sage for his dedication and wish him the best in his well-deserved retirement. I congratulate him again on his incredible career, and I thank him for all that he has done to keep our country safe.

RECOGNIZING ARNOLD "ARNIE" NETTEKOVEN

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the life of a remarkable man: Arnold "Arnie" Nettekoven. A military veteran, retired Patrolman, and the first-ever

historian at the Appleton Police Department, Arnie has dedicated his life to serving his nation and community.

Born and raised in Black Creek, Wisconsin, Arnie grew up working on his family farm before enlisting in the Marine Corps and serving in the Korean War. After returning home to Northeast Wisconsin, Arnie was sworn in as a Patrolman at the Appleton Police Department on April 1st, 1960. After 30 years of service to the Appleton Police Department, Arnie continued to serve his community in several capacities including becoming the first Special Investigator in the Outagamie County District Attorney's Office. Through his many roles, Arnie's commitment and love for his community never wavered.

Arnie continued his contribution to the Appleton Police Department after retirement as the first-ever Department Historian. During his time as the historian, Arnie authored over 700 pages detailing the outstanding history of the Appleton Police Department and the Fox Valley. Arnie's commitment and dedication to his role led to the Appleton Police Department Military Tribute Wall and Appleton Police Benevolent Association Police Museum. Arnie's hard work did not go unnoticed as he received recognition as "Volunteer of the Year" for his efforts to document the remarkable history of the Appleton Police Department in 2018. Arnie's thoughtfulness and generosity will certainly be missed by many. However, the impact he has left through his work will carry on for many generations to come.

Madam Speaker, today the people of Northeast Wisconsin thank Arnie for his extraordinary commitment and service to his community. My thoughts and prayers go out to his family and to all of the lives he touched.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. ANTHONY GONZALEZ

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio. Madam Speaker, on Roll Call No. 267, I mistakenly voted Nay when I intended to vote Yea.

HOMETOWN HERO—JAN HABERER

HON. BETH VAN DUYN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Jan Haberer, a Carrollton native, for her relentless fight to raise awareness for Alzheimer's.

Jan is no stranger to service. Her father was a World War II veteran, her son is currently in the Navy, and according to her friends, she "serves in many ways in the community."

After being diagnosed with mild cognitive impairment in 2013, Jan was forced to end her illustrious career as a missile defense engineer for Texas Instruments. However, Jan viewed this "not as a death sentence, but a life sentence to help as many people as she could."

Following her diagnosis, Jan began raising awareness and much-needed funding for the

Alzheimer's Association. With her husband Randy, she eventually started her own Walk to End Alzheimer's team, called "Jandy's Clan." Named after the partnership between Jan and Randy, this team is comprised of close friends, family, and dozens of passionate supporters.

Each year, Jandy's Clan participates in the Walk to End Alzheimer's, which helped her team become a top Dallas fundraiser in 2021. This incredible feat has gone a long way in Alzheimer's care, support, research, awareness, and advocacy. Furthermore, Jandy's Clan partners with the nonprofit, Secure Our Seniors' Safety, to ensure residents in senior living facilities are secure from criminal activity.

Jan's resilience in the face of adversity is not only an inspiring story, but it has benefited North Texas and all those suffering from Alzheimer's. I thank Jan, and hope she keeps up the hard work in her mission to fight Alzheimer's.

HONORING THE LIFE AND SERVICE OF THE HONORABLE ALAN ROSENFELD

HON. MIKE GARCIA

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GARCIA of California. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember the life and service of the Honorable Alan Rosenfield, who served for more than 15 years as a judge for the Los Angeles County Superior Court. Throughout his life and career, Judge Rosenfield exemplified what it meant to be a public servant with dignity, honor, and integrity.

Growing up in the San Fernando Valley, Alan was an exemplary student, charming friend, and dedicated son. Returning to Los Angeles after spending his college years in Iowa, Alan first began his life of service by joining the Los Angeles County Sheriff Department, one of the most storied and prestigious law enforcement agencies in California. While protecting and serving the citizens of Los Angeles County, he worked hard to also obtain a law degree, being admitted to the California Bar in 1981. After becoming an attorney, Alan continued his career as a Deputy District Attorney, enforcing the law and prosecuting dangerous criminals.

In 1990, Alan became the Honorable Judge Rosenfield after being appointed to the Newhall Municipal Court by California Governor George Deukmejian. He was later elevated to the Los Angeles County Superior Court in 2000, where he served for 17 years and had jurisdiction over cases in Santa Clarita and the Antelope Valley. As a judge, Rosenfield applied the law fairly and equally, fostering a justice system that upheld the values of our Constitution while also protecting the freedoms and security of law-abiding citizens. Even after his retirement, he continued to serve as an assigned judge and remained an active member of the Santa Clarita community, continuing to give back and devote time to charitable causes. Serving in the U.S. Army Reserves for nearly three decades, Judge Rosenfield was the recipient of the distinguished Judge Advocates Association Outstanding Career Armed Services Attorney Award.

Although he has left us too soon, the impact of Judge Alan Rosenfield's life will not soon be forgotten. Our communities are safer and our lives richer because of the life and service of Judge Rosenfield. We will continue to keep the Rosenfield family in our prayers, and we are thankful that our community was blessed enough to have Alan as a leader in the justice system.

TRIBUTE TO JEAN MCCOWN ON
HER RETIREMENT

HON. ANNA G. ESHOO

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. ESHOO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Jean McCown, her career in public service, and as Associate Vice President of Government Affairs at Stanford University. Jean is a graduate of the University of Michigan and Boalt Hall Law School. Before joining Stanford in 2004, she was a partner at the law firm of Ritchey Fisher Whitman & Klein, where she focused on land use, environmental and real estate matters.

Jean was a member of the Palo Alto City Council from 1990 to 1998 and served as mayor in 1993. She previously served on the Palo Alto Planning Commission and on regional transportation committees including the CalTrain Joint Powers Board and the Metropolitan Transportation Commission.

Jean McCown served on the board of the Greenbelt Alliance for many years and is now a board member of the Palo Alto Community Foundation and Alta, formerly the Palo Alto Housing Corporation.

The honors she has earned include the John W. Gardner Leadership Award in 1994 from American Leadership Forum Silicon Valley, and the Palo Alto Chamber of Commerce Athena Award in 2004.

As Associate Vice President within the Office of Government Affairs at Stanford, Jean McCown focused on the University's government and community affairs efforts and initiatives at the city, county and state level. She maintained relationships with community-based organizations, government officials, local businesses and citizens to support effective communication and dialogue within the Stanford community and between Stanford and its neighbors. While at Stanford she provided strategic leadership for the Searsville Watershed Restoration project and provided strategic guidance for the Middle Plaza Housing Project in Menlo Park. She helped build supportive relationships with the Palo Alto Unified School District and secured the fire services contract between Stanford and the Palo Alto Fire Department. Jean led multiple General Use Permit negotiations with Santa Clara County, provided strategic guidance for the Hospitals Renewal projects for the Stanford adult and children's hospitals, and helped spearhead the Palo Alto Mayfield agreement creating new public playing fields and housing for the City.

Madam Speaker, I ask the entire House of Representatives to join me in honoring Jean McCown for her extraordinary work and in wishing her every blessing in her well-deserved retirement.

HOMETOWN HERO—JEWISH
COMMUNITY CENTER OF DALLAS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Jewish Community Center of Dallas, which has gone above and beyond to better our community.

The JCC's mission is to bring the North Texas Jewish community together with their incredible facilities and programs, however they have done so much more than that.

Each year, the JCC provides over 18,000 hot meals to North Texan seniors, regardless of race or religion. As the pandemic loomed, the JCC's resolve was unwavering. They continued their senior meal service with an innovative drive-thru feature to keep seniors safe and well fed.

The Jewish Community Center's compassion and service to its community should serve as an inspiration to all North Texans. I thank the JCC for going above and beyond to ensure North Texas is a brighter place to live every single day.

PASSAGE OF H.R. 7667, THE FOOD
AND DRUG AMENDMENTS OF 2022

HON. PRAMILA JAYAPAL

OF WASHINGTON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. JAYAPAL. Madam Speaker, I rise today on the passage of H.R. 7667 the "Food and Drug Amendments of 2022." Though I am grateful for many of the provisions in this bipartisan legislation, I have strong concerns that this bill does not go far enough to protect the American people—both patients and their doctors. This reauthorization, only occurring every five years, is one of our greatest opportunities to hold the pharmaceutical industry accountable and to the highest standards possible to ensure access and protection for patients across the country.

Typically, this routine reauthorization of user fees is coupled with incentives directed toward the pharmaceutical and medical device industry. With each reauthorization to date, we have seen the increased adoption of expedited review pathways leaving patients and their doctors more uncertain that FDA approved treatments are truly effective or safe. Often, these new pathways that hasten FDA's regulatory review are coupled with financial incentives including exclusivity periods that prolong high monopoly prices such that the American public is paying more for less. Last year's controversial approval of the Alzheimer's disease drug, aducanumab (Aduhelm) laid bare this reality when the FDA approved this drug under the accelerated approval pathway despite harms including brain bleeding and swelling as well as uncertain clinical benefit. This shifted the focus of this year's user fee reauthorization efforts away from shortening FDA review times for new health technologies to reforms to reinstate public trust into FDA's approval process.

FDA's accelerated approval pathway can be an important way for promising drugs to reach patients. But pharmaceutical corporations

have largely failed to uphold their end of the bargain of completing critical studies to confirm that these drugs are truly beneficial. Instead, accelerated approval is being used by Big Pharma to drive further profits at the expense of patient safety and Medicare spending. Although H.R. 7667 would allow for greater FDA oversight of the accelerated approval pathway, this bill should have included much stronger reforms for accelerated-approval drugs.

This bill should have made sure that FDA publicly engages with their advisory committees instead of industry sponsors behind closed doors. Recent studies have found that FDA has convened these independent experts less frequently—between 2010 and 2021, FDA went from hearing these groups for 55 percent of approved drugs to just 6 percent. Transparency is paramount to ensuring trust in our government institutions. We should codify that meetings are made public and nothing should obscure a patient's ability to see how and why a therapeutic approval was granted.

Moreover, the bill should ensure that lower standards of evidence cannot be accepted to approve a drug. Clarification is needed to ensure that Real World Evidence (RWE) is appropriately used to augment the post-approval studies that prove therapies approved are truly effective and research has shown that RWE has demonstrated promise for complementing clinical trials but not replacing them. When it comes to the safety of our constituents, we must ensure that speedy access does not eclipse safety.

A recent study published in JAMA Health Forum explored how much Medicare and Medicaid spend on drugs granted accelerated approval by the FDA both before and after the drug's clinical benefit is confirmed. The study found that for the 38 drugs granted accelerated approval by the FDA between 2012 and 2017:

CMS spent almost \$70 billion through 2020 on these drugs;

just over \$50 billion (75 percent) was spent after the accelerated approval drugs were converted to standard approval following completion of their required confirmatory trials; but

almost 60 percent (\$40 billion) of this spending was for drugs with confirmatory trials evaluating surrogate endpoints instead of assessing meaningful clinical endpoints demonstrating the effect of these drugs on how patients feel, function, or survive.

In addition, this bill should squarely place patient safety at its core and mandate the automatic withdrawal of drugs, preliminarily approved under accelerated approval, that fail to prove efficacy. Not explicitly mandating that approval should expire one year after any target date of study completion, and in no case later than five years after the product is approved unless certain criteria relative to post approval studies are achieved, is a significant concession to the pharmaceutical industry that puts patients and payers at risk of prolonged medical and financial harms. There should be no barriers to removing a drug that at best is ineffective and at worst dangerous.

Another troubling inclusion in the approved measure are additional provisions that would empower a sponsor company to request a meeting with the FDA Commissioner, a public comment period followed by responses by the agency, and a convening of the advisory committee to review the agency's request for withdrawal, wasting precious time. Rather, the

Secretary should have the power to convene and consult an advisory committee if the review is needed, not if it is mandated by the sponsor company. Given current FDA resources and staffing constraints, providing due notice with an explanation for the proposed withdrawal is sufficient. There should be no delay in protecting the health and safety of patients.

We must ensure that the expedited therapeutic review process is transparent and fair—not a revolving door between the agency and industry. As of 2020, we have spent over \$40 billion in taxpayer dollars for drugs that never demonstrated benefit, all to line the pockets of pharmaceutical corporations. This is another example of why further reforms are needed to ensure we are protecting our constituents across the country and being thoughtful arbiters of this reauthorization, which will define patient access and safety for the next five years.

I am glad to see the bipartisan efforts achieved in the passage of H.R. 7667, but I do not believe this should be the last word on accelerated approval. I want to officially submit my concern that this bill does not go far enough to protect patients from unnecessary risk of exposure to unproven, ineffective, and potentially dangerous therapies. I hope to continue working with my colleagues to ensure the correct balance is struck between timely and safe access to therapies needed in the final passage of a bi-cameral reauthorization.

HONORING SHELTON GIBBS III,
THE MINISTER OF GREENVILLE
AVENUE CHURCH OF CHRIST
(GACC) IN RICHARDSON, TEXAS,
ON HIS RETIREMENT

HON. LANCE GOODEN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GOODEN of Texas. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor Shelton Gibbs III, the minister of Greenville Avenue Church of Christ (GACC) in Richardson, Texas, on his retirement. During his 53 years of service, Brother Gibbs passionately dedicated himself to his community, always putting the needs of his neighbors, his congregation, and his family before his own.

Brother Gibbs followed in the footsteps of his late father, Dr. S.T.W. Gibbs, Jr., who served as the Stop Six Church of Christ minister for over 50 years. He is also the grandson of both the late S.T.W. Gibbs, Sr. and C.C. Morgan, two great pioneer preachers. In Brother Gibbs' 40 years of service to GACC, the congregation has grown from 140 members to over 2000. The Gibbs family tradition of faithful service to the church of Christ is an example to us all.

In the early 1970s, Brother Gibbs' ministry brought him from Illinois to Texas. He served in various roles at Southwestern Christian College, including his current position on the Development Board of Lifeline Chaplaincy and founding the school's Guardian Plan. Brother Gibbs' commitment to fostering the next generation of leaders at Southwestern Christian College was evident to the entire staff and student body.

Brother Gibbs began preaching 53 years ago and enthusiastically demonstrated his love

for God and his congregation at several churches around the State of Texas, including Clarksville, Mineral Wells, Abilene, and Edgewood. His evangelistic work was not limited solely to the United States; his passion for growing the church led Brother Gibbs on campaigns in Jamaica and Ghana.

Brother Gibbs is retiring as minister of GACC after 40 dedicated years. His wife of 50 years, Jeanette Gibbs, their four children, and ten beautiful grandchildren have been his greatest support system throughout his service at GACC, and I wish them all the best.

I applaud Brother Shelton Gibbs III for his commitment to serving the congregation of Greenville Avenue Church of Christ.

HOMETOWN HERO—FUSION CORPS

HON. BETH VAN DUYNE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Ms. VAN DUYNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate Fusion Corps, Cistercian Preparatory School's Robotics Team from Irving, Texas for their incredible accomplishment earlier this year.

The Fusion Corps won the top prize in the FIRST® Robotics Competition World Championship in Houston, Texas, which featured 456 teams from 12 countries and 43 U.S. states.

Since 1991, this competition has tested students from across the world on who can build the best industrialized robot. This group of young North Texas minds proved to the world that our community harbors the kind of unmatched talent and innovation it takes to be the best.

Fusion Corps' robot, Resilience, was a testament to the many challenges the team overcame to bring home their school's first-ever world championship. Despite many setbacks and limited resources, the students' passion and dedication brought them success.

I thank Fusion Corps for representing our North Texan community well on the global stage. They have made us all back home incredibly proud.

IN RECOGNITION OF WHIPP'S DINING AND BANQUET HALL 100TH ANNIVERSARY

HON. MIKE GALLAGHER

OF WISCONSIN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, June 15, 2022

Mr. GALLAGHER. Madam Speaker, today I rise to recognize the 100th anniversary of Eddie Whipp's Dining and Banquet Hall. Over the past 100 years, the Whipp Family has provided exceptional service to the people of Green Bay and throughout the State of Wisconsin.

What was once known as a church and horse stable in the 1800s, is now known as the incredibly successful Whipp's Dining and Banquet Hall. Established in 1922, Joe (Wypizinski) Whipp began operating a saloon where many men, mostly farmers from throughout Northeast Wisconsin, would stop on their way home from a hard day's work.

Joe Whipp would run the tavern for nearly 18 years until his eldest son, Eddie, took over. In 1944, Eddie married his wife Dorothy and they would continue to build their team and serve their customers seven days a week, from 8:00 am to 2:00 am. I commend the hard work and dedication that has resulted in the lasting growth and success for Whipp's Dining Hall over 100 years.

As the years passed by, Eddie Whipp's remained one of the most popular venues in the Green Bay area. In 1947, the first wedding reception was held in the basement and the dance hall would soon become home to regular polka bands in the 1950s. One of Whipp's most popular menu items today, the Friday Fish Fry, was prepared by Dorothy Whipp in her home kitchen attached to the business in 1947. I applaud The Whipp Family's focus on high-quality service and innovation that has led to consistent customer satisfaction since 1922.

Today, Eddie Whipp's Dining and Banquet Hall continues to operate as a family business and that family has grown exponentially. In the small community of Poland, regulars have said that Whipp's is more than just a supper club, it is a staple in the community. Some of Whipp's regulars have been frequenting the establishment for over 50 years. Now in 2022, the fourth generation of the Whipp Family is running restaurant operations. Bridget Peters is the great-granddaughter of the original founder of the business and, Joe Whipp, who has carried on the mission of providing quality services and products to customers that began 100 years ago in 1922. For the past 100 years, Whipp's has become known for their Friday Night Fish Fry's, homemade Chicken Dinners on Sunday and Wednesday nights, and their reception hall for weddings and other special events.

I invite all members of this body to join me in celebrating the 100th Anniversary of Eddie Whipp's Dining and Banquet Hall. I extend my sincere congratulations to the Whipp family and team for this outstanding milestone and wish them success for years to come.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, June 16, 2022 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JUNE 22

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

Business meeting to consider S. 3870, to establish the Office of the Special Investigator for Competition Matters within the Department of Agriculture, and S. 4030, to amend the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 to establish a cattle contract library.

SD-106

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Office of the U.S. Trade Representative.

SD-192

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the Semi-annual Monetary Policy Report to Congress.

SH-216

10 a.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine Toxic Substances Control Act amendments implementation.

SD-406

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine supporting students and schools, focusing on promising practices to get back on track.

SD-G50

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine FEMA's strategic priorities and disaster preparedness.

SD-342

Committee on Indian Affairs

To hold an oversight hearing to examine Volume 1 of the Department of the Interior's Federal Indian Boarding School Initiative investigative report, including S. 2907, to establish the Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies in the United States.

SD-628

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine the Patent Trial and Appeal Board, focusing on proposals to address predictability, certainty, and fairness.

SD-226

2:45 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine NATO enlargement, focusing on the proposed accession of Sweden and Finland.

SD-419/VTC

4:15 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Library of Congress and the Government Accountability Office.

SD-138

JUNE 23

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine building trust in government through customer experience, focusing on putting people first.

SD-342

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2947–S2981

Measures Introduced: Ten bills and seven resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 4405–4414, and S. Res. 675–681. **Pages S2967–68**

Measures Passed:

Joint Consolidation Loan Separation Act: Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions was discharged from further consideration of S. 1098, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to authorize borrowers to separate joint consolidation loans, and the bill was then passed, after agreeing to the following amendment proposed thereto:

Page S2961

Kelly (for Warner) Amendment No. 5097, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2961**

Juneteenth National Independence Day: Senate agreed to S. Res. 679, commemorating June 19, 2022, as “Juneteenth National Independence Day” in recognition of June 19, 1865, the date on which news of the end of slavery reached the slaves in the Southwestern States. **Page S2961**

National Cybersecurity Education Month: Senate agreed to S. Res. 680, designating June 2022 as “National Cybersecurity Education Month”. **Page S2961**

USS Oklahoma City: Senate agreed to S. Res. 681, recognizing the service of the *Los Angeles*-class attack submarine the *USS Oklahoma City* and the crews of the *USS Oklahoma City*, who served the United States with valor and bravery. **Page S2961**

Measures Considered:

Honoring Our Pact Act—Agreement: Senate continued consideration of H.R. 3967, to improve health care and benefits for veterans exposed to toxic substances, taking action on the following amendments proposed thereto: **Pages S2947–58**

Adopted:

By 84 yeas to 15 nays (Vote No. 226), Tester/Moran Amendment No. 5051, in the nature of a substitute. **Page S2951**

Withdrawn:

Schumer Amendment No. 5065 (to Amendment No. 5051), to add an effective date. **Page S2951**

Schumer Amendment No. 5076 (to the text proposed to be stricken by Amendment No. 5051), to add an effective date. **Page S2951**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 76 yeas to 23 nays (Vote No. 227), three-fifths of those Senators duly chosen and sworn, having voted in the affirmative, Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the bill. **Page S2951**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill, post-cloture, at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, June 16, 2022; that all time during adjournment, recess, morning business, and Leader remarks count post-cloture on the bill, and that all time be considered expired at 11:15 a.m.; and that upon disposition of the bill, Senate vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, and Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and that if cloture is invoked on either nomination, all post-cloture time be expired and the votes on confirmation of the nominations occur at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in consultation with the Republican Leader. **Page S2976**

Concurrent Resolution on the Budget: By 29 yeas to 67 nays (Vote No. 228), Senate failed to agree to the motion to proceed to consideration of S. Con. Res. 41, setting forth the congressional budget for the United States Government for fiscal year 2023 and setting forth the appropriate budgetary levels for fiscal years 2024 through 2032, on Wednesday, June 15, 2022. **Pages S2958–60**

National World War II Memorial Commemorative Coin Act—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that if the Senate receives a message from the House of Representatives that it has passed H.R. 1057, to require the Secretary of the Treasury to mint coins in commemoration of the National World War II Memorial in

Washington, DC, and if the text of the bill as passed is identical to S. 1596, that at a time to be determined by the Majority Leader, or his designee, in consultation with the Republican Leader, the bill be considered read a third time and Senate vote on passage of the bill. **Pages S2961–62**

Nominations Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 63 yeas to 32 nays (Vote No. EX. 229), Alan M. Leventhal, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Denmark. **Page S2960**

Ventris C. Gibson, of Virginia, to be Director of the Mint for a term of five years. **Page S2961**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Radha Iyengar Plumb, of New York, to be a Deputy Under Secretary of Defense.

Julie D. Fisher, of Tennessee, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cyprus.

Christopher T. Robinson, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Latvia.

Stephanie Sanders Sullivan, of Maryland, to be Representative of the United States of America to the African Union, with the rank and status of Ambassador.

Bradley N. Garcia, of Maryland, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Dana M. Douglas, of Louisiana, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Fifth Circuit.

Roopali H. Desai, of Arizona, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Ninth Circuit.

Maria del R. Antongiorgi-Jordan, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Camille L. Velez-Rive, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Gina R. Mendez-Miro, of Puerto Rico, to be United States District Judge for the District of Puerto Rico.

Jerry W. Blackwell, of Minnesota, to be United States District Judge for the District of Minnesota.

Page S2981

Messages from the House: **Page S2964**

Measures Referred: **Page S2964**

Measures Placed on the Calendar: **Page S2964**

Executive Communications: **Pages S2964–66**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Pages S2966–67**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S2968–69**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S2969–75**

Additional Statements: **Pages S2962–64**

Amendments Submitted: **Pages S2975–76**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S2976**

Record Votes: Four record votes were taken today. (Total—229) **Pages S2951, S2960**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 7:46 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, June 16, 2022. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2976.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

APPROPRIATIONS: DEPARTMENT OF LABOR

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies concluded a hearing to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2023 for the Department of Labor, after receiving testimony from Martin J. Walsh, Secretary of Labor.

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Armed Services: Committee began consideration of the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023, but did not complete action thereon and will meet again on Thursday, June 16, 2022.

Committee recessed subject to the call.

LEGISLATION

Committee on Environment and Public Works: Committee concluded a hearing to examine S. 2194, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior, through the Coastal Program of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, to work with willing partners and provide support to efforts to assess, protect, restore, and enhance important coastal areas that provide fish and wildlife habitat on which Federal trust species depend, an original bill entitled, "the Strengthening Coastal Communities Act", S. 3069, to reauthorize the Great Lakes Fish and Wildlife Restoration Act of 1990, and S. 3767, to amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements for the Nation Act to reauthorize Delaware River Basin conservation programs, after receiving testimony from Stephen Guertin, Deputy Director, Program Management and Policy, Fish and Wildlife Service, Department of the Interior; Emily C. Cope, South Carolina Department of Natural Resources Deputy Director, Columbia; and Elizabeth Gray, National Audubon Society, Washington, D.C.

SUPPLY CHAIN RESILIENCY

Committee on Finance: Subcommittee on International Trade, Customs, and Global Competitiveness concluded a hearing to examine supply chain resiliency, focusing on alleviating backlogs and strengthening long-term security, after receiving testimony from Scott N. Paul, Alliance for American Manufacturing, and Orit Frenkel, American Leadership Initiative, both of Washington, D.C.; Douglas L. Potvin, Trinity Logistics, Inc., Seaford, Delaware; and Gilman Louie, America's Frontier Fund, Arlington, Virginia.

IRAN'S NUCLEAR PROGRAM

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on Iran's nuclear program and U.S. strategy from Brett H. McGurk, Deputy Assistant to the President and Coordinator for the Middle East and North Africa Coordinator, National Security Council, Robert Malley, Special Envoy for Iran, Department of State, and an official briefer, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

GUN VIOLENCE

Committee on the Judiciary: Committee concluded a hearing to examine protecting America's children from gun violence, after receiving testimony from Chief Jeri L. Williams, Phoenix Police Department, Phoenix, Arizona, on behalf of the Major Cities Chiefs Association; Moira A. Szilagyi, American Academy of Pediatrics, Los Angeles, California; Max Schachter, Safe Schools for Alex, Coral Springs, Flor-

ida; Amy E. Swearer, The Heritage Foundation, Washington, D.C.; and Ernest Willingham, Chicago, Illinois.

BABY FORMULA AND BEYOND

Committee on the Judiciary: Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights concluded a hearing to examine the impact of consolidation on families and consumers, focusing on baby formula and beyond, after receiving testimony from Barry C. Lynn, Open Markets Institute, Scott Lincicome, CATO Institute, and Jeanette Contreras, National Consumers League, all of Washington, D.C.; and Ginger Carney, St. Jude's Children's Research Hospital, Memphis, Tennessee.

INTELLIGENCE

Select Committee on Intelligence: Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

ONDCP OVERSIGHT

United States Senate Caucus on International Narcotics Control: Caucus concluded an oversight hearing to examine the Office of National Drug Control Policy and its 2022 National Drug Control Strategy, after receiving testimony from Rahul Gupta, Director, Office of National Drug Control Policy; and Triana McNeil, Director, Homeland Security and Justice, Government Accountability Office.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 27 public bills, H.R. 8068–8094; and 7 resolutions, H.J. Res. 88; and H. Res. 1176–1181, were introduced.

Pages H5609–10

Additional Cosponsors:

Pages H5611–12

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 3009, to amend the Truth in Lending Act and the Real Estate Settlement Procedures Act of 1974 to establish language access requirements for creditors and servicers, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–370, Part 1);

H.R. 7180, to authorize the Director of the National Science Foundation to award grants to support research on the disruption of regular cognitive processes associated with COVID–19 infection, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–371); and

H.R. 7675, to amend the Department of Agriculture Reorganization Act of 1994 to establish an Agricultural and Food System Supply Chain Resilience and Crisis Response Task Force, and for other purposes, with an amendment (H. Rept. 117–372).

Page H5609

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Torres (CA) to act as Speaker pro tempore for today.

Page H5549

Recess: The House recessed at 10:47 a.m. and reconvened at 12 noon.

Page H5554

Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act: The House passed H.R. 2543, to amend the Federal Reserve Act to add additional demographic reporting requirements, to modify the goals of the Federal Reserve System, by a yea-and-nay vote of 215 yeas to 207 nays, Roll No. 275. **Pages H5556–91**

Rejected the Hill motion to recommit the bill to the Committee on Financial Services by a yea-and-nay vote of 202 yeas to 219 nays, Roll No. 274.

Pages H5589–90

Pursuant to the Rule, an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–49, modified by the amendment printed in part A of H. Rept. 117–366, shall be considered as adopted, in lieu of the amendment in the nature of a substitute recommended by the Committee on Natural Resources now printed in the bill.

Pages H5556–67

Agreed to:

Green (TX) en bloc amendment No. 1 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–366: Bowman (No. 1) that requires Treasury and HUD to issue a report that examines how community development financial institutions can affirmatively further fair housing and expand wealth building opportunities in low-income and minority communities through collective ownership models; Beatty (No. 2) that requires that diverse candidates be considered when there is a vacancy among the Federal Reserve Bank presidents; Brown (OH) (No. 3) that revises the Board's report on labor trends to include individuals with dependent children under the age of 18; Bush (No. 4) that includes age as demographic to be included in the study of labor trends; Cicilline (No. 5) that adds additional definitions to the Equal Credit Opportunity Act and rules of construction; DeSaulnier (No. 7) that requires mortgage data collection on veteran status and disability status; DeSaulnier (No. 8) that includes reducing the unbanked and underbanked population in the allowable uses of funds for the MDI and CDFI technology grant program; Garcia (TX) (No. 9) that requires the Government Accountability Office to conduct a study to identify barriers to reducing homelessness by providing housing assistance under the Public Housing and Housing Choice Voucher programs; Houlahan (No. 11) that mends the Young Entrepreneurs Program to give focus to young women entrepreneurs, entrepreneurs who are Black, Hispanic, Asian/Pacific Islander and Native American/Native Alaskan and other historically underrepresented groups or first time business owners; Houlahan (No. 12) that requires a description of financial education and awareness programs offered to the community in the Credit Union mandatory report; Jackson Lee (No. 13) that requires a report to Congress containing the plans, activities, and actions of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System to minimize and eliminate disparities across racial and ethnic groups with respect to access to financial products for the purpose of restoration, renovations, or repair following a federally-

declared disaster; Jayapal (No. 14) that revises the Board's report to include economic data disaggregated by ethnic subgroup, to the extent available; Johnson (TX) (No. 15) that amends Section 102 to ensure individuals with disabilities are included in reports to Congress made by the Federal Reserve; Kuster (No. 16) that requires a study to be done on the implementation of the program in community banks with less than 10 billion dollars in assets associated with abiding by mortgage services required by the Act; Lawrence (No. 17) that inserts language requiring various reports to include breakdowns by State (including DC and U.S. territories), Tribal areas, and, for some reports, by congressional district; Lee (NV) (No. 18) that directs the heads of Treasury and HUD to create an interagency working group focused on the housing crisis in America to report to the Committee on Financial Services on the state of housing in the United States and make recommendations on housing affordability and supply; Pressley (No. 20) that requires certain issuers of securities to disclose the disability status, based on voluntary self-identification, of any of their board of directors or executive officers; Pressley (No. 21) that requires creditors to provide American Sign Language interpretation services to consumers who have indicated that language as a preference; Pressley (No. 22) that prohibits creditors from discriminating against credit applicants on the basis of disability status; Scott (VA) (No. 23) that includes LGBTQ as a designation in Diversity and Advisory Group study that will identify strategies to increase gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among members of boards of directors of issuers; Tlaib (No. 25) that includes LGBTQ as a designation in Diversity and Advisory Group study that will identify strategies to increase gender, racial, and ethnic diversity among members of boards of directors of issuers; Torres (NY) (No. 26) that directs HUD to produce a report to Congress describing all efforts they have been or are going to do regarding access to affordable permanent and temporary housing for LGBTQ+ youth, elderly, and the homeless; and Williams (GA) (No. 27) that codifies a provision of Regulation B that tasks lenders with considering additional data not found on a credit report in the underwriting of a mortgage at the request of a consumer, increasing mortgage access for individuals with little or no credit history (by a yea-and-nay vote of 217 yeas to 192 nays, Roll No. 270);

Pages H5575–83, H5586–87

Vicente Gonzalez (TX) amendment (No. 10 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–366) that ensures nothing prevents community banks from opening in underserved areas in relation to this Title (by a yea-and-nay vote of 297 yeas to 123 nays, Roll No. 272); and

Pages H5583–84, H5588

Payne amendment (No. 19 printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–366) that adds the text of the bipartisan Payment Choice Act, which protects the right to pay in cash at all retail establishments for transactions under \$2,000 (by a yea-and-nay vote of 224 yeas to 198 nays, Roll No. 273).

Pages H5584–86, H5588–89

Rejected:

Green (TX) en bloc amendment No. 2 consisting of the following amendments printed in part B of H. Rept. 117–366: Rodney Davis (IL) (No. 6) that sought to repeal the Small Business Loan Data Collection requirement under the Equal Credit Opportunity Act which will require effectively all Financial Institutions (FI) to collect and report demographic data to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau on applications for credit for small businesses which would require a FI to report ethnicity and race based on visual observation and/or surname if an applicant refuses to self-report demographic data; and Timmons (No. 24) that sought to strike all of titles I, II, and III, subtitle B in title IV and subtitle B in title V (by a yea-and-nay vote of 202 yeas to 217 nays, Roll No. 271).

Pages H5583, H5587–88

H. Res. 1170, the rule providing for consideration of the bills (H.R. 2543), (H.R. 2773), and (H.R. 7606) was agreed to yesterday, June 14th.

Senate Referrals: S. 407 was held at the desk. S. 1787 was held at the desk.

Page H5554

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate today appears on pages H5554–55.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Six yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H5586–87, H5587–88, H5588, H5588–89, H5589–90, and H5590–91.

Adjournment: The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 6:47 p.m.

Committee Meetings

THE ROLE OF CLIMATE RESEARCH IN SUPPORTING AGRICULTURAL RESILIENCY

Committee on Agriculture: Full Committee held a hearing entitled “The Role of Climate Research in Supporting Agricultural Resiliency”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense held a markup on the FY 2023 Defense Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Defense Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment. This markup was closed.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Legislative Branch held a markup on the FY 2023 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Legislative Branch Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies held a markup on the FY 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies held a markup on the FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill. The FY 2023 Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies Appropriations Bill was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Energy and Commerce: Subcommittee on Communications and Technology held a markup on H.R. 4275, the “Ensuring Phone and Internet Access for SNAP Recipients Act of 2021”; H.R. 4990, the “ITS Codification Act”; H.R. 5400, the “Preventing Disruptions to Universal Service Funds Act”; H.R. 5486, the “SMART Act”; H.R. 7132, the “Safe Connections Act of 2022”; H.R. 7624, the “Spectrum Innovation Act of 2022”; and H.R. 7783, the “Extending America’s Spectrum Auction Leadership Act of 2022”. H.R. 4275, H.R. 4990, H.R. 5400, H.R. 5486, H.R. 7132, and H.R. 7624 were forwarded to the full Committee, as amended. H.R. 7783 was forwarded to the full Committee, without amendment.

CURRENT STATUS OF ISIS AND AL QAEDA

Committee on Homeland Security: Subcommittee on Intelligence and Counterterrorism held a hearing entitled “Current Status of ISIS and al Qaeda”. Testimony was heard from Samantha Vinograd, Acting Assistant Secretary for Counterterrorism and Threat Prevention, Office of Strategy, Policy, and Plans, Department of Homeland Security; Damon Stevens, Assistant Director of Strategic Operational Planning, National Counterterrorism Center, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; and Timothy Langan,

Assistant Director for Counterterrorism, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice. Part of this hearing was closed.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on the Judiciary: Full Committee held a markup on H.R. 282, the “Territorial Judgeship Retirement Equity Act of 2021”; H.R. 3034, to amend title 28, United States Code, to provide an additional place for holding court for the Western District of Washington, and for other purposes; H.R. 6538, the “Active Shooter Alert Act of 2022”; H.R. 5768, the “VICTIM Act of 2021”; H.R. 7181, the “Human Trafficking Prevention Act of 2022”; and H.R. 3285, the “21st Century President Act”. H.R. 282, H.R. 3034, H.R. 6538, H.R. 5768, and H.R. 7181 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 3285 was ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Natural Resources: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 263, the “Big Cat Public Safety Act”; H.R. 5444, the “Truth and Healing Commission on Indian Boarding School Policies Act”; H.R. 6063, to provide for the equitable settlement of certain Indian land disputes regarding land in Illinois, and for other purposes; H.R. 6181, the “Samish Indian Nation Land Reaffirmation Act”; H.R. 6337, the “Biking on Long-Distance Trails Act”; H.R. 6707, the “Advancing Equality for Wabanaki Nations Act”; H.R. 6734, the “Keep America’s Refuges Operational Act of 2022”; H.R. 7002, the “Gateway Solidarity Act”; H.R. 7025, the “Advancing Human Rights-Centered International Conservation Act of 2022”; H.R. 7075, the “Ukrainian Independence Park Act of 2022”; and S. 789, the “RESPECT Act”. H.R. 263, H.R. 5444, H.R. 6063, H.R. 6181, H.R. 6337, H.R. 6707, H.R. 7025, and H.R. 7075 were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6734, H.R. 7002, and S. 789 were ordered reported, without amendment.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURE

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Full Committee concluded a markup on H.R. 4176, the “LGBTQ Data Inclusion Act”; H.R. 5815, the “Honest Census Communications Act”; H.R. 7951, the “Telework Metrics and Cost Savings Act”; H.R. 7941, to permit the District of Columbia to Transmit Acts of the District to Congress in Electronic Form; H.R. 6218, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 317 Blattner Drive in Avon, Minnesota, as the “W.O.C. Kort Miller Plantenberg Post Office”; H.R. 6220, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 100 3rd Avenue Northwest in Perham, Minnesota, as the “Charles P. Nord Post Office”;

H.R. 6221, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 155 Main Avenue West in Winsted, Minnesota, as the “James A. Rogers Jr. Post Office”; H.R. 7518, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 23200 John R Road in Hazel Park, Michigan, as the “Roy E. Dickens Post Office”; H.R. 7519, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 2050 South Boulevard in Bloomfield Township, Michigan, as the “Dr. Ezra S. Parke Post Office Building”; and H.R. 7899, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 75 Commerce Drive in Grayslake, Illinois, as the Army Specialist “Joseph “Joey” W. Dimock II Post Office Building”. H.R. 4176, H.R. 7951, H.R. 7941, H.R. 5815, were ordered reported, as amended. H.R. 6218, H.R. 6220, H.R. 6221, H.R. 7518, H.R. 7519, and H.R. 7899 were ordered reported, without amendment.

SERESTO FLEA AND TICK COLLARS: EXAMINING WHY A PRODUCT LINKED TO MORE THAN 2,500 PET DEATHS REMAINS ON THE MARKET

Committee on Oversight and Reform: Subcommittee on Economic and Consumer Policy held a hearing entitled “Seresto Flea and Tick Collars: Examining Why a Product Linked to More than 2,500 Pet Deaths Remains on the Market”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

TOOLS TO COMBAT GUN TRAFFICKING AND REDUCE GUN VIOLENCE IN OUR COMMUNITIES

Committee on Rules: Subcommittee on Legislative and Budget Process held a hearing entitled “Tools to Combat Gun Trafficking and Reduce Gun Violence in Our Communities” [Original Jurisdiction Hearing]. Testimony was heard from Todd K. Baxter, Sheriff, Monroe County, New York; and public witnesses.

MISCELLANEOUS MEASURES

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure: Full Committee held a business meeting to approve revised Subcommittee rosters, and a markup on H.R. 7321, the “Safe Aircraft Maintenance Standards Act”; H.R. 8049, the “American Aerospace Supply Chain Resiliency, Innovation, and Advancement Act of 2022”; H.R. 1468, the “Securities and Exchange Commission Real Estate Leasing Authority Revocation Act”; H.R. 7789, the “Planning for Animal Wellness Act”; H.R. 5774, the “Expediting Disaster Recovery Act”; and General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions. Revised Subcommittee rosters were approved. H.R. 7789 was ordered reported, without

amendment. H.R. 7321, H.R. 8049, H.R. 1468, and H.R. 5774 were ordered reported, as amended. General Services Administration's Capital Investment and Leasing Program Resolutions were adopted.

REVIEWING PRESIDENT BIDEN'S STRATEGY TO REDUCE VETERAN SUICIDE BY ADDRESSING ECONOMIC RISK FACTORS

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: Subcommittee on Economic Opportunity held a hearing entitled "Reviewing President Biden's Strategy to Reduce Veteran Suicide by Addressing Economic Risk Factors". Testimony was heard from Susan L. Black, National Suicide Prevention Officer, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; Christopher Jones, Acting Director, National Center for Injury Prevention and Control, Centers for Disease Control and Prevention, Department of Health and Human Services; Peggy Bailey, Senior Advisor to the Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development; James Rodriguez, Assistant Secretary, Veterans Employment and Training Services, Department of Labor; and public witnesses.

THE BURNOUT EPIDEMIC AND WHAT WORKING WOMEN NEED FOR A STRONGER ECONOMY

Committee on Ways and Means: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "The Burnout Epidemic and What Working Women Need for A Stronger Economy". Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY BUDGET HEARING

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence: Full Committee held a hearing entitled "Central Intelligence Agency Budget Hearing". This hearing was closed.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D656)

H.R. 3579, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 200 East Main Street in Maroa, Illinois, as the "Jeremy L. Ridlen Post Office". Signed on June 15, 2022. (Public Law 117-141)

H.R. 4168, to designate the facility of the United States Postal Service located at 6223 Maple Street, in Omaha, Nebraska, as the "Petty Officer 1st Class Charles Jackson French Post Office". Signed on June 15, 2022. (Public Law 117-142)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY, JUNE 16, 2022

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Armed Services: closed business meeting to continue to markup the proposed National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2023, 9:30 a.m., SR-222.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine reauthorization of the National Flood Insurance Program, focusing on protecting communities from flood risk, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Tamara Cofman Wittes, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and Geeta Rao Gupta, of Virginia, to be Ambassador at Large for Global Women's Issues, Michael Alan Ratney, of Massachusetts, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, and Timmy T. Davis, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the State of Qatar, all of the Department of State, 10:15 a.m., SD-419/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine an update on the ongoing Federal response to COVID-19, focusing on current status and future planning, 9:30 a.m., SD-106.

Committee on the Judiciary: business meeting to consider the nominations of Sarah A. L. Merriam, of Connecticut, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Second Circuit, Lara E. Montecalvo, of Rhode Island, to be United States Circuit Judge for the First Circuit, Tiffany M. Cartwright, to be United States District Judge for the Western District of Washington, Nina Nin-Yuen Wang, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado, and Steven M. Dettelbach, of Ohio, to be Director, Bureau of Alcohol, Tobacco, Firearms, and Explosives, and Phillip A. Talbert, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of California, both of the Department of Justice, 9 a.m., SH-216.

House

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Homeland Security, markup on the FY 2023 Homeland Security Appropriations Bill, 9 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Subcommittee on Financial Services and General Government, markup on the FY 2023 Financial Services and General Government Appropriations Bill, 10:30 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled "U.S. Efforts to Support European Energy Security", 9 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 4768, the "DEFEND the Great Lakes Act"; H.R. 6936, the "Stamp Out Invasive Species Act"; H.R. 6949, the "Delaware River Basin Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2022"; H.R. 7398, the "Prohibit Wildlife Killing Contests Act of 2022"; H.R. 7792, the "Water Data Act"; H.R. 7793, the "Rio Grande Water Security Act"; and H.R. 7801,

to amend the Coastal Zone Management Act of 1972 to allow the Secretary of Commerce to establish a Coastal and Estuarine Resilience and Restoration Program, and for other purposes, 9 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing entitled "Ensuring Independence and Building Trust: Considering Reforms to

Whistleblower Protections at VA", 10 a.m., HVC-210 and Zoom.

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, Full Committee, hearing entitled "January 6th Investigation", 1 p.m., 390 Cannon and Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Thursday, June 16

Senate Chamber

Program for Thursday: Senate will continue consideration of H.R. 3967, Honoring our PACT Act, post-cloture, and vote on passage of the bill at 11:15 a.m.

Following disposition of H.R. 3967, Senate will vote on the motions to invoke cloture on the nominations of Ana Isabel de Alba, of California, to be United States District Judge for the Eastern District of California, and Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission.

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

9 a.m., Thursday, June 16

House Chamber

Program for Thursday: Consideration of H.R. 7606—Lower Food and Fuel Costs Act.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

Carbajal, Salud O., Calif., E627
 Cartwright, Matt, Pa., E625
 DeGette, Diana, Colo., E624
 Eshoo, Anna G., Calif., E629
 Estes, Ron, Kans., E623
 Gallagher, Mike, Wisc., E624, E626, E628, E630

Garcia, Mike, Calif., E628
 Gonzalez, Anthony, Ohio, E628
 Gooden, Lance, Tex., E630
 Herrera Beutler, Jaime, Wash., E625
 Huffman, Jared, Calif., E624
 Jayapal, Pramila, Wash., E629
 Kind, Ron, Wisc., E623
 Nadler, Jerrold, N.Y., E627

Pappas, Chris, N.H., E623, E628
 Posey, Bill, Fla., E625
 Tlaib, Rashida, Mich., E626
 Upton, Fred, Mich., E626
 Valadao, David G., Calif., E623, E626
 Van Duyne, Beth, Tex., E623, E625, E626, E627, E628, E629, E630
 Wilson, Joe, S.C., E624, E628



Congressional Record

printed pursuant to directions of the Joint Committee on Printing as authorized by appropriate provisions of Title 44, United States Code, and published for each day that one or both Houses are in session, excepting very infrequent instances when two or more unusually small consecutive issues are printed one time. ¶Public access to the *Congressional Record* is available online through the U.S. Government Publishing Office, at www.govinfo.gov, free of charge to the user. The information is updated online each day the *Congressional Record* is published. For more information, contact the GPO Customer Contact Center, U.S. Government Publishing Office. Phone 202-512-1800, or 866-512-1800 (toll-free). E-Mail, contactcenter@gpo.gov. ¶To place an order for any of these products, visit the U.S. Government Online Bookstore at: bookstore.gpo.gov. Mail orders to: Superintendent of Documents, P.O. Box 979050, St. Louis, MO 63197-9000, or phone orders to 866-512-1800 (toll-free), 202-512-1800 (D.C. area), or fax to 202-512-2104. Remit check or money order, made payable to the Superintendent of Documents, or use VISA, MasterCard, Discover, American Express, or GPO Deposit Account. ¶Following each session of Congress, the daily *Congressional Record* is revised, printed, permanently bound and sold by the Superintendent of Documents in individual parts or by sets. ¶With the exception of copyrighted articles, there are no restrictions on the republication of material from the *Congressional Record*.

POSTMASTER: Send address changes to the Superintendent of Documents, *Congressional Record*, U.S. Government Publishing Office, Washington, D.C. 20402, along with the entire mailing label from the last issue received.

The *Congressional Record* (USPS 087-390). The Periodicals postage is paid at Washington, D.C. The public proceedings of each House of Congress, as reported by the Official Reporters thereof, are