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No. 130

House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
July 26, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable NANETTE DIAZ BARRAGÁN to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

NOW IS TIME TO BACK THE BLUE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, across our country, parents are facing a new and scary reality this summer. As soccer camps and Little League games get back underway, there is a new and growing crime crisis that is threatening our communities.

Just last week, President Biden made the extraordinarily false comment that crime is down. President Biden is

wrong. We are seeing a rise in crime throughout American cities.

In Philadelphia, there have been 315 homicides this year, an increase of over 35 percent from last year. This is unacceptable.

The people living in our communities deserve to feel safe. While families worry about the growing crime crisis, liberal leaders have turned their backs and failed to protect our neighborhoods.

Across the country, mayors and community leaders have condemned the police officers and joined protests calling to defund law enforcement. They have failed to support our police officers as the police officers are battling, firsthand, this crime wave. This dangerous rhetoric makes our communities less safe. Now is definitely not the time to defund the police.

Tragically, ambush-style attacks on law enforcement have increased 91 percent since last year. These attacks have been deadly, and unfortunately, 155 police officers have given their lives in the line of duty.

This is not the time to play games, and this is not the time to cut funding for body armor and safety equipment that protect our officers who are on the front lines.

Now more than ever, we must stand with our law enforcement officers. We must stand with our heroes to keep us safe each and every day. We must ensure that they have the tools and the training to protect themselves from harm while they protect us and protect our communities.

Now is the time to back the blue.

Now is the time to support our law enforcement.

Now is the time to speak out against the dangerous rhetoric that puts the lives of the men and women in blue in danger.

A NATION IN FINANCIAL JEOPARDY

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

Mr. MURPHY of North Carolina. Madam Speaker, we could talk about so many things today on how the Democrats are tearing this Nation apart: the immigration crisis, the attack on the American family, the destruction of race relations, skyrocketing crime because of the defund the police movement.

Madam Speaker, I could go on and on. But today, we will talk about the financial disaster that the Biden administration is causing.

There is no doubt that the Democrats' outrageous, reckless, and out-of-control spending is putting our Nation in financial jeopardy. However, I cannot help but notice that Democrats in this Chamber systematically fail to address the deeply personal and palpable impact of this administration's financial irresponsibility.

To my colleagues across the aisle, please understand that inflation is severely hurting American families and their ability to create and sustain financial security.

Over the weekend, I spoke to a restaurant owner who told me that due to soaring costs of goods and services, he will have to raise prices to make ends meet. I have many constituents on fixed incomes who tell me that they are having to eliminate food off their grocery lists in order to afford family meals.

Skyrocketing costs present a serious problem for American families and workers, and under this administration, costs do not seem to be going down anytime soon.

In fact, inflation has increased every single month since Joe Biden took office. Gas prices are at their highest

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

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



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level since 2014. Thirteen million individuals are still on some type of unemployment, while over 9 million jobs remain unfilled.

This type of scenario is essentially unheard of and totally artificially created by the Biden administration. They failed to get the \$15 minimum wage, so now they have artificially cut the American workforce in an attempt to force wages upward. Such a forced, quick increase in wages will undoubtedly be inflationary as small businesses, and even large fast food chains, will have to raise their prices just to maintain viability.

Do they think the American people are that stupid? Endless borrowing has consequences. Republican lawmakers see this every day as ordinary Americans are having to bear the cost of excessive Democrat spending. At the gas pump, in the grocery store, at the mall, and at the car dealership, my constituents are having to spend more of their hard-earned dollars just to get to work, feed their children, and care for loved ones.

The numbers don't lie. According to the Bureau of Labor Statistics, gas prices are up 45 percent from last year; used car prices are up 45 percent; airfare is up 24 percent; and hotel prices are up 16 percent. At the grocery store, bacon is up 8 percent; fruit prices are up 7 percent; fish prices are up 6 percent; and milk is up 5 percent. Even to pour a cup of coffee, Americans are feeling the cost of the Democrats' reckless spending spree.

Unfortunately, under Biden's leadership, the situation looks bleak. House Democrats are well accustomed to spending beyond their means, but they routinely ignore its negative impact on the American people.

What is worse is that experts agree the Democrats' far-left proposals will undoubtedly lead to higher taxes on the vast majority of middle-class American families.

Here is what we know. A recent report from the Tax Policy Center found that Biden's tax plan will increase taxes on an astounding 75 percent of middle-class Americans and raise taxes on 95 percent of Americans by 2031. This broken policy work has real consequences that are completely unsustainable.

Another study by the Wharton School of Business shows that Biden's \$6 trillion budget would slow economic growth, shrink the American economy, and cut workers' hours and wages. In fact, annualized real wages are already down by 3.95 percent since 2020.

Madam Speaker, I implore my colleagues across the aisle to listen to their constituents and sympathize with what they are going through. More than that, I urge them to recognize that we, as lawmakers, have a responsibility to care for our citizens and ensure that Big Government policies do not squander American families and small businesses.

Look, this should be simple. All Americans understand that to stay fi-

nancially viable and intact, they must stick to a budget and spend within their means.

I encourage the Biden administration and its Democratic cohorts in the House to balance their own checkbooks immediately for the sake of the American people and to stop this reckless spending spree.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 9 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at 2 p.m.

PRAYER

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

O Lord our God, as we set our sights on the week ahead, we do so with a certain degree of anticipation and anxiety. There is much to discuss, many concerns to address, and a wide array of perspectives to consider.

By Your gracious guidance, as You lead us into these next couple days, call us to pay attention to Your inimitable wisdom, to turn our ears to Your words, that we would keep them within our hearts.

Above all else, may each of us keep watch over our innermost souls, knowing that everything we do reflects its integrity.

Keep our mouths from perversity and corrupt talk from our lips.

But remind us to look straight ahead with purpose, fixing our gaze, today and throughout the week, on the goals You would have us reach.

And may we be intent on taking heed of Your direction.

May we be steadfast in all we do.

May we be worthy of this place in time to serve You, this country, and our communities.

In the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. LEVIN) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan led the Pledge of Allegiance as follows:

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

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER

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

IMPACTS OF CLIMATE CRISIS

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I stood here nearly a month ago to deliver a very similar message: once-in-a-lifetime storms are becoming our reality in Michigan.

In the last month, southeast Michigan has flooded three times in the city of Dearborn, nearly 20,000 homes have been impacted. My constituents can't recover from one flood before it worsens and another one hits and there is more damaged property, more lost valuables.

People are angry. People are scared. And they have every right to be. That is because we have known the solution to these disasters for a while. The time for climate action is now. This starts with investing in resilient infrastructure to protect our communities from the impacts of climate crisis.

We need to invest in infrastructure that can withstand natural disasters and make it easier on the American people to recover. We can't continue to have these floods couched as once-in-a-lifetime, if you call them that, when people are dealing with unimaginable damages in my city for the third time in 4 weeks.

We need a strong infrastructure package that takes bold action and addresses change head-on.

BIDEN BORDER CRISIS

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

Mr. NEHLS. Mr. Speaker, it is nearly August, a full 7 months since the Biden administration assumed control of the White House, and still there is no end in sight for the Biden border crisis.

It has been a month since Biden border czar, KAMALA HARRIS, hopped off of her jet for 90 minutes for a photo shoot near the border, which she dubbed as a southern border visit, and still nothing has changed.

March was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until April. April was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until May. May was the highest month on record for illegal crossings until June. And we are on pace to set another record in July.

How many records must be broken, crimes committed, victims trafficked before the Biden administration wakes

up to the roaring crisis at our southern border?

The American people are sick and tired of the talk. They are sick and tired of excuses. They are sick and tired of the political games. Enough is enough. Secure the southern border.

D.C. STATEHOOD

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, with a detailed poll showing that 54 percent of the American people now support statehood for our Nation's capital, the District of Columbia, we are optimistic about passage in the Senate of H.R. 51.

I thank the House for passage of our statehood bill, for that passage has spurred the American majority that now supports D.C. statehood. The recent hearing in the Senate helped further educate Americans about our statehood bill, noting that our country is the only democratic country that denies equal representation for the people of its capital.

With continuing success with our D.C. statehood bill, we look forward to reporting progress on our bill on becoming the State of Washington, Douglass Commonwealth.

RECOGNIZING ERIN KERKHOFF

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

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize a young woman in my district who has become an inspiration to women and athletes everywhere.

Erin Kerkhoff, a University of Northern Iowa sophomore and track star from Solon High School, earned a position on Team USA for the Paralympics in Tokyo.

Kerkhoff, who has 20/400 vision due to optic nerve degeneration in both eyes is ranked fifth in the world in the 400-meter dash after achieving a personal record of 58.23 seconds in the qualifying trials earlier this month, finishing second overall in both the 400- and 100-meter dashes.

The Second District and the State of Iowa are lucky to be represented by stellar athletes like Erin, Thomas Gilman, and Kenny Bednarek competing in this year's summer Olympics.

I could not be prouder to represent these three in Congress. Good luck Erin, Thomas, and Kenny, and bring home the gold.

Last week, I wished my sister Mari-Eleanor Martino a happy birthday, and this week I would like to extend a happy birthday to her husband, Ralph Martino. Happy birthday, Ralph, and we are delighted to have you in the family.

RACIAL EQUITY IN AMERICA JOBS AND FAMILY PLAN

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

Ms. PLASKETT. Mr. Speaker, the Biden administration's proposed \$2.65 trillion American Jobs Plan contains a commitment of resources and investments to overcome structural economic inequity, driven by decades of racial and gender discrimination and exclusion.

In addition to being undercapitalized by the PPP in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic, Black business owners experienced an acute decline of 41 percent in their numbers; Latinx businesses fell by 32 percent; Asian businesses, 26 percent. Compounding these inequities, Black, Indigenous, and people of color, particularly, women of color, have been hardest hit by unemployment and job losses.

These groups have been left behind and held back for far too long, resulting in multigenerational poverty, wage, and wealth gaps. To meet the moment, House Democrats are proposing systemic solutions rooted in equity to ensure prosperity for all Americans. These solutions are driven by targeted, long-term investments to improve our infrastructure by igniting our economy for equity, baking in accountability to equitable practices and outcomes and fostering an ecosystem where the safety, health, and well-being of the people are a priority.

DOOR-TO-DOOR IN ORWELLIAN FASHION

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

Mr. BIGGS. Mr. Speaker, Biden's team of neighborhood, basically, disturbers, showed up at a constituent's house this past weekend demanding that they reveal their vaccine status, after asking for them by name.

Our agents on the border cannot test the tens of thousands that are being released into the country on a monthly basis, and tens of thousands are going in without COVID testing and without vaccines. But Biden-Harris, the first President with a hyphenated name, is going door-to-door in an Orwellian fashion to pester Americans about vaccines.

Welcome to the authoritarian turn of the new Democrat party.

2020 ELECTION

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

Mr. JEFFRIES. Mr. Speaker, is anyone else tired of hearing the insurrectionist in Chief continue to lie about the 2020 election?

Over the weekend, once again, the former, twice-impeached, disgraced, so-

called President of the United States of America, falsely claimed that he actually won the election, and that it was stolen from him by Joe Biden.

Something is really wrong with this guy. And I need some help in trying to figure it out.

Is Donald Trump, A, a pathological liar;

B, a sociopath;

C, a malignant narcissist; or

D, all of the above?

I will be around all week. Look forward to hearing from you.

COMMUNICATION FROM THE CLERK OF THE HOUSE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. LEVIN of Michigan) laid before the House the following communication from the Clerk of the House of Representatives:

OFFICE OF THE CLERK,
HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2021.

Hon. NANCY PELOSI,
The Speaker, House of Representatives,
Washington, DC.

DEAR MADAM SPEAKER: Pursuant to the permission granted in Clause 2(h) of Rule II of the Rules of the U.S. House of Representatives, the Clerk received the following message from the Secretary of the Senate on July 26, 2021, at 1:41 p.m.:

That the Senate passed S. 89.

That the Senate passed S. 189.

That the Senate passed S. 894.

That the Senate passed S. 1910.

That the Senate passed S. 2382.

With best wishes, I am,

Sincerely,

CHERYL L. JOHNSON,
Clerk.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

CONSIDER TEACHERS ACT OF 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 848) to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 848

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 "Consider Teachers Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. TEACH GRANTS.

Section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g-2) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)—

(A) in subparagraph (A), by inserting "(referred to in this section as the 'service obligation window') after 'under this subpart';

(B) in subparagraph (C)(vii), by inserting “or geographic area” after “field”; and

(C) by striking subparagraphs (D) and (E) and inserting the following:

“(D) submit a certification of employment by the chief administrative officer of the school in accordance with subsection (d)(5); and

“(E) meet all State certification requirements for teaching (which may include meeting such requirements through a certification obtained through alternative routes to teaching);”;

(2) in subsection (c)—

(A) by striking “In the event” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—In the event”; and

(B) by adding at the end the following:

“(2) RECONSIDERATION OF CONVERSION DECISIONS.—

“(A) REQUEST TO RECONSIDER.—In any case where the Secretary has determined that a recipient of a grant under this subpart has failed or refused to comply with the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b) and has converted the grant into a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D in accordance with paragraph (1), (including a TEACH Grant converted to a loan prior to the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act of 2021 and including cases where such loans have been fully or partially paid), the recipient may request that the Secretary reconsider such initial determination and may submit additional information to demonstrate satisfaction of the service obligation. Upon receipt of such a request, the Secretary shall reconsider the determination in accordance with this paragraph not later than 90 days after the date that such request was received.

“(B) RECONSIDERATION.—If, in reconsidering an initial determination under subparagraph (A) (including reconsideration related to a TEACH Grant that was converted to a loan prior to the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act of 2021 and including cases where such loans were fully or partially paid), the Secretary determines that the reason for such determination was the recipient’s failure to timely submit a certification required under subsection (b)(1)(D) (as in effect on the day before the date of enactment of the Consider Teachers Act of 2021), an error or processing delay by the Secretary, a change to the fields considered eligible for fulfillment of the service obligation (as described in subsection (b)(1)(C)), a recipient having previously requested to have the TEACH Grant converted to a loan, or another valid reason determined by the Secretary, and that the recipient has, as of the date of the reconsideration, demonstrated that the recipient did meet, or is meeting the service obligation in the agreement under subsection (b), the Secretary shall—

“(i) discharge the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D, and reinstate the recipient’s grant under this subpart;

“(ii) discharge any interest or fees that may have accumulated during the period that the grant was converted to a Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D;

“(iii) if the recipient has other loans under part D, apply any payments made for the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period to those other loans under part D;

“(iv) if the recipient does not have other loans under part D, reimburse the recipient for any amounts paid on the Federal Direct Unsubsidized Stafford Loan under part D during such period;

“(v) request that consumer reporting agencies remove any negative credit reporting

due to the conversion of the TEACH Grant to a loan; and

“(vi) use the additional information provided under subparagraph (A) to determine the progress the recipient has made in meeting the service obligation.

“(C) EXTENSION OF TIME TO COMPLETE SERVICE OBLIGATION.—In the case of a recipient whose TEACH Grant was reinstated in accordance with subparagraph (B), the Secretary shall, upon such reinstatement—

“(i) extend the time remaining for the recipient to fulfill the service obligation described in subsection (b)(1) to a period of time equal to—

“(I) 8 years; minus

“(II) the number of full academic years of teaching that the recipient completed prior to the reconversion of the loan to a TEACH Grant under subparagraph (B), including any years of qualifying teaching completed during the period when the TEACH Grant was in loan status; and

“(ii) treat any full academic years of teaching described in clause (i)(II) as years that count toward the individual’s service obligation (regardless of whether the TEACH Grant funds were in grant or loan status) if that time otherwise meets the requirements of this section.”; and

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

“(3) COMMUNICATION WITH RECIPIENTS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH grant recipients not less than once per calendar year regarding how to submit the employment certification under subsection (b)(1)(D) and the recommendations and requirements for submitting that certification under subsection (d)(5).

“(4) QUALIFYING SCHOOLS AND HIGH-NEED FIELDS.—The Secretary shall maintain and annually update a list of qualifying schools as described in subsection (b)(1)(B), and a list of high-need fields as described in subsection (b)(1)(C) and shall make such lists publicly available on the Department’s website in a sortable and searchable format.”.

SEC. 3. SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.

Section 420N(d) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2(d)), as amended by section 2, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) SUBMISSION OF EMPLOYMENT CERTIFICATION.—

“(A) RECOMMENDED SUBMISSIONS.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients that the Department recommends that TEACH Grant recipients submit the employment certification described in subsection (b)(1)(D) as soon as practicable after the completion of each year of service.

“(B) REQUIRED SUBMISSION.—A TEACH Grant recipient shall be required to submit to the Department employment certification within the timeframe that would allow that individual to complete their service obligation before the end of the service obligation window.

“(C) NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall notify TEACH Grant recipients of the required submission deadlines described in this paragraph.

“(D) ADJUSTMENT OF DEADLINE.—The Secretary shall adjust the submission deadline described in subparagraph (B) to account for a service obligation window extension.

“(E) ALTERNATIVE TO CERTIFICATION.—The Secretary shall provide an alternative to the certification of employment described in subsection (b)(1)(D) for recipients who cannot obtain such required certification of employment from the chief administrative officer of the school because the recipient can demonstrate the school is no longer in existence or the school refuses to cooperate.”.

SEC. 4. EXTENSION OF TIME TO FULFILL SERVICE OBLIGATION DUE TO COVID-19.

(a) Section 3519(a) of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended—

(1) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking “For the purpose of section 420N of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g–2), during a qualifying emergency,” and inserting “Notwithstanding any provision of subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.),”; and

(2) in paragraph (1), by striking “and” after the semicolon;

(3) in paragraph (2), by striking “such section 420N.” and inserting “section 420N of such Act; and”; and

(4) by adding at the end the following:

“(3) shall extend the service obligation window (as described in section 420N(b)(1)(A) of such Act) for a period of not more than 3 years, in addition to any extensions provided in accordance with subpart 9 of part A of title IV of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1070g et seq.), in the case of a grant recipient whose service obligation window begins during, or includes—

“(A) the qualifying emergency period; or

“(B) a period of recession or economic downturn related to the qualifying emergency period, as determined by the Secretary in consultation with the Secretary of Labor.”.

(b) Section 3519 of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136; 20 U.S.C. 1001 note) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(c) FEDERAL PERKINS LOANS.—Notwithstanding section 465 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1087ee), the Secretary shall waive the requirements of such section in regard to full-time service and shall consider an incomplete year of service of a borrower as fulfilling the requirement for a complete year of service under such section, if the service was interrupted due to a qualifying emergency.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall take effect as if included in the enactment of the CARES Act (Public Law 116–136).

SEC. 5. IMPLEMENTATION.

In carrying out this Act and any amendments made by this Act, or any regulations promulgated under this Act or under such amendments, the Secretary of Education may waive the application of—

(1) subchapter I of chapter 35 of title 44, United States Code (commonly known as the “Paperwork Reduction Act”);

(2) the master calendar requirements under section 482 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1089);

(3) negotiated rulemaking under section 492 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1098a); and

(4) the requirement to publish the notices related to the system of records of the agency before implementation required under paragraphs (4) and (11) of section 552a(e) of title 5, United States Code (commonly known as the “Privacy Act of 1974”), except that the notices shall be published not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) and the gentlewoman from Indiana (Mrs. SPARTZ) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Virginia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 848, the Consider Teachers Act of 2021.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 848, the Consider Teachers Act, introduced by Senators BRAUN and SINEMA in the Senate, and led by Delegate HOLMES NORTON and Representative SPARTZ in the House.

High quality teachers are the backbone of our Nation's education system. Yet, since even before the COVID-19 pandemic, communities across the country, particularly low-income communities, have faced a growing shortage of educators.

□ 1415

To address this shortage, the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education grant program, or the TEACH grant program, offers up-front grant aid to incentivize individuals to pursue teaching and serve in low-income communities.

Since 2007 these grants have helped people across the country become high-quality teachers in the communities where they are needed most. However, administrative issues with the program have inadvertently converted thousands of these grants into loans which must be paid back with interest. According to an investigative report in 2016, upwards of 63 percent of TEACH grants had been converted to loans, leaving badly needed teachers with burdensome debt.

The bipartisan bill we are considering today addresses these issues in two key ways: First, it implements a reconsideration process to ensure TEACH grant recipients do not see their grants converted into loans by mistake; and, second, the bill creates flexibility so that teachers can still fulfill the grant's requirements in light of school closures and disruptions caused by the pandemic.

Simply put, the Consider Teachers Act is a bipartisan legislative fix which will ensure TEACH grants can continue to strengthen and expand our Nation's teacher workforce.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the Consider Teachers Act. When created, the TEACH grant program was to support students interested in becoming teachers. Unfortunately, the grant program has run into administrative challenges brought on by clerical and paperwork issues. Because of these issues,

approximately two-thirds of all TEACH grants are converting into Federal student loans.

To address these inadvertent errors, the Consider Teachers Act reforms the program to ensure that teachers are not indebted due to simple mistakes. First, the legislation gives grant recipients the ability to reverse a conversion and eases the timeline for when the grant recipients must certify their employment with the Department of Education.

Second, the bill also extends the time grant recipients have to fulfill their service obligation in response to the challenges posed by the pandemic. The pandemic upended all of our lives, and teachers who lost their job shouldn't be unfairly punished for circumstances outside of their control.

Mr. Speaker, with the TEACH grant program, the Federal Government made a commitment to future teachers, and the Consider Teachers Act fulfills the original promise of the program. I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON).

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 848, the Consider Teachers Act of 2021. I introduced the companion bill with Congresswoman VICTORIA SPARTZ. I would like to thank Senators MIKE BRAUN and KYRSTEN SINEMA also for their leadership on this bill, and my good friend, Chairman BOBBY SCOTT, for bringing this bill to the floor today.

This bill would improve the service obligation verification process for the Teacher Education Assistance for College and Higher Education Grant Program, or TEACH grant program, as it is called. The TEACH grant program was created to attract the best and brightest to the teaching profession in underserved communities. The TEACH grant program provides up to \$4,000 a year in grants to students who agree to serve for at least 4 years as full-time teachers in a high-need field in a public or private elementary or secondary school that serves low-income families. The obligation to teach 4 years must be completed within an 8-year period. Those who do not fulfill their service requirement have their grants converted into Federal direct unsubsidized Stafford loans which must be paid back with interest. These loans cannot revert to grants.

According to the Office of Management and Budget, 66 percent of the grants are converted into loans. Though 21,000 grant recipients have completed the program without conversion, 94,000 recipients have had their grants converted to loans. Those conversions are often triggered by small paperwork issues, such as submitting the annual form 1 day late or missing a date or signature.

In 2018, the U.S. Department of Education released a reconsideration process for recipients who had their grants converted into loans but had either fulfilled, or could still fulfill, their service obligations. The department also turned back the clock to allow teachers who had left the TEACH grant program once their grants were converted to loans to give them more time to complete their service obligations. These changes allowed the department to lift the debt of 2,300 recipients.

I am pleased that the department made additional improvements to the program on July 1, 2021, including opening the reconsideration process to all TEACH grant program recipients. This bill would codify some of these changes, creating a safeguard from changes in department leadership.

This bill would also outline yearly deadlines and notification requirements to rectify some of the TEACH grant program's previous administrative mishaps. Furthermore, with the onset of the coronavirus pandemic, many recipients have had trouble finding qualifying work. This bill would create a grace period for those individuals by extending the service obligation fulfillment period by 3 years for anyone who was fulfilling their obligations when the coronavirus pandemic began.

This past year has given us all a hard lesson in the invaluable service that teachers and educators provide to our society. As many young students have turned to homeschooling and remote learning, we have all come to appreciate the hard work and incredible talent of our teachers who foster the mental, physical, and emotional growth of our children every day. This bill ensures that that pipeline of talent for the teaching profession remains strong and that we do not unduly burden TEACH grant program recipients who have dedicated themselves to serving our most vulnerable communities.

I understand what that means because my own mother, Vela Holmes, was a teacher in the D.C. Public Schools.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

Mrs. SPARTZ. In closing, Mr. Speaker, the TEACH grant program fails too many of our teachers, and it needs to be fixed. It is important that our Federal Government honors its promises. The Consider Teachers Act creates flexibility and streamlines processes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to vote in favor of this bill. Strong teachers are essential for high-quality learning.

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

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, I want to reiterate again my thanks to Representative SPARTZ and Delegate NORTON for working across the aisle on this bipartisan priority in the House.

As my colleagues have reiterated, the TEACH grant program is supposed to

help prepare high quality and diverse educators for our Nation's underserved students. Today it is critical that the TEACH grant program actually works as intended as we recover from a global health emergency that cost education jobs, exacerbated achievement gaps, and worsened the teacher shortage in many States and districts. That is why we must ensure that Federal initiatives to strengthen the teacher workforce make it easier, not harder, for individuals to enter the teaching profession.

The Consider Teaching Act would help achieve this goal by ensuring that TEACH grants do not have the unintended effect of leaving educators with burdensome loans. This simple yet urgent step will allow prospective teachers across the country to continue accessing the resources they need to pursue careers in teaching.

Importantly, this bill is an opportunity to demonstrate that regardless of party affiliation, each of us in Congress shares a commitment to improving the quality of education by investing in well-prepared teachers.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues, again, to support the bill and vote for the Consider Teachers Act.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. SCOTT) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 848.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

HELPING AMERICAN VICTIMS AFFLICTED BY NEUROLOGICAL ATTACKS ACT OF 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1828) to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur qualifying injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar injuries, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1828

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 "Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act of 2021" or the "HAVANA Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. AUTHORITY TO PAY PERSONNEL OF CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY FOR CERTAIN INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" mean—

(A) the congressional intelligence committees (as that term is defined in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003));

(B) the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(C) the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED DEPENDENT.—The term "covered dependent" has the meaning given such term in subsection (d)(1) of section 19 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519), as added by subsection (b).

(3) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered employee" has the meaning given such term in section 19A(a) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(a)).

(4) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term "covered individual" has the meaning given such term in section 19A(a) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(a)).

(5) QUALIFYING INJURY.—The term "qualifying injury" has the meaning given such term in subsection (d)(1) of section 19 of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519), as added by subsection (b).

(b) PAYMENT AUTHORIZED.—Section 19A of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(d) AUTHORITY TO MAKE PAYMENTS FOR QUALIFYING INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.—

"(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

"(A) COVERED DEPENDENT.—The term 'covered dependent' has the meaning given such term in subsection (a), except that the assigned duty station need not be in a foreign country.

"(B) QUALIFYING INJURY.—The term 'qualifying injury' has the meaning given such term in subsection (a), except that the assigned duty station need not be in a foreign country.

"(2) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law but subject to paragraph (3), the Director may provide payment to a covered dependent, a covered employee, and a covered individual for a qualifying injury to the brain.

"(3) LIMITATIONS.—

"(A) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Payment under paragraph (2) in a fiscal year may only be made using amounts appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph in such fiscal year.

"(B) MATTER OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under paragraph (2) using amounts appropriated for such purpose shall be made on a first come, first serve, or pro rata basis.

"(C) AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of funding obligated for payments under paragraph (2) may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for providing payments under such paragraph during its period of availability.

"(4) REGULATIONS.—

"(A) IN GENERAL.—The Director shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

"(B) ELEMENTS.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall include regulations detailing fair and equitable criteria for payment under paragraph (2)."

(c) APPLICABILITY.—Payment under subsection (d) of such section, as added by subsection (b) of this section, may be made available for a qualifying injury to the brain

that occurs before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act as the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency considers appropriate.

(d) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORT ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Central Intelligence Agency shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the use of the authority provided by section 19A(d) of such Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section.

(B) CONTENTS.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A budget or spend plan for the use of the authority described in subparagraph (A) for the subsequent fiscal year.

(ii) Information relating to the use of the authority described in subparagraph (A) for the preceding year, including the following:

(I) The total amount expended.

(II) The number of covered dependents, covered employees, and covered individuals for whom payments were made.

(III) The amounts that were provided to each person described in subclause (II).

(iii) An assessment of whether additional authorities are required to ensure that covered dependents, covered employees, and covered individuals can receive payments for qualifying injuries, such as a qualifying injury to the back or heart.

(C) FORM.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in classified form.

(2) REPORT ON ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.—Not later than March 1, 2022, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing an estimate of the obligation that the Director expects to incur in providing payment under section 19A(d) of such Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section, in fiscal year 2023.

(e) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall prescribe regulations required under section 19A(d)(4)(A) of such Act, as added by subsection (b) of this section.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the regulations prescribed in accordance with paragraph (1).

(f) CLARIFYING AMENDMENT.—Section 19A(b) of the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 (50 U.S.C. 3519b(b)) is amended, in the subsection heading, by inserting "TOTAL DISABILITY RESULTING FROM" before "CERTAIN INJURIES".

SEC. 3. AUTHORITY TO PAY PERSONNEL OF DEPARTMENT OF STATE FOR CERTAIN INJURIES TO THE BRAIN.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DEFINITION OF APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term "appropriate congressional committees" means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Committee on Homeland Security, and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) COVERED DEPENDENT.—The term "covered dependent" has the meaning given such term in subsection (i)(1) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b).

(3) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term "covered employee" has the meaning given such term in subsection (i)(1) of section 901 of

title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b).

(4) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term “covered individual” has the meaning given such term in subsection (i)(1) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b).

(5) QUALIFYING INJURY.—The term “qualifying injury” has the meaning given such term in subsection (i)(1) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b).

(b) IN GENERAL.—Section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b) is amended—

(1) in subsection (f), by striking “subsection (a) or (b)” both places it appears and inserting “subsection (a), (b), or (i)”; and

(2) in subsection (h)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “IN GENERAL.—This section” and inserting “ADJUSTMENT OF COMPENSATION PROVISION.—Subsections (a) and (b)”; and

(B) by redesignating paragraph (2) as paragraph (3); and

(C) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraph:

“(2) OTHER PAYMENT PROVISION.—Payment under subsection (i) may be made available for a qualifying injury (as defined in such subsection) that occurs before, on, or after the date of the enactment of the Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act of 2021.”; and

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

“(1) OTHER INJURIES.—

“(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

“(A) COVERED DEPENDENT.—The term ‘covered dependent’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e), except that the assigned duty station need not be in the Republic of Cuba, the People’s Republic of China, or another foreign country.

“(B) COVERED EMPLOYEE.—The term ‘covered employee’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e), except that the assigned duty station need not be in the Republic of Cuba, the People’s Republic of China, or another foreign country.

“(C) COVERED INDIVIDUAL.—The term ‘covered individual’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e), except that the assigned duty station need not be in the Republic of Cuba, the People’s Republic of China, or another foreign country.

“(D) QUALIFYING INJURY.—The term ‘qualifying injury’ has the meaning given such term in subsection (e), except that the assigned duty station need not be in the Republic of Cuba, the People’s Republic of China, or another foreign country.

“(2) AUTHORITY.—Notwithstanding any other provision of law but subject to paragraph (3), the Secretary of State or other agency head with an employee may provide payment to a covered dependent, a dependent of a former employee, a covered employee, a former employee, and a covered individual for a qualifying injury to the brain.

“(3) LIMITATIONS.—

“(A) APPROPRIATIONS REQUIRED.—Payment under paragraph (2) in a fiscal year may only be made using amounts appropriated in advance specifically for payments under such paragraph in such fiscal year.

“(B) MATTER OF PAYMENTS.—Payments under paragraph (2) using amounts appropriated for such purpose shall be made on a first come, first serve, or pro rata basis.

“(C) AMOUNTS OF PAYMENTS.—The total amount of funding obligated for payments under paragraph (2) may not exceed the amount specifically appropriated for pro-

viding payments under such paragraph during its period of availability.

“(4) REGULATIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary or other agency head described in paragraph (2) that provides payment under such paragraph shall prescribe regulations to carry out this subsection.

“(B) ELEMENTS.—The regulations prescribed under subparagraph (A) shall include regulations detailing fair and equitable criteria for payment under paragraph (2).”.

(c) REPORTS.—

(1) REPORTS ON USE OF AUTHORITY.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 365 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and each other agency head that makes a payment under subsection (i) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b) of this section, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on the use of the authority provided by such subsection (i).

(B) CONTENTS.—Each report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall include the following:

(i) A budget or spend plan for the use of the authority described in subparagraph (A) for the subsequent fiscal year.

(ii) Information relating to the use of the authority described in subparagraph (A) for the preceding year, including the following:

(I) The total amount expended.

(II) The number of covered dependents, covered employees, and covered individuals for whom payments were made.

(III) The amounts that were provided to each person described in subclause (II).

(iii) An assessment of whether additional authorities are required to ensure that covered dependents, covered employees, and covered individuals can receive payments for qualifying injuries, such as a qualifying injury to the back or heart.

(C) FORM.—The report submitted under subparagraph (A) shall be submitted in classified form.

(2) REPORTS ON ESTIMATED COSTS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2023.—Not later than March 1, 2022, the Secretary of State and each other agency head that makes a payment under subsection (i) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b) of this section, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report detailing an estimate of the obligation that the Director expects to incur in providing payment under such subsection (i) in fiscal year 2023.

(d) REGULATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and each other agency head that makes a payment under subsection (i)(2) of section 901 of title IX of division J of the Further Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2020 (22 U.S.C. 2680b), as added by subsection (b) of this section, shall prescribe regulations required under subsection (i)(4)(A) of such Act.

(2) NOTICE TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 210 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State and the agency heads described in paragraph (1) shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees the regulations prescribed in accordance with paragraph (1).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

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

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on S. 1828.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 1828, the HAVANA Act of 2021, and I urge my colleagues to support its passage.

America’s diplomats and intelligence professionals are the best in the world, dedicating their lives to public service to protect the American people and promote the interests of the United States.

As citizens, we are in their debt. As lawmakers, we also have a responsibility to protect their health and safety, making sure that they have the resources they need to do their jobs effectively and providing them with the necessary support if they are harmed in the line of duty.

That is why the HAVANA Act is such a critical piece of legislation. The incidents behind the so-called Havana syndrome are still under investigation and have affected American personnel at U.S. missions around the world, from Cuba, where the incidents first surfaced, and then reportedly to China, Europe, Central Asia, and even potentially here in Washington, D.C. It is imperative that the State Department, working in conjunction with the intelligence community, the Department of Defense, and other interagency partners and allies, get to the bottom of what caused these events, how best to deter them from happening in the future, and how best to protect our people.

While I am confident that the Biden administration is working hard to advance these investigations, Congress must also do its part, especially when it comes to helping those who have been directly impacted.

The HAVANA Act ensures that the United States’ diplomats and intelligence professionals are appropriately taken care of and compensated for injuries they incurred in connection with these events, fixing an important gap in existing law. I am very glad this important legislation will provide necessary supplemental funds to those who have been affected while in no way touching on any other benefits that come with Federal employment. This is a good, bipartisan measure, and I commend our Senate colleagues, especially Senators Collins and MARK WARNER, for sending it over to us in the House today.

The HAVANA Act, which the Senate unanimously passed, is the companion to legislation that Chairman ADAM SCHIFF introduced alongside Chairman GREGORY MEEKS. As the only Democratic Member who serves on both the

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the Committee on Foreign Affairs, I deeply appreciate the contributions and sacrifices of our diplomats and intelligence professionals who are working hard to defend our national security.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the HAVANA Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1430

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

Mr. Speaker, around the world, America and American personnel are being attacked in their homes, in hotels, and even on public streets. For most, it starts with what seems like a loud noise that is followed by pain or a sense of pressure in the head. Many are left with chronic damage, including hearing loss, vertigo, cognitive and motor impairment, severe headaches, and inability to sleep.

In the words of a recent press report, our diplomats are suffering a “concussion without a concussion.”

The Senate-passed bill before us today provides important authority to assist these brain injury victims, and it deserves our unanimous support. But we all must do more.

Unfortunately, these attacks have continued and spread. First, it started in Havana in late 2016 and spread to China in 2017. Two months ago, press reports described more than 130 possible cases all over the world, including right here in Washington, D.C. Just last week, two dozen new cases among U.S. personnel in Vienna were revealed. Simply put, this is kind of scary stuff.

The people who serve our Nation overseas are generally worried for themselves and their families, and they need to know that we have their backs. When the prior administration pulled our personnel out of Havana 4 years ago, they said: “Numerous Embassy Havana employees have been targeted in specific attacks. These employees have suffered significant injuries as a consequence of these attacks.”

In contrast, President Biden has refused to call these what they are, attacks on U.S. personnel. Secretary of State Tony Blinken publicly said perhaps no one is responsible for causing these injuries.

I will tell you, from my briefings and briefings in another annex, that is absolutely incorrect. We may not be able to fill in all the blanks yet, but we know too much to dismiss these attacks as unexplained health incidents.

Four years ago, medical experts convened by the State Department agreed victims were likely dealing with brain trauma from a nonnatural source, and the evidence has only grown more conclusive since then. Last year, the National Academy of Sciences said that directed, pulsed radio frequency energy is most likely the cause. According to the NAS, the situation raises grave concerns about bad actors who may have weapons.

While we must assist victims with today’s bill, we must do more. We must call these heinous attacks what they are. They are attacks, and the people attacking us need to know the consequences will be severe when we find out who they are and when we get the attribution. Otherwise, we aren’t doing what we can do to deter future attacks. The men and women who serve our Nation overseas deserve no less.

I have prepared a bill to do just that, which I will be introducing this week.

I thank Chairman MEEKS and our Intelligence Committee colleagues for their bipartisan work on the HAVANA Act, which I strongly support.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. SCHIFF), the chairman of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence.

(Mr. SCHIFF asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. SCHIFF. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of the HAVANA Act.

I was proud to introduce this legislation in the House, and I appreciate the continued support from Ranking Member NUNES, Chairman MEEKS, and Ranking Member McCAUL in moving this legislation through the House and to the President’s desk.

Every day, thousands of patriotic Americans serve our country abroad, representing our values and interests across the globe. They are diplomats, soldiers, intelligence officers, and more. But we must never forget they are also mothers and fathers, sisters and brothers, and sons and daughters who routinely make tremendous personal sacrifices in service of their country.

In return for their service to our Nation, we have a sacred responsibility to make sure that we take care of them. That is what this bill does.

Over the past several years, public servants from the intelligence community and elsewhere have experienced symptoms of unknown origins. These cases, which have been described as Havana syndrome or anomalous health incidents, named for the cohort whose symptoms onset in Havana, remain a mystery.

But two things are clear. First, we must spare no effort to identify their source and to hold anyone responsible accountable. Second, we must ensure that those who are injured receive the highest quality of care and the benefits that they need as they recover.

The HAVANA Act does just that. It would adjust and expand the authority we gave to the intelligence community and the State Department in 2019 to provide compensation for those experiencing these injuries to also include those suffering from traumatic brain injuries. Members of both parties have united behind this critical legislation to provide benefits to afflicted individuals.

Even as we pass this legislation, our work is not done. On a bipartisan basis, the Intelligence Committee has continued to provide vigorous oversight of how individuals experiencing these health incidents were treated and how they are being treated today. We will continue to prioritize this issue and put our people first.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues, Mr. CASTRO and Mr. McCAUL, for their efforts.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. NUNES), the ranking member of the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence and the coauthor of the House version of this bill.

Mr. NUNES. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas for his work on this bill and my colleagues on the Senate side and the House side.

I rise in strong support of this legislation. When intelligence community officers risk their health and safety in service of their country, they need to know they will receive the full support of the United States Government if they are injured. That assurance is crucial for the officers’ ability to carry out their missions.

As the public now knows, our officers have been the victims of targeted attacks around the globe. I want to say upfront that these incidents are real, and the officers’ accounts are credible.

Victims have described the sudden onset of symptoms, such as intense head pressure, dizziness, vertigo, and cognitive difficulties. Some incidents have resulted in traumatic brain injuries, debilitating pain, and other serious health issues. Many victims continue to experience chronic health problems and require sustained treatment.

Over the past several months, we have been looking into these incidents. In my view, there are three objectives. The first is to determine the best way to help these officers and their families. The second is to find out who is perpetrating these attacks. The third is to conduct strong oversight of our agencies and make the necessary changes to achieve the first two objectives. That will require vigorous effort, but I am committed to uncovering the truth.

The bill we are considering today takes important steps to assist the victims of these attacks and ensure that our people will be compensated for their brain injuries. It builds on legislation we passed last Congress to improve worker’s compensation for certain personnel and their dependents.

Some have called the legislation technical, which it is, but it is, nevertheless, vital. Patriotic Americans serving to promote and protect our freedoms deserve our gratitude and full support.

The Senate has already passed this bill by unanimous consent. I fully support it, and I urge my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to do the same.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests at this time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. MCCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself such time as I may consume.

First, I thank the chairman of the House Intelligence Committee and the ranking member, Mr. NUNES, for their strong support of this bill. It is very important.

I will be introducing a bill next week on this, and I hope to work with the House Intelligence Committee on that as well.

I am very concerned the administration may be planning to send U.S. personnel back to our Havana Embassy. I just got off of a big rally across the street from the White House with a lot of Cubans. They are searching for freedom and democracy over tyranny, oppression, and communism.

But our personnel, we can't send them back until we can say who or what caused these brain injuries that prompted the Trump administration to pull our people out of there for their own safety in 2017.

Over these last few weeks, the world has watched Cuba's brutal police state in action. The Venezuelan military is there as well, silencing people just for exercising freedom of speech, which they don't have under a communist dictatorship.

The same surveillance system that tracks dissidents and censors the internet has been unwilling to share necessary information about these attacks against Americans. I have no doubt that Cuban intelligence is involved in this.

If the administration sends U.S. personnel back to Havana without holding the regime accountable, all American diplomats are at risk.

Again, I support this bipartisan HAVANA Act. I urge my colleagues to support it as well. I think these men and women, both State Department diplomats and our intelligence officers, deserve better from our Nation. They need to receive the proper care that they deserve.

Again, I thank Chairman MEEKS and the Intelligence Committee, and I look forward to its passage.

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

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself as much time as I may consume for the purpose of closing.

Mr. Speaker, I believe it is imperative that we, as the elected representatives of the American people, working with the executive branch, get to the bottom of exactly who is behind these events, why they are occurring, and how to stop them.

But we must also make sure to do our part to take care of the public servants who put themselves on the line every day for our own interests.

I want to say thank you to the President, to the Secretary of State, and to the State Department for taking these cases seriously, for listening to the

families and all the trauma that they have gone through, and for showing them nothing but the utmost respect.

This bill is an excellent contribution to this effort, and I look forward to working on a bipartisan basis on this critical issue going forward.

I thank Chairman SCHIFF for his hard work, and I ask all of my colleagues to support this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1828.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL ROUTE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2278) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2278

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

SECTION 1. SEPTEMBER 11TH NATIONAL MEMORIAL TRAIL ROUTE.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “September 11th National Memorial Trail Route Proposed Trail Route,” numbered 669/176,670A, and dated July 2021.

(2) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior, acting through the Director of the National Park Service.

(3) TRAIL ROUTE.—The term “Trail Route” means the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route designated under subsection (b).

(b) ESTABLISHMENT OF TRAIL ROUTE.—

(1) DESIGNATION.—There is designated a Trail Route, to be known as the “September 11th National Memorial Trail Route”, to link the National 9/11 Memorial and Museum in New York City, the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Arlington, Virginia, and the Flight 93 National Memorial in Somerset County, Pennsylvania. The September 11th National Memorial Trail Route shall—

(A) provide for a tribute to the family members and loved ones who were victims of the attack and the heroes of September 11th, including the first responders in the days, weeks, and months after the attack;

(B) be a trail of remembrance to honor the fallen in a tangible way that keeps their memories alive and reaffirms the exceptionalism of our country; and

(C) be a celebration of our Nation's resilience and perseverance since September 11, 2001.

(2) ROUTE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Trail Route shall consist of a series of trails as generally depicted on the Map.

(B) AVAILABILITY OF MAP.—The Map shall be available in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(C) REVISION.—The Secretary may revise the Map by publication in the Federal Register of a notice of availability of a new Map.

(c) ADMINISTRATION.—The Trail Route program shall be administered by the Secretary in consultation with the affected landowners, including any Federal, State, Tribal or local agencies that manage the affected lands, but shall not be considered to be a unit of the National Park System or a part of the National Trail System.

(d) ACTIVITIES.—To facilitate the administration of the Trail Route program and the dissemination of information regarding the Trail Route, the Secretary shall—

(1) produce and disseminate appropriate educational materials regarding the Trail Route, such as handbooks, maps, exhibits, signs, interpretive guides, electronic information, and other interpretive materials;

(2) coordinate the management and planning of the Trail Route with participating property owners, other Federal agencies, State, Tribal, and local governments, and nonprofit entities;

(3) create and adopt an official, uniform symbol or device to mark the Trail Route;

(4) issue guidelines for the use of the symbol or device adopted under paragraph (3); and

(5) if deemed appropriate by the Secretary, authorize signage on lands managed by the General Services Administration or the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, without regard to the requirements of the Commemorative Works Act (40 U.S.C. 8901).

(e) AGREEMENTS.—To ensure effective coordination of the Federal and non-Federal properties along the Trail Route, the Secretary may enter into agreements with, and provide technical and financial assistance to, other Federal agencies, the State, localities, regional governmental bodies, and private entities.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2278, introduced by Representative GERRY CONNOLLY, would designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail Route to honor the family members and loved ones who were victims of that day's attack, as well as the heroes of September 11.

The route will consist of a series of trails and roadways linking the three

sites of the September 11 attack: the World Trade Center in New York; the Pentagon in Arlington, Virginia; and the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As we approach the 20th anniversary of this horrific act of terrorism, this bill would honor the memory of the nearly 3,000 Americans who lost their lives and would serve as a lasting reminder of the heroism and perseverance of our Nation's first responders.

I thank Representative CONNOLLY for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

□ 1445

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

Mr. Speaker, this year, as the gentlewoman pointed out, marks the 20th anniversary of the terrorist attacks of September 11. While almost two decades have passed since that tragic day, we will never forget the thousands of innocent people who lost their lives and the brave first responders who put their lives on the line in our country's time of need.

Memorials have been established nationwide to honor the victims and first responders who were killed in the attacks, including the National 9/11 Pentagon Memorial in Virginia, the Flight 93 National Memorial in Pennsylvania, and the National September 11 Memorial & Museum in New York.

H.R. 2278, offered by Congressman CONNOLLY, authorizes the Secretary of the Interior to designate a memorial trail, approximately 1,300 miles in length, to link the three existing September 11 memorials in Virginia, New York, and Pennsylvania. The tour route will intersect Delaware, Maryland, New Jersey, New York, Pennsylvania, Virginia, and Washington, D.C., and will be administered by the National Park Service.

This bill will help preserve the memory of the 2,977 innocent people who lost their lives on 9/11 and ensure that we never forget the horrors of that fateful day. I hope it also serves as some solace to the families of the victims, who can use this trail to remember and honor their lost loved ones.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the author of this important piece of legislation.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my dear friend, Congresswoman DINGELL, for her support, and the distinguished ranking member, the Republican manager, for his support.

In a troubled time, when we seem like we can't get together, here is an opportunity to come together, as we did 20 years ago on September 11.

I rise in support of H.R. 2278, designating the September 11th National

Memorial Trail Route, a 1,300-mile system of trails and roadways that connect all three sites attacked on September 11, 2001: The World Trade Center in New York, the Pentagon here in Washington, D.C., and the Flight 93 Memorial near Shanksville, Pennsylvania.

As our Nation prepares for the 20th anniversary of September 11, we have an opportunity to create a lasting legacy connecting all three sites.

The trail provides trail-goers with a chance to reflect and learn about our Nation's resilience and perseverance following that dreadful day.

In addition to the three 9/11 memorials anchoring this route, travelers can learn about our founding with stops at Valley Forge National Historical Park and Independence Hall in Philadelphia or visit the Antietam National Battlefield or the Gettysburg National Military Park to remember some of the other darkest days in our Nation's history.

This trail route connects travelers with these points in our history and majestic landscapes, while driving further tourism and recreation along its route.

It starts at the Pentagon Memorial in Arlington and extends northwest to the Shanksville site in Pennsylvania. It continues east to New York City's National September 11 Memorial & Museum. It then heads south, following the East Coast Greenway, connecting to the Garden of Reflection 9/11 Memorial. It then connects to the National Mall here in Washington, D.C., and ultimately returns to the Pentagon Memorial, remembering that dreadful incident at the Pentagon that cost so many lives.

It extends through six States and the District of Columbia. It is a multiuse trail, with more than 50 percent of the route off road. The idea for the trail was born in the wake of September 11 at the Mid-Atlantic Governors Conference on Greenways, Blueways, and Green Infrastructure.

Conference chair and then-director of the Virginia Department of Conservation and Recreation, David Brickley, presented the vision for a trail route connecting the Pentagon and the site of Flight 93 and the Twin Towers in New York City. David founded the September 11th National Memorial Trail Alliance in the following year to develop the September 11th National Memorial Trail.

This route would be administered by the Secretary of the Interior in consultation with the affected landowners but would not be considered as a unit of the National Park System or as part of the National Trail System.

The Secretary would be authorized to produce and disseminate educational materials and create an official symbol or trail marker to mark the trail routes.

The bill authorizes the Secretary to enter into agreements with and provide technical and financial assistance to

other Federal agencies, States, localities, and private entities, as may be required.

Designating the September 11th National Memorial Trail route will serve as a natural embodiment of our pledge to never forget the heroes and the victims of that terrible day.

It honors the memories of nearly 3,000 family members and loved ones we lost on that day, and it is a tribute to the bravery of the heroes that responded.

When I was a local board of supervisors member, I was in a fire station, Fire Station 30, and I saw firsthand those first responders who went to the Pentagon to try to save lives, putting their own lives at risk.

Mr. Speaker, I hope this bill gives anyone touched by the tragedy of 9/11 an opportunity for reflection, comfort, and healing. It is also a moment for us to come together once again to remember the heroes and the victims of that day, to honor them, and to come together as Republicans and Democrats in that pursuit.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support the legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2278, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

FREE VETERANS FROM FEES ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1029) to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1029

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 "Free Veterans from Fees Act".

SEC. 2. WAIVER OF SPECIAL USE PERMIT APPLICATION FEE FOR VETERANS' SPECIAL EVENTS.

(a) WAIVER.—The application fee for any special use permit solely for a veterans' special event at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the

District of Columbia and its environs shall be waived.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA AND ITS ENVIRONS.—The term “the District of Columbia and its environs” has the meaning given that term in section 8902(a) of title 40, United States Code.

(2) GOLD STAR FAMILIES.—The term “Gold Star Families” includes any individual described in section 3.2 of Department of Defense Instruction 1348.36.

(3) SPECIAL EVENT.—The term “special events” has the meaning given that term in section 7.96 of title 36, Code of Federal Regulations.

(4) VETERAN.—The term “veteran” has the meaning given that term in section 101(2) of title 38, United States Code.

(5) VETERANS’ SPECIAL EVENT.—The term “veterans’ special event” means a special event of which the majority of attendees are veterans or Gold Star Families.

(6) WAR MEMORIAL.—The term “war memorial” means any memorial or monument which has been erected or dedicated to commemorate a military unit, military group, war, conflict, victory, or peace.

(c) APPLICABILITY.—This section shall apply to any special use permit application submitted after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(d) APPLICABILITY OF EXISTING LAWS.—Permit applicants remain subject to all other laws, regulations, and policies regarding the application, issuance and execution of special use permits for a veterans’ special event at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1029, the Free Veterans from Fees Act, introduced by my colleague, Representative GREG STEUBE.

This bill would honor the sacrifices made by our veterans and Gold Star families by waiving application fees for veterans’ special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in our Nation’s Capital.

Although the National Park Service has a longstanding practice of waiving application fees for special use permits for most veterans’ events at war memorials, veterans’ organizations have often had to pay administrative fees and associated costs to obtain permits for events, such as honor buses.

By codifying a version of this practice in law, we can ensure that vet-

erans and the Gold Star families are not required to pay when visiting the national war memorials that were built to commemorate their bravery and sacrifices and our country’s fallen heroes.

I would like to thank Representative STEUBE for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1029, offered by Congressman STEUBE of Florida, would waive the application fee associated with special use permits for any veterans’ demonstrations or special events at war memorials located on Federal land.

Each year, hundreds of veterans’ groups and Gold Star families visit our national war memorials in Washington, D.C. This is done through arranged visits sponsored by veterans’ organizations. To obtain a permit for any special events they hold, these veterans’ groups may be required to pay administrative fees and other processing costs to the National Park Service. The Free Veterans from Fees Act waives these special use permit fees for veterans’ groups so that they may hold their demonstrations and special events at war memorials administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia free of charge.

The last thing veterans and their families should worry about is paying administrative fees when visiting memorials and monuments built in their honor. These brave men and women fought to defend our Nation, and we should honor their sacrifices by making it as simple as possible for them to visit these sites.

I commend Congressman STEUBE for his work on this bill, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Wisconsin (Mr. KIND).

Mr. KIND. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Michigan for yielding me this time.

Mr. Speaker, I was an original cosponsor with my good friend and colleague, Mr. STEUBE from Florida, of H.R. 1029, the Free Veterans from Fees Act.

H.R. 1029 would waive application fees for special use permits for Honor Flights and Gold Star Family events and other veterans demonstrations and special events at our Nation’s war memorials. It is the right thing to do, to try to reduce the cost for a lot of these important commemorative occasions happening right here in our Nation’s Capital.

Throughout the years, I have had the privilege of being able to attend many of the Freedom Honor Flights that emanated from my hometown in La Crosse, Wisconsin. They are joyous occasions, with much celebration hon-

oring the service and sacrifice of our veterans, celebrating their achievements, but more importantly, allowing them, many for the very last time, to be able to hop on a plane, come to Washington, and pay their respects at the memorials of conflicts that they were involved in and for the fallen comrades who didn’t come home.

Oftentimes, on the way home—I know this is true for our La Crosse Honor Flights—there is a mail call where the relatives of these veterans, family members, write letters of thanks to them as they are coming home. When they arrive, it is a huge celebration of music and thanking them for their service and sacrifice. It is a great thing to behold.

The thought that the cost of this is compounded with unnecessary application fees in order to attend these events at our war memorials is something we can rectify, and that is exactly what we are doing under H.R. 1029, along with Gold Star events that occur here and other veterans’ events.

I also am the original author of the Veterans History Project, trying to record our veterans’ stories before they pass away, archiving it at the Library of Congress, so that we never forget the service and sacrifice that came before us.

We are trying to capture many of these veterans coming to our Nation’s Capital—again, many for the very last time—to have them share their story of what it was like to serve our country during times of conflict and peace. So it has been a great avenue in order to reach out and expand the number of oral histories that we have collected at the Library of Congress, close to 120,000 veterans’ stories so far and counting.

So if this is a way for us to reduce cost, to ease the burden, to make it easier for veterans to come here, a chance for us to reach out to them, asking them to share their memories of what it was like to serve our Nation, then that is a good thing for us to do.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1029, and I thank my colleague from Florida (Mr. STEUBE) for partnering with me on this legislation.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, this is a great bill to honor our heroes and to say thank you in another way. I urge a “yes” vote, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1500

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, we have heard all the reasons why this bill matters. We even did an Honor Flight with the Rosies from Michigan, which was memorable.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1029.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

GREAT DISMAL SWAMP NATIONAL HERITAGE AREA ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1154) to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1154

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 "Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HERITAGE AREA.**—The term "Heritage Area" means the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area.

(2) **SECRETARY.**—The term "Secretary" means the Secretary of the Interior.

(3) **STATES.**—The term "States" means the States of Virginia and North Carolina.

(4) **STUDY AREA.**—The term "study area" means—

(A) the cities of Chesapeake, Norfolk, Portsmouth, and Suffolk in the State of Virginia;

(B) Isle of Wight County in the State of Virginia;

(C) Camden, Currituck, Gates, and Pasquotank counties in the State of North Carolina; and

(D) any other areas in the States that—

(i) have heritage aspects that are similar to the areas described in subparagraphs (A), (B), or (C); and

(ii) are adjacent to, or in the vicinity of, those areas.

SEC. 3. STUDY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary, in consultation with State and local organizations and governmental agencies, Tribal governments, non-profit organizations, and other appropriate entities, shall conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating the study area as a National Heritage Area, to be known as the "Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area".

(b) **REQUIREMENTS.**—The study shall include analysis, documentation, and determinations on whether the study area—

(1) has an assemblage of natural, historic, and cultural resources that—

(A) represent distinctive aspects of the people and cultures of the United States;

(B) are worthy of recognition, conservation, interpretation, and continuing use; and

(C) would be best managed—

(i) through partnerships among public and private entities; and

(ii) by linking diverse and sometimes non-contiguous resources and active communities;

(2) reflects traditions, customs, beliefs, and folklore that are a valuable part of the story of the United States;

(3) provides outstanding opportunities—

(A) to conserve natural, historic, cultural, or scenic features; and

(B) for recreation and education;

(4) contains resources that—

(A) are important to any identified themes of the study area; and

(B) retain a degree of integrity capable of supporting interpretation;

(5) includes residents, business interests, nonprofit organizations, and State, local, and Tribal governments, and other appropriate entities that—

(A) are involved in the planning of the Heritage Area;

(B) have developed a conceptual financial plan that outlines the roles of all participants in the Heritage Area, including the Federal Government; and

(C) have demonstrated support for the designation of the Heritage Area;

(6) has a potential management entity to work in partnership with the individuals and entities described in paragraph (5) to develop the Heritage Area while encouraging State and local economic activity; and

(7) has a conceptual boundary map that is supported by the public.

SEC. 4. REPORT.

Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to carry out this Act, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate a report that describes—

(1) the findings of the study under section 3; and

(2) any conclusions and recommendations of the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1154, the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act, introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN), my Natural Resources Committee colleague.

This bill would direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study assessing the suitability and the feasibility of designating the Great Dismal Swamp in the States of Virginia and North Carolina as a national heritage area.

The Great Dismal Swamp is an area of great historical, cultural, and environmental importance, and has been home to indigenous people since time immemorial. The swamp includes the ancestral lands of the Nansemond Indian Nation and the historic lands of the Haliwa-Saponi and Meherrin tribes.

The swamp was also one of the only known water-based stops on the Under-

ground Railroad and home to a thriving community descending from early colonial free people of color whose families resisted American slavery by finding refuge within the swamp.

In 1974 the swamp was designated as a national wildlife refuge due to its ecological significance, and today it holds the largest intact remnant of a vast forest that once covered more than a million acres.

Designating the Great Dismal Swamp as a national heritage area will help share the often untold stories of some of our Nation's underrepresented communities.

From the indigenous communities who first called the swamp home to the enslaved African Americans who endured the swamp's hardships in their fight for freedom, these are stories worth sharing with current and future generations.

I would like to thank my friend and colleague, Representative MCEACHIN, for championing this important legislation. I urge all my colleagues to support this bill. Mr. Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 1154, offered by Congressman MCEACHIN, requires the Secretary of the Interior to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating a national heritage area comprised of cities and counties in Virginia and counties in North Carolina to be known as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area.

While many think of Washington, D.C. as a great dismal swamp, it is actually a marshy region on the coastal plain of southeastern Virginia and northeastern North Carolina that stretches roughly 37 miles north to south and covers an area approximately 750 square miles. The Great Dismal Swamp has a long history of Native American inhabitants and was a known route and destination for freedom seekers.

This measure already passed the House as an amendment to H.R. 803, the Protecting America's Wilderness and Public Lands Act earlier this Congress. I did not support the measure then because it had not gone through regular order and was being added to a package that created 1.5 million acres of new wilderness. You could say this measure was bogged down here in the swamp.

While this is not how the process should work, I am happy that this bill has now gone through regular order, and I would, therefore, urge adoption of the measure.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation. I am glad that my colleague's thoughts came through the swamp, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1154.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1664) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1664

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation may establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the District of Columbia and its environs to honor the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by Medal of Honor recipients.

(b) COMPLIANCE WITH STANDARDS FOR COMMEMORATIVE WORKS.—The establishment of the commemorative work under this section shall be in accordance with chapter 89 of title 40, United States Code (commonly known as the “Commemorative Works Act”).

(c) PROHIBITION ON THE USE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Federal funds may not be used to pay any expense of the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(2) RESPONSIBILITY OF THE NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR MUSEUM FOUNDATION.—The National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation shall be solely responsible for acceptance of contributions for, and payment of the expenses of, the establishment of the commemorative work under this section.

(d) DEPOSIT OF EXCESS FUNDS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If, on payment of all expenses for the establishment of the commemorative work under this section (including the maintenance and preservation amount required by section 8906(b)(1) of title 40, United States Code), there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the commemorative work, the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to the Secretary of the Interior for deposit in the account provided for in section 8906(b)(3) of that title.

(2) ON EXPIRATION OF AUTHORITY.—If, on expiration of the authority for the commemorative work under section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, there remains a balance of funds received for the establishment of the

commemorative work under this section, the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation shall transmit the amount of the balance to a separate account with the National Park Foundation for memorials, to be available to the Secretary of the Interior or the Administrator of General Services, as appropriate, in accordance with the process provided in paragraph (4) of section 8906(b) of that title for accounts established under paragraph (2) or (3) of that section.

SEC. 2. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1664, introduced by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY), would authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a monument in the District of Columbia commemorating the extraordinary acts of valor, selfless service, and sacrifice displayed by the Medal of Honor recipients.

The Medal of Honor is our country's highest military decoration, and since its creation during the Civil War, the medal has been awarded to more than 3,500 members of the armed services.

This bill would honor the unparalleled bravery and sacrifices of Medal of Honor recipients and ensure that the medal's values of courage, sacrifice, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, and commitment are shared for generations to come.

I would like to thank Representative VEASEY for his leadership on this important legislation and urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

H.R. 1664, offered by Congressman VEASEY, would authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work on Federal land in the D.C. area to recognize Medal of Honor recipients.

The Medal of Honor is our Nation's highest medal for valor in combat awarded to members of the U.S. Armed Forces. The medal was first authorized in 1861 for U.S. Navy sailors and marines, and the following year for Army soldiers. Since then more than 3,500 Medals of Honor have been awarded to members of all Department of Defense services and the Coast Guard. Medals of Honor are awarded sparingly and only bestowed on the bravest of the brave whose courage and valor in combat is well documented.

According to the Congressional Medal of Honor Society, at least 10 Arkansans have been awarded the Medal of Honor since its inception. This includes John Henry Pruitt, an Arkansan who is one of only 19 soldiers to ever be awarded the Medal of Honor twice. Our State Capitol in Little Rock also boasts its own Medal of Honor Memorial, which depicts a bronze eagle surrounded by plaques honoring each individual Medal of Honor recipient from Arkansas.

I would like to thank Congressman VEASEY and Congressman BLAKE MOORE of Utah, a freshman on our committee, for their leadership on this important bipartisan bill. I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VEASEY).

Mr. VEASEY. Mr. Speaker, today I rise to urge my colleagues to pass the National Medal of Honor Monument Act. This is bipartisan legislation, as was mentioned, that I introduced with Representative MOORE of Utah.

This bill honors our Nation's brave servicemembers by paving the way for the creation of a monument in our Nation's Capital recognizing the Medal of Honor and its more than 3,500 recipients.

Our Nation's Medal of Honor recipients are patriots. They have put their lives on the line to ensure we can live freely and prosperously in the greatest nation on Earth. That is why I am happy to have spearheaded this from the beginning and pay homage to the values the Medal of Honor represents—courage, patriotism, citizenship, integrity, commitment, and sacrifice—and the brave individuals who earned it in service to our country.

The National Medal of Honor Museum will actually open in my district in Arlington, Texas, in the next few years, and it will also serve as a beacon for these values.

My hope is that we are able to pass this legislation to honor these individuals because this is a very, very prestigious award for our Nation's veterans and for those that have sacrificed. We want to make sure that we do everything we can to rally around this and honor the bravest individuals who serve in our country by having a monument here in Washington, D.C.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill and strongly

support creating this memorial, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, my colleague said it well. I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1664, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

GOLD STAR MOTHERS FAMILY MONUMENT EXTENSION ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2365) to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2365

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 “Gold Star Mothers Family Monument Extension Act”.

SEC. 2. EXTENSION OF AUTHORITY FOR ESTABLISHMENT OF COMMEMORATIVE WORK.

Notwithstanding section 8903(e) of title 40, United States Code, the authority provided by section 2859 of the Military Construction Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2013 (division B of Public Law 112-239; 126 Stat. 2164; 40 U.S.C. 8903 note) shall continue to apply through January 2, 2027.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2365, introduced by the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. KIM), would extend the authorization for the establishment of a commemorative work to Gold Star Mother Families until January 2, 2027.

The Gold Star Mothers Family National Monument would honor the mothers and families of those who have paid the ultimate sacrifice in service of our Nation.

The Gold Star is a widely recognized tradition that dates back to World War I when families would display service flags bearing a blue star for each family member serving abroad and a gold star for each family member who had been lost in combat.

Although this commemorative work was originally authorized in the National Defense Authorization Act for fiscal year 2013, the authorization expired in January 2020. In November 2015, the U.S. Commission of Fine Arts approved a location for the memorial on the National Park Service property west of the Arlington National Cemetery visitor center.

□ 1515

Following that approval, the National Capital Memorial Advisory Commission has engaged in consultation with the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation regarding the memorial's design.

This bill would build on these efforts by extending the authorization needed to establish the monument. While we can never truly repay the debt that America owes to our Gold Star Mothers and their families, H.R. 2365 would bring us closer toward fully honoring the sacrifices that they have made.

I would like to thank Representative KIM for introducing this important legislation, and I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2365, offered by Congressman KIM, would extend the authorization of the Gold Stars Mothers National Monument Foundation to construct the Gold Star National Mothers Monument. Legislation signed into law during the 112th Congress authorized the Gold Star Mothers National Monument Foundation to erect a monument on Federal lands in Washington, D.C., that would honor mothers whose children gave the last full measure of devotion defending the United States as members of the Armed Forces.

This bill would allow more time for the Foundation to ensure the monument's construction and completion by extending the authorization until January 2, 2027.

We can never fully understand the lifelong grief that these Gold Star Mothers must face, and I hope that this new memorial serves as a collective place for them to heal and remember their brave children who valiantly fought to defend our country.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation and the Gold Star families, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2365, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2497) to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2497

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 “Amache National Historic Site Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) MAP.—The term “Map” means the map entitled “Amache National Historical Site Proposed Boundary”, numbered 100/175348 and dated July 2021.

(2) NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.—The term “National Historic Site” means the Amache National Historic Site established by section 3(a).

(3) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of the Interior.

SEC. 3. AMACHE NATIONAL HISTORIC SITE.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Subject to subsection (c), there is established the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System.

(b) PURPOSE.—The purpose of the National Historic Site is to preserve, protect, and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations resources associated with—

(1) the incarceration of civilians of Japanese ancestry during World War II at Amache, also known as the Granada Relocation Center, and the military service of center internees;

(2) public reaction in the State of Colorado to the incarceration of Japanese Americans, including the position of Governor Ralph Carr and the local community; and

(3) the transition of the internees and their descendants following the closure of the center

and resettlement in the State of Colorado and other States.

(c) **DETERMINATION BY THE SECRETARY.**—The National Historic Site shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land or interests in land has been acquired to constitute a manageable park unit.

(d) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 30 days after the Secretary makes a determination under subsection (c), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register notice of the establishment of the National Historic Site.

(e) **BOUNDARY; MAP.**—

(1) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary of the National Historic Site shall be as generally depicted on the Map.

(2) **AVAILABILITY OF MAP.**—The Map shall be on file and available for public inspection in the appropriate offices of the National Park Service.

(f) **LAND ACQUISITION AUTHORITY.**—The Secretary may acquire any land or interests in land located within the boundary of the Camp Amache National Historic Landmark, as generally depicted on the Map, by—

(1) donation;

(2) purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated Funds; or

(3) exchange.

(g) **ADDITION TO BOUNDARY.**—Any lands or interests in land acquired under paragraph (1) shall be included within the boundary of the National Historic Site.

(h) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the National Historic Site in accordance with—

(A) this Act; and

(B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System.

(2) **MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(A) **DEADLINE FOR COMPLETION.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are first made available to the Secretary for this purpose, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the National Historic Site in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(B) **SUBMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—On completion of the general management plan under subparagraph (A), the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate and the Committee on Natural Resources of the House of Representatives the general management plan prepared under that subparagraph.

(i) **ADMINISTRATIVE FACILITIES.**—For the purposes of ensuring the preservation, protection, and proper management of the site and associated resources, the Secretary may establish facilities for administration, visitor services, and curation of personal property, outside the boundary of, and in the vicinity of, the National Historic Site.

(j) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—The Secretary may enter into agreements with—

(1) the public or private entities for the purpose of establishing and operating facilities outside of the boundary of the National Historic Site for administration, visitor services and curation of personal property; and

(2) other public or private entities for the purposes of carrying out this Act.

(k) **EFFECT ON WATER RIGHTS.**—Except as provided for in subsection (l), nothing in this Act shall affect—

(1) the use, allocation, ownership, or control, in existence on the date of the enactment of any water, water right, or any other valid existing right;

(2) any vested absolute or decreed conditional water right in existence on the date of the enactment;

(3) any interstate water compact in existence on the date of the enactment; or

(4) State jurisdiction over any water law.

(l) **OPERATION AND MAINTENANCE OF WATER INFRASTRUCTURE AND APPURTENANCES.**—

(1) The town of Granada, Colorado, shall maintain responsibility for the operation and maintenance of all water infrastructure, systems and appurtenances located within the boundary of the National Historic Site in existence on the date of enactment of this Act, including but not limited to wells, pumps, tanks, water lines, valves, and water treatment facilities.

(2) The Secretary shall provide the town of Granada, Colorado, with access to those areas of the National Historic Site determined as necessary for the operation and maintenance of water infrastructure and appurtenances.

(3) The Secretary may permit the city of Granada, Colorado, to construct or install new water infrastructure, systems and appurtenances consistent with applicable laws, limited only to those areas determined in subsection (i)(2), and in a manner that ensures the preservation, protection, and proper management of the National Historic Site.

(4) At such time that all water infrastructure, systems and appurtenances located within the boundary of the National Historic Site are no longer utilized by the city of Granada, Colorado, associated improvements and associated water rights may be acquired through donation to and made part of the National Historic Site in a condition satisfactory to the Secretary.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 2497, the Amache National Historic Site Act, introduced by the chair of the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, my colleague from Colorado, Representative JOE NEGUSE.

H.R. 2497 would establish the Amache imprisonment site in southeast Colorado as a national historic site to ensure permanent protections and provide for the interpretation of the Amache site of Japanese-American incarceration.

Following the United States' entry into World War II, President Franklin D. Roosevelt issued an executive order forcibly removing more than 120,000 people, primarily of Japanese descent, to 10 remote military-style prisons across the Nation.

The Granada Relocation Center, commonly known as Amache, was one of those 10 centers and was the only one located in the State of Colorado. Although Amache was the smallest of the relocation centers, it became the tenth largest city in Colorado with more than 10,000 people passing through the camp between 1942 and 1945, nearly two-thirds of whom were American citizens.

Most had never been to Japan and most were given a week or less to leave their homes and dispose of everything they owned, everything they had worked hard to build up for themselves. This unjustifiable, horrific, and unconstitutional incarceration of Japanese Americans is, without doubt, one of the darkest chapters in our country's history.

And while these incarceration sites no longer hold prisoners, many of the wrongfully imprisoned are still with us today, even as anti-Asian rhetoric continues to permeate our country. As we continue to reckon with our Nation's painful legacy of systemic racism, it is critical that we honor and share the stories of those who came before us. It is vital that we remember and learn from their fights against injustice and for equity.

I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 2497, and join me in working to ensure that we remember this dark time in our Nation's history so we may honor those who lived it, share their stories, and continue to heal as a country. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 2497, offered by my friend, Representative NEGUSE from Colorado, would establish the Amache National Historic Site in Colorado as a unit of the National Park System.

In 1942, President Franklin Delano Roosevelt issued an executive order, later enforced by law, to forcibly remove tens of thousands of Japanese Americans, including nearly 70,000 American citizens, from the West Coast to internment centers further inland during World War II. The smallest internment camp was located a mile from Granada, Colorado, and was officially known as Amache. Over 7,000 residents of Japanese ancestry, most of them American citizens, were imprisoned at Amache from 1942 to 1945. The Amache site was added to the National Register of Historic Places in 1994 and designated a National Historic Landmark in 2005.

Amache is currently owned by the town of Granada, Colorado, and maintained by a group of student volunteers who, led by their high school social studies teacher, are known as the Amache Preservation Society.

During a hearing on the bill in the Natural Resources Committee earlier this year, we heard testimony from an Amache survivor, Mr. Bob Fuchigami. Mr. Fuchigami was just 11 when his family was forcibly relocated to Amache and during his powerful testimony, he said the following about the bill: "Designating Amache a national park site would shine a light on our forgotten history and help tell a more complete story of America. Amache is our collective story. It is an American story."

Adding the Amache site to the National Park System will help educate Americans about this dark chapter in

our Nation's history and help us not to repeat the mistakes of our past. Sites like Amache help to remind us of the challenges our Nation has faced and the mistakes we have made as we have endeavored to form a more perfect Union.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this bill so that in Mr. Fuchigami's own words we can "help shine a light on this forgotten history."

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2497, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

ALEXANDER LOFGREN VETERANS IN PARKS (VIP) ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 4300) to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 4300

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 "Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act".

SEC. 2. RECREATION PASSES.

Section 805 of the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act (Public Law 108-447; 118 Stat. 3385; 16 U.S.C. 6804) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(4), by striking "age and disability discounted" and inserting "age discount and lifetime"; and

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in the heading, by striking "DISCOUNTED" and inserting "FREE AND DISCOUNTED";

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "DISABILITY DISCOUNT" and inserting "LIFETIME PASSES"; and

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

"(B) Any veteran who provides adequate proof of military service as determined by the Secretary.

"(C) Any member of a Gold Star Family who meets the eligibility requirements of section 3.2 of Department of Defense Instruc-

tion 1348.36 (or a successor instruction)."; and

(C) in paragraph (3)—

(i) in the heading, by striking "GOLD STAR FAMILIES PARKS PASS" and inserting "ANNUAL PASSES"; and

(ii) by striking "members of" and all that follows through the end of the sentence and inserting "members of the Armed Forces and their dependents who provide adequate proof of eligibility for such pass as determined by the Secretary.".

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr. WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 4300, the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act introduced by my colleague Representative MILLER-MEEKS from Iowa.

This bill would provide free annual America the Beautiful Passes to current military servicemembers and free lifetime America the Beautiful Passes to veterans and members of Gold Star families, ensuring that those who have sacrificed so much in the service of our Nation are able to access our national parks and public lands at no cost.

Anyone who has visited America's public lands understands the significant mental and physical health benefits of getting outside and connecting with nature. It is time that we ensure our military servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families are able to access these beloved places at no cost.

Although the annual America the Beautiful Pass became free for veterans and Gold Star families in 2020, the change for veterans has never been codified in law.

While we will never be able to repay the debt owed to them for their service and their sacrifice, H.R. 4300 will ensure that this benefit is protected in perpetuity and that all of our American heroes are able to recreate and find comfort and solace on the lands that they fought so hard to protect.

I would like to thank Representative MILLER-MEEKS for her service and for her work on this important legislation, including working with Committee on Natural Resources chair, Mr. GRIJALVA, to rename the bill in honor of Alexander Lofgren.

Alexander Lofgren served for 4 years in the U.S. Army as a combat engineer, including a deployment to Afghanistan. Afterwards, he served in Chair GRIJALVA's office as part of the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program, handling issues and constituent casework concerning veterans' health and benefits.

As a congressional staffer and veteran, Mr. Lofgren was a great proponent for his community, veterans, and our Nation's public lands, often encouraging returning veterans to reconnect with nature to heal.

Tragically, his life was lost during a recent outing in Death Valley National Park. Our hearts go out to his family. Renaming this legislation after Mr. Lofgren is a fitting tribute to his legacy and service to our Nation. I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to speak today in support of H.R. 4300, the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks Act, also known as the VIP Act, which is sponsored by Congresswoman MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS from Iowa.

This bipartisan bill, which currently has 150 cosponsors, would provide free annual passes to our national parks and public lands for current military servicemembers and free lifetime passes for veterans and members of Gold Star families.

We can never fully repay the debt owed to our military servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families. However, as a small acknowledgment of their sacrifice, this bill will ensure that they can always access over 2,000 Federal recreation areas across the country that they fought so hard to defend free of charge.

□ 1530

By codifying these passes under the Federal Lands Recreation Enhancement Act, it guarantees this benefit can never be taken away from these brave men and women.

This bill is important not only because it honors the sacrifice of the men and women of our military and Gold Star families but because our public lands hold a special value for veterans, particularly those wounded in combat.

Captain John Paluska, a constituent of Representative MILLER-MEEKS and a Purple Heart recipient, summed up the purpose and meaning of this bill perfectly when he testified before our committee earlier this month: "I mentioned the word 'freedom' earlier. Is it a concept? Is it a place? Is it the result of an action? What does it mean for

each of you on this committee? For me, it is all of those, and I find this each and every time I am so very fortunate to visit the outdoors and our national parks.”

This bill would not only allow our veterans and Gold Star family members to always enjoy the freedom of our national parks, but it will remove any financial barriers they may face to accessing places they use to heal the emotional and physical burdens they carry with them.

In addition to the 150 bipartisan cosponsors of this bill, there are also 60 organizations currently endorsing the measure. These organizations represent a diverse variety of interests, from the outdoor recreation industry to veterans groups, and include The American Legion, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Paralyzed Veterans of America, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, REI, Vista Outdoor, Audubon Society, and The Nature Conservancy.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD five letters in support of the bill from the Outdoor Industry Association, Sierra Club, Backcountry Hunters and Anglers, American Cultural Resources Association, and Evangelical Environmental Network.

OUTDOOR INDUSTRY ASSOCIATION,
July 9, 2021.

Hon. JOE NEGUSE,
Chairman, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, Washington, DC.

Hon. RUSS FULCHER,
Ranking Member, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEGUSE AND RANKING MEMBER FULCHER, On behalf of our 1,200 manufacturer, supplier, sales representative and retailer members, Outdoor Industry Association (OIA) is proud to support the “Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act” to give veterans and members of the Armed Forces free access to national parks and public lands.

Spending time in nature can provide countless mental and physical health benefits for everyone, including our nation’s servicemembers. Through studies and anecdotes, we know outdoor activities are linked to improved mental health and long-term psychological well-being. Additionally, increasing access and opportunity to outdoor spaces is an important way to honor those who have risked their lives to protect us and this country.

The outdoors can be a restorative force for all, helping individuals and communities thrive. We are pleased to see the commitment to ensuring those who served our country have the resources they need to participate in outdoor activities and experience everything our beautiful national parks and public lands have to offer. OIA is committed to honoring and respecting servicemembers through access to the outdoors and outdoor recreation, and we look forward to seeing this bill become law.

Sincerely,

LISE AANGENBRUG,
Executive Director, Outdoor Industry Association.

JULY 13, 2021.

Hon. JOE NEGUSE,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Washington, DC.

Hon. RUSS FULCHER,
Chairman, House Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Federal Lands, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN NEGUSE, RANKING MEMBER FULCHER, AND MEMBERS OF THE HOUSE COMMITTEE ON NATURAL RESOURCES SUBCOMMITTEE ON NATIONAL PARKS, FORESTS, AND PUBLIC LANDS: On behalf of 3.8 million members and supporters, the Sierra Club urges you to support the Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act, H.R. 4300. This bipartisan legislation would help military service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families explore, enjoy, and heal on America’s public lands and waters by removing a financial barrier to access over 2,000 federal recreation areas.

America’s public lands and waters provide unique opportunities for healing and respite for veterans upon returning home from service. Unfortunately, these opportunities are not equally available to all. No one, especially veterans, active duty service members, and Gold Star Families, should be denied access to the benefits of nature because of a lack of funds. The Veterans in Parks Act will ensure that those who have served and sacrificed for our nation can enjoy a direct connection to the land they defend.

Many veterans face considerable challenges upon returning home. Repeat exposure to trauma and long deployments away from family and friends has resulted in a generation of veterans that have difficulty reintegrating into civilian life. In addition, some of the effects of war, such as traumatic brain injury and post-traumatic stress, leave no visible scars and can be equally or more disabling than an apparent physical injury, making it even harder to adjust to life at home. As a result, the demand for mental health services for veterans continues to grow. According to the U.S. Government Accountability Office, the number of veterans receiving mental health care from the Department of Veterans Affairs increased 90% from FY 2006–2019—more than three times the rate of increase for all VA health care services. During this time, VA’s mental health budget increased from \$2.4 to \$8.9 billion.

Time spent outdoors is proven to promote mental and physical health and well-being. For veterans, these benefits can be exceptionally profound; research into the efficacy of outdoor recreation as therapy shows significant improvements in mental and physical well-being, social function, and outlook on life with even moderate exposure to nature. Research also indicates that these programs may be especially beneficial to veterans most in need of help, supplemented by fewer stigmas being associated with outdoor recreation compared to clinical treatments. Expanding access to these benefits is a common-sense, cost-effective way to ease veterans’ transition into civilian life and improve the health and wellbeing of service members and Gold Star Families.

Veterans are already relying on the healing power of the outdoors. Structured programs utilizing outdoor recreation on federal lands have become increasingly common within various Veterans Service Organizations.

Last year, Congress passed the Accelerating Veterans Recovery Outdoors Act, which will create an interagency task force to identify veterans’ barriers to access and recommend how the Department of Veterans Affairs can utilize public lands as an adjunct therapy for veterans. This victory was a critical step to ensure veterans have ample op-

portunities to enjoy outdoor recreation on the land they served to protect. Similarly, the Veterans in Parks Act will be an important part of fulfilling that mission and improving the lives of veterans, service members, and Gold Star Families.

Thank you for your support for our nation’s service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families.

Sincerely,

ROB VESSELS,
Military Outdoors Campaign Manager, Sierra Club.

BACKCOUNTRY HUNTERS & ANGLERS,
July 8, 2021.

Hon. RAÚL GRIJALVA,
Chair, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

Hon. BRUCE WESTERMAN,
Ranking Member, House Natural Resources Committee, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIR GRIJALVA AND RANKING MEMBER WESTERMAN: On behalf of Backcountry Hunters & Anglers (BHA), the voice for our wild public lands, waters and wildlife, we write in support of the bipartisan Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act (H.R. 4300) led by Representatives Miller-Meeke (R-IA) and Gallego (D-AZ). This important legislation will provide free annual America the Beautiful Passes to current military service members and free lifetime America the Beautiful Passes to veterans and members of Gold Star Families.

We recognize that members of the armed forces are a critical constituency when it comes to the defense of our wild public lands. BHA’s Armed Forces Initiative focuses on connecting veterans to our public lands through lowering the barrier of entry of hunting and fishing for military members, engaging veterans through skill camps and leading restoration projects, and elevating the voices of veterans from town halls to the discussion of legislation at the congressional level. The benefits provided by the VIP Act would fit well within this mission.

The VIP Act is supported by hunters and anglers who want to recognize the sacrifice made by service members, veterans and Gold Star Families. The debt to these individuals can never be repaid, but the VIP Act would give them access, at no cost, to over 2,000 federal recreation areas including national parks, national forests and national wildlife refuges. This will eliminate barriers and increase access to hunt, fish and recreate on our nation’s treasured public lands, an honor they deserve.

Since 2020, the annual America the Beautiful Pass has been free for veterans and Gold Star Families, however the VIP Act would change these to lifetime passes and codify this program to ensure it continues in the years to come. Passing this legislation would not only ensure this program continues for veterans and Gold Star Families, but it would also provide the much-needed inclusion for current service members.

We urge the Natural Resources Committee to pass the VIP Act and honor the service of our nation’s active-duty military, veterans and Gold Star Families by increasing their access to our public lands and waters. As the bill continues through the legislative process, we look forward to working with you and your colleagues to see it across the finish line.

Sincerely,

MORGAN MASON,
Armed Forces Initiative Coordinator, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers.

AMERICAN CULTURAL
RESOURCES ASSOCIATION,
July 12, 2021.

Hon. MARIANNETTE MILLER-MEEKS,
Washington, DC.

Hon. RUBEN GALLEGO,
Washington, DC.

DEAR REPRESENTATIVES MILLER-MEEKS AND GALLEGO: The American Cultural Resources Association (ACRA) strongly supports H.R. 4300, the Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act, and commends you for introducing this worthy legislation.

ACRA is the national trade association supporting the common interests of cultural resource management (CRM) firms of all sizes, types, and specialties. ACRA member firms undertake much of the legally mandated cultural resource studies and investigations in the United States. They employ thousands of professionals, including archaeologists, architectural historians, historians, ethnographers, and an increasingly diverse group of other specialists who work with communities in every state to help protect and record our nation's historic and cultural heritage.

Our nation's public lands, monuments and parks help tell the story of America, from the battlefields of Yorktown to the Pacific coast and everything in between. These public lands educate, entertain and inspire millions of Americans and visitors from around the world. They are integral to understanding America's history and culture, while providing enormous ecological benefits to our nation's ecosystem.

As veterans, you both understand firsthand the enormous sacrifices that servicemembers and their families have made to protect our nation. Their contributions to our nation's story are incalculable; they certainly should not have to pay to access to our most treasured and beautiful public lands.

By giving active-duty servicemembers free annual passes, and veterans and Gold Star Families free lifetime passes, to our national parks and lands, the VIP Act honors both our nation's historic and scenic heritage and the people who have sacrificed so much to protect it.

We commend you for your leadership in introducing this bipartisan bill, and we urge Congress to pass it as soon as possible.

Sincerely,

NATHAN BOYLESS,
President,
American Cultural Resources Association.

EVANGELICAL ENVIRONMENTAL
NETWORK,
July 12, 2021.

Ref: H.R. 4300—117th Congress (2021–2022)

Hon. JOE NEGUSE, *Chair*,

Hon. RUSS FULCHER, *Ranking Member*,
*Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and
Public Lands, Committee on Natural Re-
sources, Washington, DC.*

DEAR CHAIR NEGUSE AND RANKING MEMBER FULCHER, Our National Parks and other public lands are essential to our quality of life. They make God's creation available to everyone. They reflect our ideals as a nation: that everyone is welcome because all individuals are created equal and endowed with the inalienable rights to life, liberty, and the pursuit of happiness. To step into a National Park and enjoy the beauty of God's creation is to experience freedom and the richness of life as persons made in the image of God. That's why over 400,000 pro-life Christians have joined with us to defend and protect these God-given National Treasures.

Most Christians have experienced God in our natural parks and public lands, but we also have the responsibility to care for them.

We are commanded to tend the earth and steward all aspects of this wonderful creation given to us to sustain abundant physical life, enjoy, and even play in. Creation doesn't belong to any one person or group to exploit, plunder, or be used selfishly. It's a trust, given by God, for the benefit of humanity and the glory of God.

That is why The Evangelical Environmental Network supports the efforts of Representative Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA), Representative Ruben Gallego (D-AZ), and the over 140 other cosponsors for introducing the Veterans in Park (VIP) Act! The VIP Act offers a small thank you to our military service members, veterans, and Gold Star Families for their patriotism and service to our nation, but it goes beyond saying thanks, it offers an opportunity for healing. Medical research clearly proves the ability to find healing in our greatest outdoor treasurers, America's National Parks. God's marvelous creation provides perhaps the greatest healing place for many of our heroes and their families who suffer deep internal wounds. The VIP Act offers our heroes hope for healing, wholeness, restoration, and simply great fun!

Our prayer is that the Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands will quickly move this to the full committee and then onward to the House floor in quick order.

Thank you for your service to our nation and know you are in our prayers.

Sincerely,

THE REV. MITCHELL C. HESCOX,
President/C.E.O.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I also include in the RECORD several news articles that speak to the importance of this bill that have appeared in papers all across the country.

HONORING AMERICA'S REAL VIPs

(By Reps. Bruce Westerman (R-ARK.) and Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IOWA), Opinion Contributors)

[From The Hill, July 4, 2021]

This year, we celebrate the 245th birthday of the United States. Independence Day is a great day to picnic with friends, spend time outside, and enjoy a fireworks show, but it is also much more than that. It is our duty to honor the men and women who, for the past two and a half centuries, have kept our country free.

We owe a debt of gratitude to American military members and their families and we want to repay them in a very small way by giving them lifetime access to our national parks.

There are few things that instill American pride quite like watching the sun set over the Grand Canyon, seeing bison roam through Yellowstone, or hiking through the forest in Acadia. From sea to shining sea, we are a nation of incredible beauty and biodiversity. Congress recognizes the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation for current servicemembers and veterans. Last December Congress passed and President Trump signed legislation establishing an interagency task force to identify barriers and make recommendations to increase the use of public lands and other outdoor spaces for veteran medical treatment.

Removing barriers and increasing access to our public lands is exactly why we have introduced the bipartisan Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act: to give servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families free passes to all national parks and federal recreational lands for life. It is the least we can do for those who gave so much for our country. Currently, active duty servicemembers and vet-

erans are able to receive a one-year free access pass to all parks with entrance fees. With more than 135 co-sponsors, the VIP Act would codify the active duty and veterans passes, as well as make the pass for veterans a lifetime pass. It would also amend the previously codified Gold Star families annual pass and make it a lifetime pass.

As a veteran of the U.S. Army who served for 24 years, Congresswoman Miller-Meeks is no stranger to the myriad hardships that come from being a member of the military. We both are also privileged to represent a host of servicemembers in Congress and want to make it even easier for them to enjoy time with family and friends in America's most beautiful landscapes.

Our national parks are for all of us. No one is more worthy of experiencing open access to these incredible places than the men and women who fought to keep us free and the families who made the ultimate sacrifice.

Unfortunately, it is often all too easy to pay lip service to the military's sacrifice but then not follow through with action to recognize their service. We aim to change that, one legislative recognition at a time.

If you or a member of your family has been a member of the U.S. Armed Forces, we are grateful for your service, today and every day. We hope to see you in a national park soon.

[From Samoa News]

(Source: Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata's Office)

WASHINGTON, DC.—Congresswoman Uifa'atali Amata voted Wednesday for the Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act, H.R. 4300, which was passed by the full Committee on Natural Resources with bipartisan support. Amata cosponsored the legislation to honor Veterans with free lifetime access to all U.S. National Parks, and other National Forests and public lands.

The Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act specifically honors the nation's servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families as VIPs in over 2,000 federally protected places. Amata supported the bill from the start as an original cosponsor upon introduction by Representatives Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-IA) and Ruben Gallego (D-AZ).

Currently, the public can purchase annual "America the Beautiful" passes that allow entry to all parks for one year. The VIP Act works by providing these annual America the Beautiful Passes for free to current military service members, and free lifetime America the Beautiful Passes to veterans and members of Gold Star Families.

"This bill is a special statement of support for our Veterans and military families, and another way to say thank you," said Congresswoman Amata. "The VIP Act honors those serving, those who served, and Gold Star families who lost a loved one in service to the United States, by ensuring you are a VIP in the nation's federally protected historic and beautiful places."

The America the Beautiful pass is an access ticket to over 2,000 places spanning National Parks, National Forests and Wildlife Refuges, which fall under different federal agencies and departments. The National Parks system has 423 sites including 63 Parks, along with trails, historical sites, monuments and memorials. These sites are preserved for national value based on scenery, special geographic features, history, or plant and wildlife conservation. Some Parks, such as the National Park of American Samoa, are generally free to access, but many locations have fees, or passes applied per car or for parking. The America the Beautiful pass covers those entry expenses.

In 2020, the administration made America the Beautiful yearly access free for Veterans

and Gold Star families, but the VIP Act takes it a step further in three ways by extending it to lifetime passes, making the change permanent, and codifying it in law.

[JULY 1, 2021]

BOONE AND CROCKETT JOINS OVER 100 OTHERS ENDORSING VETERANS IN PARKS ACT

The Boone and Crockett Club endorsed H.R. 4300, the Veterans In Parks Act, which was introduced earlier today (<https://republicans-naturalresources.house.gov/newsroom/documentsingle.aspx?DocumentID=409869>) by Reps. Miller-Meeks and Gallego with an additional 133 bipartisan original cosponsors.

BACKGROUND

The America the Beautiful Pass provides access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, including our national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges. This includes some of the country's most iconic treasures, ranging from the majestic Grand Canyon National Park to the aweinspiring Redwood National Forest. Although we can never fully repay the debt we owe to our servicemembers and veterans, the VIP Act would allow them, along with Gold Star Family members, to visit our national parks and public lands free of charge. In 2020, the America the Beautiful annual pass became free for veterans and Gold Star Families. However, this change for veterans has never been codified and could be undone in future years. The VIP Act protects these passes by codifying them and making them lifetime passes instead of annual passes. The VIP Act also creates annual passes for current service members, which can be converted into lifetime passes once they leave the military.

SUPPORTING ORGANIZATIONS

Paralyzed Veterans of America, Vista Outdoor, National Marine Manufacturers Association, National Park Hospitality Association, the National Association of Counties, Outdoor Industry Association, Veterans of Foreign Wars, Evangelical Environmental Network, Wildlife Mississippi, Mississippi River Trust, American Sportfishing Association, American Cultural Resources Association, VoteVets, The Mission Continues, American Battlefield Trust, Camp Chef, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, National Association of RV Parks & Campgrounds (ARVC), Delaware North, Trout Unlimited, National RV Dealers Association (RVDA), American Trails, Backcountry Hunters & Anglers, Boone and Crockett Club, Rugged Range, Bell Helmets, Blackburn, Blackhawk, Bushnell, CamelBak, CCI, Eagle Industries, Federal Ammunition, Giro, HEVI-Shot, Primos, Remington, Bipartisan Policy Center Action, American Hiking Society, Archery Trade Association, ConservAmerica, Southeast Tourism Society, The Corps Network, Outdoor Recreation Roundtable, REI Co-op, Audubon, Sierra Club, U.S. Travel Association, National Wildlife Federation, American Conservation Coalition, America Outdoors, Student Conservation Association, Wildlife Management Institute, Association of Marina Industries, International Inbound Travelers Association, American Horse Council.

[JULY 8, 2021]

HOUSE INTRODUCES BILL TO GIVE MILITARY FAMILIES FREE LIFETIME ACCESS TO NATIONAL PARKS

(By Zach Hester)

(WHNT).—A new bill introduced in the U.S. House of Representatives could allow veterans and Gold Star families free lifetime access to national parks and public lands—and free annual passes to active-duty members of the military.

The bipartisan bill, brought to the floor by Reps. Mariannette Miller-Meeks (R-Iowa)

and Ruben Gallego (D-Ariz.), creates the “America the Beautiful Pass” providing these services members and their families free access to more than 2,000 federal recreation areas, ranging from Acadia National Park to Redwood National Forest.

“As a 24-year Army veteran, I understand the sacrifices made by our military and their loved ones,” said Miller-Meeks. “We owe so much to our amazing servicemembers, veterans, and their families; my Veterans in Parks Act is the least we can do.”

In addition to creating the passes for services members and their families, it also codifies them and makes them last a lifetime. Last year, a similar measure was passed, but never put into law.

“As a veteran, I know firsthand the importance of national parks as a place of connection and healing when dealing with the visible and invisible wounds of war,” Gallego said. “I am proud to co-lead this bill and I will continue to fight for veteran accessibility and support on our nation's public lands.”

The bill lists over 100 co-sponsors, including Alabama Reps. Mo Brooks, Barry Moore, and Jerry Carl.

[July 14, 2021]

PROPOSAL MADE TO EXPAND VETERANS' FREE ACCESS TO ALL NATIONAL PARKS

(By Ariana Figueroa)

WASHINGTON.—U.S. Rep. Mariannette Miller-Meeks of Iowa testified Tuesday before the House Natural Resources Committee hearing in support of bipartisan legislation that would give veterans and Gold Star families free lifetime access to national parks and public federal lands.

“No one is more worthy of experiencing open access to the incredible places that these men and women have fought to keep us free and their families who have also made the ultimate sacrifice along with them,” the Iowa Republican said.

Miller-Meeks is a veteran and worked on the bill, the “Veterans in Parks Act,” with Rep. Ruben Gallego, an Arizona Democrat who is also a veteran.

“As a veteran, I know firsthand the importance of national parks as a place of connection and healing when dealing with the visible and invisible wounds of war,” Gallego said in a statement.

“The VIP Act is an important step in ensuring that veterans, service members, and Gold Star families have access to the public lands they and their loved ones fought to protect.”

Last year, the U.S. National Park Service made annual visits to national parks free for veterans and active duty service members, but the bill, H.R. 4300, would codify that annual pass into law, to be used throughout their lives.

“We can never fully repay our veterans for their service and sacrifice, but we want to show our gratitude by giving them lifetime access to America's beautiful landscapes,” Miller-Meeks said.

The bill would also give active-duty military free annual passes to national parks and public federal lands. Once those members retire, their passes could be converted to lifetime passes. A Gold Star family is an immediate family member of a service member who died in the line of duty.

Capt. John Paluska, from Ottumwa, Iowa, testified before the panel in support of the bill.

He said that in between his deployments, he would often visit Yellowstone National Park “and find my freedom all throughout the park.”

“There's something about connecting to nature at these parks that helps with the

healing,” he said. “I will always carry the wounds of war with me wherever I go, but when I go to these beautiful places, I am able to connect with one of the reasons I decided to serve this incredible, beautiful, country.”

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I would note that at our committee markup earlier this month, as the gentlewoman has stated, we added a bipartisan amendment to name this bill after a wounded veteran who, sadly, passed away earlier this year.

Alexander Lofgren was a military and veterans' liaison for Chair GRIJALVA through the Wounded Warrior Fellowship Program and a lover of the outdoors. I was happy to cosponsor Chair GRIJALVA's amendment to name the bill after him and hope that this fitting tribute helps carry on Alex's legacy and provides some level of comfort to his family and friends.

Before I close, I thank Representative MILLER-MEEKS for her leadership on this effort. A veteran herself who served 24 years in the Army as a private, nurse, and doctor, Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS is the perfect champion of this legislation. I commend her for her commitment to bipartisanship and for her work on behalf of our Nation's veterans and her constituents.

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

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I have no further requests for time, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New Mexico (Ms. HERRELL).

Ms. HERRELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise as a proud original cosponsor and supporter of H.R. 4300, the VIP Act, offered by my friend from Iowa, Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS.

This legislation would codify into Federal law an initiative put into place by the Trump administration last year that grants free passes to visit our national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges to those who deserve them most, our Nation's Active-Duty servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families.

Our national parks and public lands are an essential part of our history and provide great recreational opportunities for the American people. Recreating in the most beautiful places our Nation has to offer brings needed healing and relaxation for those who have and still do put it all on the line to protect the freedoms each of us take for granted as Americans.

As a Member of this body from southern New Mexico, I have the privilege of representing two of the most iconic landmarks in the Nation, White Sands National Park and Carlsbad Caverns. These irreplaceable components of the National Park System welcome thousands of visitors every year and provide a strong economic boost to their surrounding communities.

Providing greater access to our public lands, as this bill does, will only enhance economic opportunity for gateway communities that surround our public lands and provide even greater benefits for our Active-Duty servicemen, veterans, and Gold Star families.

This legislation enjoys the support of a wide cross-section of organizations representing all strains of political opinion and areas of interest, such as the National Association of Counties, Congressional Sportsmen's Foundation, and National Wildlife Federation.

Mr. Speaker, I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this legislation, and I once again congratulate and thank my colleague, Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS, for her hard work.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote in favor of this bill.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), the author of the legislation.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleagues on the Natural Resources Committee, and I thank Representative WESTERMAN for yielding me time to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 4300, the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks Act. I was so proud to introduce this overwhelmingly bipartisan legislation with a fellow veteran, Congressman GALLEGOS.

Our commonsense legislation would give our servicemembers, veterans, and Gold Star families free passes to all of our beautiful national parks and Federal lands for life. This is a reasonable piece of legislation that will support those who sacrifice so much for our liberties.

Our Nation is blessed to have some of the most beautiful national parks and public lands. Each year, millions of Americans access the more than 2,000 Federal recreation areas, including national parks, national forests, and wildlife refuges. This includes some of the Nation's most iconic national treasures, from Acadia National Park in Maine and the Dry Tortugas in Florida to the Redwood National and State Parks forest in California and the Gates of the Arctic in Alaska.

In 2020, the America the Beautiful annual pass became free for veterans and Gold Star families. However, this change for veterans has never been put into law and could be undone in future years.

My bill protects these veteran passes by codifying them into law and making them lifetime passes instead of annual passes that would have to be re-sent every year. Making these passes lifetime instead of annual also makes the job of the Park Service easier and ensures our veterans have full access to the benefits they so richly deserve.

Finally, my legislation also creates annual passes for current servicemembers, which can be converted into lifetime passes once they retire.

From sea to shining sea, we are a Nation of incredible beauty and biodiversity. Congress recognizes the mental and physical health benefits of outdoor recreation for current servicemembers and veterans. In fact, I think at our hearing, there was not a dry eye when Captain John Paluska spoke on behalf of this bill.

Mr. Speaker, as a 24-year Army veteran, I understand the sacrifices made by our military and their loved ones and believe that we must do whatever we can to honor these VIPs. My bill provides these Americans with free access to the land they have sacrificed to defend.

Our national parks are there for all of us. Getting outside into nature and enjoying our beautiful country provides an outlet and escape with mental and physical benefits. No one is more worthy of experiencing open access to these incredible places than the men and women who have fought to keep us free and the families who have made the ultimate sacrifice.

Unfortunately, it is all too easy to pay lip service to the military's sacrifice but then not follow through with action to recognize their service. We can never fully repay our veterans for their service and their sacrifice, but we want to show our gratitude by giving them lifetime access to America's most beautiful landscapes.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to join in supporting my commonsense bill, H.R. 4300, the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks Act.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON).

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member for yielding, and I thank the gentlewoman for her sponsorship of this.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 4300, the Veterans in Parks Act.

Across the country, our national parks provide endless opportunities for Americans to learn about our Nation's history and culture. Additionally, national parks generate significant recreational opportunities, which encourage visitors to spend time in the outdoors and enjoy nature.

From Gettysburg to Independence Park, and the Allegheny Portage Railroad to Valley Forge, Pennsylvania is home to 19 national parks and 7 heritage areas providing these benefits to Pennsylvanians throughout the Commonwealth and visitors alike. As the representative of Pennsylvania's 15th Congressional District, it continues to be an honor to serve our veterans, Active-Duty servicemen and -women, and proud military families.

This legislation would simply give veterans and Gold Star families free access for life to public lands and also provide free annual passes to Active-Duty servicemembers. Studies show outdoor recreation is an effective way to decrease symptoms of PTSD and

help veterans reintegrate with civilian life. This legislation is a step in the right direction when it comes to assisting our veterans and Active-Duty servicemembers' health.

H.R. 4300 is one way that we can say thank you to our brave men and women in uniform who have selflessly served and have already given so much to protect our Nation.

Mr. Speaker, as the father of a combat-wounded soldier and as the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture, which also received referral on this legislation, I support this legislation. I urge my colleagues to vote in its favor.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I again urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I commend my colleague from Iowa for her leadership on this bill, and I urge my colleagues to support the legislation.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 4300, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

AMENDING ALYCE SPOTTED BEAR AND WALTER SOBOLEFF COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN ACT

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 325) to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 325

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

SECTION 1. ALYCE SPOTTED BEAR AND WALTER SOBOLEFF COMMISSION ON NATIVE CHILDREN REPORT.

Section 3(f) of the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act (Public Law 114-244; 130 Stat. 987) is amended, in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by striking "3 years" and inserting "5 years".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) and the gentleman from Arkansas (Mr.

WESTERMAN) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Michigan.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure under consideration.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, S. 325, introduced by Senator LISA MURKOWSKI from Alaska, provides a 2-year extension for the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children to publish its report and make policy recommendations for Federal, State, and Tribal programs that serve Native children.

Native children experience severe health and socioeconomic disparities compared to all other racial and ethnic groups in the United States due to the cycles of intergenerational trauma. It is the Federal Government's trust responsibility to provide for the health and well-being of Native children. However, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed much of the Commission's essential work.

Passage of S. 325 will grant the Commission an extension of time and ensure that the report best addresses the needs of Native children through much-needed expertise and cultural wisdom.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the distinguished Senator from Alaska, Senator MURKOWSKI, for introducing and championing this critically important legislation, as well as my dear friend and Committee on Natural Resources colleague, DON YOUNG, for leading the House companion bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support S. 325, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1545

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 325, which would amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act, to extend the deadline of the Commission's report from 3 years to 5 years after the Commission is fully appointed and fully funded.

In 2016, the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act was signed into law.

The purpose of the legislation was to establish, within the U.S. Department of Justice's Office of Tribal Justice, a commission on Native children and to conduct a comprehensive study regarding the Federal and local programs, grants, and support available for Native communities and Native children.

The legislation stipulated that 3 years after the date on which the Com-

mission is fully appointed and funded, the Commission shall issue a report to Congress with its recommendations on how to achieve better use of existing resources, increased coordination, measurable outcomes, stronger data, enhanced private sector partnerships, and implementation of best practices.

Funding for the Commission was not authorized in the enacted version. However, the fiscal year 2019 Consolidated Appropriations Act provided \$400,000 to the Commission.

With delays in securing funding and the full appointment of Commission members, the Commission was not able to hold its first meeting until December 2019. In addition, the COVID-19 pandemic delayed much of the Commission's work.

In response to these challenges faced by the Commission, my good friend, Mr. YOUNG, introduced the House companion bill to S. 325, to ensure that the Commission has adequate time to produce a complete and comprehensive report.

I would like to commend Mr. YOUNG for his continued tireless work on behalf of American Indian and Alaska Natives.

Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of the measure, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Alaska (Mr. YOUNG), the dean of the House.

Mr. YOUNG. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding. I would like to thank Chairman GRIJALVA and, of course, the ranking member, Mr. WESTERMAN, for the support of scheduling this bill for final passage. I would also like to thank my good friend, DEBBIE DINGELL, for her work. I have been sitting and listening to these bills, these are good bills. So, thank you, I appreciate it.

Mr. Speaker, I introduced this bill on the House side. I would like to thank Congressman CASE and Congressman KAHELE for their sponsorship and support.

As has been mentioned, S. 325 gives Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children 2 more years to complete their important work and report their findings to Congress.

The Commission is tasked with conducting a comprehensive study of Federal, State, local, and Tribal programs that serve Native children with the goal of developing a system that delivers wraparound service for Native youth.

The Commission was put in place, as I mentioned, in 2016, but was not able to have its first meeting until 2019. Further meetings were delayed by COVID, and as we know, things weren't really going according to scale.

But my good friend, Gloria O'Neill, serves as chairman of the Commission, and I am thankful for her leadership on

this issue, and her commitment to ensuring the Commission has enough time to do its important work.

Without this extension, the Commission would be rushing to conclude their regional meetings in order to meet Congress' deadline.

When doing this work, it could have far-reaching effects on Native youth and Native communities. We need to ensure the Commission has enough time to do good work and consider the options.

Also, my colleagues have noticed recently, in a lot of publications, about some of my schools concerning Native students—Native youth, and especially in Canada. Will this Commission also look at that process and see what has happened in the past, and we can avoid what is going to occur in the future?

This is a needed Commission and a needed bill. I urge my colleagues to support S. 325.

Mr. WESTERMAN. Mr. Speaker, I urge adoption of this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mrs. DINGELL. Mr. Speaker, I, again, thank the leadership of the dean of the House, Mr. YOUNG, on this, and Senator MURKOWSKI for the Native children.

I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 325.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

ACCESS TO CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2485) to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2485

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 "Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act".

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The term “congressionally mandated report” means a report of a Federal agency that is required by statute to be submitted to either House of Congress or any committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof.

(B) EXCLUSIONS.—

(i) PATRIOTIC AND NATIONAL ORGANIZATIONS.—The term “congressionally mandated report” does not include a report required under part B of subtitle II of title 36, United States Code.

(ii) INSPECTORS GENERAL.—The term “congressionally mandated report” does not include a report by an office of an inspector general.

(2) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Government Publishing Office.

(3) FEDERAL AGENCY.—The term “Federal agency” has the meaning given the term “federal agency” under section 102 of title 40, United States Code, but does not include the Government Accountability Office or an element of the intelligence community.

(4) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given that term in section 3 of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003).

(5) OPEN FORMAT.—The term “open format” means a file format for storing digital data based on an underlying open standard that—

(A) is not encumbered by any restrictions that would impede reuse; and

(B) is based on an underlying open data standard that is maintained by a standards organization.

(6) REPORTS ONLINE PORTAL.—The term “reports online portal” means the online portal established under section 3(a).

SEC. 3. ESTABLISHMENT OF ONLINE PORTAL FOR CONGRESSIONALLY MANDATED REPORTS.

(a) REQUIREMENT TO ESTABLISH ONLINE PORTAL.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director shall establish and maintain an online portal accessible by the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of congressionally mandated reports in one place.

(2) EXISTING FUNCTIONALITY.—To the extent possible, the Director shall meet the requirements under paragraph (1) by using existing online portals and functionality under the authority of the Director.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out this Act, the Director shall consult with the Clerk of the House of Representatives, the Secretary of the Senate, and the Librarian of Congress regarding the requirements for and maintenance of congressionally mandated reports on the reports online portal.

(b) CONTENT AND FUNCTION.—The Director shall ensure that the reports online portal includes the following:

(1) Subject to subsection (c), with respect to each congressionally mandated report, each of the following:

(A) A citation to the statute requiring the report.

(B) An electronic copy of the report, including any transmittal letter associated with the report, in an open format that is platform independent and that is available to the public without restrictions, including restrictions that would impede the re-use of the information in the report.

(C) The ability to retrieve a report, to the extent practicable, through searches based on each, and any combination, of the following:

(i) The title of the report.

(ii) The reporting Federal agency.

(iii) The date of publication.

(iv) Each congressional committee or subcommittee receiving the report, if applicable.

(v) The statute requiring the report.

(vi) Subject tags.

(vii) A unique alphanumeric identifier for the report that is consistent across report editions.

(viii) The serial number, Superintendent of Documents number, or other identification number for the report, if applicable.

(ix) Key words.

(x) Full text search.

(xi) Any other relevant information specified by the Director.

(D) The date on which the report was required to be submitted, and on which the report was submitted, to the reports online portal.

(E) To the extent practicable, a permanent means of accessing the report electronically.

(2) A means for bulk download of all congressionally mandated reports.

(3) A means for downloading individual reports as the result of a search.

(4) An electronic means for the head of each Federal agency to submit to the reports online portal each congressionally mandated report of the agency, as required by section 4.

(5) In tabular form, a list of all congressionally mandated reports that can be searched, sorted, and downloaded by—

(A) reports submitted within the required time;

(B) reports submitted after the date on which such reports were required to be submitted; and

(C) to the extent practicable, reports not submitted.

(c) NONCOMPLIANCE BY FEDERAL AGENCIES.—

(1) REPORTS NOT SUBMITTED.—If a Federal agency does not submit a congressionally mandated report to the Director, the Director shall to the extent practicable—

(A) include on the reports online portal—

(i) the information required under clauses (i), (ii), (iv), and (v) of subsection (b)(1)(C); and

(ii) the date on which the report was required to be submitted; and

(B) include the congressionally mandated report on the list described in subsection (b)(5)(C).

(2) REPORTS NOT IN OPEN FORMAT.—If a Federal agency submits a congressionally mandated report that is not in an open format, the Director shall include the congressionally mandated report in another format on the reports online portal.

(d) DEADLINE.—The Director shall ensure that information required to be published on the online portal under this Act with respect to a congressionally mandated report or information required under subsection (c) of this section is published—

(1) not later than 30 days after the information is received from the Federal agency involved; or

(2) in the case of information required under subsection (c), not later than 30 days after the deadline under this Act for the Federal agency involved to submit information with respect to the congressionally mandated report involved.

(e) EXCEPTION FOR CERTAIN REPORTS.—

(1) EXCEPTION DESCRIBED.—A congressionally mandated report which is required by statute to be submitted to a committee of Congress or a subcommittee thereof, including any transmittal letter associated with the report, shall not be submitted to or published on the reports online portal if the chair of a committee or subcommittee to which the report is submitted notifies the Director in writing that the report is to be withheld from submission and publication under this Act.

(2) NOTICE ON PORTAL.—If a report is withheld from submission to or publication on

the reports online portal under paragraph (1), the Director shall post on the portal—

(A) a statement that the report is withheld at the request of a committee or subcommittee involved; and

(B) the written notification provided by the chair of the committee or subcommittee specified in paragraph (1).

(f) FREE ACCESS.—The Director may not charge a fee, require registration, or impose any other limitation in exchange for access to the reports online portal.

(g) UPGRADE CAPABILITY.—The reports online portal shall be enhanced and updated as necessary to carry out the purposes of this Act.

SEC. 4. FEDERAL AGENCY RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) SUBMISSION OF ELECTRONIC COPIES OF REPORTS.—Not earlier than 30 days or later than 45 days after the date on which a congressionally mandated report is submitted to either House of Congress or to any committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof, the head of the Federal agency submitting the congressionally mandated report shall submit to the Director the information required under subparagraphs (A) through (D) of section 3(b)(1) with respect to the congressionally mandated report. Notwithstanding section 6, nothing in this Act shall relieve a Federal agency of any other requirement to publish the congressionally mandated report on the online portal of the Federal agency or otherwise submit the congressionally mandated report to Congress or specific committees of Congress, or subcommittees thereof.

(b) GUIDANCE.—Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Director, shall issue guidance to agencies on the implementation of this Act.

(c) STRUCTURE OF SUBMITTED REPORT DATA.—The head of each Federal agency shall ensure that each congressionally mandated report submitted to the Director complies with the open format criteria established by the Director in the guidance issued under subsection (b).

(d) POINT OF CONTACT.—The head of each Federal agency shall designate a point of contact for congressionally mandated reports.

(e) REQUIREMENT FOR SUBMISSION.—The Director shall not publish any report through the online portal that is received from anyone other than the head of the applicable Federal agency, or an officer or employee of the Federal agency specifically designated by the head of the Federal agency.

SEC. 5. CHANGING OR REMOVING REPORTS.

(a) LIMITATION ON AUTHORITY TO CHANGE OR REMOVE REPORTS.—Except as provided in subsection (b), the head of the Federal agency concerned may change or remove a congressionally mandated report submitted to be published on the reports online portal only if—

(1) the head of the Federal agency consults with each committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof to which the report is required to be submitted (or, in the case of a report which is not required to be submitted to a particular committee of Congress or subcommittee thereof, to each committee with jurisdiction over the agency, as determined by the head of the agency in consultation with the Speaker of the House of Representatives and the President pro tempore of the Senate) prior to changing or removing the report; and

(2) a joint resolution is enacted to authorize the change in or removal of the report.

(b) EXCEPTIONS.—Notwithstanding subsection (a), the head of the Federal agency concerned—

(1) may make technical changes to a report submitted to or published on the online portal;

(2) may remove a report from the online portal if the report was submitted to or published on the online portal in error; and

(3) may withhold information, records, or reports from publication on the online portal in accordance with section 6.

SEC. 6. WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to—

(1) require the disclosure of information, records, or reports that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or that may be withheld under section 552a of title 5, United States Code; or

(2) impose any affirmative duty on the Director to review congressionally mandated reports submitted for publication to the reports online portal for the purpose of identifying and redacting such information or records.

(b) WITHHOLDING OF INFORMATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Consistent with subsection (a)(1), the head of a Federal agency may withhold from the Director, and from publication on the online portal, any information, records, or reports that are exempt from public disclosure under section 552 of title 5, United States Code, or that may be withheld under section 552a of title 5, United States Code.

(2) NATIONAL SECURITY.—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to require the publication, on the online portal or otherwise, of any report containing information that is classified, or the public release of which could have a harmful effect on national security.

SEC. 7. IMPLEMENTATION.

(a) REPORTS SUBMITTED TO CONGRESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—This Act shall apply with respect to any congressionally mandated report which—

(A) is required by statute to be submitted to the House of Representatives, or the Speaker thereof, or Senate, or the President or President Pro Tempore thereof, at any time before, on, or after the date of the enactment of this Act; or

(B) is included by the Clerk of the House of Representatives or the Secretary of the Senate (as the case may be) on the list of reports received by the House of Representatives or Senate (as the case may be) at any time before the date of the enactment of this Act.

(2) TRANSITION RULE FOR PREVIOUSLY SUBMITTED REPORTS.—To the extent practicable, the Director shall ensure that any congressionally mandated report described in paragraph (1) which was required to be submitted to Congress by a statute enacted before the date of the enactment of this Act is published on the online portal under this Act not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(b) REPORTS SUBMITTED TO COMMITTEES.—In the case of congressionally mandated reports which are required by statute to be submitted to a committee of Congress or a subcommittee thereof, this Act shall apply with respect to—

(1) any such report which is first required to be submitted by a statute which is enacted on or after the date of the enactment of this Act; and

(2) to the maximum extent practical, any congressionally mandated report which was required to be submitted by a statute enacted before the date of enactment of this Act unless—

(A) the chair of the committee, or subcommittee thereof, to which the report was required to be submitted notifies the Director in writing that the report is to be withheld from publication; and

(B) the Director publishes the notification on the online portal.

SEC. 8. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative MIKE QUIGLEY for his persistence in pursuing this good government legislation. Hopefully, we can get this bill enacted this Congress.

H.R. 2485, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, is a non-controversial bill that has been approved by the Oversight and Reform Committee many times.

The bill is a commonsense measure that would make the government more transparent and accountable. It would create a one-stop-shop where Congress and members of the public could access agency reports to Congress.

Federal agencies submit thousands of reports to Congress each year. This bill will improve congressional oversight by making it easy to find and access those reports.

H.R. 2485 would give the public access to agency reports. Currently, members of the public often have to file requests under the Freedom of Information Act to obtain agency reports to Congress because many of these reports are not available online.

An online library of Federal reports would improve our ability to use the information in them to make sound policy. It also would encourage agency compliance with reporting requirements.

Finally, it would support timely access to the reports by State and local governments, students, academics, and others with the additional benefit of decreasing the burden on agencies to process Freedom of Information Act requests.

The Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act is endorsed by almost 40 organizations from across the political spectrum.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill and urge all my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, long championed by my colleague, Mr. MIKE QUIGLEY, represents an honest effort to modernize Congress and improve the Article I power of the legislative branch.

The bill does this by bolstering the ability of Congress to access and understand the thousands of legally mandated reports compiled by the executive branch and sent to Congress each year.

It is estimated that Federal agencies write and send to Congress over 4,000 written reports every 2 years. That is a lot of valuable information for the American people and their representatives in the U.S. House.

These mandated reports contain insights into activities of Federal agencies. Insights like the status of an agency establishing a new program or updates on efforts to combat waste, fraud, and abuse. However, there is currently no central inventory for congressional Members or our staff to access these reports.

Most reports are sent over via email and can get lost in the shuffle of an ever-changing and evolving Congress, or they are only sent to specific committees which prevents the rest of Congress and the public from viewing them. This bill fixes that problem.

H.R. 2485 establishes a central and publicly available portal of these reports at the Government Publishing Office. Congress and members of the public will be able to fully search, sort, and download reports from this website. This gives the whole of Congress and America's citizens convenient access to all executive agency reports submitted to Congress. These are reports that the taxpayers paid for.

This bill also includes protections for classified and sensitive information in keeping with the principles of the Freedom of Information Act.

In summary, once Congress can get a handle on all the mandated reports, we can take actions to reduce any unnecessary agency reporting burdens.

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. MIKE QUIGLEY, for working together with the House Oversight and Reform Committee's ranking member, JAMES COMER, on this good government bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise to support the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, which I have worked on along with my House Oversight and Reform Committee colleague, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY.

This bill will help modernize Congress and expand the legislative branch's oversight over the executive branch.

Every year, Federal agencies prepare and submit thousands of in-depth reports to various congressional committees. These reports cover topics such as the implementation status of new agency programs or legal requirements in recently passed laws.

They also cover the ongoing effort of the Federal Government to address waste, fraud, and abuse as well as policy priorities like our Nation's financial stability, cybersecurity, homeland security, and public health readiness.

In short, congressionally mandated reports are a key part of how the United States Congress fulfills its Article I oversight duties over the executive branch.

Beyond holding hearings and passing laws, the legislative branch mandates that executive branch agencies report to the House and Senate on their activities and compliance with the law.

As representatives in the House, we have an obligation to the American people to maintain constant visibility into the executive branch. And congressionally mandated reports are one of our most useful, daily oversight tools.

However, there is a problem. Congress lacks a central inventory of the reports we require Federal agencies to send us. This makes it hard to know for certain if agencies are fulfilling their legal reporting obligations or for new congressional Members and staff to find reports from previous years.

Additionally, the American public has little to no access to these valuable reports, which contain key insights into agency programs and missions that directly affect them.

H.R. 2485 is the solution we need. With the bill's establishment of a single website at the Government Publishing Office we will be able to find the reports we need when we need them.

A fully searchable inventory of these reports makes complete sense in the modern world. This new portal will enable each and every House Member and staffer to do their job on behalf of the American people they represent.

After all, American taxpayer dollars are funding the preparation of these reports as well as the agency activities they report on.

And for sensitive reports containing classified information, there are protections to ensure that only the proper congressional committees will be able to access such reports.

Again, I want to thank my colleague, Mr. MIKE QUIGLEY, for working with me to improve and reintroduce this government-wide transparency bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 2485.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2485, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2485, as amended.

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

The title of the bill was amended so as to read: "A bill to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a single online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports, and for other purposes."

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

CONGRESSIONAL BUDGET JUSTIFICATION TRANSPARENCY ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 272) to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 272

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 "Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PUBLIC AVAILABILITY OF BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS AND APPROPRIATION REQUESTS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) is amended to read as follows:

"SEC. 3. FULL DISCLOSURE OF FEDERAL FUNDS.

"(a) IN GENERAL.—Not less frequently than monthly when practicable, and in any event not less frequently than quarterly, the Secretary (in consultation with the Director and, with respect to information described in subsection (b)(2), the head of the applicable Federal agency) shall ensure that updated information with respect to the information described in subsection (b) is posted on the website established under section 2.

"(b) INFORMATION TO BE POSTED.—

"(1) FUNDS.—For any funds made available to or expended by a Federal agency or component of a Federal agency, the information to be posted shall include—

"(A) for each appropriations account, including an expired or unexpired appropriations account, the amount—

"(i) of budget authority appropriated;

"(ii) that is obligated;

"(iii) of unobligated balances; and

"(iv) of any other budgetary resources;

"(B) from which accounts and in what amount—

"(i) appropriations are obligated for each program activity; and

"(ii) outlays are made for each program activity;

"(C) from which accounts and in what amount—

"(i) appropriations are obligated for each object class; and

"(ii) outlays are made for each object class; and

"(D) for each program activity, the amount—

"(i) obligated for each object class; and

"(ii) of outlays made for each object class.

"(2) BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—

"(A) DEFINITIONS.—In this paragraph—

"(i) the term 'budget justification materials' means the annual budget justification materials of a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, that are submitted, in conjunction with the budget of the United States Government submitted under section 1105(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

"(ii) the term 'open Government data asset' has the meaning given that term in section 3502 of title 44, United States Code.

"(B) INFORMATION.—The information to be posted—

"(i) shall include any budget justification materials—

"(I) for the second fiscal year beginning after the date of enactment of this paragraph, and each fiscal year thereafter; and

"(II) to the extent practicable, that were released for any fiscal year before the date of enactment of this paragraph; and

"(ii) shall not include budget justification materials the disclosure of which is prohibited by law, that are classified, or that are exempt from disclosure under section 552(b) of title 5, United States Code.

"(C) FORMAT.—Budget justification materials shall be posted under subparagraph (B)—

"(i) as an open Government data asset;

"(ii) in a manner that enables users to download individual reports, download all reports in bulk, and download in bulk the results of a search, to the extent practicable; and

"(iii) in a structured data format, to the extent practicable.

"(D) DEADLINE.—The budget justification materials required to be posted under subparagraph (B)(i) shall be posted not later than 2 weeks after the date on which the budget justification materials are first submitted to Congress.

"(E) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this paragraph shall be construed to authorize a Federal agency, or a component of a Federal agency, to destroy any budget justification materials relating to a fiscal year before the fiscal year described in subparagraph (B)(i)."

(b) INFORMATION REGARDING AGENCY BUDGET JUSTIFICATIONS.—Section 1105 of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(i)(1) The Director of the Office of Management and Budget shall make publicly available on a website, and continuously update, a tabular list for each fiscal year of each agency that submits budget justification materials, which shall include—

"(A) the name of the agency;

"(B) a unique identifier that identifies the agency;

"(C) to the extent practicable, the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are first submitted to Congress;

"(D) the date on which the budget justification materials of the agency are posted online under section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note);

"(E) the uniform resource locator where the budget justification materials are published on the website of the agency; and

"(F) a single data set that contains the information described in subparagraphs (A) through (E) with respect to the agency for all fiscal years for which budget justifications of the agency are made available under

section 3 of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) in a structured data format.

“(2)(A) Each agency that submits budget justification materials shall make the materials available on the website of the agency, in accordance with the policies established by the Director of the Office of Management and Budget under subparagraph (B).

“(B) Not later than 1 year after the date of enactment of this subsection, the Director of the Office of Management and Budget, in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury, shall establish policies and data standards for agencies relating to making available materials under subparagraph (A), which shall include guidelines for making budget justification materials available in a format aligned with the requirements of section 3(b)(2)(C) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note) and using a uniform resource locator that is in a consistent format across agencies and is descriptive, memorable, and pronounceable, such as the format of ‘agencyname.gov/budget’.

“(C) If the Director of the Office of Management and Budget maintains a public website that contains the budget of the United States Government submitted under subsection (a) and any related materials, such website shall also contain a link to the tabular list required under paragraph (1).

“(3) In this subsection, the term ‘budget justification materials’ has the meaning given that term in section 3(b)(2) of the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006 (31 U.S.C. 6101 note).”.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the bill before us, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act, is a commonsense, good government measure every Member should support.

It would require the congressional budget justification documents that agencies prepare for congressional committees to be posted online in a centralized, searchable database.

This would make these detailed, plain-language explanations of how

agencies plan to spend taxpayer dollars more accessible to the public.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Representative MIKE QUIGLEY for his work on the House companion to this measure. He has a long history as a strong advocate of transparency in the operations of the Federal Government.

This bill builds on the work of the Committee to improve government transparency by allowing the public to more easily learn about how Federal agencies spend their taxpayer dollars.

Mr. Speaker, I support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 272, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act is a long overdue reform that would ensure Congress and the Nation's taxpayers can understand the full scope and context of the annual Federal budget.

I would like to thank Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY for working together with House Oversight and Reform Committee Ranking Member COMER to pass the nearly identical companion bill, H.R. 22, through the House at the beginning of this year.

Last year, more than \$6.8 trillion was spent to fight the COVID-19 pandemic.

Public spending transparency resources like USAspending.gov and PandemicOversight.gov, helped the public track agency spending, but they are not enough.

Annual Federal agency budget justifications provide detailed and plain language explanations of how agencies plan to spend congressionally appropriated funds.

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However, these necessary justification materials are scattered across agency websites and often difficult to find. This bipartisan legislation will ensure the American people and Congress can easily access these important budget justification materials to review proposed agency spending.

The bill requires every agency to make their annual budget justification materials publicly available on a single website. To do this, the bill requires the Office of Management and Budget to issue a full listing of agency budget justifications and the individual agency web pages where they are posted.

Thanks to another law produced by the House Oversight and Reform Committee, the 2018 Good Accounting Obligation in Government Act, congressional budget justifications also now list unimplemented Inspector General audit and GAO report recommendations. This means the bill will also help Congress and the public annually track open IG and GAO oversight recommendations.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act makes the executive branch annual budget process truly open to the American people and

provides needed transparency of each agency's detailed budget justifications.

The American public and their congressional Representatives deserve full access to agency plans to spend their hard-earned tax dollars. America's tax dollars must be used wisely, and I encourage my colleagues to support this bipartisan bill.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, if the gentleman from Pennsylvania has no further speakers, I am prepared to close.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. COMER).

Mr. COMER. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank the gentleman from Pennsylvania for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of S. 272, the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act.

This bill is a timely and important reform to ensure Congress and the public can review all Federal spending. This bipartisan legislation make it possible for the public and every member of Congress to readily find and compare the annual budget justification and supporting materials that each agency prepares and sends to Congress. This detailed review is critical to ensuring that our tax dollars are spent properly.

This reform is also needed now more than ever. Last year alone, the Federal Government spent more than \$6.8 trillion. Unfortunately, this trend in massive government spending does not seem to be slowing down any time soon.

The Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act will require all agencies to make their budget justification materials available online in plain language. In doing so, this legislation will empower Congress' ability to conduct oversight of Federal agencies' use of taxpayer dollars by consolidating agency data. It will also provide much-needed transparency to the American people.

Requiring each agency to provide detailed plain language explanations of how they intend to spend taxpayer dollars ensures Americans can review those decisions at any time.

I want to thank my colleague, Congressman MIKE QUIGLEY, for working with me on H.R. 22 which we were able to pass through the House back on January 5 of this year. I was glad to see the Senate's recent action advancing this much-needed reform bill through Congress.

This legislation illustrates the importance of working across the aisle to improve congressional oversight to ensure American tax dollars are spent efficiently and effectively. Today the House sends the Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act to the President's desk.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working on many more bipartisan government accountability bills and encourage my colleagues to support this bill.

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

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of S. 272, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. KAHELE). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 272.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

FEDERAL CAREER OPPORTUNITIES IN COMPUTER SCIENCE WORK ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3533) to establish occupational series for Federal positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3533

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

SECTION 1. OCCUPATIONAL SERIES FOR DIGITAL CAREER FIELDS.

Not later than 270 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of the Office of Personnel Management, shall, pursuant to chapter 51 of title 5, United States Code, establish or update existing occupational series covering Federal Government positions in the fields of software development, software engineering, data science, and data management.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on H.R. 3533.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3533, the Federal Career Opportunities

in Computer Science Work Act. I commend my colleagues, Representative OBERNOLTE and Representative WELCH, for their bipartisan work on this measure.

This bill would require the Office of Personnel Management to update or establish occupational series for Federal civilian positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management within 270 days of enactment.

It would implement a recommendation that was included in the final report of the National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence. In its report, the commission stated: "The artificial intelligence competition will not be won by the side with the best technology. It will be won by the side with the best, most diverse and tech-savvy talent."

To attract and retain digital talent, the commission recommended that the Federal Government create the civilian occupational series that are included in this bill. This bipartisan bill would help support recruitment of professionals with these specialized skills for Federal employment.

This is an important step in helping Federal agencies recruit, hire, and retain the talent that is needed to remain competitive in the digital domain.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, I urge my colleagues to do the same, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 3533, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Science Work Act.

In a world that increasingly relies on digital technologies, the Federal Government needs to be able to hire and attract the right talent; therefore, the ability to recruit and retain qualified software and data professionals is important, particularly as our government and private sector must withstand more frequent and sophisticated cybersecurity threats.

The National Security Commission on Artificial Intelligence released their final report earlier this year and found that "Digitally talented people should be able to reasonably expect to spend a career performing meaningful work focused on their field of expertise in government."

The report goes on to recommend that new Federal career fields in digital technologies be established by creating new civilian occupational series for software development, software engineering, knowledge management, and data science.

The bill under consideration requires the Office of Personnel Management to either update existing occupational series or create new ones in the fields of software development, software engineering, data management, and data science. This will ensure that the Federal workforce represents current specialized fields necessary to bringing

America's Government into the 21st century.

The bill also enables the Federal Government to better target recruiting and retain qualified professionals in these essential fields.

I appreciate Congressman OBERNOLTE's and Congressman WELCH's leadership on this issue. I encourage my colleagues to support this smart government modernization bill.

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

□ 1615

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from California (Mr. OBERNOLTE), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. OBERNOLTE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Sciences Work Act.

Mr. Speaker, I, along with most of the country, was recently horrified by the cyberattacks against critical parts of our national infrastructure, in particular, the cyberattack against Colonial Pipeline that shut down gasoline deliveries for much of the Eastern United States and the cyberattacks against JBS meat processing, which disrupted operations at one of the largest food processing facilities in our country.

It has become increasingly clear that dealing with these threats will require highly trained professionals in the computer sciences and the data sciences as part of not just our civilian workforce but also our Federal workforce.

Unfortunately, many people are surprised to learn that we do not currently have Federal career occupational series that are dedicated to the computer sciences. This bill, the Federal Career Opportunities in Computer Sciences Work Act, will establish those series in such fields as data management, artificial intelligence, and software engineering. This will enable our Federal Government to better attract and retain the highly qualified technical computer scientist talent that is needed to respond to these attacks in the future.

This is bipartisan legislation. It is an easy and commonsense solution to this problem, and I urge support for this bill.

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

Mr. Speaker, I strongly urge my colleagues to support this bipartisan legislation that will help improve the technical skills of our Federal workforce and, ultimately, modernize our government.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3533, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3533, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

FEDERAL ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 3599) to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 3599

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 “Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) AGENCY.—The term “agency” has the meaning given the term “Executive agency” in section 105 of title 5, United States Code, except that the term does not include the Government Accountability Office.

(2) COMPETITIVE SERVICE.—The term “competitive service” has the meaning given that term in section 2102 of title 5, United States Code.

(3) COUNCILS.—The term “Councils” means—

(A) the Chief Human Capital Officers Council established under section 1303 of the Chief Human Capital Officers Act of 2002 (5 U.S.C. 1401 note); and

(B) the Chief Information Officers Council established under section 3603 of title 44, United States Code.

(4) CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “cyber workforce position” means a position identified as having information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions under section 303 of the Federal Cybersecurity Workforce Assessment Act of 2015 (5 U.S.C. 301 note).

(5) DIRECTOR.—The term “Director” means the Director of the Office of Personnel Management.

(6) EMPLOYEE.—The term “employee” has the meaning given the term in section 2105 of title 5, United States Code.

(7) EMPLOYING AGENCY.—The term “employing agency” means the agency from which an employee is detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position.

(8) EXCEPTED SERVICE.—The term “excepted service” has the meaning given that term in section 2103 of title 5, United States Code.

(9) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITION.—The term “rotational cyber workforce position” means a cyber workforce position

with respect to which a determination has been made under section 3(a)(1).

(10) ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.—The term “rotational cyber workforce program” means the program for the detail of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies.

(11) SECRETARY.—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Homeland Security.

SEC. 3. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE POSITIONS.

(a) DETERMINATION WITH RESPECT TO ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The head of each agency may determine that a cyber workforce position in that agency is eligible for the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall not be construed to modify the requirement under section 4(b)(3) that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary.

(2) NOTICE PROVIDED.—The head of an agency shall submit to the Director—

(A) notice regarding any determination made by the head of the agency under paragraph (1); and

(B) for each position with respect to which the head of the agency makes a determination under paragraph (1), the information required under subsection (b)(1).

(b) PREPARATION OF LIST.—The Director, with assistance from the Councils and the Secretary, shall develop a list of rotational cyber workforce positions that—

(1) with respect to each such position, to the extent that the information does not disclose sensitive national security information, includes—

(A) the title of the position;

(B) the occupational series with respect to the position;

(C) the grade level or work level with respect to the position;

(D) the agency in which the position is located;

(E) the duty location with respect to the position; and

(F) the major duties and functions of the position; and

(2) shall be used to support the rotational cyber workforce program.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF LIST.—Not less frequently than annually, the Director shall distribute an updated list developed under subsection (b) to the head of each agency and other appropriate entities.

SEC. 4. ROTATIONAL CYBER WORKFORCE PROGRAM.

(a) OPERATION PLAN.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 270 days after the date of enactment of this Act, and in consultation with the Councils, the Secretary, representatives of other agencies, and any other entity as the Director determines appropriate, the Director shall develop and issue a Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program operation plan providing policies, processes, and procedures for a program for the detailing of employees among rotational cyber workforce positions at agencies, which may be incorporated into and implemented through mechanisms in existence on the date of enactment of this Act.

(2) UPDATING.—The Director may, in consultation with the Councils, the Secretary, and other entities as the Director determines appropriate, periodically update the operation plan developed and issued under paragraph (1).

(b) REQUIREMENTS.—The operation plan developed and issued under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum—

(1) identify agencies for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(2) establish procedures for the rotational cyber workforce program, including—

(A) any training, education, or career development requirements associated with par-

ticipation in the rotational cyber workforce program;

(B) any prerequisites or requirements for participation in the rotational cyber workforce program; and

(C) appropriate rotational cyber workforce program performance measures, reporting requirements, employee exit surveys, and other accountability devices for the evaluation of the program;

(3) provide that participation in the rotational cyber workforce program by an employee shall be voluntary;

(4) provide that an employee shall be eligible to participate in the rotational cyber workforce program if the head of the employing agency of the employee, or a designee of the head of the employing agency of the employee, approves of the participation of the employee;

(5) provide that the detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program shall be on a nonreimbursable basis;

(6) provide that agencies may agree to partner to ensure that the employing agency of an employee that participates in the rotational cyber workforce program is able to fill the position vacated by the employee;

(7) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program, upon the end of the period of service with respect to the detail, shall be entitled to return to the position held by the employee, or an equivalent position, in the employing agency of the employee without loss of pay, seniority, or other rights or benefits to which the employee would have been entitled had the employee not been detailed;

(8) provide that discretion with respect to the assignment of an employee under the rotational cyber workforce program shall remain with the employing agency of the employee;

(9) require that an employee detailed to a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in an agency that is not the employing agency of the employee shall have all the rights that would be available to the employee if the employee were detailed under a provision of law other than this Act from the employing agency to the agency in which the rotational cyber workforce position is located;

(10) provide that participation by an employee in the rotational cyber workforce program shall not constitute a change in the conditions of the employment of the employee; and

(11) provide that an employee participating in the rotational cyber workforce program shall receive performance evaluations relating to service in the rotational cyber workforce program in a participating agency that are—

(A) prepared by an appropriate officer, supervisor, or management official of the employing agency, acting in coordination with the supervisor at the agency in which the employee is performing service in the rotational cyber workforce position;

(B) based on objectives identified in the operation plan with respect to the employee; and

(C) based in whole or in part on the contribution of the employee to the agency in which the employee performed such service, as communicated from that agency to the employing agency of the employee.

(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS FOR ROTATIONAL SERVICE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An employee serving in a cyber workforce position in an agency may, with the approval of the head of the agency, submit an application for detail to a rotational cyber workforce position that appears on the list developed under section 3(b).

(2) OPM APPROVAL FOR CERTAIN POSITIONS.—An employee serving in a position in the expected service may only be selected for a rotational cyber workforce position that is in the competitive service with the prior approval of the Office of Personnel Management, in accordance with section 300.301 of title 5, Code of Federal Regulations, or any successor thereto.

(3) SELECTION AND TERM.—

(A) SELECTION.—The head of an agency shall select an employee for a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program in a manner that is consistent with the merit system principles under section 2301(b) of title 5, United States Code.

(B) TERM.—Except as provided in subparagraph (C), and notwithstanding section 3341(b) of title 5, United States Code, a detail to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be for a period of not less than 180 days and not more than 1 year.

(C) EXTENSION.—The Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency to which an employee is detailed under the rotational cyber workforce program may extend the period of a detail described in subparagraph (B) for a period of 60 days unless the Chief Human Capital Officer of the employing agency of the employee objects to that extension.

(4) WRITTEN SERVICE AGREEMENTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The detail of an employee to a rotational cyber workforce position shall be contingent upon the employee entering into a written service agreement with the employing agency under which the employee is required to complete a period of employment with the employing agency following the conclusion of the detail that is equal in length to the period of the detail.

(B) OTHER AGREEMENTS AND OBLIGATIONS.—A written service agreement under subparagraph (A) shall not supersede or modify the terms or conditions of any other service agreement entered into by the employee under any other authority or relieve the obligations between the employee and the employing agency under such a service agreement. Nothing in this subparagraph prevents an employing agency from terminating a service agreement entered into under any other authority under the terms of such agreement or as required by law or regulation.

SEC. 5. REPORTING BY GAO.

Not later than the end of the third fiscal year after the fiscal year in which the operation plan under section 4(a) is issued, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress a report assessing the operation and effectiveness of the rotational cyber workforce program, which shall address, at a minimum—

(1) the extent to which agencies have participated in the rotational cyber workforce program, including whether the head of each such participating agency has—

(A) identified positions within the agency that are rotational cyber workforce positions;

(B) had employees from other participating agencies serve in positions described in subparagraph (A); and

(C) had employees of the agency request to serve in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program in participating agencies, including a description of how many such requests were approved; and

(2) the experiences of employees serving in rotational cyber workforce positions under the rotational cyber workforce program, including an assessment of—

(A) the period of service;

(B) the positions (including grade level and occupational series or work level) held by

employees before completing service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program;

(C) the extent to which each employee who completed service in a rotational cyber workforce position under the rotational cyber workforce program achieved a higher skill level, or attained a skill level in a different area, with respect to information technology, cybersecurity, or other cyber-related functions; and

(D) the extent to which service in rotational cyber workforce positions has affected intra-agency and interagency integration and coordination of cyber practices, functions, and personnel management.

SEC. 6. SUNSET.

Effective 5 years after the date of enactment of this Act, this Act is repealed.

SEC. 7. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 3599.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia? There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 3599, the Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act. This bill is the product of bipartisan cooperation of our Oversight and Reform Committee members, Representatives RO KHANNA and NANCY MACE, and I want to thank them for their work on this bill.

Earlier this year, our committee held a hearing on the Government Accountability Office’s 2021 High-Risk Report, which details the areas of government operations at greatest risk of failing to meet the considerable challenges they face.

Cybersecurity was near the top of the list, along with the cyber skills gap that persists across the Federal workforce. As the Government Accountability Office report described, Federal agencies are struggling to ensure that staff have the skills required to address the critical cybersecurity risks and challenges that our government faces.

Recent cyberattacks have demonstrated the dire consequences of failing to improve the Federal Government’s cybersecurity operations. These include the SolarWinds breach, in

which Russian hackers infiltrated the networks of nine Federal agencies and went undetected for months.

Around the same time, cyberattacks linked to the Chinese government targeted Microsoft’s enterprise email software and threatened the internal data of Federal agencies. In addition, Russian hackers successfully breached the servers of the U.S. Department of State and stole thousands of emails.

The Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act, as it is called, would enable cybersecurity professionals in the Federal Government to rotate through assignments outside of their regular position. This would allow more agencies to benefit from their enterprise and give program participants the opportunities for professional development. The program would be authorized for 5 years and, after 3 years, the Government Accountability Office would assess the operation and effectiveness of the program.

This legislation would go a long way toward improving Federal agencies’ capacity to strengthen cybersecurity operations, help retain top talent, and facilitate the exchange of expertise in this critical field.

The security of Federal information technology systems and data is essential to national security, to preserving public trust in government institutions, and to ensuring that agencies meet their missions in serving the American people.

I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, the Federal Government has significant work to do on the cybersecurity front. My colleagues, Representatives KHANNA and MACE, recognized this harsh reality when crafting their bill to improve our Federal workforce’s cybersecurity and IT expertise.

We face many challenges, including adequately securing IT infrastructure from cyber intrusions, supply chain hacks, and ransomware, each the subject of recent front-page news.

Our cyber readiness depends, in part, upon our ability to maintain a prepared and capable Federal workforce to defend our Nation’s government from a relentless onslaught of cyberattacks.

Toward that end, the Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act continues efforts created and implemented during the Trump administration to promote cyber rotational details throughout Federal agencies so that our valuable Federal cyber experts continue to sharpen their skills.

This bill seeks to codify an additional rotational opportunity for cyber-focused professionals throughout the Federal Government.

Former President Trump’s executive order, “America’s Cybersecurity Workforce,” established a mechanism for Federal employees to be detailed to

other agencies through a cybersecurity rotational assignment program. The Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act places management of a similar type of program under the Office of Personnel Management.

Importantly, for oversight purposes, the bill establishes requirements for a detailed operational plan and a report from the Government Accountability Office to enable congressional oversight. This will help Congress evaluate whether the rotational program is running as intended and meaningfully addressing both personnel and agency needs.

If this new rotational program is not providing the intended value to the Federal Government, then Congress will have the opportunity to decline reauthorizing the program after it sunsets in 5 years. This is a valuable safety valve to the expansion of the Federal Government, which I am glad to see included in this bill.

I thank my colleagues for their work on this bipartisan bill, which builds upon the cyber workforce efforts of the prior administration.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. KHANNA).

Mr. KHANNA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Delegate NORTON for her leadership, and I thank Ranking Member COMER for his leadership on the bill and, of course, Representative MACE, who has been a colleague and helped craft this.

Everyone recognizes that our country faces cyberattacks. In the private sector, we don't silo cybersecurity officials. You don't say, "You just work in one department." They rotate through a company. We shouldn't have separate silos in the Federal Government.

This bill is just common sense. It says that we need to have a rotational system in the Federal Government so that you can have expertise from all the different agencies, and we can have a comprehensive response. It helps us get talent. And it is bipartisan.

We should give credit to the previous administration for having, as was pointed out, the executive order. I worked with Matt Lira at the previous White House. There is nothing that is partisan about making sure that America isn't attacked with cybercrimes and cyberattacks. That is a bipartisan initiative, and this does build on the work they did. It makes it stronger, and we put, ultimately, resources toward it.

But I am proud of the work. I am proud of working with Representative MACE on it. Frankly, I think we ought to be doing more things in this body in a bipartisan way that strengthen American security.

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from South Carolina (Ms. MACE).

Ms. MACE. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise in support of H.R. 3599, the Federal Ro-

tational Cyber Workforce Program Act. It is a long title, but it is a very good bill. I thank my colleague, Ro KHANNA, for his leadership.

Cybersecurity is national security, and this is one area where it is not Democrat or Republican. When 11 Federal agencies were hacked last year by an organization affiliated with Russia, they didn't care if you had an R or a D by your name.

Imagine if, in the Federal Government, or at least a portion of the Federal Government, we could work and operate more like a business than a bureaucracy. Well, we can do that right here today with H.R. 3599.

I thank, again, Ro KHANNA for his leadership and for allowing me the opportunity to work together with him on this. This is the third bill I have worked on that I hope will pass on the floor of the House tonight.

We have an opportunity to show tremendous leadership here today. I have heard a number of my colleagues here this afternoon, Republicans and Democrats, working together for the American people, putting the American people first, and that is what we are doing.

Every day, criminal elements are attempting to steal our secrets, disrupt our infrastructure, and damage our economy by extorting money from businesses and organizations across the United States.

Most recently, in the State of South Carolina, we saw the high-profile Colonial Pipeline hacking and attack. It is a reminder that America's adversaries are creative and cunning and that our government must be the same to combat this growing threat.

It is imperative that our government be able to obtain, train, and retain the cyber and technology talent needed to counter these sophisticated hackers across the globe. The Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act will allow Federal employees to collaborate and broaden their work experiences, their knowledge, and their skill sets across Federal agencies, much in the same way their counterparts do in the private sector.

I thank my colleagues today, Republicans and Democrats, and I urge each and every one of them to vote in favor of this legislation this evening.

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

Mr. Speaker, it is important to improve the readiness of our Nation's cyber workforce through the expansion of cyber rotations between our Federal agencies. I encourage my colleagues to support this important legislation.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 3599, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 3599, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

□ 1630

DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER SALARY HOME RULE ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1204) to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the rate of pay of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1204

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 "District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Salary Home Rule Act".

SEC. 2. PERMITTING DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA TO ESTABLISH RATE OF PAY OF CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER OF DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA.

Section 424(b)(2)(E) of the District of Columbia Home Rule Act (sec. 1-204.24b(b)(5), D.C. Official Code) is amended to read as follows:

"(E) PAY.—The Chief Financial Officer shall be paid at the greater of—

"(i) a rate such that the total amount of compensation paid during any calendar year is equal to the limit on total pay which is applicable during the year under section 5307 of title 5, United States Code, to an employee described in section 5307(d) of such title; or

"(ii) a rate established in law by the District of Columbia, except that any rate established under this clause which is applicable to any individual serving as the Chief Financial Officer shall not be reduced during any period of the individual's service as Chief Financial Officer."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill will give the District of Columbia the authority to increase the pay of the D.C. chief financial officer. D.C. requested that I introduce this bill so that it can retain and recruit the best CFOs. At the outset, I want to emphasize that the CFO is paid exclusively with local D.C. funds, not Federal funds.

Under the D.C. Home Rule Act, Congress established a maximum rate of pay for the CFO, and the D.C. council has no authority to increase that rate. Congress does not cap, or otherwise establish, the pay of any other D.C. employee. Under this bill, the CFO would be paid at the greater of a rate equal to the maximum rate of pay of the CFO in current law or at a rate established in law by the District of Columbia.

The CFO was established by Congress in 1995. Congress vested the CFO with extraordinary powers and designed the CFO to be independent of the D.C. Mayor and council. The CFO may be removed only for cause by the Mayor, subject to the approval of two-thirds of the council and a 30-day congressional review and comment period. This bill would maintain the independence of the CFO by establishing a permanent floor on the CFO's pay and by prohibiting the council from reducing the CFO's pay during the CFO's term.

The D.C. CFO is unique in the United States. D.C. cannot obligate or expend funds without the CFO's certification that available funds exist. The CFO manages a \$17 billion budget that consists of State, county, and city functions, and the CFO has more than 1,700 employees.

D.C. is currently searching for a permanent CFO. Although the CFO is the most important non-elected official in the district, more than 20 D.C. employees are paid more than the CFO. D.C. must compete with both the private and public sectors for high-quality CFOs, and there are many private- and public-sector CFOs who are paid more than the D.C. CFO.

I thank Chairwoman MALONEY for her support of this bill, and I thank Ranking Member COMER for his support of this bill in committee.

This bill is critical to the financial operations of the District of Columbia. I urge my colleagues to support it, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the chief financial officer plays an essential role in managing the District of Columbia's financial challenges and should be properly compensated for such efforts.

I understand some of my colleagues may be concerned about the financial health of the District of Columbia, and I share many of those concerns. But that is why we need to ensure the best people are selected to fill the CFO position.

One way to attract the best candidates in a job search is by paying professionals a competitive salary. The CFO is responsible for the District's fi-

nancial operations, including more than 1,700 staff members in the district's multi-billion-dollar budget.

If the District believes that it needs to adjust the rate of pay for this position to recruit a more qualified senior financial management official, then Congress should support such efforts.

I believe compensation for local executives is a matter best handled at the local level, and I believe this bill balances local autonomy with a commonsense solution for attracting talent to the District.

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

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

Mr. KELLER. Mr. Speaker, because I believe this is sensible legislation and good for the financial health of the District of Columbia, I will vote in support of this sensible bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 1204, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1204.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CHAI SUTHAMMANONT REMEMBRANCE ACT OF 2021

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 978) to require the head of each agency to establish a safety plan relating to COVID-19 for any worksite at which employees or contractors are required to be physically present during the COVID-19 pandemic, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 978

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 "Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. WORKSITE SAFETY FOR FEDERAL EMPLOYEES AND CONTRACTORS.

(a) ISSUANCE OF POLICIES AND PROCEDURES BY AGENCIES.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the head of each agency, in consultation with the Chief Human Capital Officer of the agency and the Assistant Director of Administration of the agency (or any individual holding an equivalent position) shall—

(1) establish, and publish on the website of that agency, a safety plan containing procedures and policies for—

(A) covered worksites; and
(B) being present at a covered worksite; and

(2) communicate such plan to each employee of the agency and contractor of the agency (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) in such a manner as to ensure that each such employee and contractor acknowledges receipt and understanding of the plan.

(b) PLAN.—The safety plan required under subsection (a) shall, at a minimum, include the following:

(1) A description of the efforts of the agency with respect to mitigating the spread of COVID-19 at covered worksites, including the following:

(A) A description of any personal protective equipment that is being or will be provided by the agency to any employee of the agency and contractor of the agency (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) physically present at a covered worksite.

(B) A description of any procedures established by the agency for—

(i) testing employees of the agency and contractors of the agency (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) required to be present at a covered worksite;

(ii) contact-tracing at covered worksites, including procedures by which such employees and contractors (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) will be notified of a potential exposure to an individual who is diagnosed with COVID-19; and

(iii) administering the COVID-19 vaccine to employees of the agency.

(2) Guidance on—

(A) any cleaning protocols to be implemented at covered worksites;

(B) occupancy limits for covered worksites; and

(C) the use of appropriate face coverings by employees of the agency and contractors of the agency (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) while physically present at a covered worksite.

(3) A description of the actions the agency is or will be taking to protect from exposure to COVID-19 employees of the agency who conduct activities in an official capacity while not physically present at a covered worksite, including employees of the agency—

(A) who are required to travel in an official capacity; or

(B) perform audits or inspections.

(4) A description of any requirements that members of the public are required to meet in order to enter a facility in which covered worksites are located.

(5) A description of any alternative option to being physically present at a covered worksite that are available for employees who—

(A) have a high risk of contracting COVID-19 (as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention); or

(B) live in a household with individuals that have a high risk of contracting COVID-19 (as determined by the Director of the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention).

(6) A description of any rule or protocol regarding whether employees of the agency required to be physically present at covered worksites are—

(A) required to be fully vaccinated before being present at covered worksites; or

(B) allowed to take leave—

(i) to get each dose of the vaccine; or

(ii) upon experiencing severe side-effects as a result of receiving any dose of such vaccine.

(7) Protocols that ensure the continuity of operations, including a plan to reverse any requirement for an employee or contractor (or subcontractor thereof at any tier) to be present at a facility in which covered worksites are located if there is a surge in

COVID-19 cases in the geographic area of such facility.

(8) The hotline website and hotline telephone number of the Inspector General of the agency for employees of the agency and contractors of the agency (and any subcontractor thereof at any tier) to report to the Inspector General any instance in which the agency is not implementing the plan required by this section.

(c) **DELAYED APPLICABILITY FOR CERTAIN WORKSITES.**—For any worksite that the head of the agency has temporarily closed due to COVID-19, the requirements of subsection (a) shall be carried out not later than 30 days before any employee of the agency or contractor of any agency (or any subcontractor thereof at any tier) is required to be physically present at such worksite.

(d) **INSPECTORS GENERAL REPORTS.**—Not later than 6 months after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Inspector General of each agency shall submit to the Committee on Oversight and Reform of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on whether that agency—

(1) has published and communicated the public safety plan required by subsection (a), in accordance with such subsection; and

(2) implemented such plan.

(e) **APPLICATION.**—Nothing in this Act shall be construed to alter or otherwise limit the rights and obligations afforded under chapter 71 of title 5, United States Code.

(f) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **AGENCY.**—The term “agency” has the meaning given that term in section 551 of title 5, United States Code.

(2) **COVERED PERIOD.**—The term “covered period” means the period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act and ending on the date on which the public health emergency declared by the Secretary of Health and Human Services under section 319 of the Public Health Service Act (42 U.S.C. 247) as a result of the COVID-19, or any renewal thereof, terminates.

(3) **COVERED WORKSITE.**—The term “covered worksite” means a worksite at which an employee of the agency or a contractor of the agency (or subcontractor thereof at any tier) is required to be present during the covered period.

(4) **WORKSITE.**—The term “worksite” means—

(A) in the case of an employee of the agency, the location of the employee’s position of record where the employee regularly performs his or her duties, but does not include any location where the employee teleworks (as that term is defined in section 6501 of title 5, United States Code); and

(B) in the case of a contractor of the agency (or subcontractor thereof at any tier), the location in a facility of the agency where the contractor or subcontractor performs his or her duties under a contract with the agency, or a subcontract thereof at any tier, as applicable.

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania

(Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on the measure before us.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 978 would require Federal agencies to establish protocols and protections to ensure the health and safety of Federal employees upon returning to their regular workstations.

Each agency would be responsible for posting its policy on its website and properly notifying employees of the procedures within 60 days of enactment or 30 days before a closed worksite reopens.

Within 6 months, the inspector general of each agency must submit to Congress a review on implementation and communication of the procedures.

I am proud to be an original cosponsor of this bill, which is named in honor of one of Representative CONNOLLY’s constituents, a Federal employee, who died tragically of coronavirus in May of last year.

Federal employees both here in Washington, D.C., and across the country have been on the front lines of the government response to the coronavirus pandemic from the beginning.

As more are preparing to return to their regular worksites, this legislation will help make sure that policies are clearly conveyed to employees so that return happens safely.

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to support this bill, and I urge Members to vote “yes.”

Mr. KELLER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Mr. Speaker, I would like to express sincere condolences to the family of Mr. Suthammanont.

The global COVID-19 pandemic has meant painful losses for many families across America.

I want to thank my colleague, Mr. CONNOLLY, for his work on this bill.

Discussing this legislation is a reminder as to how precious life is. Every loss impacts a community and the surviving family members.

Over the past year-and-a-half, the COVID-19 pandemic has extraordinarily challenged our Nation. For example, the pandemic presented unprecedented workforce challenges for the Federal Government. Every State and territory were under a historically unprecedented emergency declaration and sought assistance from Federal agencies.

Both the Trump and Biden administrations have issued numerous guid-

ance materials to Federal agencies to ensure the vital work of America’s Government could continue in a safe manner.

This bill is well intentioned, and I support government-wide transparency to the American people and the Federal workforce. But the reality is, I feel that this bill is creating unnecessary and duplicative paperwork requirements.

Both the Trump and Biden administrations publicly released much of the information this bill seeks to obtain, and the Biden administration continues to require the current planning the bill seeks.

Further, putting restrictive reporting requirements on agencies may hinder the new administration’s ability to bring the Federal workforce back to work rapidly as it is determined safe to do so. I have concerns that it may be duplicating existing efforts of the Federal Government.

We hope to continue working together with our colleagues across the aisle to make sure the Federal Government is effectively delivering necessary resources and services to the American people in a safe manner.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), my good friend and colleague.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend and neighbor, the Congresswoman from the District of Columbia for her work, and I also thank the Republican manager for his kind remarks about a grieving family in my district.

Last year, I brought a similar version of this bill to the floor requiring Federal agencies to communicate safety plans to their employees before returning to their offices. It is not an extra layer of paperwork; it is a plan. You have just got to have a plan so that we don’t have more people like Chai Suthammanont dying from COVID. It seems to me that is something we ought to come together on, on a bipartisan basis.

While our country opens for business, COVID-19 cases and hospitalizations that had been declining just a month ago are again on the rise, and the dangerous delta variant accounts for 83 percent of those cases in the United States.

Meanwhile, only 56.3 percent of the total U.S. population has had at least one dose of the vaccine, and in 16 States, fewer than 50 percent of the population has had at least one dose, including, I believe, the State of the distinguished Republican manager today.

We are clearly not out of the woods, and we must look to ensure the safety of both of our Federal workforce and our contract Federal workforce as they return to the workplace.

The Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act would require every Federal

agency to prepare and communicate a safety plan for how to do that.

The plan would include descriptions of the personal protective equipment that the agency will provide to its on-site employees and contractors; guidance of other mitigation efforts; protections for employees whose work requires them to travel offsite; testing, contact tracing, if necessary, and vaccination protocols; and procedures that ensure the continuity of operations in the event it is necessary to reverse on-site requirements.

The bill would also require every agency's inspector general to report on whether the agency has published and implemented a safety plan consistent with CDC guidelines.

We should not be looking to rush Federal employees back to offices no matter what the cost, because that cost is too high. Already, two of our colleagues in this body, who have been vaccinated, have contracted the delta variant, apparently, of COVID-19. People are at risk.

The man for whom this bill is named tragically lost his life in May of 2020. He was an immigrant from Thailand, who came here at the age of 17. He built a life as a man known for helping others.

Even in retirement, Chai's call to service brought him to work as a Federal employee at the Marine Corps Community Services Child Development Center in Quantico, Virginia. He worked to prepare meals for the children of our Marines. He developed a unique handshake for every kid at the daycare, making every child feel special and included.

On April 27, 2020, Chai worked his last full shift at the daycare kitchen as one of his coworkers coughed repeatedly and looked very ill. The problem was there were no protocols in place. That person subsequently tested positive.

□ 1645

A month later, after 13 days on a ventilator, my constituent, Chai, lost his life unnecessarily, because there was no plan. There were no protocols.

This bill would prevent that. This bill will save lives. I plead with my friends on the other side of the aisle, please let's not make this a political pawn.

For the sake of Chai, his surviving widow, his family, his loved ones, his colleagues at the Marine base at Quantico, can we not do the right thing?

I could talk a lot about the need for this, Mr. Speaker. I could talk more about Chai and his family, but I rest on the hope and belief that today on this matter we will hear the better angels of our nature and make sure that no more Chais have to die because of a lack of protocol and the lack of a plan simply to protect the workforce in the Federal workplace.

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

Mr. Speaker, I do not intend to request a roll call vote on this bill, but I am concerned that it may be duplicating existing efforts of the Federal Government. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of the bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 978, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

PERFORMANCE ENHANCEMENT REFORM ACT

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2617) to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 2617

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 "Performance Enhancement Reform Act".

SEC. 2. AMENDMENT.

Section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, is amended—

(1) by amending subsection (b)(5) to read as follows:

"(5) provide a description of how the performance goals are to be achieved, including—

"(A) the human capital, training, data and evidence, information technology, and skill sets required to meet the performance goals;

"(B) the technology modernization investments, system upgrades, staff technology skills and expertise, stakeholder input and feedback, and other resources and strategies needed and required to meet the performance goals;

"(C) clearly defined milestones;

"(D) an identification of the organizations, program activities, regulations, policies, operational processes, and other activities that contribute to each performance goal, both within and external to the agency;

"(E) a description of how the agency is working with other agencies and the organizations identified in subparagraph (D) to measure and achieve its performance goals as well as relevant Federal Government performance goals; and

"(F) an identification of the agency officials responsible for the achievement of each performance goal, who shall be known as goal leaders;" and

(2) by amending subsection (g) to read as follows:

"(g) PREPARATION OF PERFORMANCE PLAN.—The Chief Performance Improvement Office (or the functional equivalent) shall collaborate with the Chief Human Capital Officer (or the functional equivalent), the Chief Information Officer (or the functional equivalent), the Chief Data Officer (or the functional equivalent), and the Chief Financial Officer (or the functional equivalent) to prepare that portion of the annual performance plan described under subsection (b)(5).".

SEC. 3. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous material on H.R. 2617.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Performance Enhancement Reform Act, introduced by Government Operations subcommittee chair GERRY CONNOLLY and Ranking Member JODY HICE, builds on the Government Performance and Reform Act of 1993. That law requires Federal agencies to develop 5-year strategic plans and annual performance plans and reports.

The law was updated in 2010 to require greater involvement by the Office of Management and Budget to incorporate governmentwide priority goals and to improve accountability by requiring agencies to publish these plans and reports online.

The Performance Enhancement Reform Act would require the development of a more comprehensive annual performance plan through collaboration between senior agency leaders, including chief human capital officers, chief performance officers, chief information officers, and the chief financial officer.

The bill would also require agency performance plans to include descriptions of any skill set the agency needs to meet its performance goals. This would be an important reform to identify any gaps in expertise or resources an agency must address to accomplish its goals.

This commonsense, bipartisan measure will enhance agency management and strengthen the focus on achieving the agencies' missions.

I urge my colleagues to vote for H.R. 2617, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the Performance Enhancement Reform Act would require proper agency collaboration with annual agency performance planning.

This bill directly addresses a problem where Federal agency technology and data resources sometimes struggle to support agency operational workflow and programmatic goals.

It recognizes the reality that agency leadership must directly involve their technology and data leaders in strategic planning.

Under the Government Performance and Results Act of 1993 and the Government Performance and Results Modernization Act of 2010, Federal agencies are required to create annual performance plans.

The Performance Enhancement Reform Act puts the agency chief performance improvement officers in charge of coordinating the annual agency performance goals.

The bill will also make sure that the agency's performance planning process considers the resources necessary to support operations and achieve mission success.

Such resources include information technology capabilities, supporting data assets, and human workforce capacity and skills.

It also directly ensures that during this annual planning, the agency chief information officers, chief data officers, and chief financial officers are consulted on whether the performance goals are realistic and proper resources exist.

I want to recognize my colleagues, Mr. CONNOLLY and Mr. HICE, for their work crafting this smart legislation in the House Oversight Committee.

Agencies should be committing to goals that have a real chance of succeeding, and this legislation requires the proper coordination to make that happen.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Mr. CONNOLLY. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from District of Columbia, and I thank Mr. KELLER, the Republican manager, for his kind words and his support.

Current law requires Federal agencies to develop a performance plan every year that defines the agency's mission, summarizes strategic goals and objectives, and identifies strategies to achieve them.

Agencies use that plan to align resources and guide decision-making to accomplish priorities and improve outcomes.

These performance plans should support planning across organizational operating units and describe how agency

components are working together toward common results that serve the public.

They should inform agency decision-making about the need for major new acquisitions, strategic human capital planning, evaluations, and other evidence-building and evidence-capacity building investments.

Moreover, the performance plans can also stimulate innovation to advance agency goals.

With such a broad and robust purpose, these plans should be prepared collaboratively by agency leadership using the best available data and evidence to form a strong foundation from which to execute agency missions.

Current law, however, requires only the chief human capital officer to contribute to the creation of this performance plan. Current law does not require agencies to incorporate data and evidence or information technology solutions into their performance plans. In the 21st century.

These narrow requirements overlook the invaluable expertise of key stakeholders and crucial resources in the formation of agency plans and exclude a critical area of agency planning.

For example, chief information officers must identify and plan for an agency's IT needs.

IT is critical to mission delivery at every agency. Missions are threatened by outdated legacy systems, software, and hardware, to say nothing of their being cyber insecure.

CIOs deserve a seat at the table to engage in performance planning that drives meaningful IT modernization so agencies can provide the critical services upon which the American public relies. The pandemic has certainly made that clear.

Current law exacerbates the lack of collaboration that plagues leadership in many Federal agencies and stymies successful IT modernization.

The Performance Enhancement Reform Act requires agencies to integrate IT modernization and evidence metrics more effectively into their performance plans and gives the CIO a seat at the table.

The bill requires agency performance plans to include descriptions of human capital, training, data and evidence, IT, and skill sets needed for the agency to meet its performance goals.

Finally, the bill requires performance plans to include descriptions of technology modernization investments, system upgrades, staff technology skills and expertise needed, stakeholder input and feedback, and other resources and strategies.

As the distinguished gentlewoman from the District of Columbia mentioned in her opening remarks, this is a bipartisan bill. My ranking member, Mr. HICE from Georgia, collaborated with us fully in trying to get to this point.

This is a good government measure. I certainly commend it to all of our colleagues. If we approve this, we will

take a giant leap forward in trying to modernize performance planning for every Federal agency to serve the American public better.

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

Mr. Speaker, this bill would ensure the creation of more realistic capability- and resource-based agency performance goals.

I urge my colleagues to support this smart government reform bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I urge passage of H.R. 2617, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 2617, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT DETAILS ON NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 2382) to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 2382

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

SECTION 1. AUTHORITY FOR NATIONAL CYBER DIRECTOR TO ACCEPT DETAILS ON NONREIMBURSABLE BASIS.

Section 1752(e) of the William M. (Mac) Thornberry National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2021 (Public Law 116-283) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraphs (1) through (8) as subparagraphs (A) through (H), respectively, and indenting such subparagraphs two ems to the right;

(2) in the matter before subparagraph (A), as redesignated by paragraph (1), by striking “The Director may” and inserting the following:

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Director may”;

(3) in paragraph (1)—

(A) as redesignated by paragraph (2), by redesignating subparagraphs (C) through (H) as subparagraphs (D) through (I), respectively; and

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

“(C) accept officers or employees of the United States or member of the Armed Forces on a detail from an element of the intelligence community or from another element of the Federal Government on a nonreimbursable basis, as jointly agreed to by the

heads of the receiving and detailing elements, for a period not to exceed three years;"; and

(4) by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

"(2) RULES OF CONSTRUCTION REGARDING DETAILS.—Paragraph (1)(C) shall not be construed to impose any limitation on any other authority for reimbursable or nonreimbursable details. A nonreimbursable detail made under such paragraph shall not be considered an augmentation of the appropriations of the receiving element of the Office of the National Cyber Director."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) and the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. KELLER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and insert extraneous materials on S. 2382.

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

There was no objection.

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

I rise in support of S. 2382, which would allow the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government as on a nonreimbursable basis.

Last year the Committee on Oversight and Reform helped advance legislation to establish the Office of the National Cyber Director in the Executive Office of the President. The bipartisan effort fulfilled a key recommendation of the U.S. Cyberspace Solarium Commission, which was established by the 2019 National Defense Authorization Act to review the condition of our Nation's cybersecurity posture and to develop solutions to defend against cyber threats.

□ 1700

The National Cyber Director Act was signed into law through last year's National Defense Authorization Act, creating a centralized cybersecurity position in the White House to assist in the development and streamlining of the Federal Government's strategy, coordination, and response to cyber threats.

We were thrilled to see President Biden nominate and the Senate confirm Chris Inglis, a widely-respected member of the Solarium Commission, as the Nation's first National Cyber Director. Now, Mr. Inglis needs a team to get to work immediately to address cybersecurity, which remains one of the most urgent threats on the Government Accountability Office's high-risk list.

Indeed, the State and non-state actors from Russia, China, Iran, North Korea, and all corners of the globe are waging a silent war capable of shutting down our critical infrastructure, breaching our sensitive information

system, and jeopardizing critical sectors in America and globally.

Until Congress acts to provide the Office of the National Cyber Director its first appropriation, the Office requires the ability to bring in details on a non-reimbursable basis. This bill would grant that authority.

Cyberattacks are critical, widespread, complex, and escalating as a threat to our national and economic security. A challenge as grave and pervasive as cybersecurity requires that our government be strategic, organized, and ready. It is imperative that we pass this bill immediately to allow the Office of the National Cyber Director to get up running as it awaits its full appropriation.

Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill, and I urge my colleagues to do the same. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, the National Cyber Director, or NCD, is a recently congressionally authorized position for coordinating our Nation's cyber infrastructure and activities located within the Executive Office of the President. According to the Biden administration's statutory interpretation of the NCD's authorizing statute, Chris Inglis, the newly designated National Cyber Director, cannot staff his office with qualified talent on loan from other Federal agencies.

The administration has determined that the NCD's authorizing statute does not provide the necessary authority to accept nonreimbursable detailees from other Federal agencies. Congress intended the NCD to be able to use details to staff his office.

The NCD's authorizing statute gives power to the Director to utilize, with their consent, the services, personnel, and facilities of other Federal agencies, even voluntary and uncompensated services. But the administration is preventing the NCD from accepting Federal details while congressional appropriations are also pending.

S. 2382 will help clarify the NCD's authority to accept Federal details for a period not to exceed 3 years, and will help this new office properly staff itself in the immediate months ahead.

We recognize the importance of helping this new office stand up its operations during a time when the Nation deals with cyberattacks. I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I am pleased to yield 5 minutes to the gentleman from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN).

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of S. 2382. As the author of the National Cyber Director Act, I commend Senators PORTMAN and PETERS for offering this important legislation to clarify the authorities of this new office.

I said it before and I will say it again: Cybersecurity is the national and eco-

nomic security challenge of the 21st century. For 30 years we have been increasing the number of connected devices, processes, and services connected to the internet at an exponential rate. We can now instantly communicate with people half a world away and use data repositories to drive advances in medicine, clean energy, and commerce. With this connectivity comes vulnerability.

For these three decades, the United States has struggled to develop a coherent cybersecurity strategy and to implement it to better protect the country and cyberspace. While we have seen the results of this failure in breaches ranging from the devastating, the tens of billions of dollars in damage caused by, for example, NotPetya, to the mundane, as companies fend off daily cyber probes.

Just in the last half century we have witnessed the Russian Government target us through ransomware attacks through SolarWinds; the Chinese Government break into instances of the Microsoft Exchange Server, and criminals wreak havoc on the Colonial Pipeline, JBS, and customers of Kaseya through ransomware attacks, so we are not where we need to be.

Congress recognized this fact in 2018 when it created the Cyberspace Solarium Commission, a distinguished body that I had the privilege of being appointed to by Speaker PELOSI. Through a year of deliberation, we developed a strategy of layered cyber deterrence, and had more than 80 recommendations to make that strategy a reality. Those recommendations run the gamut from changes to our military to regulations on private companies. But underlying all of them is the recognition that the U.S. Government itself is still not organized for success.

Now enter the National Cyber Director. This key recommendation called for a Senate-confirmed leader within the Executive Office of the President with the policy and budgetary authority to develop a national strategy, oversee its implementation, and coordinate response to significant cyber incidents.

With the help of Congressman GALLAGHER, the Solarium Commission's co-chair, and through the leadership of Chairwoman CAROLYN MALONEY and her staff, my National Cyber Director Act made it into last year's NDAA. Earlier this month, the President had appointed and the Senate confirmed our inaugural National Cyber Director, my fellow Solarium Commission member, Chris Inglis, to take office as the first Director.

Chris' confirmation represents nothing less than a sea change in how the government will coordinate cyberspace policy. Once this office is fully staffed up, there will be a well of expertise within the White House to ensure that the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency, the Federal Bureau of Investigation, sector risk management agencies, the United States Cyber

Command, the intelligence community, and all of the other disparate elements of the government are working in concert to improve our cybersecurity. However, the Office of the National Cyber Director is very much a startup at the moment.

While we will be voting on a full budget for this office later this week, including, I hope, an amendment to provide the full \$25 million yearlong appropriation recommended by the Solarium Commission, we can't wait until the full fiscal year 2022 budget is passed to get Director Inglis on his feet and up and running.

After all, our adversaries certainly aren't constrained by our budgetary calendar. In drafting the bill, we anticipated that the NCD might need to call upon the personnel, facilities, or services of Federal departments and agencies, with their permission, of course. However, there seems to be some ambiguity within the White House about whether this includes the ability of the Office to accept the services of nonreimbursable detailees.

While I think the language and the congressional intent of the original statute are quite clear, this bill should clear up any misunderstanding once and for all by explicitly authorizing nonreimbursable detailees. This legislation will help Director Inglis get a staff vanguard in place and ensure he and his successors can take advantage of the expertise resident at the various agencies that contribute to our success in cyberspace.

Mr. Speaker, let me again thank Senators PORTMAN and PETERS and Chairwoman MALONEY for moving so quickly to address this urgent issue. Congress has already shown tremendous support for this Office, and I think the speed at which this bill moves is a testament to our commitment to its success.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 2382.

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

Ms. NORTON. Mr. Speaker, I strongly support this bill and urge my colleagues to do the same. I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from the District of Columbia (Ms. NORTON) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 2382.

The question was taken.

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

Mrs. GREENE of Georgia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

DISPOSE OF UNUSED MEDICATIONS AND PRESCRIPTION OPIOIDS ACT

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 957) to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 957

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

SECTION 1. DESIGNATION OF PERIODS DURING WHICH ANY INDIVIDUAL MAY DISPOSE OF CONTROLLED SUBSTANCES MEDICATIONS AT FACILITIES OF THE DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS.

Section 3009 of the Johnny Isakson and David P. Roe, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act of 2020 (Public Law 116-315; 38 U.S.C. 8110 note) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (b) and (c) as subsections (c) and (d), respectively; and
(2) by inserting after subsection (a) the following new subsection (b):

“(b) DESIGNATION OF PERIODS FOR ANY INDIVIDUAL TO DISPOSE OF MEDICATION.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary shall designate periods during which any individual may dispose of controlled substances medications at a covered Department medical facility.

“(2) PUBLIC INFORMATION CAMPAIGNS.—The Secretary may carry out public information campaigns regarding the periods designated under paragraph (1).”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am pleased that we are bringing up to the floor Senator KENNEDY's bill, S. 957, the DUMP Opioids Act. I also want to commend Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS and Congressman TRONE for their work in introducing a House companion to this legislation.

We have all seen reports of a dramatic increase in accidental and intentional overdose deaths during the pandemic, both among veterans and non-veterans, in our communities. While addressing the factors that lead to substance misuse, we must also act immediately to lower access to controlled substances for those in distress.

I applaud my colleagues for advancing this legislation as one piece in our

lethal means safety approach to suicide and accidental death prevention.

The Department of Veterans Affairs has been a leader in decreasing prescribing of opioids and in developing nonopioid forms of pain management. This is vitally important given what we know about the health risks that even prescription opioids pose for veterans and others in our Nation.

At the same time, chronic pain is a challenging, significant, and ongoing concern for many veterans and there are times when opioids are appropriately prescribed and monitored. We need to make sure, however, that people have safe ways to dispose of opioid medications when they are either no longer needed or when they could be used unsafely in a home. This bill ensures that veterans and members of the public may safely dispose of unused controlled substances in special repositories on VA properties on days specifically designated by VA as public take-back days.

The Secretary of the VA has the authority to set appropriate guidelines for safe disposal by members of the public.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting the DUMP Opioids Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

□ 1715

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 957, the Dispose of Unused Medications and Prescription Opioids Act, or the DUMP Opioids Act.

Last year, Congress passed legislation that would allow veterans to dispose of excess prescription medications at VA medical facilities. The DUMP Opioids Act would allow nonveterans to do the same thing. It would also authorize a VA education campaign to make veterans and nonveterans alike aware of their ability to dispose of leftover medication at the VA.

This bill is sponsored in the Senate by Senator KENNEDY and in the House by Congresswoman MILLER-MEEKS. I am grateful to both of them for their leadership and advocacy on this important issue.

Earlier this month, CDC released data showing that opioid overdose deaths surged throughout the pandemic. In 2020, more than 93,000 Americans died of an overdose. This is an almost 30 percent increase from 2019.

We have to do everything we can to help those suffering from substance abuse disorder to overcome their addiction. One way we can do this is by making controlled substances less readily available. By making it easier for unused opioids and other prescription medication to be disposed of, this bill would help do that.

I hope that every Member will join me in supporting the DUMP Opioids Act.

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

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

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman from Iowa (Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS), my good friend.

Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague for yielding me time to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to speak in support of Senator JOHN KENNEDY's Dispose of Unused Medications and Prescription Opioids Act, S. 957, or the DUMP Opioids Act.

Earlier this year, President Trump signed the JOHNNY ISAKSON and DAVID P. ROE, M.D. Veterans Health Care and Benefits Improvement Act into law. Under this law, the VA is required to set up prescription drop boxes on VA campuses so that veterans can safely dispose of unused and excess controlled substance medications. The DUMP Opioids Act directs the Secretary of the VA to designate periods during which anyone, not just veterans, may dispose of unused medications at VA facilities.

In April, I partnered with Congressman DAVID TRONE to introduce the House companion to Senator KENNEDY's bill, and I am proud to see this bill before the House today.

As a doctor, I have seen firsthand the challenges created by opioid addiction and abuse. The opioid epidemic has hit every corner of the United States, and all of us know someone who has been harmed by addiction.

The DUMP Opioids Act is a simple expansion of current law that will give more Americans access to safe opioid disposal sites. Congress must work in a bipartisan manner and give our constituents the tools they need to tackle this head-on.

America has been hit hard by the opioid epidemic for years, especially over this past year during the pandemic, as illustrated by my colleague from Illinois. Iowa is no exception.

With opioid-related deaths up 35 percent in Iowa over the last year, we need to be more focused than ever on our efforts to both treat and prevent addiction. As a physician, I am proud to do my part to help combat this crisis.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Senator KENNEDY for his work with this bill, and I urge all of my colleagues to support S. 957, the DUMP Opioids Act.

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all of my colleagues to join me in passing S. 957, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. BOST. Mr. Speaker, I encourage my colleagues to support this bill as well, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 957.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY AUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (S. 1910) to authorize major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

S. 1910

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 "Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF MAJOR MEDICAL FACILITY PROJECTS OF DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR FISCAL YEAR 2021.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Veterans Affairs may carry out the following major medical facility projects in fiscal year 2021 at the locations specified and in an amount for each project not to exceed the amount specified for such location:

(1) Construction of an outpatient clinic and national cemetery in Alameda, California, in an amount not to exceed \$266,200,000.

(2) Construction of a new specialty care building 201 in American Lake, Washington, in an amount not to exceed \$110,600,000.

(3) Construction of a community living center and renovation of domiciliary and outpatient facilities in Canandaigua, New York, in an amount not to exceed \$383,741,000.

(4) Construction of a spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas, in an amount not to exceed \$249,000,000.

(5) Realignment and closure of the Livermore Campus in Livermore, California, in an amount not to exceed \$455,000,000.

(6) Seismic corrections to the mental health and community living center in Long Beach, California, in an amount not to exceed \$367,300,000.

(7) Construction of a spinal cord injury building with a community living center, including a parking garage, in San Diego, California, in an amount not to exceed \$252,100,000.

(b) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to the Secretary of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021 or the year in which funds are appropriated for the Construction, Major Projects account, \$2,083,941,000 for the projects authorized in subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) and the gentleman from Illinois (Mr. BOST) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from California.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to insert extraneous material on S. 1910.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of Senator TESTER's S. 1910, the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021. I also thank my good friend and a valued member of the House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, Representative COLIN ALLRED, for introducing the House companion to this vital and important piece of legislation.

Mr. Speaker, each year, the Department of Veterans Affairs submits an annual budget request to Congress, and then it is our job to authorize and appropriate the funding that VA needs to care for America's veterans and their families. Within that larger funding request is VA's request for funds to replace and modernize its medical facilities.

This year's major construction request totals just over \$2 billion and will build a much-needed spinal cord injury center in Dallas, Texas; erect a community living center and renovate domiciliary and outpatient facilities in Canandaigua, New York; construct an outpatient clinic and a national cemetery in Alameda, California; and allow for the construction of a new specialty care building in American Lake, Washington, among other things.

Mr. Speaker, this Congress, our committee has highlighted VA's aging infrastructure. It might surprise some Members to learn the median age of VA medical centers is 58 years old. In the private sector, it is about 11 years.

Delivering 21st century healthcare in buildings that were built during the latter half of the 19th century is far from ideal and certainly not what our veterans deserve.

Despite outdated facilities, RAND and other academic entities have found VA provides better care than private options, in most cases. That is right. The VA provides better care even though it is working from outdated facilities. Imagine what those findings would look like if VA was competing with a modern infrastructure.

During our oversight efforts, the committee has learned that in order to fully recapitalize the Department's portfolio, VA would need roughly \$100 billion. The Biden administration's \$18 billion proposal to enhance VA's physical infrastructure is a downpayment in ensuring veterans have access to the most advanced healthcare and most robust infrastructure that we can provide.

My colleagues across the aisle may argue that potentially spending \$18 billion on VA's infrastructure is premature because it fails to consider existing reform efforts already underway, alluding to the AIR Commission. They will argue that we should wait for the Commission's findings. Given the severity of underfunding as it relates to VA's capital assets, we cannot afford to

wait until the AIR Commission provides recommendations to Congress and the White House.

Life safety and seismic issues across the portfolio must be addressed now. Regular maintenance should not be delayed because of budgetary concerns, nor should we delay retrofitting facilities to meet the needs of VA's fastest growing population—women veterans—or delay addressing the lessons learned from this Nation's first pandemic in more than 100 years.

If we are going to build back better, if we are going to build back trust in VA, we have to start making serious investments in the outdated infrastructure meant to serve them, and nearly three-fourths of Americans agree.

Mr. Speaker, that is why I support S. 1910, and I thank Senator TESTER, the chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, for prioritizing and passing this legislation.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of S. 1910, the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021.

This bill would authorize the VA's major medical facilities construction projects in California, Washington, New York, and Texas. Those projects include outpatient clinics, a specialty care building, a spinal cord injury center, two community living centers, and more.

These projects are formally requested by the VA in the most recent budget submission. They would benefit hundreds, if not thousands, of veterans.

This bill is sponsored by Senator JON TESTER, chairman of the Senate Veterans' Affairs Committee. I thank him for introducing it, and I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting it today.

The VA healthcare system has a massive capital assets profile. It is comprised of medical facilities that are, on average, more than five times older than private-sector medical facilities.

In 2018, Congress passed the Asset and Infrastructure Review Act, or the AIR Act, to bring the VA healthcare system into the 21st century. It would lay the foundation to modernize the VA medical facilities to better serve the veterans.

I am proud to support this bill to help deliver updated medical facilities to the veterans in these four States, but we have much more to do to deliver modern medical care to our veterans across this country.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that we can pass this bill today and then continue working together to ensure the AIR Act lives up to the immense promises that it has for the veterans.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ALLRED), my good friend and a member of the

House Committee on Veterans' Affairs, where he is an active member of the Subcommittee on Health.

(Mr. ALLRED asked and was given permission to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. ALLRED. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my bipartisan bill, the fiscal year 2021 Major Medical Facility Authorization Act.

As the wars in Afghanistan and Iraq come to an end, as a Nation, we are reminded of our profound and sacred commitment to ensure that each and every one of our veterans gets the support, services, and care they need when they return home.

We owe this commitment to every generation of veterans who have served. I know this from when I visited Afghanistan in 2019 as a member of this committee.

Whether it is exposure to toxic air, coping with the stress and mental toll of their service, or trying to find a good job as they transition back to civilian life, we must do all we can to support our veterans who have served us so well.

That is why I was proud to lead this bipartisan bill in the House. This bill would create jobs by authorizing the construction of several major VA medical facilities across the country, including a spinal cord injury center in Dallas, my hometown and just outside of my district.

The Dallas project, currently underway, will construct a 30-bed, long-term care spinal cord injury center with the capacity to expand to 60 beds. These funds will ensure this center has all the tools it needs to best serve veterans in its care, including a warehouse administration building, parking garage, and central plant improvements.

In addition to providing long-term care for the medical complications of spinal cord injuries and disorders, the center will provide a residential setting in which highly dependent or medically complex veterans could live on a long-term basis, receiving the specialized environment, staff skills, and equipment that they require.

In 2020, I worked with folks in both parties to help secure a new VA hospital in Garland, in my district. This was a vacant hospital that we were able to get donated to the VA system. It took months and months of meetings and calls, but we were able to get it done. It has now been up and running for over a year, and the folks there are doing extraordinary work. It proves that when we provide the VA with the resources it needs, the hardworking folks there will go above and beyond to serve our veterans.

The facility is expected to eventually create 5,000 jobs and is helping us to better serve 174,000 veterans in north Texas.

Mr. Speaker, I am so honored to keep building on this work with the passage of this bill because, like our veterans' service and sacrifice, our commitment to them must be sacred.

I thank my House cosponsors, Representatives DEREK KILMER, KIM SCHRIER, and MIKE LEVIN. I also thank Chairman TAKANO and Ranking Member BOST for their leadership on this bill. I thank the Senate leads, Senator JON TESTER, chairman of the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs, and Senator JERRY MORAN as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to support this measure.

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

Mr. TAKANO. Mr. Speaker, I ask all my colleagues to join me in passing S. 1910, the Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from California (Mr. TAKANO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, S. 1910.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess until approximately 6:30 p.m. today.

Accordingly (at 5 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1830

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. PINGREE) at 6 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

APPOINTMENT OF MEMBER TO SELECT COMMITTEE TO INVESTIGATE THE JANUARY 6TH ATTACK ON THE UNITED STATES CAPITOL

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair announces the Speaker's appointment, pursuant to section 2 of House Resolution 503, 117th Congress, and the order of the House of January 4, 2021, of the following Member to the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol:

Mr. KINZINGER, Illinois

RAISING A QUESTION OF THE PRIVILEGES OF THE HOUSE

Mr. MCCARTHY. Madam Speaker, I rise to a question of the privileges of the House, and I send to the desk a privileged resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the resolution.

The Clerk read as follows:

H. RES. 554

Whereas, on June 30, 2021, the House voted to establish a “Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol.”;

Whereas, H. Res. 503 states that “The Speaker shall appoint 13 Members to the Select Committee, 5 of whom shall be appointed after consultation with the Minority Leader.”;

Whereas, on June 30, 2021, Speaker Nancy Pelosi stated that “We believe that Congress must in the spirit of bipartisanship and patriotism establish this commission.”;

Whereas, when asked during a press conference on July 22 about the partisanship of the committee, Speaker Pelosi stated that “the less partisan it is, the more it will be accepted by the American people.”;

Whereas, in a statement put out by the Speaker's Office, Speaker Pelosi stated that “our imperative must be to find the truth. We must do so in a way that retains the trust of the American people in the proceedings, so that they will have confidence in the truth that emerges.”;

Whereas, for the first known time in the history of the House, the Speaker of the House rejected two of the Minority Leader's nominees to a Select Committee.;

Whereas, Speaker Pelosi's own press release acknowledged that this was an “unprecedented decision.”; and

Whereas, Speaker Pelosi's refusal to seat all five Republican Members directly harms the legitimacy, credibility, and integrity of the proceedings of the Select Committee: : Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the refusal of Speaker Nancy Pelosi to seat all five Republican Members to the Select Committee; and

(2) urges the Speaker to make the following appointments to the Select Committee: Representative Jim Banks of Indiana, Representative Jim Jordan of Ohio, Representative Rodney Davis of Illinois, Representative Kelly Armstrong of North Dakota, and Representative Troy Nehls of Texas.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The resolution qualifies.

MOTION TO TABLE

Mr. HOYER. Madam Speaker, I have a motion at the desk.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Clerk will report the motion.

The Clerk read as follows:

Mr. Hoyer moves that the resolution be laid on the table.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion to table.

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

Mr. MCCARTHY. 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.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 218, nays 197, not voting 15, as follows:

[Roll No. 219]

YEAS—218

Adams	Allred	Axne
Aguilar	Auchincloss	Barragán

Bass	Green, Al (TX)	Pallone
Beatty	Grijalva	Panetta
Bera	Harder (CA)	Pappas
Beyer	Hayes	Pascarell
Bishop (GA)	Higgins (NY)	Payne
Blumenauer	Himes	Perlmutter
Blunt Rochester	Horsford	Peters
Bonamici	Houlahan	Phillips
Bourdeaux	Hoyer	Pingree
Bowman	Huffman	Pocan
Boyle, Brendan	Jackson Lee	Porter
F.	Jacobs (CA)	Pressley
Brown	Jayapal	Price (NC)
Brownley	Jeffries	Quigley
Bush	Johnson (GA)	Raskin
Bustos	Johnson (TX)	Rice (NY)
Butterfield	Jones	Ross
Carbajal	Kabele	Roybal-Allard
Cardenas	Kaptur	Ruiz
Carson	Keating	Ruppersberger
Carter (LA)	Kelly (IL)	Rush
Cartwright	Khanna	Ryan
Casten	Kildee	Sanchez
Castor (FL)	Kilmer	Sarbanes
Castro (TX)	Kim (NJ)	Scanlon
Cheney	Kind	Schakowsky
Chu	Kinzinger	Schiff
Cicilline	Kirkpatrick	Schneider
Clark (MA)	Krishnamoorthi	Schrier
Clarke (NY)	Kuster	Scott (VA)
Cleaver	Lamb	Scott, David
Clyburn	Langevin	Sewell
Cohen	Larsen (WA)	Sherman
Connolly	Larson (CT)	Sherrill
Cooper	Lawrence	Sires
Correa	Lawson (FL)	Slotkin
Costa	Lee (CA)	Smith (WA)
Courtney	Lee (NV)	Soto
Craig	Leger Fernandez	Spanberger
Crist	Levin (CA)	Speier
Crow	Levin (MI)	Stansbury
Cuellar	Lieu	Stanton
Davids (KS)	Lofgren	Stevens
Davis, Danny K.	Luria	Strickland
Dean	Lynch	Suozzi
DeFazio	Malinowski	Swalwell
DeGette	Maloney,	Takano
DeLauro	Carolyn B.	Thompson (CA)
DelBene	Maloney, Sean	Thompson (MS)
Delgado	Manning	Titus
Demings	Matsui	Tlaib
DeSaulnier	McBath	Tonko
Deutch	McCollum	Torres (CA)
Dingell	McEachin	Torres (NY)
Doggett	McGovern	Trahan
Doyle, Michael	McNerney	Trone
F.	Meeks	Underwood
Escobar	Meng	Vargas
Eshoo	Mfume	Veasey
Espallat	Moore (WI)	Vela
Evans	Morelle	Velázquez
Fletcher	Moulton	Wasserman
Foster	Mrvan	Schultz
Frankel, Lois	Murphy (FL)	Waters
Gallego	Nadler	Watson Coleman
Garamendi	Napolitano	Welch
Garcia (IL)	Neal	Wexton
Garcia (TX)	Neguse	Wild
Golden	Newman	Williams (GA)
Gomez	Norcross	Wilson (FL)
Gonzalez,	O'Halleran	Yarmuth
Gonzalez,	Ocasio-Cortez	
Vicente	Omar	
Gottheimer		

NAYS—197

Aderholt	Burgess	Fallon
Allen	Calvert	Feenstra
Amodei	Cammack	Ferguson
Armstrong	Carl	Fischbach
Arrington	Carter (GA)	Fitzgerald
Babin	Carter (TX)	Fitzpatrick
Bacon	Cawthorn	Fleischmann
Baird	Chabot	Fortenberry
Balderson	Cline	Fox
Banks	Cloud	Franklin, C.
Barr	Clyde	Scott
Bentz	Cole	Fulcher
Bergman	Comer	Gaetz
Bice (OK)	Crawford	Gallagher
Biggs	Crenshaw	Garbarino
Bilirakis	Curtis	Garcia (CA)
Bishop (NC)	Davidson	Gibbs
Boebert	DesJarlais	Gimenez
Bost	Diaz-Balart	Gohmert
Brady	Donalds	Gonzales, Tony
Brooks	Duncan	Gonzalez (OH)
Buchanan	Dunn	Good (VA)
Bucshon	Emmer	Gooden (TX)
Burchett	Estes	Gosar

Granger	Lucas	Rosendale
Graves (LA)	Luetkemeyer	Rouzer
Graves (MO)	Mace	Roy
Green (TN)	Malliotakis	Rutherford
Greene (GA)	Mann	Salazar
Griffith	Massie	Scalise
Grothman	McCarthy	Schweikert
Guthrie	McCaul	Sessions
Harris	McClain	Smith (MO)
Harshbarger	McClintock	Smith (NE)
Hartzler	McHenry	Smith (NJ)
Hern	McKinley	Smucker
Herrell	Meijer	Spartz
Herrera Beutler	Meuser	Staubert
Hice (GA)	Miller (IL)	Steel
Hill	Miller (WV)	Stefanik
Hinson	Miller-Meeks	Steil
Hollingsworth	Moolenaar	Steube
Hudson	Mooney	Stewart
Huizenga	Moore (AL)	Taylor
Issa	Moore (UT)	Tenney
Jackson	Mullin	Thompson (PA)
Jacobs (NY)	Murphy (NC)	Tiffany
Johnson (LA)	Nehls	Timmons
Johnson (OH)	Newhouse	Turner
Johnson (SD)	Norman	Upton
Jordan	Nunes	Valadao
Joyce (OH)	Obenrolte	Van Drew
Joyce (PA)	Owens	Van Dune
Katko	Palazzo	Wagner
Keller	Palmer	Walberg
Kelly (MS)	Pence	Walorski
Kelly (PA)	Perry	Waltz
Kim (CA)	Pfluger	Weber (TX)
Kustoff	Posey	Webster (FL)
LaHood	Reed	Wenstrup
LaMalfa	Reschenthaler	Westerman
Latta	Rice (SC)	Williams (TX)
LaTurner	Rodgers (WA)	Wilson (SC)
Lesko	Rogers (AL)	Womack
Letlow	Rogers (KY)	Young
Long	Rose	Zeldin

NOT VOTING—15

Buck	Hagedorn	Mast
Budd	Higgins (LA)	Schrader
Case	Lamborn	Scott, Austin
Davis, Rodney	Loudermilk	Simpson
Guest	Lowenthal	Wittman

□ 1901

Messrs. GAETZ, CAWTHORN, REED, and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

So the motion to table was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt	Graves (MO)	Maloney,
(Moolenaar)	(Wagner)	Carolyn
Amodei	Grijalva	(Velázquez)
(Balderson)	(Stanton)	Meng (Jeffries)
Bucshon	Horsford	Napolitano
(Walorski)	(Jeffries)	(Correa)
Cuellar (Veasey)	Jones (Williams	Payne (Pallone)
DeSaulnier	(GA))	Porter (Wexton)
(Thompson	Kelly (PA)	Ruppersberger
(CA))	(Keller)	(Brown)
Deutch (Rice	Kirkpatrick	Rush
(Stanton)	(Stanton)	(Underwood)
Fulcher (Meuser)	Lawrence	Sires (Pallone)
(Beatty)	(Beatty)	Watson Coleman
Garcia (IL)	Lawson (FL)	(Pallone)
(Garcia (TX))	(Evans)	Wild (Axne)
Gonzalez (OH)	McEachin	Wilson (FL)
(Timmons)	(Wexton)	(Hayes)

AUTHORIZATION TO ESTABLISH COMMEMORATIVE WORK

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1664) to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as

amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Mrs. DINGELL) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 416, nays 0, not voting 14, as follows:

[Roll No. 220]

YEAS—416

Adams	Crenshaw	Hartzler
Aderholt	Crist	Hayes
Aguilar	Crow	Hern
Allen	Cuellar	Herrell
Allred	Curtis	Herrera Beutler
Amodei	Davids (KS)	Hice (GA)
Armstrong	Davidson	Higgins (NY)
Arrington	Davis, Danny K.	Hill
Auchincloss	Dean	Himes
Axne	DeFazio	Hinson
Babin	DeGette	Hollingsworth
Bacon	DeLauro	Horsford
Baird	DelBene	Houlahan
Balderson	Delgado	Hoyer
Banks	Demings	Hudson
Barr	DeSaulnier	Huffman
Barragán	DesJarlais	Huizenga
Bass	Deuth	Issa
Beatty	Diaz-Balart	Jackson
Bentz	Dingell	Jackson Lee
Bera	Doggett	Jacobs (CA)
Bergman	Donalds	Jacobs (NY)
Beyer	Doyle, Michael	Jayapal
Bice (OK)	F.	Jeffries
Biggs	Duncan	Johnson (GA)
Bilirakis	Dunn	Johnson (LA)
Bishop (GA)	Emmer	Johnson (OH)
Bishop (NC)	Escobar	Johnson (SD)
Blumenauer	Eshoo	Johnson (TX)
Blunt Rochester	Espallat	Jones
Boebert	Estes	Jordan
Bonamici	Evans	Joyce (OH)
Bost	Fallon	Joyce (PA)
Bourdeaux	Feenstra	Kahele
Bowman	Ferguson	Kaptur
Boyle, Brendan	Fischbach	Katko
F.	Fitzgerald	Keating
Brady	Fitzpatrick	Keller
Brooks	Fleischmann	Kelly (IL)
Brown	Fletcher	Kelly (MS)
Brownley	Fortenberry	Kelly (PA)
Buchanan	Foster	Khanna
Bucshon	Fox	Kildee
Burchett	Frankel, Lois	Kilmer
Burgess	Franklin, C.	Kim (CA)
Bush	Scott	Kim (NJ)
Bustos	Fulcher	Kind
Butterfield	Gaetz	Kinzinger
Calvert	Gallagher	Kirkpatrick
Cammack	Galleo	Krishnamoorthi
Carbajal	Garamendi	Kuster
Cárdenas	Garbarino	Kustoff
Carl	Garcia (CA)	LaHood
Carson	Garcia (IL)	LaMalfa
Carter (GA)	Garcia (TX)	Lamb
Carter (LA)	Gibbs	Langevin
Carter (TX)	Gimenez	Larsen (WA)
Cartwright	Gohmert	Larson (CT)
Casten	Golden	Latta
Castor (FL)	Gomez	LaTurner
Castro (TX)	Gonzales, Tony	Lawrence
Cawthorn	Gonzalez (OH)	Lawson (FL)
Chabot	Gonzalez,	Lee (CA)
Chu	Vicente	Lee (NV)
Cicilline	Good (VA)	Leger Fernandez
Clark (MA)	Gooden (TX)	Lesko
Clarke (NY)	Gosar	Letlow
Cleaver	Gottheimer	Levin (CA)
Cline	Granger	Levin (MI)
Cloud	Graves (LA)	Lieu
Clyburn	Graves (MO)	Lofgren
Clyde	Green (TN)	Long
Cohen	Green, Al (TX)	Lowenthal
Cole	Greene (GA)	Lucas
Comer	Griffith	Luetkemeyer
Connolly	Grijalva	Luria
Cooper	Grothman	Lynch
Correa	Guest	Mace
Costa	Guthrie	Malinowski
Courtney	Harder (CA)	Malliotakis
Craig	Harris	Maloney,
Crawford	Harshbarger	Carolyn B.

Maloney, Sean	Perry	Stauber
Mann	Peters	Steel
Manning	Pfluger	Stefanik
Massie	Phillips	Steil
Matsui	Pingree	Steube
McBath	Pocan	Stevens
McCarthy	Porter	Stewart
McCaul	Posey	Strickland
McClain	Pressley	Suozzi
McClintock	Price (NC)	Swalwell
McCollum	Quigley	Takano
McEachin	Raskin	Taylor
McGovern	Reed	Tenney
McHenry	Reschenthaler	Thompson (CA)
McKinley	Rice (NY)	Thompson (MS)
McNerney	Rice (SC)	Thompson (PA)
Meeks	Rodgers (WA)	Tiffany
Meijer	Rogers (AL)	Timmons
Meng	Rogers (KY)	Titus
Meuser	Rose	Tlaib
Mfume	Rosendale	Tonko
Miller (IL)	Ross	Torres (CA)
Miller (WV)	Rouzer	Torres (NY)
Miller-Meeks	Roy	Trahan
Moolenaar	Roybal-Allard	Trone
Mooney	Ruiz	Turner
Moore (AL)	Ruppersberger	Underwood
Moore (UT)	Rush	Upton
Moore (WI)	Rutherford	Valadao
Morelle	Ryan	Van Drew
Moulton	Salazar	Van Dwyne
Mrvan	Sánchez	Vargas
Mullin	Sarbanes	Veasey
Murphy (FL)	Scalise	Vela
Murphy (NC)	Scanlon	Velázquez
Nadler	Schakowsky	Wagner
Napolitano	Schiff	Walberg
Neal	Schneider	Walorski
Neguse	Schrier	Walt
Nehls	Schweikert	Wasserman
Newhouse	Scott (VA)	Schultz
Newman	Scott, David	Waters
Norcross	Sessions	Watson Coleman
Norman	Sewell	Weber (TX)
Nunes	Sherman	Webster (FL)
O'Halleran	Sherrill	Welch
Obenrolte	Sires	Wenstrup
Ocasio-Cortez	Slotkin	Westerman
Omar	Smith (MO)	Wexton
Owens	Smith (NE)	Wild
Palazzo	Smith (NJ)	Williams (GA)
Pallone	Smith (WA)	Williams (TX)
Palmer	Smucker	Wilson (FL)
Panetta	Soto	Wilson (SC)
Pappas	Spanberger	Womack
Pascrell	Spartz	Yarmuth
Payne	Speier	Young
Pence	Stansbury	Zeldin
Perlmutter	Stanton	

NOT VOTING—14

□ 1922

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt	Grijalva	Maloney,
(Moolenaar)	(Stanton)	Carolyn
Amodei	Horsford	(Velázquez)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	Meng (Jeffries)
Bucshon	Jones (Williams)	Napolitano
(Walorski)	(GA)	(Correa)
Cuellar (Veasey)	Kelly (PA)	Payne (Pallone)
DeSaulnier	(Keller)	Porter (Wexton)
(Thompson)	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
(CA)	(Stanton)	(Brown)
Deuth (Rice)	Lawrence	Rush
(NY)	(Beatty)	(Underwood)
Fulcher (Meuser)	Lawson (FL)	Sires (Pallone)
Garcia (IL)	(Evans)	Watson Coleman
(Garcia (TX))	Lowenthal	(Pallone)
Gonzalez (OH)	(Beyer)	Wild (Axne)
(Timmons)	McEachin	Wilson (FL)
Graves (MO)	(Wagener)	(Hayes)
(Wagner)	(Wexton)	

MOMENT OF SILENCE IN MEMORY OF OFFICER JACOB J. CHESTNUT AND DETECTIVE JOHN M. GIBSON

The SPEAKER. The Chair asks all Members in the Chamber, as well as Members and staff throughout the Capitol, to observe a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police who were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol on July 24, 1998.

GOLD STAR MOTHERS FAMILY MONUMENT EXTENSION ACT

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. PIN-GREE). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 2365) to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. Dingell) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 412, nays 0, not voting 18, as follows:

[Roll No. 221]

YEAS—412

Adams	Cammack	DesJarlais
Aderholt	Carbajal	Deuth
Aguilar	Cárdenas	Diaz-Balart
Allen	Carl	Dingell
Allred	Carson	Doggett
Amodei	Carter (GA)	Donalds
Armstrong	Carter (LA)	Doyle, Michael
Arrington	Carter (TX)	F.
Auchincloss	Cartwright	Duncan
Axne	Casten	Dunn
Babin	Castor (FL)	Emmer
Bacon	Castro (TX)	Escobar
Baird	Cawthorn	Eshoo
Balderson	Chabot	Espallat
Banks	Chu	Estes
Barr	Cicilline	Evans
Barragán	Clark (MA)	Fallon
Bass	Clarke (NY)	Feenstra
Beatty	Cleaver	Ferguson
Bentz	Cline	Fischbach
Bera	Cloud	Fitzgerald
Bergman	Clyburn	Fitzpatrick
Beyer	Clyde	Fleischmann
Bice (OK)	Cohen	Fletcher
Biggs	Cole	Fortenberry
Bilirakis	Comer	Foster
Bishop (GA)	Connolly	Fox
Bishop (NC)	Cooper	Frankel, Lois
Blumenauer	Correa	Franklin, C.
Blunt Rochester	Costa	Scott
Boebert	Courtney	Fulcher
Bonamici	Craig	Gaetz
Bost	Crawford	Gallagher
Bourdeaux	Crenshaw	Galleo
Bowman	Crist	Garamendi
Boyle, Brendan	Crow	Garbarino
F.	Cuellar	Garcia (CA)
Brady	Curtis	Garcia (IL)
Brooks	Davids (KS)	Garcia (TX)
Brown	Davidson	Gibbs
Brownley	Davis, Danny K.	Gimenez
Buchanan	Dean	Gohmert
Bucshon	DeFazio	Golden
Burchett	DeGette	Gomez
Burgess	DeLauro	Gonzales, Tony
Bush	DelBene	Gonzalez (OH)
Bustos	Delgado	Gonzalez,
Butterfield	Demings	Vicente
Calvert	DeSaulnier	Good (VA)

Gooden (TX)	Luetkemeyer	Rush
Gosar	Luria	Rutherford
Gottheimer	Lynch	Ryan
Granger	Mace	Salazar
Graves (LA)	Malinowski	Sánchez
Graves (MO)	Malliotakis	Sarbanes
Green (TN)	Maloney	Scalise
Green, Al (TX)	Carolyn B.	Scanlon
Greene (GA)	Maloney, Sean	Schakowsky
Griffith	Mann	Schiff
Grijalva	Manning	Schneider
Grothman	Massie	Schrier
Guest	Matsui	Schweikert
Guthrie	McBath	Scott (VA)
Harder (CA)	McCarthy	Scott, David
Harris	McCauley	Sessions
Harshbarger	McClain	Sewell
Hartzler	McClintock	Sherman
Hayes	McCollum	Sherrill
Hern	McEachin	Sires
Herrell	McGovern	Slotkin
Herrera Beutler	McHenry	Smith (MO)
Hice (GA)	McKinley	Smith (NE)
Higgins (NY)	McNerney	Smith (NJ)
Hill	Meijer	Smith (WA)
Himes	Meng	Smucker
Hinson	Meuser	Soto
Hollingsworth	Mfume	Spanberger
Horsford	Miller (IL)	Spartz
Houlahan	Miller (WV)	Speier
Hoyer	Miller-Meeks	Stansbury
Hudson	Moolenaar	Stanton
Huffman	Mooney	Stauber
Huizenga	Moore (AL)	Steel
Issa	Moore (UT)	Stefanik
Jackson	Moore (WI)	Steil
Jackson Lee	Morelle	Steube
Jacobs (CA)	Moulton	Stevens
Jacobs (NY)	Mrvan	Stewart
Jayapal	Murphy (FL)	Strickland
Jeffries	Murphy (NC)	Suozi
Johnson (GA)	Nadler	Swalwell
Johnson (LA)	Napolitano	Takano
Johnson (OH)	Neal	Takano
Johnson (SD)	Neguse	Taylor
Johnson (TX)	Nehls	Tenney
Jones	Newhouse	Thompson (CA)
Jordan	Newman	Thompson (MS)
Joyce (OH)	Norcross	Thompson (PA)
Joyce (PA)	Norman	Tiffany
Kahele	Nunes	Timmons
Kaptur	O'Halleran	Titus
Katko	Obernolte	Tlaib
Keating	Ocasio-Cortez	Tonko
Keller	Omar	Torres (CA)
Kelly (IL)	Owens	Torres (NY)
Kelly (MS)	Palazzo	Trahan
Kelly (PA)	Pallone	Trone
Khanna	Palmer	Turner
Kildee	Panetta	Underwood
Kilmer	Pappas	Upton
Kim (CA)	Pascrell	Valadao
Kim (NJ)	Payne	Van Drew
Kind	Pence	Van Dyne
Kinzinger	Perlmutter	Vargas
Kirkpatrick	Perry	Veasey
Krishnamoorthi	Peters	Velázquez
Kuster	Pfluger	Wagner
Kustoff	Phillips	Walberg
LaHood	Pingree	Walorski
LaMalfa	Pocan	Waltz
Lamb	Porter	Wasserman
Langevin	Posey	Schultz
Larsen (WA)	Pressley	Waters
Larson (CT)	Price (NC)	Watson Coleman
Latta	Quigley	Weber (TX)
LaTurner	Raskin	Webster (FL)
Lawrence	Reed	Welch
Lawson (FL)	Reschenthaler	Wenstrup
Lee (CA)	Rice (NY)	Westerman
Lee (NV)	Rice (SC)	Wexton
Leger Fernandez	Rodgers (WA)	Wild
Lesko	Rogers (AL)	Williams (GA)
Letlow	Rogers (KY)	Williams (TX)
Levin (CA)	Rose	Wilson (FL)
Levin (MI)	Rosendale	Wilson (SC)
Lieu	Ross	Womack
Lofgren	Roy	Yarmuth
Long	Roybal-Allard	Young
Lowenthal	Ruiz	Zeldin
Lucas	Ruppersberger	

NOT VOTING—18

Buck	Higgins (LA)	Rouzer
Budd	Lamborn	Schrader
Case	Loudermilk	Scott, Austin
Cheney	Mast	Simpson
Davis, Rodney	Meeks	Vela
Hagedorn	Mullin	Wittman

□ 1944

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE
RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Aderholt	Grijalva	Maloney
(Moolenaar)	(Stanton)	Carolyn
Amodei	Horsford	(Velázquez)
(Balderson)	(Jeffries)	Meng (Jeffries)
Bucshon	Jones (Williams)	Napolitano
(Walorski)	(GA)	(Correa)
Cuellar (Veasey)	Kelly (PA)	Payne (Pallone)
DeSaulnier	(Keller)	Porter (Wexton)
(Thompson)	Kirkpatrick	Ruppersberger
(CA)	(Stanton)	(Brown)
Deutch (Rice)	Lawrence	Rush
(NY)	(Beatty)	(Underwood)
Fulcher (Meuser)	Lawson (FL)	Sires (Pallone)
Garcia (IL)	(Evans)	Watson Coleman
(Garcia (TX))	(Lowenthal)	(Pallone)
Gonzalez (OH)	(Beyer)	Wild (Axne)
(Timmons)	McEachin	Wilson (FL)
Graves (MO)	(Wexton)	(Hayes)
(Wagner)		

PERMISSION FOR MEMBER TO BE
CONSIDERED AS PRIMARY SPON-
SOR OF H.R. 1744

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that I may hereafter be considered to be the primary sponsor of H.R. 1744, a bill originally introduced by Representative HASTINGS of Florida, for the purpose of adding co-sponsors and requesting reprintings pursuant to clause 7 of rule XII.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. BOURDEAUX). Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New Hampshire?

There was no objection.

CELEBRATING 31ST ANNIVERSARY
OF ADA

(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, this morning, I had the privilege of joining President Biden at the White House to celebrate the 31st anniversary of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

This landmark civil rights law has drastically improved the lives of people with disabilities across our Nation, including mine.

In 1980, an accidental gunshot left me paralyzed, and for 10 years, I experienced firsthand the adversity that the disability community faced before the ADA.

Since its enactment, this law has helped break down barriers and stamp out discrimination. It has opened doors to new opportunities for people with disabilities and allowed members of our community to reach previously unattainable places in society.

In fact, I can say with confidence that without the ADA, I would not be a Member of Congress proudly representing the people of Rhode Island.

Madam Speaker, though we have made tremendous progress with the

ADA, we can't stop fighting yet. I will continue working closely with advocates and lawmakers like my dear friend, our Majority Leader, STENY HOYER, to advance meaningful legislation to support and protect the rights of people with disabilities.

HONORING THE LIFE OF BRIAN
SCHLIFKE

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

Mr. BARR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of a great American and my dear friend, Brian Schlifke, of Lexington, Kentucky.

Brian served in the United States Army Signal Corps during the Vietnam war, answering our Nation's call with valor through two tours. He was a specialist in communications and earned the Bronze Star and Combat Medal. He once said that he was "no hero, just proud to have been of service to my fellow soldiers."

He continued that spirit of service throughout his life, working diligently on behalf of other veterans. He was associated with the Vietnam Veterans of America and Kentucky's Sixth District Veterans Coalition.

Brian was a tireless advocate for his fellow veterans and worked in a positive way to bring about necessary legislative changes. He had a great spirit and a contagious smile, and his love for his country was unwavering.

Our Nation lost a true patriot when Brian passed away on June 20, 2021. Brian is survived by his wife, Anne, and many other family members.

It is my distinct honor, on behalf of a grateful Nation, to remember, recognize, and pay tribute to the exemplary life of Brian Schlifke.

REMEMBERING DAVID CASTRO

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

Mrs. FLETCHER. Madam Speaker, I rise today with a heavy heart to honor the life of one of my constituents, David Castro.

Born and raised in Houston over the last 17 years, David was tragically killed in a road rage incident on his way home from an Astros game just earlier this month.

He had a bright future ahead of him. A National Merit Scholar semifinalist, he excelled in math and physics. He was a percussionist in the Westside High School marching band.

Today, as I extend my deep condolences to David's family and friends for their loss, I rise to share their wish that our community and our country remember David through random acts of kindness. What a beautiful way to memorialize him.

David Castro will be missed but never forgotten and will live on in acts of kindness across this country.

HONORING THE LIFE OF COLONEL EDWARD IRWIN WEXLER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to remember and honor the life of Colonel Edward Wexler, of Savannah, Georgia, who passed away on June 30 at the age of 75.

Colonel Wexler was a Savannah native who lived a truly remarkable life. After graduating from The Citadel, he was commissioned as a second lieutenant in the United States Air Force. Colonel Wexler traveled the world with the United States Air Force, serving in many different countries. He retired from the Air National Guard in 2006, having over 35 years of service.

Following retirement, Colonel Wexler continued to serve his community. He became director of the Combined Federal Campaign for Coastal Georgia, president of the Savannah Military Officers Association, and junior vice commander of the Veterans Council of Chatham County.

Colonel Wexler's dedication to improving the lives of others will never be forgotten. My thoughts and prayers are with Colonel Wexler's family, friends, and all who knew him during this most difficult time.

RESTORING COMMUNITIES LEFT BEHIND

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, I rise this evening to thank Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for including the Restoring Communities Left Behind Act in her Housing is Infrastructure bill.

This legislation, led by Congresswoman RASHIDA TLAIB and myself, would direct \$5 billion toward programs for homeowner rehabilitation assistance, weatherization, improved accessibility for seniors and people with disabilities, refinancing, and property tax relief.

It will restore quality housing in the cities I represent, such as Toledo, Lorain, Sandusky, and Cleveland, which have suffered from decades of job losses, recessions, the foreclosure crisis of 2008, and chronic housing underinvestment.

Congress must serve as a partner to our on-the-ground organizations and local leaders who know what resources are needed where and how best to deploy them to revive their neighborhoods.

These investments will repair homes, stimulate economic growth, and revitalize communities. I urge all of my colleagues to support its passage, and I send my thanks to all who have helped us along this really vital road.

RETURN OF DEBT CEILING

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Madam Speaker, the return of the debt ceiling on July 31 should flash fiscal warning signs for every elected official in Congress.

The debt ceiling was suspended for 2 years back in 2019. Since then, Congress has kept up its reckless spending habits like a teenage shopaholic at the mall with a credit card.

Now, government debt is over 100 percent of our domestic product—100 percent, Madam Speaker.

We clearly ignored the spending problems that got us into this mess in the first place. There needs to be a limit on how much debt elected officials can put on the taxpayers' shoulders.

My legislation, the Reforming America's Fiscal Toolkit Act, would amend Congress' budget process to keep government debt lower than our gross domestic product. This would limit how much financial trouble Congress can get the country into.

You know what they say, Madam Speaker: The first step to solving a problem is recognizing you have a problem, and dadgummit, Congress has a problem.

Congress needs to put a spending check on itself, or our country is going to end up like that out-of-control teenage shopaholic: bad credit, high interest rates, broke, and living in their parents' basement.

200 DAYS OF DELIVERING FOR THE PEOPLE

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

Mr. AUCHINCLOSS. Madam Speaker, last week, we celebrated the 200th day of the 117th Congress and 200 days of getting shots in arms, students in classrooms, money in pockets, and Americans back to work.

Thanks to House Democrats and President Biden, we passed the American Rescue Plan, delivering funding and relief to the Commonwealth and to Americans across the country.

In Massachusetts, nearly 74 percent of adults are fully vaccinated, allowing them to reunite with friends and loved ones, and we have sent over 500,000 stimulus checks to Bay Staters.

When I came to Congress, I promised our students and families that they would return to in-person learning. The American Rescue Plan delivered on my pledge, providing Massachusetts schools with \$1.8 billion in Federal relief to support their students and staff as they re-entered the classroom.

We lifted up our care economy, securing over \$1 billion to reduce the cost of childcare and pay our care workers a fair wage.

As a parent, I worked hard to provide our working families with the historic

tax relief that they deserve. The child tax credit we passed will cut child poverty in half and help nearly 60 percent of children in my district, from Brookline to Fall River.

We passed the INVEST Act, a transformational bill that will reimagine transportation while delivering clean energy and spurring job creation. Now, the Senate has the legislative framework it needs to make our infrastructure plan a reality.

From the depths of the crisis, House Democrats delivered needed recovery for Americans in just 200 days.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABOR- TION ACT

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

Mr. BILIRAKIS. Madam Speaker, in Pasco County, one of the counties in my district, we have seen a huge spike in overdoses, including 25 fatalities in the month of June alone. Very, very sad.

During January through June 2021, we have seen more overdoses than any other similar period on record.

Fentanyl continues to be a significant factor. We must do everything we can to prevent fentanyl from flooding our streets, including stopping the free flow at our Nation's southern border.

I have been to the border, Madam Speaker, and I have seen how easy it is to move drugs into our country. We must secure our border.

Additionally, we must implement commonsense safeguards to prevent opioid abuse and improve access to quality treatment options. I will continue to work on these priorities.

Separately, Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under guidelines consistently issued by successive Speakers, as recorded in section 956 of the House Rules and Manual, the Chair is constrained not to entertain the request unless it has been cleared by the bipartisan floor and committee leaderships.

□ 2000

RECOGNIZING THE ANNIVERSARY OF THE AMERICANS WITH DIS- ABILITIES ACT

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the anniversary of the signing of the Americans with Disabilities Act.

As someone who spent their career before Congress as a healthcare rehabilitation professional, I experienced

firsthand how with the right tools and accessibility, disabled Americans can live a life of independence, economic self-sufficiency, and pride.

The Americans with Disabilities Act is a monumental piece of legislation, opening the doors of opportunity to the millions of Americans who have a disability, whether it be physical, learning, cognitive, or any other.

Whether it is protection from discrimination in the workplace, additional support in school, or added accommodations in our public venues, the ADA provides the support to better empower those individuals living with disabilities.

Madam Speaker, while we saw this landmark legislation signed into law 31 years ago today, we must continue to advocate for the rights of Americans who are living with disabilities. The ADA is an incredible milestone for Americans living with disabilities, but there is still more work to be done. We can all continue to do more for those living with disabilities, from defying prejudice to empowering those with disabilities in everyday lives.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of the Hyde amendment. For more than 40 years, Hyde enjoyed strong bipartisan support, with both Republicans and Democrats agreeing that Americans should never be forced to fund abortions with their hard-earned tax dollars.

However, President Biden and my Democrat colleagues have now decided to abolish this crucial protection. By eliminating the Hyde amendment from their budget, they have disregarded the conscience rights of all Americans and blatantly attacked the lives of the unborn.

As the father of five children and the grandfather of 17, I know just how precious life is, and I will never stop fighting to protect the Hyde amendment.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

CRISIS AT THE SOUTHERN BORDER

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, two weeks ago, I spent additional time

at the U.S. border, which I think, by a mile, is the biggest crisis this country has.

It has recently been brought to my attention that the Rio Grande Valley sector, where I was at, recently had 20,000 people a week processed. They had never seen such a thing.

What difference does this make? The more people come across, first of all, it probably means more illegal drugs crossing the border, which means more fentanyl, which is the reason why we have 90,000 deaths a year in this country. Since they're processing more people, it means less Border Patrol agents to guard the more rural areas of the border, which means more people coming across.

Finally, we are in a situation, we found out, down there, when they turn people over with COVID to the non-governmental entities, those entities do not have secure facilities, and it means people are flowing into this country who we already know have COVID.

Please, during this appropriations season, please add more money to our Border Patrol so we can get a handle on these ridiculously high numbers.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida. Madam Speaker, for more than 40 years, the Hyde amendment has prevented taxpayers from funding abortions through government programs. Historically, it has been included in annual spending bills by both parties. But recently, Democrats voted to eliminate Hyde amendment protections. Even President Biden previously said: "Those of us who are opposed to abortion should not be compelled to pay for them," but it would appear he and his Democrat colleagues have abandoned this critical position.

With nearly 60 percent of Americans agreeing that taxpayer dollars should not be used to fund abortion, we must stand for life. Accordingly, I support H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

(Mr. WESTERMAN asked and was given permission to address the House

for 1 minute and to revise and extend his remarks.)

Mr. WESTERMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion and Abortion Insurance Full Disclosure Act of 2021.

Earlier this month, President Biden released his budget, which does not include the Hyde amendment, an amendment that prohibits Federal taxpayer dollars from funding abortions through Medicaid. Hyde has been included in every appropriations package since 1976 and is a longstanding, bipartisan common ground bill between Republicans and Democrats to protect the conscience of taxpayers.

President Biden has consistently expressed support for the Hyde amendment throughout his career, and I am disappointed that his recent shift signals to the American people that he will cave to the political pressures of his left wing and force our tax dollars to pay for the eugenics of our Nation's poorest individuals who are on Medicaid. We cannot stand for this and must codify Hyde's restrictions on taxpayer-funded abortions.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair has previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I stand today to voice my support for H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, which would protect the American people from a gross misuse of taxpayer dollars.

I cosponsored H.R. 18 during my first few days in Congress, because I, along with the majority of American voters, believe that no person should be required to pay for abortions or abortion services. President Biden himself pledged never to force taxpayers to pay for abortions, and yet he has broken that promise by failing to include the Hyde amendment in his new budget proposal.

Devaluing the life of unborn children has desensitized America. We should never use taxpayer dollars to fund abortion services. Instead, we should focus on lifesaving resources that focus on both the mother and the child.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, and I

ask for its immediate consideration in this House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

REQUEST TO CONSIDER H.R. 18, NO TAXPAYER FUNDING FOR ABORTION ACT

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

Mr. HUDSON. Madam Speaker, as a father, I believe that every life has value, and I am proud to be pro-life.

But whether you are pro-life or not, my fellow North Carolinians and Americans all across the country agree that government should not use taxpayer dollars to fund abortions.

That is why the Hyde amendment was created.

The Hyde amendment has saved 2.5 million lives and protected the conscience rights of Americans, all with overwhelmingly bipartisan support.

In fact, Hyde has been renewed every year since 1976, under majorities and Presidents of both parties, including President Barack Obama.

However, in his most recent budget proposal, President Joe Biden chose to ignore precedent and the will of the people by excluding Hyde amendment protections.

This is a radical shift in policy.

Americans should not be forced to violate their conscience to pay for abortions.

Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Ways and Means, and the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration of H.R. 18, the No Taxpayer Funding for Abortion Act, and I ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. As the Chair previously advised, that request cannot be entertained absent appropriate clearance.

THE U.S.-MEXICO BORDER IS UNPROTECTED

(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, we have a record-setting surge of illegal drugs coming in across our southern border, including the very, very deadly fentanyl, which takes only small amounts to greatly affect many people, as well as whatever other activities the cartels want to do.

The U.S.-Mexico border is basically unprotected, and it doesn't seem to be a priority of the Biden administration at all. Please, prove me wrong.

Yet, the Biden administration is happy to, once again, push the idea of perhaps shutting down the country over COVID again. Is it because of the

delta variant, or now is it going to be over a new Mexico variant? But it seems to be coming our way.

Yet, they will not control the border and the flow of illegal immigrants that might be carrying COVID themselves, whether it is through the new Mexico variant or not.

So you have to ask, whose side is this administration on with this open sieve of a border, these drugs coming through, illegal immigrants coming through, and then putting the clamps down on our own economy and our own people?

FIGHTING FOR THE RIGHT TO VOTE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentlewoman from Texas (Ms. JACKSON LEE) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I am here to anchor this Special Order on the fierce urgency of preserving the precious right to vote by passing H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and legislation like H.R. 1, For The People.

I am delighted to be co-anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order at the request of our tireless leader for justice, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY of Ohio, and to be joined by my co-anchor, Congressman RITCHIE TORRES of New York, and many other members of the Congressional Black Caucus.

Fifty-six years ago, in a century that was close to a hundred years after the Emancipation Proclamation and the rendition of the 15th Amendment, the very right to vote, there we were fighting with this beloved Member of Congress, who challenged us to get into good trouble, fighting in 1965, pursuant to the collapse of the understanding of the 15th Amendment, fighting for the right to vote again.

Madam Speaker, here we are today, 2021, now 56 years after the 1965 Voting Rights Act, fighting for the right to vote.

I want to make sure that I pay tribute to Our Power, Our Message, led by the Honorable JOYCE BEATTY, who does not only speak her words, but she acts on her words, how proud we were. But I am sure pride is not what she wants us to feel as she walked down this difficult road here in Washington, D.C., to be able to express, with Black women and others, that we have a fierce sense of urgency, and was arrested, just about two weeks ago, in the name of voting rights.

So let me, for a moment, read to you out of the book that has just been published by a dear, beloved friend, "Carry On." I use this book in the Rules Committee, when there seems to have been a challenge to helping the impoverished. I concluded my remarks, when I was giving amendments, to help the impoverished to carry on.

But on the issue of justice, these are his words: "We must practice what we preach. If we believe in life and liberty, then we should not defer the dream of equality and justice"—the right to vote—"under the law for people of color. We must use the system of government to improve our laws and to make our society fairer and more just. While no one bill can right the many wrongs, we can stitch together partial solutions to deal with the complex societal issues that lead to systemic bias and inequality."

That is why we stand here today. We are stitching together a response to the collapse of voting rights in America. We are stitching together laws that will deal with the mass of suppression laws being passed in State legislatures across America. We are stitching together a response for those brave Texas Democratic representatives who are here in Washington, D.C., who are begging us to pass H.R. 1 and S. 1 and of course we have passed H.R. 1 and the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

□ 2015

Let me just briefly say that serious damage to the precious right to vote occasioned by the rightwing conservative majority on the Supreme Court demands that the Congress exercise its powers under section 5 of the 15th Amendment to restore the extraordinary reach and effectiveness of section 2 and section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. The 15th Amendment said that no law, no State legislature should abridge the right to vote on the basis of discrimination of race and color and ethnicity and that the Congress should stand up and provide the relief and the answer.

Did you hear, Madam Speaker? The Congress. And the Congressional Black Caucus has said that, not only with their words but with their bodies. HANK JOHNSON was just arrested last week, Congressman HANK JOHNSON.

So the objection to the VRA and their opponents is without substance. I have long said that the States that were subject to preclearance under the Voting Rights Act earned their way into so doing by discriminatory laws.

Madam Speaker, June 25, 2021, marked the eighth anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, which immobilized the Department of Justice from subjecting discriminatory voting and election laws to the preclearance.

On August 6 will be the commemoration of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. 56 years. And look at the predicament we are in.

Later on in this debate I will recount all the times we voted for the Voting Rights Act. Madam Speaker, it was bipartisan. It was across racial lines, regional lines, because we knew it was the right thing to do.

So tonight we stand on what is right. We stand on good trouble. We stand on making the decision that not the

Shelby case, not the Arizona case. The Arizona case is *Brnovich v. DNC* that dashes section 2, and frankly says, by one of the justices, that a little bit of discrimination is okay. Not on the watch of the Congressional Black Caucus and all of my colleagues, because voting rights belongs to every single person in this Congress and to their constituents.

Why would they want to deny the implementation and the substance of the Constitution and the 15th Amendment?

So here we are tonight to be able to explain to the American public and our colleagues that we cannot wait any longer for H.R. 4 or H.R. 1, S. 1, S. 4, and we are here tonight to tell our story.

It is my pleasure and certainly my privilege, as we continue to tell our story, and as I continue to weave in that story, to yield to the gentlewoman from Ohio (Ms. BEATTY), who, again, has spoken with her actions, not just her words, the Chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, senior member and chairwoman on the Financial Services Committee, and, again, someone who showed the Nation that it is both our message and our power by being arrested in the name of the fight for equality, getting into a little good trouble.

I am sure John Lewis, rest in power, is looking down on us.

Mrs. BEATTY. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE, who is coanchor with Congressman RITCHIE TORRES.

Let me say this: Congresswoman JACKSON LEE is at the right place in the right time in history. I thank her for her leadership and her powerful, profound words of talking about not only our late Congressman John Lewis, but talking about why we are here tonight, speaking truth to power, from her own experiences, from her own leadership, from those marches that I have read about and witnessed her in, leading not only individuals from Texas but across this Nation. So I thank her and look forward to hearing her talk about voting rights under attack.

Lastly, let me thank her for quoting from his latest book, "Carry On." Just as it was fitting for her, as a powerful attorney, to talk about justice, in that book he talks about voting rights, and in that book he kept it quite simple. In capital letters, he said: Vote, vote, vote. And stand up for the right of voting, because voting rights belong to all of us and all of our constituents.

Madam Speaker, let me say tonight, I rise and join my colleagues of the Congressional Black Caucus for this Special Order hour on a critically important topic, voting rights.

The Congressional Black Caucus Special Order hour is generally regarded as a solemn moment to give the CBC an opportunity to speak directly to the American people and to reflect on the ideas and policies of critical interest to our constituents.

Well, tonight I speak to the people about the right to vote. We are gathered in this sacred Chamber, the floor of the people's House, to discuss the future of voting rights in America, to amplify our power, our message, and to boldly proclaim that we are not going to let the clock be turned back to a time when the votes of Black people were restricted and limited by those who feared our power.

On behalf of the 57 members of the Congressional Black Caucus, I come today to share some thoughts and join my colleagues on this debate on voting rights.

The right to vote is under attack, and some of those attacks have taken place right here in this Chamber, and in other States across the Nation.

So, Madam Speaker, let me be clear to the American people: The Congressional Black Caucus will not sit idly by as State legislatures, fueled by the support of adversaries intent on limiting our access to the ballot box, voter suppression, changing the rules of engagement after we have been victorious. We have the majority in the House, the Senate, and we are building back better with the Biden-Harris administration. To all of those who believe it does not exist, I have a message for you: We won. We stand for the people, because we were elected by the people.

The civil disobedience displayed by the proud Black women and activists, allies, and others just over a week and a half ago that our coanchor talked about, we were there for a reason, organized by good friend and colleague Melanie Campbell, Clayola Brown, Barbara Skinner, the Reverend Barbara Skinner, and so many other women. Well, yes, I was proud to stand with them.

On that day I did reflect back on how many of my CBC colleagues had been arrested and what they fought for that gave me the privilege to stand on this floor tonight. Did I think about John Lewis and did I think about Fannie Lou Hamer and so many more? Yes. Did I think about Rosa Parks and what she did to give us the Montgomery March of 1955 when she sat down that gave us 1964 civil rights, 1965 voting rights, 1968 jobs and housing act, and so much more?

Well, tonight, that is what we are standing here for. We understand, Madam Speaker, that you can't change the future if you don't acknowledge the past. And that is why you will hear us repeatedly talk about the legal cases. You will hear us talking about our rich history. And as much as we embrace it and we love it, we are not going back to it. And that is why we are standing here.

Madam Speaker, I stand with Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE and coanchor RITCHIE TORRES. Let me just say tonight, we send a strong message that we are here to pass H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, the For the People Act and the John Lewis Voting Rights Act. We are done waiting. We are done being patient.

If it means we have to speak out, if it means we have to stand up and march and protest, then that is what we will do. The example set by Democrats across the United States, and specifically those members who came here from Texas, we stand with them, because they were forced to come here. Are they making a bold statement? Yes.

But think about it. It has only taken one action, one person to get the attention of the Nation to change things and make it right. And that is what we are doing. When people ask why, why do we stand here and stand up for freedom and justice and our equal rights and to protect our voting rights? Because we know if we don't stand up for ourselves, what will our future be like? What will the future of our children, our grandchildren, and those yet unborn be like? Well, we want to stand up today for H.R. 1, for H.R. 4, so we leave them with a better future.

Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEILA JACKSON LEE for giving me the opportunity to speak tonight.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the Chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus for her powerful words. And, yes, thank her for acknowledging the women who stood in the gap, including Melanie Campbell and Reverend Barbara Williams Skinner and Clayola Brown, and Tamika, who has been at the forefront as well, and many, many others that have, likewise, been at the forefront. We are pleased to be able to join in their leadership as well.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days within which to revise and extend their remarks on the subject of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), a gentleman who now walks in history, who knows his history, and who is prepared to fight against that history that should never be repeated, my coanchor, who has eloquently articulated what was in General Granger's Order No. 3, and that is the equality of rights.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, it is always a pleasure to be here with Congresswoman JACKSON LEE.

The culprit is not only the Republican Party, but it is also the Supreme Court. The rightwing majority on the Supreme Court gave the Voting Rights Act the narrowest possible meaning in order to render it powerless against 21st century voter suppression.

Congress deliberately wrote the Voting Rights Act broadly so as to protect against both obvious and insidious forms of voter disenfranchisement. The broad language of the Voting Rights

Act prohibits not only the denial, but also the abridgement of voting rights. It prohibits not only discriminatory intent, but also racially disparate impact. It requires that all methods of voting be equally open to communities of color, and that communities of color have an equal opportunity to cast their ballots.

And so anything that undermines equal openness and equal opportunity is a violation of the Voting Rights Act properly interpreted. I would submit to you that voter suppression in America has no greater ally than rightwing judicial activism.

□ 2030

Instead of interpreting the Voting Rights Act as written, the rightwing majority on the Supreme Court has chosen to rewrite the statute out of existence. The enforcement mechanisms of the Voting Rights Act have been all but eviscerated. There was section 5, which provided for preclearance, which enabled the executive branch to protect voting rights. Then there was section 2, which provided for litigation, which enabled the courts to protect voting rights.

Both of those enforcement mechanisms had been gutted at the hands of the Supreme Court, the former in *Shelby County v. Holder* and the latter in *Brnovich v. DNC*.

We know from history, Madam Speaker, that the most effective tool for preventing voter suppression is preclearance. According to Justice Kagan, from 1965 to 2006, the Federal Government harnessed the power of section 5, the power of preclearance, to prevent 1,200 voting restrictions from taking effect.

We should see the desecration of both section 5 and section 2 as a call to action, as a call for the United States Congress to pass the John Lewis Voting Rights Act, which would restore our preclearance not only for select jurisdictions but for every State and locality across the Nation.

Let it be known that the greatest obstacle on the path to 21st century voting rights enforcement is the filibuster. The filibuster perpetuates a status quo that disenfranchises communities of color. If you are a defender of the filibuster, then you should dispense with the pretense that you are a champion of voting rights. If you are a defender of the filibuster, you are not part of the solution, but you are part of the problem.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from New York for opening the pathway. We may have him continue to explore that journey, which I will take up, and that is the question of the filibuster. Someone described it as busting things up and busting good things up.

We know that there has to be a solution to those who have argued that, in fact, they are about the institution of the other body; they are about the integrity of the other body. I would

argue that where blood has been shed so that people have died so that people might vote, it is not the integrity of the institution. It is the life and death of voting rights, not only for people of color, but for this Nation.

A man who has argued eloquently about the filibuster and a resolve of our next steps, but also recognizes historically, not only the civil rights journey but the fundamental right of voting that should not be hindered or undermined is our majority whip, and we are very grateful for his leadership and his historical perspective and his current understanding of how we have to get the job done.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from South Carolina (Mr. CLYBURN).

Mr. CLYBURN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me and thank her so much for bringing this issue before the American people.

For several weeks now, we have all heard discussions about various aspects of H.R. 1 and H.R. 4. Now, H.R. 4, as all of us know, has not yet passed the Congress and is now before the Senate.

But I wanted to bring two issues to the forefront here this evening. The first one has to do with the so-called preclearance that we just heard a discussion on. I am serving in the Congress today in large part because of the preclearance in the Voting Rights Act of 1965.

But preclearance came into being because of some targeted legislation, legislation targeted toward those States that had a history of discriminating. Therefore, because all the States did not have that kind of a history, we had to go out and develop a record to show that this is the reason these particular States are being targeted. All or parts of seven States were initially covered and, of course, we all know what happened in *Shelby County v. Holder*.

The 1965 Voting Rights Act was virtually gutted because the formula of section 4 is no longer operative. Therefore, section 5 has really been neutralized, which is the preclearance.

Here is something I want to bring to the attention of the American people, and that is this: If you were to only pass preclearance as it relates to a history of discrimination, we will miss what is happening in the country today. Pennsylvania was not one of those States. Yet, we see massive discrimination in voting being advocated throughout Pennsylvania. The same thing is going on up in Michigan.

Now, according to the studies I have read, 48 States have now put into place or proposed—I think 28 of them have put into place—restrictive voting laws. Under the standard of the 1965 Voting Rights Act, these States would not be covered. Therefore, it is time for everybody to turn their attention to what we need to do about preclearance.

I submit that preclearance needs to be applied universally to all 50 States, because if you pass preclearance, zeroing in on seven, eight, nine States, and

then another State pops up with a new restrictive law, that State would not be covered under preclearance, and I think it is time for us to take a look at that as well.

Madam Speaker, I call upon my friends in the Senate to not wait around for us to develop this record, though I think it is pretty much in place, look at applying preclearance to all 50 States.

The second thing I think that we are needing to begin to think about that is not being discussed is this little thing called nullification; states enacting nullification laws. If you look at the Georgia law that they passed, it is very suppressive. It restricts. The thing that is insulting to me is that little part in there that allows an established commission to overturn the results of an election, to nullify the results of an election. None of us are using that word today, but that word is very prominent when you look at what States are doing.

That violates not just laws as passed by this Congress, that violates the Constitution. The Constitution is very clear. Article I, Section 4 tells us that no State can pass final judgment on federal elections. No State. The best argument for that is sitting right there in *The Federalist Papers* No. 59. It talks about it and lays out examples as to why the Federal Government cannot allow States to determine the election.

That is why the Supreme Court made it very clear that States could not put term limits on Members of Congress because that is not their purview. When you see nullification laws coming forward, I think it is incumbent upon this Congress to step in and do what is necessary to exert the Constitution of the United States. That is what is at threat here today. That is why I have argued irrespective of what you may feel about filibusters.

Filibusters ought not be applied to anybody's constitutional rights because it will allow a State to give final determination as it relates to federal elections, and that is as unconstitutional as anything that can take place.

Madam Speaker, I think that it is incumbent upon the Federal Government, the Congress, the House of Representatives, and the Senate to do what is necessary to make sure that the United States Constitution still reigns supreme.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the distinguished gentleman from South Carolina for his comments. He clearly acted, as I indicated, and that is, he presented the history, but he brought us to the 21st century and 2021. I think the challenge that we are now offering to the American people, incredulously, how can anyone try to undermine the votes of any American, and particularly those Americans of color?

As I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, let me at least just depict for a moment the uniqueness of our history, for this picture is a picture

of a whipped, beaten back of a slave. That means that we had extraordinary conditions, extraordinary circumstances. In the 1800s preceding and around the Emancipation Proclamation, I will just read these words as I yield: Congress put forward the 15th Amendment and it made it very clear that:

No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the rights of any citizen of the United States to vote on the account of race, or color, or language minority status.

This was coming out of slavery when they had the 13th Amendment that eliminated slavery but didn't eliminate stigma and institutional racism, gave due process, and then gave the right to vote out of the history of what is depicted here. That is why this is so serious that an institutional rule cannot survive over the right to vote, and the big lie cannot supersede the right to vote.

It is my pleasure to yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina (Ms. ADAMS), who is a historian and professor in her own right and spent her life's work teaching at historically Black colleges which were born out of the seeds or born out of the quagmire and the fires of slavery but born to make a difference. She has been a champion for the HBCUs and understands what the denial of the vote and voting rights means to that constituency.

□ 2045

Ms. ADAMS. Madam Speaker, I thank the coanchor, SHEILA JACKSON LEE. I thank her for her stellar leadership and all of her diligent work and labor in this vineyard.

To the dynamic coanchor, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), I thank him so very much.

To our illustrious chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, I am so very proud of her work and very proud of her leadership, and I thank her so much.

Power is what makes the difference in lives and communities. The first thing you have to understand about power and how to get it: You don't ask somebody how to get it, where it is, if you can have it. You take it.

Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to talk about our most fundamental right in a democracy, the power of the vote, the right to vote.

While we have made amazing strides over the past century—votes for women, voting rights for Native Americans and indigenous people, the end of racist Jim Crow laws that completely suppressed the Black votes in certain States, and lowering the voting age to 18—we are still marching because the promise of one person, one vote continues to be abridged by State legislatures across the country.

Marches, sit-ins, and protests are part of our rights as Americans, but we

shouldn't have to March 245 years after the Declaration of Independence. We shouldn't have to march 151 years after the 15th Amendment guaranteed Black Americans the right to vote. We shouldn't have to march a full century after women's suffrage.

But we will continue to march, and we will continue to make our voices heard until every adult citizen can freely, fairly, and easily access the ballot. To cast a vote is at the core of what it means to be American. It is how we build a more perfect Union.

Here in the House, we have passed voting rights bills that bring us closer to a more perfect Union. As we await the support of our Senate colleagues on this urgent matter, the issue of voting rights, I want to leave you with this because I have to tell you that, in my State of North Carolina, there is a lot of mischief going on, and there has been for a number of years.

As the gentlewoman knows, my district was considered to be the district that they described as "surgical precision." It continues to be a problem.

I have been a State legislator for 20 years. I have witnessed legislation that targets African Americans with almost surgical precision and imposes cures for problems that did not exist—that is, unless you think African Americans voting is a problem.

Congress cannot tolerate State-level attempts to curb our most fundamental right. Now is the time to make sure that every American who can vote has the opportunity to do so. This is our power, our message.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for her pointed message about North Carolina and her district. I think I join her. My district is a voting rights district, so we know what it is to be at the edge of surviving.

The only way that we have survived is with the protection of the 1965 Voting Rights Act. We are living testimony that it is crucial to the vast diversity that has been created in this House on behalf of the American people.

Madam Speaker, let me now take the pleasure of yielding to another distinguished Member who has had her own history in a very unique State.

Someone asked the question: Is it Southern? Is it Northern? I think you only have to hear her—and, of course, the President of the United States, who is a very forthright leader. President Joe Biden and Vice President HARRIS have been forthright in confronting issues that have been meant to help the American people heal and unite. She has been right in the mix and, as well, has been a leader on labor issues, a leader on healthcare issues. But one thing she knows is the depth of disparity that plagues a community when voting is extinguished.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Delaware (Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER).

Ms. BLUNT ROCHESTER. Madam Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SHEI-

LA JACKSON LEE for her leadership and the things that she does to protect all of us across the country, not just in her district but across the country. We are greatly indebted to her for her service.

The gentlewoman mentioned me coming from the State of Delaware and whether it is Southern or Northern. Many people might not know, but we are on the Mason-Dixon Line. We are urban, suburban, rural, and coastal. But we are also on that Mason-Dixon Line with that strong history.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman and her coanchor, Mr. TORRES, and I thank our esteemed chairwoman of the Congressional Black Caucus, JOYCE BEATTY.

Madam Speaker, I stand before you tonight with a sense of urgency because the most fundamental and sacred right we have as Americans is under attack.

Across this country, State lawmakers have introduced at least 389 restrictive bills in 48 States just this year, and 14 States have already enacted more restrictive voting laws. Even the highest court in the land is chipping away at this fundamental right.

We know that those who would engage in suppression, subversion, and intimidation are not resting, but neither is the Congressional Black Caucus. Tonight, we are standing up and speaking out because we know that just as our message is our power so, too, is our vote.

I am going to say that again: Our vote is our power.

We are here to protect and defend that right because the vote is tied to everything. The vote is tied to criminal justice reform. The vote is tied to healthcare. The vote is tied to the minimum wage increase across this country and access to affordable childcare. It is tied to the preservation of our democracy. It is tied to our very existence: the ability to drink clean water, breathe air that is free of pollution, and even to have a planet to live on.

Everything is tied to the vote, and the vote is on the line.

While we are fighting a new battle, it is the same old tactics that we have seen before. And it is a future we are not going back to.

Yesterday, we lost another American civil rights leader and educator, Bob Moses. One of the many things that he was known for was Freedom Summer, a project to organize and register voters. Through intimidation and beating, Bob Moses never relented in his mission to register voters in the South.

Sixty years later, it is our turn to answer the question that Bob asked of students, a question that goes to the very core of who we are: What kind of society will we be?

Today, the CBC is here to proclaim loudly and proudly: We will be the kind of society that values every voice, empowers every citizen, and counts every vote because it is all on the line. We must pass and have signed into law

H.R. 1, the For the People Act, and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

In honor of Bob Moses, let's make this the Freedom Summer of our time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for mentioning Bob Moses.

For those of us who care and know about history, we know about Bob Moses, and it makes this night even more significant because if you are losing the peaceful warriors who helped organize and put themselves on the line, then we must carry on. I thank the gentlewoman from Delaware.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentlewoman has 17 minutes remaining.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, let me make an argument regarding where we are, and then I will be happy to yield to my coanchor and happy to conclude.

Madam Speaker, I wanted to reemphasize where we are today and reemphasize that, unfortunately, a bill that had been passed as bipartisan for years has been "upheavaled" by the Supreme Court. Unfortunately, a Supreme Court that, as my friend from New York described, is an activist Supreme Court—the Shelby Court and now the Brnovich Court, absolutely wrongheaded decisions.

In Shelby, I believe the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg said that you don't throw away an umbrella in a rainstorm.

Now, let me characterize these words and not attribute them. I think one of the other points that was made is: Just because polio is not on the rise, you don't get rid of the polio vaccine. Just because you think COVID-19 is gone, you don't throw all manner of precautions to the wind.

Obviously, we see what is happening with this kind of reckless behavior and this kind of red State, blue State discord. People are dying.

That is where we are with voting rights. The Shelby case in 2013 just imploded the preclearance, which in actuality says that as you begin to think about a bill that may have these discriminatory impacts, they can be precleared by the Department of Justice and stopped in their tracks. Section 2 says the harm has been done, and you can run into court making the argument that it is discriminatory.

Tragically, all we were left with, before the Brnovich case, was section 2. But here, what has happened in this case that came out of Arizona—a place where the big lie is playing out every day with a false and misleading and disreputable vote count. To my colleague, I don't know what they found yet, but it is certainly one that has no basis in fact.

The Court in Brnovich suggested that they would have something called guideposts—I call them burdens or suggestions—that when reviewing claims that are facially so-called neutral elec-

tion policy, practice, or voting rule, and it is discriminating, you can look at these aspects.

You can burden us by saying, "Here is what you look at." Are they ordinary burdens or mere inconvenience exception, the size of disparities and burdens imposed by the challenge rule, other opportunities to vote provided by a State's election system.

So, the polls are closed. You can't do a mail ballot. You don't have Souls to the Polls. So, just find some other way to vote.

That is the question. They say, "other opportunities to vote." You close out all the other supporting aspects of voting, and maybe you can get to vote in a snowstorm. Maybe you can get to vote as a military person in battle. Maybe you can show up to the voting poll on election day because that is another opportunity. Maybe you can get on a plane and leave battle to vote. These are the just nonsensical aspects of the Brnovich case.

Legitimate State interests justifying the challenge voting rule—oh, there is a State interest to close your polling locations in minority neighborhoods, to not have places to get a voter ID in eight counties in Texas when you have a law that says you must have a voting ID, or to close out Souls to the Polls, a perfectly legal concept to allow people who work around the clock through a Sunday to go vote. I guess you would tell them to just find another opportunity.

When we were in the middle of COVID-19 and nurses and doctors were working around the clock, Harris County said: We will give you 24-hour voting.

Legally, law enforcement present, machines in order, no fraud detected at all, but you are fighting COVID, and you might not get off until 1 a.m., 3 a.m., 4 a.m.

Yet, this is what the big lie brings about, and then the degree to which a voting rule departs from what was a standard practice when section 2 was amended in 1982.

Now, the crisis of this is that all of this must be run down for you to be able to prevail under section 2, under the Brnovich case.

Taken together, this Supreme Court cabal is saying to racial, ethnic, and language minorities already intimidated—and you need to look at what John Lewis faced in 1965, this brute force, law enforcement on horses chasing foot soldiers back over the bridge, 8-year-olds running for their lives, and bloodied older persons, foot soldiers, and John Robert Lewis, who said he thought he was going to die.

□ 2100

That is what sacrifice has been made for voting. Taken together, this court decision is saying: What is the big deal? It is only voting. Just like with bad weather, sometimes you just have to grin and bear it and have a little inconvenience. Just a little bit of dis-

crimination. Why are you concerned about that?

And so I assume that without the 24th amendment, that this conservative majority and the court will subject poll taxes and literacy tests to the review standard enunciated in Brnovich. Just a little bit of inconvenience. Take that money out and pay that poll tax. You don't have any money? I guess your fundamental right to vote has just been extinguished.

That is where we are today. That is why we are here today challenging the filibuster, speaking about the Federalist papers nullification, and trying to understand that the Constitution prevails over all of these miserly bills across the Nation. The 15th amendment and then the Constitution statement, very clearly says that Congress, that no one can nullify or stop your rights as a person that is elected to Congress because they have no rights.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article, an op-ed, that I submitted on June 26, 2021, authored by myself.

WHERE GOP LAWMAKERS HAVE PASSED NEW VOTING RESTRICTIONS AROUND THE COUNTRY

Republican state legislators have introduced hundreds of bills that would tighten access to voting around the country, many of them echoing former president Donald Trump's false claims that loose election laws allowed fraud to taint the 2020 White House race.

The groundswell began early this year with the introduction of 253 bills proposing voting restrictions across 43 states as of mid-February, according to the nonpartisan Brennan Center for Justice. That number rose to at least 389 bills in 48 states as of mid-May.

The national spotlight is now on Texas after Democratic lawmakers left the state on July 12 in an effort to block passage of one of the most stringent new voting measures in the country. Texas Gov. Greg Abbott (R) said the members could face arrest when they return, which is not expected until the state's special legislative session concludes—potentially as late as Aug. 7.

Across the country, 17 states have enacted laws this year that tighten the rules around casting ballots and running elections, according to the nonpartisan Voting Rights Lab, which tracks developments in state election law.

Many of the bills target mail voting and other policies that helped safeguard the franchise during the coronavirus pandemic and produce the highest turnout among American voters in more than a century.

Some of the bills also seek to curtail early voting, impose restrictions on voter registration efforts, limit the power of local officials to oversee elections and stop private donors from supplementing their operational budgets.

Democratic-controlled states have moved in the other direction, approving measures to formalize more permissive voting policies from 2020, complementing proposed federal legislation to protect voting rights with a set of national standards.

In addition to the states listed below, Alabama, Arkansas, Idaho, Kansas, Kentucky, Montana, North Dakota, New Hampshire, Nevada, Tennessee, Texas, Utah and Wyoming have also passed laws with restrictive language.

STATES WITH SIGNIFICANT NEW VOTING
RESTRICTIONS*Arizona—Enacted May 11 and June 30*

Republicans in Arizona changed the state's popular Permanent Early Voting List, which determines who receives mail ballots each election cycle.

The new rules mean voters who do not cast a ballot at least once every two years will have to respond to a government notice to avoid being removed from the list and to continue getting a ballot in the mail.

Another measure, signed into law on June 30, stripped power from Democratic Secretary of State Katie Hobbs, allowed third parties designated by the legislature to flag ineligible voters for removal from the rolls and provided funds for election security and post-election recounts.

Florida—Enacted May 6

New state law signed May 6 institutes a number of changes, including requiring voters to renew their mail voting application every two years and to submit a form of identification.

With some exceptions, voters' access to drop boxes for returning mail ballots will be limited to early voting hours, a maximum of 12 hours per day.

If any drop box is found to be accessible outside of these hours, the local supervisor of elections could be subject to a civil penalty of \$25,000.

Voters will be permitted to drop off only two ballots for nonfamily members.

The law gives partisan election observers more access to the ballot counting process.

It also prevents behavior undertaken with the "intent" of influencing a voter, so the law is likely to bar efforts to provide food and water to people waiting in line to cast in-person ballots.

Donations to election budgets from private individuals are also not allowed.

Georgia—Enacted March 25

Georgia's new voting law signed by Gov. Brian Kemp (R) on March 25 imposes a number of restrictions on voting in the state, earning it comparisons to the Jim Crow laws that effectively blocked Black men and women from voting in the American South.

Specifically, the rules prevent proactively sending mail ballot applications to voters, require voters to submit identification with their application to be approved and shorten the time frame for the application process to take place.

Like several other states, Georgia added new restrictions on the use of mail ballot drop boxes and prohibited providing food or water to people waiting in line to vote in person. Legislators also stripped certain powers from the secretary of state, removing that official as chair of the State Election Board and allowing the General Assembly to select his or her replacement.

Iowa—Enacted March 8

New Iowa voting law shortens the application period for mail ballots and bars election officials from proactively sending application forms to voters.

County auditors can face criminal charges if they do not follow certain procedures in purging voter rolls.

The early voting period—and voting hours on Election Day are shorter.

Local officials' discretion in placing drop boxes is curtailed.

WHAT TO WATCH IN COMING WEEKS

Texas

One of the most restrictive voting bills in the country was defeated—at least temporarily—in Texas on May 30, when a Democratic walkout in the state House caused the chamber to miss the deadline for passage.

The GOP bills would empower partisan poll watchers and impose stiff penalties on election administrators for actions such as sending unsolicited mail ballot applications to voters.

Comparing the legislation to Jim Crow laws, critics have said it would disproportionately affect people of color.

The measures would prohibit drive-up voting and other methods used widely by Black and Latino voters in Houston to cast ballots during the coronavirus pandemic, as well as create strict signature-matching rules that could force the rejection of valid votes cast by mail.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES), my co-anchor, and I thank him again for his joining me tonight, and for our journey that we are on trying to raise up justice in this country.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, both the 2020 and 2021 election cycles have been a powerful testament to the influence of the Black vote.

I proudly come from New York State where we have seen a golden age of Black political power: the attorney general, the State Senate majority leader, the State assembly speaker, the mayor, are all Black.

And we know that but for the Black vote, President Biden would have never won the Presidency, and the Democrats never would have won a majority in the Senate. And the attempts at voter suppression that we have seen threatens to reverse the racial progress that has been made.

Increasingly, we are becoming a multiracial democracy. You know, 70 percent of the Democratic Caucus consists of people of color, women, and members of the LGBTQ community. But you would never know that from the structure of the Senate. The structure of the Senate concentrates power in a small subset of States that are much whiter, much more rural, much more conservative than the rest of the country.

Before the Democratic party won the Senate in 2021, the Senate Republican majority represented 10 to 15 million fewer people than the Senate Democratic minority. And the problem is that the filibuster takes the undemocratic structure of the Senate to an even greater extreme.

The notion that one Senator, who represents a State smaller than our congressional districts, should have the power to overturn the will of the President and the Senate and the House, is profoundly undemocratic. It makes an absurdity of the democratic process.

One particularly egregious example of the filibuster can be found in the area of gun safety. In a rational world, every gun would be registered and safely stored. Every gun owner would be licensed and trained. Every gun sale would be subject to a background check.

But there is nothing rational about a political system that enables one Senator from a State smaller than my congressional district to filibuster gun safety at the expense of 330 million Americans.

Name any cause: LGBTQ equality, voting rights enforcement, immigration reform, democracy reform, criminal justice reform, all of these causes have died at the hands of the filibuster.

I would submit to you that we have a party in America that is intent on holding power at any cost and by any means necessary. If the Republican party cannot win democratically, then it will insist on winning undemocratically through voter suppression, gerrymandering, the structure of the Senate, the electoral college, right-wing judicial activism on the Supreme Court. All of these are means of holding onto power by any means necessary. All of these are means of subverting democracy at any cost. That is the challenge that lies before us.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New York. I am so glad he said the words "by any means necessary." That is striking, and without a doubt, the approach of the activist Supreme Court, right-wing, of the big lies, and of those who wish to stall and stop the very lifeline of American democracy, and that is the right of each person to vote their conscious.

As we have said: Our message, our power; but our voice, our vote; our vote, our voice. And I thank him for joining me this evening for elaborating and detailing and roll-calling where we are today.

I notice the gentleman did not step in the breach and indicate that we might need to expand the Court. That is another discussion altogether.

Madam Speaker, I am delighted to yield to the distinguished gentlewoman from Missouri (Ms. BUSH), a member of the Judiciary Committee. I think she can speak in her own way on the vitality of a vote for poor people.

Ms. BUSH. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairwoman for this moment to be able to address about something that I still have trouble understanding the need to address when people fell, when people bled, when people died, and we are still here. And all of that happened, so much of it happened before I was even born, even thought of, and we are still here.

So, St. Louis and I, we rise today, because in Missouri our right to vote is being taken away. Taken away from many of us. And by us, let me be clear that I mean Black folks, I mean Brown folks, I mean Indigenous folks.

□ 2110

Despite the raising of our voices, despite the marching of our feet, and despite our turning out the vote to deliver the government to Democrats, the Senate has yet to do anything about it. H.R. 1 is gathering dust in the Senate, and the filibuster remains intact. With every passing day, the reality of the situation worsens.

Yet, rather than acting with urgency, some have even suggested instead we want to out-organize voter suppression.

After an election year when Black, Brown, and indigenous organizers gave their blood, their sweat, and their tears to deliver a Democratic House, Senate, and White House. A year when Black women turned the longtime red State of Georgia blue. When Black, Brown, and indigenous voters stood in disproportionately long lines to cast their ballots on an election day that is not a Federal holiday. A year when Black, Brown, and indigenous communities have been disproportionately harmed by this pandemic, yet turned out in the face of these suppression tactics to vote in record numbers.

We did this because we were promised justice. We were promised that our right to vote would be secure, and we were promised a sustainable future.

But rather than deliver on these promises, we were asked again to give our blood, our sweat, and our tears?

To those who say just out-organize rather than legislate, I say shame. Shame, Madam Speaker, that you take our labor for granted. Shame that you take our struggle for granted, and shame that your promises continue to go unfulfilled. Like my chairwoman said, we have people who are living, struggling, burdened, and oppressed in ways that others aren't, and are the ones who suffer the most.

Shame that rather than doing everything within your power, Madam Speaker, to deliver us the future, we are being asked to overcome voter suppression again.

To those who are telling us just to out-organize voter suppression, my message to you is this: We already did.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. I thank the gentlewoman. Madam Speaker, thank you for recognizing me to anchor this Special Order on the fierce urgency of preserving the precious right to vote by passing H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, and legislation like H.R. 1, the For The People Act.

I am delighted to be co-anchoring this Congressional Black Caucus Special Order at the request of our tireless leader for justice, Congresswoman JOYCE BEATTY of Ohio, and to be joined by co-anchor, Congressman RITCHIE TORRES of New York, and many members of the CBC.

Before I begin, Madam Speaker, let me share some history and important numbers with our colleagues and the nation that show for most of the past 56 years, support for the Voting Rights Act and protecting, preserving, and expanding the right to vote of all Americans has been an issue that Americans have supported in overwhelming numbers all across the nation.

On July 9, 1965, House passed the Voting Rights Act by a 333–85 vote, with Democrats voting 221–61 and Republicans 112–24.

House later approved the VRA conference report on August 3 by a 328–74 vote (Democrats 217–54, Republicans 111–20).

The Senate passed the VRA on August 4 by a 79–18 vote, with Democrats voting 49–17 and Republicans 30–1.

This landmark legislation, P.L. 89–10, was signed into law by President Lyndon Johnson as on August 6, 1965.

Five years later, on June 22, 1970, the VRA was renewed for five years as Public Law 91–

285, passing the House by a vote of 272–132 and the Senate by a vote of 64–12.

Five years later, on June 4, 1975, Congress extended the VRA for seven years, enacting Public Law 94–73, with majorities of 341–70 in the House and 77–12 in the Senate.

On June 29, 1982, a Republican-controlled Senate joined with a Democratic House to pass Public Law 97–205, extending the VRA for 10 years, with the vote in the Senate of 85–8 and the vote in the House of 389–24.

Ten years later, the bipartisan Voting Rights Language Assistance Act was passed as Public Law 102–344 on August 26, 1992.

And on July 27, 2006, the Voting Rights Act was extended for 25 years when the Congress passed Public Law 109–246 (H.R. 9), the Fannie Lou Hamer, Rosa Parks, and Coretta Scott King Voting Rights Act Reauthorization and Amendments Act of 2006.

The vote for H.R. 9 was 390–33 in the House and 98–0 in the Senate.

Madam Speaker, every extension of the Voting Rights Act recounted above was signed into law by a Republican President, from Richard Nixon to Gerald Ford to Ronald Reagan to George H.W. Bush, and George W. Bush.

This chain of bipartisan support for voting rights stood solid and unbreakable until the Supreme Court's horrendous decision in *Shelby County v. Holder* 570 U.S. 529 (2013).

PROTECTING AND PRESERVING VOTING RIGHTS

Madam Speaker, the serious damage to the precious right to vote occasioned by the right-wing, conservative majority on the Supreme Court demands that Congress exercise its powers under Section 5 of the 15th Amendment to restore the extraordinary reach and effectiveness of Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act.

As an aside, Madam Speaker, on the objection of VRA opponents to states subject preclearance having the burden to bail themselves out, I have long said that the states that were subject to preclearance under the Voting Rights Act earned their way in, so it only fitting that they earn their way out.

Madam Speaker, June 25, 2021, marked the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), which immobilized the Department of Justice from subjecting discriminatory voting and election law changes to prior review and approval, or "preclearance."

It was predicted at the time by me and other defenders of the precious right to vote that the Court's misguided and naïve decision would usher in a wave of state and local initiatives intended to suppress and nullify the rights of black Americans, persons of color, young adults, and marginalized communities to exercise the most basic act in the political process: voting.

As we have seen in recent months, this prediction has tragically come to pass.

Not to be content with the monument to disgrace that is the *Shelby* decision, the activist right-wing conservative majority on the Roberts Court, on July 1, 2021, issued its evil twin, the decision in the Arizona case of *Brnovich v. DNC*, 594 U.S. ___, No. 19–1257 and 19–1258 (July 1, 2021), which engrafts on Section 2 of the Voting Rights onerous burdens that Congress never intended and explicitly legislated against to ensure that:

"No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political

subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color, or language minority status."

Among these burdens, couched as "guidance," or "suggestions" are that when reviewing claims that a facially neutral election law, policy, practice, or voting rule has a discriminator, and therefore unlawful, effect on minority citizens, courts are to consider the following matters:

1. An "ordinary burdens" or "mere inconvenience" exception;
2. Size of disparities in burdens imposed by the challenged rule;
3. Other opportunities to vote provided by a state's election system;
4. Legitimate state interests justifying the challenged voting rule; and
5. The degree to which a voting rule departs from what was standard practice when Section 2 was amended in 1982.

Taken together, this Supreme Court cabal is saying to racial, ethnic, and language minorities: "What's the big deal, it's only voting. Just like with bad weather, sometimes you just have grin and bear a little inconvenience."

This Supreme Court majority has simply never understood, or refuses to accept, the fundamental importance of the right to vote, free of discriminatory hurdles and obstacles.

Madam Speaker, were it not for the 24th Amendment, I venture to say that this conservative majority on the Court would subject poll taxes and literacy tests to the review standard enunciated in *Brnovich v. DNC*.

Their predecessors on the Court understood this, going back at least as far as 1938, when the Supreme Court held in Chief Justice Hughes' famous Footnote 4 in *United States v. Carolene Products*, 304 U.S. 144 (1938), that government action alleged to discriminate against "discrete and insular minorities" would be subject to "strict scrutiny" by reviewing courts.

Madam Speaker, you might be asking who are these "discrete and insular minorities" about whom the Court was referring?

The answer is they were and are persons "excluded from 'those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect' them, racial and language minorities, and aliens, all of whom were denied the single most important tool for protecting and advancing one's interests in a democracy: the right to vote.

I ask unanimous consent to include in the record of this hearing, a June 26, 2021 op-ed authored by me entitled "A Strong Voting Rights Act Is Needed Now More Than Ever."

It is useful, Madam Speaker, to recount how we arrived at this day.

Madam Speaker, fifty-six years ago, in Selma, Alabama, hundreds of heroic souls risked their lives for freedom and to secure the right to vote for all Americans by their participation in marches for voting rights on "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," or the final, completed march from Selma to Montgomery.

Those "foot soldiers" of Selma, brave and determined men and women, boys and girls, persons of all races and creeds, loved their country so much that they were willing to risk their lives to make it better, to bring it even closer to its founding ideals.

The foot soldiers marched because they believed that all persons have dignity and the right to equal treatment under the law, and in the making of the laws, which is the fundamental essence of the right to vote.

On that day, Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved former colleague, the late Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was a defining moment in American history because it crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law to protect the right to vote of every American.

No one who witnessed the violence and brutally suffered by the foot soldiers for justice who gathered at the Edmund Pettus Bridge will ever forget it; the images are deeply seared in the American memory and experience.

On August 6, 1965, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men."

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised.

In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the South were registered to vote.

Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results.

After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African-Americans in public office, including just three in Congress.

Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the South.

Because of the Voting Rights Act, in 2007 there were more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever.

Madam Speaker, the Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress.

Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

As I indicated, the crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic

record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes.

Section 5 has protected minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst.

Between 1982 and 2006, Section 5 stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas.

Passed in 1965 with the extraordinary leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, the greatest legislative genius of our lifetime, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was bringing dramatic change in many states across the South.

But in 1972, change was not coming fast enough or in many places in Texas.

In fact, Texas, which had never elected a woman to Congress or an African American to the Texas State Senate, was not covered by Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the language minorities living in South Texas were not protected at all.

But thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the tireless voter registration work performed in 1972 by Hillary Clinton in Texas, along "With hundreds of others, including her future husband Bill, Barbara Jordan was elected to Congress, giving meaning to the promise of the Voting Rights Act that all citizens would at long last have the right to cast a vote for person of their community, from their community, for their community."

Madam Speaker, it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections 4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities.

During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed:

"There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people."

"So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought "within the coverage of this Act for the first time."

When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right to vote, the Lone Star State—the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan—could be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation.

But to realize that future, Texas must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past.

By embracing the discriminatory Texas SB7 and the "Big Lie" that the 2020 election, by all accounts adjudged the most secure and inclusive in American history, was riven by voter fraud, Texas Republicans are making the wrong choice to their eternal shame.

Texans must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote, like the odious Texas SB7 recently passed by the Texas State Senate but killed, but not yet permanently, by the unity and courage of Democrats in the Texas State House of Representatives.

Madam Speaker, I applaud the House Democrats of the Texas General Assembly for being on the front lines, fighting in opposition to Texas SB7 on the House floor and I join with them in calling upon the U.S. Senate to eliminate the filibuster and to bring to the floor for debate and vote—so Congress can pass—H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

We must all do our part to preserve this most important heritage because it was earned with the sacrifices and the lives of our ancestors.

The right to vote is a "powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice" and must be protected against attack from all enemies, foreign and domestic, using all the legal tools at our disposal.

Madam Speaker, the right to vote and to participate meaningfully in civic and political affairs has done more to advance the cause of freedom, justice, and equality than the Second Amendment has ever done, if it has done anything at all.

It is time the Congress act to protect and expand the right to vote, the only right that is preservative of every other right.

Madam Speaker, I include in the RECORD an article titled "John Lewis leaves behind a powerful legacy of social justice."

[From the Washington Post, July 19, 2020]

JOHN LEWIS LEAVES BEHIND A POWERFUL
LEGACY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE

(By Peniel E. Joseph)

On July 17, congressman and civil rights leader John Lewis died at 80, on the same day as 95-year-old stalwart C.T. Vivian, Martin Luther King's favorite preacher. Both leave behind a legacy of social justice activism that played a pivotal role in some of the most resounding victories of the civil rights movement: America's Second Reconstruction.

Lewis's death comes at a critical moment in U.S. history, amid a moral and political reckoning on black dignity and citizenship that represents nothing less than a Third American Reconstruction. And his life provides lessons for activists today on how to confront racial violence, forge productive alliances and transform American democracy.

Born in 1940 in Troy, Ala., to a family of sharecropping farmers, the deeply religious Lewis joined the movement for black dignity and citizenship as a student activist in Nashville. Already enthralled by the dazzling oratory of the young Martin Luther King Jr., Lewis enjoyed an unusual kind of political apprenticeship under the mentorship of an array of movement leaders. He learned the practical application of nonviolent civil disobedience from the Rev. James Lawson and became fast friends with fellow student activists such as Diane Nash. Ella Baker, founder of the Student Nonviolent Coordinating Committee (SNCC, pronounced "snick"), played a critical role in convincing students such as Lewis that they—and not just King and older generations of preachers—could play pivotal leadership roles in an unfolding national drama.

Lewis's calm demeanor, personal sincerity and outward humility made him a quiet star among student leaders. He was arrested dozens of times for civil rights activism between 1960 and 1966. In 1961, he joined hundreds of volunteers on Freedom Rides, traveling throughout the Jim Crow South to challenge segregated bus terminals. On May 14, 1961, Lewis experienced a vicious beating at the hands of a white mob as a Freedom Rider in Anniston, Ala. It was the first of many brutal experiences he endured as an activist,

and such punishment bolstered Lewis's political resolve to defeat racial segregation.

Elected chairman of SNCC in 1963, Lewis became the youngest national civil rights leader of the 1960s. At 23, he was the youngest speaker at the March on Washington on Aug. 28, 1963. Although parts of the collectively written speech were abandoned after objections from white allies in the movement, Lewis prepared the nation for continued racial combat in the service of justice. "By the force of our demands, our determination and our numbers, we shall splinter the desegregated South into a thousand pieces and pull them back together in the image of God and democracy," he argued.

Lewis effectively navigated between student militants in SNCC—which craved transformational political change radical enough to protect black life in the Mississippi Delta and Alabama black belt—and more pragmatic civil rights leaders who viewed the Democratic Party as the most effective vehicle for widespread social change. In 1964, Lewis encountered Malcolm X while touring Africa in hopes of forging international alliances to strengthen domestic black freedom struggles and came away from his meeting impressed with the black nationalist icon's willingness to explore political alliances with civil rights leaders.

On March 7, 1965, Lewis, dressed in a crisp white shirt, tie, raincoat and backpack, joined several hundred demonstrators crossing the Edmund Pettus Bridge in Selma, Ala., who were routed by blue-helmeted state troopers. The violence that afternoon left Lewis with permanent scars on his head. But the activists' resolve in the face of violent opposition helped trigger the moral and political outrage that led to the passage of voting rights legislation. Lewis's involvement at that moment made visible to the whole nation the violent, racist dehumanization of black people.

In May 1966, Stokely Carmichael, the charismatic Howard University activist and friend turned organizational rival, replaced Lewis as SNCC chairman. Carmichael's call for "Black Power!" the next month during a civil rights demonstration in Mississippi helped to transform the aesthetics of the black freedom struggle. Lewis completed his college degree at Fisk University at the moment when Black Power activists were calling for a dramatic and radical restructuring of American democracy. The political vision of Black Power activists, despite political disagreements with Carmichael and SNCC, inspired Lewis, who used the racial solidarity forged in the crucible of the movement as a springboard to political office.

As the radical hopes of the 1960s faded in the aftermath of King's assassination on April 4, 1968, Lewis turned to electoral politics. In 1986, he won the Georgia congressional seat he would hold until his death in an ugly political battle with Julian Bond, the charismatic SNCC activist and former friend turned bitter adversary. Over the next 34 years, Lewis went from staring down the forces of white supremacy at bus stations and bridges to confronting these same adversaries in the U.S. Congress. Bringing organizing skills learned as an activist and radical ideas about transforming American life, he fought valiantly for health-care, gun-control and anti-poverty legislation. During the late 1980s and 1990s as the nation turned away from the vision of the "Beloved Community" outlined at the March on Washington, Lewis advocated for a return to the anti-poverty and anti-racist policies that briefly flourished during the 1960s.

The American political establishment, over time, caught up with his accomplishments. Barack Obama's watershed presidential election proved a boon to Lewis's po-

litical legacy, with the first black president acknowledging the congressman's towering achievements with a Presidential Medal of Freedom. Lewis recognized Obama's ascent as part of a political harvest reaped from the bloodstained sacrifices of earlier generations.

Lewis understood that those struggles for black dignity and citizenship continued during his lifetime. He embraced the Black Lives Matter movement, including the recent national and global protests for racial justice and equality in the aftermath of George Floyd's killing at the hands of police. "It is so much more massive and all-inclusive," Lewis noted of Black Lives Matter. Whereas black women, including those who helped to nurture Lewis and lead the movement, were excluded from speaking at the March on Washington in 1963, he marveled to witness the prominence of black women in the BLM movement—as featured leaders, organizers and strategists. As an elder statesman within political and civil rights circles, Lewis continued to encourage the young to lead a movement he recognized as continuing into our own time.

Lewis's extraordinary life offers important lessons for contemporary generations organizing for black equality in America and around the world. His example teaches us that movements for racial justice have always been denigrated by authorities and been targets of violence by political, legislative and military bodies. Young people who refused to heed the warnings of an older generation helped to transform American democracy, but they received crucial mentoring from a council of elders who believed, like Baker, that strong people did not require charismatic top-down patriarchal leadership. To the contrary, young activists could be trusted to ask the right questions that would lead to what Lewis called the "good trouble" capable of ending systemic racism, structural violence and white supremacy.

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

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, the right to vote free from intimidation or obstacle is the most precious right of any American citizen, a pillar of our democratic system. And when that right, that pillar, is threatened for anyone, it is a threat to us all—to our democracy and to our very way of life.

For Texans, this fight is personal. Earlier this year, Republican lawmakers in the Texas Legislature introduced a series of new voting laws, yet antiquated in thought, that would restrict access to the polls for people across the state. Unfortunately, we are all too familiar with these types of efforts to strip our right to vote here in Texas. In fact, I remember having to pay a poll tax when I voted in my first election in Dallas. And although these new efforts are not as blatant as a poll tax, they are equally as confining.

These new waves of voter restriction efforts are not new—and neither is the opposition to them. From our late colleague Congressman John Lewis marching across the Edmund Pettus Bridge in 1965, to the extension of the Voting Rights Act in 2006, to the Texas Democrats breaking quorum to prevent the passage of restrictive voting laws this month. It is incumbent upon us to keep alive that opposition to similar efforts, and to inform and inspire the next generation to do the same.

It is in that spirit that I, once again, call on the Senate to pass H.R. 1, the For the People Act. We can no longer afford the cost of inaction on this issue. This fight is about the future

of Texas, it's about the future of the United States, and it's about the future of democracy.

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, this month marked the one-year anniversary of the passing of our dear friend and beloved colleague John Lewis. Sadly, while we reflect upon his legacy, there are efforts underway in State Houses across the nation to turn back the clock and erect barriers to voter participation in elections.

We all know that the premise behind these efforts is a lie—namely, that the 2020 election was stolen and that there was rampant voter fraud. In my home state of Georgia, these falsehoods led to the passage and ultimate enactment of Senate Bill 202, which was given the misleading name, "the Georgia Civics Renewal Act." The lie also provided the impetus for the attack on the United States Capitol on January 6.

The measures being put forward in states like Georgia reduce voter access to the polls under the guise of protecting the vote. Georgia's SB 202 limits drop boxes, imposes ID requirements on absentee voting, restricts early voting on weekends, allows state officials to circumvent the work of election officials if they do not like the results they are seeing, and even makes it a crime to offer food and water to voters waiting in line.

It is a ruse that disproportionately impacts voters whose voices have too often been silenced. Why? Because those voices—African American voices in Georgia—made all the difference in 2020.

The integrity of our elections is enhanced by greater voter participation—not less. As Martin Luther King, Jr. once said, "voting is the foundation stone of political action."

Earlier this year, I co-sponsored H.R. 1, For the People Act, which is a voting and elections bill that protects access, promotes the creation of fairer districts, and supports public financing of campaigns. The legislation passed the House on March 3 by a vote of 220 to 210.

I also supported H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Enhancement Act, which the House had approved last Congress.

H.R. 4 is intended to fix the enforcement provisions of the original Voting Rights Act that were gutted by the Supreme Court in the 2013 *Shelby County v. Holder* decision.

The Court's conservative majority held that the formula for determining whether jurisdictions were subject to the law's Justice Department pre-clearance procedure for voting and election changes by state and local governments were outdated. This mostly focused on southern states with a long history of racially discriminatory voter suppression.

Contrary to the court's opinion and since then, hundreds of bills across several state legislatures have been proposed that would make access to the ballot box increasingly difficult for many people—more so for communities of color, students, seniors, and disabled people. Some of these bills have become law.

In many cases, those who are rolling back access to the vote are also involved in the decennial redistricting process in which congressional and state legislative maps will be set until 2032.

These are precisely the kind of decisions the Justice Department was able to scrutinize under the pre-*Shelby County* Voting Rights Act.

The John Lewis Voting Rights Enhancement Act will rectify this wrong and fine-tune that

formula so that the Supreme Court cannot strike it down again.

Madam Speaker, I know that John Lewis is looking down upon us now. If he were here with us today, I know that he would be on the House floor tonight and would be imploring us in that booming voice of his to continue the fight for voting rights to which he devoted his life and career.

It is the same fight for which he endured unspeakable brutality while attempting to cross the Edmund Pettus Bridge on the march from Selma to Montgomery. We cannot turn back now.

ISSUES OF THE DAY

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. ROY) is recognized until 10 p.m. as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I have been listening to my friend from Texas, the gentleman from New York, and other speakers, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, and I can't help but observe the reality of the Shelby County decision as it was offered by the United States Supreme Court's majority authored by Chief Justice Roberts.

Now, what my colleagues on the other side of the aisle fail to mention is the fact that the Voting Rights Act remains intact and the Voting Rights Act remains fully in effect, and its purpose to ensure and preserve the ability of Americans to vote remains fully the law of the land. The core question before the Court back in 2012 or 2013—I think it was argued in '12 and decided in '13—was whether section 5, the specific preclearance provision, was, in fact, constitutional.

Now, the fact of the matter is when this was reauthorized back in I think 2006, it was reauthorized based on a 50-year-old coverage formula.

Now, my friend from Texas knows that. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know that it was using a 50-year-old coverage formula. Now, people may want to just kind of sweep that aside and say that doesn't matter, but then go back and read the Supreme Court's opinion in 1966 on the first challenge on the Voting Rights Act and what the Court was saying at the time, that when you set aside the fundamental role of the States in carrying out elections, when you set aside the 10th Amendment, Madam Speaker, as the 1965 Voting Rights Act was seeking to do, well, then there has to be a particularly strong purpose.

What was that particularly strong purpose?

Invidious discrimination of the kind of the Jim Crow South of the poll taxes and of massive disparities in voting rates among populations in districts where those prohibitions existed.

Fast-forward 50 years through several iterations of the reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, and in 2012, 2013, when this was being debated and when the Court decided it, the Court

said: Look, sorry, you can't apply 50-year-old data to uphold and reauthorize the Voting Rights Act.

Now, I know that, because I was a lawyer on the Senate Judiciary Committee, and I pored over every one of those documents that came before us and read and reviewed them sitting as a staffer on the Senate Judiciary Committee where we knew full well what the data was showing us and what the data looked like. But here we are right now and the American people are only hearing that part of the story that we are somehow unwinding the Voting Rights Act.

We have done no such thing.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Will the gentleman yield?

Mr. ROY. Out of enormous respect for my friend from Texas, despite the way these hours normally work, I yield briefly to the gentlewoman from Texas.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. The gentleman is always enormously courteous, and I will be brief.

Since I was on the committee the gentleman might have been staff, but I know in the House, for example, we had at least 100 hearings and 15,000 pages of testimony. It was chaired at that time by Jim Sensenbrenner, a Republican, who was meticulous in making sure we had a record. So I am not sure where the gentleman is getting his information from.

I will just finish by simply saying that the voter suppression laws that we are dealing with today are all engaged responding to the big lie that there was not a legitimate election in 2020, and my good friend knows that President Joe Biden and KAMALA HARRIS were elected in 2020. So we wonder the basis of these voter suppression laws.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman, and I will not take more of his time.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate the gentlewoman. Let me just say, I think this body would do a wonder for the American people if we could engage in this for hours, not seconds. And I think the gentlewoman agrees that we should have this kind of debate back and forth so the American people can see so we can flush out our differences, because there are things we agree on, and there are things we disagree on.

What I would respond to the gentlewoman about the point of what occurred, poring over it as a staffer as I did, was that the Members, including the chairman of the Judiciary Committee then, Mr. Sensenbrenner, as well as on the Senate side—and I won't speak for the House, because I was on the Senate side—but I was in the room with Chairman Specter, I was in the room with all of those that were in 2006 going through all this, and I was in the room with about 15 Republicans who were sitting over there, each of whom said that it was unconstitutional, we can't really do this, but we dare not go down this political road.

Okay, well, that is what that is.

Fast-forward, and for my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to bemoan "activist Courts," well, welcome to the club. Welcome to the party of being concerned about activist Courts. I would argue this is not activism, but, fine, let's have that debate about how much power we want to cede to the building over there across the street, because when we are talking about activism, we can go way back on activism in terms of our views in terms of Roe, in terms of Planned Parenthood v. Casey, and other areas in which the Court has inserted itself into the public domain.

But, okay, here we are. The legislature acted, and the Court said: Whoa, whoa, you can't do that.

Why did they do that? Applying the 10th Amendment, applying fundamentals of federalism, and applying the fact that States have primacy over election laws.

That is what the Court did. If you believe in judicial review subsequent to *Marbury v. Madison*, as I believe my friend from Texas, who is now leaving the floor, does believe in, well, then that is actually what the Court was doing. That is what they did. That is what the opinion says. When you read the opinion, Madam Speaker, it is just dripping with all of the things that you would expect it to be filled with in terms of deference to what occurred in 1965, what the Supreme Court said subsequent to that about why it was in a particularly important time for Congress to step over the role of the States because of the nature of the invidious discrimination in Jim Crow South and other areas of the country.

It wasn't just the South, by the way, there were counties all over the country.

But, Madam Speaker, when you looked at the data—and I pored over the data—we showed places there were counties in Florida that were covered, counties in Florida that weren't covered, and you could see that the voting rates of Black voters, Hispanic voters, and other voters, that vast numbers of people were turning out and showing up to vote, those numbers were even higher in some of the covered jurisdictions.

So you had no reason or basis to cover one county versus another in the State of Florida, Madam Speaker.

But I would challenge all of my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to go open up those views, go look in and look at the data, look at the tables, and what you will find, Madam Speaker, is that there were significant numbers of counties and States that were then at that time covered by the Voting Rights Act that had better turnout rates and better participation rates than those that were uncovered which left the Court looking at the law and said: Well, hold on a second.

The whole reason that the Court upheld the law was because there was a unique circumstance where there were mass disparities because of very direct actions by those States.

I want the American people to know that because that is what is being said right now.

□ 2120

So suddenly, if I say: Hey, we might want voter ID.

Now, why might we want voter ID? Just to ensure that the one person who is voting in one person, one vote is actually the vote.

I say I want voter ID. Maybe that is because I have witnessed reasons why that is so. Somehow that is voter suppression?

That is what is so entirely frustrating is that you come forward and you say: Hey, I think that there is a good reason for this that, in my mind, I see very clearly as being important for the integrity of the election.

Let's not get wrapped around in the 2016 or 2020 election cycles. I have said a lot on the floor of the House at various times about those matters. Let's just actually focus on voter integrity, election integrity, and wanting to make sure that the people who vote know that their vote is going to count fully, and that you are not going to have someone voting with your ID.

We know for sure that there are individuals who come to the United States and use the identification of others, of Americans. We know that for sure. That is a fact.

We know that we end up with multiple people voting. We end up with all sorts of different possible and potential fraudulent activity.

For example, The New York Times, in 2012: "Yet, votes cast by mail are less likely to be counted, more likely to be compromised, and more likely to be contested than those cast in a voting booth." That is The New York Times, that bastion of rightwing conspiracy.

We know that the Carter-Baker Commission, Jimmy Carter, known rightwing conspirator from Georgia, and James Baker, again, not really known to be a rightwing activist, quote in their report, "Absentee ballots remain the largest source of potential voter fraud."

That is just data. It is just analyzing it. It is just fact.

Then, you go through other examples of known fraud.

Madam Speaker, 2016, at least 83 registered voters in San Pedro, California, received absentee ballots at the same small two-bedroom apartment.

In a 2018 North Carolina congressional race, a Republican operative, L. McCrae Dowless, Jr., had allegedly requested more than 1,200 absentee ballots on voters' behalf and then collected the ballots from voters' homes when they were mailed out. That was a Republican operative. I am an equal opportunity presenter of the facts here of how fraud can occur.

I can go through item after item. In 2017, an investigation of a Dallas City Council election found 700 fraudulent mail-in ballots signed by the same witness using a fake name.

There is other voter fraud in Texas. Since 2005, the Office of the Attorney General successfully prosecuted 534 incidents of fraud against 155 individuals, et cetera, et cetera.

I can go through county by county. In Medina County, Texas, four people, including an elected justice of the peace, were charged in February with 150 counts of election fraud. The charges included ballot harvesting and illegal voting. I can go example by example.

Now, were all of those examples I just gave enough to turn an election? I don't know. That is the point. We would like to know wherever that truth may lead, in whatever State and whatever county, wherever that takes us. But those are the facts.

So, when somebody comes forward and says, "Hey, I think we ought to have voter ID. I think we ought to have voter ID or a way to attach an individual to a mail-in ballot," suddenly that is voter suppression? Right.

So, suddenly, Major League Baseball walks in and says: I have an idea. Let's pull out the All-Star Game from Atlanta, Georgia, where we could celebrate Hank Aaron in a 50 percent Black city, and let's go move it over to Colorado, into Denver, which is a 10 percent Black city. And let's pat ourselves on the back for being so exceptionally in tune with what is going on in the world. Let's move the All-Star Game to Colorado.

Why? The laws that were put on the books in Georgia this year, that were being voted on in Georgia, would basically make parity with what Colorado already has on the books.

This is the kind of debate we want to be able to have. Can we just, like, all agree? Let's get a whiteboard up and put the facts up of what these things are, what the bills are, what these laws are, and then at least be debating from the same sheet of music.

I may have a few more things to say. I know I have some colleagues here. I want to be mindful of their time.

I digressed there a little bit because I was hearing my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. But election integrity is so critically important right now, and I have colleagues from Texas who are completely abandoning their duty—I should say State legislature colleagues, to be clear—who are abandoning their duty to represent their constituents in the State of Texas in the legislature and have a full-throated debate about S.B. 1 and H.B. 3, the current bills in the legislative session, the special session in Texas, and have come to D.C. They are not doing their jobs.

Look, man, I generally want to flee D.C. to go back to Texas. It is rare that I see people saying I want to flee Texas to come to D.C.

But these Democratic members of the Texas Legislature have fled Austin to skip out on working in the Texas legislative session and have an open debate. They are coming to D.C. to sit down with the Vice President to go

push and promote H.R. 1 or other bills to say we need to federalize elections instead of actually doing their job, which brings me to my point.

I will say a few things here, and then I will recognize my colleagues. At some point, we have to decide what it is that is actually sacred about what we are doing here as a Nation and as a body.

Our borders, right now, are wide open. Opioids are skyrocketing. Massive numbers cross the border. I will get into some of these details in a minute. We do it. I have done it before.

We have the schools that are teaching so-called antiracism.

I walked through the Austin airport today and saw the book by Ibram Kendi, the antiracism book. I can't remember the title. I saw it sitting there in the bookstore BookPeople. I didn't see a whole lot of conservative books in there, but I saw that book, sitting there in the front.

On page 19 of that book, he writes: "If racial discrimination is defined as treating, considering, or making a distinction in favor of or against an individual based on that person's race, then racial discrimination is not inherently racist. The defining question is whether the discrimination is creating equity or inequity. If discrimination is creating equity, then it is antiracist."

Interesting definition of discrimination. Not sure that fits within the Civil Rights Act, but I will leave that for another discussion.

But what I am saying is, we are heightening the level to which every single aspect of our lives is taken through a political lens, every single thing.

I am asking my staff to look at every hearing that this body has had since the beginning of January and tell me what percentage of the hearings has had a focus or something to do on race, on sexual orientation, or an issue in that type of framework. I guarantee you—I don't have to count them—that number is going to be massively high.

I will just go ahead and stipulate right now, without having done any counting, the percentage of hearings that this body has held, the percentage of hearings that focused on race, LGBTQ issues, sexual orientation, those issues will be extraordinarily high as a percentage.

So, the majority believes that is where our focus should be—while we just spent \$6 trillion, while inflation is running through the roof, while small businesses can't hire people. My colleagues on the other side of the aisle know this because, assuredly, they have small businesses in their district, or they go to the restaurants, or they go to the places like I have gone to and they can't hire people because we are paying people more not to work than to work.

We have a principal focus on race-related issues, a complete abandonment of the responsibility of this body to secure the border of the United States. It is wide open, opioids running amuck.

Cartels own it. People are pouring across it, to their detriment and ours. Ranchers are getting overrun in Texas.

Now, today, just yesterday, or, I don't know, the last few days, the Senate Armed Services Committee voted overwhelmingly to draft our daughters. Heck, we had 8 Republicans of the 13 vote for that nonsense, to draft our daughters.

Who are we? Genuine question: Who are we, as a people, as a country? Where are the sacred boundaries of being able to decide how to live and to recognize truths that man is man, that woman is woman, and that I, as a father, do not want to have my daughter get drafted?

You say, well, you can draft your son, use the power of the government to draft your son.

We can have a debate about ending the draft. Everyone comes back and says: Well, don't worry. There is not going to be a draft. There hasn't been a draft in 50 years, so don't worry about it.

□ 2130

What do you mean don't worry about it? When my daughter turns 18 in 8 years and she has to go sign a piece of paper to register, I shouldn't be worried about my daughter getting drafted and getting sent to a foxhole in Afghanistan or Iraq or somewhere else? What do you mean don't worry about that?

Yet, that is precisely what this body is doing. The Senate Armed Services Committee voted on it; the House already has that language.

Let me be perfectly clear. I will not be honoring whatever law says it is drafting my daughter. That is the fundamental problem. The rule of law depends on it being rooted in any basic understanding of who we are as a people, where we come from, what our values are, and then actually being able to get the consent of the governed in a way that actually connects with the governed.

It doesn't just come on down from on high, from a Senate Armed Services Committee that votes, by the way, behind closed doors, not in public viewing. And by the way, none of them will go out and enforce this garbage. But somebody one day will show up and hand a form to my daughter and say, "I am sorry, ma'am, you are going to have to register for the draft." And I am going to be sitting there as a dad—and I promise you, my wife is a little more fired up about this than I am. My wife is going to be sitting there saying: "Over my dead, dang body."

Now, this is what we do when we rip apart our society, when we forget where those sacred boundaries are, about what the role of this institution is, or how we are supposed to govern.

I am going to pause for a few moments. I think both of my colleagues who are here wanting to speak to the issues that we are seeing unfold in Cuba, maybe a few other matters of im-

portance to them. I certainly appreciate their time. I think they share some of the sentiments that I am sharing.

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

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman so much for having the Special Order on freedom, on liberty, on constitutionalism, and our God-given rights.

Thank you for what you have said there, Mr. ROY.

Madam Speaker, I am here tonight to highlight and amplify the miraculous events that have happened less than 100 miles from U.S. soil on the island of Cuba, news that, sadly, we haven't heard nearly enough about.

After more than 60 years of oppression, injustice, and fear under a Communist Party that enjoys opulent privileges while others struggle just to survive, Cubans took to the streets shouting: "Liberty" and "Down with communism."

And this wasn't just in Havana and the big cities. Renewed calls for freedom were all across small villages and towns in the Cuban countryside.

These brave protestors, many of them young people, knew their appeals would be met with violence. They understood that they would be putting themselves and their families at grave risk. They knew they would be labeled enemies of the state, enemies of the revolution, and they would be arrested or potentially even murdered.

Today, I would like to let each of my liberty-loving Cuban brothers and sisters out there know that we hear you. I commend your astounding courage, your thirst for freedom, and your desire for true justice in Cuba.

We, as Americans, have a moral responsibility to support these protests of Cuba's cruel Communist regime.

How can we continue to be "the shining city upon a hill," as President Reagan once eloquently said, if we do not help those who are seeking the same divine right that our ancestors fought and died for in the Revolution, the same rights that our Heavenly Father intended for all people?

I think it is time for the reign of dictatorship and terror to come to an end and for freedom and for liberty to take their rightful place.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas, my friend, for his words, and I am going to yield to the gentleman from California here in just a moment.

I would ask one question to the gentleman from Texas, and I will repeat that question to my friend from California.

I share your enthusiasm and commitment for wanting to help the people of Cuba who are seeking freedom and obviously have been living under the thumb of tyranny for far too long.

I was chief of staff to Senator TED CRUZ. His father is a dear friend, and he knew all too well what life was like under that murderous regime.

Our friend and our colleague, Alex Mooney, his wonderful mother, similarly, at the same rough timeframe, was subjected to the horrors of Cuba in that time in the late fifties, early sixties, and then came to the United States.

But I would ask my friend, that as we watch these individuals from Cuba seeking freedom—and God bless them; we need to support them—and/or seeking to come to the United States seeking freedom, do you believe that our country is itself upholding and adhering to the ideals that they are seeking?

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, at this time, I cannot answer in the affirmative. I think our country is under grave attack, our liberties, our freedoms, our constitutional rights, the Bill of Rights, the very reasons that Samuel Adams and Dr. Joseph Warren, and all of those Founders, like John Hancock, who started the movement that culminated in the Revolutionary War and got us out from under the yoke of Great Britain.

I will say this: I think what we are seeing today is, quite frankly, a startling, unbelievable change of events that I never thought that I would see in my entire lifetime, the assault on our God-given rights that we are seeing today.

What Mr. ROY just said about drafting our daughters and what he just mentioned and listening to our friends across the aisle over there talking about the unfairness and the racism that is incumbent and inherently in our election processes, their solution would be an absolute violation of the U.S. Constitution.

I think it goes without saying that if you have to show an I.D. to get into the White House or to get a loan or to do anything, really, of any kind of nature as far as that is concerned, that we have to have the ability to ask for a photo I.D. to ascertain whether you are, indeed, that person that you are actually professing to be when you come in and cast that vote.

So we hear a lot of talk. But I will tell you, it is just talk. When you talk about freedom and liberties, we have to follow the Constitution and God's law. That is what it has to be.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank my friend from Texas. I will yield to my friend in California in a moment.

I couldn't agree more with respect to the current situation we find ourselves and our country in. A country where we are now talking about vaccine passports, where we are talking about diving into the private affairs of American citizens in the alleged name of health and welfare of the people, we are forgetting that fundamental, core liberty of being free from government coercion.

When you go look at the Constitution and when we talk about the President of the United States talking about going door to door—and I know it

might have been a rhetorical statement, but you never really know. But when the Constitution contemplates going door to door, it does so only in a couple of contexts: the Census, and then protecting individuals against it, by, in the Third Amendment, preventing the quartering of troops in the homes of American people; by preventing, through the Fourth Amendment, unreasonable search and seizure.

That is what was on the minds of the Founders. That was why the Constitution was structured the way it was structured. It wasn't to empower government in the name of something supposedly greater, in the "common good." How many hundreds of millions of people in this world have been slaughtered in the name of the common good? How many?

□ 2140

Let's ask the people of Cuba. Let's ask the people of Cuba, seeking freedom, seeking to either come to the United States or have the kind of freedom that they believe exists in the United States, and have that in Cuba, whether we should be empowering government, supposedly in the name of the good or the common good of the people.

Our Constitution exists to protect and preserve liberty. That is what it exists for. That is what this country was founded upon; a belief in the Almighty and a belief in liberty. And we are tearing that apart by the thread. Every single day we are tearing that apart by the thread.

Even as people today right now want to have a business, be able to employ people. They can't, because they are told by some bright-eyed leftist: Don't worry, just pay them more money. Without any concept of what that does to a bottom line. Without any concept what that does to an income statement, being able to actually raise money, risk capital, put their name on the line, borrow, and then hire people to engage in the business of their dream.

Maybe they inherited it from their family, their parents, their great-grandparents. What do we do? We just say: Don't worry about it, pay them \$15 an hour. Like there is some magic fairy dust that tells people what the wage ought to be.

We destroy businesses in the name of being nice to people. You know what it does? It limits the numbers of jobs, drives up the prices of goods, causes people not to have jobs, causes people not to be able to get the job, and then be able to afford whatever it is they want to buy. All because somebody said, Oh, gee, I have got a magic number, \$15 an hour.

Why not \$20? Why not \$50? I mean, if we are going to be all generous, hell, just make it \$1,000 an hour. Oh, no, CHIP, that is just crazy talk.

Child tax credits, why stop at \$300? Modern monetary theory, just spend whatever you want to. Why not make it \$30,000? Man, then everybody would be doing great.

My colleagues don't ever want to actually sit down and actually put pen to paper and figure out what in the heck can we actually afford as a country and what are we doing to the dignity of work? What are we doing to the American family? And what are we doing to freedom and the ability of the individual to prosper according to his or her hard work and according to what he or she wants to accomplish in their faith and what they want to put in, the toil they want to put in their life?

We are ripping that apart. We are ripping it apart in the name of compassion. Just like we are ripping apart the lives of migrants in the name of compassion, who are getting absolutely decimated by cartels. We do it and we say: Oh, look at us, how nice we are; when the little 7-year-old girl is sold into the sex trafficking trade because we put them in the hands of violent cartels along the border of Texas.

Does anybody care about the numbers? Does anybody look at what is actually happening down at the border? I know, there he goes again, there goes that crazy CHIP ROY talking about the border again. Talk to my constituents. Talk to the people of Texas, who are getting absolutely crushed.

The numbers are astounding. We are not just talking about people and the problems that we are having with ranchers, and we are talking about the sex and human trafficking trade.

Right here we see the encounters by month. We have never seen anything like this. When Jeh Johnson headed up the Department of Homeland Security under President Obama, he said a thousand a month was a crisis. I was just looking at the numbers. We had a few thousand in a day just last week in the McAllen sector. We had 20,000 a week. We had a few thousand in a day in the Laredo sector, a few thousand a day in the McAllen sector.

We have had, I think—this is from memory—70 Border Patrol agents get COVID in the last month. We had 20 in Laredo.

All of this is happening in real time. All while the administration talks about unwinding title 42 and not worrying about what is happening at our southern border while telling us and preaching to us about vaccine passports. Oh, no, you better go mask up again.

Fentanyl. Right down here, fentanyl, 2021 versus 2020 fentanyl numbers. We are bringing in a thousand pounds of fentanyl in a month. A thousand pounds of fentanyl in a month. That is enough to kill millions of people. But that is happening right now. Nobody seems to care on the other side of the aisle. They say: Oh, don't worry, it is just fentanyl. No problem to see here.

Would you say that to my constituent who died with a valium laced with fentanyl recently? This is happening across the country. We are now at 92,000 or so opioid deaths in this country. I will come back to that in a minute, because I want to yield to my

friend from California. But that is what we are facing.

Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I appreciate both my colleagues from Texas and the spirited debate here.

You know, I hadn't intended to talk about the draft there, but Mr. ROY was bringing that up very vigorously. I have to agree 100 percent that our volunteer military has worked pretty well for us for approximately, I think, 40 years.

What is it that would have anybody even institute the idea of draft for men or women, incredibly, at this point? Is it because our numbers are down? Is it because we are not getting the people in or is it somehow some kind of equity?

I am not sure what the mind set is, but if you want to inspire people to be part of our military, why don't you make it inspiring instead of a bastion of political correctness and the woke racism conversations happening everywhere else where even a member of the Joint Chiefs of Staff is bringing it up and bringing this literature out that is supposed to make people feel bad about serving as brothers in arms in the military, you know, because of their race.

If you want to inspire people, don't make them feel bad about joining. Therefore, you don't even have to talk about draft, because you could get folks who want an opportunity, whether it is their dedication to completely serving their country or they see some opportunities there with the education that can be offered through the program with the military. Whatever the combination is, you inspire people to be part of it, just as if you are selling a product anywhere else in the free market in this country.

Why in the world would we do this political correctness, this continued race conversation that is driving people away? I don't understand.

Mr. ROY. Would the gentleman yield for just one second?

Mr. LAMALFA. Sure.

Mr. ROY. Would it surprise the gentleman to learn that I share his concern about the state of the United States military, given the politically correct nature of the current leadership?

I just met with a bunch of parents of the individuals that I have nominated to go to the academies, and these parents are beside themselves. They are saying, please, can you stop this? It is going to endanger my kids who are going to go serve their country at the academies because they hear the facts. They see that the U.S. Special Forces hired their first chief diversity officer; that the Department of Defense just hired a chief diversity officer; that a Space Force guardian was fired for saying the "diversity, inclusion, and equity industry and the trainings we're receiving in the military via that industry are rooted in critical race theory which is rooted in Marxism."

This isn't just embarrassing and un-American. It is making us weak. Our diplomats are apologizing to the Chinese Communist Party for racism when Beijing is running concentration camps. This is the reality of what we are doing to our military, where we are running ads talking about LGBTQ issues instead of actually just recruiting warriors to go defend the United States of America. I yield to the gentleman.

Mr. LAMALFA. It is a pretty clear defined mission what our military is supposed to be doing in protecting our shores. We have certainly strayed very far from that. As I mentioned, it is not inspiring the best, the brightest, the toughest to come in.

I have had some of these conversations with the parents and some of the people already in the military here. A young man just the other day, during the 4th of July, of all things, I said, "What do you think of what is going on?" This young man is very, very gravely concerned, because by far there are a lot of great, great young people there. They are standing up for their flag, for their country, and they are wondering what is going on with their leadership.

Indeed, if we want to be at the point of the type of readiness that is even more acute than ever right now in this world with China, China is just waiting. China is probably over there laughing at us right now with what is going on with this administration and the priorities for our military. Russia is poised to continue to do more aggression in their zones over there. And let alone an unstable place like Iran and even North Korea. What is it they can do or be capable of doing? Now with this pullout in Afghanistan, what are we unleashing there?

We have got to return to a common-sense approach that goes back to what the true military role and duty and mission is, and we are drifting far from it.

□ 2150

What I wanted to pick up on, too, as far as when we were talking about our border, immigration, in general, and this recent topic of with Cuba.

What do we learn from 60-plus years of oppression under Castro and those who followed? Maybe everything wasn't beautiful under Batista back in 1959 or what have you, but they certainly, when they had that revolution then, I don't think the regular, normal, good people of Cuba bargained for what they have had at all for the last 60 years.

The way this administration is handling it is almost basically ignoring it. Look at the people in Cuba who are holding our flag, not unlike in Hong Kong. It is very interesting. The question the gentleman posed to my colleague, maybe he wants to pose it again here, but when we are going in the direction of where Cuba is, where the Communist Chinese Party is going,

we are holding up pictures of Che Guevara. Even in this Chamber we hear the type of sympathy towards the Castro era. It is unbelievable to me how this has been allowed to happen.

Well, part of it, I guess, is the American public isn't paying enough attention. You need to demand more or demand better of who you are electing and compare this, contrast it with what hasn't worked around the world under communism for many decades.

So with Cuba, you have a situation where this administration is ignoring those who are seeking asylum from a Communist regime for years and years. We have a lot of good Cuban people who have come to this country years ago—they even trickle in now—colleagues that Mr. ROY had mentioned here that some were in this Chamber of Cuban descent. They love this country and see the opportunity here. That is why they cobble together these boats and rafts. I would like to say they are made basically made out of milk cartons. They coming toward us.

We don't see these people complaining about this country and its flag and desecrating its flag cobbling together milk carton rafts and going toward Cuba for their amazing healthcare system and their amazing education system that we hear people on other side of the aisle claiming to be the way to go. So what is it?

What is asylum? When we are granting it to people coming up illegally from Central America, they are not seeking the true definition of asylum, they are seeking economic opportunity. Do I blame them? No. They live in bad conditions down there, but they also see this giant green light at our border saying: Come on across. Even though the laws on the books say "no" and we have people hired to patrol the border. Instead, they are being focused more and directed more to be a welcome wagon at the border. What are we doing?

Asylum is defined: "The protection granted by a nation to someone who has left their native country as a political refugee."

The people who have been trying to and some successfully escaping Cuba for 60 years are the perfect definition of that. Those are the ones we should be looking at, and this administration should be looking at finding a way to help them.

Those in Central America who are coming here for jobs, we have legislation to work in that direction to have a legal workforce come here, or those who are already here illegally, find a way to get to legal status under our rules, under our laws.

But, no, this administration is leaving our border wide open, as was mentioned. The fentanyl, thousands of pounds, how far would that go? And where is it landing? The stuff we do catch is significant, but the stuff that we are not catching up with at the border, where is it going? Where is it being stockpiled? When is that going to come

out? That is extremely dangerous. Extremely.

I like to think that these freedom fighters, whether it is Hong Kong or other places who are using our flag as a symbol of freedom and hope, and the one they want to emulate and get to, whether it is in their country or maybe even come here, and we are going in the other direction. It is unbelievable to me when we can't even have our Olympians respect our flag; we can't have our soccer team; when we can't have basically the singing of the National Anthem or the recitation of our flag salute in our schools.

One of the young men I talk about, now in the military, I am really proud of that young man. I don't have authorization to say his name. His first name is Grayson. What a great kid. He is going to be a real doer in our military. He fought to just have his flag salute done at his high school. It hadn't been done in 40 years, and he had to overcome a bureaucracy that said: Oh, we don't know. It might offend somebody. Oh, we haven't asked all of the teachers. We haven't asked all of the school board.

This young man took it upon himself to petition his fellow students to get this done. And I said: If they don't get it done, I will be right there with you at 8:30 in the morning. We will do it right in the front of the school. Well, they got it done. And I am so proud of him and what he is going to do. But there are many, many Americans like that all over this world, serving across the world, living here in this country that believe in that as well and take that pledge.

Spontaneously, at the baseball game, if they are not going to do the National Anthem, they spontaneously start it themselves. It is pretty amazing. At the NHL hockey playoff game in New York, those Islander fans stood up and joined in with one that was going on, and the singer, she actually stood down so she could feel that moment. Pretty amazing. This still exists in the hearts and minds of most Americans in this country.

We will not allow ourselves to be beaten down by political correctness, critical race theory, and all of these other things that aren't really who we are or what is in the hearts of the vast majority of the people of this country.

When we are talking about our border, it is a sieve, which is a giant problem. It wasn't a problem nearly as much under President Trump, who was trying to solve the issue, but also work with those countries and help solve the issue within. Instead, it was just open season on all of us, on our taxpayers, our schools, our healthcare system, and even all of the COVID business that has been manipulated to a degree that Americans really need to question how much longer they are going to have their freedoms, as was mentioned by Mr. ROY: vaccine passports being forced upon us.

In California, they are talking about you can't work in the State as a State

employee unless you get the vaccine, or perhaps you can get off the hook by getting a test every single week.

Where are our liberties? If you are not concerned about our liberties and our basic freedom, you better wake up right now because you don't get them back once they have been taken. It is much more difficult to get them back than what our Founders had laid down and all of those buried in Arlington—as I drove by in town today—fought to preserve.

We have a job as Americans. I wear this tie and suit. I leave my farm every week to be a part of it, too, because we can't just sit still anymore. We all have to be part of this.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentleman from California for his words, and I appreciate the passion and the commitment to what the gentleman just shared with not just me and with my friend from Texas, but with the American people.

I ask the Speaker how much time I have remaining?

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from Texas has 3 minutes remaining.

Mr. ROY. Madam Speaker, I appreciate my colleagues for coming down and joining me. I would only add this: As we sit here and we hear so much negativity about what is going on, the virus, for example, and vaccines, we hear nothing from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle, but everybody is stonewalling and so forth. We have administered 188 million individuals with the vaccine in this country; 340 or so million doses. About 57 percent of the total population, about 80 percent of those over 65 have had two shots, 90 percent have had one shot.

We are well above the vast majority of the world in terms of total numbers. As a percentage, we are a little bit behind, because we are a large country. When you look at what we have actually accomplished—remember, our colleagues on the other side of the aisle who last year were saying: This vaccine stuff, that is all fool's gold.

We know that is true. We know that is what our Vice President said, and a lot of our colleagues on the other side of the aisle said: Don't touch the vaccine. That is crazy stuff. Well, now, all of a sudden it is like: You better go get the vaccine. Run and get the vaccine. You have to get the vaccine. Get the vaccine.

Okay, I am telling my dad, a polio survivor, 78-years old: Go get the vaccine, dad. But what if you have natural immunity? Should you go get the vaccine? What if you are a kid? Should you go get the vaccine? Those are questions, and they are reasonable questions.

This government, in its infinite wisdom, shut down businesses, shut down schools, mandated masks, created all sorts of mental health issues, prohibited people from going to get cancer screenings and take care of themselves and their families, forced elderly cou-

ples who have been married for 40 or 50 years not to be able to say good-bye when one of them was passing away, all in the name of the government taking care of us.

In the infinite wisdom of the government I should just go run down and say: Oh, sure, let me run down and get the vaccine when how much money has been given to the pharmaceutical companies? How many billions of dollars are they getting, and how much do they get for the boosters?

By the way, my colleagues on the other side of the aisle were going after the profitability of the pharmaceutical companies at an oversight hearing that I was in last year, 2 years ago.

The bottom line here is: This country is a great country filled with great people, doing great things, every single day, and when this body and this government gets out of the way of the American people, they continue to do great things. The greatness and the future of our country lies with them and with the people.

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

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 10 p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 978, Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1664, a bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2365, the Gold Star Mothers Family Monument Extension Act, as amended, would have

no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2485, the Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2617, the Performance Enhancement Reform Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 3599, the Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 4300, the Alexander Lofgren Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-1683. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General Lewis A. Craparotta, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1684. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting a letter on the approved retirement of Lieutenant General John M. Jansen, United States Marine Corps, and his advancement to the grade of lieutenant general on the retired list, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 1370(c)(1); Public Law 96-513, Sec. 112 (as amended by Public Law 104-106, Sec. 502(b)); (110 Stat. 293); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1685. A letter from the Secretary of Defense, Department of Defense, transmitting an additional legislative proposal that the Department of Defense requests be enacted during the first session of the 117th Congress; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-1686. A letter from the Acting First Vice President and Vice Chairman, Export-

Import Bank of the United States, transmitting a statement with respect to a transaction involving exports to Canada, 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-1687. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final requirements — American Rescue Plan Act Homeless Children and Youth Program (RIN: 1801-AA24) received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-1688. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Education, transmitting the Department's final requirements — American Rescue Plan Act Emergency Assistance to Non-Public Schools Program (RIN: 1810-AB63) received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Education and Labor.

EC-1689. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting that, as a result of continued consequences of the opioid crisis, a renewal, effective July 7, 2021, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since October 26, 2017, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1690. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the 2020 Report to Congress Substance Use-Disorder Prevention that Promotes Opioid Recovery and Treatment (SUP-PORT) for Patients and Communities Act, pursuant to 21 U.S.C. 823(g)(2)(G)(iv); Public Law 115-271, Sec. 3201(e); (132 Stat. 3944); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1691. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting as a result of continued consequences of Coronavirus Disease 2019 (COVID-19) pandemic, a renewal, effective April 15, 2021, that a public health emergency exists and has existed since January 27, 2020, nationwide, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 247d(a); July 1, 1944, ch. 373, title III, Sec. 319(a) (as amended by Public Law 107-188, Sec. 144(a)); (116 Stat. 630); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1692. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Food Additives Permitted in Feed and Drinking Water of Animals; Selenomethionine Hydroxy Analogue [Docket No.: FDA-2020-F-1289] received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1693. A letter from the Director, Regulations Policy and Management Staff, FDA, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Department's final rule — Tobacco Products; Required Warnings for Cigarette Packages and Advertisements; Delayed Effective Date [Docket No.: FDA-2019-N-3065] (RIN: 0910-AI39) received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1694. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the report to Congress on the State Pilot Grant Program for Treatment for Pregnant and Postpartum Women, established under the Comprehensive Addiction and Recovery Act (CARA) of 2016; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1695. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting the 2020 Garrett Lee Smith Youth Suicide Prevention and Early Intervention Program National Outcomes Evaluation Report to Congress, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 290bb-36b(f); Public Law 108-355, Sec. 3(d); (118 Stat. 1415); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1696. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the Public Health Data System Modernization Strategy and Implementation Plan for Fiscal Year 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1697. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0145; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01212-R; Amendment 39-21558; AD 2021-10-25] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1698. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Fluxapyroxad; Pesticide Tolerances [EPA-HQ-OPP-2020-0228; FRL-8663-01-OCSP] received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1699. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Alkoxylated C8-C18 Saturated and Unsaturated Alcohol and Adipic Acid (AASUAA); Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance [EPA-HQ-OPP-2021-0197; FRL-8581-01-OCSP] received July 21, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1700. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — Implementation of the Revoked 1997 8-Hour Ozone National Ambient Air Quality Standards; Areas that Attained by the Attainment Date [EPA-HQ-OAR-2019-0611; FRL10024-17-OAR] (RIN: 2060-AU54) received July 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1701. A letter from the Director, Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's final rule — National Oil and Hazardous Substances Pollution Contingency Plan; Monitoring Requirements [EPA-HQ-OPA-2006-0090; FRL-10025-88-OLEM] (RIN: 2050-AH16) received July 20, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1702. A letter from the Director, Office of Congressional Affairs, Nuclear Regulatory Commission, transmitting the Commission's issuance of regulatory guidance — Volcanic Hazards Assessment for Proposed Nuclear Power Reactor Sites [Regulatory Guide 4.26, Revision 0] received July 2, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1703. A letter from the Executive Director, Southeast Compact Commission for Low-Level Radioactive Waste Management, transmitting the 2018-2019 and the 2019-2020 Annual Reports of the Southeast Interstate Low-Level Radioactive Waste Commission that include the Annual Commission Audits; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-1704. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Centers for Medicare and Medicaid Services, Department of Health and Human Services,

transmitting a notification of an action on nomination and a discontinuation of service in acting role, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1705. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Labor, transmitting the Department's Semiannual Report to Congress from the Office of Inspector General, for the period October 1, 2020, through March 31, 2021; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1706. A letter from the Interstate Commission on the Potomac River Basin, transmitting the Commission's audited Eightieth Financial Statement for the period of October 1, 2019 to September 30, 2020; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-1707. A letter from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting notification of the online release of the four most recent reports summarizing the activities of the International Terrorism Victim Expense Reimbursement Program, pursuant to 34 U.S.C. 20106(c); Public Law 98-473, Sec. 1404(c) (as added by Public Law 106-386, Sec. 2003(c)(1)); (114 Stat. 1545); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1708. A letter from the Deputy Clerk, Office of the Clerk, Fifth Circuit, United States Court of Appeals, transmitting an opinion of the United States Court of Appeals for the 5th Circuit concerning No. 20-60353, Guerrero Trejo v. Garland, BIA No. A205 288 147; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-1709. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0191; Project Identifier AD-2020-01492-E; Amendment 39-21633; AD 2021-14-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received July 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1710. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH (AHD) Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0126; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-00266-R; Amendment 39-21556; AD 2021-10-23] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1711. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Pilot Records Database [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0246; Amdt. Nos. 11-65, 91-363, and 111-1] (RIN: 2120-AK31) received June 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1712. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Leonardo S.p.a. Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2021-0378; Project Identifier 2017-SW-122-AD; Amendment 39-21576; AD 2021-11-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received June 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1713. A letter from the Chairman, National Transportation Safety Board, transmitting the Board's 2020 Annual Report to Congress, pursuant to 49 U.S.C. 1116(c); Public Law 103-272, Sec. 1(d) (as amended by Public Law 115-254, Sec. 1107(a)); (132 Stat. 3432);

to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-1714. A letter from the Regulations Development Coordinator, Office of Regulation Policy and Management, Office of General Counsel (00REG), Department of Veterans Affairs, transmitting the Department's Major final rule — Loan Guaranty: COVID-19 Veterans Assistance Partial Claim Payment Program (RIN: 2900-AR05) received June 30, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

EC-1715. A letter from the Secretary, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting the FY 2017 Annual Report to the Congress on the Child Support Program, pursuant to 42 U.S.C. 652(a)(10); Aug. 14, 1935, ch. 531, title IV, Sec. 452 (as amended by Public Law 93-647, Sec. 101(a)); (88 Stat. 2352); 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:

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 438. A bill to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-103). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1154. A bill to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-104). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 4300. A bill to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, with amendments (Rept. 117-105, Pt. 1). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1029. A bill to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-106). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. GRIJALVA: Committee on Natural Resources. H.R. 1664. A bill to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (Rept. 117-107). Referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

Mr. DEUTCH: Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Joyce Beatty (Rept. 117-108). Referred to the House Calendar.

Mr. MCGOVERN: Committee on Rules. House Resolution 555. Resolution providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4502) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (Rept. 117-109). Referred to the House Calendar.

DISCHARGE OF COMMITTEE

Pursuant to clause 2 of rule XIII, the Committee on Agriculture discharged from further consideration. H.R. 4300 referred to the Committee of the Whole House on the state of the Union.

PUBLIC BILLS AND RESOLUTIONS

Under clause 2 of rule XII, public bills and resolutions of the following titles were introduced and severally referred, as follows:

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 4679. A bill to designate the Federal building located at 1200 New Jersey Avenue Southeast in Washington, DC, as the "Norman Yoshio Mineta Federal Building"; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. FOXX (for herself, Mr. DANNY

K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. SMUCKER, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. FLEISCHMANN, Mr. RUPPERSBERGER, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. KILMER, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. BUDD, Mr. KIND, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. COOPER, Mr. LATTI, Ms. SPEIER, Mr. PERRY, Mr. RUSH, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. BANKS, Mr. SCHWEIKERT, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. GOHMERT, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. MEUSER, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BIGGS, Ms. KUSTER, Mr. GOSAR, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. DESJARLAIS, and Mr. SCHNEIDER):

H.R. 4680. A bill to form the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4681. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to establish a new class of nonimmigrant visas for entrepreneurs and essential employees affiliated with start-up entities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. GUEST (for himself, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. KATKO):

H.R. 4682. A bill to prohibit the Secretary of Homeland Security from operating or procuring certain foreign-made unmanned aircraft systems, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 4683. A bill to establish a process for the testing and evaluation of the Electronic Health Record Modernization Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs by the Director of Operational Test and Evaluation of the Department of Defense; to the Committee on Veterans' 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. BROOKS (for himself, Mr. GAETZ, and Mr. MOORE of Alabama):

H.R. 4684. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration to revise regulations to ensure a Department of Defense civilian pilot is eligible for certain ratings in the same manner as a military pilot, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CASTEN (for himself and Mr. FOSTER):

H.R. 4685. A bill to require the Government Accountability Office to carry out a study on the impact of the gamification, psychological nudges, and other design techniques used by online trading platforms, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CHABOT (for himself, Mr. LOWENTHAL, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. TAYLOR):

H.R. 4686. A bill to promote free and fair elections, political freedoms, and human rights in Cambodia, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, and the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. COHEN (for himself and Mr. BUCK):

H.R. 4687. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide tax incentives for the establishment of supermarkets in certain underserved areas; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 4688. A bill to require the collection of voluntary feedback on services provided by agencies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. DUNN (for himself, Mr. LAWSON

of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WALTZ, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. POSEY, Mrs. MURPHY of Florida, Mr. BUCHANAN, Mr. DONALDS, Mr. GIMENEZ, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. STEUBE, and Mrs. CAMMACK):

H.R. 4689. A bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Bobby Bowden, in honor of his achievements both on and off the football field; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HUFFMAN (for himself and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 4690. A bill to reauthorize and amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources, and in addition to the Committee on Agriculture, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. SLOTKIN, Mr. GARBARINO, and Mr. CLYDE):

H.R. 4691. A bill to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4692. A bill to require the testing of perfluoroalkyl and polyfluoroalkyl substances under the Toxic Substances Control Act, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MCCAUL (for himself, Mr. MEEKS, Mrs. KIM of California, and Ms. HOULAHAN):

H.R. 4693. A bill to advance targeted and evidence-based interventions for the prevention and treatment of global malnutrition and to improve the coordination of such programs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Ms. DELAURO, and Mr. CÁRDENAS):

H.R. 4694. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to establish the Office of Food Safety Reassessment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY (for herself, Mr. LANGEVIN, Mr. COHEN, Mr. GRIJALVA, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mr. SAN NICOLAS):

H.R. 4695. A bill to require all newly constructed, federally assisted, single-family houses and town houses to meet minimum

standards of visitability for persons with disabilities; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. WALTZ (for himself, Mr. BUCHANAN, Ms. MACE, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. RUTHERFORD, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. MAST, Mr. POSEY, Mr. DUNN, Mr. GAETZ, Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. DONALDS, Ms. SALAZAR, Mrs. CAMMACK, and Mr. STEUBE):

H.R. 4696. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Carolina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. YOUNG (for himself, Mr. KAHELE, and Mr. CASE):

H.R. 4697. A bill to amend the Small Business Act to eliminate certain requirements relating to the award of construction subcontracts within the county or State of performance; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Mr. HOYER (for himself, Mr. LANDEVIN, and Mr. YOUNG):

H. Res. 552. A resolution recognizing the importance of independent living for individuals with disabilities made possible by the Americans with Disabilities Act of 1990 and calling for further action to strengthen home and community living for individuals with disabilities; to the Committee on Education and Labor, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, the Judiciary, 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. BURGESS (for himself, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, and Mr. KATKO):

H. Res. 553. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of Health and Human Services and the Secretary of Homeland Security to transmit, respectively, certain documents to the House of Representatives relating to unaccompanied alien children; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MCCARTHY:

H. Res. 554. A resolution raising a question of the privileges of the House.

By Mr. BIGGS:

H. Res. 556. A resolution recognizing the importance of access to comprehensive, high-quality, life-affirming medical care for women of all ages; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. CAWTHORN (for himself, Mr. BIGGS, Mr. BUCK, and Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio):

H. Res. 557. A resolution expressing the sense of the House of Representatives against the malignant and metastasizing ideology of anti-Semitism; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DEUTCH (for himself, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Ms. MANNING, Mr. MEIJER, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. LIEU, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. HILL):

H. Res. 558. A resolution urging the European Union to designate Hizballah in its entirety as a terrorist organization; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. ISSA (for himself, Mr. CASE, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. GARCIA of

California, Mr. NUNES, Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. STEEL, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. MCCLINTOCK, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. MCCARTHY, and Mr. OBERNOLTE):

H. Res. 559. A resolution expressing the Nation's sincerest appreciation for the service of the World War II Filipino veterans who fought in the Armed Forces on the 80th anniversary of President Franklin D. Roosevelt's military order; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin (for herself, Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. STEIL, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. KIND, Mr. GALLAGHER, and Mr. POCAN):

H. Res. 560. A resolution congratulating the Milwaukee Bucks, and the fans of the Milwaukee Bucks around the world, on winning the 2021 National Basketball Association championship; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mr. SMITH of Missouri (for himself, Mr. GRAVES of Missouri, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. LONG, Mrs. WAGNER, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER):

H. Res. 561. A resolution recognizing and celebrating the 200th anniversary of the entry of Missouri, the "Show Me State", into the Union as the 24th State; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

By Mrs. STEEL:

H. Res. 562. A resolution supporting the designation of August 24, 2021, as "Kobe Bryant Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

MEMORIALS

Under clause 3 of rule XII, memorials were presented and referred as follows:

ML-58. The SPEAKER presented a memorial of the Legislature of the State of Louisiana, relative to House Concurrent Resolution No. 96, to memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to support Israel; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

ML-59. Also, a memorial of the Legislature of the State of New Jersey, relative to Senate Concurrent Resolution No. 103, urging efforts at state and federal levels to protect minority communities through better regulation of debt settlement companies; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

CONSTITUTIONAL AUTHORITY STATEMENT

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

By Mr. DEFAZIO:

H.R. 4679.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1, Clause 3, and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Ms. FOXX:

H.R. 4680.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3: The Congress shall have

Power to regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian tribes.

By Ms. LOFGREN:

H.R. 4681.

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

Article I, Section 8, clause 4 provides Congress with the power to establish a "uniform rule of Naturalization."

By Mr. GUEST:

H.R. 4682.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. BANKS:

H.R. 4683.

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, specifically clause 18 (relating to the power to make all laws necessary and proper for carrying out the powers vested in Congress).

By Mr. BROOKS:

H.R. 4684.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 and Clause 18 of the Constitution.

By Mr. CASTEN:

H.R. 4685.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3.

By Mr. CHABOT:

H.R. 4686.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. COHEN:

H.R. 4687.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 4688.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. DUNN:

H.R. 4689.

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

Section 8 of Article 1 of the Constitution

By Mr. HUFFMAN:

H.R. 4690.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 4691.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 4692.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. McCAUL:

H.R. 4693.

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

Article I, section 8 of the Constitution of the United States

By Ms. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4694.

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

Article 1, Section 8, Clauses 3 and 18.

The Congress shall have Power . . .

To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

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. SCHAKOWSKY:

H.R. 4695.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

The Congress shall have Power . . . To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes.

By Mr. WALTZ:

H.R. 4696.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. YOUNG:

H.R. 4697.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1

The Congress shall have Power to lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States.

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

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

H.R. 72: Mr. PENCE, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 82: Mr. BUTTERFIELD, Mr. CLOUD, and Mr. BERA.

H.R. 151: Mr. LARSON of Connecticut.

H.R. 176: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 287: Mr. BIGGS.

H.R. 393: Mr. BARR.

H.R. 413: Mr. GRAVES of Missouri.

H.R. 471: Mr. LATTA.

H.R. 475: Mr. MOOLENAAR.

H.R. 556: Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 637: Mr. KATKO and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 654: Mr. RICE of South Carolina.

H.R. 746: Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 890: Mr. LYNCH.

H.R. 903: Mr. DEUTCH, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. NEAL, Mr. AGUILAR, and Mr. COOPER.

H.R. 959: Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. PASCRELL, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 973: Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 1012: Mr. KILDEE.

H.R. 1029: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN and Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 1057: Mr. SMITH of Missouri and Mr. CROW.

H.R. 1155: Mr. FOSTER and Mr. PERLMUTTER.

H.R. 1177: Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. DINGELL, and Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 1179: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. HIMES, Ms. STEFANIK, and Mr. VARGAS.

H.R. 1283: Mr. ROGERS of Kentucky, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. LAMB, and Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 1297: Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin and Mrs. LEE of Nevada.

H.R. 1302: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 1304: Ms. SLOTKIN and Mr. AMODEI.

H.R. 1306: Ms. SHERRILL.

H.R. 1321: Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Ms. BASS, Mr. SIMPSON, and Mr. UPTON.

H.R. 1385: Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 1504: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 1551: Mr. HARDER of California.

H.R. 1561: Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio.

H.R. 1581: Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. PETERS, Ms. SLOTKIN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. MCEACHIN, Mr. HORSFORD, and Mr. BUTTERFIELD.

H.R. 1592: Mr. GOSAR.

H.R. 1655: Ms. JACKSON LEE.

H.R. 1667: Mr. HARDER of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. BUCHANAN, and Mr. SCHNEIDER.

H.R. 1696: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. NEGUSE.

H.R. 1734: Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 1783: Mr. YARMUTH and Mr. EVANS.

H.R. 1819: Ms. SCANLON.

H.R. 1842: Mr. HARRIS, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. RYAN, and Mr. HOYER.

H.R. 1946: Mr. SOTO and Mr. BUCSHON.

H.R. 1959: Mr. DANNY K. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. WELCH, and Ms. MENG.

H.R. 2021: Ms. WATERS and Mr. DESAULNIER.

H.R. 2035: Mr. THOMPSON of California.

H.R. 2079: Mr. FEENSTRA.

H.R. 2104: Mr. FITZPATRICK and Mr. SOTO.

H.R. 2113: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 2119: Ms. SHERRILL, Ms. WILD, Mr. LIEU, Ms. BUSH, and Ms. SCHRIER.

H.R. 2145: Mr. KATKO.

H.R. 2166: Mr. AGUILAR.

H.R. 2169: Mr. GOHMERT.

H.R. 2222: Mr. FOSTER.

H.R. 2226: Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 2234: Mr. DOGGETT and Mrs. KIRKPATRICK.

H.R. 2249: Ms. ROSS, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 2256: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. KIND, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. BUTTERFIELD, and Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2274: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 2328: Mr. TRONE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. NORCROSS, and Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 2339: Mr. KATKO and Mr. CONNOLLY.

H.R. 2364: Mr. RUIZ.

H.R. 2365: Mr. TAYLOR.

H.R. 2373: Mr. TRONE.

H.R. 2424: Mr. KIND, Mr. KHANNA, and Mr. MANN.

H.R. 2454: Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana.

H.R. 2455: Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 2461: Mr. SMUCKER.

H.R. 2499: Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. WATERS, Mr. NORCROSS, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, and Mr. BEYER.

H.R. 2503: Mr. RUIZ and Mr. COSTA.

H.R. 2517: Mrs. AXNE.

H.R. 2586: Mr. QUIGLEY, Mr. NEGUSE, and Mr. RYAN.

H.R. 2639: Mr. C. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida.

H.R. 2705: Mr. ALLEN.

H.R. 2724: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 2735: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 2759: Mrs. WALORSKI.

H.R. 2773: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. KAHELE.

H.R. 2811: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. CROW, and Mrs. LURIA.

H.R. 2840: Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2858: Mr. STANTON.

H.R. 2872: Ms. KUSTER and Ms. BROWNLEY.

H.R. 2924: Mr. CARSON, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 2936: Mr. RUIZ and Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN.

H.R. 2946: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. CICILLINE.

H.R. 3001: Mr. TRONE, Mr. KHANNA, and Ms. DELBENE.

H.R. 3031: Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3042: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 3087: Mr. FITZPATRICK.

H.R. 3095: Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. POCAN, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. SCHRADER, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, and Ms. DELAULO.

H.R. 3100: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3115: Ms. JACOBS of California.

H.R. 3148: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 3164: Ms. NORTON, Mrs. DEMINGS, and Ms. LOFGREN.

H.R. 3187: Ms. LOFGREN and Mr. MCGOVERN.

H.R. 3190: Mr. SCHWEIKERT.

H.R. 3222: Ms. MATSUI.

H.R. 3235: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. OBERNOLTE.

H.R. 3259: Ms. DELBENE, Mrs. CAMMACK, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. MORELLE, Ms. DEAN, Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia, and Mr. BACON.

H.R. 3302: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 3303: Mr. ARMSTRONG.

H.R. 3332: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3333: Mr. PRICE of North Carolina.

H.R. 3367: Mr. KHANNA and Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 3435: Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Mr. LONG, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. DUNN, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. GRIFFITH.

H.R. 3440: Ms. BONAMICI.

H.R. 3441: Mr. MORELLE, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. TORRES of New York, and Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.

H.R. 3446: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois.

H.R. 3474: Mr. TORRES of New York.

H.R. 3480: Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. GARCÍA of Texas, Ms. MENG, Mrs. KIRKPATRICK, Ms. JACOBS of California, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Mr. WELCH, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. HAYES, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. ROSS, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. MORELLE, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. PINGREE, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. EVANS, Mr. LYNCH, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. PANNETTA, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. TITUS, Mr. COOPER, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. KILMER, Ms. NORTON, Ms. BASS, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mrs. FLETCHER, Mr. LARSEN of Washington, Mr. LEVIN of California, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. WEXTON, Mr. COURTNEY, Mr. NEGUSE, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. CARSON, Ms. UNDERWOOD, and Mr. LAMB.

H.R. 3492: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 3494: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.

H.R. 3508: Mr. TONKO.

H.R. 3517: Mr. DELGADO, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Ms. LEE of California.

H.R. 3537: Mr. GOODEN of Texas, Mr. HARRIS, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. MOONEY.

H.R. 3548: Ms. ROYBAL-ALLARD.

H.R. 3555: Mr. GREEN of Texas.

H.R. 3580: Mr. SIREN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mrs. LAWRENCE, Mr. EVANS,

Mr. TRONE, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. SOTO, and Mr. TAKANO.

H.R. 3588: Mr. MCNERNEY.

H.R. 3602: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 3662: Mr. PALMER.

H.R. 3667: Mr. WENSTRUP.

H.R. 3674: Mr. WOMACK.

H.R. 3689: Ms. NEWMAN.

H.R. 3709: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.

H.R. 3728: Mr. PHILLIPS.

H.R. 3744: Ms. WATERS, Ms. MENG, and Mr. BOWMAN.

H.R. 3780: Ms. WATERS, Mr. HIMES, and Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 3796: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3808: Mr. KIND.

H.R. 3811: Mr. LAMALFA and Mr. COLE.

H.R. 3824: Mr. LEVIN of Michigan.

H.R. 3858: Mr. SHERMAN.

H.R. 3860: Mr. WEBER of Texas.

H.R. 3876: Ms. WATERS.

H.R. 3933: Mr. LOWENTHAL.

H.R. 3959: Ms. MENG.

H.R. 3965: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 3966: Mr. FALLON.

H.R. 3992: Ms. NEWMAN and Mr. CÁRDENAS.

H.R. 4005: Mrs. TRAHAN.

H.R. 4010: Mr. SUOZZI.

H.R. 4017: Mr. SIREN.

H.R. 4024: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.

H.R. 4042: Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. NADLER, Mr. O'HALLERAN, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. PASCRELL, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BARRAGÁN, and Mr. HUFFMAN.

H.R. 4057: Mr. POCAN.

H.R. 4066: Mr. GRIFFITH.

- H.R. 4068: Ms. ESHOO.
H.R. 4071: Mr. FALLON and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 4075: Mr. BACON.
H.R. 4096: Ms. LETLOW.
H.R. 4118: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 4123: Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 4131: Ms. CLARK of Massachusetts, Mr. PAYNE, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. MCCOLLUM.
H.R. 4133: Mr. KINZINGER, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas, and Mr. VARGAS.
H.R. 4150: Mr. PFLUGER.
H.R. 4151: Ms. OMAR, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4181: Mr. FALLON.
H.R. 4186: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4190: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana and Mr. MEIJER.
H.R. 4196: Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. FALLON, and Mr. GOOD of Virginia.
H.R. 4210: Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. NEWHOUSE, and Mr. CARL.
H.R. 4217: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4230: Ms. MANNING.
H.R. 4250: Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, and Mrs. WAGNER.
H.R. 4268: Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
H.R. 4300: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
H.R. 4311: Ms. WATERS.
H.R. 4312: Mr. BROOKS.
H.R. 4315: Mr. YARMUTH.
H.R. 4328: Ms. GRANGER.
H.R. 4331: Mr. FITZPATRICK.
H.R. 4363: Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 4375: Mr. LAMB, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York, Mr. TONKO, Mr. HARDER of California, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. VARGAS, and Mr. COHEN.
H.R. 4379: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NADLER, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. CASE, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.
H.R. 4382: Mr. NEGUSE.
H.R. 4406: Mr. RUIZ, Mr. Cárdenas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. FITZPATRICK, and Mr. DESAULNIER.
H.R. 4416: Mr. GARCIA of California.
H.R. 4421: Mr. MCGOVERN.
H.R. 4429: Mrs. HINSON.
H.R. 4440: Mr. RYAN.
H.R. 4449: Mrs. RADEWAGEN.
H.R. 4459: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H.R. 4470: Mr. COMER.
H.R. 4488: Ms. PORTER.
H.R. 4498: Mr. JOHNSON of Ohio, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. ARMSTRONG, and Mr. HUIZENGA.
H.R. 4516: Mr. CALVERT, Mrs. BOEBERT, and Mr. BIGGS.
H.R. 4517: Mr. CARL, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. LUETKEMEYER, and Mr. FITZGERALD.
H.R. 4526: Mr. SHERMAN and Mr. CONNOLLY.
H.R. 4561: Mr. CHABOT and Mr. WEBER of Texas.
H.R. 4568: Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. POSEY, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. STAUBER, Mr. HAGEDORN, and Mr. MANN.
H.R. 4573: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H.R. 4589: Mr. BEYER, Mr. KEATING, Mr. SHERMAN, and Mr. DEUTCH.
H.R. 4593: Mr. BARR, Mr. FITZGERALD, Mr. STEUBE, Mrs. BOEBERT, Ms. HERRELL, and Mr. PALAZZO.
H.R. 4595: Ms. JOHNSON of Texas and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.
H.R. 4596: Mr. SAN NICOLAS and Mr. KATKO.
H.R. 4606: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4607: Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana and Mrs. HARTZLER.
H.R. 4609: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4615: Mr. VAN DREW and Mr. SUOZZI.
H.R. 4631: Mr. DESAULNIER and Ms. JACKSON LEE.
H.R. 4632: Mr. BEYER and Mr. SMITH of New Jersey.
H.R. 4663: Ms. BONAMICI.
H.R. 4668: Mr. STEUBE and Mr. GROTHMAN.
H.J. Res. 11: Mr. BUCHANAN.
H. Res. 114: Ms. SHERRILL and Mr. EVANS.
H. Res. 131: Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania.
H. Res. 318: Mr. HUIZENGA.
H. Res. 376: Mr. MEUSER and Mr. SCHNEIDER.
H. Res. 397: Mr. DUNCAN and Mr. OBERNOLTE.
H. Res. 404: Ms. ROSS.
H. Res. 496: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. ISSA, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. MEEKS.
H. Res. 500: Mrs. MCBATH and Mr. CRENSHAW.
H. Res. 515: Mrs. MCCLAIN.
H. Res. 519: Mr. FALLON and Mr. JACKSON.
H. Res. 525: Mr. NORMAN, Mr. PHILLIPS, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, Mr. LOUDERMILK, and Mr. JACOBS of New York.
H. Res. 527: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana, and Mr. MOOLENAAR.
H. Res. 529: Mr. FALLON and Mr. CLOUD.
H. Res. 534: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
H. Res. 541: Mr. PETERS and Mr. GOMEZ.
H. Res. 547: Ms. BOURDEAUX, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. VARGAS.
H. Res. 548: Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. KINZINGER, and Mr. LONG.
H. Res. 549: Ms. OMAR, Ms. BASS, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mr. CICILLINE, Mr. COHEN, Mr. DEUTCH, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. EVANS, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HORSFORD, Ms. JACKSON LEE, Ms. JACOBS of California, Mr. LAWSON of Florida, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. LEVIN of Michigan, Mr. PAYNE, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Ms. CLARKE of New York, and Mr. SIRES.
H. Res. 551: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. HAGEDORN, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. SALAZAR, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. GRIJALVA, Mrs. BUSTOS, and Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas.



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Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our help in ages past, our hope for years to come, help our lawmakers to honor Your Name. Demonstrate Your great power by filling them with Your Spirit and giving them a desire to cultivate spiritual discernment.

Lord, sustain them through the power of Your prevailing providence until justice rolls down like waters and righteousness like a mighty stream. As our Senators draw near to You, experiencing Your divine guidance, may they be motivated to follow Your precepts as they face difficult decisions.

We pray in Your sovereign 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 legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, July 26, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a

Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Todd Sunhwae Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

NOMINATION OF TODD SUNHWAE KIM

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, this week, the Senate will consider the nomination of Todd Kim to be Assistant Attorney General for the Justice Department's Environment and Natural Resources Division, known as ENRD. This Division acts as our Nation's environmental law firm. It leads efforts to reduce pollution and protect our Nation's precious national resources by enforcing Federal, civil, and criminal environmental laws, including the Clean Air Act, the Clean Water Act, and hazardous waste laws. At least that is what it is designed to do.

Under the previous President, Donald Trump, ENRD took some troubling steps in the wrong direction. It prioritized protecting polluters over the environment.

With more than 1½ million acres of the United States currently burning in a wildfire season that has been greatly exacerbated by climate change, we are mindful of the critical importance of vigorous enforcement of our Nation's environmental laws.

What the Division needs now is a leader who will bring back integrity, expertise, and a renewed commitment to enforcing our Nation's environmental and natural resources law. Mr. Kim is that leader. In fact, his career in environmental law began at ENRD, where he worked as a trial attorney. During his time with the Division, he was awarded the Justice Department's Outstanding Performance Award on three separate occasions. As a trial lawyer there, he spent 8 years representing the United States zealously and apolitically under both the Clinton and Bush administrations.

Mr. Kim's principled leadership in that role has earned him praise across the ideological spectrum. He has the strong support of former ENRD officials from both parties. Over 80 environmental law experts and academics, who often don't agree on many things, all believe he is the right person. They wrote: "ENRD deserves one of the nation's best lawyers at its helm. Todd Kim promises to be just such a leader."

Mr. Kim also has experience leading a large legal department. He served as the District of Columbia's first solicitor general, a role he held for over a decade.

Additionally, Mr. Kim has received support from Asian-American organizations, including Asian Americans Advancing Justice and the National Asian Pacific American Bar Association.

His nomination received strong, bipartisan support on our committee. Four of my Republican colleagues—

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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Senators GRASSLEY, GRAHAM, CORNYN, and TILLIS—joined the Democratic members in advancing his nomination.

With Mr. Kim leading the ENRD, the American people can trust our Nation's public lands and natural resources will be protected by a proven expert and an accomplished lawyer. I urge my colleagues to join me in voting in favor of his nomination.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, now for years, Republicans and Democrats have spoken about the need to invest more in our Nation's infrastructure. We are a country the size of a continent. Every State has critical infrastructure demands, bridges that need repair, railways that need maintenance, sewer systems that desperately need expansion and renovation.

Over a month ago now, a bipartisan group of Senators announced a deal with the White House on a framework for a bipartisan infrastructure bill—a breakthrough moment. Ever since, I have committed both publicly and privately to put that bill on the Senate floor.

Unfortunately, last week, our Republican colleagues prevented the Senate from taking a procedural step to begin the debate. But I want to be very clear. I am fully committed to passing a bipartisan infrastructure bill.

As majority leader, I have the ability to move to reconsider the vote to begin debate on that bill this week. Since Senators are still finalizing the text of the agreement, Senators should be on notice that the Senate may stay in session through the weekend in order to finish the bill.

Let me say that again. Senators should be on notice that the Senate may stay in session through the weekend in order to finish the bipartisan infrastructure bill.

As I have said before, further delays may mean that the Senate will remain in session into the previously scheduled August recess.

We have reached a critical moment. The bipartisan group of Senators has had nearly 5 weeks of negotiations since they first announced an agreement with President Biden. It is time for everyone to get to "yes" and produce an outcome for the American people.

I understand that bipartisan achievements are difficult in our polarized times. Extreme partisans are always rooting for failure. Look no further than the former President.

Just this morning, former President Trump released a statement urging Republicans to retreat from all bipartisan negotiations on infrastructure until after the midterm elections in 2022, maybe longer. Again, the former President said this morning that Republicans are "weak fools and losers"—his words—for even talking to Democrats

and suggested that the Republicans should not negotiate at all unless they are in the majority. FOX News personalities, following his lead, are now encouraging primaries for Republican Senators who support a bipartisan infrastructure deal.

Look, there are always going to be radical voices on the far right who brook no compromise, but that is only a recipe for obstruction and gridlock. We have the opportunity right now to actually accomplish something good for the American people.

Will our Republican colleagues follow the absurd demands of the disgraced former President and his media allies, or will they get a good, bipartisan deal over the finish line? Republican Senators must ignore former President Trump if we are ever going to make progress with the American people. He is rooting for our entire political system to fail. I and the rest of my Democratic colleagues are rooting for a deal.

NOMINATIONS

Madam President, now on nominations, the Senate will not remain idle in the meantime. This week, we will consider several highly qualified nominees to the Biden administration. Tonight, the Senate will invoke cloture on Todd Kim—someone the Senator from Illinois has just spoken about—to serve as the Assistant Attorney General and the head of the Environment and Natural Resources Division of the Justice Department, where he worked as a lawyer for nearly 8 years.

The son of Korean immigrants, Mr. Kim fell in love with America's natural treasures at a young age, when his parents took him on an RV trip across the American West. After tonight, he will be in a position to defend those very treasures by making sure our environmental laws are enforced, our Federal lands are maintained, and our relationship with Native Tribes is respected.

I look forward to confirming his nomination.

Senators should also be aware there may be additional votes on nominations this week, including members of the National Labor Relations Board and potentially votes to advance nominees from our Senate committees.

The Senate has a constitutional duty to advise and consent on Presidential appointments. We will continue that important work this week.

I yield the floor.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority whip.

Mr. DURBIN. I ask unanimous consent to speak as if in morning business.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

INFRASTRUCTURE

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I want to back up what the majority leader said. The day was May 22, 2019. I remember it well. Two things happened that morning. First was the birth of my granddaughter, which was an exciting and happy event. The second was just the opposite. It was a meeting in

the White House with President Donald Trump, and the purpose of the meeting was to discuss infrastructure.

You see, we had an earlier meeting. Democrats met with the leaders of the Trump administration to discuss an infrastructure bill. When we suggested \$1.5 trillion be spent on infrastructure. President Trump said: No, make it \$2 trillion.

Well, we were happy to hear that. Then when we suggested that President Trump's earlier suggestion of 80 percent of it being paid on a State and local basis rather than Federal, he reversed himself. He said it will be 80 percent Federal. More good news.

Then came the suggestion: Well, it shouldn't just be horizontal infrastructure. It ought to be vertical infrastructure—broadband, school buildings, things that we desperately need in America.

And he said: Include them; let's make that part of the package.

It was one of the best meetings.

Then came the subject of how we were going to pay for it, and President Donald Trump said: Stop. I am not going to get into that conversation.

Well, we said: Mr. President, we have agreed on what we are going to do, but we have to pay for it.

He said: No, you are not going to trap me with raising taxes or doing things that are politically unpopular.

So we postponed this follow-up meeting to this May 22 date—May 22, 2019. We were anxious to get it done because, during his Presidency, there had been no infrastructure programs—none, nothing—despite his promises to the contrary during the campaign.

We came back May 22. He walked in the room and he said to all of us assembled there: As long as you are investigating me for any reason, there will be no infrastructure bill.

He wheeled around and walked out. That was the end of the conversation about infrastructure in the Trump administration. It was never seriously considered or debated after that.

Now we are engaged in a new exercise. Some Republican Senators—and I thank them for their courage and initiative—want to sit down with Democrats and see if we can finally, after years and years, come up with an infrastructure bill to rebuild America.

They are under pressure. They are under pressure from Senator MCCONNELL. He didn't want them to engage in this kind of bipartisan negotiation. And now, today, former President Trump has joined the chorus, saying they shouldn't bargain at all with Democrats. Put it off another year, 2 years, whatever it has to be, until the Republicans control the whole process. That is a recipe for achieving little or nothing. We know that.

So I sincerely hope that this week will be a breakthrough week. Senator SCHUMER, the Democratic majority leader, tried to get it started last week with a simple procedural vote that would move us to this conversation,

but he was unlucky and was unable to get that done, but he has maintained the procedural option of reconsidering that vote. I certainly hope that will happen soon.

CORONAVIRUS

Madam President, on a separate issue, we are at a pivotal moment in the fight against COVID-19. Thanks to the leadership of this administration, our Nation has had one of the most successful vaccination efforts in the world: 340 million doses of COVID-19 vaccines have been administered in the United States, 80 percent of Americans over the age of 65 have been fully vaccinated—80 percent. That means the vast majority of our senior population is protected from being hospitalized or dying from COVID-19.

Yet, at this moment, there is trouble on the horizon. Case numbers across the country are ticking back up. It is important to note why. The Delta variant is spreading like wildfire among unvaccinated people. I have heard quotes from some that it is a thousand times more transmissible than the original COVID-19. And it has quickly become the dominant strain of this virus in America.

There is good news. The vaccines that we all have access to right now will stop the Delta variant in its tracks. They will save your life. With the spread of the Delta variant, the reality for Americans is quickly becoming: Get vaccinated or risk contracting a serious or deadly case of COVID-19.

As Dr. Walensky, the Director of the CDC, said last week—and I quote her—“this is quickly becoming a pandemic of the unvaccinated.”

Over the past week, we have started to see a renewed sense of urgency from my colleagues on the other side of the aisle. They finally—finally—become more vocal about dispelling disinformation about the vaccines. Even FOX News has begun airing public service announcements and encouraging viewers to get vaccinated against the coronavirus. I applaud them for starting to join the chorus of scientific experts, health officials, and community leaders who have been calling on Americans to protect themselves and their loved ones, because it was only a few weeks ago when a couple prime-time hosts on FOX expressed their displeasure with me personally.

I was alarmed, and said so on the floor of the Senate, by some of the ideas that Tucker Carlson and Laura Ingraham were pedaling. Their anti-vax rhetoric, quite simply, put their viewers and the families of their viewers at risk. We can disagree on political issues, and I am sure we will continue to do so, but we shouldn't play political games with life and death when it comes to COVID-19 vaccines.

We have seen a shift in tone recently. Some hosts on FOX, specifically Sean Hannity and Steve Doocy, now encourage their viewers to get vaccinated. At the very least, they call on them to consult with their doctors. It is a move

in the right direction, but we ought to make it clear once and for all publicly, where we can, that those who are spreading this anti-vax rhetoric are literally risking the lives of our fellow Americans.

We are seeing the good that comes from sharing the facts about vaccines and potential to save lives. As of yesterday, the 7-day average of newly vaccinated Americans is up nearly over one-third from last year week. Nearly 7 in 10 American adults have one dose of COVID vaccine. We need to keep it up.

More than 610,000 of our family members and friends and neighbors in America have died from this disease—and millions more around the world. We have the power within our hands, with vaccines, to stop this pandemic. We all have to do our part.

I want to take an opportunity to recognize something else. Disinformation is not the only reason why people are not getting vaccinated. Sadly, there is a long history of racial bias in our Nation's institutions, from education to housing, to healthcare. That history of racial bias has, understandably, led some Americans to question our institutions based on fear.

Let me first say this: Trust has to be earned.

We have a lot of work to do as a nation to address racial inequities in our healthcare system, like the fact that Black women are three times more likely than White women to die from pregnancy-related complications. Acknowledging these inequities, doing something about them, is how we can build and regain trust. That is the work we have to do.

President Biden's American Rescue Plan was an important investment in tackling health disparities. It increased funding for community outreach, expanded support for community health centers. It provided a \$1 billion investment in the National Health Service Corps to help recruit more doctors, nurses, and other health professionals from communities of color. That was a provision that I added to the bill.

At this moment, if you are still unvaccinated against COVID-19 and you have questions, reach out to a medical professional that you trust. Talk with your doctor, ask them whatever questions you wish, but make sure you have the facts on your side, because the sad truth is the pandemic has deepened the existing racial disparities in America.

Last year, there was nearly a 3-year drop in life expectancy among Black and Brown Americans—3 years. Communities of color have been three times more likely to be hospitalized, twice as likely to die from COVID. We can end this cycle of sickness and despair, but we have got to stop the spread of the new variants. So please consult a medical professional and ask about getting vaccinated.

RANSOMWARE

Madam President, on another issue, a committee we both serve on, the Sen-

ate Judiciary Committee, is going to have an important hearing tomorrow on the issue of ransomware.

For those who may be unfamiliar, ransomware is a type of malicious software that can infect a computer. If hackers attack your computer system with it, they can lock up all the data in your system and demand a ransom payment in exchange for unlocking the data. As a product of our digital age, ransomware is a relatively new threat, but it could impact any individual, business, or organization.

Many Americans had a rude awakening about this threat earlier this year, when a cyber crime syndicate used ransomware to shut down the largest petroleum pipeline in the United States: the Colonial Pipeline. That shutdown sparked a nationwide panic that had people lining up at gas stations for hours, and it put the threat of ransomware into plain view for all Americans. Perhaps someone you know has had their world turned upside down by a ransomware attack. Tomorrow, we will discuss it at length.

GUN VIOLENCE

Madam President, we begin this week with yet another devastating toll of weekend gun violence across America, including the city of Chicago. More than 70 people were shot this past weekend in Chicago. Ten died. If you remember 2 weeks ago, Fourth of July weekend, over 100 people were victims of gunshots in Chicago. In that case, 19 of them died.

It is a mass killing on a regular basis in that great city. Much of it is concentrated in sections of the city, but it is starting to spread because it is so darned easy for a person to get their hands on a gun in that city.

Shootings in Chicago have surged during the COVID pandemic. We see it happening across America. The Biden administration is taking steps in the right direction to stop this gun violence: Cracking down on untraceable ghost guns, rogue gun dealers, and these braces, this equipment that can effectively turn pistols into short-barreled rifles.

Crucially, the Department of Justice announced the launch of five firearm trafficking strike forces. Chicago is one of the cities. New York; San Francisco; Washington, DC; and Los Angeles, are the others.

These strike forces will confront what I believe to be one of the most important causes of this gun violence: the illicit trafficking of guns. These strike forces will also provide support for law enforcement who are on the frontlines of fighting gun violence.

As a testament to that fact, last week, Attorney General Garland joined me in Chicago to highlight how the Justice Department is standing with our police officers and first responders. I am grateful that Attorney General Garland returned to his hometown of Chicago for this purpose. But sadly, it was a somber homecoming.

We first met with police officers and the mayor of Chicago, Lori Lightfoot,

at the Harrison District police station. It is basically ground zero for gun violence in the city of Chicago. They demonstrated to us the brandnew technology, the amazing technology, the video cameras, the shotspotters, new technology which they are using every single day to thwart the criminals and to prove their cases when necessary. These communities and these officers are keeping us as safe as they can, but they are up against an avalanche of guns.

The grim toll of gun violence in Chicago continues to climb upward. The officers agreed with Attorney General Garland and myself, a major problem is that we have guns being illegally sold to people who never should have had them, who never would have passed a background check, convicted felons or those who are mentally unstable. This issue is more important and more significant than any single jurisdiction. It is nationwide.

Roughly, 60 percent of the guns recovered at crime scenes in Chicago originate from out of State, primarily from Indiana, but also from other States. A person can easily buy a gun from an unlicensed seller in Indiana and drive it to Chicago in a matter of minutes that very same day to resell that gun on the streets.

Why don't we do something about this? If those who own guns agree with everyone else that we ought to keep guns out of the hands of the wrong people, why can't this Congress do that simple thing to try to slow down this gun violence?

There is one more truth we must acknowledge: Gun violence isn't just about access to weapons. Too many kids in cities like Chicago face daily trauma that is making them more likely to fall into the cycle of violence.

During the Attorney General's visit to Chicago, we joined community leaders at St. Agatha Catholic Church in the Lawndale section of the city. They have developed a successful violence intervention program called READI Chicago. It is one of the many community violence intervention programs that has received financial support from this President.

While meeting with the leaders of READI Chicago, I spoke with a young man whom I will call John. He is remarkably brave. After learning his story, one cannot ignore the similarities he shares with so many other young people in the city.

He grew up in a struggling family. He sold drugs to earn money. Like many of his peers, he ended up carrying a gun and got involved with gang violence. He was arrested, convicted, and served time in prison. Then he came back to the community and wanted to start a different life. That is how he got involved with READI Chicago, where he is now a positive force for change in his home city.

It is an inspiring story, but that young man John, in his early twenties, still remains at risk. He fears that his

advocacy on behalf of this program has put crosshairs on his back in the neighborhood and that his family may even be targeted as well. Every street corner in his neighborhood, every street he crosses, comes with a risk. He has to look around constantly to see if the gang members are going to target him. But still, even under this unimaginable stress, John is looking for a new path in his life. I asked him what he wanted to do. He said he would like to apply to attend Chicago State University, which is near this area. I hope he can get there. And I hope he will be a success, but it is amazing that he still has that dream after all that he has seen.

For young people in Chicago like him, there is no quick fix. If you grew up in a family without stability and security at home, in school, or in a neighborhood, which many of us take for granted every day, it can harm your development and change the way you see the world. The CDC's landmark study on ACEs, adverse childhood experiences, tells us that exposure to trauma is linked to risk of drug use, suicide, academic struggle, and many other problems. If you are a young child experiencing this chaos, if you watch a family member get shot or violently assaulted, it leaves a scar called trauma. Trauma can stay with a child for life.

That is why violence intervention programs like READI Chicago are so important, connecting these at-risk youth with cognitive behavioral therapy, paid transitional jobs, wraparound support services, resources that support the healthy development of children who are struggling with trauma. These are the resources that will change a young person's life and set him on a better path, a path where he can discover a passionate calling and, ultimately, get back to the community.

We must invest in these long-term solutions to break cycles of violence and trauma. The bipartisan RISE from Trauma Act that I have introduced with Senator CAPITO, a Republican from West Virginia, and many colleagues, is an important step in that direction. It would provide \$5 billion that President Biden has called for in his Build Back Better agenda for community violence intervention.

We in the Senate need to take immediate steps to combat violent crime. Can't we just get together and agree that we don't want to sell firearms to people who are convicted felons? It seems so obvious, and there is such public support for it. I want my colleagues to understand that the problem of gun violence isn't confined to the city of Chicago. We have cities that are much smaller downstate that are seeing an increase in gun violence as well. It is time for us to do something about it.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Republican leader is recognized.

MIKE ENZI

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, this weekend, we received the bad news that our friend and former colleague, Mike Enzi, was involved in a serious accident while riding his bicycle.

Mike's colleagues on both sides of the aisle were sorry enough to see him depart the Chamber and begin his well-earned next chapter just a few months ago. Mike and Diana were a fantastic Senate couple in every respect, from major legislative accomplishments to the generosity and kindness they showed to everyone from Senate staff to the pages. So I know Members on both sides of the aisle are very much thinking of Mike at this time. We pray for his health and for the entire Enzi family.

DEMOCRATIC AGENDA

Now, Madam President, on an entirely different matter, American families are anxious, and they are uneasy.

The share of Americans who feels optimistic about our country's direction has plummeted by almost 20 percent just since the springtime. As recently as early May, nearly two-thirds of Americans said they were optimistic about the direction of the country. That was the highest figure that survey had reported in 14 years, but, alas, that has plummeted. Late last week, a new survey found that optimism is now a minority position as 55 percent of Americans are pessimistic. Approval of the new administration's handling of COVID-19 has tumbled. Their handling of the economy is underwater among Independents. Fewer than 4 in 10 Americans approve of their handling of immigration, the border, or violent crime.

Unfortunately, American families have ample reason to feel this way. The end of June clocked the highest annual inflation spike in more than a decade. The Democrats' stay-home bonus to workers who remain unemployed has slowed the recovery and helped to keep workforce participation stagnant. Meanwhile, last year, as the far left put the squeeze on law enforcement funding in cities across the country, America faced a 25-percent—25-percent—increase in homicides. Then, after the Biden administration was very eager to claim ownership and spike the football on the vaccination trajectory, which they largely inherited from Republican leadership, we have now seen vaccination rates in many places plateau on what this White House has been insisting is their watch.

This turn toward pessimism is especially stunning and especially sad because President Biden took office with

the wind at his back. Things were set up for a roaring success like no other Presidential transition in recent memory. Thanks, in large part, to Operation Warp Speed, set up by the prior Congress and administration, we had multiple safe and effective vaccines that were beginning to circulate widely through the country. The new administration's so-called ambitious goal of about a million vaccines per day was already happening before they were sworn in. Thanks to the five bipartisan rescue packages that the Republican-led Senate passed last year, we were primed and ready for a historic economic comeback. Americans were excited and ready to build a comeback summer for the history books.

Yet those incredible tailwinds have largely been squandered. That historic head start has been wasted through bad policy and, in many cases, needlessly divisive leadership.

After a poorly targeted partisan spending package that even liberal economists warned could cause more inflation, American families are now feeling the pain and literally paying the price. After campaign rhetoric and then policy decisions that have made our southern border less secure, a predictable crisis is playing out. After a year of anti-police and anti-rule-of-law rhetoric from too many on the political left, a violent crime surge is hammering communities and making streets less safe all across our country. Oh, and as the new administration pulls back America's presence in the Middle East in a reckless and rushed fashion, terrorist leaders are simply jumping for joy.

This is how you take a country from near-record optimism to serious pessimism in just 2-months' time. This is how you inherit favorable trends in just about every direction imaginable but produce disappointment. Our Democratic friends' big master plan is yet another reckless taxing-and-spending spree but even larger. The Washington Democrats' big idea is to borrow, print, and spend our way to even more inflation and even higher costs for American families, along with a historic set of big tax hikes to boot.

My friends across the aisle and down Pennsylvania Avenue should be less concerned about checking leftwing items off activists' wish lists. As more and more of the Democrats' partisan agenda comes online, the American people's pessimism grows and grows. The families of our country need a better approach.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). Without objection, it is so ordered.

THE ECONOMY

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, you know, there is an old saying that I have used quite often, but it bears repeating: Give a man a fish, you feed him for a day. Teach a man how to fish, and you feed him for a lifetime.

It is a simple yet insightful concept. Human beings often like things to be easy. It is just in our nature. But the reward for easy is very short-lived. Sometimes, if you don't earn it, you don't understand it. If we work hard and challenge ourselves to improve, we reap the benefits for much longer. That is the American way.

I would tell this to my players over the years that I coached. You know, lessons learned that are applied to the football field also apply in life. You know, this country owes you one thing: an opportunity. Sometimes people just need to be shown where that opportunity is at and encouraged to take it, and that is what everyone in this body should be focused on doing: opening doors for opportunity for the people of this country.

President Biden seems determined to close those doors of opportunity by creating, it looks like, a future massive entitlement state.

My Republican colleagues and I have talked a lot about the reckless tax-and-spend plan and the cost of that plan on American families. We are seeing rising inflation, which means dollars from your paycheck are not going as far. We are seeing costs rise on everyday goods that families need: food, gas, diapers—you name it; it is going up. This is a direct result of untargeted spending this year as we are trying to recover from a pandemic, which is the worst time in the world to be throwing government money at a pandemic.

And, now, our Democratic colleagues, it looks like, want to spend \$3.5 trillion more, after spending \$1.9 trillion back in February. And what gets talked about less than the cost of this spending is the social and societal cost of all of these new and expanded programs. While it may not be easy to see or measure, it is no less important, and that is what I want to talk about today.

Let's remember how this started and how we got here. It started with President Biden's announcing two plans—great names. First was the American Families Plan, and then there was the American Jobs Plan. Despite their confusing and similar names, on the face they don't sound that bad. I am for American families, and I am for American jobs.

These plans are not about American families or American jobs. They are full of progressive items that can only pass the Senate through a reconciliation process. There won't be any—there won't be any—Republicans that will vote for this, and Democrats know this. So, now, here we are with our colleagues stuffing the worst parts of President Biden's agenda—I am talking about the most progressive items that

only appease the far left of their base—into their latest package. And all of President Biden's progressive programs cost money, lots and lots of money. And they are going to pay for them with your taxpayer dollars, not the government dollars—taxpayer dollars.

A lot of my colleagues have expressed concern with the Democrats' tax-and-spend spree, but they aren't the only ones sounding the alarm. Folks back home have started to take notice, and there is a lot more collective wisdom among the folks back home than there has been here lately in Washington, DC.

So I brought a couple of letters with me today. These are folks from Alabama who wrote to me about their concerns with President Biden's massive spending plan. Here is what James Merrill from Huntsville, AL, wrote to me:

I have been studying this atrocious "Biden American Families Plan" and it is clear that not only is the cost staggering, the implications of all the rules that will go with it will terribly impact all family life and our freedoms to manage our lives. It blatantly makes the middle-class dependent on the government—cradle to grave. A clear path to socialism."

James, you are exactly right.

And Rosa Hill in Birmingham, AL, had this to say:

I have just listened to President Biden . . . and the ideas are ridiculous. [We] should be helping each other, [not] the government . . . [getting] involved.

Ms. HILL makes an important point. Much of this work can and should be done by our neighbors, churches, and people in the communities. The problem is, we have been conditioned to wait for the government to do the hard work of helping the less fortunate for us rather than doing it ourselves.

Half a century ago, President Lyndon Johnson launched the "War on Poverty." He and leading liberals at the time thought the answer to poverty was to dramatically increase the benefits the Federal Government would give out to the poor. Well, the War on Poverty didn't work like its backers thought it would. The following decade was filled with economic stagnation, high inflation, gas lines, spikes in drug addiction, and a horrifying rise in crimes across our country. Sounds familiar—doesn't it?—just like what is happening today.

Folks, the definition of insanity is trying the same thing over and over again expecting a different result. We have already tried this. President Biden is determined to try the same worn out policies today: throwing trillions and trillions of taxpayer money at the problem and hoping the problem goes away. It has been and still is the wrong solution.

President Biden's reckless spending spree won't help struggling American families. It will trap them in the endless cycle of dependence on Big Government and taxpayer money. Just take a look at what President Biden has proposed in his American Families Plan:

government-subsidized childcare, free preschool, free community college. Free, free, free; that seems to be the slogan of this administration.

Of course, we all know that there is no such thing as free in this country. I have talked before about the fact that President Biden has proposed 30—you heard me right, 30—new taxes that the Democrats can choose from to pay for these free programs in their next spending package—30 new taxes during a pandemic.

According to one analysis by the Hoover Institution, President Biden's American Families Plan would add 21 million Americans to the Federal Government's list of beneficiaries—21—21 million more people living off the government. Now, there are certainly people out there who need help. We all know that. But this plan opens the floodgates to taxpayer-funded benefits instead of concentrating on those who mostly need it. Under President Biden's plan, your family could make up to \$200,000 and still qualify for Federal healthcare—\$200,000.

We don't have to comb through the history books for examples on how these progressive policies fail. We don't have to look far. Just look at what we have done here recently and the insistence on keeping unemployment benefits historically high.

My Republican colleagues and I have spoken about how these misguided benefits essentially paid people not to work, destroying small businesses all over the country, and our economy's progress has gone down as we try to recover from this pandemic.

Republican Governors across the country recognized the problem and decided to cut out the overly generous benefits months ago. Folks who needed help would get it, but they wouldn't be paid to sit at home, and then they wouldn't be sitting home when they could have been working at jobs that would help their family. Just about every Democratic Governor has insisted on keeping these benefits. Now, what does that tell you, insisting on keeping the benefits and not keeping the benefits?

We have made some terrible decisions just in a short period of time. Well, we can already see the results of what is happening with these benefits. According to the monthly data from the Bureau of Labor Statistics, States that cut the Federal expanded benefit are closer to returning to prepandemic employment levels than the States that kept them. Thirteen of the top 15 States with the best unemployment numbers have all ended their Federal expanded unemployment insurance.

Why don't we learn from this misguided policy and not repeat it by spending money on bad outcomes? We seem to continue to do that every time we turn around.

The reckless tax-and-spend spree to advance President Biden's progressive agenda isn't just unaffordable; it is un-American. The United States was

founded on the ideas of personal liberty and self-reliance. It makes you feel good about yourself earning your own way, not government handouts best known as socialism.

Since our founding, people have flocked to the United States because of the opportunity it gives citizens to succeed, not because of cushy government handouts. Our society valued and values hard work, grit, and determination more than the countries most of these folks have left behind.

Again, this country owes you one thing and that is an opportunity to succeed through education and hard work. Democrats want you to believe that you can only succeed with the government's help. Republicans believe in self-reliance and that you have within you God-given skills and potential to work hard and succeed. You have that. That is what this country gives you, which is why President Biden's reckless spending spree and expansion of government programs is so, so disappointing.

The President and Democrats think success is measured by how much taxpayer money the government can spend, but real success is measured by how many people no longer need the help in the first place. Our efforts need to empower people to be free to live and work to build a better life for themselves and their families. The most successful anti-poverty program should eventually put itself out of business.

So I say, enough. Enough of continuously growing the Federal Government. Enough of the reckless taxpayer-funded spending sprees. Enough of trapping people in a cycle of dependence, because a culture of dependency is a culture in decline.

I say we work together to encourage people to seize the many opportunities in our country, not have them wait around hoping the government will fix every problem life throws their way. We can't do that. It is long past time we get back to teaching folks to fish, to learn to fish themselves, to be self-reliant. That is a culture of hard work and resilience. That is a culture of the United States of America, the best country on the face of the Earth.

Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CHINA

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, this has already been a big week in Tokyo for Team USA, and I hope all of my colleagues have the opportunity to watch a few minutes of the Olympic Games over the next few weeks.

Every year, we hear so much from commentators and athletes about how

the Games are an opportunity for the world to come together, and that is exactly how it once was. Unfortunately, the Olympics are also a target-rich environment for people and regimes that want to use these rare moments of unity to trick the world into ignoring evil.

Before we were able to enjoy any of this year's double-pike vaults or 400-meter freestyle swims, we were already worrying about the impending havoc casting a shadow over the 2022 Beijing Winter Olympics.

Late last year, the Chinese Government began pilot testing a new digital currency that will inevitably knock other domestic mobile payment systems out of the marketplace.

The digital yuan trial has already pulled in \$5.3 billion—that is correct, \$5.3 billion—in transactions, and this month we learned that cross-border payments are also on the table. In fact, the trial has been so successful that Beijing wants to expand testing at the 2022 Winter Olympics.

Now, as much as I would like to believe that this is an innocent effort to bring the world a little closer together, this is the Chinese Communist Party that we are talking about, and we shouldn't expect good faith because that is not what we are going to get from the CCP. We have reason to believe that the Chinese Government intends to use the digital yuan to conduct a massive surveillance operation on Chinese citizens and foreign visitors.

It wouldn't be the first time something like this happened. The CCP has an unfortunate history of weaponizing emerging technologies against people they would like to control. They used it against the Uighurs, against freedom fighters in Hong Kong, and on the mainland against anyone who questions their party propaganda.

They are already using digital payment platforms to spy on their own people; and if we are not careful, they are going to use them to spy on Team USA.

This month, I sent a letter to the U.S. Olympic & Paralympic Committee asking them to forbid our athletes from accepting or using the digital yuan while competing in Beijing.

The threats are changing, and far too often we see our allies and partners and even our own government ignoring those threats to preserve the status quo.

You may be asking yourself: Why is so much of the world willing to look the other way when confronted with genocide in Xinjiang or murdered protesters in Hong Kong?

It is because speaking up can be dangerous, especially when it comes to challenging the CCP.

China boasts the most in-demand market in the world. In fact, it is such a gold mine that you will recall the NBA ignored large-scale child abuse at its training camps in China just to maintain access to broadcast advertising and merchandise revenue.

Through the Belt and Road Initiative, the Chinese Communist Party has sunk its teeth into some of the most valuable tourist destinations on the face of the Earth, on trade route, and strategic outposts.

They have sold this program as an economic development initiative, but in reality this debt-trap diplomacy is really just an extortion scheme. Once these countries fall into the trap, it is almost impossible to escape.

Even before the pandemic forced the United States into lockdown, I and several other of my colleagues on both sides of the aisle were ringing alarm bells about our supply chain security. China is the most dominant global source of rare Earth minerals, technology infrastructure, and many active pharmaceutical ingredients.

Long story short, there is a lot on the line for the people of the United States. The cards are stacked against us.

It would be really easy to protect that valuable status quo by ignoring human rights violations and extortion schemes and other overt attempts to make the world a little less free. But as much as we would like it to be, freedom is not humanity's natural state. It is fragile. It falls victim to the weak and the power hungry alike, and, if we are not careful, yes, it will slip away, like it has in so many other countries.

Freedom does have to be fought for, and we need our leaders to set the example. That means staying focused on not following the example of countries that have given up their freedom. We don't want to live out the authoritarian nightmare that the CCP has created, but we also want to avoid becoming like nations that have already pawned their futures in pursuit of some grand socialist future.

I fear that our new majority has already lost touch with what the American people actually want. They sure don't want what the Biden administration has been selling lately. I can definitely tell you that after a weekend in Tennessee. They don't feel taken care of. What they are feeling is that they are being manipulated.

They want to know why President Biden and the Democratic majority keep trying to pawn off the freedom that makes us an example to the rest of the world in exchange for more government control that nobody asked for.

I would encourage my colleagues on the other side of the aisle to remember that the American people entrusted them with the power that they are wasting on these radical wish lists items, and that power can be taken away just as easily as it was given.

The American people want to make certain that we do as Ronald Reagan implored us to remember. And, Madam President, as you know, last week I had that poster here on the floor. Freedom is always one generation away from extinction. It is our responsibility to fight for it, to pass it on.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maine.

Mr. KING. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion. The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 257.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2023.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 257, Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2023.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Brian Schatz, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 258.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2026.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 258, David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board for the term of five years expiring August 27, 2026.

Charles E. Schumer, Tammy Baldwin, Tim Kaine, Patty Murray, Tina Smith, Jacky Rosen, Christopher Murphy, Cory A. Booker, Mark R. Warner, Brian Schatz, Sherrod Brown, Sheldon Whitehouse, Raphael Warnock, Michael F. Bennet, Jeanne Shaheen, Patrick J. Leahy, Richard J. Durbin.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the mandatory quorum calls for the cloture motions filed today, July 26, be waived.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. SCHUMER. I yield the floor.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 122, Todd Sunhwa Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Tina Smith, Margaret Wood Hassan, Catherine Cortez Masto, Jeff Merkley, Patty Murray, Tammy Baldwin, Debbie Stabenow, Gary C. Peters, Angus S. King, Jr., Sheldon Whitehouse, Robert P. Casey, Jr., Christopher Murphy, Ben Ray Lujan, Jack Reed, Chris Van Hollen.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. By unanimous consent, the mandatory quorum call has been waived.

The question is, Is it the sense of the Senate that debate on the nomination of Todd Sunhwa Kim, of the District

of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER), the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN), and the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senators are necessarily absent: the Senator from Idaho (Mr. CRAPO), the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE), and the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 54, nays 40, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 278 Ex.]

YEAS—54

Baldwin	Grassley	Padilla
Bennet	Hassan	Peters
Blumenthal	Heinrich	Reed
Blunt	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Brown	Hirono	Sanders
Cantwell	Kaine	Schatz
Capito	Kelly	Schumer
Carper	King	Shaheen
Casey	Klobuchar	Sinema
Collins	Leahy	Smith
Coons	Lujan	Stabenow
Cornyn	Manchin	Tester
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Menendez	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Feinstein	Murkowski	Warren
Gillibrand	Murphy	Whitehouse
Graham	Ossoff	Wyden

NAYS—40

Barrasso	Hoeven	Rubio
Blackburn	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Boozman	Johnson	Scott (FL)
Braun	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Burr	Lankford	Shelby
Cassidy	Lee	Sullivan
Cotton	Lummis	Thune
Cramer	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Toomey
Daines	Moran	Tuberville
Ernst	Paul	Wicker
Fischer	Portman	Young
Hagerty	Risch	
Hawley	Romney	

NOT VOTING—6

Booker	Crapo	Murray
Cardin	Inhofe	Rounds

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HEINRICH). On this vote, the yeas are 54, the nays are 40.

The motion is agreed to.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the following nomination: Calendar No. 165.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination Frank Kendall III, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of the Air Force.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate vote on the nomination without intervening action or debate; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be

considered made and laid upon the table, all without intervening action or debate; that no further motions be in order to the nomination; that any statements related to the nomination be printed in the RECORD; that the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Kendall nomination?

The nomination was confirmed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to legislative session and be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATIONS OF HELAINE ANN GREENFELD AND CHRISTOPHER H. SCHROEDER

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, I intend to object to any unanimous consent request relating to the nomination of Helaine Ann Greenfeld, to be an Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice, PN459, and Christopher H. Schroeder, to be an Assistant Attorney General at the Department of Justice, PN370.

Last week, at the Senate Judiciary Committee's executive business meeting, I noted my intent to vote for both nominees but object to any unanimous consent request for their confirmation. Ms. Greenfeld will lead the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs and Mr. Schroeder will lead the Justice Department's Office of Legal Counsel. Both of these components are at the heart of my congressional oversight requests and the Department's failure to respond. I have made this decision clearly not on the basis of their credentials but on the basis of the Justice Department's failure to respond to congressional oversight requests.

To date, the Justice Department has failed to provide a full and complete response to any of my oversight requests. I said the same thing when I objected to any unanimous consent request relating to the Kenneth Polite nomination on June 22, 2021. Nothing has changed.

For example, on July 15, 2021, my staff had yet another call with the Justice Department's Office of Legislative Affairs, the very office Ms. Greenfeld will be in charge of. On that call, the Department wanted to know why I had a hold on Mr. Polite and whether they could do anything to change my mind. My staff made clear to the Department that the issues before them are quite

simple: Attorney General Garland must respond to my oversight letters and records requests.

The Department asked for that call with my staff, and the Department did not provide my staff a substantive update on any of my oversight requests. It is absurd for the Department to schedule a call relating to my hold on Mr. Polite, which was done due to the Department's consistent failure to respond to my oversight requests, and then have no updates relating to any of my oversight requests.

As one of many examples of unanswered questions and requests, on February 3, 2021, and March 9, 2021, Senator JOHNSON and I requested information from the Justice Department relating to Nicholas McQuaid. Mr. McQuaid was Acting Assistant Attorney General for the Criminal Division, the position Mr. Polite now holds. In those letters, we raised concerns about potential conflicts of interest in light of the fact that Mr. McQuaid was employed at Latham & Watkins until January 20, 2021, and worked with Christopher Clark, whom Hunter Biden reportedly hired to work on his Federal criminal case.

This arrangement presents an ongoing potential conflict of interest given the fact Mr. McQuaid is still employed at the Criminal Division as the Principal Deputy Assistant Attorney General. A core function of congressional oversight is to ensure that governmental departments and agencies are free of conflicts of interest. That is especially so with the Justice Department and FBI. If conflicts infect them, those investigations and prosecutions—the very purpose of the Department's existence—could be undermined.

As a part of my oversight, I have requested a recusal memo for Mr. McQuaid. I have also requested to know, as a threshold issue, whether one even exists.

Attorney General Garland has failed to answer and provide the requested records. I have noted to the Department that in 2016, I received from the Department Andrew McCabe's recusal memo to illustrate precedent exists for such a production to Congress. Still, the Justice Department refuses to provide the same for Mr. McQuaid.

On the July 15, 2021, call with my staff, they again raised my questions about Mr. McQuaid. The Department was unable to provide any legitimate basis upon which it could not answer my questions and again failed to provide any update on the Department's response.

As I have noted before with respect to the Federal Government's failure to respond to legitimate congressional oversight requests, there is nothing more eroding of public faith than an unresponsive executive branch that believes it only answers to the President and not the U.S. Congress and, perhaps most importantly, "We the People."

This administration's continued, ongoing, and blatant lack of cooperation has again forced my hand.

Thus, unfortunately, I must object to any consideration of these nominees. My objection is not intended to question the credentials of Ms. Greenfeld and Mr. Schroeder in any way. The executive branch must recognize that it has an ongoing obligation to respond to congressional inquiries in a timely and reasonable manner.

EQUAL JUSTICE INITIATIVE'S COMMUNITY REMEMBRANCE PROJECT

Ms. BALDWIN. Mr. President, today I rise to recognize the installation of a historical marker in the Good Hope Missionary Baptist Church yard on August 1, 2021, that will memorialize the life and death of three citizens who were lynched in 1908. This month, my constituent, Ms. Joyce Salter Johnson, will travel with friends and family from Wisconsin to Mississippi to honor her relative Frank Johnson, as one of those three men who were violently murdered in Hickory, MS.

This historical marker is part of the important work being done by the Equal Justice Initiative in honoring and memorializing lives lost to racial violence in this country through its Community Remembrance Project. With its mission to end mass incarceration and excessive punishment in the United States, challenge racial and economic injustice, and protect basic human rights for the most vulnerable, the Equal Justice Initiative has been working to expose the truth, advocate for change, and create hope for historically marginalized communities. Lawyer and author Bryan Stevenson founded Equal Justice Initiative in 1989, and since then, it has grown to an organization of robust projects, hands-on education, and publically accessible museums and memorials. In April of 2018, following in the footsteps of the late Dr. James Cameron of Milwaukee's Black Holocaust Museum in my home State of Wisconsin, the Equal Justice Initiative—EJI—opened America's first national memorial dedicated to victims of racial terror lynching and a new museum dedicated to slavery and its legacy was opened in Montgomery, AL.

EJI's Community Remembrance Project partners with community coalitions to do extensive research of documented victims of racial violence. EJI fosters critical conversations about our history and race and justice today. The Community Remembrance Project memorializes documented victims of racial violence and its Community Soil Collection Project gathers soil at lynching sites for display in powerful exhibits honoring these victims. Narrative historical markers are erected in public locations where violence took place.

My constituent, Wisconsin resident Joyce Salter Johnson, is a historian whose third book provides a well-researched history of the Freedmen Settlement of Good Hope, MS, where she

lived until the age of 10. Thus, prior to EJI's documentation, she knew the terrible sequence of events that led to the October 10, 1908, lynching of her relative, Mr. Frank Johnson, and the two others. Given her knowledge, research skills, and inclinations, she was well-suited to take leadership among the coalition members working on the Community Remembrance Project for these men, and for that, I am thankful.

I commend the work of the Equal Justice Initiative and all who help further the Community Remembrance Project's mission of confronting the legacy of slavery, lynching, and segregation and charting a better future. And I extend my solidarity to Ms. Johnson and her family and friends on their personal journey of remembrance and memorial.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING BIRD DOGS COFFEE

• Mr. PAUL. Mr. President, as ranking member of the Senate Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship, each week I recognize an outstanding Kentucky small business that exemplifies the American entrepreneurial spirit. This week, it is my privilege to recognize Bird Dogs Coffee, a family-owned small business in Owenton, KY, as the Senate Small Business of the Week.

Located in the heart of Owenton, Kasey Craigmyle Towles opened Bird Dogs Coffee in 2015. Kasey, who grew up in Owenton and was the founder and operator of "Kasey's Corner," a successful gift shop, decided to pursue a different business venture that would uplift her hometown and foster a sense of community. When Bird Dogs Coffee opened its door, Kasey and her husband, Randy, were seizing the opportunity to fill a gap in the Owenton market since there was not a coffee shop in town. Together, Kasey and Randy created a welcoming cafe with delicious food, friendly service, and a hospitable atmosphere.

Today, Bird Dogs Coffee has become a local favorite and has consistently received high praise and glowing reviews in local and regional publications for its outstanding service and homemade cuisine. Bird Dogs Coffee welcomes customers from all over northern Kentucky by providing a place for both locals and travelers to catch up over a cup of coffee. Kasey and Randy host a number of events at their coffee shop, including live music and wine and beer tastings. Moreover, Bird Dogs Coffee provides a meeting space for local organizations like the Owenton Rotary Club. Entrepreneurs at heart, Kasey and Randy have continued seeking ways to grow their business while serving their community. They have purchased buildings next to Bird Dogs Coffee's original location and plan to open an event space and expanded gift shop to meet the needs of their hometown.

Like many small business owners, Kasey and Randy are actively involved in their community. Bird Dogs Coffee is a member of the Owen County Chamber of Commerce and is an enthusiastic supporter of the Owen County Tourism Commission. For several years, Bird Dogs Coffee has sponsored Owen County School District sports teams and contributed to multiple fundraisers for local organizations. Additionally, Kasey and Randy regularly donate to Owen County Project Graduation, which provides an alcohol- and drug-free graduation celebration for local high school seniors. With Owen County High being close to their hearts, Kasey and Randy are also actively involved with the Owen County High School Alumni Association.

Bird Dogs Coffee is a remarkable example of how hard work, ingenuity, and discipline can turn a dream into reality. Small businesses like Bird Dogs Coffee form the heart of towns across Kentucky, regularly stepping up to support their communities. Congratulations to Kasey, Randy, and the entire team at Bird Dogs Coffee. I wish Bird Dogs Coffee the best of luck and look forward to watching this small business's continued growth and success in Kentucky. •

REMEMBERING DAVID MERMELSTEIN

• Mr. SCOTT of Florida. Mr. President, I rise today to commemorate the life and legacy of David Mermelstein.

David was born in Kevjazz, Czechoslovakia, on December 21, 1928. In 1944, at just 16 years old, David was sent to the Nazi concentration camp at Auschwitz until the American liberation of the camp in 1945. He was the only member of his family to survive the Holocaust. David lost everything, including documentation of his family's insurance policy. After 2 years in a displaced persons camp, David came to the United States in 1948. He met his wife, Irene, who is also a Holocaust survivor, in New York. Together, they decided to move to Miami, FL, where they made a lifelong home.

David devoted his life to serving the south Florida Jewish community, assuming leadership roles in many organizations. He was passionate about educating our children about the Holocaust. He founded the Holocaust Survivors of Miami-Dade County, becoming a national advocate for survivors and testifying before Congress on their behalf on the need for restitution to obtain the most equitable compensation possible for the survivors.

David lived through unspeakable horror and dedicated his life to educating and inspiring those around him. Our memory of all those who suffered must never weaken, and we must always fight against hate.

David was beloved by all who knew him. He was a fierce advocate and an inspiration to all who heard his story. David exemplified what it means to

love and to make a difference. He will be greatly missed and remembered forever for his remarkable and inspiring life.

Ann and I are praying for Irene, Helene, Joe Davis, Michael and Lisa Mermelstein, Debbi Mermelstein, Jenna and Mike Fox, Lindsay Davis, Brian Davis, and Eli Fox, and all of David's family and friends. We mourn this very heavy loss, but we are blessed to have known David Mermelstein and for the work he did to educate and improve the world. May his memory be a blessing to all.●

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

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.)

PETITIONS AND MEMORIALS

The following petitions and memorials were laid before the Senate and were referred or ordered to lie on the table as indicated:

POM-37. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 215

Whereas, the National Institutes of Health has reported that the obesity epidemic is now the second-leading cause of death in the United States, with an estimated three hundred thousand deaths per year nationally attributed to the epidemic; and

Whereas, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases and conditions including high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders, sleep apnea, and type two diabetes; and

Whereas, over thirty-four percent of rural Americans live with obesity while just under twenty-nine percent of Americans who reside in metropolitan areas live with the condition; and

Whereas, racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately impacted by this epidemic with the highest prevalence of obesity occurring among non-Hispanic blacks (forty-nine and six-tenths percent) followed by Hispanics (forty-four and eight-tenths percent), non-Hispanic whites (forty-two and two-tenths percent), and non-Hispanic Asian adults (seventeen and four-tenths percent); and

Whereas, currently, over one trillion four hundred billion dollars are expended annually on direct and indirect costs for treating health conditions related to obesity; and

Whereas, on average, measured in 2019 dollars, the annual cost of health care for a Medicare beneficiary with obesity is two

thousand eighteen dollars more than the annual cost of health care for a beneficiary of healthy weight; and

Whereas, the overall improvement in public health resulting from coverage for obesity treatments would lead to lower expenditures in emergency room care, ambulatory care, inpatient stays, and prescriptions and is estimated to achieve net savings in healthcare costs of approximately seven thousand dollars per person over ten years; and

Whereas, utilization of obesity treatments are predicted to generate Medicare budget savings of between eighteen billion dollars and twenty-three billion dollars over ten years; and

Whereas, less than one percent of Medicare beneficiaries with obesity are able to access obesity care; and

Whereas, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021 (TROA) has been introduced as H.R. 1577 and S. 596 in the One Hundred Seventeenth United States Congress; and

Whereas, this legislation is a real opportunity to help adults living with obesity by making targeted therapies and medications more widely available through Medicare; and

Whereas, the Medicare coverage changes proposed by TROA would decrease federal government spending by approximately twenty-five million dollars over the fiscal year 2020 through 2029 budget period; and

Whereas, with cosponsors representing both the Democratic and Republican Parties, TROA enjoys bipartisan support in both the United States Senate and House of Representatives, and Senator Bill Cassidy and Representative Garret Graves of Louisiana are among the cosponsors of this legislation; and

Whereas, organizations that have endorsed TROA include the Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Academy of PAs, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Council on Excellence, American Gastroenterological Association, American Medical Group Association, American Psychological Association, American Society for Metabolic and Bariatric Surgery, Black Woman's Health Imperative, Eisai, Endocrine Society, Global Liver Institute, Healthcare Leadership Council, MedTech Coalition for Metabolic Health, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, Novo Nordisk, Obesity Action Coalition, Obesity Medicine Association, Strategies to Overcome and Prevent Obesity Alliance, The Obesity Society, Trust for America's Health, WW International, and YMCA of the USA; Therefore, be it *Resolved*, that the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to pass the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act of 2021; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-38. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana memorializing its opposition to disproportionately increasing the tax burden on natural gas, oil and fuel industries; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 98

Whereas, the natural gas, oil, and fuel industries contribute significantly to jobs in Louisiana communities and to the development of state of the art emissions reduction technologies; and

Whereas, these industries support nearly eleven million jobs across the country, power the nation's economy, and generate billions in revenue for federal and state governments in rents, royalties, and corporate and income tax payments, including fourteen billion dollars for state treasuries through severance taxes in 2019 alone; and

Whereas, these industries support more than 249,800 jobs in Louisiana and account for more than fourteen and a half billion dollars in wages in the state; and

Whereas, these industries contribute seventy-three billion dollars in gross domestic product for the state; and

Whereas, these industries contributed four and a half billion dollars in direct revenues for Louisiana in 2019, and Louisiana relies on those revenues to fund schools, infrastructure, and other critical social services; and

Whereas, direct industry jobs pay seven times the federal minimum wage and seventy percent higher than the national average wage; and

Whereas, every direct job in natural gas, oil, and fuel industries support an additional 2.7 jobs in affiliated industries, from lodging to restaurants in proximity to these industries' operations; and

Whereas, these industries' investments in this country have led to a fifteen percent decrease in household energy costs over the last decade, while costs for food, education, and healthcare have skyrocketed; and

Whereas, those cheaper energy costs are crucial to working families in our communities and across the country; and

Whereas, the natural gas, oil, and fuel industries should not be prevented from recovering costs that other industries are eligible for simply because they operate in a different economic sector; and

Whereas, the United States tax code allows industries across the manufacturing sector to recover costs related to job creation and other operational investments; and

Whereas, these common tax mechanisms allow natural gas, oil, and fuel industries to create jobs and offset the intangible costs of drilling; invest in our communities; fund critical education, infrastructure, and social service programs; and deliver the energy that working families rely on every day; and therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby express its opposition to singling out these natural gas, oil, and fuels industries by disproportionately increasing the tax burden on them and the constituents of this state; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the president of the United States, each member of the president's cabinet, each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation, and to the members of the capitol press corps.

POM-39. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of West Virginia urging the United States Congress to extend federal tax incentives to participants in Jumpstart Savings programs that are similar to those that are currently provided to participants in College Savings plans; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 24

Whereas, The economy of the United States is experiencing increased demands for highly trained, skilled tradespeople to fill jobs in the construction, welding, and other vocational sectors; and

Whereas, In the United States, there are nearly half a million more jobs available in the skilled trades than workers with the skills to fill them; and

Whereas, The number of available jobs in the skilled trades is anticipated to rise to two million over the next decade; and

Whereas, A traditional college education is one path to success, but not the only path, especially in light of the increasing costs of a traditional four-year college degree and the growing demand for skilled labor; and

Whereas, Encouraging students and their families to invest in alternative forms of postsecondary skills could help reshape our nation's future workforce; and

Whereas, Providing the next generation the ability to save money for the future costs of tools, equipment, and business expenses will make it easier to enter a vocation, trade, or start a small business in the skilled trades industry; and

Whereas, The West Virginia Legislature has adopted legislation authorizing the West Virginia Jumpstart Savings Program, which creates several tax incentives to help program participants save money, by allowing an income tax deduction for contributions to a Jumpstart Savings account, by providing businesses with a non-refundable state tax credit for matching an employee's own contribution to his or her account each year; and

Whereas, The Jumpstart Savings Program will allow individuals to roll 529 College Savings plan funds over to a Jumpstart Savings account without facing state income tax penalties; and

Whereas, West Virginia's Jumpstart Savings Program could be a model for other states to invest in the future entrepreneurship and small business trade industries in our nation, and Congress should extend federal tax benefits to such programs; Therefore be it *Resolved by the Legislature of West Virginia*:

That Congress is urged to provide tax benefits to participants in Jumpstart Savings programs that are similar to those currently provided to participants in College Savings plans pursuant to 26 U.S.C. §529; and be it further

Resolved, That the Clerk of the House of Delegates is hereby directed to forward a copy of this resolution, along with a copy of the Jumpstart Savings Act, to the President and Secretary of the United States Senate, to the Speaker and Clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to members of West Virginia's congressional delegation.

POM-40. A resolution adopted by the Senate of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to enact the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA); to the Committee on Finance.

SENATE RESOLUTION NO. 245

Whereas, the National Institutes of Health has reported that obesity is now the second leading cause of death nationally, with an estimated three hundred thousand deaths a year attributed to the epidemic; and

Whereas, obesity increases the risk for chronic diseases and conditions, including high blood pressure, heart disease, certain cancers, arthritis, mental illness, lipid disorders, sleep apnea, and type 2 diabetes; and

Whereas, 34.2% of rural Americans live with obesity compared to 28.7% of those who live in metropolitan areas; and

Whereas, racial and ethnic minority groups have been disproportionately impacted, with the highest prevalence of obesity among non-Hispanic blacks (49.6%), followed by Hispanics (44.8%) and non-Hispanic whites (42.2%), and non-Hispanic Asian adults (17.4%); and

Whereas, currently, \$1.42 trillion is spent each year on direct and indirect costs for health conditions related to obesity; and

Whereas, on average in 2019, a Medicare beneficiary with obesity cost two thousand eighteen dollars more than a healthy-weight beneficiary; and

Whereas, overall improvement in health conditions from covered obesity treatments would lead to lower expenditures in emergency room care, ambulatory care, inpatient stays, and prescriptions, resulting in net savings between six thousand seven hundred dollars and seven thousand one hundred dollars over ten years per person; and

Whereas, utilization of obesity treatments will generate Medicare budget savings between eighteen and twenty-three billion dollars over ten years; and

Whereas, less than one percent of Medicare beneficiaries with obesity are able to access obesity care; and

Whereas, the proposed Medicare coverage changes would decrease federal government spending by approximately twenty-five million dollars over the fiscal years 2020-2029 budget window; and

Whereas, the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA) authored by Louisiana United States Senator BILL CASSIDY is a real opportunity to help adults living with obesity by making targeted therapies and medications more widely available through Medicare; and Whereas, the TROA legislation enjoys bipartisan support, being co-sponsored by five Republicans in the United States Senate and five Democrats in the United States Senate; and

Whereas, the following organizations have endorsed TROA: Academy of Nutrition and Dietetics, American Academy of PAs, American Association of Clinical Endocrinologists, American Association of Nurse Practitioners, American College of Occupational and Environmental Medicine, American Council on Excellence, American Gastroenterological Association, American Medical Group Association, American Psychological Association, American Society for Metabolic & Bariatric Surgery, Black Woman's Health Imperative, Eisai, Endocrine Society, Global Liver Institute, Healthcare Leadership Council, MedTech Coalition for Metabolic Health, National Alliance of Healthcare Purchaser Coalitions, Novo Nordisk, Obesity Action Coalition, Obesity Medicine Association, SECA, Strategies to Overcome and Prevent (STOP) Obesity Alliance, The Obesity Society, Trust for America's Health, WW International, and YMCA of the USA; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the Congress of the United States to enact the Treat and Reduce Obesity Act (TROA); and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution shall be transmitted to the secretary of the United States Senate, the clerk of the United States House of Representatives, and to each member of the Louisiana delegation to the United States Congress.

POM-41. A resolution adopted by the House of Representatives of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the ABLE Age Adjustment Act; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE RESOLUTION NO. 99

Whereas, the Achieving a Better Life Experience Act, also known as the ABLE Act, was passed by Congress and subsequently signed into law in 2014; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act has created tax-advantaged savings accounts known as "ABLE accounts" for persons with disabilities and has allowed funds to be withdrawn from the accounts to cover costs of health care, employment support, housing, transportation, assistive technology, and lifelong education for those persons; and

Whereas, ABLE accounts are subject to the same tax treatment as the popular education savings accounts commonly called "529 plans"; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act has created a powerful incentive for individuals and families to save private funds for the purpose of supporting persons with disabilities in maintaining health, independence, and quality of life; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act, as enacted, stipulates that funds held in an ABLE account do not count toward any maximum limit on a person's assets upon which eligibility for a means-tested federal program may be contingent; and

Whereas, savings in an ABLE account do not jeopardize a person's eligibility for programs such as Medicaid and Supplemental Security Income; and

Whereas, the asset limits of such programs had previously forced low-income persons into the difficult decision of whether to spend their limited resources, down to two thousand dollars in most cases, in order to become eligible for needed assistance; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act, as enacted, includes a fiscal safeguard for states by providing that if the ABLE account beneficiary dies or his disability ceases and assets remain in the account, the assets will first be distributed to any state Medicaid plan that provided assistance to the person; and

Whereas, as evidenced by the party affiliations of its seventy-eight original cosponsors being almost perfectly balanced, the ABLE Act legislation enjoys broad bipartisan support; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act embodies sound economic policy by encouraging savings and asset building; and

Whereas, the ABLE Act promotes important values that our nation holds dear by providing that every citizen living with a disability has the opportunity to attain independence and an improved quality of life; and

Whereas, prior to its passing, a limitation was added to the ABLE Act, which limits the benefits to persons who had the onset of disability before the age of twenty-six; and

Whereas, this age limitation has prevented many persons and families from receiving the many benefits of the ABLE Act; and

Whereas, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act has been introduced as S. 331 and H.R. 1219 in the One Hundred Seventeenth United States Congress; and

Whereas, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act would make the provisions of the ABLE Act available to persons who had the onset of disability before the age of forty-six; and

Whereas, if passed, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act would make six million more persons with disabilities eligible for ABLE accounts; and

Whereas, if passed, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act would also help states keep administrative costs for the state ABLE programs low; and

Whereas, as evidenced by the party affiliations of its sixty-five cosponsors, the ABLE Age Adjustment Act has broad bipartisan support; Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives of the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take such actions as are necessary to pass the ABLE Age Adjustment Act; be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation.

POM-42. A concurrent resolution adopted by the Legislature of the State of Louisiana urging the United States Congress to support H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act of 2021, and all other

similar legislation and to take such actions as are necessary to review and eliminate all provisions of federal law which reduce Social Security benefits for those receiving pension benefits from federal, state, or local government retirement or pension systems, plans, or funds; to the Committee on Finance.

HOUSE CONCURRENT RESOLUTION NO. 7

Whereas, the Congress of the United States of America has enacted both the Government Pension Offset (GPO), reducing the spousal and survivor Social Security benefit, and the Windfall Elimination Provision (WEP), reducing the earned Social Security benefits payable to any person who also receives a public pension benefit; and

Whereas, the GPO negatively affects a spouse or survivor receiving a federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit who would also be entitled to a Social Security benefit earned by a spouse; and

Whereas, the GPO formula reduces the spousal or survivor Social Security benefit by two-thirds of the amount of the federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefit received by the spouse or survivor, in many cases completely eliminating the Social Security benefit even though their spouses paid Social Security taxes for many years; and

Whereas, the GPO has a harsh effect on hundreds of thousands of citizens and undermines the original purpose of the Social Security dependent/survivor benefit; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than half a million individuals nationally are affected by the GPO; and

Whereas, the WEP applies to those persons who have earned federal, state, or local government retirement or pension benefits, in addition to working in employment covered under Social Security and paying into the Social Security system; and

Whereas, the WEP reduces the earned Social Security benefit using an averaged indexed monthly earnings formula and may reduce Social Security benefits for affected persons by as much as one-half of the retirement benefit earned as a public servant in employment not covered under Social Security; and

Whereas, the WEP causes hardworking individuals to lose a significant portion of the Social Security benefits that they earn themselves; and

Whereas, according to recent Social Security Administration figures, more than one and a half million individuals nationally are affected by the WEP; and

Whereas, in certain circumstances, both the WEP and the GPO can be applied to a qualifying survivor's benefit, each independently reducing the available benefit and in combination eliminating a large portion of the total Social Security benefit available to the survivor; and

Whereas, because of the calculation characteristics of the GPO and the WEP, they have a disproportionately negative effect on employees working in lower-wage government jobs, like policemen, firefighters, teachers, and state employees; and

Whereas, Louisiana is making every effort to improve the quality of life of its citizens and to encourage them to live here lifelong, yet the current GPO and WEP provisions compromise their quality of life; and

Whereas, the number of people affected by GPO and WEP is growing every day as more and more people reach retirement age; and

Whereas, individuals drastically affected by the GPO or WEP may have no choice but to return to work after retirement in order to make ends meet, but the earnings accumulated during this return to work can further reduce the Social Security benefits the individual is entitled to; and

Whereas, the GPO and WEP are established in federal law, and repeal of the GPO and the WEP can only be enacted by congress: Therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Legislature of Louisiana does hereby memorialize the United States Congress to take all such actions as are necessary to review the Government Pension Offset and the Windfall Elimination Provision Social Security benefit reductions and to eliminate or reduce them by supporting H.R. 82 of the 117th Congress, the Social Security Fairness Act and all similar purposed legislation; and be it further

Resolved, That a copy of this Resolution be transmitted to the presiding officers of the Senate and the House of Representatives of the Congress of the United States of America and to each member of the Louisiana congressional delegation and the president of the United States.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. PETERS, from the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs, without amendment:

S. 517. A bill to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-31).

S. 1917. A bill to establish a K-12 education cybersecurity initiative, and for other purposes (Rept. No. 117-32).

EXECUTIVE REPORT OF COMMITTEE

The following executive report of a nomination was submitted:

By Ms. STABENOW for the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

*Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

*Nomination was reported with recommendation that it be confirmed subject to the nominee's commitment to respond to requests to appear and testify before any duly constituted committee of the Senate.

INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mrs. SHAHEEN (for herself, Mr. TOOMEY, Mrs. BLACKBURN, Mr. CASEY, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. COONS, Mr. DURBIN, Ms. HASSAN, Mr. JOHNSON, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. PORTMAN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, and Mr. YOUNG):

S. 2466. A bill to reform the Federal sugar program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. CASSIDY:

S. 2467. A bill to provide for a Public Health Emergency Fund, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. RUBIO (for himself and Mr. SCOTT of Florida):

S. 2468. A bill to amend the Gulf of Mexico Energy Security Act of 2006 to extend the moratorium on drilling off the coasts of the States of Florida, Georgia, and South Caro-

lina, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. BRAUN (for himself and Ms. ERNST):

S. 2469. A bill establishing appropriate thresholds for certain budget points of order in the Senate, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Budget.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 2470. A bill to prohibit Federal funding for educational agencies and schools whose students do not read certain foundational texts of the United States and are not able to recite those texts or that teach that those texts are products of white supremacy or racism; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. SCHATZ (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. CASSIDY, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 2471. A bill to establish a community disaster assistance fund for housing and community development and to authorize the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to provide, from the fund, assistance through a community development block grant disaster recovery program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself and Ms. WARREN):

S. 2472. A bill to prohibit the non-consensual release of claims by States, municipalities, federally recognized Tribes, or the United States against non-debtors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. ROSEN (for herself and Mr. KING):

S. 2473. A bill to provide grants for the construction, improvement, and acquisition of middle mile infrastructure; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself and Mr. WARNER):

S. 2474. A bill to prohibit the use of funds made available under the American Rescue Plan Act of 2021 to purchase communications equipment or services that pose a national security risk; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN):

S. Res. 318. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month"; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. JOHNSON:

S. Res. 319. A resolution expressing support for the designation of July 2021 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. Res. 320. A resolution authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber; considered and agreed to.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 67

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 67, a bill to support efforts by

international financial institutions to provide a robust global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE) and the Senator from Colorado (Mr. BENNET) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 805

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky (Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 805, a bill to repeal the wage requirements of the Davis-Bacon Act.

S. 812

At the request of Mr. MENENDEZ, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 812, a bill to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, and for other purposes.

S. 1901

At the request of Mr. TESTER, the name of the Senator from California (Mr. PADILLA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1901, a bill to amend the Act of June 18, 1934, to reaffirm the authority of the Secretary of the Interior to take land into trust for Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

S. 1988

At the request of Mr. MANCHIN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) and the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) were added as cosponsors of S. 1988, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect access to telehealth services under the Medicare program.

S. 2083

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the names of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) and the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) were added as cosponsors of S. 2083, a bill to waive the requirement to undergo a medical exam for aliens who are otherwise eligible for special immigrant status under the Afghan Allies Protection Act of 2009, and for other purposes.

S. 2102

At the request of Mr. BOOZMAN, the names of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) and the Senator from Maine (Ms. COLLINS) were added as cosponsors of S. 2102, a bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure.

S. 2160

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2160, a bill to prohibit the Administrator of General Services from

establishing per diem reimbursements rates for travel within the continental United States (commonly known as "CONUS") for certain fiscal years below a certain level, and for other purposes.

S. 2288

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the name of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2288, a bill to amend the Ted Stevens Olympic and Amateur Sports Act to provide pay equity for amateur athletes and other personnel, and for other purposes.

S. 2408

At the request of Mr. DAINES, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2408, a bill to prohibit the award of Federal funds to an institution of higher education that hosts or is affiliated with a student-based service site that provides abortion drugs or abortions to students of the institution or to employees of the institution or site, and for other purposes.

S. 2412

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Massachusetts (Ms. WARREN) and the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) were added as cosponsors of S. 2412, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to protect coverage for screening mammography, and for other purposes.

S. 2463

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT) was added as a cosponsor of S. 2463, a bill to require agencies submit zero-based budgets.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 318—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2021 AS "AMERICAN GROWN FLOWER AND FOLIAGE MONTH"

Mrs. FEINSTEIN (for herself, Mr. PADILLA, and Mr. SULLIVAN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry:

S. RES. 318

Whereas cut flower and foliage growers in the United States are hard-working, dedicated individuals who bring beauty, economic stimulus, and pride to their communities and the United States;

Whereas the people of the United States have a long history of using flowers and foliage grown in the United States to bring beauty to important events and express affection for loved ones;

Whereas consumers spend over \$35,000,000,000 each year on floral products, including cut flowers, garden plants, bedding, and indoor plants;

Whereas, each year, an increasing number of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments;

Whereas the annual per capita spending on floral products by consumers in the United States is almost \$108;

Whereas the people of the United States increasingly want to support domestically produced foods and agricultural products and would prefer to buy locally grown flowers and foliage whenever possible, yet a majority of domestic consumers do not know where the flowers and foliage they purchase are grown;

Whereas, in response to increased demand, the "Certified American Grown" logo was created in July 2014 in order to educate and empower consumers to purchase flowers and foliage from domestic producers;

Whereas millions of stems of domestically grown flowers and foliage are now "Certified American Grown";

Whereas domestic flower and foliage farmers produce thousands of varieties of flowers and foliage across the United States, such as peonies in Alaska, Gerbera daisies in California, lupines in Maine, tulips in Washington, lilies in Oregon, larkspur in Texas, and leatherleaf in Florida;

Whereas the top flower and foliage varieties with the highest production in the United States are tulips, Gerbera daisies, lilies, gladiolas, roses, and leatherleaf;

Whereas people in every State have access to domestically grown flowers and foliage, yet only 20 percent of flowers and foliage sold in the United States is domestically grown;

Whereas the domestic cut flower and foliage industry—

(1) creates a substantial economic impact daily; and

(2) supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States;

Whereas most domestic cut flowers and foliage are sold in the United States within 24 to 48 hours after harvest and last longer than flowers shipped longer distances;

Whereas flowers and foliage grown domestically enhance the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate weddings and births and honor those who have passed;

Whereas flower and foliage giving has been a holiday tradition in the United States for generations;

Whereas flowers and foliage speak to the beauty of motherhood on Mother's Day and to the spirit of love on Valentine's Day;

Whereas flowers and foliage are an essential part of other holidays such as Thanksgiving, Christmas, Hanukkah, and Kwanzaa;

Whereas flowers and foliage help commemorate the service and sacrifice of members of the Armed Forces on Memorial Day and Veterans Day; and

Whereas the Senate encourages the cultivation of flowers and foliage in the United States by domestic flower and foliage farmers: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month";

(2) recognizes that purchasing flowers and foliage grown in the United States supports the farmers, small businesses, jobs, and economy of the United States;

(3) recognizes that growing flowers and foliage in the United States is a vital part of the agricultural industry of the United States;

(4) recognizes that cultivating flowers and foliage domestically enhances the ability of the people of the United States to festively celebrate holidays and special occasions; and

(5) urges all people of the United States to proactively showcase flowers and foliage grown in the United States in order to show support for—

(A) the flower and foliage farmers, processors, and distributors in the United States; and

(B) the agricultural industry of the United States overall.

Mrs. FEINSTEIN. Mr. President, I rise today to introduce the American Grown Flower and Foliage Month resolution. This resolution is cosponsored by Senator PADILLA and Senator SULLIVAN, and I want to thank them for joining me in introducing this resolution.

This resolution designates July 2021 as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month" and recognizes the important contributions of all those involved in the flower and foliage industry make to our Nation, and also notes the long history that flowers have in our Nation and society.

Every year, thousands of households in the United States purchase fresh cut flowers and foliage from more than 16,000 florists and floral establishments. American consumers spend \$35 billion per year on floral products each year.

California is the cut flower capital of the United States, producing nearly 75 percent of American-grown flowers. While the majority of Americans would prefer to buy locally grown flowers, only 20 percent of the flowers sold in the United States are grown domestically.

Flowers are used for all types of occasions. They help us celebrate major life events, and help us to mourn. The flower and foliage industry is also a major employer in the United States. This industry supports hundreds of growers, thousands of small businesses, and tens of thousands of jobs in the United States.

Our resolution encourages consumers to look for the 'Certified American Grown' label to support local farmers this month and throughout the year. If consumers are able to differentiate between American-grown flowers and those that have been imported, many would choose to purchase U.S.-grown flowers and support the U.S. industry.

This resolution is an important way to recognize a major part of the agricultural industry in the United States, and I encourage my colleagues to move to pass this resolution to commemorate this important month as "American Grown Flower and Foliage Month."

Thank you Mr. President. I yield the floor.

SENATE RESOLUTION 319—EXPRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF JULY 2021 AS "NATIONAL SARCOMA AWARENESS MONTH"

Mr. JOHNSON submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 319

Whereas sarcoma is a cancer of connective tissues, such as nerves, muscles, joints, fat, bones, and blood vessels, that can arise anywhere in the body;

Whereas, in the United States—

(1) 16,000 individuals are diagnosed with sarcoma each year;

(2) more than 7,000 individuals die from sarcoma each year; and

(3) 50,000 individuals struggle with sarcoma at any 1 time;

Whereas, each year, 1 percent of cancers diagnosed in adults and 20 percent of cancers diagnosed in children are sarcoma;

Whereas more than 70 subtypes of sarcoma have been identified;

Whereas sarcoma is often misdiagnosed and underreported; and

Whereas July 2021 would be an appropriate month to designate as National Sarcoma Awareness Month—

(1) to raise awareness about sarcoma; and

(2) to encourage more individuals in the United States to get properly diagnosed and treated: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate supports the designation of July 2021 as "National Sarcoma Awareness Month".

SENATE RESOLUTION 320—AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Ms. KLOBUCHAR (for herself and Mr. BLUNT) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 320

Resolved, That rule 13.1 of the United States Senate Chamber and Galleries Regulations (prohibiting the taking of pictures in the Senate Chamber) be temporarily suspended for the sole and specific purpose of permitting the Senate Photographic Studio to photograph the Senate in actual session on Tuesday, July 27, 2021.

SEC. 2. The Sergeant at Arms and Doorkeeper of the Senate is authorized and directed to make the necessary arrangements therefore, which arrangements shall provide for a minimum of disruption to Senate proceedings.

NOTICE OF INTENT TO OBJECT TO PROCEEDING

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Christopher H. Schroeder, of North Carolina, to be Assistant Attorney General, dated July 26, 2021.

I, Senator CHARLES E. GRASSLEY, intend to object to proceeding to the nomination of Helaine Ann Greenfield, of Maryland, to be Assistant Attorney General, dated July 26, 2021.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today's session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON AGRICULTURE, NUTRITION, AND FORESTRY

The Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, July 26, 2021, at 5:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

AUTHORIZING THE TAKING OF A PHOTOGRAPH IN THE SENATE CHAMBER

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I ask unanimous consent that the Senate proceed to the immediate consideration of S. Res. 320, which was submitted earlier today.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 320) authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I further ask that the resolution be agreed to and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table with no intervening action or debate.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 320) was agreed to.

(The resolution is printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Finally, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 27; 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 conclusion of morning business, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Kim nomination postcloture; further, that all postcloture time on the Kim nomination expire at 11:30 a.m.; and that if the nomination is confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10:30 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. If there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 6:16 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, July 27, 2021, at 10:30 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES

JUDITH DELZOPPO PRYOR, OF OHIO, TO BE FIRST VICE PRESIDENT OF THE EXPORT-IMPORT BANK OF THE UNITED STATES FOR A TERM EXPIRING JANUARY 20, 2025, VICE WANDA FELTON, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

JOHN R. BASS, OF NEW YORK, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER MINISTER, TO BE AN UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE (MANAGEMENT), VICE BRIAN J. BULATAO.

DAVID L. COHEN, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO CANADA.

BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND
EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION

JOSEPH M. GREEN, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE A MEMBER OF THE BOARD OF TRUSTEES OF THE BARRY GOLDWATER SCHOLARSHIP AND EXCELLENCE IN EDUCATION FOUNDATION FOR A TERM EXPIRING MARCH 3, 2023. (REAPPOINTMENT)

DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

MATTHEW M. GRAVES, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF

COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JESSIE K. LIU, RESIGNED.

EREK L. BARRON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ROBERT K. HUR, RESIGNED.

NICHOLAS W. BROWN, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE BRIAN T. MORAN, RESIGNED.

CLIFFORD D. JOHNSON, OF INDIANA, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE NORTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE THOMAS L. KIRSCH II, RESIGNED.

ZACHARY A. MYERS, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE SOUTHERN DISTRICT OF INDIANA FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE JOSHUA J. MINKLER, RESIGNED.

RACHAEL S. ROLLINS, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE DISTRICT OF MASSACHUSETTS FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE ANDREW E. LELLING, RESIGNED.

TRINI E. ROSS, OF NEW YORK, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE WESTERN DISTRICT OF NEW YORK FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE WILLIAM JOSEPH HOCHUL, JR., RESIGNED.

VANESSA WALDREF, OF WASHINGTON, TO BE UNITED STATES ATTORNEY FOR THE EASTERN DISTRICT OF WASHINGTON FOR THE TERM OF FOUR YEARS, VICE WILLIAM D. HYSLOP, RESIGNED.

CONFIRMATION

Executive nomination confirmed by
the Senate July 26, 2021:

DEPARTMENT OF DEFENSE

FRANK KENDALL III, OF MASSACHUSETTS, TO BE SECRETARY OF THE AIR FORCE.

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

CELEBRATING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF SUSAN SCANLAN

HON. ROBERT C. "BOBBY" SCOTT

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCOTT of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life and legacy of Susan Scanlan.

Susan was a public servant, leader, and mentor who dedicated herself to improving the lives of women and families. This personal drive led Susan to help found the Congressional Caucus for Women's Issues and its associated policy arm, the Women's Research and Education Institute (WREI), in 1977. For five years, Susan served as the Caucus's director before taking the helm of WREI's Congressional Fellowship on Women and Public Policy, which provides aspiring policy leaders with invaluable Capitol Hill experience. Thanks to Susan's leadership, the WREI Congressional Fellowship (and its successor) has placed hundreds of talented fellows in congressional offices, bringing their unique talents, strengths, and passion for women's issues to the Hill.

Throughout my service in Congress, I have had the pleasure and honor of hosting over a dozen fellows through this successful program. These fellows have been incredible assets to both my office and the work of the institution. Most importantly, however, they have had the unique opportunity to gain firsthand experience in policymaking—all because of Susan's work. Today, the WREI Congressional Fellowship—Susan's legacy—lives on through the Congressional Fellowships on Women and Public Policy.

My thoughts and prayers are with her family and friends.

HONORING REBECCA BERBERIAN AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Rebecca Berberian of Glendale, California.

A native Angeleno, Rebecca Berberian, RN, BSN, MHA, has been a resident of Glendale for over thirty years. She attained a Bachelor of Science in Nursing from Pacific Union College, in Angwin, California, and a Master's in Healthcare Administration from Cal State LA while working fulltime. She began her career

in healthcare in 1988 as an operating room nurse at LAC+USC Medical Center and later went on to work as a surgical nurse at Adventist Health White Memorial in Los Angeles. She has worked at Adventist Health White Memorial for more than three decades, and presently serves as the hospital's director of the Risk Management and Infection Prevention departments. In this capacity, Rebecca develops policies and procedures to promote patient safety, collects and analyzes infection data, manages hospital claims, and coordinates with local and national public health agencies. As a mission driven and faith-based organization, Adventist Health White Memorial has encouraged Rebecca to follow her passion of volunteering and working in several medical missions in underserved regions of Peru, Armenia and Artsakh.

Ms. Berberian is wholeheartedly dedicated to her work and to the community that the hospital serves. Her passion for her job became even more evident during the coronavirus pandemic. Specifically during the surge periods, she worked long hours supporting the hospital's efforts in responding to the pandemic, including taking part in strategic decision-making about converting hospital units to accommodate high hospitalization rates, contact tracing infections among staff, and securing personal protective equipment. Rebecca demonstrated compassion and empathy towards families during their loved ones' hospital stays and did everything she could to support them. She has also volunteered at the hospital's vaccination clinics. Rebecca is thankful for her colleagues and hospital administration for the teamwork, support, and expertise that was displayed during this unprecedented time.

In addition to her career in healthcare, Ms. Berberian is active in the Armenian Relief Society (ARS), which is an international educational, philanthropic, and humanitarian organization. She served as the ARS Western USA Chairwoman and also as Chair of the Los Angeles ARS Maro Chapter, where she is currently a member. In her roles as chairperson, she oversaw the work of the ARS Saturday Armenian schools and led fundraising campaigns. Rebecca continues to work for the betterment of Armenians in the homeland and diaspora.

Rebecca is married to her husband, Sarkis, and together they have two daughters, Alique and Lori.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Rebecca Berberian.

HONORING THE 100TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE BATAVIA BUSINESS AND PROFESSIONAL WOMEN'S CLUB

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Batavia Business and Professional Women's Club on its centennial anniversary.

The Batavia Business and Professional Women's Club was founded in 1921, at a time when all other local clubs were exclusive to men. Its mission was clear from the start: for women to meet and contribute meaningfully to the greater community. Under the leadership of its first president, Miss Lillian Bender, the club garnered notoriety remarkably fast. Miss Bender received telegrams from countless esteemed individuals—President Harding, Vice President Coolidge, General Pershing, and Marshal Ferdinand Foch—all extending their congratulations for her work to establish such a progressive organization. By the end of 1921, the club had attracted more than one-hundred new members.

The Batavia Business and Professional Women's Club has been a key resource for local communities throughout its one-hundred-year history, including in recent years. More recently, the club has provided meals and snacks to Habitat for Humanity volunteers, donated baskets to the Holland Land Office's annual Christmas fundraiser, and sponsored a family for the Thanksgiving holiday. Members of the organization have also routinely volunteered with the Salvation Army, the United Way, and the Batavia Public School System. Sponsoring fundraisers for local women owned businesses is another way the club supports its community. The organization holds fundraising events for several other purposes each year, such as events to raise money for college scholarships and service organizations.

The Batavia Business and Professional Women's Club is proud to attract a diverse membership. Since its inception, the club has brought together small business owners, schoolteachers, local government officials, self-made entrepreneurs, medical professionals, and countless other women from an array of fields and occupations. Among the members today, I would particularly like to recognize the teachers and employees of the Batavia City School District, the professionals at Genesee Cancer Assistance, and the small business owners from local favorites, such as Foxprowl Collectables and Jeanne's Table, both located in Batavia.

I thank all the women of the Batavia Business and Professional Women's Club for their unwavering commitment to local growth through community service and their many impressive professions, and I again congratulate the club on its centennial anniversary.

• 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.

IN RECOGNITION OF JOSEPH R. SIVEWRIGHT'S RETIREMENT FROM NESTLÉ PURINA PETCARE COMPANY

HON. ANN WAGNER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mrs. WAGNER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and honor the incredible work and service of Joseph Sivewright. On July 30, 2021, he will officially retire as the Nestlé Purina Chairman after over 30 years of outstanding leadership.

Since joining Nestlé Purina in 1985, Mr. Sivewright has held various positions throughout the company as he proved himself to be a treasured employee. Prior to his role as Chairman, he was appointed as the company's President & Chief Operating Officer and was then named President and Chief Executive Officer.

His dedicated leadership has not gone unnoticed. In 2016, just one year after he took the reins as Chief Executive Officer, he was named one of the country's most popular CEOs. It comes as no surprise that Nestlé Purina received numerous accolades from both St. Louis organizations and national organizations while under his direction.

I want to personally thank Joe for his many years of friendship, as well as his desire to ensure Nestlé Purina is a strong community partner. His distinguished career and tremendous leadership are celebrated by our St. Louis community. I personally appreciate the impact his work ethic and constant drive to improve the lives of those around had on his employees. As a former Purina employee myself when I was just out of college, I know how important it is to have a smart and driven leader at the helm to set the tone for the rest of us and help us achieve even greater heights. Joe had a tremendous impact not only on all of those with whom he worked throughout his many years at Purina, but also on those he worked with outside of work as a dedicated member of our St. Louis community. We all appreciate everything he has done so far and look forward to seeing what else he will accomplish in the coming years.

JULY VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's July Veteran of the Month, Michael Bell.

Michael Bell served our country in the United States Air Force for over twenty years. He worked in Security Forces and retired as a Master Sergeant. Throughout his service, he was deployed to several military bases around the United States and overseas. Upon retirement, Mr. Bell continued to serve and protect his community as a member of law enforcement. Michael truly has a heart for serving others.

As a member of law enforcement, Michael goes above and beyond to serve his community. He was involved with Atlas Public

School's Red Ribbon Week program and taught their D.A.R.E. program. He served as chairman of the Jackson County Tobacco Education Committee and President of the Fraternal Order of Police Lodge 120. Michael currently serves as Chief of Police in Coweta, OK. He was recently recognized for saving the life of a fellow veteran who was suffering from PTSD and contemplating suicide. He is a life member of Veterans of Foreign Wars and American Legion along with several law enforcement organizations. Michael, through his compassion for others, has touched so many lives in our community and across the globe.

He answered the call to defend freedom and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Michael Bell as the 1st Congressional District of Oklahoma's July Veteran of the Month.

AVERTING LOSS OF LIFE AND INJURY BY EXPEDITING SIVS ACT OF 2021

SPEECH OF

HON. JENNIFFER GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN

OF PUERTO RICO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Thursday, July 22, 2021

Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 3985, the bipartisan Afghan ALLIES Act, and to speak on the imminent threat facing Afghan translators and their families.

These translators played a critical role in serving the United States and helped ensure the safety and success of our troops abroad. Yet today our allies—and their families—are being hunted down and killed by the Taliban as it retakes Afghanistan. When our country goes to war with its allies, we make a decision to bring everyone home, and it is time to bring our allies home, Mr. Speaker.

While I welcome President Biden's recent efforts, notably the initiation of Operation Allies Refuge and the announcement this week that military bases in Virginia and elsewhere will be used to temporarily house evacuating translators and their families, I remain concerned.

First: I am concerned by the Administration considering temporarily housing evacuees in other countries, some of which cannot guarantee translators safety. We should not be shifting the burden of our responsibility to others, especially when so many communities around the United States stand ready to welcome these heroes with open arms.

Second, I am concerned at the daunting task the State Department now faces. This task is exacerbated in no small part by the rushed withdrawal timeline set by the administration. There are thousands of individuals awaiting a safe home—a home that has been promised to them by our commonly held values and through legislation dating back to the early days of the War on Terror, legislation we now seek to amend.

H.R. 3985 is designed to meet this moment. This bill increases the number of visas by 8,000 to ensure an adequate number of visas are eligible for applicants currently in the pipeline. The bill would also remove redundant paperwork while still ensuring applicants go through the necessary, strict background checks, and national security vetting. Finally,

the ALLIES Act extends and strengthens protections for surviving spouses and children of deceased SIV applicants.

Time is running out for our allies. We must pass this life-saving legislation before it is too late. I encourage our colleagues in the Senate to vote on this important legislation.

HONORING PATTEE COLVIN AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Pattee Colvin in the Sunland neighborhood area of Los Angeles, California.

Pattee is the founder of Making It Happen, a food and clothing pantry in Sunland whose mission is to help those in need.

Ms. Colvin's motivation for founding Making It Happen is truly inspiring. Pattee worked for a local business for many years, but in 1999, when she became disabled, she lost her job and home. For several years, Pattee lived outdoors in the rugged Sunland-Tujunga "wash" while also maintaining a job at a local answering service company. As a member of the Chapel of the Hills Church in Sunland since 2002 who lived off the food provided from the church's hot meal program, in 2007, Pattee's life truly turned around, in large part due to the church. She enrolled in the church's Christian Sobriety Program, a program that she subsequently ran for several years and found new employment at Suzuki Insurance Company, a local business where she currently works. Homeless for many years, Pattee bought her own mobile home in Sunland in 2015.

In 2013, Ms. Colvin created Making It Happen located at the Chapel of the Hills Church in Sunland. Since its inception, Making It Happen has expanded to include housing assistance and free health clinics. In addition, the non-profit participates in events focused on community assistance, such as the Homeless Connect Days, and supports Sunland-Tujunga schools by sponsoring Back-to-School events and a Family Christmas Celebration for the homeless and underserved children.

When the coronavirus pandemic began, there was an enormous increase in demand for food and meals, and their Saturday food pantry attendance grew from about 60 individuals and their families to almost 200 individuals and their families. At the height of the pandemic, their Sunday Hot Meal program increased from 75 people to 200 people. Stepping up to the challenge, the organization began offering a weekday lunch program, which included meal deliveries, and in response to COVID-19 safety protocols, changed the manner in which they serve the needy; from a walk-through pantry and seated dinners to a drive-through and delivery.

Along with giving back to the community through Making It Happen, Pattee enjoys

spending time with her daughter, family, and friends.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Pattee Colvin.

RECOGNIZING THE FIFTH ANNIVERSARY OF THE MT. CARMEL CENTER OF EXCELLENCE

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the fifth anniversary of the Mt. Carmel Center of Excellence in Colorado Springs, Colorado. A dream of Colorado businessman Jay Cimino, Mt. Carmel opened its doors in 2016 to support our veteran-rich community in impactful and meaningful ways.

Their state-of-the-art facility and staff have become a cornerstone in the Pikes Peak region, providing functional, comprehensive care to veterans in need. In addition, Mt. Carmel Center offers transition and employment assistance for those separating from the military, individualized and group counseling and support, family wellness classes, training, networking, and various other services, at little or no cost to our veterans through public-private community partnerships.

I congratulate and thank Mr. Cimino, Army (COL) Retired Bob McLaughlin, and all of those who make Mt. Carmel a reality for veterans in Colorado's Fifth Congressional District. Their steadfast commitment to giving back to the brave men and women who have sacrificed so much for our freedoms is unparalleled and unmatched.

May God Bless the work done at Mt. Carmel, may God Bless our veterans, and may God Bless America.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. EMANUEL CLEAVER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. CLEAVER. Madam Speaker, I regretably missed one vote on Thursday, July 22, 2021. On roll call vote No. 218, H.R. 3985, the Allies Act, I would have voted YEA.

IN CELEBRATION OF LIEUTENANT COLONEL EDWARD ZAWORA

HON. JOAQUIN CASTRO

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, today I rise in commemoration of United States Army Lieutenant Colonel Edward Andrew Zawora Sr. who is turning one-hundred years old on October 21, 2021. Lieutenant Colonel Zawora resides in my hometown of San Antonio, Texas, with his wife, Mary Carolyn Peak. This milestone is so joyous for Lieutenant Colonel Zawora and his family, and I am honored to celebrate him on this day.

Lieutenant Colonel Edward Andrew Zawora Sr. was born in East Chicago, Indiana, on October 12, 1921. His parents, Joe and Ana Zawora emigrated from Poland in 1908 with only six dollars. At an early age he demonstrated hard work and resilience, growing up as one of six children during a time of financial hardship. He held many jobs as a young man to support his family, helping them make ends meet while attending school.

Shortly after graduating from high school, Lieutenant Colonel Zawora enlisted in the United States Army. He moved to Panama from East Chicago to complete his basic training and was assigned to Fort Bliss thereafter. During his time in El Paso, the Army observed great potential in Lieutenant Colonel Zawora and brought him to the White Sands Proving Grounds. It was here that the Army was developing the first missile defense program, as well as the first atomic bomb. Lieutenant Colonel Zawora participated in these projects as a team member with top secret clearance.

Lieutenant Colonel Zawora was assigned to the Explosive Ordinance Detachment during the Korean Conflict, in which he excelled and was quickly promoted. He was the youngest First Sergeant in the Army when he received his stripes. Throughout his career, Lieutenant Colonel Zawora participated in courageous assignments, such as diving into the ocean in order to disarm underwater mines while wearing heavy protective gear. He also served in World War II, participating in EOD activities. Lieutenant Colonel Zawora served his country in two wars and completed duty assignments in various parts of the world. In 1966, he retired as the top Army officer assigned to the EOD at Fort Monroe, Virginia.

Madam Speaker, I am proud to recognize the life and service of a person who dedicated themselves to family and country above all else. The entire San Antonio community celebrates this great milestone of an American hero. I thank Lieutenant Colonel Zawora for his service, his courage, and for his unending commitment to our country.

HONORING MARA LEONG-MAGUINEZ AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Mara Leong-Maguinez of Pasadena, California.

A native Pasadenan, Mara attended Westridge School, obtained her Bachelor of Arts degree in American Studies and Ethnicity from the University of Southern California, and received her Master of Public Administration (MPA), Nonprofit Sector Management degree from California State University, Northridge.

Ms. Leong-Maguinez's career has been dedicated to helping children and families in the local community. This began with her

seven-year employment as Development Director at the Families Forward Learning Center in Pasadena (formerly known as Mothers' Club), an organization that provides two-generation learning programs to low-income families. Mara's experience at Families Forward increased her passion for providing comprehensive services and inspired her to obtain her Master's in Public Administration and dedicate her career to managing community-based organizations. She then went on to serve as Director of Development at the Downtown Women's Center and Chief Development Officer of the Youth Policy Institute.

In January of 2020, shortly before the coronavirus pandemic began, Mara began serving as Executive Director of the Ronald McDonald House Pasadena. The Ronald McDonald House Pasadena, located near Huntington Hospital and Shriners for Children Medical Center, is a home-away-from-home for families with critically ill children who are receiving medical treatment, providing these families with a comfortable, caring place to stay, meals and therapeutic family support services at little or no cost to the families. When the pandemic hit, Mara worked to implement comprehensive safety and cleaning protocols and adjust the physical spaces within the House, while simultaneously obtaining funding and gathering support to keep the House open during this crucial time, which was especially important as several families had to stay there for greater lengths of time than usual due to the pandemic.

Mara lives in Pasadena with her husband, Roman Maguinez. Along with volunteering for Families Forward, Mara enjoys cooking and bicycling in the beautiful Pasadena area.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Mara Leong-Maguinez.

MS. COURTNEY RENKEN
RECOGNITION OF SERVICE

HON. KAY GRANGER

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Ms. GRANGER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Ms. Courtney Renken, who will be leaving my office after seven years of distinguished service to the people of Texas Congressional District 12.

Born and raised in North Texas, Courtney became involved in her community at an early age. From her association with the International Order of the Rainbow for Girls, to her membership in the Lake Worth chapter of the Order of the Eastern Star, to her work with the Azle Lions Club, Courtney has pursued every opportunity to learn from and support those around her.

In 2014, while attending law school, Courtney joined my team. Balancing her schoolwork and a research job, she managed to take on some of the most detail-oriented duties in my office, the kind most people try to avoid. She gravitates not to the glamorous tasks, but to those that are essential for an organization to function smoothly.

I was finally able to hire Courtney full-time after she earned her law degree, from Fort Worth's own Texas A&M University School of

Law. She quickly became an irreplaceable part of my office, rising to the role of Deputy District Director. Courtney's responsibilities include day to day management of my district office and ensuring our local office staff stays in close touch with our Washington, D.C. staff, but her contributions have gone above and beyond those required of her position. She is always looking for ways to innovate. She led the transition of my district office to a digital-based, paperless operation, and she was the driving force behind practices that led to my office winning a Democracy Award for Innovation and Modernization in Constituent Service from the Congressional Management Foundation.

Courtney is known for her hospitality when welcoming people to Fort Worth. She has introduced countless visitors to the 12th District's charms, as well as its workout classes. She is always available to her colleagues and to constituents, many of whom she calls friends, whether it's to discuss a work issue or to try a new local restaurant. Courtney's work ethic shows even in her hobbies. She manages popular social media accounts for both her dog and herself. She is a fantastic cook and baker, a talent she balances with a dedication to fitness, including once completing 42 spin classes in 30 days. Courtney is a world traveler, has flown an airplane, and taken a ride in a race car going 180 miles per hour around the Texas Motor Speedway.

Courtney will be leaving my office to pursue a career in federal law enforcement. As much as we will miss her, we are proud of her commitment to public service and will continue to support her as she embarks on this new journey. On behalf of Texas' 12th Congressional District, I offer her congratulations and best wishes for the future.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF JOHN ANDERSON

HON. JOE COURTNEY

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. COURTNEY. Madam Speaker, it is with great sadness that I rise today to honor the life of the late John K. Anderson, of Vernon, Connecticut, who passed away suddenly on June 16, 2021, at the age of 74. Known by family and close friends as Johnny, his military service, civic engagement, and devotion to his family and the greater Vernon community warrants the utmost praise and recognition.

Born to Merrill and Isabelle Anderson of Manchester, Connecticut, John began his early years fanning what would become a life dedicated to public service. After graduating from Manchester High School in 1965, John went on to serve in the United States Air Force as an Aircraft Maintenance Specialist and crew leader. He served overseas in Germany, Taiwan, Vietnam, and Greece before receiving an Honorable Discharge and returning home to Connecticut. With his return home and affinity for hard work, John hit the ground running and opened his own business. His business smarts and entrepreneurial spirit eventually led him into the automotive trade where he joined the team at Bolle's Motor Sales in Ellington, Connecticut. A natural people person—John excelled at the dealership

and fostered strong relationships with his co-workers and clients. It was this ability to communicate naturally with folks from all walks of life that led John to dedicate the latter half of his life toward building a positive impact on the lives of others within his local community.

From his leadership at the Water Pollution Control Authority to being one of Vernon's Registrar of Voters—John embarked on a path of serving in municipal government that set his legacy as a leader of the public in stone. During part of his tenure, I was the Vernon town attorney and had the opportunity to see up close his calm practical approach to solving problems. With his wealth of knowledge of the town and its voting operations, and dedication to public service, registrars from around the state would go to John with their questions. At a time when the integrity of our nation's elections has become subject to doubt and controversy, John's service in recent years was particularly valuable. No one questioned his performance or work—not for one moment.

John epitomized what it meant to be a kind and caring citizen in a small town and always sought opportunities to engage with his community. John was also known for his regular penmanship of editorials in the local news and his nuanced perspective on civic issues that impacted the community.

While we remember John as a leader in public service—we also remember him as a man who truly loved his family, friends, and neighbors—a love that drove him to enhance his community even further. John, like all of us, was someone who filled his life with passions and hobbies—two of which were baseball and golf. An avid Red Sox fan and great golfer, John used sports as another avenue to connect to his community and was a youth baseball coach and a volunteer at the annual Thanksgiving Day Manchester Road Race.

Madam Speaker, it is an honor to represent constituents as honorable and impactful as John Anderson. While we all mourn his loss, we can at least find solace that his memory lives on through his surviving family: his children Carly, Lauren, Justin and grandchildren; sister Carol; brother Rick; and four grandchildren. His life will also continue to live on through countless others as the stoic example he has set has now been woven into the very fabric of the Vernon community. To that end, I find it fitting that we, the People's House, set his name and character into the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD and ask that the entire House join me in recognizing the life of John K. Anderson, never forgetting his impact on the greater Vernon community through his civic and military service.

EULOGY FOR SENATOR BIAGIO "BILLY" CIOTTO

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on March 29, 2021, I attended the funeral service of Senator Biagio "Billy" Ciotto. Billy was a former Connecticut State Senator, Deputy DMV Commissioner, and served on my District office staff since 2007. One of the most unique human beings that I have ever had the honor of knowing and working with,

Billy epitomized what it meant to be a true public servant. I am eternally grateful for his friendship and his leadership. I wish to include in the RECORD my eulogy in honor of Billy's beloved wife Jeanne, and his dear children Maria, Julie, Anthony, John and Joey.

Jeanne, Maria, Julie, Anthony, John and Joey. On behalf of Leslie, myself, and the entire Congressional staff—our hearts go out to you. The outpouring of people and tributes keep coming in. Yet we know nothing or no one will ever be able to fully convey the depth of the loss you are experiencing.

As Billy would often say, "no one knows the sacrifice a family endures when they support and stand with an elected official." So, let us first and foremost acknowledge your sacrifice and devotion that made it possible for all of us to have benefited from Billy's service. His humanity, his humility, and congeniality. We thank you for making it all possible.

Billy was unique, one of a kind, and something that is constant throughout his service—whether at the Motor Vehicle Department, the State Senate, or Congressional Office, he greeted people and answered his call to public service. His humility, and his humanity ever-present as he answered in that unique and distinct cigar voice, "how may I help you?"

"How may I help you?" should be part of every teaching and training course for public officials and staff. For Billy, it came naturally. For him it was effortless and genuine, heartfelt, and sincere. It was who he is!!

Now I'm not saying he was angelic by any stretch. He had his faults and an evil side to him. He was an ardent devotee and follower of an evil empire: He was a Yankee fan. Especially in 2007, 2013, and 2018. He did celebrate in 2009 but through all of 2019 when the Sox were cellar dwellers, he would come in the office and announce with a cigar hanging from the corner of his mouth "does anyone know the standings in the American League East, and do the Red Sox still play baseball?"

He was the envy of UCONN fans and politicians. He got more TV time sitting right behind the bench of the Men's and Women's basketball teams at every home game. When asked how he got those seats, he said "it was a blessing from St. Paul" . . . yeah, St. Paul Polo.

And though devoutly religious, and apostolic, and Catholic, he could be critical of a long winded homily in church. I remember being at St. Patrick-St. Anthony with the family and sitting directly in front of him. The priest was going on and on with the phrase "and may Jesus light a fire in your heart." It was rather extensive, and I looked down and all of a sudden saw my children laughing. I immediately gave them the hairy eyeball and scornful look. After church when we were in the car, I said "how many times have I told you no fooling around in church?" They said, "it wasn't us, it was Mr. Ciotto." To which I said, "Don't blame Mr. Ciotto." They said, "but Dad, he made fun of the priest's comments" and I said "Mr. Ciotto? I don't believe it." They said, "well you know how the priest was saying may Jesus light a fire under your heart?" and I said "yes." Well Mr. Ciotto muttered, "may Jesus light a fire under your ass."

Well Billy was also wise and was willing to impart his wisdom on the youthful members of our staff. Then Chief of Staff John Rossi was thirty and Billy was a youthful seventy-nine. Rossi was explaining how he told his wife about the important and influential people he was meeting with day in and day out, and the restaurants and clubs he was lunch and dinner at. Billy who listened intently looked at him and said, "young man

you have an important and responsible position. And while I am sure that it's exciting to you and maybe makes you feel good when you are lavishing your wife with these experiences, in my opinion you might try handling it a little different. Having some experience in this field, I think if it were me, you're better off when your wife asks, "how was your day dear?" you say "I was so busy I only had time for a tuna fish sandwich." Or as he told Kevin Brown often "old age, experience, and treachery will defeat youth and ambition every time."

Billy's obituary was full of the pride he had for his Italian heritage and about what America had done for him. And with justifiable pride acknowledged the journey of his parents as well as his own. This was apparent with his routine drive past the Motor Vehicle building which bears his name. It does so because his parents embedded in him those 5 simple words:

"How may I help you?"

He traveled to D.C. back in 2008 and was escorted by Linda Christiana. His trip was highlighted by dinner at the Italian Embassy with Ambassador Castellaneta. When I saw the Ambassador weeks later, he remembered Billy, and how entertaining and proud he was of his Italian heritage. He added, "he's even invited me to a Bocce tournament that I believe is at your house!"

That's our guy. And we have a letter here from the Italian Embassy:

LETTER FROM THE ITALIAN EMBASSY:

We, at the Embassy of Italy were deeply saddened to learn of the passing of Senator Biagio "Billy" Ciotto. In his passing, Connecticut, and indeed the whole US, has lost a great statesman, and a wonderful American, proud of his Italian origins, which he never lost an opportunity to proudly recall.

The story of Senator Ciotto's life speaks clearly to his many talents and innate human touch. His generosity, kindness and dedication were a source of inspiration to the community whom he served with passion, honor, and dignity. Senator Ciotto was an exemplary civil servant, and wholeheartedly dedicated himself to serving this great Country and his fellow Americans, while never forgetting his ancestral land, Italy.

Our sincere condolences go out to Mrs. Ciotto, his family, and the entire Italian-American and American community at this moment of great loss. Senator Ciotto may be not with us anymore, but his legacy lives on, and will always do so through the many people, he touched, and inspired.

Our thoughts and prayers are with his family and friends.

Grazie, Senator Ciotto.

The first time he met with Nancy Pelosi there was an instant bond. She had broken a barrier and was the first woman Speaker of the House. And when he met her, bursting with pride he said "Madam Speaker you have broken a barrier and as a father with two daughters I am so grateful and proud. But as a young man, I listened to your father Thomas D'Alesandro Jr. He was the first Italian Mayor of Baltimore and he had a Sunday address, he made us proud of our heritage and I listened intently to what he had to say. And now his daughter is not only the first woman Speaker of the House, but as important to people of our heritage and faith, she is the first Italian."

The bond between them was instant and lasting. A mutual admiration, so much so that after an eight year hiatus as Speaker, when we recaptured the House and took back the majority in 2018, her guest of honor at her swearing in was Billy. And with a cigar in hand and escorted by Sarah Gianni, he took it all in from his front row seat in the House Balcony.

LETTER FROM SPEAKER NANCY PELOSI

Every now and then, a person comes along whose heart is so full of love and whose life is so full of kindness that he radiates joy: Such a blessed person is Billy Ciotto. Perhaps he had such generosity of spirit because of how his parents raised Biagio and because of his happy marriage to Jeanne.

Everyone loved Billy, because they knew that Billy cared. In his work, whether at the DMV or in the State Senate, where he served with John Larson, whom he loved, he made everyone feel important. In taking pride in his Italian American heritage, he respected others' pride in theirs. In his faith in God, he gave hope and charity to all. Anyone who was blessed and shaped by Billy's friendship wanted to live up to his loyalty.

Billy was in the arms of his loving family on March 19, the Feast of Saint Joseph, the patron saint of a happy death, very special to Italian Americans, and made his passage on the 20th. I hope it is a comfort to Jeanne and his children Joseph, Anthony, Julia, John, and Maria, and their grandchildren that so many people mourn their loss and are praying for them at this sad time. Billy will be sadly missed by all of us who loved him. In his life, Billy brought joy to the world and now he has brought his humor to Heaven.

Nancy Pelosi, Speaker, United States House of Representatives.

We know heaven will never be the same and he's up there with some pretty good company. To be acknowledged and loved by the entire community he served and yes to have the Italian Ambassador and the Speaker of the House eulogize you is pretty impressive. So many words of condolence for Jeanne and the family. So many stories—therefore our staff will be keeping the website open to post on what everyone sends to us of your memories with Billy. And among the first of those that we have is someone who knows something about the loss of a beloved one. Jeanne, we have here a letter from the President of the United States:

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Dear Mrs. Ciotto and Family, Please accept Jill's and my heartfelt condolences on the passing of your beloved Billy. Your entire family is in our thoughts and prayers.

I know that this time must be difficult beyond words, and you feel like there is a hole in your heart. In the hardest of times like these, I always turn to family. It is so important to be able to share the feeling of enveloping grief and to have people you love nearby to absorb some of the worst pain.

Billy was a devoted husband and father who loved you all immensely. He spent his life building and strengthening the Ciotto family bonds, which are meant for you to lean on during hard times like this. Your family shared Billy with Connecticut and with the Nation—and thanks to your sacrifices, he was able to help our country's most vulnerable. Billy was a true public servant.

Though the grieving process never quite ends, it is my hope that you will find comfort knowing that Billy will forever be in our hearts and memories and those of so many whose lives he touched. From experience, I promise you the day will come when his memory will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye. My prayer for you and your family is that day comes sooner rather than later.

Sincerely, Joe Biden.

Billy will always be with us. Provided we continue to post and tell those stories we fondly remember. The most important way he'll stay with us is if we follow his example by saying when we have the opportunity: How may I help you?

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF SEAN CASTLE

HON. JARED HUFFMAN

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. HUFFMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in celebration of the life of Sean Castle, who passed away on June 28, 2021 at the age of 43 following an apparent heart attack. He was a beloved member of the San Rafael community and a dedicated music teacher at the local high school.

Sean was born on March 28, 1978 and attended San Rafael High School in Marin County. After graduating from UCLA, he returned to his hometown to teach music. Sean helped establish San Rafael High School's award-winning music program, dedicating his entire 20-year career to creating a supportive and enriching community for students, staff, and families. He helped develop and then manage the school's jazz band and a wind ensemble that played at homecomings and other events, and he organized the school's jazz choir and a percussion class called Steel Pans. He was respected by staff and aptly referred to as the "musical soul" of San Rafael High School. Sean's passion for music created an environment for youth to grow musically and emotionally while exploring their creativity.

Sean lived a full and vibrant life, demonstrating gratitude and generosity for all those with whom he crossed paths. He had a passion for camping, golfing, playing backgammon, supporting the Giants baseball team, and cooking meals for loved ones. Sean is survived by his fiancée, Nicole Dube; his mother, Kris Castle; his father Kent Castle; and his brother Darren Castle.

Madam Speaker, Sean's positive impact on thousands of individuals will extend well beyond his short life. I respectfully ask that you join me in extending condolences to Sean's family, friends and innumerable loved ones for their unexpected loss and in expressing our deep appreciation for his work spearheading a program that will continue to educate and inspire students for generations to come.

HONORING DR. REBECCA CRANE AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Rebecca Crane of the Silver Lake neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born in California but raised primarily in Connecticut, Rebecca returned to California in the late 1980's where she attended the University of California San Diego graduating with a degree in Visual Arts with minors in biology and chemistry. After a year of working on an

immunization project in Paraguay and an HIV screening clinic in Los Angeles, she attended Tufts University School of Medicine in Boston, where she obtained her Medical Doctor and Master of Public Health degrees. Dr. Crane completed her medical residency in combined internal medicine and pediatrics in Los Angeles and became an attending physician at Kaiser Permanente Los Angeles Medical Center, where she worked as a primary care physician, and was a breastfeeding advocate for mothers in the newborn nursery. Rebecca moved to Urgent Care after several years in Family Medicine to accommodate the needs of her family and other pursuits. Acting on her passion to advance women's health, Dr. Crane led a committee at Kaiser to make the hospital a Baby Friendly Hospital.

Rebecca and her family moved to Silver Lake in 2008, where her children attended local schools, including Micheltorena Street Elementary School. One of Rebecca's greatest accomplishments has been as an active member from 2008 to 2015 of Friends of Micheltorena, the support group for the school, where she helped to revitalize the school and bring in a dual-language program, in addition to being a founding member of the Micheltorena School and Community Garden.

As an essential frontline worker during the coronavirus (COVID-19) pandemic, Rebecca has been grateful to be able to serve her community through this crisis. She experienced the fear, sorrow, uncertainty, and exhaustion that accompanied most frontline workers at the outset of the pandemic, but the fear subsided after treating her first COVID-19 patient and she settled into the comfort of work, as Kaiser's Urgent Care was adapted into two separate units, with a temporary testing facility in the garage. Earlier this year Rebecca assisted in organizing a three-day event at Kaiser called "A Time to Grieve, a Time to Heal," to commemorate all the patients, family members, and loved ones her fellow healthcare workers had lost during the pandemic, and to honor all the hospital staff.

In her spare time, Rebecca enjoys spending time with her husband, Jordan and their two children, Lucy and Hollis, in addition to hiking, camping, and gardening.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Rebecca Crane.

URGENT NEED TO PASS H.R. 40 ESTABLISHING A COMMISSION TO STUDY AND DEVELOP REPARATION PROPOSALS FOR AFRICAN AMERICANS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the importance of passing H.R. 40, legislation which I introduced that establishes a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans.

Now—more than ever—the facts and circumstances facing our Nation demonstrate the importance of H.R. 40 and the necessity of placing our nation on the path to reparative justice. As I speak, H.R. 40 is cosponsored by

191 Members from all parts of the nation and was marked up and reported favorably to the House by the Judiciary Committee on April 14, 2021. In 2019, when the Judiciary Committee met to discuss this legislation, three overflow rooms were required. Since that time, we have seen a pandemic sweep the country, taking more than 600,000 souls in its wake and devastating the African American community. According to the latest estimates from the U.S. Centers for Disease Control, Black people get COVID-19 at a rate nearly one and a half times higher than that of white people, are hospitalized at a rate nearly four times higher, and are three times as likely to die from the disease.

Interestingly, a recent peer-reviewed study from Harvard Medical School suggests that reparations for African Americans could have cut COVID-19 transmission and infection rates both among Blacks and the population at large. Their analysis, based on Louisiana data, determined that if reparations payments had been made before the COVID-19 pandemic, narrowing the wealth gap, COVID transmission rates in the state's overall population could have been reduced by anywhere from 31 percent to 68 percent. Last summer we saw hundreds of thousands peacefully take to the streets in support of Black Lives and accountability for law enforcement. Many of those protesters carried signs in support of H.R. 40 and made the important link between policing and the movement for reparative justice. Tragically, we have also witnessed insurrectionists attack this institution, brandishing symbols of division and intolerance, that echo back to the darkest periods of our nation's history. Clearly, we require a reckoning to restore national balance and unity.

Four hundred years ago, ships set sail from the west coast of Africa and in the process, began one of mankind's most inhumane practices: human bondage and slavery. For two centuries, human beings—full of hopes and fears, dreams and concerns, ambition, and anguish—were transported onto ships like chattel, and the lives of many forever changed. The reverberations from this horrific series of acts—a transatlantic slave trade that touched the shores of a colony that came to be known as America, and later a democratic republic known as the United States of America—are unknown and worthy of exploration.

Approximately 4,000,000 Africans and their descendants were enslaved in the United States and colonies that became the United States from 1619 to 1865. The institution of slavery was constitutionally and statutorily sanctioned by the Government of the United States from 1789 through 1865. American Slavery is our country's Original Sin and its existence at the birth of our nation is a permanent scar on our country's founding documents, and on the venerated authors of those documents, and it is a legacy that continued well into the last century. The framework for our country and the document to which we all take an oath describes African Americans as three-fifths a person. The infamous Dred Scott decision of the United States Supreme Court, issued just a few decades later, described slaves as private property, unworthy of citizenship. And, a civil war that produced the largest death toll of American fighters in any conflict in our history could not prevent the indignities of Jim Crow, the fire hose at lunch counters and the systemic and institutional discrimina-

tion that would follow for a century after the end of the Civil War.

The mythology built around the Civil War has obscured our discussions of the impact of chattel slavery and made it difficult to have a national dialogue on how to fully account for its place in American history and public policy. While it is nearly impossible to determine how the lives touched by slavery could have flourished in the absence of bondage, we have certain datum that permits us to examine how a subset of Americans—African Americans—have been affected by the callousness of involuntary servitude. We know that in almost every segment of society—education, healthcare, jobs, and wealth—the inequities that persist in America are more acutely and disproportionately felt in Black America. This historic discrimination continues: African-Americans continue to suffer debilitating economic, educational, and health hardships including but not limited to having nearly 1,000,000 black people incarcerated; an unemployment rate more than twice the current white unemployment rate; and an average of less than 1/16 of the wealth of white families, a disparity which has worsened, not improved over time. A closer look at the statistics reveals the stark disparity in these areas.

Black household wealth is less than one fifth of the national average. The median black household had a net worth of just \$17,600 in 2016. Yet in that same year, the median white household held \$171,000 in wealth while the national household median was \$97,300. The black unemployment rate is 6.6 percent, more than double the national unemployment rate. Approximately 31 percent of black children live in poverty, compared to 11 percent of white children. The national average is 18 percent, which suggests that the percentage of black children living in poverty is more than 150 percent of the national average.

In the healthcare domain, the disparities suffered by African Americans is also troubling. Over 20 percent of African Americans do not have health insurance, compared to a national average between 8.8 percent and 9.1 percent. One in four African American women are uninsured. Compared to the national average, African American adults are 20 percent more likely to suffer from asthma and three times more likely to die from it. Black adults are 72 percent more likely to suffer from diabetes than average. Black women are four times more likely to die from pregnancy related causes, such as embolisms, and pregnancy-related hypertension, than any other racial group. In our nation, among children aged 19–35 months, black children were vaccinated at rates lower than white children: 68 percent versus 78 percent, respectively.

Education has often been called the key to unlocking social mobility. African American students are less likely than white students to have access to college-ready courses. In fact, in 2011–12, only 57 percent of black students have access to a full range of math and science courses necessary for college readiness, compared to with 81 percent of Asian American students and 71 percent of white students. Black students spend less time in the classroom due to discipline, which further hinders their access to a quality education. Black students are nearly two times as likely to be suspended without educational services as white students. Black students are also 3.8 times as likely to receive one or more out-of-school suspensions as white students.

In addition, black children represent 19 percent of the nation's pre-school population, yet 47 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension. In comparison, white students represent 41 percent of pre-school enrollment but only 28 percent of those receiving more than one out-of-school suspension. Even more troubling, black students are 2.3 times as likely to receive a referral to law enforcement or be subject to a school-related arrest as white students. School districts with the most students of color, on average, receive 15 percent less per student in state and local funding than the whitest districts.

And, of course, we cannot consider the disparities between black and white in America without considering the intersection of African Americans and the Criminal Justice system. There are more Black men in bondage today who are incarcerated or under correctional control, than there were black men who were enslaved in the 1800s. The United States locks up African American males at a rate 5.8 times higher than the most openly racist country in the world ever did: South Africa under apartheid (1993), African American males: 851 per 100,000 and United States (2006), African American males: 4,789 per 100,000

Incarceration is not an equal opportunity punishment. For example, incarceration rates in the United States by race were: African Americans: 2,468 per 100,000; Latinos: 1,038 per 100,000; Whites: 409 per 100,000. African American offenders receive sentences that are 10 percent longer than white offenders for the same crimes and are 21 percent more likely to receive mandatory-minimum sentences than white defendants according to the U.S. Sentencing Commission.

Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer: For White males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000; For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000; For African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11.7 percent of Black men in their late 20s.) Looking at males aged 25–29 and by race, you can see what is going on even clearer: For white males ages 25–29: 1,685 per 100,000; For Latino males ages 25–29: 3,912 per 100,000; for African American males ages 25–29: 11,695 per 100,000. (That's 11.7 percent of Black men in their late 20s.)

And African Americans are more likely to be victims of crimes. Black children die from firearm homicides at a rate 10 times higher than their white counterparts. Overall, one in 50 murders is ruled justified—but when the killer is white and the victim is a black man, the figure climbs to one in six. A handgun homicide is nine times more likely to be found justified when the killer is white and the victim is a black man. Handgun killings with a white shooter and a black male victim exhibit an even more dramatic bias: one in four is found justified. But then again, we knew these inequities existed because for many Black Americans, these disparities are just a part of daily life. Examined in the aggregate, they represent a stunning chasm between the destinies of White America and that of Black America. This is why, in 1989, my predecessor as the most senior African American on this august Judiciary Committee, the honorable John Conyers, a past Chairman of this Committee introduced H.R. 40, legislation that would establish a commission to study and develop proposals attendant to reparations.

Though many thought it a lost cause, John Conyers believed that a day would come when our nation would need to account for the brutal mistreatment of African-Americans during chattel slavery, Jim Crow segregation and the enduring structural racism endemic to our society. I would like to take this moment to personally thank the estimable John Conyers for his work on this legislation for the last thirty years. With the rise and normalization of white supremacist expression during the Trump administration, the discussion of H.R. 40 and the concept of restorative justice have gained more urgency, garnering the attention of mainstream commentators, and illustrating the need for a national reckoning. H.R. 40 is intended to create the framework for a national discussion on the enduring impact of slavery and its complex legacy to begin that necessary process of atonement.

For many, it was not until The Atlantic published Ta-Nehisi Coates' *The Case for Reparations* that the mainstream public began to reckon with, or even consider, the concept of reparations. Though the Federal government has been slow to engage the issue of reparations, individuals, corporations, and other public institutions have engaged the discussion out of both necessity and conscience. In 1994, a group of California plaintiffs sued the Federal government and by 2002, nine lawsuits were filed around the country by the Restitution Study Group. Though litigation has yielded only mixed success in court, a serious foundation was laid for alternative forms of restitution. For example, in 2005, J.P. Morgan & Company tried to make amends for its role in the slave trade with an apology and a \$5 million, five-year scholarship fund for Black undergraduates in Louisiana.

In 2008, the Episcopal Church apologized for perpetuating American slavery through its interpretation of the Bible and certain diocese have implemented restitution programs. In 2003, Brown University created the Committee on Slavery and Justice to assess the University's role in slavery and determine a response. Similarly, in 2016, Georgetown University apologized for its historical links to slavery and said it would give an admissions edge to descendants of slaves whose sale in the 19th century helped pay off the U.S. school's debts. In 2017, my alma mater, Yale University, announced that it would rename Calhoun College—named for John C. Calhoun—would be changed to honor Grace Murray Hopper, a trailblazing computer scientist who also served as rear admiral in the United States Navy. The University's president, Peter Salovey, indicated that removing Calhoun's name was consistent with its values because Calhoun had a legacy of a white supremacist and a national leader who passionately promoted slavery as a positive good. And, in April of this year, students at Georgetown University voted in favor of paying reparations to the descendants of enslaved people who were sold by the university to satisfy its debts.

In 1838, in a practice likely far wider spread than is likely accounted for, Georgetown Jesuits sold 272 slaves who worked on plantations. When the results of the Georgetown poll were announced, the numbers were overwhelming: $\frac{2}{3}$ of students indicated that payments should be funded to descendants of these slaves and would be paid for by a fee that would apply to all undergraduate students. While the vote was nonbinding, it nonetheless represents the

first time the student body of a university has voted to implement a mandatory fee to account for reparations. These are only a few examples of how private institution have begun reckoning with their past records. I expect that a growing number of institutions will be forced to examine their histories of discrimination, if for no other reason than increasing public scrutiny will force their history to light.

Since my reintroduction of H.R. 40 at the beginning of this Congress, both the legislation and concept of reparations have become the focus of national debate. For many, it is apparent that the success of the Obama administration has unleashed a backlash of racism and intolerance that is an echo of America's dark past which has yet to be exorcised from the national consciousness. Commentators have turned to H.R. 40 as a response to formally begin the process of analyzing, confronting, and atoning for these dark chapters of American history. Even conservative voices, like that of New York Times columnist David Brooks, are starting to give the reparations cause the hearing it deserves, observing that "Reparations are a drastic policy and hard to execute, but the very act of talking and designing them heals a wound and opens a new story."

Similarly, a majority of the Democratic presidential contenders have turned to H.R. 40 as a tool for reconciliation, with 17 cosponsoring or claiming they would sign the bill into law if elected. Though critics have argued that the idea of reparations is unworkable politically or financially, their focus on money misses the point of the H.R. 40 commission's mandate. The goal of these historical investigations is to bring American society to a new reckoning with how our past affects the current conditions of African Americans and to make America a better place by helping the truly disadvantaged. Consequently, the reparations movement does not focus on payments to individuals, but to remedies that can be created in as many forms necessary to equitably address the many kinds of injuries sustained from chattel slavery and its continuing vestiges. To merely focus on finance is an empty gesture and betrays a lack of understanding of the depth of the unaddressed moral issues that continue to haunt this nation.

While it might be convenient to assume that we can address the current divisive racial and political climate in our nation through race neutral means, experience shows that we have not escaped our history. Though the Civil Rights Movement challenged many of the most racist practices and structures that subjugated the African American community, it was not followed by a commitment to truth and reconciliation. For that reason, the legacy of racial inequality has persisted, and left the nation vulnerable to a range of problems that continue to yield division, racial disparities, and injustice. By passing H.R. 40, Congress can start a movement toward the national reckoning we need to bridge racial divides. Reparations are ultimately about respect and reconciliation—and the hope that one day, all Americans can walk together toward a more just future.

We owe it to those who were ripped from their homes those many years ago an ocean away; we owe it to the millions of Americans—yes, they were Americans—who were born into bondage, knew a life of servitude, and

died anonymous deaths, as prisoners of this system. We owe it to the millions of descendants of these slaves, for they are the heirs to a society of inequities and indignities that naturally filled the vacuum after slavery was formally abolished 154 years ago. The Judiciary Committee hearing held in the 116th Congress was the first time in history that the House of Representatives held a hearing on H.R. 40, we held another earlier this year on February 17, 2021, before marking up this landmark legislation on April 14, 2021. It was fitting that the first hearing occurred on the 19th of June, also known to many in this room, as Juneteenth—the day that, 154 years ago, General Gordon Granger rode into Galveston, Texas and announced the freedom of the last American slaves; belatedly freeing 250,000 slaves in Texas nearly two and a half years after Abraham Lincoln signed the Emancipation Proclamation.

Juneteenth was first celebrated in the Texas state capital in 1867 under the direction of the Freedmen's Bureau. Juneteenth was and is a living symbol of freedom for people who did not have it. Today, Juneteenth now is both the oldest known celebration of slavery's demise and the nation's newest national holiday. It commemorates freedom while acknowledging the sacrifices and contributions made by courageous African Americans towards making our great nation the more conscious and accepting country that it has become. Let me end by noting that the recently passed 400th commemoration of the 1619 arrival of the first captive Africans in English North America, at Point Comfort, Virginia. With those dates as an historical marker for today's hearing, let us proceed to the work of repair with free hands, full hearts, and a passion for achieving justice. Let us also do the work in the spirit of reconciliation and understanding that H.R. 40 represents.

RECOGNIZING THE EASTPOINTE FIRE AND RESCUE DEPARTMENT

HON. ANDY LEVIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LEVIN of Michigan. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the Eastpointe Fire and Rescue Department, which is celebrating its 100th year of service to the community of Eastpointe.

This Fire Department started from humble beginnings in 1921, when Eastpointe was known as the Village of Halfway. Local firemen used hand-pulled hose carts, a model T truck and pure grit to protect their small community. Over the decades, the Fire Department adapted to meet the needs of the city's growing population.

Firefighters banded together in 1946 to raise funds for the city's first ambulance, and in 1956, the city built the fire station, which continues to serve citizens of Eastpointe today. In recent decades the Fire and Rescue Department has made huge advances in prehospital care. Today, Eastpointe Fire and Rescue operates two advanced life support fire engines that bring state-of-the-art emergency medical services straight to the scene.

But one cannot recognize the Eastpointe Fire and Rescue Department without acknowl-

edging the brave individuals who work every day to keep residents safe. Twenty-some paramedics and fire staff stand at the ready to serve the community of Eastpointe 24 hours a day, 365 days a year. I am exceptionally proud to have the honor of recognizing them today and to mark this important centennial for the city of Eastpointe. Congratulations on one hundred years of service."

RECOGNIZING THE COLLIN COUNTY SOIL & WATER CONSERVATION DISTRICT

HON. VAN TAYLOR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. TAYLOR. Madam Speaker, today, I ask my colleagues to join me in recognizing the Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District (CCSWCD) on their 75th Anniversary.

The mission of the Texas State and Water Conservation Board is to work in conjunction with local Soil and Water Conservation Districts (SWCDs) in order to encourage the wise and productive use of natural resources, ensuring needs are met for future generations in a manner that promotes a clean, healthy environment, and strong economic growth. As such, on August 12, 1946, the Texas Secretary of State signed and sealed the Certificate of Organization for the Collin County Soil Conservation District No. 535.

The Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District, is a locally organized, self-governing body tasked with "preserving natural resources, controlling floods, preventing impairments of dams and reservoirs, assisting in maintaining the navigability of rivers and harbors, and promoting the health, safety, and general welfare of the people of this state."

In addition to the many functions and responsibilities of the CCSWCD, they also serve a valuable role by planning measures to prevent the flooding of thousands of acres of rich soil in Collin County, hosting local work group meetings to address natural resource conservation needs at a local level, and working with local landowners to develop water quality management plans to address non-point source pollution in the Lake Lavon watershed.

Now upon this milestone anniversary, I congratulate the Collin County Soil & Water Conservation District and wish them continued success as they meet the local needs of Collin County while ensuring the conservation of our most valuable resources.

RECOGNIZING SOUTHEAST PENN- SYLVANIA'S GIRL SCOUT GOLD AWARD RECIPIENTS FOR 2020

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following individuals for receiving the Girl Scouts of the United States of America Gold Award, the highest achievement a Girl Scout can earn. To receive this distinguished accolade, a Girl Scout must demonstrate outstanding accomplishments in

the areas of leadership, community service, career planning, and personal development.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I congratulate these emerging leaders on their achievement. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to service and the lasting impact they will have on our community.

Name and Troop No.:
Amylynn F. Garner, 7656.
Anne P. Johnson, 2670.
Anusha Sindia, 7271.
Catherine J. Smith, 2974.
Caylee Elizabeth Jumbelic, 229.
Corinne E. Carlson, 2044.
Georgia J. Moon, 2670.
Julia K. Trainer, 2135.
Kathryn Myer, 2401.
Mary C. Gordon, 21267.
Megan L. Swirsding, 2056.
Rebekah Atkins, 2056.

HONORING LORI ROSALES AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Lori Rosales of the Atwater Village neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

Born and raised in Colorado, Ms. Rosales attended the University of Northern Colorado and received her Master's in Education with Administration Credentials from Loyola Marymount University. With a firm belief that all children need to be educated fairly and are valued, to that end, she has spent nearly two decades in education: as an elementary school teacher, a high school principal, an educational consultant, and in her current position working for the University of California Los Angeles Center X Math Project.

It is motherhood and her volunteer career with Friends of Atwater Elementary (FoAE), a parent support group for Atwater Elementary School, that are the most near and dear to Lori's heart. A longtime Atwater Village resident, for the last four years, Lori has served as president of FoAE, bringing her community-building skills to the organization. Under her stellar leadership, she organized and succeeded in the effort to bring the Spanish Dual Language Immersion Program to the school, an effort she considers her greatest accomplishment. In addition, FoAE raised funds for beautification and projects such as the Innovation Lab, the garden program, the installation of new murals, and a bilingual math program.

During the coronavirus pandemic, Ms. Rosales organized volunteers to sort and pack books so all the school's children would receive books to read at home, sent 350 stuffed animal bears (Cubby the Bear is Atwater Elementary School's mascot) to the children for emotional support, and fundraised for school supplies for each child in the 2020–2021

school year. Additionally, when the school became aware of a few families who experienced the loss of loved ones or employment loss due to the pandemic, they contacted Lori, who swiftly responded, gathering financial donations from neighbors in the community for those families, enabling neighbors to become directly involved in helping their neighbors.

Lori is married to her college sweetheart from Colorado, Craig Rosales, and they have three children: Estes, Tyson, and Vinny.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Lori Rosales.

IN RECOGNITION OF MIGUEL
CONCHAS

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the career and achievements of Miguel A. Conchas, one of Laredo's pre-eminent business leaders and a distinguished member of our community. Miguel has served for 29 years as President of the Laredo Chamber of Commerce, nourishing and advancing the quality of business, economic vitality, and community standards. Our city has undoubtedly flourished because of his outstanding enthusiasm and commitment to his work.

Mr. Conchas began his career as an Elementary school teacher and served as an Administrator for the College of Education at Laredo State University. His fondness for teaching unquestionably influenced his success in training and cultivating local business development. After his career in education Miguel served as the Laredo Convention and Visitors Bureau Director, targeting promotional programs to improve Laredo tourism.

Appropriately, his impressive career as President of the Chamber includes a long list of awards, often recognizing his success and diligence in trade and business expansion in Laredo. He received monumental recognition from state and federal leaders for his activism for NAFTA, which was instrumental in the legislation becoming law.

Throughout his long career, Mr. Conchas has sought to better his city through education, activism, and professional development. He and I have worked closely over the years on trade projects, and I consider him a close friend. Miguel is the embodiment of hard work and optimism, and I wish him a long and very happy retirement with his wife, Cynthia. May this ending bring many new beginnings for him and his family.

IN HONOR OF VIVIAN CREIGHTON
BISHOP

HON. SANFORD D. BISHOP, JR.

OF GEORGIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. BISHOP of Georgia. Madam Speaker, it is with great pride and admiration that I rise today to honor and commend an extraordinary public servant, wife, mother, political operative

and friend to many, The Honorable Vivian Creighton Bishop, upon her retirement as the elected Clerk of The Municipal Court of Columbus, Georgia. Ms. Bishop retired on December 31, 2020 after 28 years of distinguished service. Due to the COVID-19 pandemic, a retirement celebration was delayed and combined with a belated birthday party that was held at 6:30 pm on July 23, 2021 at Warehouse Nine, 920 9th Street, Columbus, Georgia.

Vivian Francine Creighton was born July 9, 1951 to the late Frank Richard Creighton and Evelyn Rushin Creighton at Martin Army Hospital, Fort Benning, Georgia. Because her father was a career noncommissioned officer in the United States Army, she and her older sister, Jacqueline and her younger brother Frank, Jr. as military dependents lived and traveled in multiple places across the United States and abroad. Vivian graduated high school in Wurzburg, Germany, but frequently during her childhood and adolescence, the family lived in Columbus, Georgia where she and her siblings would attend school. Following graduation in 1969, she was accepted to the University of Maryland Campus in Wurzburg but had to withdraw when her father received orders for Viet Nam. She attended Columbus Technical College, Atlanta Junior College and Georgia State University. After perfect scores on the Georgia State Merit Exams she secured employment in Atlanta with the Department of Family and Children's Services and later with the Georgia State Department of Education where she managed Human Resources for Georgia Public Television.

In 1999 she married Meldon Owens and they produced a daughter, Aayesha. They moved to Columbus where she was hired as an Accounting Clerk in Operations and Purchasing at Jack T. Rutledge State Prison where she rose through the ranks to become comptroller at the Prison, being among the first African Americans and females to do so at the Georgia Department of Corrections. Although her marriage ended in divorce, she worked hard in her career and was named Georgia Department of Corrections "Employee of the Year for Administrative Support" after she developed an innovative program for managing inmate accounts that was utilized system wide. After 16 years, Vivian left State government to become an entrepreneur, opening a gift and flower shop, "Baskets of Delight."

In 1992, Vivian was asked by a friend who was a victim of domestic violence to go with her to get a warrant from the Municipal Court of Columbus, Georgia. Witnessing the rude treatment she was receiving from Court employees, Vivian questioned their conduct and was told that if she did not like the way the office was being run she should run for it herself. And run she did. Vivian Creighton was elected countywide and became the first African American female to win countywide office in Muscogee County, Georgia—a position she held for 28 years. As Clerk she reorganized the office to maximize customer service, promote efficiency and achieved flawless audits with special recognition noted to City Council regarding her exit audit. During her years as Clerk she was loved and respected by all who used the court as being competent, kind, compassionate and helpful.

In 2001, Vivian Creighton married yours truly, Congressman SANFORD BISHOP, after a long courtship. We recently celebrated our

20th wedding anniversary, having survived as a political couple in spite of conflicting views. She was Co-Chair of the Georgia Hillary Clinton Presidential Campaign and I was Co-Chair of the Georgia Barack Obama Presidential Campaign. In her own right she helped elect countless state and local officials including me, mentored others and is constantly sought out for political advice and counsel.

Vivian was elected President of the Congressional Black Caucus Spouses. She was the first Georgian and the only African American elected President of the prestigious Congressional Club, the Congressionally Chartered bi-partisan organization of the spouses of members of Congress, ambassadors, Supreme Court Justices, and Cabinet secretaries. She chaired the annual "First Lady's Luncheon" with First Lady Michelle Obama. Moreover, she raised over \$1 million for the National March of Dimes Gala and won top awards as a celebrity chef.

On the local level Vivian has been active in numerous groups, including NAACP, Rotary Club, Girls Inc., The Links, Inc., American Cancer Society, Muscogee Democratic Party and more. She is a longtime member of M.L. Harris United Methodist Church although she regularly attends Mount Zion Baptist Church of Albany, Georgia wherein I am a Deacon.

Vivian has accomplished much in her life but it would not have been possible without the continuous love and support of her family—daughter, Aayesha; granddaughter, Londyn; sister, Jacqueline, nieces, nephews, cousins and legions of friends, all of whom love her dearly. And beyond the shadow of a doubt, she is the love of my life.

It has been said that "Service is the rent we pay for the space we occupy on this earth." Vivian Creighton Bishop has paid her rent and paid it well. She has done so much for so many for so long.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues of the House of Representatives join me, along with the more 730,000 people of the 2nd Congressional District in honoring and commending The Honorable Vivian Creighton Bishop for her outstanding career of public service and her many contributions to her community, her State and this nation. Best wishes to her as she enters this new chapter of her life.

HONORING THE 150TH ANNIVERSARY OF
COLORADO SPRINGS,
COLORADO

HON. DOUG LAMBORN

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LAMBORN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the heart of Colorado's Fifth Congressional District, Colorado Springs, Colorado. This July 31st, we celebrate 150 years since General William Jackson Palmer, a Civil War hero and railroad magnate, founded Colorado Springs in 1871.

The region's first inhabitants were Native Americans, such as the Ute, Cheyenne, Arapaho, and many others. They gathered at the base of Pikes Peak, known today as America's Mountain, near its abundant springs in what is now called Garden of the Gods Park. As they followed vast herds of bison, the Ute

would camp in nearby red rock canyon and visit the bubbling mineral water springs we still enjoy today.

The region lies along the extreme southwestern edge of the Louisiana Territory, which President Thomas Jefferson purchased in 1803. Following the Louisiana Purchase, explorers and settlers began to venture west.

In November 1806, American explorer Zebulon Pike traveled through the area and was credited for “discovering” Pikes Peak. He and his group attempted to reach the summit, but they were neither dressed nor equipped to climb the mountain that ultimately came to bear his name.

General William Jackson Palmer ushered in a new era of Colorado Springs history in 1869. During his first visit to the area, he fell in love with its “most enticing scenery.” In 1870, Palmer wrote to his wife: “Could one live in constant view of these grand mountains without being elevated by them into a lofty plane of thought and purpose?”

In the 1890s, one of the richest gold strikes in American history was discovered on the western slope of Pikes Peak. Almost overnight, the Cripple Creek Mining District grew from an isolated cattle pasture to the home of more than 50,000 people. As a result, by the turn of the 19th century, Colorado Springs was called “the city of millionaires.”

One of these millionaires was Spencer Penrose, who made his first fortune in Cripple Creek. He used his vast resources to build the Pikes Peak and Cheyenne Mountain Highways and to establish the Cheyenne Mountain Zoo, Will Rogers Shrine, and The Broadmoor Hotel. In addition, he and his wife, Julie, created the El Pomar Foundation, which still generously supports many worthy causes in the Pikes Peak region and across Colorado.

At the turn of the century, inspired by a trip to the summit of Pikes Peak, Katharine Lee Bates penned what has become our country's most famous poem and song, “America the Beautiful.”

In the 1940s, the U.S. Army opened Camp Carson, marking the beginning of a strong and vital military presence in the Pikes Peak region. In 1954, the Air Force broke ground for the United States Air Force Academy to continue this military tradition. Today, Colorado Springs is home to major military installations, including Fort Carson, Peterson Air Force Base, the U.S. Space Command, NORAD (North American Aerospace Defense Command), Schriever Air Force Base, and the United States Air Force Academy.

In 1978, Colorado Springs became home to the United States Olympic and Paralympic Committee Headquarters. In addition, over 20 National Olympic governing bodies, more than 50 national sport organizations, the Colorado Springs Olympic and Paralympic Training Center, and the U.S. Olympic and Paralympic Museum reside in the Pikes Peak region.

Madam Speaker, I ask that my colleagues in the House of Representatives join me in celebrating this great city's legacy and rich history. Out of humble beginnings and culture-rich traditions, Colorado Springs has grown to be a destination location for world-class athletes, nature lovers, families, and adventure seekers.

Congratulations to Colorado Springs on their 150th anniversary. May God Bless them, and may God Bless America.

EULOGY FOR WALLACE “WALLY” BARNES

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Monday June 21, 2021, I attended the funeral service for Wallace “Wally” Barnes. I wish to include in the RECORD my eulogy for Wally's wife, former U.S. Secretary of Commerce Barbara Franklin, who served our Nation with distinction. I will always treasure Wally's friendship and am grateful for his leadership in Connecticut and across the Nation.

Barbara, Tom and Melanie, Jarre and Whit, the entire Barnes family—what an honor to be part of this tribute to Wally.

COVID has certainly turned our lives upside down, and while time doesn't ease his passing, it has provided us time to reflect on the man. Even at 94, he was still an immense resource, whose advice was widely sought by business and civic leaders.

In this state—the land of steady habits; a state of sturdy Oaks—he was a Giant Sequoia. I guess when you're a direct descendant of Ebenezer Barnes, the first settler of Bristol, one could argue that Wally was the embodiment of the concept of “Noblesse Oblige.”

And that obligation started with love of family and carried over to his beloved community of Bristol, the State of Connecticut, and our great Nation. Any examination of his life in general—both in and out of public office—quickly demonstrates that public service was not some avocation, or hobby for Wally, it was a way of life.

A value he cherished, practiced, and nurtured in his family, his community, his state, and nation. And was reflected in his business, civic, and charitable endeavors. I was fortunate to first meet Wally when I was in the Connecticut Senate. We shared that common experience of being a part of “The Circle.”

As many know, the State Senate is called the Circle because of its geometric shape, but also because unlike the House of Representatives, we sit in a circle of peers, neither distinguished by rank or political affiliation . . . as equals.

We chuckled over his famous “Nikita Khrushchev moment.” This Republican scion of the Prescott Bush era was hardly a Nikita—but his actions worked. He got the public's and press' attention and made us all remember that it's important not to abuse the rights of the minority.

He first ran for Congress in 1954 against Thomas J. Dodd, and I would like to read a letter to you Barbara from someone familiar with that race:

LETTER FROM SENATOR CHRIS DODD

Dear Barbara, I sincerely regret that I cannot be with you in person today to celebrate Wally's life. He was a good friend.

Wally and I enjoyed a warm relationship spanning many decades. Like so many others, I admired Wally, I appreciated his counsel, advice, and support. I was also thankful for his willingness to clearly share his views—when we agreed and when we disagreed.

Barbara, as you and your family know, our families go back many years. It was 67 years ago in 1954 when Wally and my father competed for the same congressional seat, the very seat that John Larson now holds.

Wally, of course, went on to have a very successful and productive life. The Barnes

Group, as all of us in Connecticut are aware, was extremely successful under Wally's leadership. Further, Wally loved his hometown of Bristol and was a treasured, contributing member of the community and our state for many, many years.

Let me add that Wally Barnes was a great example of what might be called an American original. If I were asked to describe my image of a great American, I could not give a better description than Wally Barnes—patriotic, creative, imaginative, thoughtful, a person who was always willing to help others, with healthy doses of confidence and humility.

And so, Barbara, we were fortunate that Wally was a part of our lives and we thank you for sharing him with us.

Christopher J. Dodd.

Wally and I both served in the Senate for 12 years. He was the Republican Leader and I, as a Democrat—in different times but with a similar result. We were both candidates for Governor for our respective parties—he in 1970, and I in 1994.

In what was a to be a heartbreaking loss for the citizens of the State—he lost to Tom Meskill, and I to Bill Curry. We had both served on various commissions and I can remember a call I received from him after my defeat. But mostly I remember that laugh, when he asked how I felt and I said, “Hey, Peacock one day, feather duster the next.” And he laughed that hearty Barnes laugh of disarming approval. Here this giant of industry, presiding over chambers of commerce, the Connecticut Business and Industry Association, this highly respected Republican, was calling to soften the blow that only people who have been through it can grasp. I can't tell you how important that was and what it meant to me personally.

Wally's sense of humor, his ability to relate to the everyday concerns of ordinary people, was remarkable and endeared him to me and those around him. He was genuine and sincere, believable and had our trust. And his focus was always on getting things done. Quite a contrast to politics today. Barbara I would like to read a letter to you:

LETTER FROM PRESIDENT JOE BIDEN

Dear Madam Secretary, Jill and I send our deepest sympathies on the passing of your beloved husband, Wally. We are thinking of you and praying for your peace.

There are few words that I can share to ease the pain of losing a partner—it leaves a hole in our hearts. Wally dedicated himself to the people of Connecticut and the state he loved. He was a leader, a good man, and a great husband, father, grandfather, and great-grandfather. As you reflect on your time together, may the love that you shared be a shining light in the years to come.

There is an Irish headstone I often quote. It reads, “Death leaves a heartache no one can heal. Love leaves a memory no one can steal.” Though the grieving process never quite ends, I promise you that the day will come when Wally's memory will bring a smile to your lips before it brings a tear to your eye. My prayer for you is that this day comes sooner rather than later.

Sincerely, Joe Biden.

Time does heal as the President has indicated and has brought a few tears but an equal number of smiles for a man who put service above self.

A master pilot, he applied to politics what he applied to aviation. And just like George H.W. Bush, he believed in the pilot's team C.A.V.U., which stands for Ceiling And Visibility Unlimited. He inspired others to believe that you could go as far and as high as their vision, imagination, and courage will take you.

Thank you, Wally Barnes. God bless you, God bless America.

HONORING DR. WINT HUN AS A
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Dr. Wint Hun of La Cañada Flintridge, California.

Wint was born in Chauk, an isolated area of Myanmar. Wint's hero and mentor, her father, was a medical doctor who worked in an underserved area and encouraged her to become a physician who would have a positive effect on the community she served. After he passed away, her family moved to Yangon, Myanmar where her mother, now a single parent, raised her and her sister. After her high school graduation, with a firm resolve to follow in her father's footsteps and become a physician, Wint enrolled at the University of Medicine in Yahgon, one of the oldest medical schools in South East Asia, and obtained her Bachelor of Medicine and Bachelor of Surgery (MBBS) degree.

After Wint graduated, she moved to the United States and continued her studies. She finished her residency in Internal Medicine at NYU Hospital in Brooklyn, New York, and then moved to Southern California, where she completed her Infectious Diseases Fellowship at the University of California, Irvine.

Board-certified in Infectious Disease and Internal Medicine, Dr. Hun treats patients in her office and at Adventist Health Glendale, University of Southern California (USC) Verdugo Hills Hospital and Methodist Hospital in Arcadia. Believing that everyone deserves kindness and respect, Wint cares for her patients as she would for her own family, listening to their needs and finding a solution together.

When coronavirus became a world-wide pandemic, it struck at the core of Dr. Hun's specialty as an Infectious Disease physician. From the outset of the pandemic, Dr. Hun's fearlessness and expertise emboldened USC Verdugo Hills Hospital's team, giving them courage to battle the healthcare crisis. She was also an indispensable resource to the Infection Prevention team, as it developed rapid isolation and testing protocols to keep patients and staff safe. Dr. Hun is thankful for the opportunity to help so many people and is especially honored to be part of USC Verdugo Hills Hospital's outstanding care team.

Dr. Hun and her husband, Victor Chan live in La Cañada Flintridge, and they enjoy traveling, gardening, and spending time with friends and family.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Dr. Wint Hun.

IN RECOGNITION OF PEGGY
SENER

HON. ANN M. KUSTER

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Ms. KUSTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to offer my sincere gratitude to Peggy Sener on the occasion of her retirement as the founding president of Concord Community Music School.

For nearly four decades, Peggy has provided a place for students to learn, grow, and create. Concord Community Music School leads numerous music programs designed to build a sense of community by offering classes for all ages, musical abilities, and backgrounds. Through Peggy's energetic leadership, Concord Community Music School continues to expand services and be recognized nationally for its innovative and well managed programs.

On behalf of New Hampshire's Second Congressional District and all those who have been impacted by Peggy's vision, I thank her for her incredible service and congratulate her on all she has accomplished. I wish Peggy the best of luck in her new chapter and look forward to our continued work together to make New Hampshire an even better place to live, work, and raise a family.

HONORING DEMARKO WALKER AS
IOWAN OF THE WEEK

HON. CYNTHIA AXNE

OF IOWA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mrs. AXNE. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor DeMarko Walker as Iowan of the Week. Haircuts can make you feel refreshed, like a new and improved version of yourself. At East High School in Des Moines, it can also signify you're on the right path. DeMarko Walker has volunteered his time at the school since 2019 in order to reward select students who are showing initiative when it comes to their education with free haircuts.

DeMarko is a barber at a local barbershop in Des Moines, Universal Kutz. DeMarko was looking to use his passion for cutting hair as a way to give back to the community that has helped him to become the person he is today. Haircuts boost a lot of people's self-confidence and make everybody feel good, so he teamed up with East High School in Des Moines to create a program for students to get free haircuts.

DeMarko explained his pop-up barbershop was created for students who show progress in areas such as attendance, achievement, and social interactions. Since implementing this measure, East High School has seen improvements on a case-by-case basis: improved attendance for targeted classes, improved achievement for targeted classes, more connectivity with the school, and healthier interactions with both adults and peers.

Education is the foundation of so many of our communities and shapes our future as a nation. I want to thank DeMarko for everything he is doing in the community to make it a bet-

ter place to live and learn. I commend his creative initiatives at East High School. I will continue to fight in Congress to support our youth and one of the best ways to do that is to support community members like DeMarko. It is my pleasure to recognize DeMarko Walker as Iowan of the Week.

IN RECOGNITION OF PHYLLIS
GOULD

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, my colleague JARED HUFFMAN and I rise to honor the late Phyllis Gould, one of the Bay Area Rosie the Riveters whose work was essential for the United States and its allies to win the war. Phyllis passed away on July 20, 2021, just shy of her 100th birthday on October 7. We had the honor and pleasure to work with Phyllis on legislation that recognizes the immense contributions the Rosies have made to history.

Phyllis Mickey Gould was born at Camp Lewis, now Fort Lewis, Washington. Her father served in the Army for 30 years and received a Silver Star and Purple Heart for his service in France during World War I. Back during that time, Phyllis liked to explain, women didn't plan a career at an early age, instead they learned to cook and sew and were expected to marry young and raise a family. World War II changed that. Men were drafted to fight the war, leaving the jobs building ships, planes and munitions vacant. More than ten million women nationwide stepped in. In July 1942, Phyllis became one of the first six women welders at Kaiser shipyards in Richmond, California. Soon she was followed by her two sisters who became a draftsman and a welder and by her mother who became a painter. The Richmond shipyard built a record 747 cargo ships. Phyllis worked as a welder until the end of the war.

The Rosies were iconized by a poster by Howard Miller which ironically didn't become famous until 40 years after its creation. It's a poster of a young woman with a polka dot bandana, rolling up her denim shirt sleeve, flexing her bicep and exclaiming "We Can Do It!" Miller was hired by Westinghouse Company's War Production Coordinating Committee in 1942 to create a series of posters of inspirational images to boost worker morale. It was displayed only to Westinghouse employees in the Midwest for two weeks in 1943 and then disappeared. In the 1980s it was rediscovered, labeled Rosie the Riveter and became a symbol for American feminism.

For Phyllis, the Rosies never received the recognition they deserved, so she made it her life's mission to change that and this is how my colleagues and I came to know her. She was laser focused, feisty and tenacious. She emphatically stated, "The military could not have done what it did without what we did! Every item they needed to succeed—a woman helped produce!" Her ultimate dream was to have a National Rosie Holiday, a plaque at veterans memorials across the country, a statue on the Washington Mall, an annual special commemorative coin, and a ticker tape parade down 5th Avenue in New York. You see, Phyllis always aimed high. For her personally, she

said, she wanted to be able to say on her gravestone: Mission Accomplished!

While she didn't accomplish everything on her ambitious dream list, she accomplished a lot in her decades of advocacy for these war heroes. In 2014, she and five other Rosies were invited to the White House and met with President Obama and then-Vice President Biden, even snatching a hug from him. Congressman HUFFMAN carried, and I cosponsored, a bill that designated March 21 as Rosie the Riveter Day during Women's History Month. It has to be renewed each year, but we do have a national holiday, thanks in large part to Phyllis' work. I carried, and Congressman HUFFMAN cosponsored, the Rosie the Riveter Congressional Gold Medal Act which was signed into law in December 2020. The U.S. mint is now in the process of designing the medal and Phyllis was deeply involved in sharing her design ideas with the mint.

In 2019, Phyllis and two fellow Rosies traveled to France for the 75th Anniversary of D-Day. In a letter to Senator SCHUMER, she wrote that the people of France honored their work with parades, a banquet, gifts and a medal. In 2000, The Rosie the Riveter WWII Home Front National Historical Park opened its doors in Richmond, due to the advocacy of Phyllis and her fellow Rosies.

Madam Speaker, Phyllis Gould never stopped fighting for the Rosies and she refused to take no for an answer. She was fiercely independent. She lived alone in her apartment and drove a stick shift truck up until a few days before she fell ill at 99. She proudly displayed photos of herself with the President and Vice President and Members of Congress. She didn't have a computer or cell phone, but she made countless phone calls from her landline and wrote countless handwritten letters to federal and state elected officials to plead for proper recognition of these war heroes. In our book, she has permission to write Mission Accomplished on her gravestone.

**HONORING DAISY DE LA TORRE AS
A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR**

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Daisy De La Torre of the Elysian Valley neighborhood of Los Angeles, California.

A life-long resident of Elysian Valley, Daisy attended Immaculate Heart High School and in 1917, obtained her Bachelor's Degree in Nursing from the University of San Francisco. In 1918, she began her vocation as a nurse at Dignity Health Glendale Memorial Hospital.

As a labor and delivery nurse, Daisy has been an essential frontline worker with coronavirus patients throughout the entire pandemic. New life is normally celebrated daily in her unit, however due to the coronavirus, un-

certainty and anxiety developed in this unit, as expectant mothers were occasionally compelled to experience their babies' births alone. In some instances, due to the mothers' COVID-19 positive status, mothers were separated from their babies after they were born. Ms. De La Torre stepped up to the challenge, working overtime as needed and consistently providing kindness, comfort, and compassion to those under her care, often substituting for absent family members, while concurrently welcoming new lives as so many lives were lost nationwide.

When Personal Protection Equipment (PPE) became scarce at the hospital, Daisy contacted local Elysian Valley businesses, nonprofits, and friends, such as Waxpaper, LA Mas and Suay Sew Shop who quickly responded with donations of locally made masks for hospital staff, as well as for family members and neighbors. Daisy's leadership extended beyond obtaining PPE and she worked with LA Mas, a nonprofit organization to provide food to families in need in the Elysian Valley area during the pandemic.

Daisy was one of the first group of frontline workers to receive a first dose of COVID-19 vaccine in December of 2020, and has been a strong advocate for vaccine awareness, assisting in this effort through social media platforms and scheduling vaccine appointments. She is grateful for the opportunity to help people through nursing and for the many blessings in her life.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Daisy De La Torre.

HONORING THE LIFE AND MILITARY SERVICE OF EUGENE S. KOLUPSKI

HON. BRIAN BABIN

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. BABIN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the life and legacy of World War II veteran, Eugene S. Kolupski, who was laid to rest with full military honors at Arlington National Cemetery today, July 26, 2021. Eugene was born on August 23, 1924, and passed away peacefully at his home in Encino, California, at the age of 94 on July 5, 2019.

During the Second World War, Eugene was a part of the 885th Heavy Bombardment Squadron of the United States Army Air Forces. He served in eight campaigns, including Northern France, Southern France, North Apennines, Po Valley, Balkans, Rome-Arno, Naples-Foggia, and the Rhineland. For his valiant military service, Eugene was awarded one Silver Star, three Bronze Stars, and a Presidential Distinguished Unit Emblem with an Oak Leaf Cluster, among other medals. Before he passed, he was also presented the French Legion of Honor Medal by the French Government, France's highest honor.

The 885th Heavy Bombardment Squadron, despite its name, never dropped a single bomb during the war. While under the command of the 15th Air Force, its missions were often top secret. They were often tasked with dropping Office of Strategic Service agents behind enemy territory and dispersing weap-

ons and supplies to the French and Italian resistance. In preparation for the D-Day landings, the squadron placed agents behind enemy lines to obtain information on German installations and scout glider landing areas. They flew modified B-17 Flying Fortresses and B-24 Liberators that were painted black to better blend in during night missions. Since all of their operations were flown at unusually low altitudes, the 885th suffered some of the heaviest losses during the war.

Eugene is survived by his wife Delores (Taroni), his children, Thomas and his wife, Tamara, of Seabrook, Texas; Corinne Ginett and her husband, James, of Sodus Point, New York; Joseph of Encino, California; Ann Marie Porretta of Webster, New York, his seven grandchildren, and a great-granddaughter.

Madam Speaker, I honor Eugene S. Kolupski as one of the last members of the Greatest Generation. His faithful service to our country will not be forgotten, and my heartfelt prayers remain with his family and friends.

**RECOGNITION OF AMBASSADOR
ELIN SULEYMANOV**

HON. HENRY CUELLAR

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. CUELLAR. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the diplomatic tour of Ambassador Elin Suleymanov of Azerbaijan. Since regaining independence in 1991, Azerbaijan has faced ethnic and geopolitical opposition, imperiling its independence and democracy. Ambassador Suleymanov—one of the longest-serving ambassadors in Washington—has served as a force of peace and diplomacy in the region, working honorably to advance prosperity and enhance the U.S. relationship with Azerbaijan. We congratulate him as the U.S. and Azerbaijan will mark 30 years of diplomatic relations next year.

Before his diplomatic tour, he was the first Azerbaijani to graduate from the University of Toledo in 1994 as a part of the U.S.-funded Muskie Fellowship. In 2004, Ambassador Suleymanov became the first Azerbaijani to receive the Master of Law and Diplomacy degree from the Fletcher School at Tufts University. Following his academic pursuits, he served as Azerbaijan's first Consul General in Los Angeles, establishing the nation's diplomatic presence on the West Coast.

Ambassador Suleymanov's personal concern for Azerbaijan inspired his concerted advocacy for the refugee crisis. Before joining diplomatic service, he worked with the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees, providing care and protection to the thousands of people displaced by the three-decades-long Armenia Azerbaijan conflict.

Additionally, Ambassador Suleymanov has a special partnership with the State of Texas. The Ambassador is especially fond of the City of Laredo and has helped establish educational partnerships between TAMU and universities in Azerbaijan. He has visited Laredo for the Washington Birthday Celebration more frequently than any other ambassador accredited in Washington, and he has a special appreciation for Laredo's own Palenque Grill.

I am pleased to congratulate Ambassador Suleymanov on decades of building a strong

relationship between Azerbaijan and the United States. I commend Ambassador Suleymanov's significant contribution to our legislative branch, working closely with Members of Congress to expand the Congressional Azerbaijan Caucus and deepen the friendship between our nations.

CELEBRATING THE LIFE OF TIM P. KEGEL

HON. GUY RESCENTIALER

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. RESCENTIALER. Madam Speaker, I rise to celebrate the life of Tim P. Kegel who passed away on May 22, 2021, at the age of 63.

Tim became a licensed funeral director in 1990, working with his predecessor for 10 years before taking over the business. He established Kegel Funeral Home Inc. in 1999 and ran it for over 20 years, helping the Finleyville community and the surrounding region bury loved ones with dignity. He will always be remembered for the kindness he showed grieving families throughout the burial process.

Tim was a lifelong member of the Finleyville Volunteer Fire Department. During his 45 years with them, he served as president and fire chief. Tim could often be found behind the wheel of his pride and joy, the department's vintage fire engine. He was instrumental in sourcing this engine and brought it to Finleyville in 2000.

His work as a public servant did not stop there. Tim served as deputy coroner in Washington County, which required him to be on call 365 days a year. Oftentimes he would have to respond to disturbing scenes in the dead of night or fight through inclement weather. Despite missing holidays and losing out on weekends, Tim continued in this position for nearly 30 years.

Within his community, he held the position of president for the Finleyville Borough Council. Tim served as treasurer for both the Sons of American Legion Post 613 and the Finleyville Cemetery Company. He was a devoted member of the First Presbyterian Church of Finleyville. Tim's neighbors will always remember his incredible warmth and impassioned storytelling.

Madam Speaker, Tim P. Kegel led a life of service to his community. From his 45-year career as a volunteer firefighter to his incredibly important work identifying and burying the deceased, his dedication to his neighbors was clear. I have no doubt Tim's legacy will live on in Finleyville and across southwestern Pennsylvania.

URGENT NEED TO PASS LEGISLATION TO PROTECT AND PRESERVE VOTING RIGHTS

HON. SHEILA JACKSON LEE

OF TEXAS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise to speak on the fierce urgency of preserving

the precious right to vote by passing H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act, H.R. 1, the For The People Act. I will continue the dialogue at a future time, when I discuss the importance of passing H.R. 40, legislation which I introduced that establishes a commission to study and develop reparation proposals for African Americans.

Madam Speaker, the serious damage to the precious right to vote occasioned by the right-wing, conservative majority on the Supreme Court demands that Congress exercise its powers under Section 5 of the 15th Amendment to restore the extraordinary reach and effectiveness of Section 2 and Section 5 of the Voting Rights Act. As an aside, Madam Speaker, on the objection of VRA opponents to states subject preclearance having the burden to bail themselves out, I have long said that the states that were subject to preclearance under the Voting Rights Act earned their way in, so it only fitting that they earn their way out.

Madam Speaker, June 25, 2021, marked the 8th anniversary of the Supreme Court's infamous decision in *Shelby County v. Holder*, 570 U.S. 529 (2013), which immobilized the Department of Justice from subjecting discriminatory voting and election law changes to prior review and approval, or "preclearance." It was predicted at the time by me and other defenders of the precious right to vote that the Court's misguided and naive decision would usher in a wave of state and local initiatives intended to suppress and nullify the rights of black Americans, persons of color, young adults, and marginalized communities to exercise the most basic act in the political process: voting. As we have seen in recent months, this prediction has tragically come to pass.

Not to be content with the monument to disgrace that is the *Shelby* decision, the activist right-wing conservative majority on the Roberts Court, on July 1, 2021, issued its evil twin, the decision in *Brnovich v. DNC*, 594 U.S. ___, No. 19-1257 and 19-1258 (July 1, 2021), which engrafts on Section 2 of the Voting Rights onerous burdens that Congress never intended and explicitly legislated against to ensure that: "No voting qualification or prerequisite to voting or standard, practice, or procedure shall be imposed or applied by any State or political subdivision in a manner which results in a denial or abridgement of the right of any citizen of the United States to vote on account of race or color, or language minority status."

Among these burdens, couched as "guideposts," or "suggestions" are that when reviewing claims that a facially neutral election law, policy, practice, or voting rule has a discriminator, and therefore unlawful, effect on minority citizens, courts are to consider the following matters:

1. An "ordinary burdens" or "mere inconvenience" exception;
2. Size of disparities in burdens imposed by the challenged rule;
3. Other opportunities to vote provided by a state's election system;
4. Legitimate state interests justifying the challenged voting rule;
5. The degree to which a voting rule departs from what was standard practice when 2 was amended in 1982.

Taken together, this Supreme Court cabal is saying to racial, ethnic, and language minorities: "What's the big deal, it's only voting. Just like with bad weather, sometimes you just have grin and bear a little inconvenience."

This Supreme Court majority has simply never understood, or refuses to accept, the fundamental importance of the right to vote, free of discriminatory hurdles and obstacles.

Madam Speaker, were it not for the 24th Amendment, I venture to say that this conservative majority on the Court would subject poll taxes and literacy tests to the review standard enunciated in *Brnovich v. DNC*. Their predecessors on the Court understood this, going back at least as far as 1938, when the Supreme Court held in Chief Justice Hughes' famous Footnote 4 in *United States v. Carolite Products*, 304 U.S. 144 (1938), that government action alleged to discriminate against "discrete and insular minorities" would be subject to "strict scrutiny" by reviewing courts.

Madam Speaker, you might be asking who are these "discrete and insular minorities" about whom the Court was referring? The answer is they were and are persons "excluded from 'those political processes ordinarily to be relied upon to protect' them, racial and language minorities, and aliens, all of whom were denied the single most important tool for protecting and advancing one's interests in a democracy: the right to vote. It is useful, Madam Speaker, to recount how we arrived at this day. Madam Speaker, fifty-six years ago, in Selma, Alabama, hundreds of heroic souls risked their lives for freedom and to secure the right to vote for all Americans by their participation in marches for voting rights on "Bloody Sunday," "Turnaround Tuesday," or the final, completed march from Selma to Montgomery.

Those "foot soldiers" of Selma, brave and determined men and women, boys and girls, persons of all races and creeds, loved their country so much that they were willing to risk their lives to make it better, to bring it even closer to its founding ideals. The foot soldiers marched because they believed that all persons have dignity and the right to equal treatment under the law, and in the making of the laws, which is the fundamental essence of the right to vote. On that day, Sunday, March 7, 1965, more than 600 civil rights demonstrators, including our beloved former colleague, the late Congressman John Lewis of Georgia, were brutally attacked by state and local police at the Edmund Pettus Bridge as they marched from Selma to Montgomery in support of the right to vote.

"Bloody Sunday" was a defining moment in American history because it crystallized for the nation the necessity of enacting a strong and effective federal law to protect the right to vote of every American. No one who witnessed the violence and brutality suffered by the foot soldiers for justice who gathered at the Edmund Pettus Bridge will ever forget it; the images are deeply seared in the American memory and experience. On August 6, 1965, in the Rotunda of the Capitol and in the presence of such luminaries as the Rev. Dr. Martin Luther King, Jr. and Rev. Ralph Abernathy of the Southern Christian Leadership Conference; Roy Wilkins of the NAACP; Whitney Young of the National Urban League; James Foreman of the Congress of Racial Equality; A. Philip Randolph of the Brotherhood of Sleeping Car Porters; John Lewis of the Student Non-Violent Coordinating Committee; Senators Robert Kennedy, Hubert Humphrey, and Everett Dirksen; President Johnson addressed the nation before signing the Voting Rights Act: "The vote is the most powerful instrument ever devised by man for breaking down injustice and

destroying the terrible walls which imprison men because they are different from other men.”

The Voting Rights Act of 1965 was critical to preventing brazen voter discrimination violations that historically left millions of African Americans disenfranchised. In 1940, for example, there were less than 30,000 African Americans registered to vote in Texas and only about 3 percent of African Americans living in the South were registered to vote. Poll taxes, literacy tests, and threats of violence were the major causes of these racially discriminatory results. After passage of the Voting Rights Act in 1965, which prohibited these discriminatory practices, registration and electoral participation steadily increased to the point that by 2012, more than 1.2 million African Americans living in Texas were registered to vote.

In 1964, the year before the Voting Rights Act became law, there were approximately 300 African-Americans in public office, including just three in Congress. Few, if any, African Americans held elective office anywhere in the South. Because of the Voting Rights Act, in 2007 there were more than 9,100 black elected officials, including 46 members of Congress, the largest number ever. Madam Speaker, the Voting Rights Act opened the political process for many of the approximately 6,000 Hispanic public officials that have been elected and appointed nationwide, including more than 275 at the state or federal level, 32 of whom serve in Congress. Native Americans, Asians and others who have historically encountered harsh barriers to full political participation also have benefited greatly.

As I indicated, the crown jewel of the Voting Rights Act of 1965 is Section 5, which requires that states and localities with a chronic record of discrimination in voting practices secure federal approval before making any changes to voting processes. Section 5 has protected minority voting rights where voter discrimination has historically been the worst. Between 1982 and 2006, Section 5 stopped more than 1,000 discriminatory voting changes in their tracks, including 107 discriminatory changes right here in Texas. Passed in 1965 with the extraordinary leadership of President Lyndon Johnson, the greatest legislative genius of our lifetime, the Voting Rights Act of 1965 was bringing dramatic change in many states across the South. But in 1972, change was not coming fast enough or in many places in Texas. In fact, Texas, which had never elected a woman to Congress or an African American to the Texas State Senate, was not covered by Section 5 of the 1965 Voting Rights Act and the language minorities living in South Texas were not protected at all.

But thanks to the Voting Rights Act of 1965 and the tireless voter registration work performed in 1972 by Hillary Clinton in Texas, along with hundreds of others, including her future husband Bill, Barbara Jordan was elected to Congress, giving meaning to the promise of the Voting Rights Act that all citizens would at long last have the right to cast a vote for person of their community, from their community, for their community. Madam Speaker, it is a source of eternal pride to all of us in Houston that in pursuit of extending the full measure of citizenship to all Americans, in 1975 Congresswoman Barbara Jordan, who also represented this historic 18th Congressional District of Texas, introduced, and the Congress adopted, what are now Sections

4(f)(3) and 4(f)(4) of the Voting Rights Act, which extended the protections of Section 4(a) and Section 5 to language minorities.

During the floor debate on the 1975 reauthorization of the Voting Rights Act, Congresswoman Jordan explained why this reform was needed: “There are Mexican-American people in the State of Texas who have been denied the right to vote; who have been impeded in their efforts to register and vote; who have not had encouragement from those election officials because they are brown people. “So, the state of Texas, if we approve this measure, would be brought within the coverage of this Act for the first time.” When it comes to extending and protecting the precious right vote, the Lone Star State—the home state of Lyndon Johnson and Barbara Jordan—could be the leading state in the Union, one that sets the example for the nation. But to realize that future, Texas must turn from and not return to the dark days of the past.

By embracing the discriminatory Texas SB7 and the ‘Big Lie’ that the 2020 election, by all accounts adjudged the most secure and inclusive in American history, was riven by voter fraud, Texas Republicans are making the wrong choice to their eternal shame. Texans must remain ever vigilant and oppose all schemes that will abridge or dilute the precious right to vote, like the odious Texas SB7 recently passed by the Texas State Senate but killed, but not yet permanently, by the unity and courage of Democrats in the Texas State House of Representatives. Madam Speaker, I applaud the House Democrats of the Texas General Assembly for being on the front lines, fighting in opposition to Texas SB7 on the House floor and I join with them in calling upon the U.S. Senate to eliminate the filibuster and to bring to the floor for debate and vote—so Congress can pass—H.R. 1 and H.R. 4, the John Lewis Voting Rights Advancement Act.

We must all do our part to preserve this most important heritage because it was earned with the sacrifices and the lives of our ancestors. The right to vote is a “powerful instrument that can break down the walls of injustice” and must be protected against attack from all enemies, foreign and domestic, using all the legal tools at our disposal. Madam Speaker, the right to vote and to participate meaningfully in civic and political affairs has done more to advance the cause of freedom, justice, and equality than the Second Amendment has ever done, if it has done anything at all. It is time the Congress act to protect and expand the right to vote, the only right that is preservative of every other right.

Madam Speaker, how often have we heard our friends across the aisle claim that burdening the right to vote with new restrictions and limitations are racially neutral and that their intentions must be adjudged pure because ‘after all, they’re the party of Lincoln’? This is a short horse soon curried. The Republican Party was founded in the 1850s because of its opposition to slavery that Southern Democrats like future Vice-President of the Confederate States of America Alexander Stephens boasted was the “cornerstone of America.” In 1861, after the election of Abraham Lincoln as President, the eleven slaveholding states succeeded from the Union, not to preserve their heritage, but to keep their slaves. That led to the Civil War, in which more than 600,000 persons on both sides

gave their lives and ended in the utter defeat and unconditional surrender of the Confederate Army led by its traitor general Robert E. Lee. Also, as a consequence of the Civil War, the 13th, 14th, and 15th Amendments to the Constitution were passed and ratified.

Madam Speaker, I am grateful that at the time when it was needed most, the Republican Party was born and committed to the extinction of slavery. It was the pro-freedom, pro-civil rights party. The Democratic Party in those nightmarish days was centered in the “Solid South,” and proudly wore the label of the pro-slavery, white supremacy party. This was not lost on the American people, and for a century Black Americans overwhelmingly self-identified with the pro-civil rights, anti-white supremacy Republican Party. Even after the national Democratic Party renounced de jure racism and ‘states rights’ at the 1948 DNC in Philadelphia, resulting in Strom Thurmond leading his fellow Dixiecrats out of the convention and his running failed bid for the presidency, Black Americans remained a core constituency of the Republican Party, while nearly all whites in the southern states were Democrats, distinguishing themselves from northern liberals by calling themselves ‘Southern Democrats’ or ‘constitutional Democrats’. All of this changed in 1964.

That was the year the Republican Party nominated Sen. Barry Goldwater for President, an active and die-hard opponent of the Civil Rights Act of 1964. Southern Democrats saw in Goldwater’s support for ‘states rights’ a kindred spirit and vehicle to halt the federal government’s commitment to extend the writ and guarantees of the Constitution to all persons in all regions of the country. Madam Speaker, the result of that realigning election remains with us to this day. Before the Great Depression and the election of Franklin Roosevelt, the overwhelming majority of votes cast by Black Americans were for Republican candidates.

Even in the election of 1960, the parties closely competed for the votes of Black Americans, with Republican Richard Nixon winning more than 35 percent. Fast forward to 1964. Republican Barry Goldwater was routed 486–52 in an electoral college landslide and lost 43 states; Lyndon Johnson won the popular vote by 16 million votes (61–38 percent). Goldwater won only his native state of Arizona and five Deep South states—Louisiana, Mississippi, Georgia, Alabama and South Carolina. It is interesting to note that the five Southern states that voted for Goldwater swung over dramatically to support him; for example, in Mississippi, where Democrat Franklin D. Roosevelt had won 97 percent of the popular vote in 1936, Goldwater won 87 percent of the vote. Lyndon Johnson would say the Civil Rights Act of 1964 would cost Democrats the South for 50 years but it was worth it.

What accounted for this change in voting allegiance, which persists to this day? The answer is simple and obvious, beginning in 1964 the Democratic Party became, and was perceived by Americans, as the party of civil rights; the Republican Party not so much. The difference now is that white supremacists have not been welcome or embraced by the national Democratic Party since 1948 and have been pariahs since 1964. But they are welcome in today’s Republican Party; in fact, one was even nominated and renominated as its standard-bearer in 2016 and 2020. We Democrats are not reluctant to remove and banish

those who bring shame and dishonor to our cause of advancing equal justice for all Americans. I challenge our friends across the aisle to stop glorifying as 'heritage' a history of terror, injustice, violence, and racism represented by the persons whose statues are being removed and anyone who proudly waves a Confederate flag, like the one that disgraced the Capitol when it was paraded by domestic terrorists during the January 6 insurrection and attack on American democracy.

HONORING ALCIA BELLE AS A
28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT
WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, Alycia Belle of Hollywood, California.

A compassionate leader, Alycia has selflessly devoted her time to organizations and programs that benefit the Hollywood community. She served as the Director of Development for Blessed Sacrament School, a Catholic School within the Jesuit tradition, which closed its doors in 2021 after being in operation for over a century. Prior to the school's closure, Ms. Belle raised \$941,000 for campus improvements and more than \$3.5 million for Jesuit Education that provided scholarships to families in Hollywood. She cofounded and implemented a program called Jesuit Alumni Mass, or JAM, to engage alumni from every Jesuit Institution and give them the opportunity to connect while encouraging them to become involved with their Jesuit community in Hollywood. Alycia also positively impacted the lives of children from the Alexandria House, which offers safe housing for women and children who are in the process of moving to permanent housing. The organization holds a special place in Alycia's heart, since she was raised by a single mother. Under Alycia's guidance, the Blessed Sacrament community welcomed several children from the Alexandria House.

Passionate about helping people and improving lives, Ms. Belle co-founded The Urban Sanctuary, which offers a safe environment within the sacred space of the Blessed Sacrament Church's nave, where individuals experiencing homelessness may seek guidance and rest. Alycia is also exploring sharing this model with churches that have underused space and homeless visitors.

Ms. Belle supports the Hollywood Police Activities League (PAL) and is grateful for their inspiring team-building programs and their dedication to youth. In addition to taking part in their events and encouraging families to participate in PAL's programs, she has hosted their meetings at Blessed Sacrament Church. Alycia also enjoys volunteering for Project Angel Food.

When the coronavirus pandemic hit, Alycia had the whole Parish Community online with live streaming masses within a matter of days.

She also supported moving The Urban Sanctuary outdoors and worked with the Hollywood Food Coalition to provide meals to people in need. Furthermore, Alycia supported the Hollywood YMCA in implementing a shower program for unhoused individuals.

In addition to her extraordinary work in the non-profit arena, Alycia advocates for women-owned businesses. She owns Hollywood Handy Construction, Inc., which is a certified Women's Business Enterprise (WBE). Alycia is married to her supportive husband, Jason, and together they have four children.

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, Alycia Belle.

EULOGIES FROM THE FUNERAL
MASS OF CHRISTIAN BURIAL
FOR ANN O'CONNELL LONG

HON. JOHN B. LARSON

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. LARSON of Connecticut. Madam Speaker, on Saturday July 17, 2021, I had the honor of attending the funeral service for a dear friend and remarkable woman, Ann O'Connell Long. Below are the eulogies made by her three loving children Deirdre, Maura, and Michael, as well as her great friend Suzanna Nolan. I was touched by these remarks and wish to include them in the RECORD for her beloved husband Michael Long and their family.

REMARKS BY DEIRDRE LONG ABSOLONNE

When I think of our mom, I think of faith, family, work, quiet strength, beauty, and good humor. Mom's faith was strong, but quiet. She didn't talk about it a lot—she simply lived it.

She grew up in Parkville with two pairs of shoes, and the support of a community that populated the rest of her life. She had happy memories of her childhood, including vacations at Indian Neck, during which, ever the planner, she would lay out her bathing suit and towel before going to bed each night. When the other children would ask what she was doing, she would explain that she was getting things ready for the morning.

She chose to stay close to her mom and attend Saint Francis School of Nursing, one step in her lifelong relationship with Saint Francis. While there, she met our dad, who became her best friend and partner of 52 years. She loved to joke that he married her for her money and she claimed at least some credit for making Mike Long a Democrat.

She stayed home with us when we were babies and, on my fifth day of first grade, she resumed work full time. Nursing was her vocation. Off she went at 7 am each day to help her family and the sick. She came home every night and put a balanced dinner on the table (a feat that now, as a working mom, I see as nothing short of miraculous). Every week for all those years, with the help of only her family, she cleaned our home top to bottom (usually while singing). She earned degrees and promotions along the way, while always making her family feel that she had plenty of time for us.

I am so fortunate that my relationship with Mom was uncomplicated. It was comfortable, joyful, and good. She was steadfast, understanding, occasionally mischievous, and always just plain fun to be with. She

really listened. And she was always open to new experiences, perspectives, and people.

She enjoyed gathering with family and friends, and I know she treasured her time with each of you. She liked design magazines, good books, cute dogs, babies, massages, making lists on index cards, and simple pleasures like sitting by the fire, in the yard, or on the beach. As everyone who has ever set foot in her home (or the home of someone she helped) knows, she made everything beautiful. True to form, she spent her final months helping all of us to be ready for this morning.

Perhaps most importantly, over all the years and through all of life's ups and downs, she joked and laughed, early often and easily.

REMARKS BY MAURA LONG SHEEHAN

When I think of my mom, I see her smiling face with that twinkle in her eye and it makes me smile too. She was warm and loving, often laughing, and had a no-nonsense way of making things happen.

When I think back to my childhood, I remember Mom singing along to John Denver when she was cleaning the house, baking chocolate chip cookies for our Cape Cod vacations, and highlighting textbooks while studying in bed at night. It wasn't until I was much older that I realized how impressive it was that she earned her bachelor's degree while raising three young children and earned her master's degree while working and raising three teenagers.

As a child, I had no idea who I was dealing with. As an adult, I realize how special she was. When I think about Mom's life and accomplishments, it amazes me that she did it all with such generosity, gratitude, and grace.

I know many of you here felt her generosity first-hand, whether it was kind words at just the right time, a homemade loaf of Irish bread, or a helping hand with your home improvements. At some point a few years ago I realized that whenever Mom showed up for a visit, after she breezed in with a smile, always bearing gifts of some sort, she would look me in the eye and ask "what can I do to help you?" Having a mother like that was a true gift.

As for gratitude, Mom found the beauty in everything around her and she knew how to have fun. She was full of joy and always seemed to have time to relax and make new friends. She made everyone feel special and she made it look easy. Sometimes when I would call her and ask what she was doing, she would laugh, tell me she had her feet curled up on the sheepskin and that she was busy, "cultivating gratitude". She laughed, but it worked.

Mom's grace, and her genuine kindness, were evident her entire life. She was a gracious hostess, and she truly enjoyed entertaining small groups of friends for lunch or dinner, having all her children and grandchildren under one roof every summer on Martha's Vineyard, and hosting extended family for tenderloin dinner (with those incredible mushrooms) each Christmas season.

Her grace, dignity, and strength were on full display this past year as she continued to warmly welcome friends and family for laughter-filled visits while quietly, through her example, preparing all of us for what was to come.

REMARKS BY MICHAEL B. LONG

When I think of Mom the first thing that comes to mind is laughter and the second is the things she taught me. I recall in particular a couple of sayings she would use and tell me that Grammy O had taught her. One is, "A place for everything and everything in its place," the other, "If ye can't say anything nice don't say anything at all."

One thing I learned at an early age was to look again. A fly on the wall at 4 Maple Court in the mid 70's might have heard something like this:

"Mom! There's no more bologna!" "Look in the meat drawer."

"I already did!"

"Look again."

"Okay."

(pause)

"I found it!"

I also learned that if I wasn't throwing up or didn't have a fever, I wasn't sick. "Get up. You're going to school."

If I ever complained about someone else doing a substandard job, she'd chime in with, "if you want something done right, do it yourself."

She had a great sense of humor, and all we needed to get each other in hysterics was a word or two, or just an eyebrow raise.

And when I commented on some accolade she'd received or something clever she'd done, she'd graciously accept the compliment. And then, a second or two later she'd say, "They don't pay me for my looks, you know!"

Her kind spirit was always evident, and the aura of positivity she radiated was irreplaceable. Two instances in particular come to mind:

When we visited Grammy O at Saint Mary Home and walked in the front door, Mom was all smiles. She greeted all the residents in the lobby as well as each person we encountered on the way to Gram's room, and their faces would just light up. Those small acts of kindness make people's days, and for her it was a matter of course, like eating or breathing.

Another was when she visited California in 2003 to meet her newest grandchild. A couple of friends met me at the house before we went to a concert at the Hollywood Bowl. We hung out for an hour or so and had a nice little visit. On the way to the show, both of my friends remarked about her aura of positivity and kindness, and how much they'd enjoyed spending time with her.

Finally, she remarked on many occasions when we were on vacation, that she always tried to leave the place she was staying nicer than when she arrived.

Mom left this place nicer than when she arrived.

REMARKS BY SUZANNE NOLAN

Ann and I met in 2005 when I began work at St. Francis Hospital as Director of Spiritual Care. As a new administrator, I was so very fortunate that she took me under her wing; I know so many of you also received from her an embrace of sincere interest and genuine care for your well-being.

Ann asked me to speak today about her time at St. Francis. The factual parts of that are well known. Her personal impact on her colleagues and staff was also remarkable. To try to honor her legacy there, I talked to many people who worked with her.

So now I ask you to imagine a shimmering Waterford vase filled with a beautiful bouquet of flowers, each flower a phrase describing Ann as a nurse and nurse leader:

—Incredibly strong woman

—Could see the gift in someone, help that person to see it, and help them to nurture it

—Wonderful and supportive, especially in challenging moments (this person told of a night years ago when she had to transfer a heart transplant patient to Yale; Ann was the night supervisor and helped every step of the way)

—Consummate professional

—Incredibly dedicated

—Capable, competent

—Respected nurse leader

—One person described her approach through a Maya Angelou quote: "if you don't

like something, change it. If you can't change it, change your attitude."

—Honest when you messed up, and then helped you to create the plan to go forward

—Helped her staff feel secure in their important roles even as the corporate model was increasing in the hospital

—Special in so many ways

—Persistent and tough; did the very challenging work of bringing Continuing Care and Utilization and Social Services together into the Case Management Department then became the Director of that Department

—Over the top in her generosity

—She and Mike opened their home to provide a place for a staff member's wedding

—A wise mentor

—Gentle sense of humor

—Poked fun at herself

—Ultimate hostess

—A kind person, just so very kind

And Ann, of course, throughout her working life, relished being a loving wife, a beloved mother and grandmother.

I believe God gave Ann extraordinary gifts in her ability to love and to care deeply for others. Her trust in God, her deep faith, enabled her to embrace these gifts and enrich so many lives thus giving glory to God. We in this church, and so many others, have been privileged to know Ann and to be blessed by her presence. We miss her so much, and we are so grateful to her.

May you find comfort in these words of safe passages: "Rest assured that in her dying, in her flight through darkness toward a new light, Ann held you in her arms and carried your closeness with her. And when she arrived at God, your image was imprinted on her joy-filled soul."

RECOGNIZING SOUTHEAST PENNSYLVANIA'S EAGLE SCOUTS FOR 2020

HON. BRIAN K. FITZPATRICK

OF PENNSYLVANIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. FITZPATRICK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the following individuals for attaining the rank of Eagle Scout, the highest achievement of the Boy Scouts of America. Since its inception in 1911, only four percent of scouts achieve this rank after a lengthy review process.

On behalf of all residents of the First Congressional District, I congratulate these emerging leaders on their achievement. We are incredibly grateful for their commitment to service and the positive impact they have on our community.

Name: Troop No.

Aaryan Goel, 36

Alexander Danchak, 36

Andrew John Blemings, 230

Anthony Gambescia, Jr., 99

Augustine James Covelens, 610

Christian D. Allemang, 542

Christian Wolf, 64

Christopher Farese, 99

Christopher James Quinlan, 153

Christopher Kingsley, 30

Christopher Lee Myers, 10

Christopher S. Pullen, Jr., 53

Christopher Stockburger, 99

Cole Sheppeck, 99

Colin Chaar, 99

Connor W. Bautz, 10

Dakota Mihelcic, 461

Daniel Forsythe, 380

Daniel Haschets, 71

Douglas James Lang, 153

Erik H. Kleinfelder, Jr., 130

Erik William Fisher, 153

Evan Grant Storms, 277

Grant Rokuskie, 139

Henry Adams Polli, 99

Jacob Outcalt, 10

Jaiesh Madaka, 10

Jared Loeper, 147

John Wyatt Keating, 10

Lars N. Knudsen, 542

Matthew Allen Dohalick, 168

Matthew Barthelmes, 547

Matthew C. Small, 82

Maxwell Steven Quinn, 71

Michael Bahner, 71

Michael Joseph Elia, 145

Nico Valerio, 10

Pranav Chivukula, 10

Rajan Patel, 380

Robert Louis Lucot, 200

Robert P. Oleynick, 10

Ryan Henry, 130

Samuel Ryan Barndt, 13

Sean M. Gutekunst, 82

Stephen F. Jayne, 99

Thomas H. Stacherski, 36

Travis Fazio, 79

Victor Sorace, 168

Viet N. Tran, 542

Wesley J. Dearoff, 30

William Renson, 34

Zachary Danchak, 36

HONORING MIMI AUNG AS A 28TH CONGRESSIONAL DISTRICT WOMAN OF THE YEAR

HON. ADAM B. SCHIFF

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, July 26, 2021

Mr. SCHIFF. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of Women's History Month. Each year, we pay special tribute to the contributions and sacrifices made by our nation's women. It is an honor to pay homage to outstanding women who are making a difference in my Congressional District. I would like to recognize a remarkable woman, MiMi Aung of La Cañada Flintridge, California, who is receiving Special Districtwide Recognition for her trailblazing work on the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter.

MiMi credits her mother, who was the first Burmese woman to earn a doctoral degree in mathematics from an American university as her inspiration. MiMi's family returned to Myanmar when she was a toddler, where MiMi resided until she moved back to the United States at the age of 16 to pursue her education. She obtained her Bachelor of Science degree in Electrical Engineering and her Master of Science degree in Electrical Engineering, with her thesis focus on signal processing and communications, from the University of Illinois at Urbana-Champaign.

In 1990, Ms. Aung moved to Southern California and began working at the National Aeronautics and Space Administration's (NASA) Jet Propulsion Laboratory (JPL), fulfilling her childhood dream of space exploration. She began her career by working on mathematical algorithms for deep space communication with

spacecraft hundreds of millions of miles away from Earth, and during her 30 year career at JPL, was selected for various positions with increasing degrees of responsibility specifically in Deep Space Network projects, organizational line management, technology development, and space flight projects. The numerous technical areas she engaged in included spacecraft guidance, navigation, and control; autonomous systems; deep space signal processing and communications; optical communications and multiple-spacecraft formation flying.

With Ms. Aung as the Project Manager, worldwide history was made on April 19, 2021, when the Ingenuity Mars Helicopter took its first flight and was the first powered, controlled flight in the planet Mars' atmosphere, and the first such flight anywhere outside of Earth.

Believing that young people should pursue what they believe in, and that critical thinking and industriousness play a big role in pursuit of their heart-felt objectives, MiMi is a frequent keynote speaker at various Science Technology Engineering Mathematics (STEM) summits and conferences and local area schools.

MiMi and her husband, Dr. James Shell and their two children live in La Cañada Flintridge. Madam Speaker, for her extraordinary achievements in the science realm, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring this exceptional, well-respected woman of California's 28th Congressional District, MiMi Aung.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, July 27, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

JULY 28

9 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 2297, to improve global health, S. 812, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, an original resolution expressing solidarity with Cuban citizens demonstrating peacefully for fundamental freedoms, condemning the Cuban regime's acts of repression, and calling for the immediate release of arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens, the nomina-

tions of Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), all of the Department of State, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), and Donald Lu, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, all of the Department of State, and Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

SD-G50

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert Luis Santos, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security.

SD-342

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alexander Hoehn-Saric, of Maryland, Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, and Richard Trumka, Jr., of Maryland, each to be a Commissioner of the Consumer Product Safety Commission, and Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce.

SR-253

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

Subcommittee on National Parks

To hold hearings to examine the impacts of overcrowding in our national parks on park resources and visitor experiences, focusing on strategic approaches to visitor use management.

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

To hold hearings to examine the benefits of investing in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects.

SD-406

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine building on bipartisan retirement legislation, focusing on how Congress can help.

SD-215

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), and Donald Lu, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, all of the Department of State, and Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

SD-G50/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine pending nominations.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Select Committee on Intelligence

Closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters.

SH-219

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy

To hold hearings to examine U.S. trade and investment in Africa.

SH-216/VTC

Committee on the Judiciary

To hold hearings to examine America's food supply chain.

SD-226

3 p.m.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider S. 372, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services that they received was below the standard of care, S. 612, to require the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide certain information to medical center staff and homelessness service providers of the Department regarding the coordinated entry processes for housing and services operated under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, S. 887, make certain improvements relating to the supply chain of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1040, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II, S. 1198, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, S. 1319, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1863, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to health care for veterans, S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, S. 1965, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve long-term care provided to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2041, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enforce the licensure requirement for medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2102, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure,

and S. 2172, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve grants, payments, and technical assistance provided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans.

SR-418

JULY 29

9 a.m.

Committee on the Judiciary

Business meeting to consider S. 1425, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, S. 1428, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, S. 1388, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and S. 1435, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping.

SH-216

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Armed Services

To receive a closed briefing on the security situation on the Korean Peninsula.

SVC-217

10 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, and Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, both of the Department of Agriculture.

SD-G50

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine protecting Americans from debt traps by extending the military's 36% interest rate cap to everyone.

SD-538

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine S. 375 and H.R. 1192, bills to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA").

SD-366

Committee on Environment and Public Works

Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, Jennifer Beth Sass, of Maryland, and Sylvia E. Johnson, of North Carolina,

each to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board.
SD-406

AUGUST 3

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

To hold hearings to examine authorizations of use of force, focusing on administration perspectives.

SD-106/VTC

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine domestic terrorism and violent extremism, focusing on the threat of racially, ethnically, religiously, and politically motivated attacks.

SD-342/VTC

AUGUST 4

10 a.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. J.Res. 10, to repeal the authorizations for use of military force against Iraq, and other pending calendar business.

SH-216

2 p.m.

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider pending calendar business.

SD-G50

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S5059–S5073

Measures Introduced: Nine bills and three resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 2466–2474, and S. Res. 318–320. **Page S5070**

Measures Reported:

S. 517, to provide for joint reports by relevant Federal agencies to Congress regarding incidents of terrorism. (S. Rept. No. 117–31)

S. 1917, to establish a K–12 education cybersecurity initiative. (S. Rept. No. 117–32) **Page S5070**

Measures Passed:

Authorizing the taking of a photograph in Senate Chamber: Senate agreed to S. Res. 320, authorizing the taking of a photograph in the Senate Chamber. **Page S5072**

Kim Nomination—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of the nomination of Todd Sunhwa Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General. **Pages S5059–65**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 54 yeas to 40 nays (Vote No. EX. 278), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination. **Pages S5065–66**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the nomination, post-cloture, at approximately 10:30 a.m., on Tuesday, July 27, 2021; and that all post-cloture time on the nomination expire at 11:30 a.m. **Page S5072**

Wilcox Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board. **Page S5065**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, July 28, 2021. **Page S5065**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5065**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5065**

Prouty Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of David M. Prouty, of Maryland, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board. **Page S5065**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provisions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur upon disposition of the nomination of Gwynne A. Wilcox, of New York, to be a Member of the National Labor Relations Board. **Page S5065**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S5065**

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S5065**

Nomination Confirmed: Senate confirmed the following nomination:

Frank Kendall III, of Massachusetts, to be Secretary of the Air Force. **Page S5066**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Judith DelZoppo Pryor, of Ohio, to be First Vice President of the Export-Import Bank of the United States for a term expiring January 20, 2025.

John R. Bass, of New York, to be an Under Secretary of State (Management).

David L. Cohen, of Pennsylvania, to be Ambassador to Canada.

Joseph M. Green, of North Carolina, to be a Member of the Board of Trustees of the Barry Goldwater Scholarship and Excellence in Education Foundation for a term expiring March 3, 2028.

Matthew M. Graves, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Attorney for the District of Columbia for the term of four years.

Erek L. Barron, of Maryland, to be United States Attorney for the District of Maryland for the term of four years.

Nicholas W. Brown, of Washington, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of Washington for the term of four years.

Clifford D. Johnson, of Indiana, to be United States Attorney for the Northern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Zachary A. Myers, of Maryland, to be United States Attorney for the Southern District of Indiana for the term of four years.

Rachael S. Rollins, of Massachusetts, to be United States Attorney for the District of Massachusetts for the term of four years.

Trini E. Ross, of New York, to be United States Attorney for the Western District of New York for the term of four years.

Vanessa Waldref, of Washington, to be United States Attorney for the Eastern District of Washington for the term of four years. **Pages S5072–73**

Petitions and Memorials: **Pages S5068–70**

Executive Reports of Committees: **Page S5070**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages S5070–71**

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: **Pages S5071–72**

Additional Statements: **Pages S5067–68**

Notices of Intent: **Page S5072**

Authorities for Committees to Meet: **Page S5072**

Record Votes: One record vote was taken today. (Total—278) **Page S5066**

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 6:16 p.m., until 10:30 a.m. on Tuesday, July 27, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Acting Majority Leader in today's Record on page S5072.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

BUSINESS MEETING

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: Committee ordered favorably reported the nomination of Jennifer Lester Moffitt, of California, to be Under Secretary of Agriculture for Marketing and Regulatory Programs.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 19 public bills, H.R. 4679–4697; and 10 resolutions, H. Res. 552–554, 556–562 were introduced.

Pages H3907–08

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H3909–10**

Reports Filed: Reports were filed today as follows:

H.R. 438, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–103);

H.R. 1154, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–104);

H.R. 4300, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes, with amendments (H. Rept. 117–105, Part 1);

H.R. 1029, to Waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans' special events at war

memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–106);

H.R. 1664, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–107);

Committee on Ethics. In the Matter of Allegations Relating to Representative Joyce Beatty (H. Rept. 117–108); and

H. Res. 555, providing for consideration of the bill (H.R. 4502) making appropriations for the Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and related agencies for the fiscal year ending September 30, 2022, and for other purposes; and for other purposes (H. Rept. 117–109).

Page H3907

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Diaz Barragán to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H3849**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:09 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H3850**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Access to Congressionally Mandated Reports Act: H.R. 2485, amended, to require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain an online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports in one place;

Pages H3869–72

Agreed to amend the title so as to read: “To require the Director of the Government Publishing Office to establish and maintain a single online portal accessible to the public that allows the public to obtain electronic copies of all congressionally mandated reports, and for other purposes.”;

Page H3872

Authorizing the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs H.R. 1664, amended, to authorize the National Medal of Honor Museum Foundation to establish a commemorative work in the District of Columbia and its environs, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 416 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 220; and

Pages H3861–62, H3886–87

Gold Star Mothers Family Monument Extension Act: H.R. 2365, amended, to extend the authority for the establishment of a commemorative work in honor of Gold Star Families, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yeas-and-nays vote of 412 yeas with none voting “nay”, Roll No. 221.

Pages H3862, H3887–88

Recess: The House recessed at 5:30 p.m. and reconvened at 6:30 p.m.

Page H3885

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol—Appointment: The Chair announced the Speaker’s appointment of the following Member to the Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol: Representative Kinzinger.

Page H3885

Question of Privilege: Representative McCarthy rose to a question of the privileges of the House and submitted a resolution. Upon examination of the resolution, the Chair determined that the resolution qualified. Subsequently, the House agreed to the Hoyer motion to table H. Res. 554, raising a Question of the Privileges of the House, by a yeas-and-nays vote of 218 yeas to 197 nays, Roll No. 219.

Pages H3885–86

Moment of Silence: The House observed a moment of silence in memory of Officer Jacob J. Chestnut and Detective John M. Gibson of the United States Capitol Police who were killed in the line of duty defending the Capitol on July 24, 1998.

Page H3887

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Consider Teachers Act of 2021: S. 848, to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 in order to improve the service obligation verification process for TEACH Grant recipients;

Pages H3851–54

Helping American Victims Afflicted by Neurological Attacks Act of 2021: S. 1828, to amend the Central Intelligence Agency Act of 1949 to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Central Intelligence Agency who incur qualifying injuries to the brain, to authorize the provision of payment to personnel of the Department of State who incur similar injuries;

Pages H3854–57

Authorizing the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail: H.R. 2278, amended, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to designate the September 11th National Memorial Trail;

Pages H3857–58

Free Veterans from Fees Act: H.R. 1029, to waive the application fee for any special use permit for veterans’ special events at war memorials on land administered by the National Park Service in the District of Columbia and its environs;

Pages H3858–60

Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area Act: H.R. 1154, to authorize the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study to assess the suitability and feasibility of designating certain land as the Great Dismal Swamp National Heritage Area;

Pages H3860–61

Amache National Historic Site Act: H.R. 2497, amended, to establish the Amache National Historic Site in the State of Colorado as a unit of the National Park System;

Pages H3862–64

Veterans in Parks (VIP) Act: H.R. 4300, amended, to direct the Secretary of the Interior to make free National Parks and Federal Recreational Lands Passes available to members of the Armed Forces;

Pages H3864–68

Amending the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children: S. 325, to amend the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children Act to extend the deadline for a report by the Alyce Spotted Bear and Walter Soboleff Commission on Native Children;

Pages H3868–69

Congressional Budget Justification Transparency Act of 2021: S. 272, to amend the Federal Funding Accountability and Transparency Act of 2006, to require the budget justifications and appropriation requests of agencies be made publicly available;

Pages H3872–74

Establishing occupational series for Federal positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management H.R. 3533, amended, to establish occupational series for Federal positions in software development, software engineering, data science, and data management;

Pages H3874–75

Federal Rotational Cyber Workforce Program Act of 2021: H.R. 3599, amended, to establish a Federal rotational cyber workforce program for the Federal cyber workforce;

Pages H3875–77

District of Columbia Chief Financial Officer Salary Home Rule Act: H.R. 1204, to amend the District of Columbia Home Rule Act to permit the District of Columbia to establish the rate of pay of the Chief Financial Officer of the District of Columbia;

Pages H3877–78

Chai Suthammanont Remembrance Act of 2021: H.R. 978, amended, to require the head of each agency to establish a safety plan relating to COVID–19 for any worksite at which employees or contractors are required to be physically present during the COVID–19 pandemic;

Pages H3878–80

Performance Enhancement Reform Act: H.R. 2617, amended, to amend section 1115 of title 31, United States Code, to amend the description of how performance goals are achieved;

Pages H3880–81

Authorizing the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis: S. 2382, to authorize the National Cyber Director to accept details from other elements of the Federal Government on nonreimbursable basis;

Pages H3881–83

Dispose Unused Medications and Prescription Opioids Act: S. 957, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to ensure that certain medical facilities of the Department of Veterans Affairs have physical locations for the disposal of controlled substances medications; and

Pages H3883–84

Major Medical Facility Authorization Act of 2021: S. 1910, to authorize major medical facility projects of the Department of Veterans Affairs for fiscal year 2021.

Pages H3884–85

Senate Referrals: S. 89 was held at the desk. S. 189 was held at the desk. S. 894 was held at the desk. S. 1910 was held at the desk. S. 2382 was held at the desk.

Page H3851

Senate Message: Message received from the Senate by the Clerk and subsequently presented to the House today appears on page H3851.

Quorum Calls—Votes: Three yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H3886, H3887, and H3887–88.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 noon and adjourned at 10 p.m.

Committee Meetings

DEPARTMENTS OF LABOR, HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, AND EDUCATION, AND RELATED AGENCIES APPROPRIATIONS ACT, 2022

Committee on Rules: Full Committee held a hearing on H.R. 4502, the “Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022” [Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022]. The Committee granted, by record vote of 9–4, a structured rule providing for consideration of H.R. 4502, the “Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, Agriculture, Rural Development, Energy and Water Development, Financial Services and General Government, Interior, Environment, Military Construction, Veterans Affairs, Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development Appropriations Act, 2022”. The rule provides one hour of general debate equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees. The rule waives all points of order against consideration of the bill. The rule provides that an amendment in the nature of a substitute consisting of the text of Rules Committee Print 117–12, modified by the amendment printed in part A of the Rules Committee report, shall be considered as adopted and the bill, as amended, shall be considered as read. The rule waives all points of order against provisions in the bill, as amended. The rule provides that following debate, each further amendment printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier considered as part of amendments en bloc pursuant to section 3 shall be considered only in the order printed in the report, may be offered only by a Member designated in the report, shall be considered 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. Section 3 of the rule provides that at any time after debate the chair of the Committee on Appropriations or her designee may offer amendments en bloc consisting of further

amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report not earlier disposed of. Amendments en bloc shall be considered as read, shall be debatable for 30 minutes equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Appropriations or their designees, shall not be subject to amendment, and shall not be subject to a demand for division of the question. The rule waives all points of order against the amendments printed in part B of the Rules Committee report or amendments en bloc described in section 3 of the resolution. The rule provides one motion to recommit. The rule provides that House Resolution 188, agreed to March 8, 2021 is amended by striking “July 30, 2021” each place it appears and inserting “September 22, 2021”. The rule provides that at any time through the legislative day of Friday, July 30, 2021, the Speaker may entertain motions offered by the Majority Leader or a designee that the House suspend the rules with respect to multiple measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of July 26 or 27, 2021, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered and further proceedings postponed. The Chair shall put the question on any such motion without debate or intervening motion, and the ordering of the yeas and nays on postponed motions to suspend the rules with respect to such measures is vacated. The rule provides that proceedings may be postponed through September 22, 2021, on measures that were the object of motions to suspend the rules on the legislative days of July 26 or 27, 2021, and on which the yeas and nays were ordered. Testimony was heard from Chairman DeLauro, Chairman Waters, and Representatives Granger, Cole, Bishop of Georgia, Fortenberry, Kaptur, Simpson, Quigley, Womack, Pingree, Joyce of Ohio, Wasserman Schultz, Carter of Texas, Price of North Carolina, Diaz-Balart, Casten, Hinson, Burgess, Jackson Lee, Cammack, Carter of Georgia, Garamendi, Clyde, Davidson, Estes, Good of Virginia, Graves of Louisiana, Grothman, Owens, Stauber, Smith of New Jersey, Valadao, and Wilson of South Carolina.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

NEW PUBLIC LAWS

(For last listing of Public Laws, see DAILY DIGEST, p. D751)

H.R. 1652, to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements. Signed on July 22, 2021. (Public Law 117–27)

H.R. 26, to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021, to correct a provision on the prohibition on the use of a reverse auction. Signed on July 26, 2021. (Public Law 117–28)

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, JULY 27, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine cryptocurrencies, 10 a.m., SD–538.

Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine protecting student loan borrowers and the economy in the upcoming transitions, 3 p.m., SD–538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine pipeline cybersecurity, focusing on protecting critical infrastructure, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: to hold hearings to examine the President’s proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD–366.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine implementation and enforcement of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 9:30 a.m., SD–215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, Lee Satterfield, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, all of the Department of State, Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD–G50/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine building on lessons learned from the COVID–19 pandemic, focusing on the path forward, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: to hold hearings to examine resources and authorities needed to protect and secure the homeland, 10 a.m., SD–342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine America under cyber siege, focusing on preventing and responding to ransomware attacks, 10 a.m., SD–226.

Select Committee on Intelligence: to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH–219.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 267, the “2020 WHIP+ Reauthorization Act”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “The Changing Energy Landscape: Oversight of FERC”, 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Subcommittee on National Security, International Development and Monetary Policy, hearing entitled “The Promises and Perils of Central Bank Digital Currencies”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Zoom.

Subcommittee on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance, hearing entitled “NAHASDA Reauthorization: Addressing Historic Disinvestment and the Ongoing Plight of the Freedmen in Native American Communities”, 2 p.m., 2128 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on International Development, International Organizations and Global Corporate Social Impact, hearing entitled “Implementation of the Global Child Thrive Act and Investing in Early Childhood Development”, 2 p.m., 2171 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, Subcommittee on Crime, Terrorism, and Homeland Security, hearing entitled “A Fine Scheme: How Court-Imposed Fees and Fines Unjustly Burden Vulnerable Communities”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “The Need to Enhance the Voting Rights Act: Practice-Based Coverage”, 2:30 p.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “The Toxic Legacy of the Mining Law of 1872”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Select Subcommittee on the Coronavirus Crisis, hearing entitled “Oversight of Pandemic Evictions: Assessing Abuses by Corporate Landlords and Federal Efforts to Keep Americans in Their Homes”, 10:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Subcommittee on National Security, hearing entitled “Defending the U.S. Electric Grid Against Cyber Threats”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 4346, the “Legislative Branch Appropriations Act, 2022”; H.R. 4373, the “Department of State, Foreign Operations, and Related Programs Appropriations Act, 2022”; and H.R. 4505, the “Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022”, 2 p.m., H-313 Capitol and Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4609, the “National Institute of Standards and Technology for the Future Act of 2021”; H.R. 3858, the “National Science and Technology Strategy Act of 2021”; H.R. 4588, the “Regional Innovation Act of 2021”; H.R. 4606, the “Energizing Technology Transfer Act”; and H.R. 4599, the “SUPER Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, Subcommittee on Innovation, Entrepreneurship, and Workforce Development, hearing entitled “Wealth for the Working Class: The Clean Energy Economy”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled “Aging in Place: Examining Veterans’ Access to Home and Community Based Services”, 10 a.m., Zoom.

Select Committee to Investigate the January 6th Attack on the United States Capitol, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Law Enforcement Experience on January 6th”, 9:30 a.m., 310 Cannon.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of July 27 through July 30, 2021

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Todd Sunhwa Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: July 29, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Xochitl Torres Small, of New Mexico, to be Under Secretary for Rural Development, and Robert Farrell Bonnie, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Farm Production and Conservation, both of the Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Armed Services: July 29, to receive a closed briefing on the security situation on the Korean Peninsula, 9:30 a.m., SVC-217.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: July 27, to hold hearings to examine cryptocurrencies, 10 a.m., SD-538.

July 27, Subcommittee on Economic Policy, to hold hearings to examine protecting student loan borrowers and the economy in the upcoming transitions, 3 p.m., SD-538.

July 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine protecting Americans from debt traps by extending the military’s 36% interest rate cap to everyone, 10 a.m., SD-538.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: July 27, to hold hearings to examine pipeline cybersecurity, focusing on protecting critical infrastructure, 10 a.m., SR-253.

July 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Alexander Hoehn-Saric, of Maryland, Mary T. Boyle, of Maryland, and Richard Trumka, Jr., of Maryland, each to be a Commissioner of the Consumer

Product Safety Commission, and Grant T. Harris, of California, to be an Assistant Secretary of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: July 27, to hold hearings to examine the President's proposed budget request for fiscal year 2022 for the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., SD-366.

July 28, Subcommittee on National Parks, to hold hearings to examine the impacts of overcrowding in our national parks on park resources and visitor experiences, focusing on strategic approaches to visitor use management, 10 a.m., SD-366.

July 29, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine S. 375 and H.R. 1192, bills to impose requirements on the payment of compensation to professional persons employed in voluntary cases commenced under title III of the Puerto Rico Oversight Management and Economic Stability Act (commonly known as "PROMESA"), 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Environment and Public Works: July 28, to hold hearings to examine the benefits of investing in U.S. Army Corps of Engineers water infrastructure projects, 10 a.m., SD-406.

July 29, Subcommittee on Chemical Safety, Waste Management, Environmental Justice, and Regulatory Oversight, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Stephen A. Owens, of Arizona, Jennifer Beth Sass, of Maryland, and Sylvia E. Johnson, of North Carolina, each to be a Member of the Chemical Safety and Hazard Investigation Board, 10 a.m., SD-406.

Committee on Finance: July 27, to hold hearings to examine implementation and enforcement of the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement, 9:30 a.m., SD-215.

July 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine building on bipartisan retirement legislation, focusing on how Congress can help, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: July 27, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Rufus Gifford, of Massachusetts, to be Chief of Protocol, and to have the rank of Ambassador during his tenure of service, Lee Satterfield, of South Carolina, to be an Assistant Secretary (Educational and Cultural Affairs), Christopher P. Lu, of Virginia, to be Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, with the rank of Ambassador, and to be an Alternate Representative of the United States of America to the Sessions of the General Assembly of the United Nations, during his tenure of service as Representative of the United States of America to the United Nations for U.N. Management and Reform, all of the Department of State, Isobel Coleman, of New York, to be a Deputy Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, and other pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-G50/VTC.

July 28, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 2297, to improve global health, S. 812, to direct the Secretary of State to develop a strategy to regain observer status for Taiwan in the World Health Organization, an original resolution expressing solidarity with Cuban citizens demonstrating peacefully for fundamental freedoms, condemning the Cuban regime's acts of repression, and

calling for the immediate release of arbitrarily detained Cuban citizens, the nominations of Gentry O. Smith, of Virginia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Diplomatic Security), Monica P. Medina, of Maryland, to be Assistant Secretary for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs, Rena Bitter, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary (Consular Affairs), Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam, and Brian A. Nichols, of Rhode Island, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (Western Hemisphere Affairs), all of the Department of State, routine lists in the Foreign Service, and other pending calendar business; to be immediately followed by a hearing to examine the nominations of Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), and Donald Lu, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, all of the Department of State, and Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, 9 a.m., SD-G50.

July 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kenneth Lee Salazar, of Colorado, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, Jessica Lewis, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary (Political-Military Affairs), and Donald Lu, of California, to be Assistant Secretary for South Asian Affairs, all of the Department of State, and Marcela Escobari, of Massachusetts, to be an Assistant Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, 10 a.m., SD-G50/VTC.

July 28, Subcommittee on Africa and Global Health Policy, to hold hearings to examine U.S. trade and investment in Africa, 2:30 p.m., SH-216/VTC.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: July 27, to hold hearings to examine building on lessons learned from the COVID-19 pandemic, focusing on the path forward, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: July 27, to hold hearings to examine resources and authorities needed to protect and secure the homeland, 10 a.m., SD-342/VTC.

July 28, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Robert Luis Santos, of Texas, to be Director of the Census, Department of Commerce, and Ed Gonzalez, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary of Homeland Security, 9:30 a.m., SD-342.

Committee on the Judiciary: July 27, to hold hearings to examine America under cyber siege, focusing on preventing and responding to ransomware attacks, 10 a.m., SD-226.

July 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine pending nominations, 10 a.m., SD-226.

July 28, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine America's food supply chain, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

July 29, Full Committee, business meeting to consider S. 1425, to enable the Federal Trade Commission to deter filing of sham citizen petitions to cover an attempt to interfere with approval of a competing generic drug or

biosimilar, to foster competition, and facilitate the efficient review of petitions filed in good faith to raise legitimate public health concerns, S. 1428, to prohibit brand name drug companies from compensating generic drug companies to delay the entry of a generic drug into the market, and to prohibit biological product manufacturers from compensating biosimilar and interchangeable companies to delay the entry of biosimilar biological products and interchangeable biological products, S. 1388, to require the Federal Trade Commission to study the role of intermediaries in the pharmaceutical supply chain and provide Congress with appropriate policy recommendations, and S. 1435, to amend the Federal Trade Commission Act to prohibit product hopping, 9 a.m., SH-216.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: July 28, business meeting to consider S. 372, to require the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enter into a contract or other agreement with a third party to review appointees in the Veterans Health Administration who had a license terminated for cause by a State licensing board for care or services rendered at a non-Veterans Health Administration facility and to provide individuals treated by such an appointee with notice if it is determined that an episode of care or services that they received was below the standard of care, S. 612, to require the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide certain information to medical center staff and homelessness service providers of the Department regarding the coordinated entry processes for housing and services operated under the Continuum of Care Program of the Department of Housing and Urban Development, S. 887, make certain improvements relating to the supply chain of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1040, to amend title 38, United States Code, to expand eligibility for hospital care, medical services, and nursing home care from the Department of Veterans Affairs to include veterans of World War II, S. 1198, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve and expand the Solid Start program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1220, to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, S. 1319, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 1863, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve access to health care for veterans, S. 1875, to amend title 38, United States Code, to provide a deadline of 180 days for the filing of claims for payment for emergency treatment furnished to veterans, S. 1965, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to improve long-term care provided to veterans by the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2041, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to enforce the licensure requirement for medical providers of the Department of Veterans Affairs, S. 2102, to amend title 38, United States Code, to direct the Under Secretary for Health of the Department of Veterans Affairs to provide mammography screening for veterans who served in locations associated with toxic exposure, and S. 2172, to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve grants, payments, and technical assistance pro-

vided by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to serve homeless veterans, 3 p.m., SR-418.

Select Committee on Intelligence: July 27, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2:30 p.m., SH-219.

July 28, Full Committee, closed business meeting to consider pending intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SH-219.

House Committees

Committee on Agriculture, July 28, Subcommittee on Livestock and Foreign Agriculture, hearing entitled "State of the Beef Supply Chain: Shocks, Recovery, and Rebuilding", 10 a.m., 1300 and Zoom.

July 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled "21st Century Food Systems: Controlled Environment Agriculture's Role in Protecting Domestic Food Supply Chains and Infrastructure", 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Zoom.

Committee on Armed Services, July 28, Subcommittee on Cyber, Innovative Technologies, and Information Systems, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 28, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 12 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 28, Subcommittee on Seapower and Projection Forces, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 28, Subcommittee on Military Personnel, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 3:30 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 10 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Readiness, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 12 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations, markup on H.R. 4350, the "National Defense Authorization Act for Fiscal Year 2022", 2 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, July 28, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Human Services, hearing entitled "Food for Thought: Examining Federal Nutrition Programs for Young Children and Infants", 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

July 29, Subcommittee on Higher Education and Workforce Investment, hearing entitled "Keeping the Pell Grant Promise: Increasing Enrollment, Supporting Success", 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, July 28, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection, hearing entitled "Transforming the FTC: Legislation to Modernize Consumer Protection", 10:30 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Health, hearing entitled "The Path Forward: Advancing Treatments and Cures for

Neurodegenerative Diseases”, 11 a.m., 2123 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, July 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4590, the “Promoting New and Diverse Depository Institutions Act”; H.R. 3332, the “Manufactured Housing Community Preservation Act of 2021”; H.R. 4616, the “Adjustable Interest Rate Act of 2021”; H.R. 4618, the “Short Sale Transparency and Market Fairness Act”; legislation to require the Government Accountability Office to carry out a study on the impact of the gamification, psychological nudges, and other design techniques used by online trading platforms, and for other purposes; H.R. 4617, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit payment for order flow; H.R. 935, the “Small Business Mergers, Acquisitions, Sales, and Brokerage Simplification Act of 2021”; H.R. 4620, to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to limit the exemption provided for family offices from the definition of an investment adviser to those family offices with less than \$750,000,000 in assets under management and for other purposes; H.R. 4619, to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit trading ahead by market makers, and for other purposes; H.R. 3555, “the Voters on the Move Registration Act”; and H.R. 2265, the “Financial Exploitation Prevention Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, July 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4589, the “Diversity and Inclusion at the State Department Act”; legislation on Global Malnutrition Prevention and Treatment Act of 2021; H.R. 1199, the “STEM Diplomacy Act”; H. Res. 496, supporting the continued work of the United States African Development Foundation as it creates pathways to prosperity for underserved communities on the African Continent through community-led development; H.R. 2946, the “Reinforcing Nicaragua’s Adherence to Conditions for Electoral Reform Act of 2021”; H.R. 4250, the “War Crimes Rewards Expansion Act”; H. Res. 497, condemning the murder of Alireza Fazeli Monfared and the practice of so-called “honor killings” in Iran, and for other purposes; H.R. 4526, the “City and State Diplomacy Act”; H. Res. 549, condemning the assassination of the Haitian President, and urging United States and global support of Haitian-led solutions; H. Res. 547, calling for the continued support of Afghan women and girls after the drawdown of American troops; H. Res. 376, condemning Turkey for its illegal occupation of Cyprus; and legislation on Cambodia Democracy Act of 2021, 10 a.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “Lebanon: Assessing Political Paralysis, Economic Crisis and Challenges for U.S. Policy”, 10 a.m., Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled “Renewable Energy Transition: A Case Study of How International Collaboration on Offshore Wind Technology Benefits American Workers”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, July 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 903, the “Rights for the TSA Workforce Act of 2021”; H.R. 2915, the “Homeland

Procurement Reform Act”; H.R. 4089, the “Darren Drake Act”; H.R. 4094, the “One-Stop Pilot Program Act of 2021”; H.R. 4209, the “DHS Illicit Cross-Border Tunnel Defense Act”; H.R. 4363, the “DHS Contract Reporting Act of 2021”; H.R. 4426, the “Homeland Security for Children Act”; H.R. 4611, the “DHS Software Supply Chain Risk Management Act of 2021”; legislation on K–12 Cybersecurity Act; and legislation on Unmanned Aerial Security Act, 9 a.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

July 28, Subcommittee on Oversight, Management, and Accountability, hearing entitled “DHS’s Efforts to Disrupt Transnational Criminal Organizations in Central America”, 2 p.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Cybersecurity, Infrastructure Protection, and Innovation, hearing entitled “The Cyber Talent Pipeline: Educating a Workforce to Match Today’s Threats”, 10 a.m., Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Border Security, Facilitation, and Operations, hearing entitled “Assessing the State of America’s Seaports: Equipping for a Reopened Economy”, 3 p.m., 310 Cannon and Webex.

Committee on House Administration, July 28, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Election Subversion: A Growing Threat to Electoral Integrity”, 12 p.m., 1310 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, July 28, Subcommittee on Antitrust, Commercial, and Administrative Law, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Bankruptcy Code, Part 1: Confronting Abuses of the Chapter 11 System”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Natural Resources, July 28, Office of Insular Affairs Full Committee, hearing entitled “The President’s FY22 Budget Priority for the Territories: Medicaid, SSI, and SNAP Parity”, 1 p.m., Webex.

July 29, Subcommittee on Water, Oceans, and Wildlife, hearing on H.R. 273, the “Prevention of Escapement of Genetically Altered Salmon in the United States Act”; H.R. 274, the “Keep Finfish Free Act”; H.R. 1569, the “Critically Endangered Animals Conservation Act of 2021”; H.R. 1983, the “MONARCH Act of 2021”; H.R. 2026, the “Global Amphibian Protection Act of 2021”; H.R. 2325, the “Bear Protection Act of 2021”; H.R. 2773, the “Recovering America’s Wildlife Act of 2021”; H.R. 2793, the “Highlands Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021”; H.R. 2848, the “Marine Mammal Research and Response Act of 2021”; H.R. 2872, the “SAFE Act”; H.R. 3075, the “Illegal Fishing and Forced Labor Prevention Act”; H.R. 3128, the “American Fisheries Advisory Committee Act of 2021”; H.R. 3135, the “Captive Primate Safety Act”; H.R. 3396, the “Extinction Prevention Act of 2021”; and H.R. 4458, the “KELP Act”, 10 a.m., 1324 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, July 28, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “FITARA 12.0”, 2 p.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

July 29, Subcommittee on Civil Rights and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Democracy in Danger: The Assault on Voting Rights in Texas”, 10 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, July 29, Subcommittee on Space and Aeronautics, hearing entitled “Enabling Mission Success from the Ground Up: Addressing NASA’s Urgent Infrastructure Needs”, 10 a.m., 2318 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Small Business, July 29, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4256, the “Investing in Main Street Act”; H.R. 4481, the “Small Business 7(a) Loan Agent Transparency Act”; H.R. 4531, the “7(a) Loan Agent Oversight Act”, H.R. 3469, “Veteran Entrepreneurship Training Act of 2021”; H.R. 3462, the “SBA Cyber Awareness Act”; H.R. 4515, the “Small Business Development Center Cyber Training Act of 2021”; and H.R. 4513, the “Small Business Advanced Cybersecurity Enhancements Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, July 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 3095, the “Fair and Open Skies Act”; H.R. 1339, the “Advanced Air Mobility Coordination and Leadership Act”; H.R. 3193, the “E-RIDGE Act”; H.R. 3037, the “Housing Survivors of Major Disasters Act of 2021”; H.R. 3709, the “Preliminary Damage Assessment Improvement Act of 2021”; legislation to designate the Federal building located at 1200 New Jersey Ave Southeast in Washington, DC, as the “Norman Yoshio Mineta Federal Building”; H.R. 4660, to designate the Federal building and United States Courthouse located at 1125 Chapline Street in Wheeling, WV, as the “Frederick P. Stamp, Jr. Federal Building and United States Courthouse”; H.R. 2220, to amend title 40, United States Code, to modify the treatment of certain bargain-price options to purchase at less than fair market value, and for other purposes; H. Con. Res. 41, authorizing the use of the Capitol Grounds for the National Peace Officers Memorial Service and the National Honor Guard and Pipe Band Exhibition; and General Services Administration’s Capital Investment and

Leasing Program Resolutions, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

July 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Assessing the Federal Government’s COVID-19 Relief and Response Efforts and its Impact”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, July 28, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 4657, the “Veteran Home Energy Savings Act”; H.R. 912, the “American Indian and Alaska Native Mental Health Act”; H.R. 3856, to require the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on disparities associated with race and ethnicity with respect to certain benefits administered by the Secretary of Veterans Affairs; H.R. 3944, the “Burial Equity for Guards and Reserves Act of 2021”; H.R. 147, the “Bringing Registered Apprenticeships to Veterans Education Act”; H.R. 4673, the “Ensuring Veterans’ Smooth Transition Act”; H.R. 4626, the “VA Assessment by Independent Measures Act”; H.R. 4625, the “VA Caregiver Transparency Act”; and H.R. 4233, the “Student Veterans Counseling Centers Eligibility Act”, 2 p.m., Zoom.

Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, July 28, Subcommittee on Counterterrorism, Counterintelligence, and Counterproliferation, hearing entitled “The Department of Homeland Security I and A Budget Request”, 9:30 a.m., HVC-304 Hearing Room. This hearing is closed.

Select Committee on the Climate Crisis, July 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Financing Climate Solutions and Job Creation”, 9 a.m., 210 Cannon and Zoom.

Select Committee on the Modernization of Congress, July 29, Full Committee, business meeting to consider proposed recommendations, 9 a.m., HVC-210.

Select Committee on Economic Disparity and Fairness in Growth, July 29, Full Committee, hearing entitled “The Nature and Consequences of American Economic Disparity”, 10 a.m., 2359 Rayburn.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10:30 a.m., Tuesday, July 27

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of the nomination of Todd Sunhwa Kim, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Attorney General, post-cloture, and vote on confirmation thereon at 11:30 a.m.

(The official photo of the Senate will take place at 2:15 p.m., in the Senate Chamber.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, July 27

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of H.R. 4502—Departments of Labor, Health and Human Services, and Education, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2022 (Subject to a Rule).

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