



House votes to expand tax relief

Bill beefs up child credit and business breaks but faces long odds in Senate

BY JACOB BOGAGE AND JEFF STEIN

The House on Wednesday overwhelmingly passed bipartisan legislation to cut taxes for working families and restore certain corporate tax breaks, but the bill faces long odds in the bitterly divided Senate, as lawmakers rush to send the measure to President Biden's desk before the end of tax filing season in April.

The bill passed the House by a vote of 357 to 70. It would expand eligibility for the child tax credit among the lowest-income families and adjust payments for inflation for the 2024 and 2025 filing years.

It would also bolster certain business tax credits — including deductions for research and development, interest expenses and investments in equipment — that were limited in an effort to cap the total costs of President Donald Trump's 2017 tax cut law.

But in the Senate, where Republicans can block the bill with a filibuster, the measure began losing momentum Wednesday afternoon, even as it moved toward House passage.

Sen. Chuck Grassley (R-Iowa) criticized the measure, which nonpartisan estimates say could

SEE TAX CREDIT ON A4



MATT MCCLAIN/THE WASHINGTON POST

Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg acknowledges family members holding up photos of online abuse victims at a Senate hearing Wednesday.

A fiery hearing on kids' safety

CEOS INTERROGATED ABOUT ONLINE ABUSE

Zuckerberg apologizes to families of victims

BY CRISTIANO LIMA-STRONG, CAT ZAKRZEWSKI, WILL OREMUS AND NAOMI NIX

Senators battered the CEOs of five major tech companies with accusations that they did not stem a rising tide of child sexual abuse on their platforms at a contentious hearing Wednesday.

Likening the companies to Big Tobacco and the embattled plane manufacturer Boeing, the lawmakers invoked the stories of online child abuse victims — many of whom sat directly behind the tech leaders — to issue a stunning rebuke to Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg and other executives. “You have blood on your hands,” Sen. Lindsey Graham (R-S.C.) said.

Zuckerberg responded to the onslaught of grief with unusual candor, rising from his chair in an extraordinary moment to apologize after pressure from Sen. Josh Hawley (R-Mo.) to admit Meta's wrongdoing.

“I'm sorry for everything you have all been through,” he said to

SEE CONGRESS ON A12

Apps: Three safety settings to review to limit exposure. **A12**

Japanese bid for U.S. Steel puts Biden in tight spot

BY DAVID J. LYNCH

The prospect of a Japanese corporation buying U.S. Steel — whose products shaped American landmarks like the Empire State Building — is stirring an election-year debate over just how far the United States should go in embracing economic nationalism.

When Nippon Steel in December offered to buy the Pittsburgh-based steelmaker for \$14.9 billion, investors cheered. But there was vocal opposition from the

Policy push for foreign investment collides with political needs

United Steelworkers union, which complained it had not been consulted, and prominent lawmakers in both parties, who objected to a foreign buyer swallowing a venerable American company. The loss of independence, they said, could threaten

national security by leaving the United States short of steel in a crisis.

“I'm flat-out opposed to it,” Sen. J.D. Vance (R-Ohio) said in an interview. “And it's not just this transaction I'm worried about. The precedent really matters.”

The deal also raises uncomfortable questions for the Biden administration, little more than nine months before the November election. The president, who often emphasizes the value of U.S. alliances, welcomes foreign investment. But permitting the pur-

chase by Nippon Steel risks losing organized labor, whose support he needs in vital swing states such as Pennsylvania.

The steel drama highlights tensions in the international economic policy that national security adviser Jake Sullivan unveiled last year. Biden's trade and industrial policies — which some analysts describe as a form of economic nationalism — are designed to promote domestic production and to attract foreign cash to the United States.

SEE STEEL ON A11

Rubenstein set to take control of the Orioles

Baltimore native's group, which includes Ripken, still needs MLB approval

BY CHELSEA JANES

David Rubenstein, a Baltimore native and one of the founders of the private equity firm the Carlyle Group, is on the verge of acquiring control of the Baltimore Orioles, a franchise he has long pursued.

The prominent Washington philanthropist and a cohort of investors have an agreement in place to buy a 40 percent stake in the team, according to three people familiar with the situation, all of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity to address a deal that still needs Major League Baseball's approval. The deal with the Angelos family values the team at \$1.7 billion; the Rubenstein-led group would buy its initial share now and hold the option to buy the rest at a later date.

“When I took on the role of Chair and CEO of the Orioles, we had the objective of restoring the franchise to elite status in major league sports, keeping the team in Baltimore for years to come, and revitalizing our partnership group,” John Angelos said in a statement Wednesday. “This relationship with David Rubenstein

SEE ORIOLES ON A4

ELECTION 2024



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In Michigan, backlash against Biden

BY YASMEEN ABUTALEB

DEARBORN, MICH. — Mohammad Enayah relied on a cousin in Gaza for regular updates on his extended family living under Israel's bombardment. He heard about the daily challenges his family faced in trying to survive: no access to running water, regular bombings and fleeing from one stranger's home to another seeking safety.

Then, in November, he received the news he had been dreading: 30 members of his extended family had been killed

Arab Americans and Muslims are working to defeat him over his handling of Gaza war

Mohammad Enayah, who lost dozens of relatives in an Israeli airstrike in Gaza, is resolved to campaign against President Biden. Michigan, a critical swing state, has one of the nation's largest Arab American and Muslim populations.

by an Israeli airstrike on a refugee camp. He began to look at the list of names of those killed but couldn't make it past the first one.

“The first name was so familiar,” Enayah said, his voice breaking as tears streamed down his face. “I just put it aside and I said, ‘I don't want to read it.’ But to honor them, I had to. It took me a week just to go through the names.”

SEE MICHIGAN ON A5

Pressure mounts: USAID staffers urge leader to resign. **A9**

Zelensky moves to oust Ukraine's top general

Message delivered in Monday meeting; formal decree expected soon

BY ISABELLE KHURSHUDYAN AND JOHN HUDSON

KYIV — Ukrainian President Volodymyr Zelensky told his top commander, Gen. Valery Zaluzhny, that he was firing him in a meeting on Monday, according to a senior official familiar with the conversation — a disruptive military shake-up amid Ukraine's struggles on the battlefield and after months of friction between the president and the popular general.

Zaluzhny remains in his post for now, but a formal presidential decree is expected to confirm his ousting nearly two years into Russia's invasion and as Moscow's forces appear to be gaining the strategic initiative on some parts of the front.

On Monday, Zelensky's spokesman, Serhiy Nykyforov, denied that Zaluzhny had been fired. “There is no subject of conversation,” Nykyforov told reporters. “There is no order. The president did not dismiss the commander in chief.”

Nykyforov on Wednesday did not immediately reply to messages from The Washington Post seeking any updated comment.

It is far from clear that any new commander will be able to improve Ukraine's difficult situation on the battlefield without significantly more forces and weapons — precisely what Zalu-



OKSANA PARAFENIUK FOR THE WASHINGTON POST

Gen. Valery Zaluzhny, popular with troops and the public, saw his relations with Zelensky fray.

zhny has demanded of Zelensky, adding tension to what was already a fraying relationship.

Zaluzhny's popularity — both within the military and among ordinary citizens — makes his removal a political gamble for Zelensky. It also poses strategic risks at a time when Russia has intensified its attacks and Western security assistance for Kyiv has slowed. The general has built strong rapport with his Western counterparts and has often been able to advocate directly for certain materiel and seek counsel on battlefield strategy.

It was unclear whether Zelensky and his team had planned for the dismissal to happen this

SEE UKRAINE ON A8

E.U. vs. Hungary: Bloc and Orban again at odds over Ukraine aid. **A9**

IN THE NEWS

TikTok's impact Left-leaning activists have taken to the platform to protest fossil fuel projects, Israel's war in Gaza and more, and are becoming an influential political force. **A16**

Violent rampage A spate of carjackings in D.C. and Maryland left a trail of grief and fear, with one victim still hospitalized. **B1**

THE NATION John Podesta will become the top climate diplomat when John Kerry steps down. **A2**
The Chicago Rat Hole has brought crowds of visitors, trash and noise for its neighbors. **A3**

THE WORLD A dispute over the future of the Rafah border crossing is jeopardizing Egypt-Israel ties. **A7**
Sonar images may have found Amelia Earhart's lost plane, but it could take years to confirm. **A9**

THE ECONOMY Far-right Republicans who have pushed to cut the budget are set to win hundreds of millions of dollars in earmarks for their districts. **A10**
The Federal Reserve left interest rates unchanged as it waits for sufficient progress on inflation. **A11**

THE REGION Maryland leaders introduced legislation aimed at reforming the juvenile justice system amid growing concerns over youth crime. **B1**
Baltimore's former top prosecutor cited a broken trust in her ex-husband and others at her mortgage fraud trial. **B1**

SPORTS The PGA Tour is getting a cash infusion from a group of sports team owners as it continues to negotiate with Saudi-backed LIV Golf. **D1**

LOCAL LIVING A house fire destroyed everything a young mother owned — and her sense of self.

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