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No. 55

## House of Representatives

The House met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Mr. KNOTT).

### DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,  
March 26, 2025.

I hereby appoint the Honorable BRAD KNOTT to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

MIKE JOHNSON,  
*Speaker of the House of Representatives.*

### MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Chair will now recognize Members from lists submitted by the majority and minority leaders for morning-hour debate.

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

### AMERICA MUST NOT BE IDLE WHILE ADVERSARIES ADVANCE CAPABILITIES

(Mr. SELF of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. SELF. Mr. Speaker, America and our European Union allies find ourselves at an inflection point. We have an amazing opportunity, and the actions we take today will shape the outcome for generations to come.

The world is significantly more dangerous because of the Biden administration projecting American weakness to the world. Under the previous ad-

ministration, America turned away from policies that had our adversaries quaking in their boots and instead bent a knee to the axis of evil. Make no mistake, China, Russia, and Iran are exerting influence across the globe that is causing harm and posing major threats to both the United States and our allies.

It is vitally important that the United States and our European Union allies work together to find solutions that both combat these adversities and ensure that we stay ahead of them in the process. All three are trying to impose their will physically, psychologically, and diplomatically on Europe, and we must be fully prepared for whatever approach they take.

As the chairman of the Europe Subcommittee of the Foreign Affairs Committee, I will continue to lead both reauthorization of the State Department and regional efforts under the leadership of Chairman MAST.

A significant part of our focus is achieving the policies that put America's interests first while building our relations with allies abroad against our common adversaries.

We have taken major steps in the right direction under President Trump and his administration, but there is still more work to be done. Our NATO partners must step up to the plate and give 5 percent of their GDP for the protection of Europe as America shifts its focus to the Indo-Pacific region. The CCP has made significant advances in warfare, and we must remain vigilant while also building up our defense industrial base in order to be prepared for any scenario.

America must not remain idle while our adversaries are advancing their capabilities. The Europe Subcommittee will do our part.

### CONGRATULATING OTIS T. BARKER, SR.

(Mr. KENNEDY of New York was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. KENNEDY of New York. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the incredible career of a consummate public servant and my friend, Otis T. Barker, Sr., or as his friends call him, OTB.

For nearly three decades, Otis has been at the heart and soul of Buffalo's community services, dedicating his life to uplifting our city's children and families. From his trailblazing career in business to his tireless work in public service, Otis has always led with integrity, passion, and an unwavering commitment to the people of Buffalo.

Otis' public service journey began in 1996 when deputy speaker of the New York State Assembly Arthur O. Eve hired him as his chief of staff. From 1996 to 2002, Otis was at the center of State and community affairs, gaining a deep understanding of the challenges and opportunities that shape our neighborhoods.

In 2006, Buffalo Mayor Byron Brown tapped him to serve as director of the Division of Youth. His leadership continued to grow, serving as deputy commissioner in 2011 and, ultimately, commissioner of community services and recreational programming in 2017, where he oversaw critical programs for our youth, our seniors, our workforce, and our recreational spaces.

As commissioner, Otis Barker helped over 30,000 young people find opportunities through the mayor's summer youth internship program, giving Buffalo's next generation a path forward.

Otis' service didn't stop with government. He spent his time coaching Little League baseball, leading the North Buffalo Little League Football Organization, and coaching high school basketball, instilling values of discipline, teamwork, and perseverance in young athletes across our city.

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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At his retirement earlier this month, Buffalo's mayor surprised Otis with the renaming of the basketball courts in Martin Luther King, Jr. Park as the Otis T. Barker Sr. Basketball Courts, a fitting tribute to someone who has helped make athletics more accessible for our young people.

Otis' impact extends into Buffalo's faith and music communities, where he directs and assists choirs at St. John's Baptist Church and the Var-Son Community Choir. His voice, both in leadership and in song, has lifted up so many in our community.

Buffalo will miss him in city hall, but I am confident that his mentorship, leadership, and boundless generosity will continue throughout his retirement, and I have no doubt he will continue his commitment to our city as he also enjoys more time with his wonderful family and friends.

Mr. Speaker, I thank OTB for making our community a better place to live, work, and raise a family. I wish my friend a well-earned and rewarding retirement. We love him. Congratulations and Godspeed.

#### HONORING NORTH CAROLINA STATE SENATOR MARSHALL A. RAUCH

(Mr. MOORE of North Carolina was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MOORE of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, I rise to honor North Carolina State Senator Marshall Arthur Rauch, who recently passed away at the age of 102, leaving behind a legacy of service, leadership, and generosity that will be remembered for generations.

As the longest serving Jewish State senator in North Carolina history, Senator Rauch was a trailblazer and a man of deep principle.

Senator Rauch dedicated much of his life to public service, serving on the Gastonia City Council, chairing the North Carolina Senate Finance Committee while he was a member of the senate, and championing racial harmony, education, and fiscal responsibility. He was also a World War II veteran and a successful businessman who ran, at one time, the world's largest Christmas ornament company.

Senator Rauch's work to integrate schools peacefully in Gaston County, support higher education, and help folks achieve self-sufficiency left an impact that will continue for generations.

Senator Rauch was known for his kindness, his wit, and his unwavering belief in the power of public service to make people's lives better.

I was someone who was very lucky to get to know him. As a young person, I was a senate page and had the opportunity to serve there. I got to know Senator Rauch all those years ago, and I stayed in contact with him over the years. He stayed very active pretty much till the end.

One of his favorite things to do, Mr. Speaker, was periodically he would

have a hot dog roast during the week and invite folks over for hot dogs. He invited folks from all backgrounds, from all political parties, with an opportunity to sit down and fellowship, have a meal together, and just get to know folks. That is the kind of generous man that Marshall Rauch was.

Mr. Speaker, Marshall Rauch is going to be deeply missed, and I join the people of Gaston County and the people of North Carolina in honoring his extraordinary legacy.

#### DON'T TOUCH SOCIAL SECURITY

(Mr. COURTNEY of Connecticut was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. COURTNEY. Mr. Speaker, last year, candidate Trump, President-elect Trump, and now-President Trump repeatedly told the American people that he won't touch Social Security. We are now 2 months into his administration, and we are finding that the opposite is true.

A headline yesterday in The Washington Post read: "Long waits, waves of calls, website crashes: Social Security is breaking down."

Next to me is a poster board from The Wall Street Journal. Some people may say that The Washington Post is always critical of President Trump, but this is The Wall Street Journal, an impeccable, center-right newspaper whose headline states: "Dealing With Social Security Is Heading From Bad to Worse."

The agency that administers benefits is cutting staff and restricting benefits as part of the Department of Government Efficiency review, or DOGE, the Trump initiative.

Let's be more specific. What are some of those intentional policies that are being put into place? We know that there was a wave of those fork-in-the-road retirements that hit Social Security and reduced staff. We know that Social Security has already announced that the workforce is going to be reduced from 57,000 all across America to 50,000.

Some may say: What is wrong with that? We should sort of downsize our workforce, make them more efficient.

The fact of the matter is, if you look at how many people are beneficiaries today, with the baby boomer retirements that are swelling the ranks of Social Security beneficiaries, it is 73 million Americans now who are receiving Social Security benefits. These are people with retirement benefits, children who have lost a parent, and people on disability.

We now have a bigger-than-ever population of people collecting Social Security benefits and a reduced staff.

To put this in perspective, in 2010, not that long ago, the size of the Social Security workforce was 68,000, 18,000 more than what the Trump administration is targeting for today, and the number of beneficiaries in 2010 was 54 million Americans as opposed to 73

million Americans today. We have more people who need help with the Social Security system and fewer staff to help them navigate it.

In just 1 week from today, they are pretty much going to shut off phone service for Social Security beneficiaries who are trying to sign up with their bank information to get on Social Security. This is something that has been normal practice, using very precise identifiers to make sure that waste, fraud, and abuse do not occur.

By the way, Social Security's accuracy is 99.7 percent. That has been verified by outside audits and by the Social Security trustees. Yet, despite that track record, what they are going to tell Social Security beneficiaries, who sometimes struggle with online enrollment in other areas of their lives, is that they are not going to have the opportunity to use a phone service, which, again, has been in practice in the past for decades.

They are also closing 47 Social Security offices across the country. Again, at a time when the number of people who need to interact and interface with the Social Security system is bigger than ever, they are shutting down offices, laying off staff, and shutting off phone service.

The wait times, in terms of people trying to get appointments in person, are going to get longer. Just in the Northeast, we have already been told that the White Plains office in New York is going to be closed, and they are telling people to go to New Haven, Connecticut, my State. That is about a 2-hour drive for people if they want to have an in-person appointment who are now going to basically have a shuttered building in a very densely populated area outside of New York.

The notion that the Social Security system, by this administration, is not being trusted, the opposite is true. DOGE is behind this, as The Wall Street Journal reported. Elon Musk, in an interview with FOX News, made it crystal clear his goal is to eliminate Social Security and get \$800 billion to \$900 billion of savings out of the Social Security system, which we know today is probably one of the most efficient agencies in the Federal Government in terms of the accuracy of their payouts.

The pathway ahead of us is very crystal clear. Congress has to stand up as a coequal branch of government that enacted Social Security in 1935 and for 90 years—we are celebrating the 90th anniversary of Social Security—has been a pillar of middle-class retirement security and helping children who have lost a parent.

Mr. Speaker, it is not an entitlement. It is not welfare. It is an earned benefit that people pay into. They should get that benefit when it is their turn to get the help from Social Security that we promised as Congress.

Defend Social Security. Stand up for Social Security. Don't touch Social Security.

□ 1015

## FOREIGN INFLUENCE IN HIGHER EDUCATION

(Mr. LAMALFA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, foreign influence in American education, higher education especially, is a growing threat that cannot be ignored.

For years, adversaries, like the Chinese Communist Party, have funneled billions into U.S. colleges and universities through undisclosed donations and contracts, gaining influence over research, curriculum, and even campus policies.

These backdoor financial arrangements jeopardize academic integrity and national security, allowing foreign governments to push their own agendas under the guise of educational partnerships. Foreign regimes, including the Chinese Communist Party, have capitalized on loopholes in the Higher Education Act to expand their influence. Many U.S. institutions fail to disclose foreign gifts, as required, allowing foreign entities to quietly infiltrate and manipulate academic environments.

The DETERRENT Act, which will be taken up soon, introduced by my colleague from Washington, Representative BAUMGARTNER, takes a decisive stand against this threat by enhancing foreign gift and contract reporting requirements. By slashing the reporting threshold to just \$50,000 and implementing an even stricter zero-dollar threshold for countries and entities of concern, the bill ensures universities disclose all foreign funding regardless of its size or source. Lowering that threshold will bring more and more of them into the light.

China alone has sent over \$1 billion to U.S. universities in the past decade, much of it undisclosed until recently. These financial ties have been linked to research theft, censorship of critical discussions, and undue pressure on faculty and students. A congressional investigation uncovered nearly \$40 million in unreported contracts between two top U.S. universities and the CCP.

Foreign-backed research centers are often used as footholds for regimes to infiltrate American institutions, steal intellectual property, and push their political agendas. Some universities, either unknowingly or in pursuit of financial gain, have allowed foreign-funded centers to operate on campus, shaping curriculum, limiting academic freedom, and suppressing dissenting viewpoints.

The DETERRENT Act strengthens reporting requirements, ensures greater transparency to Congress and the public, and imposes strict penalties for noncompliance. It requires universities to disclose foreign gifts and contracts to individual faculty members, who are often the most targeted by adversarial regimes. It also holds private institutions accountable by revealing foreign investments in their endowments.

With the current administration failing to investigate this growing threat, the DETERRENT Act provides a necessary course correction.

Foreign influence not only threatens the integrity of academic research but also compromises national security by giving adversarial governments access to sensitive technological advancements. These financial entanglements, if left unchecked, will continue to erode the independence of U.S. institutions, putting both intellectual freedom and national interests at risk.

Higher education should be a place where students are taught how to think, not what to think, especially by foreign entities with their own agendas that go against United States interests.

Increased oversight is essential to ensure that universities serve the interests of students and the Nation, not those of adversarial regimes. With the previous administration failing to take this step, it is essential that we do that now with the DETERRENT Act.

## CONGRATULATING HIGH SCHOOL BASKETBALL CHAMPIONS

(Ms. SEWELL of Alabama was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. SEWELL. Mr. Speaker, with the eyes of the Nation on Alabama and Auburn men's basketball as they compete in the NCAA March Madness championship tournament, I would like to also shed a light on the outstanding high school basketball players in Alabama's Seventh Congressional District who led their teams to championship victories this season.

That includes the girls' 7A champions at Hoover High School, who dominated their competition and brought home the gold at the end of their 29-3 season. Way to go, ladies.

Likewise, Hoover High School's boys were also crowned 7A champions at the end of their undefeated season. Go, Hoover Buccaneers.

In Tuscaloosa, we recognize the boys of Paul W. Bryant High School, who took home the Division 6A Championship title following their 27-7 season.

In Clarke County, we congratulate the Jackson Academy boys, who finished their 21-4 season when they won the Division 4A championship.

Last, but certainly not least, I congratulate Uniontown's own R.C. Hatch boys' basketball team. In February, the Bobcats set a new record for boys' basketball in the State of Alabama when they took home their 11th State title as Division 1A champions.

As the proud daughter of the late Coach Andrew A. Sewell, who coached the Selma High School Saints for over 30 years, including in numerous State tournament games, I know firsthand the amount of dedication, talent, and teamwork that goes into earning a State championship title.

On behalf of Alabama's Seventh Congressional District, I ask my colleagues

to join me in congratulating our outstanding high school basketball champions. I am confident that these young student athletes have bright futures ahead of them.

This weekend, the city of Birmingham will host the NCAA women's basketball Sweet 16 and Elite 8 in the Magic City. We welcome all of the teams to Birmingham, Alabama, and wish them much success.

## NATIONAL MEDAL OF HONOR DAY

(Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to recognize yesterday as National Medal of Honor Day, a solemn occasion when our Nation pauses to reflect on the extraordinary heroism and selflessness of those who have received our country's highest military award for valor, the Medal of Honor.

National Medal of Honor Day is an opportunity to pay tribute not only to their acts of courage but also to the profound sacrifices made in the defense of our freedoms.

Over 150 years ago, on March 25, 1863, the very first Medals of Honor were presented, establishing a tradition of recognizing those who displayed unparalleled bravery in the face of overwhelming danger.

More than a century later, in 1990, Congress designated March 25 as National Medal of Honor Day, ensuring that future generations would never forget the servicemembers who went above and beyond the call of duty.

Since its inception, the Medal of Honor has been awarded 3,547 times to servicemembers who have demonstrated extraordinary bravery and devotion to their fellow troops and our Nation. Among those, 380 recipients have called Pennsylvania home, a testament to the courage and selflessness of the sons and daughters of the Commonwealth of Pennsylvania.

One of those remarkable Pennsylvanians was Army Specialist Ross McGinnis, a young man from Clarion County who, at just 19 years old, made the ultimate sacrifice to save the lives of his fellow soldiers.

On December 4, 2006, while on patrol in eastern Baghdad, Specialist McGinnis and his unit came under attack. An enemy insurgent positioned on a rooftop hurled a grenade into his Humvee.

Without hesitation, Specialist McGinnis threw his body onto the grenade, saving the lives of his fellow soldiers. For this incomparable courage and sacrifice, President George W. Bush posthumously awarded him the Medal of Honor in 2008.

Today, the post office in Knox, Pennsylvania, bears his name, ensuring that his legacy of heroism endures in the community he once called home.

Another Pennsylvanian whose bravery is etched in history is Private First

Class Foster Sayers, a 20-year-old infantryman from my hometown of Howard, Pennsylvania, who answered the call to serve during World War II.

On November 12, 1944, while fighting near Thionville, France, Private Sayers singlehandedly charged enemy positions, drawing fire away from his unit and allowing his fellow soldiers to successfully flank and capture the enemy stronghold.

His courage, sacrifice, and dedication to duty earned him the Medal of Honor. Eighty years later, his name remains a symbol of the price of our freedom.

In November of last year, I had the privilege of presenting two flags to Foster Sayers, Jr., and Foster Sayers III, in honor of their father and grandfather's legacy.

Foster Sayers was married to his wife, Ellen, at the time he deployed. He never met Fos, who actually was my neighbor for a lot of years, for decades, and married to my dad's cousin. Foster's wife, Ellen, was actually my babysitter when I was growing up. They are a remarkable family.

Behind every Medal of Honor recipient is a family that has also sacrificed. Our military families often bear the weight of their loved one's service. I also thank them for their sacrifice.

Mr. Speaker, when we observe National Medal of Honor Day, we honor these heroes, and we affirm our sacred obligation to all who wear the uniform. We must ensure that our veterans and servicemembers are treated with the dignity, care, and gratitude that they have so courageously earned.

Let us continue to build a country worthy of the sacrifices of our veterans. May God bless our veterans, our fallen heroes, and our great Nation.

#### UNDERSTANDING TARIFFS

(Ms. JOHNSON of Texas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I recognize that most Americans are not economists, trade experts, or well versed in the intricacies of tax policy. If you will, I want to take this opportunity to sort of "Schoolhouse Rock" tariffs. Let's talk about what they are, how they work, and how they impact Americans and their families.

Tariffs are taxes on imported goods, plain and simple. When the government slaps a tariff on a product, it makes the product more expensive to buy from other countries.

Take your sneakers. Most sneakers are made with rubber, synthetic fabrics, and leather, stuff that gets imported from China and other places. Let's say the government puts a tariff on those materials. That is an extra included tax on materials that make up the sneakers.

Now these products become more expensive to make, and the way that companies make up for that is passing that cost on to the consumer. A pair of sneakers that cost \$30 might now cost

\$50 after tariffs are imposed. You now have to work more to get more money and then pay more for the same exact pair of sneakers.

The idea of tariffs is to protect American businesses and jobs. The reality, though, is, as you can see with the sneaker example, it often backfires. Other countries hit back with their own tariffs, hurting American manufacturers and workers.

Now, are tariffs always bad? The answer is no. When used correctly, tariffs can be a powerful tool. They can protect American jobs, boost key industries, and stop countries like China from flooding our market with cheap, low-quality goods.

When a country imposes tariffs strategically on industries we need to rebuild, like steel and manufacturing and technology, we can give American businesses the breathing room to compete and grow. When foreign countries play dirty with unfair trade practices, tariffs can be a productive way to respond to that.

Here is the key: Tariffs have to be smart. When used correctly, tariffs can defend American industry. When used incorrectly, though, they are just another tax on working people. Right now, the Trump administration is using tariffs in the wrong way, and their actions are causing costs to skyrocket for families in Texas and all American families.

To be clear, Trump's tariffs on Canada and Mexico are nothing but a tax on American businesses and consumers. They are two of our biggest trading partners. For example, Mexico is Texas' largest trading partner, accounting for one-third of our State's exports. In 2023, trade between Texas and Mexico totaled more than \$272 billion. We trade so many products with our neighbors to the south that families in Texas use every day, like tomatoes, greens, avocados, car parts, electronics, plastics, and the list goes on. With Canada, Texas buys steel and lumber to build homes to ensure families have a roof over their heads.

All of these products will have higher costs, and the only ones who will pay more are the families and businesses that buy them. Instead of strengthening those relationships with our neighbors, Trump's tariffs are making everything more expensive for us.

What do we get in return? Absolutely nothing. American companies didn't suddenly stop buying from Canada or Mexico. They just have to pay more to do it. Meanwhile, those countries have hit back with their own tariffs, hurting Americans across the board. Instead of using tariffs for smart trade policy, Trump is using them as a political stunt that punishes the very people it claims to help.

□ 1030

Madam Speaker, these tariffs are self-inflicted wounds on the American economy. We see this every day in the stock market with the market value

falling by trillions of dollars over the past few weeks. Those in their twenties, thirties, and forties have lost tons of money in their 401(k).

I should also mention something else because I know there is something more sinister going on. Right now, we have Elon Musk in the White House. He has been our president since January 20, calling all the shots and using President Trump as his puppet.

These tariffs will benefit his businesses because they are being imposed on Elon's competition. This is a clear conflict of interest. It is wrong, and it is a display of the grift and the greed that the Trump administration has ushered into this White House.

None of this is about helping American families. None of this is about lowering costs. This is about Trump and Musk settling scores, causing chaos, and making sure they line their pockets on the backs of Americans and the middle class.

Madam Speaker, we need to end these reckless tariffs and get back to lowering costs for the people we serve.

#### HONORING MARCH VETERAN OF THE MONTH LIEUTENANT COMMANDER GREG COWAN

(Mr. ALFORD of Missouri was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor an outstanding American and our March Veteran of the Month, Lieutenant Commander Greg Cowan, United States Navy, Retired, from Lebanon, Missouri, in Laclede County.

Greg Cowan's service to our Nation spans more than two decades, beginning in 1980 when he enlisted in the Navy. From his early days as an aviation electronics technician, to earning a commission through the Naval ROTC program, his dedication and commitment to our Nation never wavered. He served in duty stations across the country and around the world, from Rota, Spain, to Camp Lemonnier in Africa.

He deployed multiple times to the CENTCOM areas of operation, serving aboard the USS *Comstock*, the USS *Kitty Hawk*, USS *Harpers Ferry*, and USS *Inchon*. His leadership as a surface warfare officer was instrumental in ensuring mission success and in training the next generation of warfighters.

After retiring in 2024, Lieutenant Commander Cowan's passion for service continued through his dedication to mentoring and teaching others. His career is a testament to the values of duty, honor, and country.

Today, we salute Lieutenant Commander Greg Cowan and thank him for his selfless service, leadership, and unwavering commitment to the United States Navy and to the United States of America.

RECOGNIZING GOLD APPLE BOUTIQUE

Mr. ALFORD. Madam Speaker, today we are proud to recognize Gold Apple

Boutique, located in the historic district of Fayette, Missouri, as Missouri's Fourth Congressional District March Small Business of the Month.

Owned by Cana Conrow, Gold Apple Boutique is a shining example of entrepreneurial spirit and community dedication. Cana's passion for business and her desire to build a future for her growing family led her to open this unique shop on Fayette's historic square. I was just in it last week. It is a great store.

They are offering fashionable clothing, accessories, and personalized items. Gold Apple Boutique provides a welcoming space where customers find both style and confidence.

Cana's success is a testament to the impact of small businesses on local economies. Her engagement in our U.S. Chamber of Commerce roundtable last week highlighted her commitment to strengthening the business community. As spring approaches, Gold Apple Boutique's latest arrivals are already drawing in excited customers there on the square, proving that small businesses like hers keep our towns vibrant and keep them thriving.

We congratulate Cana Conrow and Gold Apple Boutique on this well-earned recognition, our Small Business of the Month. We thank them for their dedication to Fayette and to making Missouri's small business community thrive.

#### RECOGNIZING SEASIDE POLICE DEPARTMENT CHIEF NICK BORGES

(Mr. PANETTA of California was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. PANETTA. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Seaside Police Department Chief Nick Borges and many others for their dedication and doggedness to solve the case called the "American Nightmare."

Aptly named, this case started back in 2015 in Vallejo, California, when Matthew Muller broke into the home of Denise and Aaron Quinn, drugged and bound them, and kidnapped Denise. Muller then took Denise to a cabin near Lake Tahoe where he sexually assaulted her and released her 3 days later down in southern California.

Of course, Aaron immediately called the authorities, but the Vallejo Police Department was unable to solve the crime. This is after they interrogated Aaron for hours upon hours, brushing aside his explanation, trying to get him to confess to killing Denise.

Ultimately, after Aaron wouldn't confess to something he didn't do, the detectives accused both Aaron and Denise of faking and lying about the whole thing. The detectives even went as far as putting out a formal statement, calling the whole thing a hoax and that, given the facts that had been presented thus far, this event appeared to be an orchestrated event, not a crime.

Madam Speaker, get this. Around the same time period, Muller committed

several more home invasions. He eventually got caught and convicted for those similar crimes. The Vallejo detectives never connected Muller to the kidnapping of Denise.

It was such a sensational story about how the detectives acted and about how Aaron and Denise allegedly concocted a kidnapping that even Netflix came out with a documentary called the "American Nightmare." Madam Speaker, it became one of the most watched docuseries on Netflix.

Fortunately, one of the people who watched that Netflix series was Seaside Police Chief Nick Borges. Chief Borges didn't have anything to do with that case, but after watching the documentary in 2024, he literally reached out to Denise and Aaron. He let them know that even he was disgusted with the way the Vallejo detectives conducted the interviews and that Denise and Aaron had the backing of law enforcement, despite how they were treated.

Chief Borges then decided to meet with the couple, along with Alameda County Detective Misty Carausu and El Dorado County DA Vern Pierson, all of whom felt that the investigation was mishandled. The group then started their own investigation and quickly found that Muller was in custody for similar crimes in the same areas.

Chief Borges then simply and literally reached out to Muller who was in custody on his other similar crimes, and he asked Muller if he would want to talk about the crimes against Aaron and Denise. Madam Speaker, if you can imagine this, Muller responded, and he admitted what he did do to Denise.

Further investigation by the group and getting the FBI involved led authorities to the Lake Tahoe cabin where they found further evidence to corroborate the crimes that Muller committed against Denise and Aaron. Eventually, Muller ended up pleading guilty to those crimes, as well as others that he had committed in the area.

Madam Speaker, as DA Pierson said: This was a very unusual, crazy set of facts. It unfortunately had detectives who didn't believe Aaron and Denise from the start, as well as those who used some outdated investigation and interrogation techniques, that led them down the wrong path.

Fortunately, though, police officers with common sense got involved to help solve this case. Moreover, Denise, Aaron, Chief Borges, and others are now working with law enforcement to change how interrogations are conducted and to ensure that what Aaron and Denise experienced never happens again.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Denise and Aaron for their fortitude, for their resilience, and for their belief in law enforcement. I recognize Seaside Police Chief Borges and the other law enforcement officers who used common sense and their humanity to not only solve this case with a sense of justice but to do what is right in our society.

#### HONORING WISCONSIN'S WINTER SPORTS SEASON

(Mr. TIFFANY of Wisconsin was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. TIFFANY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to congratulate the high school athletes from Wisconsin's Seventh District who competed in the State championships during the winter sports season.

In the individual State wrestling tournament, my district had Liam Neitzel of Hudson, Lane Andersen of Amery, Reegan Roy of Wabeno, Blake Underwood and Cale Quantance of Marathon, Wyatt Unser of Glenwood City, Colton Weiler of Auburndale, and Carter Lueck of Stratford secure the State championship, with the Saint Croix Falls boys' team taking home the first place title at the team State wrestling tournament.

Then the Tomahawk boys' hockey team claimed their first-ever State title at the boys' hockey State tournament. At the gymnastics State meet, Chippewa Falls Co-op won Division 1 team State, Rice Lake High School won Division 2 team State, and Avery Ash of Rice Lake took home first place in the individual balance beam event.

I also congratulate the Osceola High School ice fishing team on taking home the State title, going against 87 schools. Not many States have an ice fishing tournament.

We congratulate each one of these State champions, as well as their coaches. I wish them the best of luck in their future seasons.

#### HONORING ALFREDA HARRIS

(Ms. PRESSLEY of Massachusetts was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Chair, I rise today to honor Women's History Month. As a practice, I do celebrate Women's History Month every month, but today I take the floor to talk about a living legend, Ms. Alfreda Harris.

Ms. Harris is a champion for everyone who calls Boston home and a mother of movements. She has committed her life to building community and supporting our young people. She is widely known for her dedicated work to the Boston Parks Department, actualizing a vision of beautiful green space, room to play, and fresh air for all of our children.

Ms. Harris was the first Black woman to coach in UMass Boston's history in 1980 when she was hired in that role, becoming UMass Boston's first women's basketball coach. She was also the first female head coach at UMass Boston for any sport. She led her basketball teams at Roxbury Community College and the University of Massachusetts Boston to an outstanding 136-20 career record.

Her tenure on the Boston School Committee is defined by her lasting commitment to strengthening Boston

through decades of transition, grappling with the impact of segregation, and working toward a vision of educational equity for all. When she retired, she did so as the longest serving member of the Boston School Committee.

Madam Speaker, she remains a source of inspiration to many. This Women's History Month, let's give this historymaker her flowers. We love and honor Ms. Harris.

CALLING OUT SIGNALGATE CHAT

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I rise to call out the recklessness of those in this administration entrusted with our national security. I did not think I would see a day where someone with the highest security clearance is using a phone messaging app to treat matters of national security with such blatant disregard, celebrating with emojis in a group chat as they unlawfully authorize military actions.

This administration continues to make history for all the wrong reasons. I struggle to find a reference point because this is beyond the pale: the disregard for human life and national security.

Let me just make this abundantly clear to the American people. Secure channels of communication do exist to discuss classified military action. They sure as hell are not a Signal group chat. It is imperative that information like this be handled with sensitivity.

Under this administration, the United States foreign policy is a failure. Decades of diplomatic efforts to build good will and keep the American people safe have been upended. We have an unelected billionaire gutting life-saving programs like USAID's essential work to feed newborns and to give medicine to war zones.

Meanwhile, we have a cast of characters in these roles, having nothing to do with merit. It is simply their fealty and loyalty to Donald Trump. We have a cast of characters ordering military strikes in a group chat with a random journalist in it.

This is nothing to be cavalier about. This is not a drill. It is not a joke. Every person involved should be investigated by Congress. In particular, Pete Hegseth is proving himself to be unqualified to lead the Department of Defense and should never have been confirmed by the Senate.

Madam Speaker, this national security failure is proof that he cannot serve this country's best interests, and I call for Pete Hegseth to resign.

□ 1045

BORDER COMMON SENSE

(Mr. MANN of Kansas was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, since President Trump was sworn in, illegal crossings have plummeted at our southern border.

This past February saw the lowest level of illegal crossings ever recorded

in our Nation's history, down 94 percent from February 2024 and 96 percent from the all-time high under the Biden administration. Along the Del Rio Sector of the border, there was a 98.8 percent decrease in apprehensions compared to the highest day under President Biden.

For 4 years, President Biden and radical progressive activists tried to blame President Trump and congressional Republicans for the crisis at the Nation's border. It turns out the only thing we needed all along was a President who doesn't run from common sense and isn't afraid to enforce the law. Thankfully, President Trump is not afraid.

Just last week, Secretary of Homeland Security Kristi Noem announced that the Department of Homeland Security, DHS, will resume construction of President Trump's border wall. Border Patrol agents have told us again and again that a physical barrier on our southern border is a key deterrent to the trafficking of humans and illicit drugs by the Mexican cartels across our southern border. Yet, on day one of his Presidency, President Biden stopped construction of the border wall. President Trump is gladly reversing this madness and making our border secure.

President Biden's failed leadership continuously put innocent American lives at risk as nearly 400 individuals whose names appeared on the terrorist watch list attempted to enter the country and gang members from MS-13 and Tren de Aragua invaded the interior of the U.S.

Some of these monsters took the lives of innocent Americans, like Laken Riley and Jocelyn Nungaray. While President Biden barely expressed empathy for the lives he put at risk, President Trump took action, deporting these violent criminals and gang members from the start of his Presidency.

On November 5, 2024, 77 million Americans, including myself, voted to restore commonsense border policies to our Nation's Capital. The President is providing that common sense, and I am deeply grateful to have his strong leadership back in the White House.

I thank President Trump for standing for our country and securing our border. Promises made, promises kept.

HONORING CRAIG BEAM

Mr. MANN. Madam Speaker, I rise today in honor of an American patriot, Craig Beam. I congratulate Craig on his well-deserved retirement from the U.S. Marshals Service.

When most Americans hear of a fugitive on the run, their natural instinct is to protect their loved ones within and avoid coming across the wanted criminal at all costs. Craig's approach to protecting his family and loved ones is a little different. When danger or bad actors present themselves to our communities, Craig has run toward them and worked swiftly with his fellow marshals to remove these criminals from the streets.

In August 1993, a convicted marijuana grower walked into the Frank Carlson Federal Building in Topeka, Kansas, for his sentencing. What was a normal day in Topeka suddenly turned into gunfire and tragedy as the convict's car and his person were covered with explosives and pipe bombs.

As building staff hid in fear, Craig and his fellow law enforcement agents put their fear aside to get innocent civilians to safety. In all, five Kansans were injured that day, and a court officer, Gene Goldsberry, was tragically killed. Deputy Marshal Beam and three of his fellow marshals were recognized for their heroism with the Director's Distinguished Service Award.

Serving in law enforcement and the U.S. Marshals Service is a selfless calling, and for the last 34 years, Craig Beam has done it effortlessly. Not many people openly run toward danger and put their safety at risk for the sake of their communities, but for Craig, it is second nature.

I thank Craig for his selflessness and for 34 years of dedication to keep Kansas safe. I congratulate Craig on his retirement.

PUERTO RICO'S ENERGY CRISIS

(Mr. HERNÁNDEZ of Puerto Rico was recognized to address the House for 5 minutes.)

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, last Friday, I opened my district office in Caguas, Puerto Rico. I had about 10 other colleagues join me, and when I finished my speech and turned to greet my constituents, the power went out.

I won't lie, my immediate reaction was not all that negative. I was sort of glad that it happened while my colleagues were there so that they could see the reality that many Puerto Ricans live with on a daily basis.

Now, I am afraid that that reality is about to get a lot worse. The power companies in charge of generation and distribution of energy in the island have warned us that there will be a severe generation deficit between May and October due to a major generation unit's breakdown. As a result, we might face up to 125 selective power outages during that time. Last year, the average client faced about 10 hours without power due to these selective outages. This year, it is expected to be a lot worse.

Pause and think about that: 125 blackouts over 6 months in the United States of America. That isn't and shouldn't be normal.

The government of Puerto Rico has a plan A. First, demand that Genera PR, the company in charge of generation, fix the broken power plants before May. An alternative is that we get barges and land units to generate temporary electricity to meet the height and demand during the summer.

I will do what I can to support the government's efforts to address this challenge. I have already urged President Trump to declare a Federal emergency to support Puerto Rico's electric

grid crisis, and I have told the power companies that I am willing to support their requests for temporary generation units.

However, I also believe that the government needs a plan B in case all of this fails. The government needs to prepare the people of Puerto Rico for the possibility that power will go out virtually every day during this summer.

What can the government do? It can demand that utility companies be transparent about their planned interruptions so that the people know what to expect and can plan accordingly. It can educate and incentivize less energy consumption to prevent the need for these selective outages. It can begin preparing vulnerable populations and providers of essential services with backup sources and energy assistance.

I want it to be clear that the current government is not responsible for the energy generation crisis, but it will be responsible for how it handles it.

The government must be brave and honest with the people, not laid back and blindly optimistic because it views LUMA, the distribution company, and Genera, the generation company, as ultimately responsible. The government must care not about who gets the blame for the problem but about actually addressing the problem.

We must prepare before it is too late. Failure to prepare will have unfortunate consequences.

HONORING THE LIFE OF CIRILO TIRADO DELGADO

Mr. HERNÁNDEZ. Madam Speaker, I also rise to honor the life of Cirilo Tirado Delgado, who passed away last week, a few days shy of his 90th birthday.

Mr. Tirado was a respected public servant, educator, and attorney in the great Commonwealth of Puerto Rico. He served in the Puerto Rico House of Representatives from 1973 to 1984, worked in the executive branch from 1984 to 1988, and returned to the legislature as a senator from 1988 to 1996. After that, he practiced law in the town of Guayama.

I extend my condolences to his widow, children, and grandchildren. May he rest in peace.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 10 o'clock and 54 minutes a.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1200

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker at noon.

PRAYER

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

Holy God, in this House of historic honor, these corridors of consequence, these Halls of justice, remind us that all power belongs to You, O God. All things came from You, exist in You, and will return to You in the fullness of time.

Humbled before You, then, we pour out our hearts, laying before You the work of our hands, the thoughts of our minds, and the desires of our souls. You call on us to trust You, for You alone are our refuge and our strength.

In You, Lord, is unfailing love, a love which transcends our best and sometimes failed intentions, our best laid but often poorly executed plans, but in the depth of Your love for us, transform the effect of our labor to align with Your grace plan for us and for this Nation.

In Your eternal name we pray.  
Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

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

Mr. GUEST 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.

MICHAEL REED, DEDICATED PUBLIC SERVANT

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

Mr. SWALWELL. Mr. Speaker, I rise to recognize my former chief of staff, Michael Reed, who will leave the House after many years of service.

From 2019 to 2021, he served my office. Every Member of this Chamber would be lucky to have Michael serving them. He is a mentor to any staff who work under him. He is a lover of the institution and the rules that guide us, and he is a believer that this is still the best place for us to resolve our disputes.

He led us particularly during COVID and January 6. On January 6, I remem-

ber Michael finding every vending machine he could in the building to bring food to the Members at the evacuation site where we huddled, and then he counseled our staff who were waiting to know what would happen next. He predicted to me, stick around in this room because Speaker PELOSI would later gavel us in. He was right, and she was right to hire him a few months later from my staff to work for her.

We will miss Michael and his service, but he never could have done it without his partner, his wife, also a former chief of staff, Keenan. The two of them will continue to serve in other ways, but this House will miss Michael Reed.

BAN THIS QUACKERY

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

Mr. ONDER. Mr. Speaker, today I am introducing the Do No Harm Act.

As a physician, I took an oath to do no harm, but over the past several years, doctors working at pediatric transgender clinics have prescribed medications or done procedures that they know will permanently sterilize children or leave them with irreversible medical and psychological damage.

This bill is the most comprehensive legislation introduced to date to protect children from experimental and unethical practices of so-called gender-affirming care. This practice has been banned or severely limited in European countries, including the U.K., Norway, Denmark, and Sweden, and it is time for the U.S. to wake up and ban this quackery once and for all.

The Do No Harm Act builds on President Trump's day one executive order ending the chemical castration and mutilation of children. I look forward to working with the Trump administration to solidify this policy as Federal law.

PETE HEGSETH MUST GO

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

Mr. VINDMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today as the Representative for 72,000 veterans and tens of thousands of Active-Duty personnel who live in the Seventh Congressional District of Virginia.

As a 25-year Army veteran, former Army JAG prosecutor, and National Security Council staff adviser, I can say this: Imminent strike approval and mission launch times are highly classified.

Sharing specific launch and strike times 31 minutes before the mission begins and 2 hours before our forces were over enemy territory, in harm's way, is an egregious breach of national security. At best, the success of the operation was at risk. At worst, our pilots' lives were in danger.

This isn't a political issue. It is about trust, discipline, and the safety of our

servicemembers. Our men and women in uniform deserve better, and Secretary Hegseth needs to do the right thing to restore the confidence of the Armed Forces, the American people, and our allies. Pete Hegseth must go, and Congress must investigate to fulfill its constitutional responsibilities.

#### CONGRATULATING SOUTH KNOX GIRLS' BASKETBALL TEAM

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

Mr. MESSMER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to give my personal congratulations to the South Knox girls' basketball team for taking the Class 2A State championship. In the stunning 55-33 win, the South Knox Spartans earned the school's first statewide championship victory.

Basketball is a foundational part of our identity as Hoosiers, and they even gave us a term, "Hoosier Hysteria," to describe just how seriously we take this sport and how many top players we produce.

Congratulations once again to the girls' basketball team at South Knox and to Coach Hollie Eaves for showing everyone just how well they play basketball in Verne, Indiana.

#### MICHAEL REED, PROUD SON OF TRENTON

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

Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in recognition of a man whom I have known for his entire life; longer, in fact. I knew him when he was a bump in his mommy's belly.

Michael Reed is the proud son of Trenton and one of the most intelligent, dedicated, and capable public servants that I have ever had the privilege of knowing.

When I was first elected, it was Michael's counsel that I relied on to get my office up and running. It was Michael who helped me navigate this new and peculiar space, and it was Michael whom I could call day or night, weekend or weekday, and I still do.

I have the deepest love and respect for Michael. He has been a blessing in every sense of the word. I thank him for his public service. I know that he will continue to make a positive impact on people's lives in all that he does.

I wish Michael and his beautiful bride, Keenan, nothing but the best as they begin their next chapter in life.

#### BUDGET RECONCILIATION MOVING FORWARD

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, Congress is moving forward with reconciliation to rein in Washington's reckless spending and put the budget back on a responsible path. This process brings multiple committees together to craft one comprehensive bill that strengthens the economy, reduces waste, and prioritizes taxpayers.

The bill secures the borders with real enforcement measures, keeps taxes low for families and small businesses, and rolls back job-killing regulations. It also boosts domestic energy production, making America less dependent on foreign adversaries while lowering costs at home.

Every committee has worked to ensure this bill eliminates wasteful spending and focuses resources where they are actually needed. Budget reconciliation is about making the Federal Government work smarter, not bigger, and being accountable to taxpayers because the hard-earned money they have to send this place is certainly not voluntary.

Budget reconciliation puts America back on a strong track to what we should prioritize to begin with.

#### HONORING ALVIN VAN ZEE

(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 honor the life and service of Alvin "Al" Van Zee, a devoted veteran and public servant from Pella, Iowa.

As the longest serving commissioner on the Marion County Commission of Veterans Affairs, Al dedicated more than 20 years to ensuring Iowa's veterans received care, support, and the recognition they deserved.

A proud veteran himself, Al's service didn't end when he left the military. Through his work on the commission and his involvement on the Van Veen-Van Hemert American Legion Post No. 89, he was a tireless advocate for those who wore our Nation's uniform.

His wisdom, compassion, and unwavering commitment left a lasting impact on his community. Al's legacy is one of service, honor, and deep devotion to both our country and to those who serve our country.

May his family and loved ones find comfort in knowing his impact will endure for generations. We are grateful for his life, his service, and his unwavering dedication. Rest in peace, Al.

#### RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 11 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

#### AFTER RECESS

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

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE OFFICE OF ENERGY EFFICIENCY AND RENEWABLE ENERGY, DEPARTMENT OF ENERGY RELATING TO "ENERGY CONSERVATION PROGRAM: ENERGY CONSERVATION STANDARDS FOR COMMERCIAL REFRIGERATORS, FREEZERS, AND REFRIGERATOR-FREEZERS"

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, pursuant to House Resolution 242, I call up the joint resolution (H.J. Res. 75) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers", and ask for its immediate consideration in the House.

The Clerk read the title of the joint resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to House Resolution 242, the joint resolution is considered read.

The text of the joint resolution is as follows:

#### H.J. RES. 75

*Resolved by the Senate and House of Representatives of the United States of America in Congress assembled,* That Congress disapproves the rule submitted by the Office of the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to "Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator-Freezers" (90 Fed. Reg. 7464; published January 21, 2025) and such rule shall have no force or effect.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The joint resolution shall be debatable for 1 hour equally divided and controlled by the chair and ranking minority member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce or their respective designees.

The gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE) and the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. PALLONE) each will control 30 minutes.

The chair recognizes the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. GUTHRIE).

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. GUTHRIE. 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 H.J. Res. 75.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, as President Trump took office in January, the Biden-Harris Department of Energy finalized amended energy efficiency standards for commercial refrigeration equipment.

H.J. Res. 75, introduced by Representative GOLDMAN of Texas, a new member of the Committee on Energy and Commerce, repeals this final rule.

New standards for this equipment, which included a variety of products, became effective just 3 years ago. Yet the Biden administration moved ahead with implementing burdensome new standards.

In fact, these standards will require energy reductions up to 60 percent on top of the previous standards, pushing the price of this equipment higher than ever before. The Department of Energy itself estimates the final rule will cost \$8 billion. However, it substantially underestimated compliance costs throughout the rulemaking process.

The Department of Energy, despite feedback from stakeholders, did not account for the significant ongoing capital investment manufacturers must make to shift to new refrigerants.

When amending energy efficiency standards, the Department of Energy must prove that new or amended standards are economically justified, as well as technologically feasible, and that they result in significant savings. Not only is it unclear if compliance with the DOE's final rule is technically feasible but it is certainly clear that the rule is not cost-effective.

For example, one popular refrigerator design covered by this rule, vertically closed transparent commercial refrigerators, is estimated by the Department of Energy to have a payback period of almost 94 years under the amended standards. For retailers, many of which are small or family-owned businesses, it makes no sense to purchase equipment that will take nearly 100 years to recoup the cost on, especially when the average lifetime of this product is 14 years.

This will result in less efficient equipment being used beyond its recommended lifetime or a significant capital expenditure which will have to be passed down to American families in the form of higher prices. This is a lose-lose situation for small business owners and clearly violates the letter of the law.

We must pass H.J. Res. 75 to repeal this midnight rule and provide certainty to American manufacturers and small retailers.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOLDMAN) for his leadership on this issue. I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.J. Res. 75, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to this resolution. Week after week, I find myself here on the House floor, not debating things that are important to

American families like protecting Medicaid or Social Security. Instead, we are debating standards for appliances. We have got refrigerators, air conditioners, and washing machines. This one isn't even something for use in a household. It is for commercial use.

Again, House Republicans have chosen this time to ignore the pressing issues that Americans face and to instead march forward with their anti-efficiency agenda that drives up energy costs for American businesses and consumers. Democrats, on the other hand, are here to defend these commonsense energy efficiency standards and the very real savings they provide Americans.

My home State of New Jersey was recently recognized among the top 10 States doing the most to advance energy efficiency, and I am pleased by my State's progress and want to make sure that Americans in all States benefit from similar efforts.

Today's resolution, like all the other anti-efficiency resolutions that we have seen recently from the Republicans, did not go through any regular order. I want to stress why that is important. We never received any expert witness testimony on the impact of the standards or on the impact of repealing them. Instead, we are left to trust a Republican Party that is decidedly antisense on the impacts of energy conservation standards.

Let me stress this. What do I mean by regular order? Well, a bill is introduced. We have a subcommittee hearing in Energy and Commerce. In this case, the Department of Energy would come in and show how there are so many savings and why these standards lead to more efficiency.

Then if the Republicans disagree, they can bring in experts that say the opposite. Of course, they don't want to do that because there aren't any experts that are going to say the opposite. They are just making this stuff up.

Today's resolution, H.J. Res. 75, targets a recently finalized energy conservation standard for commercial refrigerators and freezers. Again, this isn't even for households. These are commercial refrigerators and freezers. These are products that are primarily used in grocery stores and convenience stores.

Now we are debating whether or not the refrigerators in grocery stores should be energy efficient. I can't imagine more of a waste of floor time. When there are so many other issues that have to be discussed here today, we are doing this instead.

The energy conservation standard targeted by this resolution would save businesses \$4.6 billion over 30 years. Republicans have already taken away options for households to save money on their energy bills. Now they are going to strip businesses of these options as well.

Repealing these standards would also raise costs and increase demand on the

electricity grid. It is also not necessary because two-thirds of the products on the market today already meet these new efficiency standards. The payback period for any up-front costs of the more efficient products is about 3.5 years, while the products themselves last for 12 to 14 years. To argue that there is some kind of major regulatory burden or imposition on small businesses is just false.

At a time of increased energy costs, increased grid strain, tariffs, and rising household costs under the Trump administration, we have to ask ourselves: Why do Republicans keep targeting policies that save money and save energy? They ran on the fact they were going to make things more affordable. Things are less affordable, and this will also make them less affordable.

The only answer I can come up with is that when more energy is consumed or more energy is wasted, the oil and gas industry benefits. We know that the Washington Republicans continue to do the bidding of Big Oil and Gas.

This resolution proves that Republicans are completely out of touch. Americans are struggling to make ends meet and are facing the reality that Republicans may soon strip them and their families not only of healthcare but repealing commonsense energy efficiency standards.

Republicans also continue to look the other way as the Trump administration and Elon Musk undermine Social Security, threatening the benefits seniors have earned over a lifetime of hard work. Instead, they are focusing on refrigerators.

Mr. Speaker, I don't know what else to say. I oppose this resolution, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. GOLDMAN), the sponsor of this bill.

Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of my resolution, H.J. Res. 75, which repeals the Biden administration's burdensome energy conservation standards for commercial refrigerators and freezers.

In the final months, the previous administration prioritized their energy policies over Americans' prosperity and freedom. This unnecessary and costly mandate would burden small businesses, increase red tape, and jeopardize food safety.

The Department of Energy estimates implementing this rule would cost Americans \$8 billion. This massive financial burden will fall on small businesses that rely on commercial refrigeration for their daily operations. Cafes, restaurants, and grocery stores would be forced to purchase more expensive, less effective equipment. As we all know, these costs would be passed on to consumers, increasing food and beverage prices nationwide.

Beyond the financial strain, the rule would force manufacturers into costly,

potentially unfeasible redesigns of refrigeration equipment. The Biden administration failed to account for real-world conditions, including how frequently refrigerators are used during peak business hours. Ignoring these realities poses serious food safety risks.

The evidence is clear. If not repealed, these extreme regulations will raise costs, increase red tape, and endanger food safety.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution. In November, Americans voted for change, common sense, and freedom from government overreach and regulations. Let's honor that mandate by rolling back the Biden administration's extreme regulations and supporting small businesses across our Nation.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am not trying to disrespect the sponsor of the resolution. He is on our committee. He is from the great State of Texas.

What I hear is that he said: "The evidence is clear." The evidence is not clear that these standards for commercial refrigerators are actually worse or a burden on small businesses. He hasn't cited anything that says that.

He says that we should have change. That is what we voted for in November but not change that is going to hurt people or that is actually going to cost them more money.

The bottom line is and the way this works is that the Department of Energy, under the existing law, is required to look at appliances and see whether or not they can be made more efficient and more cost-effective. That is what they did. They found that these standards were more efficient and cost-effective.

Mr. Speaker, I haven't heard from the other side or any experts they cite to, other than their own opinion, to say the experts at the Department of Energy made a mistake.

The experts at DOE who established these energy conservation standards were not politicians. DOE's process involves extensive stakeholder engagement, working with manufacturers and advocates to establish standards that are economically feasible, economically justifiable, and result in significant energy savings.

This is a highly technical process. My colleagues across the aisle are making claims that this resolution before us today reduces costs and cuts red tape, and nothing could be further from the truth. We know there are manufacturers out there that support these standards and support having consistent guidance from DOE, as opposed to ever-shifting goalsposts.

Again, even if my colleagues on the other side come up with testimony or documents today that say that the Department of Energy was wrong, it would have been helpful to hold a hearing where their experts could come in and challenge the Department of Energy experts who put these standards

together. Then we as members of the Committee could look at this and say who is right.

They didn't do that. There was no regular order. There was no hearing. We had no benefit of a hearing on this resolution and the implications of revoking these standards.

Mr. Speaker, this resolution isn't some well-reasoned proposal that has been properly vetted. It is a way to kill floor time. It is a way to target any and every regulation without any assessment of the consequences.

I spent last week in my district meeting with constituents and holding a townhall. What I heard was that people were really concerned that the economy was heading into a recession because of President Trump's policies. They were concerned about costs to Medicaid and threats from Elon Musk to dismantle Social Security. Nobody mentioned commercial refrigeration requirements to me. I didn't hear anybody mention that. Republicans have really lost the plot, and I think Americans are taking notice.

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

□ 1415

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I have a letter here from the National Automatic Merchandising Association—vending machines, as most of us would know it—that it would be affecting their vending members. Most are small businesses. Ninety-plus percent of their operators have revenues of less than \$10 million a year.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Georgia (Mr. ALLEN), my good friend.

Mr. ALLEN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.J. Res. 75.

My colleagues on the other side of the aisle will say this resolution is unnecessary. We have heard that. Let's be clear. What is unnecessary is placing so-called energy standards on commercial refrigerators and freezers, which will only lead to higher equipment costs and additional burdens on small businesses.

I come from the small-business community. I have felt that, and, again, that is what we are hearing from our small businesses and why I am standing here today.

Time and time again, the Biden-Harris administration imposed new standards with high price tags. First, it was regulations on cars and trucks. Then, it was gas stoves and washing machines and, now, commercial refrigerators and freezers. The list goes on and on.

In fact, I stood on the House floor in the last Congress and defended my very own wife's gas stove, and we won that battle.

Fortunately for the American people, under the leadership of House Republicans and President Trump, common sense has a seat at the table again.

All we are doing is rolling back the senseless and unending bureaucratic

red tape ushered in under the previous administration that harms hard-working Americans and small businesses.

In fact, the Department of Energy estimates that these standards on commercial refrigerators and freezers will cost approximately \$8 billion, as stated earlier, which we know will be passed down to consumers.

When did the Department of Energy get into the appliance business?

Mr. Speaker, this is an easy "yes" vote. I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 75, and I thank Congressman GOLDMAN for his leadership.

Mr. PALLONE. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Florida (Ms. CASTOR), the ranking member of our Energy Subcommittee.

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from New Jersey for yielding the time.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.J. Res. 75, a bill to force small business owners to use more energy and spend more money.

Here we are at the end of March, and Republicans have not brought one bill to the floor to lower costs and tackle the cost of living for our neighbors back home. Instead, Republicans in Congress have stood idly by while American families and small business owners are left to twist in the wind, making life harder for people back home, more expensive, more difficult to receive the Social Security they rely on, adding taxes through tariffs.

It is just unconscionable because what people really want is for us to work together on solutions, and Republicans in Congress are missing in action. People want answers, but Republicans won't have townhalls. Some of them will not even answer the phone.

I also had a townhall back in St. Petersburg, Florida, last week when I was home, and people want answers. They want to know what you are doing to tackle the cost of living. Then, you come up here to the House of Representatives, and Republicans are making it more expensive because they don't want you to have an energy-efficient appliance.

This isn't something that happens overnight. This is something that manufacturers and consumer advocates worked on for years.

The previous speaker asked when the Department of Energy got into energy efficiency. It has been decades that they have been doing this, trying to help people save money through conservation.

I know that doesn't align with my Republican colleagues' Big Oil and Gas allies, but people want to save money. They want to cut pollution. They don't want us wasting their time with inane bills like this that are simply going to cost people more money.

It gets worse because Republicans in Congress are barreling toward a massive tax giveaway to billionaires paid

for by targeting the family members we love the most: our parents who rely on skilled nursing, children, pregnant women, and our neighbors with disabilities.

We know what this is. This is an attempt to distract from what is going on behind the scenes here in Washington, D.C. I have to say I think my Republican friends are out of touch with working people.

People are tired of being ripped off by special interests and politicians in Washington. This resolution is another example of that. This makes it harder for small business owners to save money through energy-efficient appliances. It essentially picks your pocket.

Mr. Speaker, have you ever been in a crowd where you are getting jostled, and then you reach back and your wallet is gone? That is exactly what is happening right here.

I hope that Republicans join Democrats in trying to reduce electric bills, but no. I hope that Republicans are going to stand up to Elon Musk as he takes a chain saw to Social Security, but no. Today, the Republicans don't even want to address the real challenges facing our neighbors, helping them with the cost of living, housing, healthcare, and electric bills. This bill will simply make matters worse.

These DOE standards are long overdue. It has been, I think, at least 6 or 7 years since they have had an update. The law says you update energy-efficient standards for appliances every few years. That is what happened under the Biden administration. They came together. Those kinds of standards also incentivize American innovation. Manufacturers in America have been the leaders.

By weakening these rules, we open our markets to companies in countries that manufacture low-efficiency products, like from China, at the expense of American companies and American families. It is not right.

I heard Mr. PALLONE say that he had a townhall. A lot of the Democrats are having townhalls. I had a townhall back in the Tampa Bay area. They want help with hurricane recovery. Do you know what they are having to replace right now? Appliances. They want an appliance that is the most modern, the most efficient, the most affordable, and that is made in America, and that is what these appliance standards do. They help you save money over the long run.

They also want us to safeguard their healthcare. They want us to have an eye on Elon Musk as he takes his chain saw to all sorts of agencies.

Social Security was a topic of conversation in my townhall. Lo and behold, yesterday, there was a press report about the backdoor cuts to Social Security. It says: "The Social Security Administration website crashed four times in 10 days this month because the servers were overloaded, blocking millions of retirees and disabled Americans from logging in to their online

accounts. In the field, office managers have resorted to answering phones in place of receptionists because so many employees have been pushed out. Amid all this, the agency no longer has a system to monitor customer experience because that office was eliminated . . . by Elon Musk. And the phones keep ringing. And ringing."

"The turmoil is leaving many retirees, disabled claimants, and legal immigrants needing Social Security cards with less access or shut out of the system altogether."

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD the article titled: "Long waits, waves of calls, website crisis: Social Security is breaking down."

LONG WAITS, WAVES OF CALLS, WEBSITE CRASHES: SOCIAL SECURITY IS BREAKING DOWN (By Lisa Rein and Hannah Natanson, Mar. 25, 2025)

A flood of cuts led by Elon Musk has sent the agency into chaos as a new commissioner prepares to take charge.

The Social Security Administration website crashed four times in 10 days this month because the servers were overloaded, blocking millions of retirees and disabled Americans from logging in to their online accounts. In the field, office managers have resorted to answering phones in place of receptionists because so many employees have been pushed out. Amid all this, the agency no longer has a system to monitor customer experience because that office was eliminated as part of the cost-cutting efforts led by Elon Musk.

And the phones keep ringing. And ringing.

The federal agency that delivers \$1.5 trillion a year in earned benefits to 73 million retired workers, their survivors, and poor and disabled Americans is engulfed in crisis—further undermining the already struggling organization's ability to provide reliable and quick service to vulnerable customers, according to internal documents and more than two dozen current and former agency employees and officials, customers and others who interact with Social Security.

Financial services executive Frank Bisignano is scheduled to face lawmakers Tuesday at a Senate confirmation hearing as President Donald Trump's nominee to become the permanent commissioner. For now, the agency is run by a caretaker leader in his sixth week on the job who has raced to push out more than 12 percent of the staff of 57,000. He has conceded that the agency's phone service "sucks" and acknowledged that Musk's U.S. DOGE Service is really in charge, pushing a single-minded mission to find benefits fraud despite vast evidence that the problem is overstated. The turmoil is leaving many retirees, disabled claimants, and legal immigrants needing Social Security cards with less access or shut out of the system altogether, according to those familiar with the problems.

"What's going on is the destruction of the agency from the inside out, and it's accelerating," Sen. Angus King (I-Maine) said in an interview. "I have people approaching me all the time in their 70s and 80s, and they're beside themselves. They don't know what's coming."

King's home state has the country's oldest population. "What they're doing now is unconscionable," he said.

Leland Dudek, who became acting commissioner after he fed data to Musk's team behind his bosses' backs, has issued a series of rapid-fire policy changes that have created chaos for front-line staff. Under pressure

from the secretive Musk team, Dudek has pushed out dozens of officials with years of expertise in running Social Security's complex benefit and information technology systems. Others have left in disgust.

The moves have upended an agency that, despite the popularity of its programs, has been underfunded for years, faces potential insolvency in a decade and has been led by four commissioners in five months—just one of them Senate-confirmed. The latest controversy came last week when Dudek threatened to shut down operations in response to a federal judge's ruling against DOGE that he claimed would leave no one in the agency with access to beneficiaries' personal information.

Alarmed lawmakers are straining to answer questions back home from angry constituents. Calls have flooded into congressional offices. AARP announced Monday that more than 2,000 people a week have called the retiree organization since early February—double the usual number—with concerns about whether benefits they paid for during their working careers will continue. Social Security is the primary source of income for about 40 percent of older Americans.

Trump has said repeatedly that the administration "won't touch" Social Security, a promise that aides say applies to benefit levels that can be adjusted only by Congress. But in just six weeks, the cuts to staffing and offices have already taken a toll on access to benefits, officials and advocates say.

#### 'CREATING A FIRE'

With aging technology systems and a \$15 billion budget that has stayed relatively flat over a decade, Social Security was already struggling to serve the public amid an explosion of retiring baby boomers. The staff that reviews claims for two disability programs was on life support following massive pandemic turnover—and still takes 233 days on average to review an initial claim.

But current and former officials, advocates and others who interact with the agency—many of whom spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution—said Social Security has been damaged even further by the rapid cuts and chaos of Trump's first two months in office. Many current and former officials fear the push is part of a long-sought effort by conservatives to privatize all or part of the agency.

"They're creating a fire to require them to come and put it out," said one high-ranking official who took early retirement this month.

Dudek, who was elevated from a mid-level data analyst in the anti-fraud office, hurried to cut costs when he took over in mid-February, canceling research contracts, offering early-retirement incentives and buyouts across the agency, and consolidating programs and regional offices. Entire offices, including those handling civil rights and modernization, were driven out. The 10 regional offices that oversee field operations were slashed to four.

"I do not want to destroy the agency," he said in an interview Monday. "The president wants it to succeed by cutting out the red tape to improve service while improving security."

Musk's Department of Government Efficiency team began poring through Social Security's massive trove of private data on millions of Americans, working in a fourth-floor conference room at the Woodlawn, Maryland, headquarters, with blackout curtains on the windows and an armed security guard posted outside.

At first, the DOGE team was obsessed by false claims that millions of deceased people were receiving benefits. Then came new

mandates designed to address alleged fraud: Direct-deposit transactions and identity authentication, operations that affect almost everyone receiving benefits, will no longer be able to be done by phone. Customers with computers will go through the process online; those without will wait in line at their local field office. A change announced internally last week will require legal immigrants with authorization to work in the United States and newly naturalized citizens to apply for or update their Social Security cards in person, eliminating a long-standing practice that sent the cards automatically through the mail.

"We realize this is a significant change and there will be a significant impact to customers," Doris Diaz, deputy commissioner of operations, told the field staff Monday during a briefing on the changes, a recording of which was obtained by *The Washington Post*. She said the agency was "working on a process" for homeless and homebound customers who cannot use computers or come into an office—and acknowledged that service levels will decline.

In the weeks before that briefing, phone calls to Social Security surged—with questions from anxious customers wondering whether their benefits had been or would be cut and desperate to get an in-person field office appointment. That is, if they could get through to a live person.

Depending on the time of day, a recorded message tells callers their wait on hold will last more than 120 minutes or 180 minutes. Some callers report being on hold for four or five hours. A callback function was available only three out of 12 times a *Post* reporter called the toll-free line last week, presumably because the queue that day was so long that the call would not be returned by close of business.

The recording that 66-year-old Kathy Martinez heard when she called the toll-free number two weeks ago from the San Francisco Bay Area said her hold time would be more than three hours—she was calling to ask what her retirement benefits would come to if she filed for them now or waited until she turned 70. She hung up and tried again last week at 7 a.m. Pacific time. The wait was more than 120 minutes, but she was offered a callback option, and in two hours she spoke with a "phenomenally kind person who called me," she said.

Martinez said she wants to wait to file for benefits to maximize her check. But "I'm kind of thinking, I wonder if I should take it now. When I apply, I will do it over the phone. But will there still be a phone system?"

'NOT ACCEPTABLE'

Aging, inefficient phone systems have dogged Social Security for years. A modernization contract with Verizon begun under the first Trump administration suffered multiple delays, system crashes and other problems. As commissioner in the last year of the Biden administration, former Maryland governor Martin O'Malley moved the project to a new contractor, Amazon Web Services, and data shows that the average wait time for the toll-free line was down to 50 minutes, half of today's average. But O'Malley ran out of time to switch the new system to field office phones, he said.

Now a perfect storm has overtaken the system. Turnover that's normally higher than 10 percent has worsened at the 24 call centers across the country. Some employees took early retirement and buyout offers—a number that Dudek said was "not huge" but that current and former officials estimate could be significant.

Shonda Johnson, a vice president at the American Federation of Government Em-

ployees Council 220 who represents 5,000 call center staffers, said low pay (starting salary is \$32,000 a year), anger at a return-to-office mandate after years of telework, rapid policy changes, and frustration with how the Trump administration is treating federal employees have hurt morale to the point that people aren't giving their all to the job.

"When you're facing threats yourself, it kind of prevents you from being totally there for the public you're servicing," she said.

Asked about worsening phone service, Dudek told reporters in a call last week that "a 24 percent answer rate is not acceptable."

"I want people who want to get to a person to get to a person," he said, adding that "all options are on the table" to improve phone service, including outsourcing some call center work.

The new limits on phone transactions take effect at the end of the month, but field offices have been deluged for weeks, even as DOGE is targeting an unspecified number of field and hearing offices for closure over the next three years.

In one office in central Indiana, the phone lines are jammed by 9 a.m. with hundreds of retirees, further taxing a staff of less than a dozen that is responsible for nearly 70,000 claimants across the state, according to one employee. That worker, who like others spoke on the condition of anonymity for fear of retribution, said the questions have become predictable: What is the U.S. DOGE Service doing to Social Security? Will the office close? Will my benefits continue?

The employees, with no training yet on the impending changes, have few answers. "I hope we're going to be here," the employee tells caller after caller. "But I can't guarantee anything."

Complicated benefits cases are falling by the wayside, the employee said. Online claims, which are completed by field staff, are piling up.

"There is just no time to breathe or get anything else done," she said. "We used to be efficient."

Another employee in a regional office said the staff was told at a recent briefing that field offices across the country are seeing "exponential growth" in foot traffic. The elderly are not only calling but showing up at bricks-and-mortar buildings to ask about the DOGE-led changes.

In one Philadelphia office, the federal government's return-to-office edict has left 1,200 staffers competing for about 300 parking spots, according to an employee. Staffers wake up as early as 4:30 a.m. to try to snag a space, and some are buying backup spots for \$200 a month nearby. As morale has cratered, some employees have stopped wearing business clothes and now come to work in jeans and a T-shirt because, as they tell colleagues, they no longer take pride in their work, the employee said.

'OFF THE CHARTS'

Scammers are already taking advantage of the chaotic moment, according to internal emails obtained by *The Post*. Last week, employees in several offices were warned that seniors were reporting receiving emails from accounts pretending to be linked to Social Security. The messages asked recipients to verify their identity to keep receiving benefits.

"Sounds like scammers are jumping on this press release to trick the elderly," one Social Security staffer wrote to colleagues Thursday, referring to the agency's announcement of the in-person verification program.

In Baltimore, an employee who works on critical payment systems said nearly a quarter of his team is already gone or will soon

be out the door as a result of resignations and retirements. Talented software developers and analysts were quick to secure high-paying jobs in the private sector, he said—and the reduction in highly skilled staff is already having consequences.

His office is supposed to complete several software updates and modernization processes required by law within the next few weeks and months, he said. But with the departures, it seems increasingly likely that it will miss those deadlines.

His team is also called on to fix complicated technology glitches that stop payments. But many of the experts who make those fixes are exiting.

"That has to get cleaned up on a case-by-case basis, and the experts in how to do that are leaving," the Baltimore employee said. "We will have cases that get stuck, and they're not going to be able to get fixed. People could be out of benefits for months."

Meanwhile, a DOGE-imposed spending freeze has left many field offices without paper, pens and phone headsets—at the exact moment phone calls are spiking, the employee in Indiana said.

The freeze drove all federal credit cards to a \$1 limit, and purchasers for the agency were reduced to about a dozen people for 1,300 offices, said one employee in the Northeast.

These purchasers must get a green light from higher-ups for anything other than 12 specific preapproved transactions, according to emails obtained by *The Post*. The list includes "shipping costs," "phone bills," "Legionella testing" and "services to support fire safety and emergency response." It does not include basic office supplies.

The field office in Portland, Oregon, is so slammed that the claims staff has told advocates to send questions or information by fax because they can't get to the phones, according to Chase Stowell, case management supervisor for Assist, a nonprofit that helps disabled people apply for benefits. Many of them are homeless.

"The attrition rates in Portland are off the charts," Stowell said. "They just don't pick up the phone. They were already short-staffed. They've told us they just don't trust that there's a reliable system to get ahold of them by voicemail."

The service issues keep bubbling up to members of Congress. Hundreds of Maryland residents turned out for a town hall meeting last week hosted by Baltimore County Council member Pat Young about a mile from Social Security headquarters.

Asked by one retiree in the audience to provide "a little bit of hope" that his Social Security benefits would not be cut, Sen. Angela Alsobrooks (D-Maryland) conceded, "The truth of the matter is that we don't know what they intend."

Ms. CASTOR of Florida. Mr. Speaker, this is a real cry for help, and we need Republicans and Congress focused on Americans' pocketbooks, not trying to distract from the massive tax giveaway to billionaires and special interests.

Mr. PALLONE is absolutely right. They are out of touch. Let's send a message and vote "no" on this bill and get back to work on safeguarding the pocketbooks of our neighbors back home.

Mr. Speaker, I urge a "no" vote.

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume. It is difficult for small businesses to stay in business. I would say if this equipment was going to do for small businesses what the Department of Energy

and the other side is saying, they would buy them. They wouldn't have to be told to buy them.

I have a letter from the National Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers, which sells to restaurants and so forth. It says these costs must be passed on to customers, many of which are small businesses like restaurants, bars, retailers, hotels, grocers, and schools. As the Department of Energy acknowledges in its own analysis, the increased capital expense caused by these standards may take more than—not many small businesses will invest their money if it is going to take more than 10, 75, and up to 94 years. Most small businesses don't stay in families more than a couple of generations. In many instances, to match cost reductions achieved through higher efficiency gains, more expensive equipment translates into higher costs for consumers. This is simple economics. As the cost of inputs in doing business increases, a restaurant's or grocer's prices also must increase to make enough of a profit to stay in business.

The other argument you can make is that if you buy this, you are going to be more efficient. The other side has said that then you can make more profit. If that is the case, believe me, our small businesses would be doing it without a government mandate.

Mr. Speaker, I will yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. BAIRD), my friend.

Mr. BAIRD. Mr. Speaker, I thank the chairman for giving me this opportunity to speak.

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.J. Res. 75. Once again, I join my House colleagues in working to overturn another last-minute, so-called energy efficiency standard from the previous administration.

In reality, the Biden administration imposed standards that are nearly impossible for commercial refrigeration equipment manufacturers to meet. According to estimates from the Biden Department of Energy, the final rule will cost approximately \$8 billion. This will be borne by those purchasing equipment, many of whom are small businesses. The payback period for certain commercial refrigeration equipment under these standards is up to 93.9 years. That is right, nearly 94 years.

To make matters worse, the Department of Energy's test procedures do not align with real-world conditions. The DOE's estimate of the CRE door openings in an hour often undercounts the real number of door openings. This means the appliance's interior temperature may rise above safe food-storage conditions, jeopardizing food safety.

Once again, the left's pro-Big Government, Green New Deal agenda harms the little guy. The Biden Department of Energy implemented a policy that threatens small businesses, harms consumers, and drives up costs, even as many Americans continue to struggle

under the long-term effects of the Biden administration's inflationary economic policies.

That ends now. I am proud to join my House Republican colleagues in standing up for America's consumers and small business owners across the country. With this bill, we are continuing to deliver on the mandate of the American people to cut burdensome red tape and ensure American consumers and small businesses can thrive.

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

□ 1430

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

Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to clarify some of the numbers that we are hearing from the Republicans. The chairman keeps mentioning a 94-year payback period for one of the products impacted by the rule, and he claims that this number comes from the DOE's rule. However, this is really a total misunderstanding of what happened.

There may have been some analysis of this 95 years, but the DOE did not propose or adopt efficiency levels like that for the product mentioned. In fact, for that particular product that he is mentioning, the final rule made no changes to the existing standards.

Now, I am not surprised that my friends across the aisle are throwing this number around, this 94 years, even though it has nothing to do with the final rule. They are not interested in a good-faith debate on the merits of these standards. If they were, as I said, we would have had hearings on this resolution so Members could better understand the details.

The truth is that the actual payback period for this particular class of products, since there were no updates to the standards, is zero because it wasn't changed. The average payback period for the other products impacted by the rule, as I mentioned earlier, is close to 3.5 years. So this 94-year analysis was not in the rule, it was not made for the product, and it wasn't proposed for the product.

For everything else, it is about 3.5 years. What this means is that after the 3.5 years, every year you are saving money. So all this just goes to show that my colleagues across the aisle pretend to be experts in energy conservation standards, but they can't even read the final rule correctly.

Again, this wouldn't be the case if we had a hearing and went through regular order, but that didn't happen.

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

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, the Federal Register lists this class of equipment, and the simple payback period in years is 93.9 for all purchasers. I have it right here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. JOYCE), who is the vice chair of the Energy and Commerce Committee.

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to support H.J. Res. 75, legislation to repeal the Biden administration's energy efficiency standard for commercial refrigerators and freezers.

This regulation was implemented as a last-ditch effort by the Biden administration to force its Green New Deal agenda on the American people without regard to the impact that it will have on small businesses.

Drastically changing efficiency standards, without input from the American public, hurts both businesses and consumers. This will cost American businesses \$8 billion to meet the new standards, and it will, indeed, take over 90 years for businesses to recapture that loss.

After 4 years of President Biden's inflation, business owners and consumers are searching for relief. Repealing this out-of-touch energy regulation will keep costs low for the American consumer and allow small businesses to reinvest and to expand instead of being forced to meet bureaucratic regulations.

Let me put it very simply. This is exactly the type of regulation that the American people voted against in November. Americans want less red tape. Americans want lower costs.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage all of my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 75 which delivers results for the American people.

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

I rise in opposition to this resolution. We have heard a lot today about upfront costs to businesses, the rising cost of doing business, and the slim margins under which businesses operate.

First, let me say that no one is forcing businesses to replace their commercial refrigerator equipment. These standards don't go into effect until 2029, and even then it is only when existing products need to be replaced that businesses will be looking at the upfront cost of any new products.

Many of these products already exist on the market, the ones with the new standards, so it is not like businesses will be faced with totally new and unfamiliar options. Sixty percent of the products on the market right now meet these efficiency standards.

As I have already said, the payback period for these products is about 3 years. After that, businesses will be saving money every month on their energy bills.

If Republicans were serious about reducing costs for businesses and for Americans, they would push back on Trump's tariffs. That is what they should be pushing back on is tariffs. They are the ones who are causing all the unrest, the possibility of recession, and raising costs. All of our economic indicators show that we are heading toward a recession and that consumer confidence is extremely low.

Why aren't Republicans fighting policies like the tariffs that impact the

cost of things now instead of the cost of commercial refrigerators in 2029? I don't know what else to say.

Mr. Speaker, I urge opposition to this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, as we have heard today, the Biden-Harris administration DOE's final rule for commercial refrigeration equipment will have a detrimental impact on small businesses and the consumers. If small businesses thought this was going to benefit their businesses, I guarantee you, Mr. Speaker, as a family business owner, we would invest in it. We would not have to be mandated to invest in it.

This final rule does not even meet the statutory requirements laid out in ECPA for new or amended energy efficiency standards. With a cost of at least \$8 billion, questions surrounding the technological feasibility of the standards and serious food safety concerns cloud this rulemaking.

Simply put, the DOE far exceeded the bounds of its authority with this rule. If Congress does not act, this final regulation will harm small businesses, drive up costs for American families, and put already expensive equipment out of reach for many who need it for their livelihoods.

That is why the following groups are supporting this CRA: The National Association of Food Equipment Manufacturers; NATSO, representing truck stops and travel centers; SIGMA, representing fuel marketers; and National Automatic Merchandizing Association, which includes vending machine operators.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to oppose this.

I just want to be clear. I don't have anything in my family business in any of these businesses, but I will tell you what we look at is do we get a return on investment and can we serve our customers better.

The list I just said, they looked at it and said that if they don't get a return on their investment, then they can't serve their customers better by this rule.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.J. Res. 75 to overturn these unworkable energy standards for commercial refrigeration equipment, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. VAN DREW). All time for debate has expired. Pursuant to House Resolution 242, the previous question is ordered on the joint resolution.

The question is on the engrossment and third reading of the joint resolution.

The joint resolution was ordered to be engrossed and read a third time, and was read the third time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the passage of the joint resolution.

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

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

The yeas and nays were ordered.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, further proceedings on this question will be postponed.

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#### HOOR OF MEETING ON TOMORROW

Mr. GUTHRIE. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow.

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

There was no objection.

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#### A REPUBLIC IF WE CAN KEEP IT

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

Mr. TRAN. Mr. Speaker, in 1787, after the Second Continental Congress, Benjamin Franklin was asked: Do we have a monarchy or a republic?

He solemnly replied: a republic, if you can keep it.

For nearly 250 years, those immortal words have lived at the heart of our Republic. Representative democracy is not just something that appears, it doesn't happen by accident, and it isn't maintained by sheer inertia. We have to fight each and every day to maintain it.

I am the child of refugees. My parents came to this country from Communist Vietnam in search of the very freedoms that had been ripped away from them in the country of their birth. I joined the Army when I was 18 years old because I wanted to protect the freedoms that have given me so much.

I fear that this President does not share this same commitment to our Republic. He seems not to care whether we keep it or not, as long as his personal political desires are met. This is a trying time for our Republic, and I invite my Republican colleagues and the rest of America to join me in fighting to keep our Republic.

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#### RECOGNIZING KENNY CHESNEY ON HIS BIRTHDAY

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

Mr. BURCHETT. Mr. Speaker, today, I rise to recognize my friend, the legendary musician, American, and east Tennessean, Kenny Chesney. Today is his birthday, Mr. Speaker, and I can't think of a more fitting birthday present for Kenny than the announcement that he will be inducted into the Country Music Hall of Fame.

He was born in Knoxville. Kenny is a graduate of Gibbs High School, which is not a mile from my house, where he

had a storied career in baseball and football. He went on to graduate from East Tennessee State University, Mr. Speaker.

Kenny has cemented himself in American history with his timeless hits. While I know the accolades mean very little to a man of his character, I am going to name a few of them anyway.

Kenny has won four Country Music Association Entertainer of the Year awards. He has had 33 number one hits and has been nominated for multiple Grammys.

I wish Kenny a happy birthday. I congratulate him on his induction into the Country Music Hall of Fame. I thank him for making east Tennessee proud.

I will always remember the first time he won Country Music Entertainer of the Year. He took his momma up on stage. I thought that was pretty cool. His dad, Dave, was a teacher at Bearden Junior High School where I attended. His whole family has just been wonderful to me.

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#### ADVANCING AMERICA FIRST POLICIES

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. MOORE of Utah was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the majority leader.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MOORE of Utah. 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 topic of this Special Order.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, the last few weeks have been nonstop. The Trump administration and congressional Republicans have been advancing legislation and policies that put Americans first.

Just last week President Trump issued an executive order that puts decisions about our students' education back where it belongs, in the hands of parents and the States.

As the father of four young boys, I know firsthand that those closest to educating my children—the teachers, administrators, and special aides—are the ones who know what they need to get ahead academically and succeed.

Data shows that our current educational system is failing our students. Our outcomes are not where they need to be. Reading and math scores are not where they need to be, et cetera.

We have got plenty to focus on with this particular issue. I am right in the thick of it. My wife and I are very much in the thick of it. We could not be more grateful for the support that we have back home with our teachers. It has been probably one of the most positive things in our lives as we see those boys progress.

House Republicans are also continuing to assess our education system

this week by advancing the DETER-RENT Act, to protect our higher education institutions from foreign influence by strengthening gift and contract disclosure requirements and potentially banning contracts from foreign entities of concern.

I applaud MICHAEL BAUMGARTNER, a new freshman out of Washington, for his work on this important bill.

We are also seeking to reverse harmful Biden-era energy regulations on essential home appliances, including refrigerators and freezers. Americans deserve the ability to purchase the appliances that best suit their families' functional and financial needs.

I am grateful to Congresswoman STEPHANIE BICE and Congressman CRAIG GOLDMAN for taking the lead on this issue. I will speak more on these later.

This week, we are seeing great progress in getting our reconciliation package to the next step. The efforts seek to serve Americans better by securing our border, supporting our economy, bolstering domestic energy production, maintaining a pro-family and pro-growth Tax Code, and much, much more.

I thank each Member involved in these critical discussions for their work, and I thank my good friend from California (Mr. LAMALFA) for being here today to kick us off with his message.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from California (Mr. LAMALFA).

□ 1445

Mr. LAMALFA. Mr. Speaker, I thank Mr. MOORE for leading us in these efforts to help enlighten folks on what we are doing here in Congress to give people more choice, more options, and have goods be more reasonably priced and available for them.

As we are coming out of the Biden administration, we saw a lot of devastation to the economic conditions for families, for homes, for small businesses, et cetera. In Washington, there seems to be an obsession with over-regulation. It does make life harder for everyday Americans.

Under the Biden administration, the energy efficiency standards became weapons of control, driving up costs, limiting choices and strangling economic growth.

Under the antienergy agenda that President Biden had, American families felt the pinch every day, every time they turned on a light, heated their home, powered their appliances, or drove their car. These so-called efficiency standards didn't lower costs, they shifted the burden on to local level wallets and bank accounts.

Back in my home State of California we see the impact firsthand, as these ideas seemed to start there first, between skyrocketing energy bills and blackouts caused by misguided policies. Public safety power shutoffs is what they call them. When the wind is blowing and they haven't trimmed the

trees in the forested areas around the power lines they have to shut off the power rather than doing the work out in the forests that is needed, but that is another issue.

All of this causes families to have to pay more for less reliability in their needs.

This is the future that our Democratic colleagues seem to want for the rest of America, one where energy is not affordable nor dependable. The conversations keep pushing more toward wind and solar, which are fine in and of themselves, but they are a tiny part of the grid. They are not a 24/7 available source of power anyway such as we would get from nuclear energy, hydroelectric, natural gas, or coal. Those can be counted on at any time. You can turn them on and use them at any time. Obviously with the wind or solar you have to wait for the Sun to come up, the clouds to go away, for it to stop raining, or the wind to blow—as long as the wind doesn't blow too hard, which in that case, they have to slow down and shut off the windmill because the wind might spin it off of its hinges.

Washington bureaucrats are now trying to dictate what kind of refrigerator you can have, what kind of stove you can use, and even how long your dishwasher should take to run. Most folks want to see that the dishwasher runs long enough to get things clean and dry; the same with your dryer, the same with your clothes washer. Folks want what it takes to get the job done, not some arbitrary shutdown of when a bureaucrat decides you have used enough energy.

So really it is just limiting options and you being told what is good enough for you, rather than what you actually need.

Californians have already been through a lot of this. We have been forced to live with policies that prioritize these whims of regulators over the needs of families. Indeed, we have seen the elimination of many outdoor tools, gas-powered lawn mowers, weed eaters, leaf blowers, and I will come back to even they are trying to take away generators.

Now, how do you take away a gas- or diesel-powered generator? When the electricity goes off, and you need something to replace that at least temporarily, what do you power that generating vehicle with? It isn't going to be other electricity. Some will argue we need to have batteries with this power saved up. Okay. Well, there are a lot of issues with batteries on what it takes to make them, what do you do with the metals and the materials from a battery that is now no longer useful and it has to be discarded versus just having something that works at the flick of a switch or the pull of a cord. You can start your generator using gasoline or diesel and have great success like you had for generations. They want to take all these options away from us.

Indeed, they do many things to inconvenience families, small businesses,

and they also strangle our economy. It is amazing to go out to Tractor Supply or someplace like that, and they have a whole lineup of those outdoor appliances and they are all electric. It just happened overnight. I don't know how well they are selling or how well people like them, but we have to get to a point where we can overcome these mandates or at least not have them at the Federal level for the other 49 States or whatever amount of States that are not following California as more and more of them seem to want to get toward with California's craziness.

Manufacturers are forced to spend millions trying to comply with these rules changing the dynamics, changing the makeup of how their equipment works.

Take the electric car industry, for example. I remember back in California in about 1990, the California Air Resources Board, known as CARB, pretty famous now, I believe it was 1990 they wanted to mandate that 10 percent of all vehicles by the year 2000 had to be zero-emissions vehicles. At the time, all that would mean is, well, you have to use batteries instead of fuel.

The manufacturers were standing on their heads, the auto manufacturers, trying to figure out how are we going to meet this mandate in 10 years for 10 percent production. You ended up with these basically glorified golf carts with batteries on them using the same old battery technology we had and finding out that you can't just slap a license plate on a golf cart and have a practical vehicle for people. They actually had to relent on that mandate before 2000 occurred, but you still saw these little golf carts running around dealerships with license plates on them pretending to be automobiles that people would buy.

They don't always know by making a mandate—many in those institutions believe that, well, if we force the mandate, then they will come up with the technology. Well, battery technology still hasn't made a quantum leap into the future yet to where it can be such an incredible source and for long extended periods as really the previous generation. They have got more experimental materials. They have different, more exotic materials they are actually using now, but the battery life hasn't extended that much more than what batteries of 20 years ago were doing.

The more we hamstring the energy production and force businesses to conform with out-of-touch mandates, the more time businesses have to waste on developing technology, which really isn't going to go anywhere. The further refinement of internal combustion engines has so far achieved amazing results with how clean gasoline and diesel engines are running these days. They have put the filtration systems and the fuel additives on there to make a diesel engine run pretty darn clean, so why don't we allow those manufacturers to continue in the direction of

making them even better instead of saying, no, we are going to force you to stop selling gasoline-powered vehicles in California I think by 2030, and you can't sell any new ones and take away diesel-powered trucks.

We are going to run into a real reckoning in California when these mandates kick in and there are no goods to deliver. People expect to take the raw materials from a mine or from a farm or wherever to the mill, to the manufacturer and then bring a finished product to the store shelf and you go pick it up and bring it home. What is taking away these options, it is going to be a real strangle on the economy of California and any other State foolish enough to follow what we do out there.

So it really isn't about saving energy. It seems to be a lot more about controlling what people do, the ideals of putting people in stacked communities and these walkable communities, transit communities instead of letting them live how they would like to or what is needed.

In my rural district I have in northern California, the people that produce things that other people need whether it is timber, and the products that come from timber, wood, lumber, paper, et cetera, that has to come from a rural area. You need rural people living there that can do that, and they need to have the vehicles and the wherewithal and the tools to do it. That all seems to be taken away. Instead, they would rather burn down those forests.

So what kind of choice is that?

People would like to have choices where they can live as well as what we are talking about previously with energy choices and the energy using apparatus choices in those.

Americans deserve a little bit better than a government that prioritizes green ideology over their own quality of life. What you get right down to is that when these choices are taken away you don't really get that much greener of a lifestyle because there is an offset for taking away the power plants that we have. There is an offset of replacing them with solar panels that cover many, many acres, especially of prime ag ground like they are trying to do in central California in some of the richest ag ground anywhere in the world and products there that so many Americans have come to expect that come from California with these amazing vegetable crops, fruit crops, nut crops. Mr. Speaker, 90 to 99 to even 100 percent of those crops are grown in California, and they want to cover those areas with solar panels because those areas have had their water rights and their water taken away because of more green things and more environmental policies that put the needs of fish over the needs of people.

Instead, we need to go in the direction that puts energy policies that would actually lower prices, expand the consumer choices, and create opportunities for American jobs and an Amer-

ican economy and American prosperity and not have the continued stranglehold we saw under the Biden administration.

The work we are doing here along with President Trump is extremely important to bring these things back to the forefront of families having choices in the basics like their appliances, their automobiles, their ability to heat or cool their homes and just enjoy their life.

We will continue, and I look forward to being part of the battle here of pushing back against that out-of-touch agenda, whether you want to call it the Green New Deal or green ideology and move toward a future where families and not bureaucrats get to decide what works best for them.

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from California for his message and for his willingness to always be here.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER).

Mr. MEUSER. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend from Utah for his leadership.

Mr. Speaker, the United States spends more money per student than any country in the world, yet among developed nations, we sadly rank near the bottom in educational outcomes.

Mr. Speaker, 70 percent of eighth graders, 70 percent, Mr. Speaker, aren't proficient in reading or math according to the latest National Assessment of Educational Progress.

Believe it or not, and it gives me no joy to say this, there are reports that say 54 percent of Americans cannot read at a sixth-grade level. This is not just disappointing; this is indeed a national failure.

At this point, the Department of Education just doesn't need reform, it needs a complete overhaul.

In the last 5 years, the Department of Education has spent over \$1 trillion with no measurable gains. Under President Biden its spending surged over 200 percent from \$71 billion in 2019 to \$268 billion last year.

At the same time, the Biden administration's love of excessive regulations imposed an additional 4.2 million hours of paperwork burdens on schools pulling teachers and administrators away from what matters most—the students.

President Reagan said back in 1982, and President Trump has recently echoed, that we need to turn the schools back to the States and to the local school districts. President Reagan rightly noted that “. . . the decline and the quality of public education began when Federal aid became Federal interference.”

Fortunately, President Trump and Secretary McMahon are committed to returning control of education back to the States where it belongs and empowering parents, local leaders, and definitely teachers, but putting funding and decisionmaking back in the hands of States is just one piece of the puzzle.

If we truly want to improve student outcomes, we must embrace school choice and voucher programs, something my home State Governor's office in Pennsylvania still refuses to do.

School choice States have flourished. Florida, Indiana, Utah, and Ohio now rank among the best performing K-12 systems in the country. President Trump recognizes the importance of school choice, issuing an executive order directing the Department of Education to guide States on how to use Federal funds for K-12 scholarship programs.

It also instructs the Education Secretary to prioritize school choice when awarding discretionary grants. That is real leadership focused on students, not bureaucracy.

To that end, I am pleased to support H.R. 833, the Educational Choice for Children Act, which offers a Federal tax credit to encourage charitable donations toward scholarships that help families cover K-12 expenses, tuition, books, supplies, and more.

This bill is expected to benefit over 2 million students nationwide, opening the door to better opportunities whether in public, private, religious, or homeschool settings.

Unfortunately, forward-thinking solutions like this are not being considered in my home State of Pennsylvania where there are some families that feel trapped in a system that puts bureaucracy before students.

We cannot allow the status quo to be accepted.

School choice works, Mr. Speaker, and what are these politicians afraid of? I went to a public school, and I had some great teachers. My son went to public high school, and he had some great teachers, but not all of them were.

We need accountability. Parents and children must come first. Reforms are needed, not a year from now, not 5 years from now, but right now. This is critical. We are failing far too many young people.

Education is the foundation of a better life, a stronger economy, and a more advanced society, yet we continue allowing too many students to fall behind.

A child only gets one chance at a quality education. The time for change is now, and thankfully we have a President who puts students, families, and results first. President Trump and his administration will deliver for our students and for their futures.

The executive orders returning education authority to the States not only prioritizes school choice, it also ensures that vital services and benefits continue without disruption during the transition.

That is how we reform education the right way: by empowering parents, protecting students, and putting our educational life and results ahead of regulation.

□ 1500

Mr. MOORE of Utah. Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the message of the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. MEUSER). I think it is actually one of the most important things to be focusing on right now.

Mr. Speaker, I take a lot of questions from folks back home. Utah is a State that hits above their weight in academic outcomes. We have large families. This is a big, big deal for us.

The confusion of why would you dismantle the Department of Education, I will make sure I do my part, and I have spoken about this to a lot of constituents back home. One of the key aspects and the things that are important under title I is making sure that we have underfunded communities well represented.

My son is on an IEP. He is a 9-year-old in the third grade. He is on a specialized education plan that meets his needs. My wife painstakingly got us to the point of making sure that that was the right scenario for him.

We value the work that gets done here, and we want to see more resources pushed back to our State, who has largely led this effort. We have had meetings for our boy to be able to get into the situation where he is in a thriving third-grade class at a public school and where he has a little extra attention on things that he does well. He is reading well above a third-grade level, but he really struggles in other areas. He is on the autism spectrum.

The attention that our teachers, local administrators, and PTA have put into our boy, who is the pride of our life, we know that that will be cared for moving on. If we can move as much of those resources back into the decisionmakers' hands, we are going to have success here.

Mr. Speaker, I think we are going to look back at this point down the road and say that this was a key part of why we were able to better fund schools that are in tough communities, to better fund special education needs, and to make sure that we are still fulfilling all of the FAFSA and student loan requirements that we currently do.

Mr. Speaker, let's give this an option. If we are having such bad outcomes holistically, why not take a look and try to do something differently. We can't just keep doing the same thing.

Mr. Speaker, I appreciate the gentleman's commentary on that issue, and I look forward to being a part of this change. I am actually very confident that, when Utah is given more opportunities in the space of education as we move more of those resources back to the State level, we will continue to thrive. I want to be a big part of it. I am sure my wife will be right there bird-dogging us to make sure that our son will have what he needs to also thrive in this environment. I look forward to that chance.

Mr. Speaker, I have been very encouraged this week to see the House and the Senate Republicans coming to-

gether to deliberate on our reconciliation package. We are trying to get this timeline going as quickly as possible. There is an enormous amount of good work that is going on in every committee with respect to this reconciliation package.

This is going to be a key factor to making sure that we maintain a progrowth and profamily tax policy amongst the other aspects of securing our border, bolstering our economy, supporting domestic energy production, promoting peace through strength, and making our government more efficient and effective.

This is the profamily and progrowth tax code that we are developing and have been developing since 2017, and we want to make sure that we don't see these provisions expire.

The number of inversions that took place before 2017 and the repatriation of companies and their operations has been pretty well underrecognized. When you make progrowth tax policy domestically, you encourage companies to repatriate those operations and their intellectual property, and you are able to actually raise revenues.

That is the big thing. If we want to raise the rate on taxes so we can claim we are raising revenues, if the outcome is to raise revenue, then every Democrat should be celebrating what took place in 2017.

What we are trying to make sure doesn't happen now is that those more antiquated international tax policies that encourage companies to put their intellectual property in Ireland and in other European countries or in other tax havens across the world, it encourages them to keep it there or put it there instead of investing back into America.

I wish my Democratic colleagues were more honest on this, because they know and they see the numbers, too. When you create a competitive environment, you are able to actually raise that revenue for the U.S. Companies want to invest here. If they have a competitive tax environment, they will always choose to be back in America.

Mr. Speaker, I worked very hard to get spots on the Committee on Ways and Means and Committee on the Budget. It has been an enormous amount of work getting us to this point, and the lion's share of that work is still up ahead. I wanted to be on those committees for this very moment because I knew that 2025 would be a major tax policy year. Known as the Super Bowl of tax colloquially, I believe that we have a real opportunity to extend tax policies that benefit hardworking Americans and that support families.

Let's remember that the child tax credit was \$1,000 pre-2017, and Republicans doubled it without a single Democrat vote in 2017. We are going to go at this alone, it looks like, again, where we are trying to avoid the child tax credit from going back down to \$1,000 at the end of this year if we don't

get this tax bill done. We want to make sure that we reestablish as much as we possibly can and moving it forward.

I am one of the key leaders on this particular issue with the Family First Act and to making sure that we are supporting families and encouraging that type of positive environment. Strong families will lead to so much good in our communities. I don't want to demean the concept of a strong family, but it is one of the core aspects of having a strong economy.

There is a lot going on now and in the coming months. I am looking forward to seeing the Senate come together and getting us the parameters that they would like to see with respect to this tax package. We are working very close in hand with our Senate Committee on Finance and Senate leadership to be able to take a look to see what this reconciliation bill is ultimately going to pan out.

We recognize that it will be a partisan moment back here because we won't have any support from Democrats on these incredibly important progrowth and profamily tax policies. That is just the nature of this place, but we are working very hard to build this out and continue on the successes that we have had from 2017.

Mr. Speaker, the irony of this place is that all of those tax provisions could have been repealed in 2021 and 2022, when Democrats had the White House, House, and Senate. None of them were because Democrats recognized deep down that doubling the child tax credit, doubling the standard deduction, encouraging increased wage growth without the inflation that came from the American Rescue Plan, which we saw the Democrats enact in 2021, all of that positive economic growth is actually a very good solution.

I hate that this place ends up being so partisan in these moments of what we call the trifecta, when one party has the White House, House, and Senate. It is just the way that it is, but there is so much of this tax policy that both sides of the aisle share a common vision on.

We did an awesome bipartisan tax bill last year. I wish it would have been able to survive in the Senate, but it didn't. There is so much good that will come out of what we are going to extend here.

I shared a lot of this with my newsletter followers yesterday. I feel like, as congressional Republicans, we have the most momentum now that we have ever seen regarding our looming debt crisis.

A statistic I shared is that, for several decades, our Federal revenues have remained at approximately 17 percent of GDP. Over the last couple of decades, our expenditures have skyrocketed to 26 percent of GDP. In the early 2000s, our expenditures were approximately 17 percent to 18 percent.

The way I shared it was that I know it is sort of the old adage that we don't have a revenue problem, but we have a

spending problem. That is just what the data bears out. In years of tax reform, we have still been able to maintain 17 percent of GDP.

Remember that, in 2017, even though we reduced taxes in multiple areas, we have what is called broadened the base, which actually helped bring in more tax revenue. We have continually maintained that 17 percent of GDP, but our spending has gone from about 17 percent to 26 percent over the last 25 years.

You have to look at things with respect to GDP. That is why I always talk about debt to GDP and how we are at World War II levels while we have largely been in peacetime. We have to take advantage of this.

This is not going to be easy. This is not going to be overnight. Yet, with progrowth tax policy, which keeps our economy strong and keeps our GDP moving in the right direction, we have an opportunity to limit some of this spending. It is not going to be easy. I never intended for it to be.

Anytime you add to the budget, it is much easier. Trying to remove from the budget is much, much more difficult, as anybody could probably attest. Yet, it is something that has to be done, and I hope that we can continue to do it in the most thoughtful way possible. We have a really strong plan.

Our committees have been working on this for months and months to identify where the best opportunities for savings over the next 10-year budget cycle are. In doing so, we want to be able to change that trajectory of, like I said, 26 percent of GDP. It is far too high, and we have to recognize that data that has been a success for our Nation.

I am thankful to be on these two committees as we work toward a really difficult needle to thread in getting this policy done, but we are moving it along.

I thank all of my Senate colleagues who are equally working on this. This is ultimately why I am back here, is to make sure that this work is done in the most responsible way possible. As we navigate the reconciliation process over the next few months, I look forward to being able to celebrate some significant wins for our American families and our economy.

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

#### WOMEN'S HISTORY MONTH

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Ms. SCHOLTEN of Michigan was recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.)

#### GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. SCHOLTEN. 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 in the RECORD.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. BARRETT). Is there objection to the re-

quest of the gentlewoman from Michigan?

There was no objection.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, the United States won its independence 250 years ago in the Revolutionary War, and our journey as the United States of America began. Yet, 250 years ago, I could not be standing where I am today. Women did not have the right to vote, to hold public office, or to own property 250 years ago. Some women were property 250 years ago. Women were a footnote to the story of our country's founding 250 years ago.

Today, 250 years later, women make up 125 Members in the Congress, and the Democratic Women's Caucus is 96 strong. Women now make up more than 58 percent of college graduates, 40 percent of all businesses are women owned, and more than 52 Fortune 500 companies are led by women.

This kind of change did not happen by accident. It happened because our mothers, grandmothers, great-grandmothers, aunts, sisters, and cousins dared greatly and forged new paths for us to walk on. The freedoms and privileges we enjoy today are because of those who came before us. These are their stories.

□ 1515

Over the next hour, we will hear from women Members across the country who will share the stories of heroines who changed the course of history.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from North Carolina, Ms. DEBORAH ROSS.

Ms. ROSS. Mr. Speaker, I thank Congresswoman SCHOLTEN for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor former Ambassador Jeanette Hyde, who, sadly, passed away last month.

A North Carolina native, Ambassador Hyde was a trailblazer who paved the path for generations of women in our State. Her contributions to our community span industries, from her time as a social worker and teacher to serving as the first woman on the North Carolina Board of Transportation.

Ambassador Hyde was an active philanthropist, never forgetting her roots and always giving back to North Carolina causes and organizations.

It is especially meaningful to celebrate her legacy during Women's History Month.

As a leader and influential advocate, she pushed for ratification of the equal rights amendment and women's full participation in the political process. She never gave up on her vision of an America where every woman has a chance to make her voice heard.

At a time when women are facing unprecedented attacks from the Trump administration, we should all seek to emulate Ambassador Hyde's grit and grace over the next 4 years. Like Jeanette, we cannot back down in the face of threats to women's healthcare, accessible childcare, equal pay, and more.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Madam Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Ms. MORRISON).

Ms. MORRISON. Mr. Speaker, as we recognize Women's History Month, I rise, as an OB/GYN, in fierce defense of our Nation's moms and babies.

Right now, the Republican majority in Congress is launching a full attack on America's families.

Let's start first with where we are in our country. We are facing a serious and worsening maternal healthcare crisis.

Just look at this map. In more than half of our country, women do not have a place to go that provides obstetric care. Among peer nations, we have both the highest rate of maternal deaths and the highest rate of infant deaths—in the United States of America.

This is a crisis. It is an unacceptable crisis, and it demands immediate action from our Nation's legislators.

Yet, the Republican majority is shoving a budget through that would gut Medicaid, which is the single largest payer of maternity care in our country, in order to give tax cuts to billionaires.

As an OB/GYN who has spent my life caring for women and delivering babies, let me tell you: It is unconscionable to threaten the care women receive before, during, and after pregnancy, but that is exactly what the Republican majority is doing with their budget.

Republicans are choosing to shut down more hospitals and clinics across the country. Republicans are choosing to make even more of our country into maternal care deserts. Republicans are choosing to take healthcare away from moms and babies.

It does not have to be this way. As we celebrate Women's History Month, I implore the Republican majority to make their policy match their profamily rhetoric and choose to put America's moms and babies first.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, clearly, history is still being made this Women's History Month as we have an unprecedented number of changemaker women from across the country who are standing up and fiercely defending their constituents. We are so grateful for their work in Congress.

Mr. Speaker, I yield to the gentlewoman from Maryland, Representative SARAH ELFRETH.

Ms. ELFRETH. Mr. Speaker, Commander Janie L. Mines was the first African-American woman to graduate from the U.S. Naval Academy in 1980.

Commander Kristine Holderied, a Howard County native, was the first woman to graduate as valedictorian not only from the Naval Academy but from any service academy, in 1984.

Midshipman Kristen Dickmann, a Naval Academy freshman and volleyball player, tragically passed away at the age of 19 in 2008. Her memory is now honored every single year, for over the last decade, via a tournament in her honor.

Midshipman 1st Class Sydney Barber, the Naval Academy's first African-American female brigade commander,

earned that honor not even 5 years ago, in 2020.

I share these names and stories because these are women and women of color who are an integral part of the rich history of the United States Naval Academy that I have the privilege of representing. It is not just the Naval Academy. They represent our military and, proudly, our Nation.

I want to be clear that this administration's unrelenting and reckless attack on the stories and the history of persistence, diversity, and opportunity only serves to set us back.

When faculty at our five world-class service academies are told to avoid divisive concepts like racism and sexism, that only threatens to erase the stories and experiences of these brave women who just wanted to serve our great Nation.

I strongly believe that we should have a Navy and Marine Corps that look like our country, where our midshipmen receive an education that teaches the accurate and full history of this Nation, where the stories of women and people of color aren't skipped over because they are inconvenient.

This is all critical to our national security and strong democratic principles that we embody abroad. It is for these women and the hundreds of thousands of women serving our Nation at home and abroad that I am here today.

Ms. SCHOLTEN. Mr. Speaker, as the first woman in history to hold my seat in Congress, I am always thinking about the history-making women of the past, present, and future. I am honored to highlight a few stories of history-making women Michiganders now.

I am honored to highlight Michigander Harriet Quimby, the first American woman to earn a pilot's license and the first woman ever to fly solo across the English Channel. Her career in aviation was short but accomplished.

Flying from the U.S. to England, Mexico, and more, Harriet's legacy serves as a reminder that women can soar to whatever heights they set their minds to.

We are so proud to claim that Sojourner Truth made her home in Michigan for the last 27 years of her life, a fearless abolitionist and women's rights advocate who used her powerful voice to demand justice. Born into slavery, she escaped and dedicated her life to fighting for freedom and equality. Her famous "Ain't I a Woman?" speech challenged the exclusion of Black women from the suffrage movement, leaving a legacy that continues to inspire generations.

Anna Howard Shaw was a trailblazer in every sense of the word, becoming one of the first female ordained ministers in the United States and later a physician. She dedicated decades to the fight for women's suffrage, serving as the president of the National American Woman Suffrage Association. Her leadership and relentless advocacy helped

secure the right to vote, proving that determination and conviction, as well as persistence, can change the course of history.

Clara Arthur, known as the Mother of the Playground Movement, believed in creating a better world for future generations. As president of the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association, she worked tirelessly to advocate for women's voting rights. Her activism extended beyond the ballot box. She championed education, labor reforms, and public spaces for children, ensuring that progress didn't just mean progress for some. It meant progress for all.

Lucia Voorhees Grimes was a dedicated suffragist who played a pivotal role in Michigan's fight for women's voting rights. As a leader in the Michigan Equal Suffrage Association, she traveled the State organizing campaigns, educating voters, and pushing for legislative change. Her unwavering commitment helped pave the way for Michigan women to claim their rightful place in the democratic process.

These are the stories of past historymakers who have changed the course of our Nation. The freedoms we enjoy today are because they refused to sit idly by, and now, as we see unprecedented attacks on our healthcare, on our rights, we also see everyday women, especially in places like my hometown in Grand Rapids, Michigan, who refuse to sit quiet.

I refuse to stand by while Republicans, Donald Trump, and billionaires like Elon Musk try to gut essential programs like Medicaid, a lifeline that millions of families rely on.

No parent should have to choose between their child's health and paying their bills. We are fighting to protect the care that women and families depend on because healthcare isn't a privilege for the wealthy; it is a right for everyone.

I highlight a brave mom from my district, Abby Koroma, a mother of two visually impaired daughters who depend on Medicaid. Without this critical program, Abby would be forced to make impossible decisions: whether she has enough in her bank account for treatments that could save her children's vision or putting food on the table.

No parent should have to face that choice, but Republicans in Congress right now, aided by Donald Trump and Elon Musk, are willing to rip away this essential healthcare from families like Abby's just to hand out more tax cuts to the ultrawealthy.

We won't let it happen. We are the women who are standing in the gap and standing up for these families. We will fight every day to protect Medicaid, to stand up for families who depend on it, and to make sure that no one in this country is left wondering whether they can afford the care that they need for themselves or their families.

I stand here today so that no one has to wonder who they have fighting for them. We are here, standing together

and fighting for families across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the women who joined me here today to stand up and highlight the powerful women of their home States and the impacts that they have had on changing the course of history.

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

#### EDUCATING YOUNG PEOPLE

(Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 3, 2025, Mr. GROTHMAN of Wisconsin was recognized for 30 minutes.)

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I think it is important to hear from legislators on the experiences they had before this week as they toured their district and as they talked to normal people to see whether their concerns and observations squared with those of the people in this building.

Donald Trump has done a great job of trying to remove the diversity, equity, and inclusion from our government, including our military. We have, to a degree, gotten rid of some of the bureaucrats who pushed this odious ideology in our businesses and our schools.

Nevertheless, these bureaucrats everywhere are waiting to gain a foothold in America again as soon as we have another administration, and it is important to educate the young people in this country as to the degree to which America is really a broken system, a racist system, and whether white supremacy is a major problem, as Joe Biden said.

□ 1530

While I was back home, I had an opportunity to speak to a mosque of Ahmadiyya Muslims. Ahmadiyya Muslims have a little bit different theology than Muslims in general. They are persecuted by those members of Islam who live in Pakistan, and many of them have had to flee Pakistan even with regards to their own personal safety.

Nevertheless, when I met with the Ahmadiyya Muslims, there were two things that hit me: First of all, they were all successful, at least the ones I met. I asked them whether they knew of any of them that were having children out of wedlock. They knew nobody like that. They all seemed to be working hard and succeeding in America.

This, of course, is at complete odds with the DEI ideology in which people who are not Europeans are struggling or can't succeed in America. Indeed, the Ahmadiyya Muslims are one more example of a group of people who are succeeding in this land of opportunity.

Actually, they were very thrilled to praise America. They praised us not only as being a much better place to live than Pakistan, but they pointed out we are a much better place to live than Europe. They laughed at Europe, which they referred to as a "socialist continent" and one in which there was

no room for people who wanted to work hard and get ahead. One more time, we have an example of foreigners who come here from other places who seem to appreciate America more than the native born and certainly appreciate America more than the average college professor.

I would like to point out that another, I guess you would call, minority that is very common in my district is the Hmong, who came here from Laos. They as well are achieving, doing well, having strong families, succeeding in the realm of education, and all seem to have jobs. This despite the fact that when they came here from Laos, again, many of them didn't know the language. It, again, shows it is a lie for any of these DEI professionals—be they in business, government, or education—to say that America is not a place where people can succeed.

As a practical matter, while I don't think the Hmong are a large enough minority to have statistics on how well they are doing economically, it is apparent subjectively that they are probably doing better than the average American who was born here and, indeed, larger minorities for which we have statistics.

I remind everybody that people who come here from India, who are the most successful minority, Philippines, China, Japan, Cuba, the coast of western Africa all are succeeding wildly in America. All it takes is hard work and strong families, and all these groups have strong families.

I encourage our educators and all our policymakers to educate the people back home on all the groups from all around the world who are doing a fantastic job. I think they are doing, in part, a fantastic job because they don't listen to the naysayers who want to run down America and apparently say that if you are not succeeding and things aren't going right, it is because of prejudice.

The next thing I would like to point out is immigration is still in the news. There are some people who complain about Donald Trump doing what he so desperately has to do, and that is to remove the people who snuck into this country illegally.

I want to point out to everyone that, again, in the last year we had many new Americans who were naturalized. There are people who say about the people who are being removed: Why can't we let them stay? We have a system in this country to make sure that we are getting the best people, the law-abiding, the self-reliant people, which is all we should need here.

We took in 850,000 last year on a rolling 3-year average. I still believe we are at the all-time high of even more than that. We should be reminding anybody who says we are mean or not doing our share of taking in people who would rather live here that, in fact, we took in 850,000 naturalized citizens; those are new citizens.

That is not including the approximately 10 million people who are here

on student visas, work visas, or tourist visas. As far as people who want to spend a short time here, particularly to work, we are even more generous that way. I have heard of no strong efforts being made to greatly reduce these numbers.

Again, we have to remind our young people, our constituents, not to put up with this anti-American rhetoric of why are we kicking these people out. We have to remind people every year that in this country we wind up swearing in about 850,000 new people legally. I think if you think about that number for a little bit, something that is far higher than the historical average in this country, you will realize it is ridiculous to say this country is in any way xenophobic.

As I mentioned, one of the strong predictors of success in this country for everybody—for women, men, and children—is that of strong families. I think we have to spend some time pondering why it seems to be that people who are used to the American culture seem to have weaker family ties than those people who are coming here from other countries.

It is my personal belief that the reason we have weak families in America—and one of the reasons why our American children cannot do as well as children whose ancestors come from Pakistan or India or Philippines—is that we have such strong incentives in America, through a horrible broken welfare system, to discourage mothers and fathers to stay together with their children.

This began in the 1960s under Lyndon Johnson, who I felt, before Joe Biden, was the worst President in this country's history. In the 1950s, we only had about 4 percent of American children born without a mother and father at home. We now have over 40 percent who are born without a mother and father at home.

This doesn't mean there aren't wonderful single parents. I know some single parents, particularly emotionally strong single parents, who have done a fantastic job of raising their children. Anybody would be proud of them. However, the statistics make it obvious that overall children would be better off if they had a mother and father at home.

Almost every program in what would be referred to as "the welfare state" has incentives to discourage there from being a mother and father at home. This is because eligibility for almost every program is based upon percent of poverty. If you are a single parent and don't have a job or are working part time, you are eligible for many other programs. I think probably the most damaging is that of low-income housing where if, say, a single parent has a child, even when they are a minor without another parent at home, you are eligible for low-income housing, which means almost no rent and the ability to get away from your parents.

Other programs that also discourage marriage, programs that you would

lose eligibility for if both parents were working and had a child are the food-share programs, the Medicaid programs, the earned income tax credit, the Pell grants. Indeed, I could go on. There are about 90 different programs in America which are designed to go to a single-parent family, but if you have a two-parent family making a decent income, they are considered not in poverty and, therefore, they are not eligible for a program.

This is why, anecdotally, if you get out in your district, away from the fundraisers and such, you find so many stories of single parents who may even live with the other parent—sometimes illegally—but they don't want to get married because they lose all this money.

Nobody is eligible for all 90 programs at once, but I don't think it is difficult to find hypotheticals in which a parent alone is eligible for maybe \$25,000 or \$30,000 that they would lose if they were married to the other parent. In other words, it seems like the policy of the United States is to try to discourage the strong families, which are one of the reasons why so many immigrants—be it the Ahmadiyya Muslims or the Cubans or the Mexicans or the Filipinos—seem to do so well in America, indeed frequently better than so many of the native born.

We are soon going to pass a reconciliation bill, and that reconciliation bill will be a tremendous bill, a revolutionary bill. The bill, I think, is going to try to get America back to its roots. Certainly, one of the goals of this bill has to be to get rid of the huge marriage penalty, which has such an impact on causing there to be many fewer children with a mother and father at home than are necessary.

I think it is important to look at all the programs I just named off, as well as a few others, particularly any low-income housing programs, because it is not right that a young person can receive their dream of renting an apartment, not in their parents' home, by having a child out of wedlock.

I also want to point out with regard to these immigrants coming here, there are so many more than there used to be when I was growing up. Right now, as far as the people who feel we are not allowing enough people in this country, in the 1960s we were around 200,000 a year. Now we are around 850,000 a year. We are about four times what we were when I was a child. By historical standards, we have been very, very generous.

The next question is: Why are we seeming to subsidize or have set up programs with an apparent hatred of having both a mother and father at home? You might think that every politician would be encouraging having both a mother and father at home, and this must have been an inadvertent thing.

It is important for the young people today that they know that there is a strong number, it is a small number,

but a strong number of intellectuals going back to the 19th century, actually even going back to the 18th century who are hostile to the idea of having a man in the home.

Certainly, there were people who felt this way during the French Revolution when we had the atheistic mobs killing the clergy. It continued through Karl Marx and Friedrich Engels in the 1800s. The Marxists were hostile to the family. A goal of theirs was to get rid of the family. It winds its way all the way up through communism and the feminists in the 1960s.

Let me give you a couple quotes of people who are famous, who were well-known to people in the 1960s. We have Simone de Beauvoir: "As long as the family and the myth of the family . . . have not been destroyed, women will still be oppressed."

There is also Germaine Greer: "I'm passionately opposed to the nuclear family."

Then we have Kate Millett, who some people would consider to be the mother, or whatever, of women's studies programs, which are all over our universities: "The complete destruction of traditional marriage and the nuclear family is the 'revolutionary or utopian' goal of feminism."

Eventually, Angela Davis, another person prominent in the revolutions that were taking place in the 1960s, was very antifamily. Even since I have been in Congress, we had the Black Lives Matter movement, who came out against what was referred to as the "traditional family."

This is not only a problem for children, it is a problem for the men. I think men are frequently more likely to cause problems and be less productive if they are not connected with a family, and social scientists like George Gilder have pointed this out. One of the reasons why I think we have a disproportionate number of men in prison, men doing drugs is because they are not connected with a family,

and that was because of all these programs which provide financial incentives to make sure that one of the parents, usually the man, is not part of the family.

□ 1545

Mr. Speaker, Black Lives Matter stated that they want to get rid of what is known as the traditional nuclear family. It is a group that a lot of people in this building were happy to stand with, despite stating that on their website. Eventually they took it down, but it shows the power even today.

Mr. Speaker, you might ask why in the world anybody would be antifamily. Why would any politician do that? I mention these powerful people who seem to have a stranglehold on the Democratic Party. Who is for having men participate in women's sports? Who is for an abortion at 8½ months? Who is for men in the women's locker room? The same group is for them all.

It is the same group that is against having children raised in a nuclear family. It is the radical feminists and their successors from the 1960s. As long as they have such a vise grip on the leftwing of this body, I am afraid they will continue to break down the American family.

In any event, I think those are three things that we have to look at and remember to tell young people. It is the fact that people who are not from Europe come to America and succeed wildly again and again. Statistically, these groups are doing better than the native born, be it the Muslims, Hmong, Chinese, Filipino, Cuban, Nigerian, what have you.

I think we have to remember that it is the welfare structure which is right now creating huge incentives not to raise children in a nuclear family. Frequently there is a penalty of \$25,000 or \$30,000 for getting married to the father of one's children. This affects so many

other problems that we have in America.

The crime problem is a family breakdown problem. The drug problem is certainly not exclusive, but it is a strong element of the family breakdown problem. In talking to teachers, particularly in the area of special education, frequently the problems stem from a breakdown in the family.

We have to do something to remove these horrible marriage penalties. I really don't think America is truly going to be great again until we have a dramatic cut in 40 percent of children who are born without a mother and father at home.

Those are three big issues today. We should educate the young people on all of the issues. Until they realize what our government is doing, they may go back to the days of Joe Biden, a time in which he tried to divide people by ethnic background.

We will continue down the path of having huge incentives not to get married, and our young people will continue to be educated that America has a huge race problem and that we should not be adequately proud of America.

As I mentioned, right now there are many examples of ethnic groups who are doing better than the native born today, which puts a lie to the idea that anybody is not succeeding in this country because their ancestors did not come from Europe.

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

ADJOURNMENT

Mr. GROTHMAN. Mr. Speaker, I move that the House do now adjourn.

The motion was agreed to; accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 9 a.m.

EXPENDITURE REPORTS CONCERNING OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL

Reports concerning the foreign currencies and U.S. dollars utilized for Official Foreign Travel during the third and fourth quarters of 2024 and the first quarter of 2025, pursuant to Public Law 95-384, are as follows:

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO THE UNITED KINGDOM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 10 AND FEB. 15, 2025

Name of Member or employee	Date		Country	Per diem <sup>1</sup>		Transportation		Other purposes		Total	
	Arrival	Departure		Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>	Foreign currency	U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency <sup>2</sup>
Speaker Mike Johnson	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Hon. Adam Smith	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Hon. Adrian Smith	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Hon. Jack Bergman	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Hon. Lloyd Smucker	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Hon. Troy Carter	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Garrett Fultz	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Courtney Butcher	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Brittany Smith	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Taylor Haulsee	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Josh Hodges	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Meredith Turton	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
William Johnson	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Kate Knudson	2/10	2/15	United Kingdom		2,605.00		965.81				3,570.81
Meghan McCann	2/10	2/15	United Kingdom		2,605.00		1,833.31				4,438.31
Steven Bertolini	N/A	N/A	United Kingdom		1,400.00		N/A				1,400.00
Committee total											27,609.12

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.

<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Mar. 11, 2025.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, DELEGATION TO GERMANY AND BELGIUM, EXPENDED BETWEEN FEB. 14 AND FEB. 19, 2025

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows list various members and a committee total of 124,167.94.

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.
<sup>3</sup> Military air transportation.

HON. MIKE JOHNSON, Mar. 14, 2025.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN JULY 1 AND SEP. 30, 2024

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows list various members and a committee total of 124,167.94.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. [X]

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX, Mar. 7, 2025.

REPORT OF EXPENDITURES FOR OFFICIAL FOREIGN TRAVEL, COMMITTEE ON EDUCATION AND THE WORKFORCE, HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, EXPENDED BETWEEN OCT. 1 AND DEC. 31, 2024

Table with columns: Name of Member or employee, Date (Arrival, Departure), Country, Per diem (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Transportation (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Other purposes (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency), Total (Foreign currency, U.S. dollar equivalent or U.S. currency). Rows list various members and a committee total of 124,167.94.

HOUSE COMMITTEES

Please Note: If there were no expenditures during the calendar quarter noted above, please check the box at right to so indicate and return. [X]

<sup>1</sup> Per diem constitutes lodging and meals.
<sup>2</sup> If foreign currency is used, enter U.S. dollar equivalent; if U.S. currency is used, enter amount expended.

HON. VIRGINIA FOXX, Mar. 7, 2025.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

Under clause 2 of rule XIV, executive communications were taken from the Speaker's table and referred as follows:

EC-608. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard

for Play Yards [Docket No.: CPSC-2011-0064] received March 24, 2025, 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-609. A letter from the Attorney for Regulatory Affairs, Regulatory Affairs Division, Office of General Counsel, Consumer Product Safety Commission, transmitting the Commission's direct final rule — Safety Standard for Non-Full-Size Baby Cribs [Docket No.:

CPSC-2019-0025] received March 24, 2025, 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-610. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-078, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-611. A letter from the Senior Bureau Official, Bureau of Legislative Affairs, Department of States, transmitting Transmittal No. DDTC 24-081, pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-612. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting thirty (30) notifications of a federal vacancy, designation of acting officer, nomination, action on nomination and 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 Government Reform.

EC-613. A letter from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting two (2) notifications of designation of acting officer and 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 Government Reform.

EC-614. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual notice of revision — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act received March 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-615. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's annual notice of revision — Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act received March 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-616. A letter from the Secretary, Federal Trade Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Adjustments to Civil Penalty Amounts received March 24, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-617. A letter from the Assistant General Counsel for Regulatory Affairs, Pension Benefit Guaranty Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's final rule — Adjustment of Civil Penalties for Inflation (RIN: 1212-AB45) received March 19, 2025, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-618. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2147; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-01515-R; Amendment 39-22967; AD 2025-04-09] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-619. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment of Class E Airspace; Windsor, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1982; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-23] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 24, 2025, 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-620. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Standard Instrument Approach Procedures, and Takeoff Minimums and Obstacle Departure Procedures; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31592; Amdt. No.: 4154] received March 24, 2025, 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-621. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2422; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00378-T; Amendment 39-22962; AD 2025-04-04] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-622. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; ATR-GIE Avions de Transport Régional Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2409; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00410-T; Amendment 39-22964; AD 2025-04-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-623. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-0766; Project Identifier MCAI-2023-00711-T; Amendment 39-22963; AD 2025-04-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-624. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Canada Limited Partnership (Type Certificate Previously Held by C Series Aircraft Limited Partnership (CSALP); Bombardier, Inc.) Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2022-1650; Project Identifier MCAI-2022-00210-T; Amendment 39-22939; AD 2025-02-06] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-625. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus Helicopters Deutschland GmbH Helicopters [Docket No.: FAA-2025-0212; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00778-R; Amendment 39-22968; AD 2025-04-10] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-626. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2235; Project Identifier AD-2023-01009-T; Amendment 39-22961; AD 2025-04-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-627. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Bombardier, Inc., Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2543; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00342-T; Amendment 39-22969; AD 2025-04-11] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-628. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Depart-

ment's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2549; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00359-T; Amendment 39-22965; AD 2025-04-07] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-629. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; General Electric Company Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2540; Project Identifier AD-2024-00343-E; Amendment 39-22974; AD 2025-05-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-630. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; CFM International, S.A. Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2424; Project Identifier AD-2024-00416-E; Amendment 39-22970; AD 2025-04-12] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-631. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Schempp-Hirth Flugzeugbau GmbH Gliders [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2135; Project Identifier MCAI-2024-00157-G; Amendment 39-22972; AD 2025-04-14] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-632. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Pratt & Whitney Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2026; Project Identifier AD-2024-00163-E; Amendment 39-22971; AD 2025-04-13] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-633. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2234; Project Identifier AD-2023-00963-T; Amendment 39-22960; AD 2025-04-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-634. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; The Boeing Company Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2023-2236; Project Identifier AD-2023-00962-T; Amendment 39-22959; AD 2025-04-01] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received March 24, 2025, 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-635. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Ahsokie, NC [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2530; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASO-33] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 24, 2025, 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-636. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Austin, TX; Establishment of Class E Airspace; Austin, Lago Vista, and Lakeway, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2024-2511; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASW-21] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 24, 2025, 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-637. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Establishment and Amendment of Multiple United States Area Navigation (RNAV) Routes; Eastern United States; Correction [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1157; Airspace Docket No.: 24-AEA-2] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 24, 2025, 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-638. A letter from the Manager, Legal Litigation and Support, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of VOR Federal Airways V-68, V-76, V-212, V-222, and V-558, and United States Area Navigation Route T-220 in the Vicinity of Industry, TX [Docket No.: FAA-2024-1707; Airspace Docket No.: 24-ASW-4] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received March 24, 2025, 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.

## 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. KUSTOFF (for himself, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. SCOTT FRANKLIN of Florida, Mr. GUEST, and Mr. COLLINS):

H.R. 2350. A bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. McDOWELL:

H.R. 2351. A bill to direct the Commandant of the Coast Guard to update the policy of the Coast Guard regarding the use of medication to treat drug overdose, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania (for herself, Mr. KHANNA, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. JAYAPAL, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. DELUZZIO, and Mrs. RAMIREZ):

H.R. 2352. A bill to amend the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 to place reasonable limits on contributions to Super PACs which make independent expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Mr. LANGWORTHY (for himself, Mr. VEASEY, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. BACON, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BILIRAKIS, Mr. BRESNAHAN, Ms. CRAIG, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. ELLZEY, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. GARBARINO, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. KEAN, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LAWLER, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MANN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. NADLER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PAPPAS, Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. VALADAO, Mr.

VAN DREW, Mr. WEBER of Texas, and Mr. WITTMAN):

H.R. 2353. A bill to direct the Administrator of the Transportation Security Administration to update security screening requirements for certain covered air carrier operations; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 2354. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to set aside funds expended under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families, for core work purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MOORE of Utah (for himself, Ms. SEWELL, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. LEE of Nevada):

H.R. 2355. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide for collegiate housing and infrastructure grants; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. MASSIE (for himself, Mr. BIGGS of Arizona, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, and Ms. GREENE of Georgia):

H.R. 2356. A bill to require that the statement required under the Federal Election Campaign Act of 1971 for a candidate to designate a principal campaign committee include information with respect to whether the candidate is a citizen of any country other than the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on House Administration.

By Ms. ADAMS (for herself, Mr. CASAR, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MCGARVEY, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. SCHAKOWSKY, Mr. TONKO, Mr. GARCIA of California, Ms. BUZINSKI, Mr. POCAN, Mr. COHEN, Mrs. MCBATH, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. DOGGETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. FROST, Ms. CHU, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. CARSON, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. NADLER, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. MCGOVERN, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. OMAR, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. KHANNA, Ms. BROWNLEY, Ms. PETERSEN, Ms. WATERS, and Ms. ANSARI):

H.R. 2357. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. BARR (for himself and Mr. HUIZENGA):

H.R. 2358. A bill to amend the Investment Advisers Act of 1940 to specify requirements concerning the consideration of pecuniary and non-pecuniary factors, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct a study on climate change and other environmental disclosures in the municipal bond market, and to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to conduct a study on the solicitation of municipal securities business; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. CAREY (for himself and Mr. MILLER of Ohio):

H.R. 2359. A bill to amend part A of title IV of the Social Security Act to establish deadlines for the obligation and expenditure of funds and allow States to establish rainy day funds under the program of block grants to States for temporary assistance for needy families; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. CARTER of Texas (for himself, Mr. COLE, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Ms. FOX, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. NEHLS, and Mr. SELF):

H.R. 2360. A bill to permanently extend the exemption from the engine compartment portion of the pre-trip vehicle inspection skills testing requirement for school bus drivers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2361. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ (for herself, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mr. PFLUGER, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. CRENSHAW, Ms. PETERSEN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, Mr. HARDER of California, and Ms. ROSS):

H.R. 2362. A bill to require each enterprise to include on the Uniform Residential Loan Application a disclaimer to increase awareness of the direct and guaranteed home loan programs of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. DEGETTE (for herself, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana, Ms. PRESSLEY, and Ms. SANCHEZ):

H.R. 2363. A bill to prohibit the authorization of certain individuals to access certain systems containing individually identifiable health information; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EDWARDS (for himself, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, and Ms. FOX):

H.R. 2364. A bill to provide for a waiver of duplication of benefits for certain assistance under the Robert T. Stafford Disaster Relief and Emergency Assistance Act as a result of a major disaster or emergency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. EMMER (for himself and Mr. SOTO):

H.R. 2365. A bill to amend the securities laws to exclude investment contract assets from the definition of a security; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Ms. ESCOBAR (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. TONKO, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CASAR, Mr. CORREA, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DELBENE, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Mr. MENENDEZ, Ms. ROSS, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SANCHEZ, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. SOTO, Mr. SUOZZI, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. LEVIN, and Mr. GOLDMAN of New York):

H.R. 2366. A bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to promote family unity, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 2367. A bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education that employs unauthorized aliens from receiving funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institutional aid and to require institutions of higher education to participate in the E-Verify Program in order to be eligible to participate in any program authorized under title IV of such Act; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on the Judiciary, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. IVEY (for himself, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. NEGUSE, Mr. AMO, Ms. ANSARI, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mrs. BEATTY, Mr. BELL, Mr. BERA, Mr. BEYER, Mr. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Ms. BROWN, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CARSON, Mr. CARTER of Louisiana,

Mr. CASTEN, Ms. CASTOR of Florida, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. CLEAVER, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Ms. CHU, Mr. CORREA, Mr. COSTA, Ms. CROCKETT, Mr. DAVIS of Illinois, Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania, Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. DESAULNIER, Ms. DEXTER, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. ELFRETH, Ms. ESCOBAR, Mr. FOSTER, Ms. FRIEDMAN, Mr. FROST, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GARCIA of California, Mr. GARCIA of Illinois, Ms. GARCIA of Texas, Mr. GOLDMAN of New York, Mr. GOMEZ, Mr. GREEN of Texas, Mrs. HAYES, Mr. HOYER, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. KAMLAGERDOVE, Mr. KEATING, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KENNEDY of New York, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Ms. LEGER FERNANDEZ, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania, Mr. LIEU, Ms. LOFGREN, Mr. MAGAZINER, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mrs. MCCLAIN DELANEY, Ms. MCCLELLAN, Ms. MCCOLLUM, Mr. MCGARVEY, Mrs. MCIVER, Mr. MFUME, Mr. MIN, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. MRVAN, Mr. NADLER, Mr. NORTON, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Mr. PALLONE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. PETERS, Mr. POCAN, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. SALINAS, Ms. SCHKOWSKY, Mr. SCHNEIDER, Ms. SCHOLTEN, Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. SHERRILL, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. SMITH of Washington, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. STEVENS, Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. THANEDAR, Mr. THOMPSON of California, Ms. TITUS, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. TOKUDA, Mr. TORRES of New York, Ms. UNDERWOOD, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. WATERS, Mrs. WATSON COLEMAN, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Mr. EVANS of Pennsylvania, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mrs. TRAHAN, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. SOTO, Mr. LATIMER, and Mr. GOTTHEIMER):

H.R. 2368. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to prohibit a Federal firearms licensee from selling or delivering certain semiautomatic centerfire rifles or semiautomatic centerfire shotguns to a person under 21 years of age, with exceptions for active duty military personnel and full-time law enforcement officers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania (for himself, Mr. PANETTA, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2369. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. KIM (for herself, Mr. MOOLENAAR, and Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY):

H.R. 2370. A bill to improve the cooperation between the United States and the authorities of Taiwan with respect to travel and tourism; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, and in addition to the Committees on Energy and Commerce, Homeland Security, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. LICCARDO:

H.R. 2371. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. LIEU (for himself, Ms. CHU, and Ms. NORTON):

H.R. 2372. A bill to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act to enhance medical device communications and ensure device cleanliness; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 2373. A bill to amend the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2022 with respect to a civil action relating to the disclosure of intimate images; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. MACE (for herself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Ms. BOEBERT):

H.R. 2374. A bill to amend section 505 of the Illegal Immigration Reform and Immigrant Responsibility Act of 1996 to prohibit the provision of Federal financial assistance to public institutions of higher education that provide certain higher education benefits to aliens who are not lawfully present in the United States, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Workforce, 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. MAGAZINER (for himself and Mr. AMO):

H.R. 2375. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. MALOY:

H.R. 2376. A bill to nullify the Henry Mountains and Fremont Gorge Travel Management Plan; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. MAST:

H.R. 2377. A bill to authorize the White House Task Force on Celebrating America's 250th Birthday to establish the National Garden of American Heroes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois (for herself, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. ONDER, Mr. MOORE of Alabama, and Mr. ESTES):

H.R. 2378. A bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MOORE of Alabama (for himself and Mr. VASQUEZ):

H.R. 2379. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include the provision of tree nuts (including shelled tree nuts) under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture.

By Mr. MORAN (for himself and Mr. SMUCKER):

H.R. 2380. A bill to amend the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act to authorize the use of individual training accounts for certain youth; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2381. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to reauthorize and improve the National Breast and Cervical Cancer Early Detection Program for fiscal years 2026 through 2030, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself, Ms. FOX, Mr. HUDSON, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. EDWARDS, Mr. HARRIGAN, Mr. MCDOWELL, and Mr. MOORE of North Carolina):

H.R. 2382. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide that governmental pension plans may include certain firefighters, emergency medical technicians, and paramedics, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce, and in addition to the Committee on Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently

determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. NEGUSE (for himself and Mr. MCDOWELL):

H.R. 2383. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to authorize the use of Preventive Health and Health Services Block Grants to purchase life-saving opioid antagonists for schools and to provide related training and education to students and teachers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. NUNN of Iowa (for himself and Mr. HIMES):

H.R. 2384. A bill to establish an Independent Financial Technology Working Group to Combat Terrorism and Illicit Financing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. OBERNOLTE (for himself and Mr. BEYER):

H.R. 2385. A bill to establish the National Artificial Intelligence Research Resource, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Science, Space, and Technology.

By Mr. OGLES:

H.R. 2386. A bill to improve education outcomes by empowering parents, States, and local communities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. ONDER (for himself, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, Mrs. MILLER of Illinois, and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina):

H.R. 2387. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used for sex-trait altering treatments for minors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Education and Workforce, and Ways and Means, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Ms. RANDALL:

H.R. 2388. A bill to take certain Federal land in the State of Washington into trust for the Lower Elwha Klallam Tribe, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. RANDALL:

H.R. 2389. A bill to take certain land in the State of Washington into trust for the benefit of the Quinault Indian Nation, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. ROUZER:

H.R. 2390. A bill to amend title 46, United States Code, to clarify that port infrastructure development program funds may be used to replace Chinese port crane hardware or software, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mr. RYAN (for himself, Mr. NUNN of Iowa, and Mr. AMODEI of Nevada):

H.R. 2391. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to establish a refundable tax credit for commercial truck drivers; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mr. STELL (for himself, Mr. HILL of Arkansas, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. EMMER, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. KIM, Mr. MOORE of North Carolina, Mr. DOWNING, Mr. HARIDOPOLOS, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, and Mr. LICCARDO):

H.R. 2392. A bill to provide for the regulation of payment stablecoins, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. STUTZMAN:

H.R. 2393. A bill to place a duty on imported Australian Wagyu beef and to establish a to establish a reciprocal trade agreement between the United States and Australia as it concerns wagyu beef; to the Committee on Ways and Means.

By Mrs. WAGNER (for herself, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Mr. MORAN):

H.R. 2394. A bill to authorize sentencing enhancements for certain criminal offenses directed by or coordinated with foreign governments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. BERGMAN (for himself, Mr. GOLDEN of Maine, Mr. BACON, Mr. BELL, Mrs. BICE, Mr. BOST, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CRAWFORD, Ms. DE LA CRUZ, Mr. DAVIS of North Carolina, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Ms. ELFRETH, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. FINSTAD, Mr. GARAMENDI, Mr. GIMENEZ, Mr. GOODEN, Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona, Mr. HARRIGAN, Ms. HOULAHAN, Mr. HUIZENGA, Mr. ISSA, Ms. JACOBS, Mr. JACKSON of Texas, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. KHANNA, Mrs. KIGGANS of Virginia, Mr. LALOTA, Mr. LAWLER, Mr. MAST, Mr. MCCORMICK, Mr. MCGUIRE, Mr. MILLER of Ohio, Mr. MILLS, Mr. MESSMER, Mr. MOOLENAAR, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. PANETTA, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SESSIONS, Mr. SORENSEN, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Mr. VAN ORDEN, Mr. VASQUEZ, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. LUTTRELL, and Mr. VINDMAN):

H. Res. 254. A resolution recognizing the 250th anniversary of the United States Marine Corps; to the Committee on Armed Services.

By Mr. MEEKS (for himself, Mr. SHERMAN, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. KEATING, Mr. BERA, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Ms. TITUS, Mr. LIEU, Ms. JACOBS, Mrs. CHERFILUS-MCCORMICK, Mr. STANTON, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mr. JACKSON of Illinois, Ms. KAMLAGER-DOVE, Mr. COSTA, Mr. AMO, Mr. MFUME, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. OLSZEWSKI, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. SCHNEIDER, and Ms. DEAN of Pennsylvania):

H. Res. 255. A resolution of inquiry requesting the President and directing the Secretary of State to transmit to the House of Representatives any record created on or after January 20, 2025, under the control of the President or the Secretary, respectively, relating to strikes on the Houthis in Yemen and the disclosure of confidential information to a journalist on the Signal application; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. DAVID SCOTT of Georgia (for himself, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. BACON, Mr. BISHOP, Ms. CHU, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mrs. MCIVER, Ms. NORTON, Mr. PANETTA, Ms. SEWELL, Ms. STEVENS, Ms. STANSBURY, and Ms. TLAI):

H. Res. 256. A resolution supporting the designation of March 2025 as Endometriosis Awareness Month; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Ms. VELÁZQUEZ (for herself, Ms. SEWELL, Mrs. MCBATH, Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Mr. MANNION, Ms. STANSBURY, Ms. TITUS, and Ms. PIN-GREE):

H. Res. 257. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 2025 as "Music

in Our Schools Month"; to the Committee on Education and Workforce.

By Mr. WEBER of Texas (for himself and Mr. CARTER of Texas):

H. Res. 258. A resolution censuring Representative Jasmine Crockett of Texas; to the Committee on Ethics.

### 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. KUSTOFF:

H.R. 2350.

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

Under Article I, Section 8, the Necessary and Proper Clause. Congress shall have the power to make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing powers and all Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department of Officer thereof.

By Mr. McDOWELL:

H.R. 2351.

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

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to Article 1 Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. LEE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2352.

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

Art. I, Sec. 8

By Mr. LANGWORTHY:

H.R. 2353.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 2354.

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

Article 1, section 8

By Mr. MOORE of Utah:

H.R. 2355.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. MASSIE:

H.R. 2356.

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

Article I Section 8

By Ms. ADAMS:

H.R. 2357.

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

Article I, Section VIII of the U.S. Constitution.

By Mr. BARR:

H.R. 2358.

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

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CAREY:

H.R. 2359.

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

Article 1 Section 8

By Mr. CARTER of Texas:

H.R. 2360.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2361.

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

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

By Ms. DE LA CRUZ:

H.R. 2362.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. DEGETTE:

H.R. 2363.

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

Article 1 Section 8 Clause 18

By Mr. EDWARDS:

H.R. 2364.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

"Regulate commerce with foreign nations, and among the several states, and with the Indian tribes."

By Mr. EMMER:

H.R. 2365.

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

Article 1, Section 8

By Ms. ESCOBAR:

H.R. 2366.

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

THE U.S. CONSTITUTION

ARTICLE I, SECTION 8: POWERS OF CONGRESS

CLAUSE 18

The Congress shall have the power . . . . To make all laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into execution the foregoing powers, and all other powers vested by this Constitution in the government of the United States, or in any department or officer thereof.

By Mrs. HOUCHIN:

H.R. 2367.

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

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. IVEY:

H.R. 2368.

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

Article I, Section 8, Clause 3

By Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2369.

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

Article I, Section 8

By Mrs. KIM:

H.R. 2370.

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

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. LICCARDO:

H.R. 2371.

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

Article 1, Section 1.

All legislative powers herein granted shall be vested in a Congress of the United States, which shall consist of a Senate and House of Representatives.

By Mr. LIEU:

H.R. 2372.

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

U.S. Const., Art. 1, Sec. 8

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 2373.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.

By Ms. MACE:

H.R. 2374.

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

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution.  
 By Mr. MAGAZINER:  
 H.R. 2375.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8  
 By Ms. MALOY:  
 H.R. 2376.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1 section 8.  
 By Mr. MAST:  
 H.R. 2377.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 18.1  
 By Mrs. MILLER of Illinois:  
 H.R. 2378.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I  
 By Mr. MOORE of Alabama:  
 H.R. 2379.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8  
 By Mr. MORAN:  
 H.R. 2380.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8  
 By Mr. MORELLE:  
 H.R. 2381.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article 1, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution.  
 By Mr. MURPHY:  
 H.R. 2382.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 3  
 By Mr. NEGUSE:  
 H.R. 2383.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8  
 By Mr. NUNN of Iowa:  
 H.R. 2384.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution  
 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
 By Mr. OBERNOLTE:  
 H.R. 2385.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8  
 By Mr. OGLES:  
 H.R. 2386.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section VIII of the United States Constitution  
 By Mr. ONDER:  
 H.R. 2387.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8 of the U.S. Constitution  
 By Ms. RANDALL:  
 H.R. 2388.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I Section 8  
 By Ms. RANDALL:  
 H.R. 2389.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1 Section 8  
 By Mr. ROUZER:  
 H.R. 2390.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section VIII  
 By Mr. RYAN:  
 H.R. 2391.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article 1, Section 8  
 By Mr. STEIL:  
 H.R. 2392.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:  
 To make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Execution the foregoing Powers, and all other Powers vested by this Constitution in the Government of the United States, or in any Department or Officer thereof.  
 By Mr. STUTZMAN:  
 H.R. 2393.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I Section VIII  
 By Mrs. WAGNER:  
 H.R. 2394.  
 Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:  
 Article I, Section 8

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:  
 H.R. 7: Mr. BUCHANAN.  
 H.R. 45: Mr. BARR.  
 H.R. 309: Mr. GIMENEZ.  
 H.R. 369: Mr. MOORE of Alabama.  
 H.R. 383: Mr. NADLER.  
 H.R. 430: Mr. LATIMER.  
 H.R. 433: Mr. CARBAJAL, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mrs. RAMIREZ, Mr. WHITESIDES, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Ms. PINGREE.  
 H.R. 452: Ms. DELBENE and Mr. PAPPAS.  
 H.R. 491: Mr. CASTEN.  
 H.R. 516: Mr. SUOZZI.  
 H.R. 539: Mr. WALBERG.  
 H.R. 588: Ms. DEGETTE, Mr. THOMPSON of California, and Mr. RASKIN.  
 H.R. 589: Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia.  
 H.R. 612: Ms. ROSS.  
 H.R. 643: Mr. BRECHEEN.  
 H.R. 703: Mr. TIFFANY, Mr. HARRIS of Maryland, and Mr. BAUMGARTNER.  
 H.R. 722: Mr. SELF.  
 H.R. 749: Mr. SESSIONS.  
 H.R. 768: Mr. LIEU and Mr. CARTER of Texas.  
 H.R. 879: Ms. CASTOR of Florida and Mr. STEUBE.  
 H.R. 909: Mr. FRY, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. BERA, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. CLINE, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Mr. FOSTER.  
 H.R. 973: Mr. SWALWELL.  
 H.R. 979: Mr. TIMMONS, Mr. EZELL, and Ms. FOX.  
 H.R. 989: Ms. STANSBURY, Mr. BELL, and Mrs. RAMIREZ.  
 H.R. 1065: Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BEYER, Mr. AMO, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CASTEN, Mr. SWALWELL, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. MCGARVEY, and Mr. MEEKS.  
 H.R. 1078: Mr. GOODEN and Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS.  
 H.R. 1151: Mr. SWALWELL, Ms. MCCOLLUM, and Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 1181: Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.  
 H.R. 1196: Mr. MRVAN.  
 H.R. 1211: Mr. ROY.

H.R. 1229: Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. LUTTRELL, Mr. KEATING, Mr. CUELLAR, and Mr. SCHMIDT.  
 H.R. 1262: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Ms. OMAR.  
 H.R. 1317: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 1328: Mr. SOTO.  
 H.R. 1361: Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 1383: Mr. MORAN.  
 H.R. 1410: Mr. RESCHENTHALER.  
 H.R. 1422: Ms. BUDZINSKI, Mr. SCHMIDT, Mr. LATIMER, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. SPARTZ, and Mr. TAYLOR.  
 H.R. 1464: Mr. GARCIA of California.  
 H.R. 1492: Mr. PFLUGER.  
 H.R. 1517: Ms. PETERSEN and Mr. FLEISCHMANN.  
 H.R. 1522: Mr. MEEKS, Mr. DELUZIO, Mr. CASTEN, Ms. BYNUM, Mr. MOSKOWITZ, Mrs. MCBATH, Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida, Mr. BISHOP, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. KELLY of Illinois, Mr. KEATING, Mr. GOLDMAN of Texas, and Ms. TITUS.  
 H.R. 1584: Mr. DELUZIO.  
 H.R. 1606: Mr. MEUSER.  
 H.R. 1684: Mr. COURTNEY.  
 H.R. 1702: Mr. CORREA.  
 H.R. 1715: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia.  
 H.R. 1750: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia, Ms. NORTON, and Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 1793: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 1806: Mr. JOHNSON of Georgia and Ms. NORTON.  
 H.R. 1822: Mr. FINSTAD.  
 H.R. 1869: Mr. MRVAN.  
 H.R. 1871: Mr. COSTA.  
 H.R. 1940: Mr. LAHOOD.  
 H.R. 1949: Mr. MOORE of North Carolina.  
 H.R. 1950: Ms. TLAI, Ms. JAYAPAL, and Mr. THANEDAR.  
 H.R. 1993: Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. KRISHNAMOORTHY, and Ms. SHERRILL.  
 H.R. 2002: Mr. PANETTA.  
 H.R. 2029: Mr. CORREA.  
 H.R. 2036: Ms. TENNEY and Mr. CONNOLLY.  
 H.R. 2039: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.  
 H.R. 2042: Mr. MILLS and Ms. PETERSEN.  
 H.R. 2059: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS and Mr. POCAN.  
 H.R. 2091: Ms. MCBRIDE.  
 H.R. 2094: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H.R. 2144: Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 2165: Mr. LATTA.  
 H.R. 2175: Mr. PANETTA, Ms. MATSUI, Mr. COSTA, Ms. BARRAGAN, Mr. PETERS, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KILEY of California, Ms. WATERS, and Mrs. TORRES of California.  
 H.R. 2189: Mr. NEHLS and Mr. VEASEY.  
 H.R. 2192: Mr. WIED and Mr. QUIGLEY.  
 H.R. 2200: Mr. MOYLAN, Mr. BERGMAN, Mr. MOULTON, Mr. TURNER of Ohio, Ms. KING-HINDS, and Mr. WITTMAN.  
 H.R. 2202: Mr. GOSAR and Mrs. BIGGS of South Carolina.  
 H.R. 2220: Ms. SALINAS.  
 H.R. 2226: Mr. WEBSTER of Florida.  
 H.R. 2240: Mr. BILIRAKIS.  
 H.R. 2272: Mr. BACON and Mr. CAREY.  
 H.R. 2273: Mr. BACON.  
 H.R. 2282: Mrs. MILLER of West Virginia.  
 H.R. 2286: Ms. TENNEY.  
 H.R. 2288: Mr. GRIFFITH.  
 H.R. 2299: Mr. HAMADEH of Arizona.  
 H.J. Res. 11: Mr. CLYDE.  
 H.J. Res. 28: Mr. COLLINS.  
 H.J. Res. 64: Mr. BARR.  
 H. Con. Res. 21: Mr. MIN.  
 H. Res. 64: Mr. SUBRAMANYAM, Mr. CARSON, Ms. SCANLON, and Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania.  
 H. Res. 147: Ms. BONAMICI.  
 H. Res. 148: Mr. QUIGLEY, Ms. MCBRIDE, Mr. EVANS of Colorado, and Mrs. HINSON.  
 H. Res. 206: Mr. MORAN.  
 H. Res. 229: Mr. OGLES and Mr. GOSAR.



United States  
of America

# Congressional Record

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## Senate

### EXECUTIVE SESSION

#### EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

The Senator from Iowa.

#### BLOT CLOT AWARENESS

Mr. GRASSLEY. Mr. President, last night the Senate passed my bipartisan resolution to bring attention to a very important issue but one that isn't discussed often enough: It is the deaths by blood clot.

We call March Deep Vein Thrombosis and Pulmonary Embolism Awareness Month. So that is a fancy name for blood clots, and last night the Senate took this action. It took that action because we want to bring attention to the fact that this health problem affects about 900,000 Americans and contributes to \$10 billion in medical costs annually.

While blood clots can be life-threatening, they are preventable and treatable. Sadly, they are among the leading causes of preventable hospital deaths. Cancer patients, pregnant women, older Americans, and patients having surgery all face increased risks of blood clotting.

So I have a constituent who is very active in this movement, and I have met with him over the last 3 or 4 years that he has led a national effort to bring attention to the problems of blood clotting.

I am thankful that Des Moines, IA, resident Todd Robertson is working on this issue and was in my office yesterday to discuss what can be done, even beyond passing this resolution naming a whole month for this attention. He

has the title of National Blood Clot Alliance patient liaison.

I want to give thanks to Todd in a big way about his passion because we are all more aware of the risk of blood clots and the necessary steps to prevent blood clotting and preserving our Nation's health with the people that have this problem.

So I would encourage all Americans to visit [stoptheclot.org](http://stoptheclot.org) so every American can understand possible risks with clotting and how you can prevent that in your own life.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The majority leader is recognized.

#### AGRICULTURE

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, there is not much in our lives that doesn't depend in some way on agriculture: the food on our table, the gas in our car, the cotton in our shirts. Agriculture is the lifeblood of our country. I am grateful for the men and women who rise before the dawn for a hard day's work on farms and ranches across America.

Agriculture is a difficult way of life. It is filled with uncertainty. Storms, drought, or an early freeze can wipe out entire crops or herds, sometimes in an instant. There is market volatility, processing and transportation challenges, and the list goes on.

The last few years have been especially challenging for America's farmers and ranchers. They face declining commodity prices, higher input costs, and higher interest rates, not to mention the natural disasters that have struck many parts of the country.

The Senate met at 10 a.m. and was called to order by the President pro tempore (Mr. GRASSLEY).

#### PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

Eternal God, use the hearts and hands of our lawmakers to lift burdens and liberate lives. Give our Senators the wisdom that will lead them to know what must be done to make a better nation and world. Open their ears to hear the cries of those on life's margins. Infuse them with courage to act by bringing relief and release to those who are bruised by life's storms.

Lord, whisper words of counsel to our leaders, particularly during their moments of important decision making. And, Lord, help them to do the very best they can each day, leaving the results to You.

We pray in Your sovereign Name. Amen.

#### PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The President pro tempore led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

#### RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MULLIN). Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

#### CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Morning business is closed.

• This "bullet" symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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S1841

Farm Bureau President Zippy Duvall recently told the Agriculture Committee that “in 2025, farmers will plant one of the most expensive crops ever.” Many commodity producers are bracing for the prospect of serious financial losses this year.

These challenges are real. That is why last December Congress approved relief funding for agriculture producers hit by economic headwinds as well as those affected by natural disasters. Secretary Rollins committed to getting these funds out the door quickly during her confirmation hearing. Last week, USDA announced that farmers could now apply for direct payments from the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program through their local farm service agency, and additional assistance for those affected by natural disasters will be available soon.

Programs like the Emergency Commodity Assistance Program are designed to help farmers weather the current storm, but let’s be clear: They are only temporary measures, and they are no substitute for an updated farm bill that provides the resources that farmers and ranchers need to face current conditions.

When I became majority leader, I made it clear that a full and updated farm bill would be a priority for the new Republican majority. Secretary Rollins has been clear that this is a priority for the Trump administration as well. I appreciate the work that the Agriculture Committee is doing under Chairman BOOZMAN to respond to the needs of farmers and ranchers.

During my time in Congress, I have had a role in crafting four farm bills. This will be my fifth. It is a difficult task at any time, and it is harder when the situation is as dire as it is today. But Senate Republicans remain committed to finishing this important work and delivering a farm bill that ensures farmers and ranchers have the resources they need to face today’s challenges and tomorrow’s as well. I hope that our Democrat colleagues will join us in working productively to deliver this important legislation.

Farmers and ranchers need certainty so they can plan for the future, and providing that certainty is a priority of mine. I have introduced a number of bills that I will work to see incorporated into the farm bill, including the Crop Insurance for Future Farmers Act and the Livestock Disaster Assistance Improvement Act, among others.

Strengthening the farm safety net is an important priority of mine, as is a stable biofuels policy, including year-round access to E15 and timely and meaningful updates to the renewable volume obligations that matter to ethanol producers in America’s heartland.

I continue to advocate for eliminating the death tax once and for all so that no farmer or rancher has to worry about whether the family farm or ranch will be able to stay in the family after they pass.

Life on a farm or ranch isn’t easy, and I am grateful to all of our farmers

and ranchers, including in my home State of South Dakota, for the remarkable job they do day in and day out feeding not only our country but the world.

We have a responsibility to the men and women who work hard every day to deliver food, fuel, and fiber for America and the world. I look forward to continuing to work with my colleagues to deliver the updated legislation that farmers and ranchers need.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### RECOGNITION OF THE MINORITY LEADER

The Democratic leader is recognized.

#### THE ATLANTIC REPORT

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, the more we learn about the unsecured text exchange of sensitive military operations, the more questions we have about how such an egregious breach of military intelligence occurred in the first place.

What the Atlantic released today is confounding and extremely disturbing to any American who worries about our national security and our safety. It is appalling. Worst of all, it confirms our darkest assumptions about mishandling of sensitive military operations.

The release of this letter was extremely important, but many outstanding questions are not answered by this letter’s release, so we need the full text exchange released by the administration. This morning’s report reinforces the need for immediate answers, transparency, and accountability from President Trump, Secretary Hegseth, and all the others who were involved.

So today I wrote a letter with top Senate Democrats to President Trump and Secretary Hegseth demanding they release the full, unredacted transcript of all texts in their Signal chats.

Many outstanding questions are simply not answered by the Atlantic’s release of the text messages this morning. That is why we need all the texts in the Signal chat. This includes all text exchanges that occurred after Mr. Goldberg removed himself from the group chat. Goldberg released his information, so now the administration must release theirs.

Again, what is so damaging is not just the presence of a reporter—as bad as that was. It is that these sensitive conversations happened on an unsecured channel at all. And that is why we need all the texts.

Director of National Intelligence Gabbard testified that no classified information was shared in the text chain. So what is the administration hiding by not releasing the full and complete

transcript of this text chain? If no classified information was shared, the administration should have no issue with the full transcript being shared with Senators. Again, this is something that cannot be answered by this morning’s report from the Atlantic, as important as Mr. Goldberg’s release was.

We have other questions in our letter too. Americans need to know if any officials in the chat used personal devices that lacked government oversight and cyber security protections. How many of these officials were overseas during these conversations, susceptible to foreign surveillance?

It is alarming—alarming—that Director Gabbard refused to answer repeated questions on whether or not she was using her personal phone. That should be a very easy, “Of course not.” But it didn’t come from her.

Were there any other individuals without any security clearance erroneously included in the text chain? Has the intelligence community fully assessed the damage caused by the potential leak of classified information? Are there any other Cabinet-level officials using unsecured channels like Signal to discuss classified or sensitive information?

And another important question: Are there any other conversations that have taken place like this? These are all questions we have asked in our letter. They are all very important. They all follow on what Mr. Goldberg released.

But as I said, there are so many outstanding questions, even after the release of Mr. Goldberg’s text, that we need answers to. The American people need answers to these questions. What we learned this morning from the Atlantic is appalling, confounding, disturbing; and it reinforces the need to get answers to the questions in our letter. Our letter seeks to get to the bottom of these things to ensure this never, never happens again.

#### THE ECONOMY

Mr. President, on the economy, yesterday we got another piece of evidence that Donald Trump is failing at the one thing the American people want him to do: keep the economy strong. The Conference Board, one of the most trusted business research organizations, showed consumer confidence has dropped for the fourth straight month. And it didn’t just drop; it is now at the lowest levels since January of 2021, the last time Donald Trump was President.

Donald Trump’s disastrous policies are starting to catch up with him. The economic chickens are coming home to roost, and I fear this is just the beginning.

How can any American have confidence in the economy when Donald Trump and Elon Musk are trying to take away their Social Security and healthcare to cut taxes? How can Americans feel confident when Donald Trump starts, stops, starts, changes his position on tariffs? How can Americans have confidence when the prospect of

trade wars sends the stock market plunging and lets billionaires like Elon Musk take a chain saw to people's benefits?

Americans look at this chaos, they are worried, they are troubled. So what do they do? They say: I better keep some money in my pocket because who knows what is going to happen next and what will hurt me next. This fall is the lowest level of confidence in 12 years. This fall is the lowest level since January of 2021 and the lowest level that we have seen in so long, all because Donald Trump is creating chaos in the economy. And Americans are worried and afraid. When they are, they spend less money, they hire less, and the economy shrinks.

More and more people are learning that Donald Trump and his leadership in the economy—or lack of leadership—is far too erratic, far too chaotic, far too unpredictable. And many of us fear—many Americans fear—it is only the beginning.

#### VOTING RIGHTS

Mr. President, on voting rights, yesterday Donald Trump escalated his attacks on the bedrock of American democracy. Without a shred of authority, Donald Trump issued an Executive order that will, effectively, coerce States to institute policies that will prevent millions of American citizens from voting.

Let us be very clear: This is an assault on democracy. Donald Trump's order has nothing—nothing—to do with election security. It is an illegal power grab.

We all support safe and transparent and secure elections, but what Donald Trump is doing is making it harder for citizens to vote. He is fanning the flames of election denialism—nothing new to him—claiming without any evidence—without any evidence—that elections are rigged and the system is broken. Every single election authority says this is false.

We all know that if Donald Trump is anything, he is an election denier. He hates the idea of free and fair elections. This is another dark and twisted example of Donald Trump's lawless campaign to recreate America into his personal kingdom.

I am confident the courts will look at this power grab and quickly deem it unconstitutional.

#### SOCIAL SECURITY ADMINISTRATION

Mr. President, on Social Security, yesterday, the Senate Finance Committee heard from Frank Bisignano, who has been nominated by Donald Trump to lead the Social Security Administration.

To confirm Mr. Bisignano as the head of Social Security is like hiring an arsonist to run a fire station. His claim to fame is cutting and shrinking the companies he has been a part of.

A "yes" vote on Bisignano is a vote to cut Social Security. I say to my Republican colleagues: If you vote yes on Bisignano, you are voting to cut Social Security.

The Senate should oppose his confirmation. Mr. Bisignano would be a disaster because, at this very moment, in fact, because of what Trump has already done, the Social Security Administration is in crisis. Yesterday, Senate Democrats released a report detailing exactly what is happening now to the Social Security Administration and how Americans are going to suffer. Up to 60 percent of all regional offices are shutting down, dozens of field offices will be closed, and 7,000 workers are being laid off—12 percent of the entire staff. Cutting staff means people with disabilities could be waiting up to 3 years—3 years; disabled people who are entitled to Social Security, 3 years—to get their benefits. The wait time over the phones will explode. Seniors are already having to wait over 2 hours—sometimes longer, it is reported—to get someone on the phone.

Why are they doing this? Why are Donald Trump and Elon Musk doing this? The goal of Trump and Musk is clear: Destroy Social Security from within. Make it so unworkable, so inefficient that Donald Trump has a pretext to cut benefits and privatize the program.

Republicans are saying it loud and clear, and Donald Trump said it in his address to the joint session: This administration, the Trump-Musk administration, is going after Social Security. And why are they doing such a horrible thing? To cut taxes for billionaires like Elon Musk.

Senate Republicans should be using their majority to protect Americans' benefits, not to destroy them. Senate Republicans should be demanding that Elon Musk reverse the firings of the 7,000 staffers, reopen the field offices, and restore the phone services. Senate Republicans haven't done any of that. It is shameful, and they are complicit in destroying Social Security the way Musk intends to do.

I yield the floor.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Wyoming.

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 10 minutes, followed by Senator CRUZ for up to 10 minutes, prior to the scheduled rollcall vote.

THE PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### TRUMP ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BARRASSO. Mr. President, I traveled last week to visit with over 150 members of our Wyoming Army National Guard. They are stationed in Jordan and in Syria, and they are a long way from home—nine time zones away from Wyoming. They are there to keep our country safe and free.

One year ago, our adversaries were growing bolder, stronger, and more aggressive. That was a year ago. Today, America is stronger, safer, and much more secure. President Trump is restoring peace through strength. This is a dramatic change from what we saw in the previous administration.

Within days of taking office, President Trump began freeing American

hostages—Marc Fogel, Keith Siegel. Almost a dozen former hostages who were held by our adversaries are now safe on American soil. President Trump is bringing American citizens home.

He is also bringing America's enemies to justice. Let's look at the recent precision strike in Yemen against the Houthi terrorists. Remember who the Houthis are. They are Iran-funded terrorists. Their official slogans say "Death to the United States" and "Death to Israel." They are a direct threat to the American people and specifically to our servicemembers and to American trade.

Since October 7, 2023, the Houthis have attacked U.S. Navy ships 174 times. They have attacked U.S. commercial ships 145 times. Iran provides them with high-tech missiles and precision-guided drones.

These attacks continue. Why? Because Joe Biden and the Democrats were weak, and Joe Biden, their President, projected weakness. President Trump is strong, and he projects strength. President Trump responded firmly with overwhelming strength.

I am grateful for our servicemembers who carried out the attacks.

President Trump sent a clear message to the terrorists: Stop or get destroyed. He also sent a clear message to Iran: You will not escape accountability.

This is a remarkable change from his predecessor. Joe Biden appeased Iran. His administration gave Iran \$100 billion in sanctions relief. President Trump is keeping up maximum pressure on Iran, and the Houthi strike proves it.

President Trump knows that Iran is responsible for the chaos in the Middle East. Since taking office, President Trump rightfully has hit Iran with 94 new sanctions. President Trump also placed sanctions on Iran's so-called ghost fleet. These are the oil smugglers who move Iranian oil to China. These sanctions against Iran help put communist China on notice. These fleets are moving Iranian oil and selling it to China at a discount, making Iran richer and making China more powerful. Remember, 90 percent of Iran's exports of oil go to communist China. We saw a lot of it under the last administration. As the Wall Street Journal editorial board recently wrote, "[T]he Iranian oil-export problem is really a Chinese import problem" because they are getting the cheap oil. President Trump is responding firmly to this new axis of evil.

Here in the West, President Trump is taking historic action against the killer cartels. He recently designated killer cartels as "foreign terrorists." With this designation, he can move more aggressively to deport illegal immigrant criminals who are members of these deadly groups.

The President of the United States is our Commander in Chief, and President Trump takes the role seriously. He is

reestablishing our military as the most lethal and intimidating force in the world. Under the Trump administration, recruitment has surged to its highest level in 15 years. This is important because history teaches us an important lesson. And what is that lesson? Weakness invites conflict. Strength deters war. When our military is prepared, America is strong and projects strength.

President Trump is also the best chance for peace between Russia and Ukraine. Both Russia and Ukraine must come to an agreement on a longlasting cease-fire. President Trump and his administration are pursuing an end to the killing and to the bloodshed.

In the Middle East, peace and prosperity are also necessary. That begins with American support for Israel. The Senate should confirm Governor Mike Huckabee to be America's Ambassador to Israel.

Overall, President Trump is off to a strong start. His swift actions are making America safer and stronger. Fully restoring peace through strength, however, requires congressional action as well. In the Senate, Republicans are preparing legislation to do just that. Republicans will rebuild our military, improve military readiness, expand shipbuilding, and invest in the newest technologies to keep America safe, and that includes an Iron Dome for America. All of this makes our military more lethal.

Americans strongly support these policies. They know that this is the path toward safety and security. Republicans are going to bring back peace through strength. We will get America back on track.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### NOMINATION OF AARON REITZ

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, it is a distinct honor for me to speak today on behalf of Aaron Reitz as he continues through the confirmation process to serve as the Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy at the U.S. Department of Justice.

Throughout his career, whether in law, government, or on the battlefield, Aaron has earned the respect and the admiration of all who have had the privilege of working with him.

I have worked closely with Aaron day-to-day, and I can attest to his exceptional career, unrelenting commitment, and strong moral values. He is an ideal candidate for this position.

The Office of Legal Policy is integral to the Department of Justice. It is the cornerstone of the Department's most

significant policy initiatives and serves as a key driver of its legislative and programmatic agendas. OLP plays a critical role in facilitating the relationship between the executive and the legislative branches, particularly regarding legislation, regulations, policies, and judicial appointments.

Aaron possesses the vision, the experience, and the leadership needed to excel in this role, and I have no doubt that he will lead the office with the same dedication he has shown throughout his career.

But before diving into his professional credentials, it is important to highlight that Aaron is more than just an outstanding legal expert. He is a dedicated family man. He is blessed and fortunate to have his wonderful wife Meredith and four beautiful children. All of them have much to be proud of.

Allow me to share a few highlights from Aaron's distinguished career, which demonstrates why he is so well-qualified for the position.

Aaron graduated magna cum laude from Texas A&M University, where he earned the role of Regimental Commander at the Corps of Cadets. Following his education, Aaron served with distinction as an officer in the U.S. Marine Corps. During nearly 5 years of Active Duty, he deployed to Afghanistan's Helmand Province, where he worked alongside the Afghan National Army, leading logistics in one of the world's most challenging environments. He didn't merely oversee operations from behind a desk; he led from the front, ensuring mission success and safeguarding the lives of our troops in a combat zone.

Aaron then attended law school at the University of Texas, where he served as President of the Federalist Society's student chapter, and he also served as the editor in chief of the Texas Review of Law and Politics, and then he clerked at the Texas Supreme Court.

After completing his military service in law school, Aaron continued his leadership in the legal and public policy fields, working in private practice and later as deputy attorney general for legal strategy in the Office of the Attorney General of Texas. While serving in the Texas Attorney General's Office, Aaron was instrumental in shaping the State's most important legal and policy initiatives.

Beyond his professional accomplishments, Aaron stands out for his ability to build consensus, unite people, and navigate complex situations with poise and effectiveness.

I have witnessed this firsthand while he served as my chief of staff here in the Senate. Aaron's contributions have been indispensable in advancing my legislative agenda, which includes securing the U.S.-Mexico border, protecting children from online harm, and expanding our economy through investments in semiconductor manufacturing and tech infrastructure. He also

played a key role in the efforts to build critical bridges across the Rio Grande River, and he was instrumental in shepherding the Justice for Jocelyn Act. His deep involvement with my Judiciary Committee team will serve him well when he is confirmed for this position.

Now to the heart of why Aaron is the best candidate for Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy. OLP is vital to the Department of Justice, as it shapes and executes the Department's most important priorities. Leading this office requires someone with experience managing complex, cross-departmental initiatives, and a proven ability to get things done at the highest level. That is Aaron.

Aaron has a demonstrated ability to lead and coordinate efforts that have meaningful, measurable impacts, whether in the courtroom, on Capitol Hill, or within a broader policy landscape. His extensive experience across legal, governmental, and political sectors, combined with his exceptional team-building skills, make him very well-qualified for this role.

But beyond his professional qualifications, what truly sets Aaron apart is the strength of his character. He is a man of faith, family, and unwavering principles. He stands firm in his commitment to doing what is right, even when faced with challenging circumstances. His integrity is evident in all his actions.

With his leadership, Aaron will be an invaluable partner to Attorney General Pam Bondi. I have every confidence that OLP will continue to advance the Department's most important policy priorities under his guidance, ensuring that they are grounded in justice, fairness, and the rule of law.

I strongly support Aaron Reitz's nomination. He is the right person for this critical role, and I am confident that he will bring the same dedication, leadership, and integrity to the Office of Legal Policy that he has demonstrated throughout his career.

I urge my colleagues to support his nomination, and I look forward to the outstanding work Aaron will continue to do in continued service to our Nation.

#### WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Reitz nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### VOTE ON BISHOP NOMINATION

The question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Bishop nomination?

Mrs. MURRAY. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 145 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Sanders

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 48, Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

John Thune, Chuck Grassley, James Lankford, Tim Scott of South Carolina, Ashley B. Moody, Ted Budd, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, Steve Daines, Ron Johnson, Josh Hawley, John R. Curtis, Tim Sheehy, Marsha Blackburn, David McCormick, Mike Lee, Rick Scott of Florida.

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 Aaron Reitz, of Texas, 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 senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) are necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 53, nays 45, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 146 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—45

Alsobrooks	Hickenlooper	Reed
Baldwin	Hirono	Rosen
Bennet	Kaine	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kelly	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kim	Schumer
Booker	King	Shaheen
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Coons	Lujan	Smith
Cortez Masto	Markey	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Fetterman	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Welch
Hassan	Padilla	Whitehouse
Heinrich	Peters	Wyden

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Sanders

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 53, the nays are 45. The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read the nomination of Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

VETERANS' ADMINISTRATION

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am here on the floor because we are in a moment of crisis for our veterans. It is a moment of profound historic challenge to the Veterans' Administration, and what we need from Members of this body—and I am encouraged by the response so far—is a call to action. We need a plan for accountability. That is our job—to hold responsible officials who have the obligation and opportunity to serve our veterans at a time when Elon Musk and Donald Trump are slashing and trashing our Veterans' Administration, with real-life impacts on the healthcare and disability benefits that are afforded to our Nation's heroes. It is a disgrace, it is shameful, it is unacceptable, and we need to muster the courage and fortitude on the part of this body to call it out and call it off.

That is why I am here, and it is only the beginning of a plan for accountability that will include others—my colleagues coming to the floor this week and next—as well as hearings that we will organize, shadow hearings—not necessarily formal hearings of the committee but hearings that we will have on aspects of this challenge that call for us to highlight the need for action.

We are going to come to the floor as well to seek unanimous consent on measures that will stop the degrading and decimation of the Veterans' Administration. It is illegal. It is immoral. It is immoral because we have a solemn responsibility—I don't need to make a long speech to tell my colleagues about this responsibility. We recognize it rhetorically all the time. I am here not to make a speech but to have an impact.

Next week, we are going to be voting on the next VA Deputy Secretary nominee, Paul Lawrence, and I just want to be really blunt. I voted for Doug Collins to be VA Secretary. It was a mistake because Secretary Collins has not been forthcoming with facts. He has not been transparent. He has not been responsive to us or to veterans and his employees who are asking questions about what the future of the VA will be given the firing of 80,000 members of the VA workforce, projected, in the next few months without a plan, without a strategy, without any forethought about what its real-life impact will be.

I voted for Doug Collins, and I regret it. I apologize for it. I am not making the same mistake with Paul Lawrence. There is no reason to believe he will be any different—not to mention any better—because he is the Deputy. I have respect for their service in the military, as I do for anyone who has worn the uniform, but I cannot—I cannot—vote for Paul Lawrence. I hope my colleagues will be as vigilant as I am seeking to be in voting against him. I will oppose his nomination.

Since taking office, this administration has shortsightedly shortchanged and systematically betrayed our veterans with policies that are against their interests. The goal here: save money so that tax cuts can be financed—tax cuts for the billionaires and millionaires that populate this administration and drive its policy.

They fired already 2,400 VA employees, many of them high performers. They have been promoted to provisional positions because they have been high performers. They are in those provisional positions for a time when they would become permanently in those positions, but because they are provisional, they have been fired; likewise, the younger members of the workforce who have just been recruited for positions that are open and where their talent is vitally needed. They are the future of our VA, younger VA employees who want to make a career of it, want to serve fellow veterans.

Thirty percent of all the fired workers are veterans because 30 percent of the workforce there is veterans. In fact, the newer employees may be veterans in a higher percentage. We are terminating the future workforce of the VA—again, simply to save money to finance tax cuts for Elon Musk and his fellow billionaires and the ultrawealthy.

Now, the workers who have been fired are in positions of healthcare and disability benefits processing. So what is at risk here is literally the everyday medical needs of our veterans. They are physicians, thousands of them; nurses; schedulers; counselors; the janitors who make sure the facilities are clean. The surgeon who goes into the operating suite can't do it alone; he needs his team. We are firing his team as well as the medical care providers.

On the disability benefits side, the increase in workforce that took place in recent years is to deal with the PACT Act increase in applicants for disability benefits, our veterans who have been exposed to burn pits and toxic chemicals. They are in need of screening, advising, consulting, as well as care and treatment.

We had bipartisan support for the PACT Act. The law is dead letter if it is implemented haphazardly, and we are betraying the goals and the trust we sought so proudly to espouse when we passed that PACT Act that recognized the sacrifice veterans are making—and their families—when they have cancer or hypertension or diabetes or any of the diseases that can result from exposure to those toxic chemicals.

VA Secretary Doug Collins has claimed falsely that there will be no impact to veterans' healthcare and benefits as a result of the administration's malign directive.

At the end of the Biden administration, the VA was delivering more benefits and more healthcare to more veterans than ever before as a result of the success of the PACT Act, for toxic-exposed veterans, and trust in the VA was at an alltime high.

We are risking the healthcare and benefits to veterans not just now but in the future because the credibility of the VA will be decimated, along with its workforce.

The cancellation of contracts eliminates another source of resources for our veterans. VA employees are the ones delivering healthcare. VA employees are the ones processing the PACT Act benefits.

I am disappointed and dismayed that so many of my Republican colleagues are seeking to minimize or diminish the human impacts of these cuts, firings, freezes—the cuts in funding, the freezes in hiring, the firings of employees who are there now—even at a time when there are 40,000 open positions. The VA is recruiting to fill them—3,000 surgeons, 6,000 nurses, thousands of counselors and schedulers—open positions. At the same

time that it is trying to recruit people to fill those positions, it is firing the workers who have similar or the same positions right now. It makes no sense.

But the human impacts are what trouble me the most. To my colleagues or anyone who claims there are no impacts, go host a veteran townhall in your State. Talk to the local VFW or American Legion or any of the other veterans service organizations. Go visit a local VA medical center or clinic or talk to employees who work there. When you meet face to face with your constituents, the immediate impacts of this administration's malign directives, whether it is out of malevolence or simply malign neglect, will become apparent, and either way, it is unacceptable.

I invite Secretary Collins to actually come to a townhall—make it Connecticut; make it anywhere—a townhall where you will meet face to face with a group of veterans who will tell you what these cuts, freezes, and firings mean in real life to the services that are supposed to be provided to them and will be denied because of these directives.

Let's be clear: The one behind this is Elon Musk. The one who is directing these cuts, freezes, and firings is an unappointed, unelected billionaire who has never contemplated wearing the uniform of this country, not to mention helping or serving our veterans in any way.

Elon Musk, you come to a townhall with veterans. You face them and tell them that they can't have the medical care they need and deserve to treat cancer or hypertension or any of the diseases or illnesses that result from exposure to toxic chemicals or burn pits.

I attended a veterans event last week. I talk to veterans all the time when I am back in Connecticut. I know firsthand what these cuts, freezes, and firings mean to them. The impacts caused by Musk and Trump—heart-breaking, heartless cuts and other damaging directives—are being felt in every corner of my State of Connecticut and every part of our country.

I just want to read a few sentences from *Sioux Falls Live*, a newspaper in South Dakota:

"Staffing cuts in the federal Department of Veterans Affairs are disproportionately affecting the veterans that the department preferentially hires," said members of a South Dakota veterans' advocacy group.

They worry the Trump administration's goal of cutting 80,000 VA employees will put more veterans out of work without a vetting process, and erode the quality of services provided.

Eugene Murphy, of Sioux Falls, is a past national commander of Disabled American Veterans and a Vietnam War vet who was paralyzed by gunshot wounds.

"How are you going to treat my brothers and sisters like that?" He said. "This is not right."

I hope those words will echo in this Chamber. It is not right. It is not right. These veterans in South Dakota have a

right to be angry, not to mention concerned and worried not just for themselves but veterans across the country.

We heard that a VA hospital in South Dakota is at risk of losing nearly 20 percent of its staff as a direct result of Trump and Musk's illegal and indiscriminate reduction-in-force plans.

And yet Secretary Collins continues to dutifully carry out the Musk plan with no buy-in, no consultation, no townhall with that.

Now let me read you an excerpt from an article in the *Spokesman-Review* that contained interviews with some of the VA employees that Collins illegally fired. VA employees like Ricky Noschese who worked at Lovell Federal Healthcare Center.

Here is what Ricky Noschese—I apologize for the mispronunciation—Ricky Noschese says about that Federal health center where he supervises a team of technicians in charge of keeping equipment running at the hospital—another corrective. He supervised them.

Lovell serves 90,000 patients a year, including veterans, Active-Duty servicemembers, and their dependents:

In less than a year on the job, Ricky had identified more than \$10 million in cost savings and had a long list of ideas to improve operations and complete long-delayed projects.

With the support of his boss, Noschese wrote a detailed four-page document to justify his employment. He described how he had helped save taxpayers more than \$10 million by using nearly two decades of experience as an HVAC technician to identify efficiencies and find cost-effective ways to extend the life of air-handling units.

He was head of a 12-person team responsible for ensuring clean water, fire safety, and other essentials required to maintain the hospital's accreditation.

Noschese and his bosses hoped he would be exempt from the mass firing, but after they sent the justification memo up the chain, they got a curt, simple, stark response: The document was too long. He should sum up his position in no more than three sentences.

Noschese was told a member of hospital leadership did that, but it made no difference. He had to turn in his badge and go home.

Now I tell you this story in some detail because it shows that efforts to eliminate waste when they are draconian and cruel and indiscriminate actually create more costs. Laying waste to the VA with across-the-board cuts without careful, selective consideration actually raises the expense, as it will in Noschese's job where there is nobody to do that excellent work based on his experience and expertise; and, ultimately, the costs will be higher as a result. But Elon Musk, apparently, doesn't care, nor does Doug Collins.

Take disabled veteran Megan Richelle Cole. She worked at Lovell, managing the supply of medications and ensured patients so that they would receive only the best drugs, not

expired or recalled drugs. When she was fired—simply on the basis of being a probationary employee—she was in the final stages of buying a house. Disabled veteran, doing work responsibly and well, about to buy a house—suddenly, she has no income.

Let me read a few more lines about her:

To make matters worse, the VA didn't provide her with a form required to file for unemployment benefits, and she had to withdraw from that home purchase. "Everything was going smoothly, like it was supposed to," she said, until the sudden termination left her feeling humiliated and lost. "Nobody knew anything. It was just heartbreaking." Cole's supervisors, again, tried to help her preserve her job to no avail.

Let's be clear: This administration's actions have a real lasting impact on veterans' care and benefits despite Secretary Collins' blatantly disingenuous claims that there have been none, there will be none. Elon Musk should know what those consequences will be, and Secretary Collins should be transparent with the administration and with us.

These heartbreaking and heartless cuts will destroy lives and livelihoods. VA Secretary Collins, Musk, and Trump are prioritizing a "fire first, analyze later" mindset and strategy at the expense of the very people they are supposed to serve—people who served and sacrificed for us: America's veterans. It is unconscionable. It is unwise and ineffective. It is immoral.

I will say this in closing: Nobody is claiming—certainly, I am not—that there isn't waste that we can eliminate, that fraud or abuse shouldn't be pursued. In fact, if this administration were serious about fraud and abuse and waste, they wouldn't have fired Mike Missal, the inspector general, whose service under both Democratic and Republican administrations has been exemplary.

He has been saluted and praised in Republican administrations, as well as Democratic, by my colleagues on the Republican side, as well as ours, but he was fired inexplicably, inconsistently with the goal of eliminating waste and fraud. It belies their claims and pretensions to want to eliminate abuse and fraud and waste to fire the watchdog who would call it out, investigate it, and refer it for prosecution as he has done saving tens of millions of dollars for taxpayers and benefits for veterans.

He has served both Republican and Democratic administrations, and there is nothing partisan about anything that I have said here, about the impact on veterans, the cruelty, and deeply heartbreaking consequences of these actions.

My Republican colleagues should join us when we begin next week with floor speeches and unanimous consent requests and the hearings—shadow hearings—that we will conduct and other actions that we will undertake in this call for accountability—a call for action.

Nothing partisan should deter them from joining us. This responsibility is

one that we share in this body to highlight and call out and call off the Musk-Trump disastrous and disgraceful cuts in benefits and healthcare for our veterans.

We are hearing from veterans, and again, I encourage my colleagues to hear more directly, immediately, personally from them. I invite Secretary Collins to join me in a townhall as soon as possible.

I invite him again, as I did in a letter recently, to appear on April 2 before a shadow hearing we will conduct in this Capitol. He can explain himself. He can tell me why I am wrong but, most important, he can answer to our Nation's veterans who deserve and need better from this administration.

America's veterans deserve nothing less than for every single Member in this body to call into question these damaging policies. They deserve nothing less than the gold standard in healthcare, as well as full and complete benefits of the PACT Act and in every other respect, the respect and responsibility that we have. To disrespect them is un-American.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SHEEHY). The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mrs. BRITT. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

WAIVING QUORUM CALL

Mrs. BRITT. I ask unanimous consent to waive the mandatory quorum call with respect to the Faulkender nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF AARON REITZ

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, the Senate will soon vote on the nomination of Aaron Reitz, President Trump's nominee for Assistant Attorney General for the Office of Legal Policy.

Simply put, Mr. Reitz's nomination is a danger to the rule of law. At his confirmation hearing, I asked him a very simple question that should be a softball for any nominee seeking Senate confirmation.

When I asked him whether an elected official should be allowed to defy a Federal court order, Mr. Reitz said, "There is no hard and fast rule about whether in every instance a public official is bound by a court decision."

I was disgusted to hear these words come out of the mouth of a nominee aspiring to hold a key role at the Department of Justice.

Mr. Reitz's failure to unequivocally commit to following Federal court orders even prompted my colleague Senator KENNEDY to admonish Mr. Reitz, "Don't ever, ever, take the position that you're not going to follow the order of a federal court. Ever."

I couldn't agree more.

Despite that sage advice, Mr. Reitz repeated this equivocation in answers

to written questions, stating that, "Parties to litigation are bound by the lawful holdings of their respective court in most circumstances," but not all circumstances.

This administration has continued to undermine our system of checks and balances by pushing the boundaries of executive power, and, in turn, chipping away at the authority and legitimacy of the judicial branch.

Mr. Reitz has made clear his intent to aid the President in pursuing this agenda, regardless of whether it is in accordance with judicial orders.

But that is not my only concern with Aaron Reitz. He has attempted to hide his disturbing views on many topics, deleting approximately 4,000 social media posts. Nothing was off-limits in the posts the Judiciary Committee uncovered.

Reitz has condemned millions of Catholics and Christians who supported President Biden, writing that there was, "no excuse" for their vote.

He openly opposes the legality of same-sex marriage, calling the Obergefell decision, "anti-const[itutional]" and a "low point in SCOTUS history."

Mr. Reitz also has aligned himself with Matt Walsh, a self-proclaimed "theocratic fascist," who believes that, "the LGBT left indoctrinates and recruits children."

And despite the protections enshrined in the 14th Amendment, Mr. Reitz incorrectly wrote, "Friendly reminder that 'birthright citizenship' is not a thing."

Before Derek Chauvin was convicted of murdering George Floyd and despite the video footage of Chauvin kneeling on Mr. Floyd's neck for over 9 minutes, Mr. Reitz wrote, "No question in my mind that Chauvin is not guilty."

That is simply an offensive statement. Several Republican Members of the Senate rightfully spoke out about this horrific crime.

Even after Chauvin was convicted, Mr. Reitz called the jury's decision, "a bogus guilty verdict."

I guess it should come as no surprise that Mr. Reitz's disrespect for the finality of court orders is matched by his disrespect for the finality of a jury's verdict.

Mr. Reitz's online commentary demonstrates his penchant for fringe policy positions and extreme ideologies.

His failure to comply with Federal court orders should cause great concern for all of us who believe in our constitutional order, built on the foundation of three coequal branches of government.

Failing to unequivocally commit to following Federal court orders should be disqualifying for any nominee before this body.

Mr. Reitz is not fit for a role within the Department of Justice, particularly not one in which he will be charged with developing and implementing the Department's legal policy initiatives and vetting candidates for Federal judgeships.

I ask my colleagues to join me in opposing this nomination.

VOTE ON REITZ NOMINATION

Mrs. BRITT. I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

Hearing none, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Reitz nomination?

Mrs. BRITT. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 147 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Hyde-Smith

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. BANKS). Under the previous order, the motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table, and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

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 senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the

Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 51, Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

John Thune, Mike Crapo, Roger Marshall, Shelley Moore Capito, Tommy Tuberville, Jim Justice, James Lankford, John Barrasso, Markwayne Mullin, Tim Sheehy, Mike Rounds, Todd Young, Kevin Cramer, Ted Budd, Roger F. Wicker, Katie Boyd Britt, David McCormick.

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 Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Mississippi (Mrs. HYDE-SMITH).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) is necessarily absent.

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 52, nays 46, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 148 Ex.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hawley	Ricketts
Britt	Hoeben	Risch
Budd	Husted	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—46

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Sanders
Baldwin	Kaine	Schatz
Bennet	Kelly	Schiff
Blumenthal	Kim	Schumer
Blunt Rochester	King	Shaheen
Booker	Klobuchar	Slotkin
Cantwell	Lujan	Smith
Coons	Markey	Van Hollen
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Warner
Duckworth	Murphy	Warnock
Durbin	Murray	Warren
Fetterman	Ossoff	Welch
Gillibrand	Padilla	Whitehouse
Hassan	Peters	Wyden
Heinrich	Reed	
Hickenlooper	Rosen	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Hyde-Smith

The PRESIDING OFFICER. On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 46.

The motion is agreed to.

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the nomination.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Maryland.

CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU

Mr. VAN HOLLEN. Mr. President, the bill that Senate Republicans have brought to the floor today and which we will vote on sometime soon is the latest example of the "great betrayal" in action.

On the campaign trail, Candidate Donald Trump promised that he was going to help Americans deal with their pocketbook issues, kitchen table issues, and he said that on day one—day one—he was going to bring prices down; that he was going to bring down costs for American families. Well, costs are going up, and President Trump and Republicans are taking actions that will raise those costs on the American people even further, and today's bill is exhibit A.

I want to take a step back and put this bill that we are considering today in context. You know, one of the infuriating experiences that so many American consumers have is the mountain of junk fees they face. These are hidden fees that are sometimes in very fine print in contracts. They are all these fees that get added to their bills, where they really have no idea what additional value they are getting for those fees because often there is no additional value for that fee or that the additional value is minuscule in comparison to the fee they are being charged. So people pay these fees and grind their teeth and essentially get ripped off. We also see many predatory lending practices, where financial interests prey on those who are living paycheck to paycheck.

So, years ago, after the financial crisis of 2008, Congress created the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—also known by its shorthand CFPB—to help protect American consumers from a whole range of predatory practices. Senator WARREN was one of the people who thought of establishing that important consumer protection Agency. Now she is the ranking Democrat on the Banking and Housing Committee, on which I am privileged to serve.

Since its creation, the CFPB has gone after all sorts of fraudsters, all sorts of con artists, all sorts of people who try to find different ways to cheat American consumers out of their hard-earned money. They have been successful, the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau. They have returned over \$21 billion to American consumers who have been cheated out of their hard-earned money. In other words, they brought lawsuits to go after these fraudsters or changed practices in order to make sure that people could keep more of their hard-earned money. That includes \$71 million that was returned to my constituents in the State of Maryland who were ripped off.

Along the way, the CFPB made some powerful enemies, and many Republicans have been trying to dismantle the CFPB for years. Now they have Elon Musk to help do their dirty work.

In one of the most corrupt bargains in American history, Elon Musk spent \$280 million to help elect Donald Trump, and Donald Trump has turned around and given Elon Musk the keys to many Federal Agencies. Make no mistake, this has nothing to do with making the Federal Government more efficient and has everything to do with rigging the government to serve people like Elon Musk at the expense of everybody else in America. In fact, one of the great examples of that is that they went right after the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

I find it just gross that the richest man in the world would go after a Bureau whose purpose it is to help return money to American consumers who have been cheated out of their hard-earned dollars, but that was one of the very early targets of Elon Musk and his DOGE cronies.

Now, apparently, that wasn't enough. It was not enough just to go after and try to dismantle that Agency. That step and the one we are dealing with here in the Senate today is an effort to go back and undo some of the important consumer protections that the CFPB put in place under the Biden administration.

One of those protections was a rule that is in place now to prevent banks from charging consumers exorbitant fees when a consumer overdraws their account balances using a debit card.

So how does this work? Well, let's say you have got your debit card. You go into the grocery store. You are going to buy some groceries for the family. You use your debit card to pay, and you overdraw your account. Now, some of the biggest banks in the country will typically charge you \$35 for each of those overdrafts no matter how big your overdraft amount is. So you overdraw your account by one buck, \$35; by 5 bucks, \$35.

The average overdraft amount is \$26. So you can see on each one of those transactions those banks are making a hefty return. In fact, it is like a loan with an APR of 16,000 percent. And it happens time after time. In other words, you leave the grocery store. You go pick up your kids at school. You go to a local convenience shop. You get a cup of coffee. You pay with your debit card, and—boom—you get hit with another \$35 overdraft fee. And on and on and on.

In fact, every year, some of the biggest banks—Wells Fargo and Chase—make over \$1 billion from consumer overdraft fees. And some of these banks have built an entire system to try to maximize the amount they get from their consumers through these overdraft fees. If you look collectively at the banking system, this is a \$5 billion-a-year rip-off.

So if you look at the people who are being primarily hit by this, not surprisingly, it is people who are living paycheck to paycheck—in fact, many of the people who Candidate Trump said he wanted to look out for when he was campaigning in the last election.

If you look closely, you will find that 79 percent of overdraft fees are charged on about 9 percent of accounts. These are accounts where people have an average balance of around \$350. So these big banks are preying on the people who literally are going paycheck to paycheck. And for those households, the average hit every year is about \$225 in exorbitant fees. So you make a tiny miscalculation, and you get hit hard by these predatory practices.

Last year—this last year—the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau—the one that Elon Musk and DOGE are trying to shut down as we speak—last year, they developed a rule to help protect consumers. It was something many of us had pushed for years, and we were glad to see them do it.

The rule was pretty straightforward. It would cap the overdraft fees at \$5 a time instead of \$35 a time. And it would also require banks to be transparent in their pricing and their overdraft penalty structure so that consumers would know and have eyes wide open as to what penalties they were going to incur. So you wouldn't have people inadvertently hit with 35 bucks for a cup of coffee, 35 bucks when you go pick up some more groceries.

This has become a way for some of the biggest banks to rip off consumers, especially those who are going paycheck to paycheck, as I said, to the tune of \$5 billion.

So that is the rule. That is what the CFPB did, pretty simple measure: Make sure that consumers don't get ripped off and not even know they are being ripped off sometimes until they know about the overdraft fee.

What Republicans have brought to the floor today is a proposal to override that consumer protection bill to allow those banks to continue to collect \$5 billion from American consumers, so many of them who are living paycheck to paycheck.

Everybody should know that that is what is going on here. We have got the richest man in the world trying to shut down an Agency that was created to help protect consumers, and here in the Senate, we have Senate Republicans trying to overturn a consumer protection rule that saves working people a little bit of money and makes sure that they don't get slammed for making a small overdraft on their accounts.

I urge my colleagues to vote to uphold the consumer protection law that was adopted. If you want to vote yes to protect the rule, you vote no on this effort to overturn it. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Democratic whip.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleague from Maryland for his excellent presentation.

This is an issue which people with little money in the bank never think about. People who are living paycheck to paycheck don't have a big savings account, don't have anywhere to turn.

They are the ones who are penalized by the discussion we are having today and certainly ought to pay attention to this debate.

It is hard to believe that recent polls show that consumer confidence in the economy has dropped to its lowest level in 12 years. This comes after President Trump made campaign promise after campaign promise to lower prices on day one. Remember that? He said: We are going to "make America affordable again." But working families in America have not seen any relief; actually, just the opposite.

A month ago, President Trump, turning to his billionaire buddy—the unelected Elon Musk—tried to, in Musk's description, "delete" the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

I know a little bit about that Bureau. I was one of the original sponsors of the legislation creating it. The idea was to have one Agency of government on the side of the consumer that was willing to look out for rip-offs and to fight, if necessary, to protect the consumers.

Of course, that is the last thing in the world that Elon Musk and Donald Trump want to see. They are the folks who want to make sure that the big banks and the big corporations are not held accountable, so off they went with their DOGE operation for the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau.

This Agency stood up to Wall Street to protect consumers when they had nowhere else to turn. And, now, today, hard to believe—hard to believe—my Republican colleagues want to go a further step to strip consumers of protections that went to the benefit of the big banks. They want to gut a rule from the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau that would cap overdraft fees.

Currently, consumers are charged on average \$35 in overdraft fees per transaction. So you write a check for one of your expenses, and it turns out there is some miscalculation along the way, and you don't have the money in your checking account to cover it. That is an overdraft. Well, the charge for that overdraft is \$35 currently, on average. It doesn't matter how big or how small you overdrew your checking account.

If a consumer purchases a product one cent over the amount in their checking account, an extra \$35 is tacked on to the transaction in overdraft fees.

According to the Federal Reserve, nearly 40 percent of Americans would have trouble covering an emergency \$400 expense. Forty percent of Americans do not have more than \$400 in cash available to them. For those households, a \$35 overdraft fee would be the difference between just making it or falling behind a little bit that day.

The CFPB's rule would cap these fees at 5 bucks unless the bank can demonstrate that its costs to run overdraft services are actually higher. This would save Americans up to \$5 billion a year, from \$35 on average to \$5 for

overdraft fees or \$225 for each household that pays overdraft fees.

The rule only applies to banks and credit unions that have more than \$10 billion in assets. That is about 130 of the biggest banks. So the community banks—the ones which you probably do a lot of business with—that sponsor the hometown Little League team or help support local charities, this rule would not apply to them. The bank has to have a value of more than \$10 billion in assets to be covered by this \$5 limitation.

What are some of the banks that are involved? JPMorgan's profits last year were \$54 billion—JPMorgan, \$54 billion; Bank of America's profits, \$25 billion; Wells Fargo's profits, \$20 billion. Let me draw a distinction. In 2024, JPMorgan and Wells Fargo both charged more than \$1 billion in overdraft fees. However, Bank of America has capped its overdraft fees to 10 bucks. They still made incredible profits to the tune of \$25.5 billion. When you crunch the numbers, the big banks' arguments that they absolutely need to charge people these outrageous fees just don't hold up.

That is why I am voting no on this offering to oppose the resolution that would overturn this rule that caps overdraft fees and helps everyday Americans.

I do want to commend the banks that are at least trying to help the consumers. Citigroup and Capital One have ceased overdraft fees, and Bank of America has capped its overdraft fee at \$10, underscoring how banks can continue to operate profitably—very profitably—without relying on these fees.

So I am going to oppose this offering by Senator SCOTT of South Carolina on this overdraft lending fee. I think when it gets right down to it, you have to ask yourself: Is it really costing the banks that much money for an overdraft? If it is, they can charge the consumer. But to automatically penalize them in this way is fundamentally unfair for a lot of people who are struggling. You can talk a lot about the cost of a dozen eggs, but I will tell you what, even a dozen eggs doesn't cost a \$35 fee that has been the usual charge in penalty for anyone who overdraws their account. So if you are on the side of the consumers and the families who are struggling with the cost of living, oppose this effort by Senator SCOTT of South Carolina.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. BOOKER. Mr. President, this is an overdraft speech. It is about a commonsense rule that lowers costs for millions and millions of Americans,

while carefully targeting, really, the most egregious abusive overdraft practices in the financial industry today.

Banks have long offered overdraft services to allow their customers to make purchases or even pay a bill, even if they lack sufficient funds in their account, while sometimes charging a fee for this service. But in recent years, banks have exploited this practice, charging customers billions of dollars in deceptive fees. A recent study found that more than half of all the people who overdraw their checking accounts and paid a fee could not recall consenting to the overdraft service for which they are being charged.

Moreover, we know the customers who are being charged overdraft fees are overwhelmingly folks who are low-income, who work really hard and don't get that much pay, and a \$20 overdraft fee just further pushes them into a financial trap, into this cycle downward of financial instability that is hard to pull out of.

Too often, banks have been found trying to game the system, and this is really problematic. They try to game the system to impose fees on customers—even when they shouldn't be charged in the first place—by orchestrating transactions improperly or delaying deposits customers make into their accounts.

Just think about this. They can time your deposit with the time it hits your account. You think you can deposit a check and pull money out, but the way they rig the system is to create a gap in which you are actually in overdraft when technically you have already made that deposit.

Meanwhile, these fees generated enormous amounts of revenue for banks while most customers don't even know they have opted into this system.

Opponents of the rule argue that it could restrict access to emergency credit. We all are supporters of this idea of emergency credit. They think that this is an example, they say, of government overreach and that it is going to hurt banks' revenue model. Let's be honest. This isn't about protecting consumers; it is about protecting this massive, new profit line for big banks.

For years, I have fought against what is a predatory practice. I have introduced legislation to crack down on exploitative overdraft fees that banks charge consumers when they make a purchase or pay a bill that they don't have sufficient funds for in their account, trying to stop the games that banks play to make it more difficult for people to avoid the overdraft fees in the first place.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau has been instrumental in cracking down on banks charging surprise overdraft fees, and many banks have said "You are right. This is a bad practice. We should stop" but not all of them. So last year, the CFPB finalized this rule to curb illegal and predatory practices. The rule lowered most big-

bank overdraft fees from \$35 to \$5, saving consumers in America—American hard-working citizens—saving them \$5 billion a year. On average, it delivered \$225 a year in savings for the average household. Think about this. It is about protecting households. There is still a consequence if you overdraft, but it can't be these usury rates.

The overdraft rule did not ban overdraft fees outright or go after small community banks and credit unions, which were exempted from the rule. It simply requires banks to either reduce their rates or comply with Federal banking laws when charging high credit fees.

Several financial institutions that I have mentioned, like Capital One and Citibank, have already eliminated overdraft fees and continue to provide overdraft protection. They are showing, to their credit, that it can be done and not somehow mess up their business model. You don't need to take advantage of consumers to make money. Meanwhile, though, Wells Fargo and JPMorgan Chase each earn over \$1 billion a year in overdraft and NSF fees—nearly four times more than the next highest bank.

Some banks are showing "You know what, we don't want to jerk over the customers," while others, to the tune of over \$1 billion a year, are still taking advantage of some of our most vulnerable and financially fragile Americans, who are working hard every day to try to get out of poverty traps, yet banks take advantage of them and send them back.

Perhaps most egregiously, in 2024, Navy Fed took nearly as much as the biggest banks from its servicemembers, veterans, and other customers. They took \$725 million despite a dramatically smaller customer base, clearly showing that they were trying to take advantage of our veterans, our servicemembers, and others. Who will stand up for them? Who will say "You are not going to do predatory practices on our servicemembers, on our veterans"—dramatically more than other banks that eliminated these practices.

For those who are most affected by overdraft fees—those folks living paycheck to paycheck, who are part of the 64 percent of Americans who live paycheck to paycheck and are often minutes to hours away from having the money necessary to cover expenses that lead to overdraft fees—this rule is a lifeline to them and their families.

I was proud that New Jerseyans wrote in to the CFPB sharing how these predatory practices were impacting them. Allow me to read from a New Jerseyan from East Orange, my neighbor. They wrote:

[M]y account was closed with no notice due to a merchant charging my account into the overdrafts. I've complained . . . for weeks about said situation. Nothing was ever done. A [\$4,300] deposit was released—

By the bank—

but due to account closing, I currently have no access to funds which were released.

One anonymous servicemember from Carteret, NJ, wrote:

I am writing to file a complaint against Navy Federal Credit Union regarding multiple overdraft fees I have incurred. Despite having sufficient funds when transactions were authorized, I was charged due to lagged posting of charges and credits. This issue aligns with the recent CFPB findings . . . for similar practices where transactions settled with insufficient balances despite initially available funds. I believe these practices are unfair and I request an investigation into my account transactions.

This is a New Jerseyan who is playing by the rules who is frustrated because of practices that are clearly predatory and that take advantage of folks who are living paycheck to paycheck, and they are a servicemember.

Another servicemember from Manchester Township was erroneously charged and then overdrawn from his business account from Wells Fargo.

The extra \$210 that was withdrawn from my account, including the original withdrawals and the overdraft fees, caused a cascade effect that has led to \$1,100 in overdraft fees [this] year. I had called Wells Fargo twice to ask for help in stopping these increasing overdraft fees. They reimbursed me for 2 overdraft fees—\$70. I was told that they were only allowed to reverse 2 overdraft fees a year. They also told me there was nothing else they could do to help me. The overdraft fees of \$1,100 over the last 2 months have caused me a tremendous financial burden. As of today's date, I am still being charged overdraft fees. I don't know what to do, and Wells Fargo has refused to help me. I will probably close my account with Wells Fargo, however, it is a nightmare trying to change all the insurance companies that I receive payments from.

Here is a servicemember, a small business person, getting screwed over because they don't have the protection this rule would provide.

To rescind this rule in order to further enrich a small handful of abusive banks and their shareholders that allow this to happen at the expense of working families, at the expense of veterans, at the expense of servicemembers, is despicable.

This body shouldn't be on the side of big banks and their further enrichment; they should be on the side of veterans and servicemembers and Americans struggling, working paycheck to paycheck, especially when certain banks have shown they don't need these usury fees to make enormous profits. Where is the moral value in that?

Instead of lowering prices and protecting consumers, I now see Members of this body who I know the values they speak to. Some of my colleagues on the Senate Republican side want to raise these prices on Americans and allow these banks to prey upon servicemembers, veterans, and working Americans. This is all while the President and Elon Musk have continued their onslaught and attack on the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, which has returned billions of dollars to American consumers.

The Consumer Financial Protection Bureau was created in the aftermath of

the 2008 crisis to protect Americans from predatory practices and fight discriminations in the financial sector.

I wasn't here in Washington, but when the banks needed a bailout, we were here for the banks. I don't know if we charged them overdraft fees, but are we going to stand up for consumers now?

The CFPB has returned to the American consumers \$19.7 billion in compensation, canceled debt, and other relief—\$19.7 billion. I know firsthand the difference that the work of this Agency has made for American families. I saw it in my time as a young lawyer taking on slumlords in Newark. Hard-working people who could barely afford rent, who worked 50, 60 hours a week, barely affording rent, fighting to put food on the table for their kids, and one improper practice at a bank can throw them into financial crisis—predatory practices, scams, exploitation, which some banks have stopped doing.

I don't understand that this is even an issue here. This rule is to help consumers. This rule is to help veterans. This rule is to help servicemembers. This rule is to help the Americans who are struggling because the top 50 percent of our country has done extraordinarily well in the last economies under Republican and Democratic Presidents, but the data is clear that the bottom 50 percent of our country is working harder and making less. And we want to advantage the big banks that have record corporate profits.

I won't back down from this fight to save the CFPB, to save those who fight to defend consumers from being screwed over by big institutions. Look, I know what it is like in my family story to fight. I know what it is like to be up against insurmountable odds from my family stories. I know what it is like to be searching for someone who will stand up for you when you are doing everything right in this country, when you are working hard, when you are playing by the rules, when you are serving in your community, when you are coaching Little League, when you are trying to help on your block. I know what it is like, when you are volunteering at your church, to turn around and have some big, impersonal, distant bank screw you for their profits.

It is time for this body to do the right thing. This is not political. This is not partisan. This is, who do you stand for? At a time when people are cynical about all of Congress—they don't feel like anybody is fighting for them—who is going to stand up today and say: I fight for the little guy. I fight for the small business. I fight for the working servicemember.

Who is going to stand up? Who is going to stand up?

I know where I stand, and I encourage my colleagues to preserve this rule that stops predatory big banks from savaging the financial lives of too many Americans.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, I am honored to follow my friend and colleague from New Jersey, whom I salute for his passion and his eloquence. And thank you to Senator WARREN for her leadership in bringing us together today and to my colleagues who are rising today in opposition to S.J. Res. 18, which seeks to undo the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau's overdraft fee rule.

Now let's be very clear: This overdraft rule never should have been necessary. If big banks were doing the right thing and playing fair with their customers, this rule would never have been necessary. Taking that fee from \$35 to \$5 simply reflects what the possible cost is of overdrafts rather than banks, in effect, making money on overdrafts, which are commonly the result of people not having enough money in their bank account. And that is commonly the result of people being poorer than they want to be.

I suspect that most of this administration hasn't had an overdraft fee recently. I am guessing—I think it is an educated guess—that Elon Musk has not had an overdraft fee recently.

Overdrafts hit people who are living paycheck to paycheck, people who are at the bottom rung of our economic order through no fault of their own—often the result of discrimination and denial of rights that others are fortunate to have.

But put aside the inequities of this rule or the overdraft practices that it tries to ameliorate, the Consumer Protection Financial Bureau is, in effect, the watchdog or the top cop in the beat of preventing consumers from being scammed as they are by overdraft fees.

It is under attack by the Trump administration. It has returned \$21 billion to consumers. And most relevant to our conversation here today, lowering overdraft fees from \$35 to \$5 would save households \$5 billion annually. That is \$5 billion that goes into our economy rather than into the coffers of banks that have over \$10 billion in assets and who trick people into paying those excessive overdraft fees; and they earn profit from the most vulnerable families in this country.

I want to focus on one group in particular who are particularly vulnerable—and I say it as a member of the Armed Services Committee and the ranking member of the Veterans Affairs Committee. Servicemembers and their families in particular have a higher stake in this rule prohibiting exploitive overdraft fees.

And the reason is—despicably, disgustingly—servicemembers are often targeted by bad actors and financial institutions for abusive and predatory practices like overdraft fees or that result in overdraft fees.

A Department of Defense survey revealed that 10 percent of Active-Duty and Reserve servicemembers paid overdraft fees two or more times in the

past year, which is more than the average American. Let me just repeat: Two or more times in 1 year, they paid overdraft fees. My guess is that most Members of this Chamber haven't paid overdraft fees in years and years, maybe not since you were in college or law school, graduate school.

Two or more times, our servicemen and -women have been exploited by these banks in charging fees for overdraft.

For years, servicemembers across the country have filed complaints with the CFPB over these unfair and deceptive practices, like skyrocketing fees.

Just one example: A servicemember in Connecticut filed a claim with the CFPB in 2018 about Wells Fargo's predatory overdraft practices. He reported he had an overdraft protection turned off his account, but Wells Fargo still allowed autopayments to be taken out and then charged \$35 rather than denying the payments for lack of funds.

These overdrafts should have been denied, but instead, they went through and cost this servicemember over \$60 in unwanted fees.

Now, I know to a lot of Members of this body, 60 bucks is no big deal. Anybody familiar with the young enlisted men in our U.S. military today who live, literally, paycheck to paycheck knows that \$60 may be the difference between having the means to get home on leave. It may be the difference between enjoying a weekend on leave.

So the \$60 in unwarranted fees that that servicemember paid was a big deal to him. But today, the Republicans unfortunately are shamefully doing the Trump administration's bidding. They are stripping crucial protection away from working American families and our military members, and it is simply and plainly a gift. It is a gift to Big Bank.

We can speculate on what the motives are. They are big banks. They contribute a lot of money to campaigns. But every attack on the CFPB, including this CRA, is an attack on consumer protection, commonsense safeguards that make sure that Americans can avoid being exploited by big and powerful institutions.

Overtaking the overdraft rule is yet another giveaway to these big banks and the billionaires who control and run and own them.

I have said before but it bears repeating: President Trump will always help his billionaire friends at the cost of helping you.

Today, I urge my colleagues to vote against this attack on the CFPB. Vote no on S.J. Res. 18.

I yield the floor to my great friend and colleague from Massachusetts Senator WARREN.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. SCHMITT). The Senator from Massachusetts.

Ms. WARREN. Mr. President, I want to thank the Senator from Connecticut for his work today in defending the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau

and highlighting again the importance of this work from CFPB to help level the playing field just a little between the billionaire banks and our hard-working servicemembers and families that are living paycheck to paycheck.

I also want to thank Senator BOOKER for coming here and talking today about how people from New Jersey have been directly affected by overdraft fee abuses and appreciate his work on this.

President Trump and Republicans promised the Americans that they would lower their cost of living. Instead, they are now linking arms with some of the biggest banks in the country to impose billions of dollars in fees on working families.

Today, Republicans are voting to overturn a CFPB rule that prevents big banks like Bank of America, JPMorgan Chase, and Wells Fargo from saddling customers with hundreds of dollars in overdraft fees when a customer overdraws a checking account by only a few dollars.

Let's be clear: This rule covers only the biggest banks, those with more than \$10 billion in assets. Community banks are completely exempt from this.

All this rule does is ensure that overdraft fees are reasonable. Under the rule, banks are allowed to recoup all of their costs and all of their losses associated with providing overdraft. That is, typically, under \$5, which is why the CFPB's rule generally caps overdraft fees at \$5. But if the bank can show its costs are higher, then they charge the full amount of their actual costs and losses.

What the banks cannot do is play a game of gotcha in which the bank manipulates the customer's account to hit the customers with hundreds of dollars in overdraft charges.

Today, a handful of giant banks are charging about \$35 per bounced payment, squeezing families far more than what it typically costs to offer this overdraft. And consumers carrying the vast majority of these fees are disproportionately low-income Americans, with the typical customer who gets caught with overdraft fees ending up paying more than \$400 a year.

Now, \$400 can be the cost of a mortgage payment or rent for someone with a modest income; \$400 can be the difference between their kid's medication or just going without; \$400 for some families can be several weeks' worth of groceries. This money matters to millions of families.

Altogether, the CFPB rule saves American families up to \$5 billion a year. Republicans claim they care about lowering costs, but overturning this rule will make big banks richer and hard-working families poorer.

The Republicans are deeply sympathetic—deeply sympathetic—to giant banks. They worry about poor little Wells Fargo. They shed a tear for JPMorgan's extra billion dollars in profits that they make from overdraft

fees on top of \$27 billion they make in their other banking services.

Yes, the Republicans worry about those giant banks and that \$5 billion that they would have to forgo if they could only charge \$5 on an overdraft fee.

Look, banks can survive with limits on overdraft fees. How do we know that? Because they are already doing it. In fact, many banks, including Capital One and Citibank, have eliminated overdraft fees entirely, and they are still making billions of dollars in profits.

No, these fees are about kicking hard-working Americans when they are down.

My constituent April from Massachusetts shared this:

During the years of my life when money was always tight, nothing was more stressful than overdrafting my account by \$1 only to lose \$35 due to overdraft. More than once, that additional \$35 loss tangled up my budget for multiple paychecks or made the difference between getting groceries or not.

Joan, also from Massachusetts, talked about how insidious these fees can be.

Several times when money was tight, I refilled my account a bit too late. I was charged an overdraft fee that then itself caused the next check to bounce, causing another fee. On top of that, there were daily fees because overdraft charges kept me behind even as I added money to the account.

To make matters even worse: These abusive, anti-consumer practices often target servicemembers and military families.

Last year, the CFPB ordered Navy Federal Credit Union to refund \$80 million in illegal surprise overdraft fees, which they had charged servicemembers, even when the servicemembers' accounts showed enough money to cover the transactions.

Cracking down on abusive overdraft practices, particularly when they harm servicemembers, has bipartisan support. A year ago, my then-colleague JD VANCE and I launched an investigation into another credit union that had preyed on servicemembers with extortionate overdraft fees. I hope to see the same bipartisan concern now and support for the CFPB rule that puts a stop to this squeeze on military families.

Look, finally, I just want to mention: I know that my colleagues on the other side of the aisle and on this side of the aisle are concerned about debanking. Now debanking is something that happens when a bank closes someone's account without any real explanation.

Overdraft practices have been the reason for tens of millions of account closures, shutting out far too many Americans from our banking system. So for everyone who has concerns about debanking, consider that the CFPB rule eliminates one of the main excuses that banks have used for debanking their customers.

Look, our job is to lower costs for American families, not boost profits for giant banks. A vote against today's CRA is a vote to protect those families

and save them \$5 billion a year. I urge my colleagues to vote no.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Texas.

ELON MUSK

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have spoken before about my constituent, my fellow Texan, Elon Musk here on the floor and recounted the fact that it was really, maybe, probably—at least 15 years ago, maybe a little longer, when he came to my office here in Washington, DC, and said he had a new company called SpaceX, and he wanted to compete for the business of NASA and commercial space.

And as it turned out, Mr. Musk had to sue the U.S. Government just for the privilege of competing with the United Space Alliance, I believe it is called, the existing entity that had an exclusive contract on space flight with the U.S. Government.

I read recently that now SpaceX carries about 90 percent of the payloads in the world into space. It is a remarkable testament to not only his incredible innovation but resilience and persistence to build such a successful company.

And that is not the only one he has built. Tesla is headquartered in Texas. I have been out to the Gigafactory right outside of Austin, TX, and he is building cars that are very popular and employing an awful lot of Texans—which I am all in favor of—and they continue to grow and hire more of my constituents.

Mr. Musk has done something here in Washington, DC, in the last couple of months which is heresy; it is heresy. He has actually said the Federal Government spends too much, and he said a lot of what the Federal Government spends is waste and fraud and abuse. And much of it, as we have seen, are things that most of us had no real awareness of. But as he has targeted some of the most egregious examples of waste and abuse of the taxpayer dollar, I think there are many people across the country—certainly where I come from—who have applauded that effort. They feel like this has been long coming and long overdue.

One of the major challenges we face here in Washington, DC, is that spending money is very popular, and, of course, people who spend money—even though it is not theirs, it is the taxpayers' dollars—can go home and say: Guess what I did for you. And most of it involves spending. But we are now having to come to grips with the fact that we are \$36.4 trillion in debt, and we have kicked the can down the road so long that we have run out of road.

And, indeed, many of us have talked over the years about the fact that this is immoral. We basically are writing checks that our children and grandchildren will have to cash. Somebody is going to have to pay that money back.

And now we are spending more money on interest on the national debt than we are to defend the Nation, which is a very dangerous set of cir-

cumstances, given the situation we find ourselves in, which is the most dangerous time since World War II.

Now, it is no secret that Elon Musk is perhaps the richest man in the world. I don't begrudge him that. It looks like he has done some amazing things and continues to do so. I know that with that sort of money, he doesn't have to be up here volunteering to do some of the work that needs to be done in terms of identifying the waste and abuse. He could go relax on an island somewhere. He could buy an island. He could do whatever he wants and he wouldn't have to lift a finger to help anybody else and he could just live a life of luxury and leisure for the rest of his existence, but I don't believe he is wired that way. I am grateful for that because, instead, he is volunteering his time to serve not only the President of the United States but the American people.

You don't have to agree with everything that Mr. Musk recommends to recognize that this is an incredible public service, and this is long overdue, identifying all of the waste and abuse and egregious expenditures of taxpayer dollars.

In fact, I am a little shocked that our Democratic colleagues don't join us in this effort. I happen to be a member of what we call the DOGE Caucus, the Department of Government Efficiency. We are making recommendations to DOGE to look at different departments of the government and say: Can you find savings here? Can you find expenditures that don't make any sense?

I am kind of shocked our Democratic colleagues refuse to join us in that. It seems like, in a normal world, they would be concerned about this too. Instead, they just say: The status quo is just fine. We don't need to change a thing—\$36.4 trillion and counting.

And, in fact, they seem to be in denial of the fact that President Trump and Republican majorities in both Houses were elected on November 5. Hopefully, that won't continue indefinitely.

But what I want to mention is some of the violence and the acts of vandalism that have occurred around the country that have been focused primarily on Tesla owners.

Now, by the way, most of these Teslas aren't owned by Elon Musk anymore. They have been sold to private citizens, and yet they have been the target of a lot of the vandalism and violence that we have seen around the country.

Just 2 days ago, police officers found what they called multiple incendiary devices at a local Tesla dealership in North Austin, where I live. Now, this prompted a full bomb squad to respond, and an investigation is still underway. Thankfully, there were no injuries, but it is ridiculous that the state of our public discourse has reached this point.

The North Austin Tesla dealership bomb threat, unfortunately, is not the first of its kind. It comes on the heels

of another attack in Las Vegas where several Teslas were set on fire outside of a service center. I have no idea what that was supposed to accomplish.

The protesters vandalized the building by spray-painting the word "resist" on the front doors, while at least one protester reportedly threw a Molotov cocktail.

Over on the west coast in Seattle, four Cybertrucks were set on fire earlier this month.

The Associated Press has reported that there have been at least 50 demonstrations around the country focused on Tesla, while more are planned, not just here in the United States but around the world in countries like England, Spain, and Portugal.

Some Tesla owners have reported incidents of vandalism of their personal vehicles. Some have been even spray-painted with swastikas. Now, why anyone would think that would be a good idea is beyond me.

It should go without saying, but I will say it anyway, that that kind of violence and vandalism of private property is unacceptable. But I know not everybody is speaking up to condemn these attacks.

Now, I support the First Amendment. Obviously, I take an oath to support and defend the Constitution of the United States—all of us do here in the Congress—and I will defend the right of all Americans to express their views about government, even when they and I may disagree. But the First Amendment, we know, does not protect activities like placing explosive devices or damaging private property. Those are simply crimes, and I would hope that much is obvious.

It is certainly understandable, and perhaps inevitable, that some people will disagree about reducing government spending. Our Democratic friends are the party of government. They got us 40-year high inflation because, during the last 4 years, we have seen an unprecedented expenditure of taxpayer dollars, which is inherently inflationary. And every single American has seen an increase in their cost of living and a decrease in their quality of life because they are paying about 21 percent more today than they did 4 years ago.

But there are people who think that spending money without any sort of second thought is a good idea—maybe people who benefit from that government spending—but they also have a right to express their concerns. I am not suggesting that they don't. But what is far from understandable and, in fact, is inexcusable is what we are seeing in the examples that I mentioned: this expression of political disagreement in the form of vandalism, destroying private property, and especially using potentially fatal means like the incendiary devices that were found in Austin. We should not hesitate to call this what it is: domestic terrorism.

Now, I wish I could say that this kind of behavior is an anomaly and has

never happened before and is unlikely to happen again, but, unfortunately, this has happened before, and it is reminiscent of the violent unrest that plagued our Nation with the BLM riots that happened during the summer of 2020.

We live in a democratic republic, not a banana republic. We are blessed to live in a country where we value and protect the rights of citizens to speak freely. We live in a country with universal suffrage, where citizens can bring their disagreements with their government officials to the ballot box.

But placing bombs and lighting cars on fire is not an appropriate means of expressing dissenting views in a country like the one we are blessed to live in. We are so much better than that.

For this reason, I was disappointed to see one of my fellow Texans in our congressional delegation go so far as to condone these kinds of activities. Congresswoman JASMINE CROCKETT recently made comments encouraging violent protests at a virtual rally. She said, and I quote—these are her words, not mine. She said:

All I want to see happen on my birthday is for Elon to be taken down.

Well, that could be interpreted any one of a number of ways, but I believe it is wrong to wish on any American, much less a fellow Texan, and I would expect better than this sort of incendiary rhetoric from a Member of Congress who was elected to her position because of the very democracy we are fortunate to enjoy.

But this isn't the only thing she said recently that has raised eyebrows and resulted in condemnation. Congresswoman CROCKETT recently commented that our Governor, Gov. Greg Abbott—who happens to be a paraplegic as a result of a terrible accident years ago—she referred to him as “Governor Hot Wheels,” presumably because he is in a wheelchair due to an accident decades ago.

And then Senator CRUZ, my colleague, the junior Senator from Texas, she said should “be knocked over the head, like hard.”

This is disgraceful, and we should call it for what it is. We have a duty as elected officials to bring out the best in our country, not to take the low road. And, particularly, we should not encourage harm against people we don't particularly agree with. This is a disturbing trend in political rhetoric, one that has turned to violence—again, not for the first time, but we should condemn it, and we should shut it down now.

These events should serve as a wake-up call that it is past time to turn down the temperature. I believe that all Americans and all Texans deserve better.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

TRIBUTE TO LOUIS DEJOY

Mr. TILLIS. Mr. President, I will be brief. I know we are coming up on a vote.

I just wanted to come to the floor and thank my friend and fellow North Carolinian, Louis DeJoy, for his service as Postmaster General. He announced a few weeks back his intent to resign, and that has been accelerated. Hopefully, he will come back and continue to provide advice on a transition plan for the U.S. Postal Service that is unlike any transition in the Postal Service's modern history.

Louis DeJoy is a very successful businessperson who many people believe was appointed to Postmaster General because he has also historically been a big supporter of President Trump, but the reality is that Louis DeJoy was identified by the Postal Service Board through a nationwide search as one of the most capable people in the United States to be Postmaster General. That is because he had built an idea around a kitchen table of an enterprise that ultimately became a business that, when it was sold, was nearly worth \$1 billion, in transportation and logistics.

Louis came to the Postal Service a little less than 5 years ago and really shook things up, but in the process of doing that, I believe he has created a plan that is a best practice for what we are attempting to do with the Department of Government Efficiency. He has gone across the Nation. He has listened to the concerns of Members of Congress and of Members of the Senate. He has been to Alaska. He has gone out in the rural areas. He understands the unique mission of the U.S. Postal Service.

Many people may not realize that it was designated in the Constitution, at the urging of Benjamin Franklin, to do something very different: to have a constitutional mandate to make sure that every household in the United States of America could be visited if, in fact, they had somebody with a post that needed to get to them. That is extraordinary.

In North Carolina, we are a 50-50 State—about 50 percent urban, 50 percent rural. So you can make, maybe, the numbers and logistics work there. But when you go to States like Alaska, Montana—some of these large, expansive, rural States—the U.S. Postal Service is the only way to touch those communities. The postal package carriers can do a little bit of it, but it makes no economic sense for them to go there.

So Louis inherits this very complex and efficient organization and puts together a transformation plan that is only beginning. And he is going to be leaving the Postal Service, but I just wanted my friend and what I consider to be one of the best Postmaster Generals in modern times—I don't want his

work and the impact that he is having to be lost on anyone. I do hope that this administration recognizes the work that has been put into that plan and that we have to carry it through. It is great work.

As for my friend Louis DeJoy, I am going to miss talking with him on postal matters, but what I will miss in that I will gain in having him back in North Carolina. I just wanted to state for the record that I appreciate his dedication and the sacrifice for this job. He certainly had many other opportunities, and I think that the American people owe him a debt of gratitude.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

NOMINATION OF MICHAEL FAULKENDER

Mr. CRAPO. Mr. President, I rise today to urge my colleagues to vote in favor of the confirmation of Mr. Michael Faulkender, who is nominated to serve as Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

The Deputy Secretary advises and assists the Secretary in the supervision and direction of all of the Department and its activities. Along with Secretary Bessent, the Deputy Secretary will be thoroughly involved in Congress's efforts to craft pro-growth tax policies, which will benefit all Americans and allow U.S. businesses to compete on the global stage. Mr. Faulkender's depth of experience in the public and private sector, in addition to his academic credentials, makes him a highly qualified choice for this position.

Mr. Faulkender spoke strongly at his confirmation hearing about his determination to tackle America's affordability crisis. I look forward to working with him to restore economic prosperity and opportunity and usher in the economic golden age envisioned by the President.

Mr. Faulkender, also, clearly met the standard of the Finance Committee's rigorous nomination process, and I commend the candor and the diligence that he displayed during the extensive meetings that he had with committee members and committee staff.

Qualified nominees for Deputy Treasury Secretary in prior administrations have normally received bipartisan support. I strongly encourage my colleagues today, on both sides of the aisle, to join me in voting to confirm Mr. Faulkender.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent to speak for up to 5 minutes after 5.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

Mr. WYDEN. Mr. President and colleagues, the Senate will soon take a vote on the nomination of Michael Faulkender to serve as Deputy Treasury Secretary. I urge my colleagues to oppose the nomination.

I am going to take just a few minutes to explain why he got zero support from Democrats in the Finance Committee, and I am going to start with the big picture.

For the last 2 months, Elon Musk and Donald Trump have let loose a pack of cronies who, in my view, are looting the United States of America. They are violating laws, they are blocking accountability, and they are breaking key programs in ways that are going to hurt a lot of Americans.

All the while, there has been a parade of Trump nominees marching through the Senate, and one after the other they pretend that they know nothing about what I just said. They all swear up and down that they follow the law. Under their watch, everything will be on the level.

The reality is, in nearly every case, it is just not true.

Just yesterday, in the Finance Committee, the nominee to head up Social Security told me that he was not involved in any discussions regarding DOGE personnel at Social Security. I asked him directly. That was his response, and his response was a lie.

The committee had received whistleblower testimony from a senior official who worked at Social Security and has recently left. The whistleblower said this nominee had personally intervened to get key DOGE officials installed at Social Security.

This is happening again and again. Trump nominees show up in the Senate, and they always say: I am a choir boy.

But they are directly involved in the ransacking of the country, and Americans are outraged from coast to coast.

Dr. Faulkender is another example. He has been in the building at Treasury since January 21, working in an unofficial capacity. So he knows what is going on there. He knows that DOGE personnel showed up at Treasury with the intent of violating our constitutional authority over Federal funding. Yet, when he was asked about DOGE's activity at Treasury and at the IRS, he, too, had nothing to say—just a bunch of dodging and ducking.

I asked him, as well, directly whether the President has the authority to impound funds, which is a constitutional breach.

His answer was:

I do not know the legal authority of the President when it comes to impoundment.

However, during a television interview last year, he actually said he sup-

ported impoundment and talked about how the President should use it to trample over congressional appropriations and our article I authority.

If confirmed, he will be the No. 2 official at the Department that oversees the IRS, but he had nothing to say about the fact that the administration is intent on violating taxpayer privacy laws and weaponizing the IRS against American taxpayers.

But it wasn't all bobbing and weaving during the hearing. In fact, the most telling moment was when Dr. Faulkender decided to give an awfully revealing answer to a question he probably could have avoided.

Here is what happened.

Everybody understands that the Treasury Department's big job under Donald Trump is giving huge handouts to billionaires and corporations. They plan to pay for it, in part, by slashing Medicaid and kicking tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare.

Senator WARNOCK, our colleague, asked Dr. Faulkender a pretty simple question.

He asked:

Do you think that it's a good idea to take families off of Medicaid?

The funny thing is nobody would have blamed him for saying that the Treasury doesn't have jurisdiction over Medicaid so he wouldn't have to take a position, but that is not what he said.

Dr. Faulkender went out of his way to defend the Republican plan to slash Medicaid and kick tens of millions of Americans off their healthcare. He answered with the same traditional Republican spin—that it was all about “self-sufficiency and getting off of government dependency.”

We are talking about a program that covers nearly 40 million kids, half of all kids with special needs, and two-thirds of all nursing home beds in America. Without Medicaid, rural America would become even more of a healthcare desert.

Dr. Faulkender's nonsense about self-sufficiency is basically what I call trickle-down economics for healthcare. It is a talking point that papers over an agenda that benefits the very affluent at the expense of everybody else.

So, colleagues, this is another case of a nominee dodging nearly all the tough questions and misrepresenting his role in what is going on in the Trump administration. The most forthcoming answer we got during his nomination indicated that he is totally on board with the agenda that is going to put people's lives in danger by kicking tens of millions of Americans off their health insurance so that those at the very top, like Elon Musk, can afford bigger yachts and probably some kind of island.

Dr. Faulkender has been at Treasury since January 21. He is already tied up with DOGE. He has already made himself a part of the harm that the Trump administration, through DOGE, is inflicting on the American people. That is why he got zero support from Democrats in committee.

I urge my colleagues to oppose this nomination when the Senate votes on it in a little bit.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. MORENO). The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

VOTE ON FAULKENDER NOMINATION

Mr. ROUNDS. Mr. President, I know of no further debate on the nomination.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there further debate?

If not, the question is, Will the Senate advise and consent to the Faulkender nomination?

Mr. ROUNDS. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant executive clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. FETTERMAN), the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO), the Senator from Virginia (Mr. WARNER), and the Senator from Georgia (Mr. WARNOCK) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 53, nays 43, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 149 Ex.]

YEAS—53

Banks	Graham	Moreno
Barrasso	Grassley	Mullin
Blackburn	Hagerty	Murkowski
Boozman	Hawley	Paul
Britt	Hoeven	Ricketts
Budd	Husted	Risch
Capito	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Cassidy	Johnson	Schmitt
Collins	Justice	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cotton	Lankford	Sheehy
Cramer	Lee	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Wicker
Ernst	Moody	Young
Fischer	Moran	

NAYS—43

Alsobrooks	Hirono	Rosen
Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Schatz
Blumenthal	Kim	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	King	Schumer
Booker	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cantwell	Lujan	Slotkin
Coons	Markey	Smith
Cortez Masto	Merkley	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Murphy	Warren
Durbin	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	
Hickenlooper	Reed	

NOT VOTING—4

Fetterman	Warner
Gallego	Warnock

The nomination was confirmed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. JUSTICE). Under the previous order, the

motion to reconsider is considered made and laid upon the table and the President will be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. THUNE. I move to proceed to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The senior assistant executive clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25, a joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

VOTE ON MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. CRAPO. I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. BARRASSO. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from Louisiana (Mr. CASSIDY).

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGO) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 150 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsbrooks	Gillibrand	Moody
Banks	Graham	Moran
Barrasso	Grassley	Moreno
Blackburn	Hagerty	Mullin
Booker	Hawley	Murkowski
Boozman	Heinrich	Ossoff
Britt	Hickenlooper	Padilla
Budd	Hoeven	Paul
Capito	Husted	Ricketts
Collins	Hyde-Smith	Risch
Cornyn	Johnson	Rosen
Cortez Masto	Justice	Rounds
Cotton	Kennedy	Schatz
Cramer	Kim	Schiff
Crapo	Lankford	Schmitt
Cruz	Lee	Schumer
Curtis	Lujan	Scott (FL)
Daines	Lummis	Scott (SC)
Ernst	Marshall	Sheehy
Fetterman	McConnell	Slotkin
Fischer	McCormick	Sullivan

Thune	Warner	Young
Tillis	Warnock	
Tuberville	Wicker	

NAYS—28

Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Shaheen
Blumenthal	King	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Markey	Warren
Coons	Merkeley	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Cassidy	Gallego
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The motion was agreed to.

PROVIDING FOR CONGRESSIONAL DISAPPROVAL UNDER CHAPTER 8 OF TITLE 5, UNITED STATES CODE, OF THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE INTERNAL REVENUE SERVICE RELATING TO "GROSS PROCEEDS REPORTING BY BROKERS THAT REGULARLY PROVIDE SERVICES EFFECTUATING DIGITAL ASSET SALES"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The bill clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to the provisions of the Congressional Review Act, 5 U.S.C. 802, there will now be up to 10 hours of debate equally divided between those favoring and opposing the joint resolution.

The Senator from Rhode Island.

CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Mr. President, earlier this month, Environmental Protection Agency Administrator Lee Zeldin announced he would reconsider over 30 rules and policies that protect human health and the environment, calling it "the greatest day of deregulation our nation has seen." With a barrage of press releases, Administrator Zeldin threatened to replace the central mission of EPA—to protect the environment and the health of Americans—with a newer and more sordid mission: to protect the financial interests of President Trump's Big Oil polluting mega donors.

EPA's mission to protect human health and the environment has guided the Agency for more than 50 years, with bipartisan support. The Agency was created by Republican President Richard Nixon, and conservative Presidents like Ronald Reagan and George W. Bush chose administrators like Bill Ruckelshaus and Christine Whitman, who took the Agency's mission seriously.

EPA's bipartisan pedigree and mission matter little to Trump, Zeldin, and their crew of fossil fuel donors.

Administrator Zeldin claims that slashing these protections will "un-

leash American energy." Huh. In reality, these rollbacks will keep Americans dependent on expensive dirty fossil fuels, while other countries keep moving forward with energy innovation, developing cleaner, cheaper, and more efficient energy. We are deliberately losing a competition.

Trump is exalting an antiquated polluting fossil fuel industry and degrading the lives of the American people.

Administrator Zeldin gleefully declared, "We are driving a dagger straight into the heart of the climate change religion." But the protections EPA threatens to roll back mostly relate to keeping air and water clean. In the wealthiest country in the world, does it make sense to increase uncertainty about whether water is safe to drink?

Administrator Zeldin likely can't juice substantially more fossil fuel production, but slashing these protections will unleash tons more pollution—more pollution from oil and gas producers, powerplants, manufacturers, cars and trucks; fewer protections for drinking water, wetlands, and streams.

Coal-fired powerplants will release more mercury into the air we breathe, settling into our water and our soil and eventually finding its way into our food.

We will experience more bad air days like we get in Rhode Island from upwind out-of-State polluters, when the air is thick with soot and other pollutants, triggering asthma attacks and respiratory diseases.

They threaten even to overturn the good neighbor rule that gives States the ability to push back when upwind States foul the air, as happens to us in Rhode Island.

The ability to pollute another State with impunity deliberately is a core thing for EPA to stop, and yet they are caving in to the polluter States.

And, yes, these rollbacks do threaten to remove limits also on carbon pollution from powerplants, oil and gas facilities, and vehicles, turbocharging the ongoing heating of our planet.

Let's be clear: Climate change ain't religion; it is science—and well-understood, established, mature science at that.

My Republican colleagues in this building all have home State universities that teach climate science.

Greenhouse gas emissions—science knows—from the production and combustion of fossil fuels are heating our planet, raising sea levels, increasing the severity and frequency of violent storms, worsening droughts, and causing more intense wildfires. Even the fossil fuel industry's own scientists understood the climate risks of unchecked fossil fuel emissions. Exxon's own climate scientists warned that the burning of fossil fuels was changing our planet's climate and correctly modeled the effects of greenhouse gas emissions on global temperatures.

When Zeldin testified in January before the Environment and Public

Works Committee, he pledged to “work with the scientists” and “leave the science to the scientists.” What happened to that Lee Zeldin? Where did he go? Because the Lee Zeldin of January has been replaced by a Lee Zeldin willing to ignore his own scientists and ignore the facts for the benefit of President Trump’s Big Polluter donors.

These fossil fuel industry favors will increase costs for American families. The fossil fuel industry spent almost \$100 million—that we know of—to boost Trump in the last election and hundreds of millions more on Congress. Trump famously asked industry executives for \$1 billion in exchange for delivering an industry wish list, and here is Zeldin producing that industry wish list. But for people who are not fossil fuel billionaires, the growing exposure to hazardous pollutants and the increase in carbon pollution will increase costs.

Tonight, colleagues will talk in more detail about various protections that Zeldin threatens to end and the safety and health policies he is curdling. I will discuss Zeldin’s mischief with the social cost of carbon.

What is the social cost of carbon? It is a measure of the costs of each additional ton of carbon pollution released—increased mortality, for instance, from heat and storms; increased sickness from heat and air pollution; damage to agriculture and infrastructure from droughts and floods; even insurance collapse.

The Biden EPA estimated the social cost of carbon at around \$190 per ton, which is consistent with most knowledgeable estimates, and the Office of Management and Budget ordered that this number be used in cost-benefit analysis for regulations as well as in a wider suite of government actions.

This analysis is nothing more than common sense. If the government is considering taking a step that would increase carbon pollution, it should consider the costs of doing so. If it is doing something that would decrease carbon pollution, it should understand and enjoy the economic benefits.

Zeldin is proposing to have the government ignore the facts. He wants to ignore the science, he wants to ignore the economics, and he wants to utilize a social cost of carbon whose value is deliberately and falsely set close to zero. If he succeeds, the Federal Government will no longer accurately assess the true costs and benefits of climate decisions.

This isn’t new math or even fuzzy math; this is fake math—fake math to benefit Trump’s oil and gas donors, who get to pretend, falsely, that the American people aren’t picking up the tab for their industry’s carbon pollution.

The International Monetary Fund, which is not a green institution, pegs the costs the public bears from fossil fuel pollution at more than \$700 billion every year in the United States alone.

Last Congress, as chair of the Senate Budget Committee, I organized hear-

ings on the economic and financial costs of climate change. We heard warnings from economists, scientists, medical professionals, insurance and investment executives, the new Prime Minister of Canada, a former Prime Minister of Australia, and even a former Republican Senate majority leader. Throughout the hearings, witnesses emphasized the systemic economic risks that climate change poses and warned that if we don’t shift away from our dependence on fossil fuels, things will get much worse.

“Systemic” was the word I emphasized in that last sentence. “Systemic” may sound like a bland academic term, but a systemic risk in economics is one which threatens to bring down the entire economy, much the way failures in the mortgage market led to the great recession of 2008.

Zeldin’s promised rollbacks will have real economic consequences for families. American families will bear increased healthcare costs. Even with an honorably functioning EPA, healthcare costs from fossil fuel air pollution and climate change are estimated to total nearly \$820 billion in the United States each year. Doctors appointments, emergency room visits, rehab and home health support, and prescription drugs all strain the pocketbooks of American families. Lost work and school days and reduced labor productivity cost both families and the broader economy.

Last year, the United States suffered a recordbreaking 27 separate billion-dollar disasters, pushing up prices, damaging insurance markets, and burdening the families who were in harm’s way. Economic losses from natural disasters reached more than \$200 billion.

Climate-related extreme weather—hurricanes, wildfires, and floods—damages property, damages infrastructure, damages agriculture, and damages supply chains. These recurring disasters are disrupting insurance markets across the country.

Turmoil in the insurance markets bleeds over into turmoil in the mortgage and housing markets. If you can’t get insurance on your house, the next buyer can’t get a mortgage on your house, and that reduces the pool of buyers and results in plunging property values. If your insurance premium quadruples, say from \$2,000 a year to \$8,000 a year, your home’s value will fall, as the carrying costs associated with owning it have dramatically increased.

Last year, the Budget Committee obtained county-level data for the entire country, showing the evolution of nonrenewal rates for homeowners insurance from 2018 to 2023, and what we showed is that nonrenewal rates were rising—indeed, skyrocketing—as insurers retreat from areas of the country battered by the storms and wildfires that climate change makes both more likely and more intense. While the usual suspects are Florida, California, and Louisiana, nonrenewals are also

skyrocketing across areas of southern New England, the Carolinas, Oklahoma, New Mexico, the Northern Rockies, and Hawaii.

We found that nonrenewals increased the most in the counties most exposed to climate risk—not surprising—and also that where nonrenewals were spiking, premiums were surging as well.

Earlier this year, the nonpartisan First Street Foundation took a look at the data we had looked at in the Budget Committee and looked forward and made some prediction about what increasing premiums and declining availability of insurance will mean for property values. They looked at the 30-year period of a mortgage entered into today, and they found that property values will decrease—decrease—in many counties by 20, 40, 60, or even 100 percent. Change in home value due to insurance costs: minus 100 percent. If you are in that category—and there are a few of them and more coming in the future—your home will lose all its value during the period of your mortgage, and you can bet the people selling you that mortgage are going to notice.

Let’s not forget that for most Americans, their largest asset is their home. Home ownership is how most families build wealth. So something that is going to systemically reduce home values is hurting Americans. In a future gripped by climate change, the home ownership path to economic security breaks. What Zeldin is proposing will accelerate that danger forward, bringing the inevitable day of reckoning closer.

In Administrator Zeldin’s home of Suffolk County, NY, for instance, nonrenewals nearly tripled from 2018 to 2023 and annual premiums have already increased by almost \$800. And that is just a taste of what is to come.

By the way, it is not just me saying this. Fed Chair Jerome Powell warned the Senate Banking Committee that in 10 to 15 years, there will be entire coastal and wildfire-exposed regions of the United States in which it will no longer be possible to get a mortgage. That is our future.

When your insurance premium goes up by hundreds or by thousands of dollars, that is Republican climate denial in action. When your grocery bill goes up because orange juice, sugar, coffee, chocolate, and olive oil are more expensive because of climate-related extreme weather, that is climateflation in action.

Before I yield, I will close with one last thought. We are where we are, entering the era of climate consequences, because American politics failed to get this right. Our political system failed because the American political process became corrupted by the big money influence of the fossil fuel industry. Our politics got corrupted, and that is why we have so grievously failed at addressing climate change.

We have Senators here from States whose State universities teach climate

science pretending that climate science isn't real.

Mr. President, history will look back at us with anger and disgust, justifiably.

I yield the floor to my wonderful senior colleague from Rhode Island.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, I rise to join my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE, the ranking member on the Environment and Public Works Committee and the foremost voice for sensible climate policies, someone who for years has warned us of the approaching dangers of climate change and today once again has demonstrated his great insights—particularly with respect to the cost to homeowners—of climate change. He is raising the alarm about President Trump's environmental policy and the effect it will have on the health and well-being of Americans. I want to thank him for his leadership on this important issue.

Earlier this month, EPA Administrator LEE ZELDIN announced that his Agency would move to repeal 31 environmental and health protections. This Trump environmental plan will undo restrictions on air pollution from powerplants, cars, and trucks. It would allow harmful discharges into our water systems, relax restrictions on emissions of mercury and other known neurotoxins, ease limits on soot and haze pollution, and the list goes on and on and on.

These rollbacks appear to be a quid pro quo for President Trump's fossil fuel donors, whom he reportedly asked to donate a billion dollars to his campaign last year.

One of Trump's most concerning proposals is the repeal of the EPA's long-standing scientific finding that greenhouse gases are pollutants. After losing in the Supreme Court in 2006, the fossil fuel industry has been out to overturn this so-called endangerment finding for nearly two decades. Repealing it would degrade the EPA's authority to regulate greenhouse gas emissions, meaning it could no longer act to curb emissions from vehicle exhaust, factories, powerplants, and many, many more locations. Relaxing these standards will result in more pollutants in our air and in our water.

The fact is, these pollutants are not just numbers on a chart; they are the reason millions of Americans are suffering from asthma, heart disease, and other respiratory conditions. Several studies have shown that air pollution can negatively impact maternal health and lead to miscarriages and low birth weights. These health impacts will particularly harm low-income communities, where the effects are disproportionately severe.

Mr. ZELDIN claims these actions will "unleash American energy," but really they will just unleash more pollution on the American people. Mr. ZELDIN claims that these actions will drive down costs for American families, but

the evidence shows otherwise. Indeed, EPA previously found that for every \$1 the country spends to reduce air pollution, it is estimated to yield \$30 in economic benefits in return.

These actions will worsen climate change and contribute to more flooding and coastal erosion, which have cost homes and businesses in my home State of Rhode Island millions of dollars in just the past few years.

Mr. ZELDIN claims that by rolling back these protections, he is simply giving power back to the States, but we know that pollution does not respect State lines.

We are all in this together to protect our air, water, and human health. The Trump administration is taking us backwards and hurting hard-working families in the process.

I firmly oppose the Trump EPA's misguided plan and will continue to join Senator WHITEHOUSE and my other colleagues in pushing back against this administration's harmful agenda.

Once again, let me salute Senator WHITEHOUSE for his leadership on this critical—indeed, this existential—issue.

I yield the floor to Senator WELCH. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Vermont.

Mr. WELCH. Mr. President, I want to thank my colleagues. You know, this issue of the environment is being completely—completely—ignored. Worse than that, the problems we have in our environment are being intensified by what the Trump administration is doing.

You know the EPA mission is clear. It is about protecting human health and the environment. EPA regulations are intended, in some cases, to prevent mercury—that is what I am talking about—contaminating our drinking water. They protect us—some of those regulations—from toxic gases, soot, and ash polluting out of the air.

They keep lead out of our drinking water and asbestos out of our homes, and they do help fight climate change and prevent premature deaths caused by pollution.

Now, there is a mantra in the Trump administration that regulations are bad—bad. There is not a single Member of this Senate—and that includes every single Democrat—who is not willing to make the most efficient regulations we can have to do the job that needs to be done to protect the health and safety.

If there are regulations that need to be looked at, they need to be revised, they need to be reformed, let's do it. But the idea that the Federal Government would turn a blind eye to active pollution that is produced because it results in profit to the polluters is something not a single Member of this body should ever tolerate—ever, ever, ever.

What you are seeing from the administration is that the repeal of these regulations is not about improving them; it is about giving license to the polluters.

You know, Mr. President, shouldn't the polluter pay for the pollution that a polluter causes? Should large corporations have free rein to pollute our air and water, contaminating the environment, threatening the health and welfare of our kids?

The Trump administration is trying to decimate the Agency that has protected us and the environment since the 1970s. Let me just emphasize: It is not their intention to reform it or to improve it. It is to, basically, destroy it.

That is why the President has fired the members of EPA's Scientific Advisory Board and Clean Air Scientific Advisory Committee. Get rid of the scientists is the answer they present as a way of getting rid of pollution. It doesn't work that way.

So as I said, I have absolutely not only no problem, but I am completely—completely—committed to doing anything I can to make regulations to be practical and effective. I am absolutely, adamantly opposed to giving polluters a free rein to make profit at the expense of the health and welfare of the people that I represent and that we all represent.

Nowhere is the Trump administration more clear than their attempt to rescind the endangerment finding, which affirms that greenhouse gases pose a threat to the health and welfare of the American people. That was a finding based on science.

You know, it is one thing if you don't like the finding. It is another thing to deny that the finding has a solid basis in fact and science. You can pretend climate change doesn't exist. You can pretend dirty air doesn't exist. You can pretend dangerous water doesn't exist.

You won't be able to breathe it or drink it for too long without finding out that you are wrong. But when you are the President and you have a responsibility to the health and welfare of the American people, that is not a luxury you are entitled to take.

Firing the EPA scientists on the SAB and on the CASAC, that won't change the facts. You can fire the scientists, but you can't change the facts. But it is the preference of the administration to want to blatantly ignore those facts so they can follow through on the President's campaign promise and make it easier for the polluters to pollute.

Mr. President, I oppose—and oppose firmly—the Trump administration's attempts to weaken the EPA. I will always support making it more efficient, more effective, but the mission that the EPA has—an organization started during the Nixon administration—is to protect the health and welfare of the American people. And we can never step back from our commitment to do that.

I yield the floor. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Massachusetts.

TRIBUTE TO ROBERT NELSON

Mr. MARKEY. Mr. President, before I begin my remarks, I want to take a few

minutes to thank Bob Nelson, the Small Business Administration's District Director for Massachusetts upon his retirement on Monday after 30 years of Federal service.

Bob is a paragon of public service—commuting each day more than 100 miles from Connecticut to Boston to serve Massachusetts' small businesses.

For 26 years, Bob has helped small businesses recover from everything from the economic downturn after 9/11 to the great recession of 2008 to the COVID-19 pandemic. Bob is known for giving small business owners his direct cell phone number so that they never have to go through a moment of uncertainty.

His career is a testament to the impact that steady and passionate public service can have on everyday people and local economies.

Everyone who has worked with Bob respects him; and that goes for me, my staff, and all of the SBA employees that he has worked with over all of the years and the thousands of small businesses that he has helped during those years.

Bob Nelson is a small business champion, and because of him, countless business entrepreneurs and communities are strengthening our Nation, creating jobs, and making our economy the envy of the world.

Thank you, Bob—thank you, Bob—for everything that you have done, for bringing a public servant's heart to your work, and for your many years of service making the Massachusetts Small Business Administration district office the best in the Nation.

#### CLIMATE CHANGE

Mr. President, over the last 2 months, the Trump administration has made one thing painfully clear: They do not have an "all of the above" energy strategy. They have an "oil above all" energy strategy—oil above the law, above the economy, above the health and wallets of working families in our Nation.

Gas prices are up. Electricity bills are up. Home heating costs are up. Yet instead of investing in working families, Donald Trump is launching a full-scale assault on the very programs designed to bring costs down and create jobs, all while spewing baseless lies that begin in the White House and then spread across his entire administration, but especially focused on his energy policy.

At the Department of Energy, staff have been ordered to draw up a hit list of clean energy programs—programs Congress already funded, programs workers are counting on.

These are not hypothetical investments. These are real dollars that could unleash real jobs and real benefits for communities across the country. And now they are being sacrificed to serve a political agenda that rewards polluters and punishes the public.

Nowhere was this agenda more proudly displayed than at this week's

CERAWeek—or as I like to call it, the Olympics of oil—where Energy Secretary Chris Wright gave a speech that would make Big Oil blush. Although, it is more likely that they just turned with a flush because of the incredible way in which they were treated.

Big Oil had a big treat coming from the speech by Energy Secretary Chris Wright. Let's take a moment to fact-check Secretary of Energy Chris Wright's Big Oil-sponsored big lies at CERAWeek in Houston.

Chris Wright said:

The previous administration's policy was focused myopically on climate change with people as simply collateral damage.

False. Chris Wright is wrong. When Democrats controlled the White House and Congress, we invested in solutions that centered smart communities and a livable future. Since the Inflation Reduction Act was passed in 2022, the clean energy boom has created more than 400,000 new jobs and spurred \$420 billion in investments, most of it in red districts; 70 to 80 percent of the funding is in red districts. That is a people-powered economy.

That is an "all of the above" strategy. Everyone is included. So if we are talking myopic, look no further than Trump. It is the pot calling the kettle black.

Trump has been exclusively focused on tax breaks for the rich with extensive collateral damage. New reporting shows that more than 50,000 energy jobs have been lost or stalled since Trump was elected and that over \$56 billion in U.S. clean energy investments were canceled or stalled in that same time.

If he continues down this road and guts the IRA, he will be driving an estimated 790,000 jobs off a cliff while wiping \$160 billion from our economy by 2030 and raising household energy costs by \$32 billion over the next decade.

In other words, President Trump and his energy policy are engaging in economic sabotage. So let's continue fact-checking Secretary Wright.

Secretary Wright also said in that speech:

Wind and solar . . . supply roughly 3% of global primary energy.

The truth: Renewables powered 30 percent of the world's electricity in 2023. Got it? Not 3 percent; 30 percent of the world's electricity in 2023. And in the first 9 months of 2024, 96 percent of all new electrical generation capacity installed in the United States was renewable—wind, solar, battery—96 percent of all new electrical generation capacity installed, with the majority actually coming from solar. It is the fastest growing, cheapest energy out there.

Big Oil isn't just losing its monopoly; it simply cannot compete. The natural gas industry, they are petrified. Can you imagine if you are saying: Well, we are the only way in the future in which you can have predictable electricity which is generated; natural gas is the answer—when in 2024, 96 percent of all

new electrical-generating capacity was wind and solar and battery storage technology?

If you knew that, for 10 years in a row, the natural gas industry is facing an existential moment, that is what they are afraid of. They are afraid of competition. They are afraid of alternative energy sources. Oil, gas, and coal, they got a tax break for 100 years from the Federal Government, and they were able to squash all of the competition over all of those years.

But when finally we leveled the playing field and the alternatives show out that are nonpolluting, that don't have any greenhouse gases to go up into the planet, that don't warm the planet, all of a sudden, we are hearing: The Secretary of Energy in the Trump administration is lying about that? Because they have to lie. Otherwise, they would have to explain why they are planning on killing hundreds of thousands of new jobs in these industries, which are absolutely bursting at the seams.

But, wait, there is more. Here is what else Secretary Wright said at the SARA conference down in Texas:

The last administration recklessly pursued policies that were certain to drive up electricity prices.

Once again, false. False. The fact, however, is that onshore wind is the cheapest source of new electricity in America. It has been for nearly a decade. It beats fossil fuels even without subsidies and costs half as much as new natural gas on average.

Again, existential threat to the natural gas industry—onshore wind beat it in the marketplace every day for 10 years in a row.

So what is Secretary Wright saying? He is saying he is going to lead the effort to kill it and to kill solar—to kill all of it. And building new solar? Well, it is cheaper than running existing coal or building new gas projects in the United States. Solar is winning in the marketplace, and it is frightening to the natural gas industry—just absolutely frightening. It is fossil fuel volatility that has hammered families at the pump and on their power bills, with fossil fuel exports going to the highest bidder abroad. Now, in my home State of Massachusetts, many gas bills are double what they were last year. That is unacceptable.

Let's keep going with the fact checks.

In a pathetic attempt to justify the benefits of deadly pollution, Secretary of Energy Wright said:

We've raised atmospheric CO<sub>2</sub> by 50 percent in the process of doubling human life expectancy.

Then he said:

Everything in life involves trade-offs.

Well, let me be clear. In the United States, climate-fueled disasters already kill more than 1,300 people every year. More CO<sub>2</sub> doesn't mean more life; it means more floods, more fires, suffering, deaths. There was \$300 billion worth of damage between Hurricane

Helene and Hurricane Milton last fall and \$150 billion worth of damage in Los Angeles from climate-driven storms. By the way, only \$50 billion of it was covered by insurance—catastrophic for all those communities.

So let's talk about the real tradeoffs. Clean air traded for asthma. Safe homes traded for billion-dollar climate disasters. Lower bills traded for Big Oil windfall profits. This administration has made its tradeoff clear: your future for their profit. That is Trump's art of the deal, and what a great deal for the oil, gas, and coal industry. All they have to do is just raise money for Donald Trump, and in return, they kill the competitors which are killing the oil, gas, and coal industry in the market.

ADAM SMITH is spinning in his grave so fast that he would actually qualify for a tax break under an IRA. That is how much they are lying about the marketplace and how it is responding to finally the incentives that are there to compete against oil, gas, and coal, which brings us to the Environmental Protection Agency because what is a fossil-fueled agenda without a full-on assault on the very Agency tasked with protecting our air and our water and our climate?

Two weeks ago, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin announced that he is taking more than 30 actions to unravel our bedrock environmental safeguards in a nauseating attempt to shock and awe us into submission. These are the regulations that keep our air breathable and our water drinkable. These are the standards that keep us healthy instead of sick. And all so that their Big Oil BFFs can make a few more big bucks while the rest of us will foot the bill with our health conditions that will be created by these fossil fuels, these pollutants going up into the atmosphere.

These rollbacks are not a revolution for American progress and energy; they are a return to the same, tired fossil-fueled program of the past. For starters, they are attempting to eliminate EPA's authority to regulate dangerous greenhouse gases based on the threat they pose to public health or welfare—known as the endangerment finding.

This finding came from a Supreme Court ruling in my very own home State, which brought the case to the Supreme Court—*Massachusetts v. EPA*—in 2007, which said something we all know: Greenhouse gases pose an “actual” and “imminent” threat to people everywhere.

And it doesn't stop there. They are hoping to roll back air quality standards for particulate matter pollution that are projected to avoid 4,500 premature deaths and 800,000 cases of asthma over just 6 years. That is all going to get wiped out if they have their way.

We are going to fight them, by the way. We are going to fight them every single step of the way on this dangerous, health-endangering strategy which they are seeking to put on the books.

They are aiming to gut wastewater regulations so coal plants can contami-

nate the water we drink from and swim in. They are trying to pump the brakes on clean car and truck regulations that reduce harmful air pollutants and save families money at the pump. The list goes on and on.

They are dismantling the Federal Government before our very eyes. This isn't about efficiency; this is about sacrificing the health of our communities for the health of their pocketbooks.

And just like Energy Secretary Chris Wright's speech, we know it is a lie. They aren't making America great again; they are selling America to the highest bidder—to the oil and gas and coal industry. That is what they are doing. They are just selling us out. We must continue to speak up for the truth and continue to fight.

The natural gas industry—they are threatened by a wind and solar and battery revolution that will generate the electricity we need in our country. Natural gas doesn't like it. They want to kill it.

The oil industry—we put 70 percent of all the oil we consume into gasoline tanks. They don't want to see the all-electric vehicle revolution continue to grow exponentially. They are going to try to kill that, too, so that we do not have that reduction in the amount of oil we put into the cars we drive around our country that spew that pollution up into the sky.

So the oil and gas industry—they go to the White House, they go to Donald Trump, they go to Mar-a-Lago in order to get the protection they need against competition, the protection they need against clean energy, the protection they need against the creation of a million new clean energy jobs in our country that should be our future. And it is what young people want more than anything else. They want that revolution. They are the Green New Deal revolution. That is what they want. They want to see it happen.

Because it is happening, oil and gas are having, unfortunately, this White House, Secretary of Energy Christopher Wright, his entire Cabinet, EPA Administrator Lee Zeldin—all of them just dismantle all of the protections which have been put on the books over a generation.

This is a historic moment, and all we can say to you, oil, gas, and coal; all we can say to you, Trump White House, is that we are going to fight. We are not going away.

There is a young generation out there that is rising up, and they are not happy with what is happening in this White House. They do not want to see their future sold for campaign contributions from polluters in our country.

So we are ready to fight, and we are going to align ourselves with the young people in our country that want a different future, a better future, a clean future, and that is what we are going to get because we will not lose.

I can't thank Senator WHITEHOUSE enough for being our leader on the En-

vironment and Public Works Committee and for bringing us out here this evening to have this incredibly important, historic discussion about the direction of our Nation.

Thank you.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Would the distinguished Senator from Massachusetts yield for a question?

Mr. MARKEY. I would love to have a conversation with the Senator from Rhode Island.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Well, you referenced the value to the fossil fuel industry of being able to run to Congress or run to the White House and throw money around and, as a result of that expenditure on politicians, earn the right to pollute for free and get enormous competitive advantage against clean energy.

The industry clearly spends a lot of money. We know they spent a hundred million dollars getting Trump elected. He asked them for a billion dollars, which could have come through dark money, in order to deliver on this subsidy program they want.

How lucrative do you think the fossil fuel political operation is?

Mr. MARKEY. I think it is the most well-financed lobbying effort in Washington, DC. I think they have had an ownership of this building for a hundred years, and they are afraid it is about to slip away. Would the gentleman from Rhode Island agree with me?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I would not be surprised, actually, if the political lobbying and dark money influence operation of the fossil fuel industry was not actually its most lucrative line of business because for the \$1 billion or \$6 billion or \$7 billion spent manipulating our politics, they protect a \$700 billion annual subsidy, according to the International Monetary Fund. That is a \$100 return every year for every \$1 invested. They don't make that much off their tar sands. They don't make that much off their oil wells. They don't make that much off their methane leaks.

Mr. MARKEY. You know, the Senator from Rhode Island is wise and precise in his analysis of the agenda of these companies.

The Senator from Rhode Island and I have for 12 years led the effort, along with the Senator from Connecticut, to have offshore wind all along the Atlantic coast, and the Biden administration put in place a plan to deploy 30,000 megawatts of offshore wind.

What Donald Trump, what Chris Wright, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Interior are now planning is to kill that entire revolution capturing the winds that blew the Pilgrims to our shores, capturing the wind that had the whaling crews go out in order to fuel the energy of the 19th century. But when it wants to be used for the energy of the 21st century, the oil and gas and coal industry say: Absolutely not. We can't allow that to happen.

Why can't they allow it to happen? Because it would replace natural gas-

generated electricity that pollutes, it would just transform the way in which electricity powers our businesses and powers our homes all across the east coast of the United States, and we could wave goodbye to that natural gas-fossil fuel polluting future for the 21st century.

So what is Donald Trump doing? After receiving tens and tens of millions of dollars in contributions from the natural gas industry, led by Harold Hamm, who promised Trump—the No. 1 natural gas guy in America—that he would raise the money for him in the campaign, well, the payoff, the payback is, kill offshore wind.

So they say “all of the above”—nah, they don’t mean “all of the above.”

Chris Wright, the Secretary of Energy, says: People really don’t like wind, so we have to make an exception because people don’t like wind.

Do you know who doesn’t like wind? The natural gas industry. They hate wind. They hate it because it is the competition, because it is working, because it is cheaper, and because it is also cleaner, in the same way the oil industry hates the all-electric vehicle revolution because it kills oil as a business as we move to a renewable way of generating electricity that then powers the vehicles we have in America.

So the chairman of the Environment and Public Works Committee as usual has just put his finger right on the problem, and it is the money that is sloshing through Mar-a-Lago and Washington, DC, the White House. It is an absolute disgrace, and I can’t thank him enough for bringing this up on the floor for a full exposition.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. And we welcome our colleague from Connecticut to join the festivities here on the Senate floor.

All three States are downwind States from the pollution of the Midwest, of Pennsylvania, West Virginia, Ohio. There is nothing we can do about it, other than breathe in the waste that they don’t clean up.

Mr. MARKEY. What does that mean by “downwind,” just so people can understand it? What do you mean by that?

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. Well, it means that the prevailing winds that blow over West Virginia, that blow over Pennsylvania, that blow over Ohio, blow over their smoke stacks that have been deliberately built high into the air so that the pollution coming out of the smoke stacks gets caught up in those prevailing winds and ends up falling down in the form of ozone and particulate matter in Massachusetts, in Connecticut, and in Rhode Island. And the Rhode Island Department of Environmental Management and the Massachusetts Department of Environmental Protection and the Connecticut Department of Environmental Protection can do nothing about it because those States have chosen to put it up into the sky above them so that it lands on us.

Mr. MARKEY. And it blows into the lungs of the people in Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

I yield to the Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. A perfect segue to my remarks, if I may be recognized, Mr. President?

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Connecticut.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Mr. President, it is the perfect segue to my remarks because “downwind” means we are the recipient of their air and their pollution, which are the small particulates. They are often the size of, literally, a quarter of the head of a pin, and the reason that they are so dangerous is that they are inhaled to the very deepest parts of our lungs, where they do the most damage.

And so I am grateful to be talking about the good neighbor rule. That is actually the purpose of my coming to the floor, to talk about the rule that applies to those powerplants and States that are supposed to be good neighbors. And, according to this rule, they would be good neighbors, but the EPA is rolling it back, withdrawing it.

And so I am grateful to be here with two champions, my great friend and neighbor the Senator from Rhode Island, Senator WHITEHOUSE, who has made this battle a constant struggle from his seat on the floor, in meetings, in townhalls, in forums, literally, around the world; and my neighbor from Massachusetts, the author of the Green New Deal, which I was proud to join in its first day and still represents a milestone in environmental advocacy. And we are here today to advocate.

I am joyous, even though saddened by the need to be here—joyous—to be amongst this band of brothers and sisters who are going to stand strong and steadfast against the Trump administration’s sellout.

You heard it from Senators WHITEHOUSE and MARKEY: These rollbacks are a gift. They are literally a payback to the lobby—the anti-environment lobby, the fuel and oil and gas lobby—that has so infiltrated and permeated our government, including, now, the Environmental Protection Agency.

And so let me begin by highlighting for people who care, and that should be everyone. It really should be everyone who has children, who will inherit the mess we are creating. It should be everyone who cares about the planet and what we are leaving for others, our stewardship of the environment.

The EPA is becoming a shell. Literally 65 percent of its workforce has been fired; 65 percent are planned to go. There is no way that the EPA, as a law enforcement Agency, can function with the remaining 35 percent of its staff.

But perhaps most egregiously, the Administrator of the EPA announced, just 2 weeks ago, that he was targeting 31 climate and health protections to roll back. He called it “the largest de-regulatory announcement in U.S. his-

tory.” He said it was the most momentous day in the history of the EPA. In my view, it is a day that will live in environmental infamy. It marks a step back by decades.

And for people who think, well, we need some disruptors like Elon Musk, who is behind these steps to decimate the Agency, disruption can sometimes be constructive, but not when you burn down the house, burn down an Agency, burn down a framework of laws that have been carefully built and reflect not only an intellectual commitment but also a deliberately constructed way to balance the needs of environment and energy and other interests that serve the public.

This administration is destroying that balance. It is easy to destroy things. It is easy to burn down a house. It is much harder to construct it. And this administration is blatantly and malignly and cruelly destructive, firing 65 percent of a workforce that has dedicated itself to caring about the environment and acting on our statutes to protect the environment.

So let’s just call it what it is. Elon Musk and Donald Trump are using Lee Zeldin—I am tempted to say he is their puppet; certainly, he is their instrument—to take a wrecking ball to environmental protections that have safeguarded Americans from toxic air and water pollution for decades.

And so, far from ensuring clean land, water, and air for all, Elon Musk and EPA are giving Donald Trump’s big polluters a carte blanche to trash the planet—no exaggeration, really. I mean, come right down to it. Let’s call it for what it is. The administration is running roughshod over our Federal environmental protection laws, writ large.

I am going to focus today, as I mentioned just moments ago, on one of the rules that EPA is rolling back: the Good Neighbor Plan. And it is appropriately called the Good Neighbor Plan because it is a landmark environmental protection law that literally safeguards Massachusetts, Connecticut, Rhode Island, Pennsylvania, New York, and other States of New England against the pollution generated in Ohio and other Midwestern States that is brought by the prevailing winds.

The polluters didn’t create those prevailing winds, but, nonetheless, the pollution is carried on them toward the east coast. The funny thing about those little pieces of soot created in fuel-burning powerplants is they have no respect for State boundaries, none.

I don’t know why. You know, we have in Connecticut—as Rhode Island and Massachusetts do—strong laws that protect our air and water. And those pieces of soot, the nitrogen, the other pollutants have no respect for our boundaries.

The Clean Air Act, through its good neighbor provision, empowers the EPA to step in when States’ emissions are significantly contributing to the air quality problems of another State.

In 2023, the EPA released its final Good Neighbor Plan, which would ensure 23 States meet the Clean Air Act's good neighbor requirements by reducing pollution that significantly impacts downwind States, like Connecticut, Massachusetts, and Rhode Island.

Connecticut has some of the worst air quality in the country—let's be honest here—largely due to pollution traveling from powerplants in the Midwestern States. Data shows that anywhere from 90 to 95 percent of air pollution impacting Connecticut on high ozone days originates from outside our State, and it is causing serious harm to Connecticut and our residents. Last year, Connecticut exceeded the Federal health standards for ozone on 23 different days. That is almost a month out of the year.

Three of Connecticut's cities—Hartford, New Haven, and Bridgeport—rank within the top 100 most challenging cities to live with asthma last year. That is according to the Asthma and Allergy Foundation of America Annual Report. One of the top 100 most challenging cities in which to live with asthma is a pretty lamentable distinction.

These consequences are cumulative. They mean more hospital visits, more healthcare costs, more missed school and workdays, and, ultimately, more serious illnesses, more premature deaths.

They are the equivalent of imposing second-hand smoke on children or people with asthma or other kinds of respiratory problems.

Zeldin, Musk, and Trump's rollback was touted as lowering the cost of living for Americans—lowering the cost of living. It is going to do just the opposite.

Not only is protecting the environment the right thing to do for our planet; it also benefits America economically. The EPA projected: In 2026, the first year the Good Neighbor Plan was set to be implemented, Americans would see significant health benefits because of this rule, including preventing approximately 1,300 premature deaths, avoiding more than 2,300 hospital and emergency room visits, cutting asthma symptoms by 1.3 million cases, and avoiding 430,000 school absence days and 25,000 lost workdays.

One estimate found that this Good Neighbor Plan would provide over \$16.2 billion in net monetary benefits when you count the hospital visits, the lost workdays, the school days, the doctors' treatments—all that adding to \$16.2 billion. That is no bargain for the United States of America. What you may say on day 1, you pay in multiples on day 5 or 10, throughout the year.

Only the Federal Government is empowered to protect the people of the United States who live downwind from these powerplants. Connecticut cannot do it, nor can Massachusetts, nor Rhode Island on their own. It is legally and physically impossible.

But protection is impossible if Musk and Trump, through Lee Zeldin, roll back this rule. And let's be, again, honest about what is happening here. This Good Neighbor Plan rollback is part of a larger pattern and practice to undermine and undercut and eventually eviscerate environmental protections. It is the reason they are firing 60 percent of the EPA's workforce. It is the reason why they are slashing and trashing other Agencies that are vital to environmental protection. It comes as Trump's EPA has moved to cancel hundreds of grants for climate projects across the country.

For every action they take to chip away at our bedrock environmental protection, the world is less healthy. The world is less healthy and our planet is more endangered.

I urge my colleagues to stand in strong opposition to the Musk-Trump-Zeldin shameless attack on the Environmental Protection Agency and on our environment.

I yield the floor.

Mr. MARKEY. Would the Senator from Connecticut yield?

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. Absolutely.

Mr. MARKEY. Thank you. What I would like to talk about a little bit, if I could, with you and Senator WHITEHOUSE, is this pollution agenda that they have for us in New England, that they have writ large for the whole country as well.

Let's just take solar energy. In 2009, the total amount of solar ever deployed in the United States was 2,000 megawatts. That was it. In 2024, 40,000 megawatts was deployed. It is scaring the natural gas industry. Combined with battery storage, it is just saying that New England doesn't have to import any more natural gas, any more pollution. Slowly but surely, in other parts of the country, they, too, will deploy wind and solar with batteries and reduce the amount of pollution that is sent up into the atmosphere that blows our way on the east coast from the Midwest.

It actually is more economical for us. It is actually a job creator for us because the jobs are actually in New England, not in other States. We are doing it for ourselves offshore, on the roofs of people's homes, out along the highways as we deploy these renewable energy resources. It is absolutely frightening to them.

In the same way—I will add this number, too—in 2009, there were a grand total of 2,000 total all-electric vehicles in the United States. That was all we had from Henry Ford to 2009, 2,000 all-electric vehicles. Why? Because the auto industry said we can't figure it out. It is just too hard.

Then we put the incentives in place. The battery technologies were given incentives. There were incentives to buy all-electric vehicles. Last year, there were about one and a half million all-electric vehicles and plug-in hybrids sold in America, not just 2,000 total sold a year ago.

So the direction is absolutely vertical. It is just taking off exponentially. And, again, with it goes a reduction in greenhouse gases, especially as each year goes by and more and more of those technologies are employed.

I think that what Senator WHITEHOUSE has done on the floor over and over again, just bringing out the fundamental corruption of how policies are made in the energy and environment sector, it just becomes more and more true as we are only 8 weeks into the Trump administration. But we can see that, almost like an Old Testament prophet, SHELDON WHITEHOUSE has been shining a light on this corruption, and now it has all come to pass.

I can't thank the Senator from Connecticut enough for his great leadership on these issues. We kind of consider ourselves to be innovation States. We are going to figure this out. And as we figure it out, it is absolutely frightening to those States that have been producing energy for generations—good for them and good for their citizens—but if we figure it out as well, we should not be stopped any more than we stopped them in the 20th century. We should be allowed to innovate in the 21st century what they are trying to put in place.

The policies purchased from the Trump administration that block us from those issues, which were not just for ourselves, but like many other things invented in New England over the years, we can export them around the world. We can be the world leader in the development of and then export of all these technologies.

I can't thank you enough, Senator WHITEHOUSE, for your great leadership on the floor.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I am delighted to be joined by all of you.

I would make an observation of my own. I think Senator BLUMENTHAL wants to join in. The observation I want to make is our three States are known for great universities—Yale University in New Haven, CT; Harvard University in Cambridge, MA; and Brown University in Providence, RI. They all teach climate science, and they all teach economics as well.

But it is not just those three universities. If you go across the aisle and check in with our Republican colleagues, with their Republican home States, they have great universities in their own States, including State universities. And their State universities in their home States teach the very climate science that Republican Senators deny on the Senate floor.

I have been through the syllabuses of home State universities for Republican colleagues and gone through the classes that teach climate science, and they teach economics. And you can go to Milton Friedman, the famous free market conservative economist, and what does he say about pollution? He says the cost of the pollution has to be in the price of the product or else it is a big fat subsidy, and it is not market economics any longer. It is a government

subsidy; it is corporate welfare; and that is what we see in this dispute.

The climate science is real. Their own State universities teach it, and the economics is real. Their own State universities teach Milton Friedman. And what they are doing in this building, contrary to what their universities know, is to fight with political power, to keep polluting, and have the public bear all the cost of their pollution—have the public bear all the cost of their pollution, not be a real market economy—which the price of the pollution, as a negative externality, gets baked into the price of the product—but pollute for free.

This is a huge pollute-for-free scam, running to about \$700 billion every year. So no wonder it has taken a while for wind and solar to take off fighting the headwinds of a multihundred billion-dollar subsidy from an industry that gets to pollute for free.

And who bears all those costs? How are your fishermen doing in Long Island Sound as that water has warmed or mine or yours? And that is just one example.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. If the Senator from Rhode Island would yield.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I will.

Mr. BLUMENTHAL. I would add a footnote to that important conversation, which is they teach economics, and they teach that those externalities are, in effect, a subsidy if they aren't charged to the consumer and made transparent. But they can also distort the market.

When those subsidies caused consumers to buy cars that are more polluting or to use fuel that is more contaminating to our environment, they also avoid the benefits, the public-interest benefits, of cleaner fuel and better cars.

Just to give you an illustration, for many years, Senator MARKEY and I crusaded for safer cars—cars that were better built, cars that had seatbelts, cars that had airbags. The industry resisted—almost comically now in retrospect—because once they started installing these devices, once they made cars safe, you know what they found? Consumers wanted safer cars. They also wanted cars that were more energy efficient.

Lo and behold, when they saw the benefits of these kinds of energy-saving and environmentally friendly measures, consumers voted with their feet and their wallets and their dollars.

If we did not have these kinds of hidden subsidies, consumers would vote for electric cars if there were more charging stations, if there were batteries that took them longer distances without having to recharge.

I am kind of surprised that the President of the United States isn't having a showroom on the White House lawn for all electric vehicles, not just for Elon Musk's Tesla. Why not provide that kind of boost and elevation for electric vehicles generally? And the car manufacturers would bet on cleaner

cars if they were given the true cost and enabled to enjoy the true benefits of electric cars generally, not just the ones produced by a billionaire—unelected, unappointed official, unconfirmed official—acting, in effect, on behalf of Donald Trump with Lee Zeldin as his instrument to fire hard-working people at the EPA and to roll back rules that benefit consumers.

Mr. WHITEHOUSE. I thank my colleagues for their colloquy.

I see the Senator from South Carolina, whose time we are intruding on, has come to the floor.

We yield to Senator SCOTT.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from South Carolina.

H.J. RES. 25

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I rise to talk in favor of my CRA on the overdraft fees.

President Biden and his politically motivated junk fee conversation was not about helping consumers. It was about trying to change the conversation away from the devastation that inflation was bringing to kitchen table after kitchen table after kitchen table all across America. The average American, because of Bidenflation, lost \$1,000-plus in spending power, devastated by the Biden economy.

President Biden looked for something to change the conversation and it changed something called junk fees. One of the junk fees he talked about was the overdraft fee. Now, some would say: What is an overdraft fee? Your bank account goes beyond zero; you have to pay a fee; your bills are paid. Some people who live paycheck to paycheck use their overdraft option to pay their rent.

So when you start capping these fee structures, you start eliminating overdraft. You start eliminating the possibility of people working paycheck to paycheck to make the decision—to make the decision—to continue to use their resources in the most effective way.

Unfortunately, President Biden's devastating economy has reverberated for years now. This overdraft conversation is a critically important conversation, if you are, like me, a guy who grew up in poverty, single-parent household, who understands the difficulty, the challenge of single moms making those ends meet. I want every single hard-working American to have access to our financial system. That sometimes includes, as it did for us, free checking.

A free checking account is not free, but with the revenue streams coming into the institutions, they can use those revenues as an option to provide free checking for those living paycheck to paycheck.

Overturning the Biden CFPB's overdraft fee structure is good for consumers.

Let me just quote from the Federal Reserve Bank of New York that confirmed the overdraft fee caps hinder financial inclusion. As a study stated:

[O]verdraft fee caps hinder financial inclusion. When constrained by fee caps, banks reduce overdraft coverage and deposit supply, causing more returned checks and a decline in account ownerships among low-income households.

To do the right thing for the working class is to give them all the options and let them decide. Trust them with their own resources. That is in the best interest of our Nation, and that is why I am offering this CRA tonight.

I yield back all time on Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25.

VOTE ON H.J. RES. 25

The PRESIDING OFFICER. All time is yielded back.

The clerk will read the title of the joint resolution for the third time.

The joint resolution was ordered to a third reading and was read the third time.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The joint resolution having been read the third time, the question is, Shall the joint resolution pass?

Mr. SCOTT of South Carolina. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The bill clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) and the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) are necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 70, nays 28, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 151 Leg.]

YEAS—70

Alsobrooks	Grassley	Ossoff
Banks	Hagerty	Padilla
Barrasso	Hawley	Paul
Blackburn	Heinrich	Ricketts
Booker	Hickenlooper	Risch
Boozman	Hoeben	Rosen
Britt	Husted	Rounds
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Schiff
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Schumer
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (FL)
Cornyn	Kim	Scott (SC)
Cortez Masto	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Slotkin
Cramer	Lujan	Sullivan
Crapo	Lummis	Thune
Cruz	Marshall	Tillis
Curtis	McConnell	Tuberville
Daines	McCormick	Warner
Ernst	Moody	Warnock
Fetterman	Moran	Wicker
Fischer	Moreno	Young
Gillibrand	Mullin	
Graham	Murkowski	

NAYS—28

Baldwin	Kaine	Sanders
Bennet	Kelly	Shaheen
Blumenthal	King	Smith
Blunt Rochester	Klobuchar	Van Hollen
Cantwell	Markey	Warren
Coons	Merkley	Welch
Duckworth	Murphy	Whitehouse
Durbin	Murray	Wyden
Hassan	Peters	
Hirono	Reed	

NOT VOTING—2

Gallego Schatz

The joint resolution (H.J. Res. 25) was passed.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. HUSTED). The Senator from North Dakota.

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that with respect to Calendar No. 27, H.J. Res. 25, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "OVERDRAFT LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"—Motion to Proceed

Mr. CRAMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the motion.

The bill clerk read as follows:

Motion to proceed to Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

VOTE ON MOTION TO PROCEED

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on agreeing to the motion.

Mr. CRUZ. Mr. President, I ask for the yeas and nays.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there a sufficient second?

There appears to be a sufficient second.

The clerk will call the roll.

The senior assistant legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from Hawaii (Mr. SCHATZ) is necessarily absent.

The result was announced—yeas 52, nays 47, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 152 Leg.]

YEAS—52

Banks	Graham	Mullin
Barrasso	Grassley	Murkowski
Blackburn	Hagerty	Paul
Boozman	Hoeven	Ricketts
Britt	Husted	Risch
Budd	Hyde-Smith	Rounds
Capito	Johnson	Schmitt
Cassidy	Justice	Scott (FL)
Collins	Kennedy	Scott (SC)
Cornyn	Lankford	Sheehy
Cotton	Lee	Sullivan
Cramer	Lummis	Thune
Crapo	Marshall	Tillis
Cruz	McConnell	Tuberville
Curtis	McCormick	Wicker
Daines	Moody	Young
Ernst	Moran	
Fischer	Moreno	

NAYS—47

Alsobrooks	Heinrich	Reed
Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Bennet	Hirono	Sanders
Blumenthal	Kaine	Schiff
Blunt Rochester	Kelly	Schumer
Booker	Kim	Shaheen
Cantwell	King	Slotkin
Coons	Klobuchar	Smith
Cortez Masto	Lujan	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Markey	Warner
Durbin	Merkley	Warnock
Fetterman	Murphy	Warren
Galleo	Murray	Welch
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Hawley	Peters	

NOT VOTING—1

Schatz

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. RICKETTS). On this vote, the yeas are 52, the nays are 47, and the motion is agreed to.

The motion was agreed to.

DISAPPROVING THE RULE SUBMITTED BY THE BUREAU OF CONSUMER FINANCIAL PROTECTION RELATING TO "OVERDRAFT LENDING: VERY LARGE FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS"

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the joint resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A joint resolution (S.J. Res. 18) disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority leader.

UNANIMOUS CONSENT AGREEMENT—S.J. RES. 37

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that notwithstanding rule XXII, at a time to be determined by the majority leader, following consultation with the Democrat leader, no earlier than Tuesday, April 1, S.J. Res. 37 be discharged from the Committee on Finance and the Senate proceed to its consideration; further, that there be 6 hours for debate only, with the time equally divided between the leaders or their designees, on the joint resolution; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, the joint resolution be read a third time and the Senate vote on the joint resolution.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RESOLUTIONS SUBMITTED TODAY

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent the Senate now proceed to the en bloc consideration of the following resolutions which are at the desk: S. Res. 140, S. Res. 141, S. Res. 142.

There being no objection, the Senate proceeded to consider the resolutions en bloc.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolutions be agreed to, the preambles be agreed to, and the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolutions were agreed to.

The preambles were agreed to.

(The resolutions, with their preambles, are printed in today's RECORD under "Submitted Resolutions.")

RECOGNIZING GIRL SCOUTS OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA ON ITS 113TH BIRTHDAY AND CELEBRATING ITS FOUNDER, JULIETTE GORDON LOW, AND THE LEGACY OF PROVIDING GIRLS WITH A SECURE AND INCLUSIVE SPACE WHERE THEY CAN EXPLORE THEIR WORLD, BUILD MEANINGFUL RELATIONSHIPS, AND HAVE ACCESS TO EXPERIENCES THAT PREPARE THEM FOR A LIFE OF LEADERSHIP

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the Committee on the Judiciary be discharged from further consideration and the Senate now proceed to S. Res. 120.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will report the resolution by title.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A resolution (S. Res. 120) recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 113th birthday and celebrating its founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and the legacy of providing girls with a secure and inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership.

There being no objection, the committee was discharged, and the Senate proceeded to consider the resolution.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the resolution be agreed to, the preamble be agreed to, and the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

The resolution (S. Res. 120) was agreed to.

The preamble was agreed to.

(The resolution, with its preamble, is printed in the RECORD of March 10, 2025, under "Submitted Resolutions.")

MORNING BUSINESS

ARMS SALES NOTIFICATIONS

Mr. RISCH. Mr. President, section 36(b) of the Arms Export Control Act requires that Congress receive prior notification of certain proposed arms sales as defined by that statute. Upon such notification, the Congress has 30 calendar days during which the sale may be reviewed. The provision stipulates that, in the Senate, the notification of proposed sales shall be sent to the chairman of the Senate Foreign Relations Committee.

In keeping with the committee's intention to see that relevant information is still available to the full Senate, I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD the notifications that have been received. If the cover letter references a classified annex, then such an annex is available to all Senators in the office of the Foreign Relations Committee, room SD-423.

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

DEFENSE SECURITY  
COOPERATION AGENCY,  
Washington, DC.

Hon. JAMES E. RISCH,  
Chairman, Committee on Foreign Relations,  
U.S. Senate, Washington, DC.

DEAR MR. CHAIRMAN: Pursuant to the reporting requirements of Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended, we are forwarding herewith Transmittal No. 25-16, concerning the Air Force's proposed Letter(s) of Offer and Acceptance to the Government of Qatar for defense articles and services estimated to cost \$1.96 billion. We will issue a news release to notify the public of this proposed sale upon delivery of this letter to your office.

Sincerely,

MICHAEL F. MILLER,  
Director.

Enclosures.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act, as amended

(i) Prospective Purchaser: Government of Qatar.

(ii) Total Estimated Value:

Major Defense Equipment\* \$0.34 billion.

Other \$ 1.62 billion.

Total \$ 1.96 billion.

Funding Source: National Funds.

(iii) Description and Quantity or Quantities of Articles or Services under Consideration for Purchase:

Major Defense Equipment (MDE):

Eight (8) MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA).

Two hundred (200) KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) tail kits for Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 or Laser JDAM GBU-54.

Three hundred (300) BLU-111 500-lb general purpose bombs.

One hundred (100) MXU-650 air foil groups (AFG) for Paveway 11 GBU-12.

One hundred (100) MAU-169 computer control groups (CCG) for Paveway II GBU-12.

Twenty-eight (28) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) security devices with M-Code.

Twelve (12) EGI security devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM).

Ten (10) Lynx AN/APY-8 Synthetic Aperture Radars (SAR).

Ten (10) L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence (COMINT) sensor suites.

One hundred ten (110) AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles.

Eight (8) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM).

Non-Major Defense Equipment: The following non-MDE items will also be included: Honeywell TPE-331 turboprop engines; Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCS); FMU-139D/B fuze systems; DSU-38 laser illuminated target detectors for GBU-54; KY-100M narrowband/wideband terminals; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAIPE) Type 1 cryptographic communications security devices; Cryptographic Core Modernization (CCM)-700A Type 1 COMSEC chips; AN/DPX-7 IFF transponders; Link-16 KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminals (STTs); Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) Electronic Surveillance Measure systems; AE-4500 Electronic Support Measure; Compact Multi-band Data Link (CMDL); Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) 6Si compatible systems; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming

Equipment (CMBRE) Plus Block II; Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antennas (MAGNA)-I, AS-4841; imaging systems; Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Multi-Spectrum Targeting System (MTS); Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars (SeaSpray 7500 maritime radars); Due Regard Radar (DRR); Automatic Information System (AIS) transponders; Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/Very High Frequency (VHF) radios; satellite communications (SATCOM) ground station antennas, modems, and terminals with Unifi Security Gateway (USG) encryption; Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); secure SATCOM systems; DSU-33D/B bomb components; M299 Longbow Hellfire launchers; weapons loading equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons integration; support and test equipment; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation and airlift support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support.

(iv) Military Department: Air Force (QA-D-SAA).

(v) Prior Related Cases, if any: None.

(vi) Sales Commission, Fee, etc., Paid, Offered, or Agreed to be Paid: None known at this time.

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology Contained in the Defense Article or Defense Services Proposed to be Sold: See Attached Annex.

(viii) Date Report Delivered to Congress: March 26, 2025.

\*As defined in Section 47(6) of the Arms Export Control Act.

#### POLICY JUSTIFICATION

##### Qatar—MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft

The Government of Qatar has requested to buy eight (8) MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA); two hundred (200) KMU-572 Joint Direct Attack Munition (JDAM) tail kits for Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 or Laser JDAM GBU-54; three hundred (300) BLU-111 500-lb general purpose bombs; one hundred (100) MXU-650 air foil groups (AFG) for Paveway II GBU-12; one hundred (100) MAU-169 computer control groups (CCG) for Paveway 11 GBU-12; twenty eight (28) Embedded Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) (EGI) security devices with M-Code; twelve (12) EGI security devices with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM); ten (10) Lynx AN/APY-8 Synthetic Aperture Radars (SAR); ten (10) L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence (COMINT) sensor suites; one hundred ten (110) AGM-114R2 Hellfire II missiles; and eight (8) M36E9 Hellfire Captive Air Training Missiles (CATM). The following non-MDE items will also be included: Honeywell TPE-331 turboprop engines; Certifiable Ground Control Stations (CGCS); FMU-139D/B fuze systems; DSU-38 laser illuminated target detectors for GBU-54; KY-100M narrowband/wideband terminals; AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loaders (SKLs); Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 Mode 5 Identification Friend or Foe (IFF) cryptographic appliques; Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X High Assurance Internet Protocol Encryptor (HAIPE) Type 1 cryptographic communications security (COMSEC) devices; Cryptographic Core Modernization (CCM)-700A Type 1 COMSEC chips; AN/DPX-7 IFF transponders; Link-16 KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminals (STTs); Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) Electronic Surveillance Measure systems; AE-4500 Electronic Support Measure; Compact Multi-

band Data Link (CMDL); Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) 6Si compatible systems; Common Munitions Built-in-Test Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) Plus Block II; Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antennas (MAGNA)-I, AS-4841; imaging systems; Electro-Optical/Infrared (EO/IR) Multi-Spectrum Targeting System (MTS); Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) radars (SeaSpray 7500 maritime radars); Due Regard Radar (DRR); Automatic Information System (AIS) transponders; Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/Very High Frequency (VHF) radios; satellite communications (SATCOM) ground station antennas, modems, and terminals with Unifi Security Gateway (USG) encryption; Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES); secure SATCOM systems; DSU-33D/B bomb components; M299 Longbow Hellfire launchers; weapons loading equipment; spare and repair parts, consumables and accessories, and repair and return support; weapons integration; support and test equipment; facilities and construction support; publications and technical documentation; personnel training and training equipment; transportation and airlift support; studies and surveys; U.S. Government and contractor engineering, technical, and logistics support services; and other related elements of logistics and program support. The estimated total cost is \$1.96 billion.

This proposed sale will support the foreign policy and national security objectives of the United States by helping to improve the security of a friendly country that continues to be an important force for political stability and economic progress in the Middle East.

The proposed sale will improve Qatar's capability to meet current and future threats by providing timely intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance, target acquisition, counter-land, and counter-surface sea capabilities for its security and defense. This capability is a deterrent to regional threats and will primarily be used to strengthen its homeland defense. Qatar will have no difficulty absorbing these articles and services into its armed forces.

The proposed sale of this equipment and support will not alter the basic military balance in the region.

The principal contractors will be General Atomics Aeronautical Systems, located in Poway, CA; Lockheed Martin, located in Bethesda, MD; RTX Corporation, located in Waltham, MA; L3Harris, Inc., located in Melbourne, FL; Boeing Corporation, located in Arlington, VA; and Leonardo SpA, located in Rome, Italy. At this time, the U.S. Government is not aware of any offset agreement proposed in connection with this potential sale. Any offset agreement will be defined in negotiations between the purchaser and the contractor.

Implementation of this proposed sale will not require the assignment of any additional U.S. Government or contractor representatives to Qatar.

There will be no adverse impact on U.S. defense readiness as a result of this proposed sale.

TRANSMITTAL NO. 25-16

Notice of Proposed Issuance of Letter of Offer Pursuant to Section 36(b)(1) of the Arms Export Control Act

Annex Item No. vii

(vii) Sensitivity of Technology:

1. The MQ-9B Remotely Piloted Aircraft (RPA) is a weapons-ready aircraft designed for Medium-Altitude Long-Endurance intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR), target acquisition, and strike missions. The MQ-9B RPA is not a USAF program of record but has close ties to, and

builds upon, the proven success of the MQ-9A Reaper. The MQ-9B is a highly modular, easily configurable aircraft that contains the necessary hard points, power, and data connections to accommodate a variety of payloads and munitions to meet multiple missions—including counter-land, counter-sea, and anti-submarine strike operations. The system is designed to be controlled by two operators within a Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS). The MQ-9B is able to operate using a direct line-of-sight (LoS) datalink or beyond line-of-sight (BLoS) through satellite communications (SATCOM). The MQ-9B system can be deployed from a single site that supports launch and recovery, mission control, and maintenance. The system also supports remote-split operations where launch, recovery, and maintenance occur at a forward operating base (FOB) and mission control is conducted from another location or main operating base (MOB).

2. Joint Direct Attack Munitions (JDAM) consist of a bomb body paired with a warhead-specific tail kit containing a Global Positioning System (GPS)/Inertial Navigation System (INS) guidance capability that converts unguided free-fall bombs into accurate, adverse weather “smart” munitions. The JDAM weapon can be delivered from modest standoff ranges at high or low altitudes against a variety of land and surface targets during the day or night. The JDAM can receive target coordinates via preplanned mission data from the delivery aircraft, by on-board aircraft sensors during captive carry, or from a third-party source via manual or automated entry.

a. The Guided Bomb Unit (GBU)-38 is a 500-lb JDAM, consisting of a KMU-572 tail kit and Bomb Live Unit (BLU)-111 or MK-82 bomb body.

b. The GBU-54 Laser Joint Direct Attack Munition (LJDAM) is a 500-lb JDAM which incorporates all the capabilities of the JDAM guidance tail kit and adds a precision laser guidance set. The LJDAM gives the weapon system an optional semi-active laser guidance in addition to the GPS/INS guidance. This provides the optional capability to strike moving targets. The GBU-54 consists of a DSU-38 laser guidance set or a DSU-33D/B proximity sensor and bomb body with appropriate KMU-5XX tail kit.

3. The Paveway II (PWII) is a maneuverable, free-fall laser-guided bomb (LGB) that guides to laser energy reflected off the target. The LGB is delivered like a normal general purpose (GP) warhead, but the semi-active laser guidance corrects many of the normal errors inherent in any delivery system. Laser designation for the LGB can be provided by a variety of laser target markers or designators. The PWII consists of a non-warhead-specific MAU-209 or MAU-169 computer control group (CCG) and a warhead-specific air foil group (AFG) that attaches to the nose and tail of the GP bomb body.

a. The GBU-12 is a 500-lb GP bomb body fitted with the MAU-169 CCG and MXU-650 AFG to guide to its laser designated target.

4. The M-Code capable Embedded Global Positioning System/Inertial Navigation System (GPS/INS) (EGI), with an embedded GPS Precise Positioning Service (PPS) Receiver Application Module-Standard Electronic Module (GRAM-S/M), is a self-contained navigation system that provides acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) or M-Code signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

a. Mayflower Multi-Platform Anti-Jam GPS Navigation Antenna (MAGNA)-I, AS-

4841 is a federated, GPS anti-jam solution. MAGNA-F can provide protected GPS signals to different receivers simultaneously. It protects critical mission systems on the platform and provides unwavering position, navigation, and timing (PNT). It can be used on multiple military and civilian GPS receivers. It is also compatible with Selective Availability Anti-Spoofing Modules (SAASM) and M-Code.

5. The EGI with SAASM—or M-Code receiver when available—and PPS is a self-contained navigation system that provides the following: acceleration, velocity, position, attitude, platform azimuth, magnetic and true heading, altitude, body angular rates, time tags, and coordinated universal time (UTC) synchronized time. SAASM or M-Code enables the GPS receiver access to the encrypted P(Y) or M-Code signal, providing protection against active spoofing attacks.

6. The AN/APY-8 Lynx Synthetic Aperture Radar (SAR) and Ground Moving Target Indicator (GMTI) system provides all-weather surveillance, tracking, and targeting.

7. The L3 Rio Grande communications intelligence sensor suite's capabilities meet rigorous mission requirements for small, manned, and unmanned intelligence, surveillance, and reconnaissance (ISR) platforms. Rio Grande intercepts, locates, monitors, and records communications signals using a common set of software applications. Rio Grande operates on an open architecture design and supports third-party special signals applications, real-time audio recording and playback, and a three-dimensional display of the area of interest.

8. The AGM-114R2 Hellfire II is a missile equipped with a semi-active laser (SAL) seeker that homes in on the reflected light of a laser designator. The AGM-114R2 can be launched from higher altitudes than previous variants because of its enhanced guidance and navigation capabilities, which include a height-of-burst (HOB)/proximity sensor. The missile has a multipurpose warhead and can destroy hard, soft, and enclosed targets.

a. Captive Air Training Missiles (CATMs) are used to simulate the AGM-114R2 Hellfire missiles and are carried and delivered in the same manner as the Hellfire with identical weight, center of gravity, and overall appearance.

9. The Honeywell TPE-331 is a turboprop engine with power output ranging from 429 to 1,230 kW.

10. The Certifiable Ground Control Station (CGCS) is designed to emulate a reconnaissance aircraft cockpit, giving users extensive means to operate both the aircraft and sensors. It can be fixed or mobile, with either version allowing operators to control and monitor the aircraft, as well as record and exploit downlinked payload data.

11. The FMU-139D/B Joint Programmable Fuze (JPF) is a multi-delay, multi-arm proximity sensor compatible with general purpose blast, frag, and hardened-target penetrator weapons. The JPF settings are cockpit selectable in flight when used with numerous precision-guided weapons.

12. The KY-100M is a cryptographic-modernized lightweight terminal for secure voice and data communications. The KY-100M provides wideband/narrowband half-duplex communication. Operating in tactical ground, marine, and airborne applications, the KY-100M enables secure communication with a broad range of radio and satellite equipment.

13. The AN/PYQ-10 Simple Key Loader (SKL) is a handheld device used for securely receiving, storing, and transferring data between compatible cryptographic and communications equipment.

14. The Keying Identification Verification (KIV)-77 is a cryptographic applique for Identification Friend or Foe (IFF). It can be loaded with Mode 5 classified elements.

15. The Semi-Automatic Ground Environment (SAGE) 750 Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a United Kingdom produced digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate direction finding (DF) antennas, SAGE builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

16. The SNC 4500 Auto Electronic Surveillance Measures (ESM) System is a digital electronic intelligence (ELINT) sensor which analyzes the electromagnetic spectrum to map the source of active emissions. Using highly accurate Direction Finding (DF) antennas, the SNC 4500 builds target locations and provides situational awareness, advance warning of threats, and the ability to cue other sensors.

17. The L3 Harris Compact Multi-band Data Link (CMDL) is a miniaturized, high-performance, wideband data link operating in Ku, C, L, or S-band, with both analog and digital waveforms. It is interoperable with military and commercial products including Tactical Common Data Link (TCDL) terminals, the complete line of Remotely Operated Video Enhanced Receiver (ROVER) systems, and coded orthogonal frequency division multiplexing (COFDM) receivers.

18. The L3 Harris ROVER 6Si transceiver provides real-time, full-motion video and other network data for situational awareness, targeting, battle damage assessment, surveillance, relay, convoy over-watch operations, and other situations where eyes-on-target are required. It provides expanded frequencies and additional processing resources from previous ROVER versions, allowing increased levels of collaboration and interoperability with numerous manned and unmanned airborne platforms.

19. Common Munitions Built-In-Test (BIT)/Reprogramming Equipment (CMBRE) is support equipment used to interface with weapon systems to initiate and report BIT results and upload/download flight software. CMBRE supports multiple munitions platforms with a range of applications that perform pre-flight checks, periodic maintenance checks, loading of operational flight program (OFP) data, loading of munitions mission planning data, loading of GPS cryptographic keys, and declassification of munitions memory.

20. The MX-20HD is a gyro-stabilized, multi-spectral, multi-field-of-view ElectroOptical/Infrared (EO/IR) targeting system. The system provides surveillance laser illumination and laser designation through use of an externally mounted turret sensor unit and internally mounted master control. Sensor video imagery is displayed in the aircraft real time and may be recorded for subsequent ground analysis.

21. The Selex Seaspray is an Active Electronically Scanned Array (AESA) surveillance radar suitable for a range of capabilities from long range search to small target detection.

22. Due Regard Radar (DRR) is a collision avoidance air-to-air radar. DRR is a key component of GA-ASI's overall Airborne Detect and Avoid System (DAAS) architecture for MQ-9B. By tracking non-cooperative aircraft, DRR enables a collision avoidance capability onboard the RPA and allows the pilot to separate the aircraft from other air traffic in cooperation with air traffic control.

23. The Automatic Identification System (AIS) transponder provides maritime patrol and search and rescue (SAR) aircraft with the ability to track and identify AIS-equipped vessels over a dedicated very high frequency (VHF) data link. AIS is a key component of any maritime ISR network and offers maritime authorities with the ability to

better coordinate air and sea search, rescue, surveillance, and interdiction operations.

24. The Rohde & Schwartz Ultra High Frequency (UHF)/ VHF radio is a multi-band, portable, two-way communication radio.

25. The AN/DPX-7 is an IFF transponder used to identify and track aircraft, ships, and some ground forces to reduce friendly fire incidents.

26. The C-Band LoS Ground Data Terminals and Ku-Band SATCOM GA-ASI Transportable Earth Stations (GATES) provide command, control, and data acquisition for the MQ-9.

27. The M299 launcher provides mechanical and electrical interface between the Hellfire missile and aircraft.

28. The KOR-24A Small Tactical Terminal (STT) Link-16 is a command, control communications, and intelligence (C3I) system incorporating high-capacity, jam-resistant, digital communication links for exchange of near real-time tactical information, including both data and voice, among air, ground, and sea elements.

29. The Intrusion Prevention System (IPS)-250X is a low-size, weight, and power (SWaP) National Security Agency (NSA)-certified high-speed Internet Protocol (IP) network encryptor.

30. The highest level of classification of defense articles, components, and services included in this potential sale is SECRET.

31. If a technologically advanced adversary were to obtain knowledge of the specific hardware and software elements, the information could be used to develop countermeasures that might reduce system effectiveness or be used in the development of a system with similar or advanced capabilities.

32. A determination has been made that Qatar can provide substantially the same degree of protection for the sensitive technology being released as the U.S. Government. This sale is necessary in furtherance of the U.S. foreign policy and national security objectives outlined in the Policy Justification.

33. All defense articles and services listed in this transmittal have been authorized for release and export to Government of Qatar.

#### REMEMBERING RAÚL GRIJALVA

Mr. KELLY. Mr. President, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of my colleague and friend Representative Raúl Grijalva. A devoted fighter for justice and working families, Raúl spent more than 50 years in public service, representing southern Arizona in Congress for more than two decades and serving as the chairman of the House Natural Resources Committee. His passing is a tremendous loss for Arizona and the country.

Raúl was a man of compassion and conviction, driven by his belief in doing the right thing. He spent his life fighting for the people of southern Arizona, and his leadership was rooted in a deep understanding of the challenges facing his constituents. As the son of immigrants, he knew firsthand what it meant to fight for better healthcare, labor protections, education, and economic opportunity for everyone. He was a champion to those who have been left out of the conversation, and he leaves a legacy of making sure everyone had a voice in the Halls of Congress.

Raúl was a mentor to my wife Gabby Giffords, when she was first elected to

Congress. Raúl and Gabby represented neighboring districts and were shaped by their upbringing in southern Arizona, a place that was special to both of them. As Gabby said after Raúl passed, he could and did talk to anyone, with empathy and genuine interest in the people he served.

Raúl's leadership on the House Natural Resources Committee was instrumental in advancing landmark legislation to combat climate change, preserve public lands, and safeguard water resources critical to Arizona and the Southwest. He led the charge to protect the Grand Canyon for future generations. His commitment to conservation, climate action, and Tribal sovereignty is a testament to his love for the State he called home.

Raúl's story is an American story—one of perseverance, service, and an unshakable belief in the promise of this country. Arizona is better, our Nation is better because of his service.

My thoughts are with Raúl's wife Ramona; their three daughters Adelita, Raquel, and Marisa; his grandchildren Adelina, Raúl and Joaquín Grijalva-Gómez, and Floyd IV and Belán Thompson; and his entire family, his team, and everyone who looked up to him. We honor Representative Raúl Grijalva's lifetime of service, and we celebrate his enduring impact.

#### REMEMBERING KEYSHA BROOKS-COLEY

Ms. ALSOBROOKS. Mr. President, the State of Maryland has lost a giant. Okeysha "Keysha" Yashica Brooks-Coley, a Baltimore native, made significant contributions to our State and our Nation. Attending high school in Severn, she earned a bachelor's degree in sociology and political science from Towson University and a master's in political management from George Washington University.

She began her impactful career here on Capitol Hill as a legislative assistant for Congresswoman MARCY KAPTUR working on healthcare, aging, and education policy. She later served in a dual role as a professional staff member on the U.S. Senate Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions Subcommittee on Retirement Security and Aging and on the majority staff for Senator Barbara Mikulski. Her policy responsibilities spanned a wide range of issues, focusing on women's health, public health, biomedical research, health disparities, and Health and Human Services appropriations.

After leaving the Hill, Keysha served as vice president of Federal advocacy and strategic alliances at the American Cancer Society Cancer Action Network. In that role, she led the organization's engagement with Congress and even championed implementing the landmark Affordable Care Act. She was committed to ensuring everyone had access to care and coverage. Keysha's career journey culminated in a leadership position at the Blue Cross Blue

Shield Association, where she served as vice president of advocacy.

Keysha's professional accolades are numerous, but what she was most proud of was her family, including her husband Derrick of more than 20 years and their four children Julia, Marshall, Henry, and Clairra. She was a woman of deep faith, who was committed to service, social justice, and civic issues.

I ask that you join me and the residents of Maryland in offering my sincerest condolences to Keysha's husband, children, parents, and extended family and friends. We are grateful for her lifelong commitment to service, and we are so honored she devoted her work to caring for each of us.

#### ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

##### REMEMBERING RICHARD WARNER CARLSON

• Mr. BANKS. Mr. President, Richard Warner Carlson died at 84 on March 24, 2025, at his home in Boca Grande, FL, after 6 weeks of illness. He refused all painkillers to the end and left this world with dignity and clarity, holding the hands of his children with his dogs at his feet.

He was born February 10, 1941, at Massachusetts General Hospital to a 15-year-old Swedish-speaking girl and placed in the Home for Little Wanderers in Boston, where he developed rickets from malnutrition. His legs were bent for the rest of his life. After years in foster homes, he was placed with the Carlson family in Norwood, MA. His adoptive father, a tannery manager, died when he was 12, and he stopped attending school regularly. At 17, he was jailed for car theft, thrown out of high school for the second time, and enlisted in the U.S. Marine Corps.

In 1962, in search of adventure, he drove to California. He spent a year as a merchant seaman on the SS *Washington Bear*, transporting cargo to ports in the Orient, and then became a reporter. Over the next decade, he was a copy boy at the LA Times, a wire service reporter for UPI and an investigative reporter and anchor for ABC News, covering the upheaval of the period. He knew virtually every compelling figure of the time, including Jim Jones, Patty Hearst, Eric Hoffer, Jerry Garcia, as well as Mafia leaders and members of the Manson Family. In 1965, he was badly injured reporting from the Watts riots in Los Angeles.

By 1975, he was married with two small boys, when his wife departed for Europe and didn't return. He threw himself into raising his boys, whom he often brought with him on reporting trips. At home, he educated them during 3-hour dinners on topics that ranged from the French Revolution to Bolshevik Russia, PG Wodehouse, the history of the American Indian, and, always, the eternal and unchanging nature of people. He was a free thinker and a compulsive book reader, including at red lights. He left a library of

thousands of books, most dog-eared and filled with marginalia. His reading and life experiences convinced him that God is real. He had an outlaw spirit tempered by decency.

In 1979, he married the love of his life, Patricia Swanson. They were together for 44 years, all of them happy. She died 16 months before he did, and he mourned her every day.

In 1985, he moved to Washington to work for the Reagan administration. He spent 5 years as the director of the Voice of America and then moved to the Seychelles as the U.S. Ambassador. In 1992, he became the CEO of the Corporation for Public Broadcasting and later ran a division of King World television.

The last 25 years of his life were spent in work whose details were never completely clear to his family, but that was clearly interesting. He worked in dozens of countries and breakaway republics around the world and was involved in countless intrigues. He knew a number of colorful national leaders, including Rafic Hariri of Lebanon, Aslan Abashidze of Adjara, Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire, and whoever runs Somaliland. He was a fundamentally nonjudgmental person who was impossible to shock, and he described them all with amused affection.

He spoke to his sons every day and had lunch with them once a week for 30 years at the Metropolitan Club in Washington, always prefaced by a dice game. Throughout his life, he fervently loved dogs.

Richard W. Carlson is survived by his sons Tucker and Buckley, his beloved daughter-in-law Susie, and five grandchildren. He was the toughest human being anyone in his family ever knew and also the kindest and most loyal. RIP.●

#### REMEMBERING DAISY KING

● Mrs. BLACKBURN. Mr. President, last week, our Nation lost a fearless entrepreneur, beloved cook, and Tennessee institution: Miss Daisy King.

For more than five decades, Miss Daisy blessed our State with her incredible talent for southern cooking. From her successful catering business to her restaurants in Franklin, Miss Daisy's Tearoom and Miss Daisy's Kitchen, she served up dishes that were adored by Tennesseans and celebrated by the food industry: buttermilk pie, creamed chicken, chive potato salad, beef casserole, bourbon and chocolate pecan pie, and much, much more.

Through it all, Daisy took joy in sharing her passion for cooking with others. In 1978, she published "Recipes from Miss Daisy's," a treasure of wonderful southern recipes that would sell more than 1 million copies. She would go on to publish 13 more cookbooks and share her recipes on national and regional shows, including "Today Show," "CBS This Morning," and Nashville's WTVF-TV's "Talk of the Town."

Over many years of friendship, I was fortunate to see Daisy's generosity,

creativity, and delight in serving others. If you wanted to have a conversation about how to do something better, Daisy was there to help. Especially for younger women who were trying to find their way in the restaurant business, Daisy always offered help and paved the way for others to follow.

There is a reason Miss Daisy was known as the First Lady of Southern Cooking. While we have lost a truly special woman, her legacy—and recipes—will live on in Tennessee and across the country for many years to come.●

#### TRIBUTE TO NATHAN MONELL

● Mr. KAINÉ. Mr. President, I rise today to honor and celebrate the remarkable leadership and dedication of Nathan Monell, who will retire as executive director of the National Parent-Teacher Association (PTA) this year. Nathan's tenure at the PTA has been defined by his steadfast commitment to advocating for the educational success and well-being of our Nation's children. His vision, expertise, and passion for family engagement have made a lasting impact on the lives of millions of children and families across the United States and beyond.

Since Nathan's appointment as executive director in 2015, the National PTA has flourished under his leadership. With more than 20,000 local units and over 3 million members, PTA is the oldest and largest volunteer child advocacy association in the country. Nathan's leadership has been instrumental in advancing family engagement and public policy, and his work has reinforced the PTA's mission of uniting parents, teachers, schools, and communities to ensure every child's potential is realized.

His lifelong commitment to empowering families and fostering educational equity is evident in his contributions to a wide range of initiatives, including youth and family services, mental health, foster care, HIV and substance abuse prevention, and education. He has led public policy efforts at the local, State, and Federal levels, forging partnerships with foundations and corporations to improve outcomes and advance equity in communities nationwide. Whether advocating for school funding, digital safety, or mental health, Nathan's tenacity has driven the organization to take bold actions that support the needs and concerns of parents, teachers, and students alike.

As Nathan prepares for retirement, I join the National PTA, his colleagues, and countless individuals whose lives he has touched in expressing our gratitude for his years of service. I know that his legacy will continue to inspire the next generation of leaders committed to making a difference in the lives of children and families. I wish him and his family the very best in the next chapter of his life.●

#### 25TH ANNIVERSARY OF FRIENDS OF MT. TABOR PARK

● Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, today I commend the Friends of Mt. Tabor Park (FMTP) for its 25 years of unwavering dedication to preserving and enhancing one of Portland's most treasured urban green spaces.

Mt. Tabor Park is not just a place of natural beauty; it is a community asset, a sanctuary for recreation, and a reflection of Oregon's deep commitment to environmental stewardship. Since its founding in 2000, FMTP and its dedicated volunteers have served as stewards, educators, and protectors of this cherished space, ensuring that the park continues to be a welcoming environment for all.

Over the years, FMTP has worked hand in hand with the Portland Parks & Recreation, complementing city services and mobilizing a near-constant presence of engaged volunteers. Its commitment has helped maintain public safety, beautify and protect our natural spaces, and sustain opportunities for community programming—even in the most challenging times, such as during the COVID-19 pandemic. Its work is a model of civic engagement and a testament to what is possible when a community comes together with purpose and passion.

As FMTP celebrates 25 years of service, we honor its profound impact on Portland's livability and the countless individuals who have given their time and energy to preserve the urban oasis. I extend my deepest gratitude to the FMTP and look forward to its continued success in the next 25 years and beyond. Congratulations on this milestone anniversary and thank you for your tireless commitment to the people and natural spaces of Portland.●

#### MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 10:35 a.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 1534. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes.

The message further announced that pursuant to section 1 of the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board Act (2 U.S.C. 154), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of Representatives to the Library of Congress Trust Fund Board for a five-year term: Mr. Steven L. Swig of San Francisco, California.

The message also announced that pursuant to section 206 of the Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention Act of 1974 (34 U.S.C. 11116), and the order of the House of January 3, 2025, the Speaker appoints the following individual on the part of the House of

Representatives to the Coordinating Council on Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention for a two-year term: Mr. Julian Whittington of Benton, Louisiana.

#### MEASURES REFERRED

The following bill was read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 1534. An act to strengthen and enhance the competitiveness of American industry through the research and development of advanced technologies to improve the efficiency of cement, concrete, and asphalt production, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED PETITION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, hereby direct that the Senate Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs be discharged of further consideration of S.J. Res. 18, a joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions", and, further, that the joint resolution be immediately placed upon the Legislative Calendar under General Orders.

Tim Scott, Mike Lee, Tom Cotton, Rand Paul, Pete Ricketts, Cynthia M. Lummis, Bernie Moreno, Jim Banks, James E. Risch, Jerry Moran, Steve Daines, Rick Scott, John Boozman, Thom Tillis, Mike Crapo, Tommy Tuberville, John Kennedy, Roger F. Wicker, Ted Budd, Bill Hagerty, John R. Curtis, Kevin Cramer, Mike Rounds, Chuck Grassley, Joni Ernst, James Lankford, Ron Johnson, Cindy Hyde-Smith, Eric Schmitt, Markwayne Mullin.

#### MEASURES DISCHARGED

The following joint resolution was discharged from the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs, by petition, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 802(c), and placed on the calendar:

S.J. Res. 18. Joint resolution disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to "Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions".

#### EXECUTIVE AND OTHER COMMUNICATIONS

The following communications were laid before the Senate, together with accompanying papers, reports, and documents, and were referred as indicated:

EC-602. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Under Secretary "Designated Assistant Secretary for Legislative Affairs", Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-603. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report rel-

ative to a vacancy in the position of Secretary of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-604. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-605. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Department of the Treasury, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-606. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-607. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of Executive Order 14232 of March 6, 2025, which adjusts the tariffs imposed on articles of Mexico in Executive Order 14194 of February 1, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-608. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to the issuance of Executive Order 14231 of March 6, 2025, which adjusts the tariffs imposed on articles of Canada in Executive Order 14193 of February 1, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-609. A communication from the Acting Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Inspector General, Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-610. A communication from the Section Chief, Internal Revenue Service, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Section 911(d)(4)—2024 Update" (Rev. Proc. 2025-17) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-611. A communication from the Director of the Regulations and Disclosure Law Division, Customs and Border Protection, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Extension of Import Restrictions on Certain Archaeological Material of Jordan" (RIN1685-AA29) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-612. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-613. A communication from the Assistant General Counsel, General Law, Ethics, and Regulation, Department of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Com-

missioner of Internal Revenue, Department of the Treasury, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-614. A communication from the Chair, Medicaid and CHIP Payment and Access Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "March 2025 Report to Congress on Medicaid and CHIP"; to the Committee on Finance.

EC-615. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to section 1705(e)(6) of the Cuban Democracy Act of 1992, as amended by Section 102(g) of the Cuban Liberty and Democratic Solidarity (LIBERTAD) Act of 1996, a semi-annual report relative to telecommunications-related payments made to Cuba during the period from July 1, 2024 through December 31, 2024; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-616. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license for the export of firearms, parts, and components controlled under Category I of the U.S. Munitions List to Kuwait in the amount of \$1,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-097) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-617. A communication from the Senior Bureau Official, Legislative Affairs, Department of State, transmitting, pursuant to section 36(c) and 36(d) of the Arms Export Control Act, the certification of a proposed license amendment for the manufacture of significant military equipment abroad and the export of defense articles, including technical data, and defense services to Japan in the amount of \$100,000,000 or more (Transmittal No. DDTC 24-078) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

EC-618. A communication from the Senior Advisor, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to two (2) vacancies in the Department of Health and Human Services, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-619. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-620. A communication from the Chief of Legal, External Affairs, and Performance Branch, Office of Government Ethics, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Director, Office of Government Ethics, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-621. A communication from the Director, Office of Civil Rights, Department of Commerce, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Department's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-622. A communication from the Chairman of the Federal Labor Relations Authority, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Authority's fiscal year 2024 annual report

relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-623. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity Director, Farm Credit Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit Administration's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-624. A communication from the Equal Employment Opportunity and Inclusion Director, Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Farm Credit System Insurance Corporation's fiscal year 2024 annual report relative to the Notification and Federal Employee Antidiscrimination and Retaliation Act of 2002 (No FEAR Act) received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-625. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2024 received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-626. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-22, "Secure DC Pretrial Detention Extension and Reporting Temporary Amendment Act of 2024"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-627. A communication from the Acting Associate Director, Office of Communications and Legislative Affairs, Equal Employment Opportunity Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Commission's Annual Sunshine Act Report to Congress for calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-628. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-23, "Youth Workforce Development Programs Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-629. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-21, "Association Meeting Flexibility Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-630. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-25, "Office of Juvenile Facilities Oversight Plan Temporary Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-631. A communication from the Chairman of the Council of the District of Columbia, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report on D.C. Act 26-26, "Virtual Open Meetings Authority Extension Temporary Amendment Act of 2025"; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-632. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to

nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-633. A communication from the Board Members, Railroad Retirement Board, transmitting, pursuant to law, an annual report relative to the Board's compliance with the Government in the Sunshine Act during calendar year 2024; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-634. A communication from the President of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report that Executive Order 14110 of October 30, 2023 was revoked by Executive Order 14148 of January 20, 2025; Executive Order 14110 amended Executive Order 13694 of April 1, 2015, which declared a national emergency to deal with the threat of malicious cyber-enabled activities; and the national emergency declared in Executive Order 13694 remains in effect; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

EC-635. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Select Committee on Intelligence.

EC-636. A communication from the Chief Human Capital Officer, Small Business Administration, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Administrator, Small Business Administration, received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

EC-637. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of certain principal officers of the United States received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-638. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to multi-layer restrictions on the removal of Administrative Law Judges received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-639. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of Members of the Federal Labor Relations Authority received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-640. A communication from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to nominations, vacancies, designation of service in acting roles, discontinuation of service in an acting role and an action on nomination for positions covered by the Federal Vacancies Reform Act of 1998; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-641. A communication from the Acting Solicitor General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to restrictions on the removal of Members of the Merit Systems Protection Board received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-642. A communication from the Deputy Assistant Attorney General, Office of Legislative Affairs, Department of Justice, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report entitled "Office of Juvenile Justice and Delinquency Prevention 2022 Annual Report" received in the Office of the President pro tempore; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-643. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 7A of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-644. A communication from the Secretary of the Federal Trade Commission, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Revised Jurisdictional Thresholds for Section 8 of the Clayton Act" received during adjournment of the Senate in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 20, 2025; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-645. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a compilation and summary of reports received from chief district judges detailing each public event conducted in accordance with the Pro bono Work to Empower and Represent Act of 2018's requirements during the previous fiscal year; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-646. A communication from the Director, Administrative Office of the United States Courts, transmitting, pursuant to law, two reports entitled, "2024 Annual Report of the Director of the Administrative Office of the United States Courts" and "Judicial Business of the United States Courts"; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-647. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Pseudomonas Oryzihabitans Strain SYM23945; Exemption From the Requirement of a Tolerance" (FRL No. 12664-01-OCSP) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

EC-648. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of an officer authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of brigadier general in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-649. A communication from the Secretary of Defense, transmitting the report of fifteen (15) officers authorized to wear the insignia of the grade of rear admiral (lower half) in accordance with title 10, United States Code, section 777; to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-650. A communication from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, two (2) reports relative to vacancies in the Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-651. A communication from the Acting President and Chair, Export-Import Bank of the United States, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a vacancy in the position of President and Chairman of the Board of Directors, Export-Import Bank of the United States, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-652. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department

of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Deputy Secretary, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-653. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14115 of February 1, 2024 with respect to the situation in the West Bank; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-654. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13536 with respect to Somalia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-655. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 13848 with respect to the threat of foreign interference in or undermining public confidence in United States elections; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-656. A communication from the Secretary of the Treasury, transmitting, pursuant to law, a six-month periodic report on the national emergency that was declared in Executive Order 14046 with respect to Ethiopia; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-657. A communication from the Chair, Federal Financial Institutions Examination Council, transmitting, pursuant to law, the Council's 2024 Annual Report to Congress; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-658. A communication from the Director, Office of Management and Budget, Executive Office of the President, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to discretionary appropriations legislation within seven calendar days of enactment (excluding Saturdays, Sundays, and legal holidays); to the Committee on the Budget.

EC-659. A communication from the Associate Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Interim Final Determination to Stay and Defer Sanctions; California; Antelope Valley Air Quality Management District" (FRL No. 12601-02-R9) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-660. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine and Nonroad Engine Pollution Control Standards; the 'Omnibus' Low NOX Regulations; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-661. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Advanced Clean Cars II; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 11010-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-662. A communication from the Director of the Regulatory Management Division,

Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "California State Motor Vehicle and Engine Pollution Control Standards; Heavy-Duty Vehicle and Engine Emission Warranty and Maintenance Provisions; Advanced Clean Trucks; Zero Emission Airport Shuttle; Zero-Emission Power Train Certification; Waiver of Preemption; Notice of Decision" (FRL No. 9902-02-OAR) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

EC-663. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of General Counsel, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-664. A communication from the Deputy General Counsel for Operations, Department of Housing and Urban Development, transmitting, pursuant to law, a report relative to a vacancy in the position of Assistant Secretary, Fair Housing and Equal Opportunity, Department of Housing and Urban Development, received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 25, 2025; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

EC-665. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, National Institutes of Health, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Privacy Act; Implementation at 45 CFR Part 5b" (RIN0925-AA69) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

EC-666. A communication from the Regulations Coordinator, Food and Drug Administration, Department of Health and Human Services, transmitting, pursuant to law, the report of a rule entitled "Nonprescription Drug Product With an Additional Condition for Nonprescription Use" (RIN0910-AH62) received in the Office of the President of the Senate on March 26, 2025; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

## REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. CRAPO, from the Committee on Finance:

Special Report entitled "Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 118th Congress" (Rept. No. 119-6).

## INTRODUCTION OF BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

The following bills and joint resolutions were introduced, read the first and second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

By Mr. BUDD (for himself and Mr. LUJAN):

S. 1132. A bill to amend the Older Americans Act of 1965 to include peer supports as a supportive service within the National Family Caregiver Support Program, to require States to consider the unique needs of caregivers whose families have been impacted by substance use disorder, including opioid use disorder, in providing services under such program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1133. A bill to provide for media coverage of Federal court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. CRAMER (for himself and Ms. ROSEN):

S. 1134. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to improve the Office of Patient Advocacy of the Department of Veterans Affairs; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CURTIS (for himself and Mr. LEE):

S. 1135. A bill to amend the National Trails System Act to direct the Secretary of the Interior to conduct a study on the feasibility of designating the Bonneville Shoreline Trail; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself, Ms. ERNST, Mr. BANKS, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 1136. A bill to authorize sentencing enhancements for certain criminal offenses directed by or coordinated with foreign governments; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. COTTON (for himself, Mr. RISCH, Mr. GRAHAM, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CASSIDY, Mrs. CAPITO, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, Mr. HAGERTY, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1137. A bill to provide that the Federal Communications Commission may not prevent a State or Federal correctional facility from utilizing jamming equipment, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Ms. HASSAN (for herself and Mr. LANKFORD):

S. 1138. A bill to require the Secretary of Homeland Security to enhance capabilities for outbound inspections at the southern land border, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MORAN:

S. 1139. A bill to amend the Commander John Scott Hannon Veterans Mental Health Care Improvement Act of 2019 to modify and reauthorize the Staff Sergeant Parker Gordon Fox Suicide Prevention Grant Program of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. 1140. A bill to amend title XI of the Social Security Act to lower barriers to increase patient access to health care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. KING, and Mrs. BRITT):

S. 1141. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide a special rule for certain casualty losses of uncut timber; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1142. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. CASSIDY (for himself, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1143. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to provide for penalties for the unauthorized disclosure of confidential information by officers or employees of the Supreme Court, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. TUBERVILLE (for himself and Mr. LUJÁN):

S. 1145. A bill to amend the Farm Security and Rural Investment Act of 2002 to include the provision of tree nuts under the seniors farmers' market nutrition program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1146. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MARSHALL (for himself, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. SHEEHY, Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, and Mr. RICKETTS):

S. 1147. A bill to establish clear and consistent biological definitions of male and female; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. PAUL (for himself, Mr. LEE, and Mr. MORENO):

S. 1148. A bill to terminate the Department of Education; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1149. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to further enhance anti-retaliation protections for whistleblowers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. CRAPO (for himself, Mr. BENNET, and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1150. A bill to amend the Food Security Act of 1985 to improve delivery of technical assistance, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Mr. TUBERVILLE, Mr. LEE, Mr. CRUZ, Mrs. BRITT, Mr. LANKFORD, Mrs. CAPITO, and Ms. ERNST):

S. 1151. A bill to expand the use of E-Verify to hold employers accountable, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1152. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, Mrs. BLACKBURN, and Mr. JUSTICE):

S. 1153. A bill to prohibit allocations of Special Drawing Rights at the International Monetary Fund for perpetrators of genocide and state sponsors of terrorism without congressional authorization; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, and Mr. WYDEN):

S. 1154. A bill to provide protections for employees of, former employees of, and applicants for employment with Federal agencies, contractors, and grantees whose right to petition or furnish information to Congress is interfered with or denied; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mrs. HYDE-SMITH:

S. 1155. A bill to amend the Trafficking Victims Protection Act of 2000 to make technical corrections; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. FETTERMAN (for himself, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Ms. SMITH, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. WYDEN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr.

WELCH, Mr. BOOKER, Mr. SANDERS, Mr. GALLEGO, and Ms. SLOTKIN):

S. 1156. A bill to amend the Food and Nutrition Act of 2008 to ensure that striking workers and their households do not become ineligible for benefits under the supplemental nutrition assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry.

By Ms. SMITH (for herself and Mrs. CAPITO):

S. 1157. A bill to direct the Secretary of Health and Human Services to conduct a review to evaluate the status of research on lung cancer in women and underserved populations, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. LEE (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, Mr. CRAMER, Mrs. CAPITO, and Mrs. BLACKBURN):

S. 1158. A bill to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide compensatory time for employees in the private sector; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. DAINES:

S. 1159. A bill to make aliens who are holders of a passport issued by the Palestinian Authority ineligible for visas, admission, or parole into the United States; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. SCOTT of Florida (for himself and Mr. MARSHALL):

S. 1160. A bill to require adequate traceability for expenditures by the Federal Government; to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs.

By Mr. MARKEY:

S. 1161. A bill to redesignate the Salem Maritime National Historic Site as the "Salem Maritime National Historical Park", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. LEE:

S.J. Res. 39. A joint resolution providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to "Section 45Y Clean Electricity Production Credit and Section 48E Clean Electricity Investment Credit"; to the Committee on Finance.

#### SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PADILLA):

S. Res. 139. A resolution expressing support for the designation of March 2025 as "Music in Our Schools Month"; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHIFF):

S. Res. 140. A resolution designating the first week of April 2025 as "National Asbestos Awareness Week"; considered and agreed to.

By Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BARASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN):

S. Res. 141. A resolution recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece

and the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GALLEGO, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. Res. 142. A resolution recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States; considered and agreed to.

By Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. HOEVEN):

S. Res. 143. A resolution supporting the designation of May 29, 2025, as "Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day" to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and workforce and to continue to reduce stigma associated with mental illness; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

#### ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 94

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the names of the Senator from Indiana (Mr. BANKS) and the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) were added as cosponsors of S. 94, a bill to award 3 Congressional Gold Medals to the members of the 1980 United States Olympic Men's Ice Hockey Team, in recognition of their extraordinary achievement at the XIII Olympic Winter Games where, being comprised of amateur collegiate players, they defeated the dominant Soviet ice hockey team in the historic "Miracle on Ice", revitalizing morale in the United States at the height of the Cold War, inspiring generations, and transforming the sport of ice hockey in the United States.

S. 106

At the request of Mr. CRAMER, the name of the Senator from Mississippi (Mr. WICKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 106, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide Medicare coverage for all physicians' services furnished by doctors of chiropractic within the scope of their license, and for other purposes.

S. 224

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 224, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to allow intangible drilling and development costs to be taken into account when computing adjusted financial statement income.

S. 317

At the request of Mr. LANKFORD, the name of the Senator from New Hampshire (Ms. HASSAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 317, a bill to amend the

Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to modify and extend the deduction for charitable contributions for individuals not itemizing deductions.

S. 339

At the request of Mr. CRAPO, the names of the Senator from New York (Mrs. GILLIBRAND), the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT), the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. SLOTKIN) were added as cosponsors of S. 339, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for Medicare coverage of multi-cancer early detection screening tests.

S. 470

At the request of Mrs. HYDE-SMITH, the name of the Senator from Utah (Mr. LEE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 470, a bill to amend the CARES Act to remove a requirement on lessors to provide notice to vacate, and for other purposes.

S. 485

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Ohio (Mr. HUSTED) was added as a cosponsor of S. 485, a bill to amend chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, to provide that major rules of the executive branch shall have no force or effect unless a joint resolution of approval is enacted into law.

S. 522

At the request of Mr. HAGERTY, the names of the Senator from Wyoming (Mr. BARRASSO) and the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) were added as cosponsors of S. 522, a bill to amend the Federal Credit Union Act to modify the frequency of board of directors meetings, and for other purposes.

S. 554

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 554, a bill to enhance bilateral defense cooperation between the United States and Israel, and for other purposes.

S. 556

At the request of Mr. SULLIVAN, the name of the Senator from Pennsylvania (Mr. MCCORMICK) was added as a cosponsor of S. 556, a bill to impose sanctions with respect to persons engaged in logistical transactions and sanctions evasion relating to oil, gas, liquefied natural gas, and related petrochemical products from the Islamic Republic of Iran, and for other purposes.

S. 646

At the request of Ms. ROSEN, the names of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. KELLY) and the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) were added as cosponsors of S. 646, a bill to prohibit the use of funds to carry out Executive Order 14160.

S. 807

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Florida (Mrs. MOODY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 807, a bill to provide for the crediting of

funds received by the National Guard Bureau as reimbursement from States.

S. 860

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 860, a bill to modify the information about countries exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure and production of certain illicit drugs, to impose sanctions with respect to the production and trafficking into the United States, of synthetic opioids, and for other purposes.

S. 890

At the request of Mr. COONS, the name of the Senator from South Dakota (Mr. ROUNDS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 890, a bill to increase the number of landlords participating in the Housing Choice Voucher program.

S. 978

At the request of Mrs. MOODY, the name of the Senator from Connecticut (Mr. BLUMENTHAL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 978, a bill to amend the National Housing Act to establish a mortgage insurance program for first responders, and for other purposes.

S. 1108

At the request of Mr. RICKETTS, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Mr. GALLEGRO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1108, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to exclude all military retirement and related benefits from Federal income tax.

S. 1122

At the request of Mr. WARNOCK, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1122, a bill to amend title 37, United States Code, to increase the basic allowance for housing inside the United States for members of the uniformed services.

S. 1123

At the request of Mr. BANKS, the names of the Senator from Alabama (Mr. TUBERVILLE), the Senator from Texas (Mr. CRUZ) and the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. COTTON) were added as cosponsors of S. 1123, a bill to amend the Higher Education Act of 1965 to prohibit an institution of higher education that employs unauthorized aliens from receiving funds from Federal student assistance or Federal institutional aid and to require institutions of higher education to participate in the E-Verify Program in order to be eligible to participate in any program authorized under title IV of such Act.

S. 1130

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Alaska (Ms. MURKOWSKI) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1130, a bill to require the Secretary of Energy to provide technology grants to strengthen domestic mining education, and for other purposes.

S.J. RES. 37

At the request of Mr. KAINE, the name of the Senator from Kentucky

(Mr. PAUL) was added as a cosponsor of S.J. Res. 37, a joint resolution terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada.

S. RES. 86

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 86, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy".

S. RES. 98

At the request of Mr. RISCH, the name of the Senator from Delaware (Mr. COONS) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 98, a resolution condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law.

S. RES. 136

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the name of the Senator from New Jersey (Mr. BOOKER) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 136, a resolution affirming the rule of law and the legitimacy of judicial review.

#### STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTIONS

By Mr. PADILLA:

S. 1142. A bill to adjust the boundaries of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area to include the Scarper Ridge property; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I rise to introduce the Scarper Ridge Golden Gate National Recreation Area Boundary Adjustment Act, a straightforward, uncontroversial bill to adjust the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area.

This bill would modify the boundary of the Golden Gate National Recreation Area, GGNRA, to include the approximately 896-acre Scarper Ridge property. This land is currently owned by the Peninsula Open Space Trust, who would like to sell this land to the National Park Service to include within the GGNRA.

The GGNRA is one of the world's largest urban national parks, spanning three counties and more than 82,000 acres of coastal and urban lands. According to the National Park Service, the GGNRA is an assemblage of military, private, and public lands which altogether offer vast skylines, natural beauty, and diverse histories to locals and visitors alike. The GGNRA welcomes over 15 million visitors each year and strives to be an accessible recreational area for all people.

Thanks to continuing efforts by the Peninsula Open Space Trust, local partners, Congressman Liccardo, former Congresswoman Eshoo, and my predecessors in the Senate, Congress has previously awarded funding from the Land and Water Conservation Fund to purchase additional land to be included within the GGNRA.

However, the lands included in my bill—known as the Scarper Ridge property—require a minor legislative boundary adjustment in order for the National Park Service to use future Land and Water Conservation Fund dollars to purchase this property and include it within the park.

I look forward to working with my colleagues to advance this commonsense, straightforward boundary adjustment bill as soon as possible.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself and Mr. MURPHY):

S. 1144. A bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to treat certain amounts paid for physical activity, fitness, and exercise as amounts paid for medical care; to the Committee on Finance.

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1144

*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 “Personal Health Investment Today Act of 2025” or the “PHIT Act of 2025”.

#### SEC. 2. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to promote health and prevent disease, particularly diseases related to being overweight or obese, by—

- (1) encouraging healthier lifestyles;
- (2) providing financial incentives to ease the financial burden of engaging in healthy behavior; and
- (3) increasing the ability of individuals and families to participate in physical fitness activities.

#### SEC. 3. CERTAIN AMOUNTS PAID FOR PHYSICAL ACTIVITY, FITNESS, AND EXERCISE TREATED AS AMOUNTS PAID FOR MEDICAL CARE.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Paragraph (1) of section 213(d) of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by striking “or” at the end of subparagraph (C), by striking the period at the end of subparagraph (D) and inserting “, or”, and by inserting after subparagraph (D) the following new subparagraph:

“(E) for qualified sports and fitness expenses.”.

(b) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—Subsection (d) of section 213 of the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraph:

“(12) QUALIFIED SPORTS AND FITNESS EXPENSES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The term ‘qualified sports and fitness expenses’ means amounts paid exclusively for the sole purpose of participating in a physical activity including—

- “(i) for membership at a fitness facility,
- “(ii) for participation or instruction in physical exercise or physical activity, or
- “(iii) for equipment used in a program (including a self-directed program) of physical exercise or physical activity.

“(B) OVERALL DOLLAR LIMITATION.—The aggregate amount treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses with respect to any taxpayer for any taxable year shall not exceed \$1,000 (\$2,000 in the case of a joint return or a head of household (as defined in section 2(b))).

“(C) FITNESS FACILITY.—For purposes of subparagraph (A)(i), the term ‘fitness facility’ means a facility—

- “(i) which provides instruction in a program of physical exercise, offers facilities for the preservation, maintenance, encouragement, or development of physical fitness, or serves as the site of such a program of a State or local government or an organization described in section 501(c)(3) and exempt from tax under section 501(a),
- “(ii) which is not a private club owned and operated by its members,
- “(iii) which does not offer golf, hunting, sailing, or riding facilities,
- “(iv) the health or fitness component of which is not incidental to its overall function and purpose, and
- “(v) which is fully compliant with the State of jurisdiction and Federal anti-discrimination laws.

“(D) TREATMENT OF EXERCISE VIDEOS, ETC.—Videos, books, and similar materials shall be treated as described in subparagraph (A)(ii) if the content of such materials constitutes instruction in a program of physical exercise or physical activity.

“(E) LIMITATIONS RELATED TO SPORTS AND FITNESS EQUIPMENT.—Amounts paid for equipment described in subparagraph (A)(iii) shall be treated as qualified sports and fitness expenses only—

- “(i) if such equipment is utilized exclusively for participation in fitness, exercise, sport, or other physical activity,
- “(ii) in the case of amounts paid for apparel or footwear, if such apparel or footwear is of a type that is necessary for, and is not used for any purpose other than, a specific physical activity, and
- “(iii) in the case of amounts paid for any single item of sports equipment (other than exercise equipment), to the extent such amounts do not exceed \$250.

“(F) PROGRAMS WHICH INCLUDE COMPONENTS OTHER THAN PHYSICAL EXERCISE AND PHYSICAL ACTIVITY.—Rules similar to the rules of paragraph (6) shall apply in the case of any program that includes physical exercise or physical activity and also other components. For purposes of the preceding sentence, travel and accommodations shall be treated as a separate component.”.

(c) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this section shall apply to taxable years beginning after the date of the enactment of this Act.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. GRASSLEY, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Ms. KLOBUCHAR):

S. 1146. A bill to permit the televising of Supreme Court proceedings; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

Mr. DURBIN. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that the text of the bill be printed in the RECORD.

There being no objection, the text of the bill was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

S. 1146

*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 “Cameras in the Courtroom Act”.

#### SEC. 2. AMENDMENT TO TITLE 28.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

#### “§ 678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings

“The Supreme Court shall permit television coverage of all open sessions of the Court unless the Court decides, by a vote of

the majority of justices, that allowing such coverage in a particular case would constitute a violation of the due process rights of 1 or more of the parties before the Court.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The chapter analysis for chapter 45 of title 28, United States Code, is amended by inserting at the end the following:

“678. Televising Supreme Court proceedings.”.

By Mr. REED (for himself and Mr. WHITEHOUSE):

S. 1152. A bill to amend the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act to add Rhode Island to the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

Mr. REED. Mr. President, today I am introducing the Rhode Island Fishermen’s Fairness Act along with my colleague Senator WHITEHOUSE. I am also pleased that my colleagues Representative MAGAZINER and Representative AMO will be introducing a companion measure in the House of Representatives.

Our legislation will give Rhode Island a voice and voting representation on the Mid-Atlantic Fishery Management Council, MAFMC, which manages some of the most important fish stocks for our State’s commercial fishing industry—chief among them squid. The National Marine Fisheries Service reported that Rhode Island led Atlantic States in the harvest of squid in 2023—the most recent year for which data is available. Fishermen landed more than 30.7 million pounds of squid in Rhode Island, helping make Point Judith one of the most productive and valuable commercial fishing ports in the United States. For years now, Rhode Island’s landings of stocks managed by the MAFMC have outpaced the landings of those managed by the New England Fishery Management Council, where Rhode Island is represented. Moreover, Rhode Island has a larger stake in the mid-Atlantic fishery than many of the States that currently hold seats on the MAFMC.

Because so much is at stake for our State in every decision the MAFMC makes, our bill would expand the MAFMC by two seats in order to ensure that Rhode Island will have the minimum number of seats guaranteed to other States on the council. It will allow Rhode Island to continue to have representation on the New England Fishery Management Council, where it still has significant interests.

This proposal is not unprecedented. In fact, it is modeled on a provision of the 1996 Sustainable Fisheries Act that added North Carolina to the MAFMC in 1996 while allowing it to retain its membership on the South Atlantic Fishery Management Council. Moreover, it will join States like Florida and Washington which all have representation on more than one fisheries management council.

Mr. President, this is a commonsense proposal and one that my colleagues

and I will be working to advance either on its own or as part of the reauthorization the Magnuson-Stevens Fishery Conservation and Management Act.

(D) the need to do more to support the teaching and learning of music in public schools.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 139—EX-PRESSING SUPPORT FOR THE DESIGNATION OF MARCH 2025 AS “MUSIC IN OUR SCHOOLS MONTH”

Mr. BOOKER (for himself and Mr. PADILLA) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:

S. RES. 139

Whereas music has been present in every known human culture throughout history and modern times;

Whereas music is one of the most important manifestations of the cultural heritage of the United States, as music embodies our national identity and illustrates our shared history;

Whereas music education helps communities share ideas and values among cultures and generations, promoting a more cooperative and inclusive citizenry;

Whereas singing has existed in classrooms in the United States since before the signing of the Declaration of Independence;

Whereas, in 1838, music as its own curriculum was first adopted by public authority in the public schools of Boston, Massachusetts;

Whereas the development of a musical people has been and remains dependent on a public commitment to the teaching of music in all schools;

Whereas State legislatures and educational agencies have supported music as part of the regular school curriculum;

Whereas the Every Student Succeeds Act (Public Law 114-95; 129 Stat. 1802) identified music as part of a well-rounded education;

Whereas music is a means for exploring the emotional and aesthetic dimensions of the human experience;

Whereas music holds intrinsic value as an art form, providing opportunity for self-expression, fellowship, and spiritual fulfillment;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs promotes student engagement, leading to improved social and academic outcomes, particularly for at-risk students;

Whereas research has documented that participation in school music programs also promotes cognitive, social, and emotional development, exercising skills valuable to the workforce such as motivation, attentiveness, self-discipline, teamwork, persistence, empathy, respect, and leadership; and

Whereas a disproportionate number of students without access to music education attend schools in urban or rural communities, public schools with a high percentage of students from low-income families, and public schools that are majority Black, Hispanic, or Native American: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) supports the designation of March 2025 as “Music in Our Schools Month”; and

(2) recognizes—

(A) the fundamental importance of music to the culture of the United States;

(B) the long history of music as an integral part of the schools in the United States;

(C) the disparate access to high-quality music education that exists across the United States; and

SENATE RESOLUTION 140—DESIGNATING THE FIRST WEEK OF APRIL 2025 AS “NATIONAL ASBESTOS AWARENESS WEEK”

Mr. MERKLEY (for himself, Mr. DAINES, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. SHEEHY, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. SCHIFF) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 140

Whereas dangerous asbestos fibers are invisible and cannot be smelled or tasted;

Whereas the inhalation of airborne asbestos fibers can cause significant damage;

Whereas asbestos fibers can cause cancer, such as mesothelioma, asbestosis, and other health problems;

Whereas symptoms of asbestos-related diseases can take between 10 and 50 years to present themselves;

Whereas the projected life expectancy for an individual diagnosed with mesothelioma is between 6 and 24 months;

Whereas little is known about late-stage treatment of asbestos-related diseases, and there is no cure for those diseases;

Whereas early detection of asbestos-related diseases might give some patients increased treatment options and might improve the prognoses of those patients;

Whereas, although the consumption of asbestos within the United States has been substantially reduced, the United States continues to consume tons of the fibrous mineral each year for use in certain products;

Whereas thousands of people in the United States have died from asbestos-related diseases, and thousands more die every year from those diseases;

Whereas, although individuals continue to be exposed to asbestos, safety measures relating to, and the prevention of, asbestos exposure have significantly reduced the incidence of asbestos-related diseases and can further reduce the incidence of those diseases;

Whereas thousands of workers in the United States face significant asbestos exposure, which has been a cause of occupational cancer;

Whereas a significant percentage of all victims of asbestos-related diseases were exposed to asbestos on naval ships and in shipyards;

Whereas asbestos was used in the construction of a significant number of office buildings and public facilities built before 1975;

Whereas people in the small community of Libby, Montana, suffer from asbestos-related diseases, including mesothelioma, at a significantly higher rate than people in the United States as a whole; and

Whereas the designation of a “National Asbestos Awareness Week” for the 20th year will continue to raise public awareness about the prevalence of asbestos-related diseases and the dangers of asbestos exposure: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates the first week of April 2025 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”; and

(2) urges the Surgeon General to warn and educate people about the public health issue of asbestos exposure, which may be hazardous to their health; and

(3) respectfully requests that the Secretary of the Senate transmit a copy of this resolution to the Office of the Surgeon General.

SENATE RESOLUTION 141—RECOGNIZING THE 204TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE INDEPENDENCE OF GREECE AND CELEBRATING DEMOCRACY IN GREECE AND THE UNITED STATES

Mr. BOOKER (for himself, Mr. BARRASSO, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. RICKETTS, Mr. SCHUMER, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. COONS, Mr. KAINE, Mr. JUSTICE, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. JOHNSON, Ms. DUCKWORTH, Mr. REED, Mr. BENNET, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mrs. SHAHEEN) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 141

Whereas the people of ancient Greece developed the concept of democracy, in which the supreme power to govern was vested in the people;

Whereas the founding fathers of the United States, many of whom read Greek political philosophy in the original Greek language, drew heavily on the political experience and philosophy of ancient Greece in forming the representative democracy of the United States;

Whereas Petros Mavromichalis, the former Commander-in-Chief of Greece and a founder of the modern Greek state, said to the citizens of the United States in 1821, “It is in your land that liberty has fixed her abode and . . . imitating you, we shall imitate our ancestors and be thought worthy of them if we succeed in resembling you.”;

Whereas, in an October 21, 1823, letter to Greek scholar Adamantios Korais discussing the ongoing Greek struggle for independence, Thomas Jefferson wrote that “[n]o people sympathise more feelingly than ours with the sufferings of your countrymen, none offer more sincere and ardent prayers to heaven for their success”;

Whereas, on January 19, 1824, in a speech in support of his resolution to send an American envoy to Greece amid its struggle for independence, then-Congressman Daniel Webster recognized “the struggle of an interesting and gallant people . . . contending against fearful odds, for being, and for the common privilege of human nature”;

Whereas individual American Philhellenes, including future abolitionists Dr. Samuel Gridley Howe and Jonathan Peckham Miller, and George Jarvis, traveled to Greece to fight alongside and provide aid to the Greek people in their struggle for independence;

Whereas the people of the United States generously sent humanitarian assistance to the people of Greece during their struggle for independence, often through philhellene committees;

Whereas Greece heroically resisted Axis forces at a crucial moment in World War II, forcing Adolf Hitler to change his timeline and delaying the attack on the Soviet Union;

Whereas Winston Churchill said that “if there had not been the virtue and courage of the Greeks, we do not know which the outcome of World War II would have been” and “no longer will we say that Greeks fight like heroes, but that heroes fight like Greeks”;

Whereas hundreds of thousands of Greeks were killed during World War II;

Whereas Greece consistently allied with the United States in major international conflicts throughout its history as a modern state and has been a member of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization since 1952;

Whereas the United States has demonstrated its support for the trilateral partnership of Greece, Israel, and Cyprus by enacting into law the Eastern Mediterranean

Security and Energy Partnership Act of 2019 (title II of division J of Public Law 116-94) and through joint engagement with Greece, Israel, and Cyprus in the “3+1” format;

Whereas this support was bolstered in the United States-Greece Defense and Interparliamentary Partnership Act of 2021 (sub-title B of title XIII of Public Law 117-81), establishing a 3+1 Interparliamentary Group to discuss the expansion of cooperation in areas of common concern;

Whereas the United States maintains close bilateral cooperation with Greece on security, energy, and other shared priorities, including the commitment to security cooperation that led to the conclusion of a Mutual Defense Cooperation Agreement, which was updated in 2019 and 2021, in order to enhance defense ties between the two countries and promote stability in the broader region;

Whereas the ongoing United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue reflects Greece’s importance to the United States as a geostrategic partner, especially in the Eastern Mediterranean and Balkans, and as an important NATO ally;

Whereas, on November 13, 2023, the United States and Greece signed a memorandum of understanding to advance energy security and cooperation in the Western Balkans;

Whereas regular high-level engagement between the Governments of the United States and Greece continued through 2024 and into 2025, during which both governments reaffirmed the strategic importance of the United States-Greece relationship and pledged to continue and increase cooperation based on shared values and interests;

Whereas, in the framework of the fifth United States-Greece Strategic Dialogue, on February 9, 2024, Greece became the 35th country to sign onto the Artemis Accords, affirming its commitment to a peaceful, sustainable, and transparent cooperation in space;

Whereas the Government and people of Greece actively participate in peacekeeping and peace-building operations conducted by international organizations, including the United Nations, the North Atlantic Treaty Organization, the European Union, and the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe;

Whereas Greece has shown a strong commitment to meeting NATO defense spending obligations, recognizing the need for a more robust European pillar within NATO;

Whereas Greece remains an integral part of the European Union and a current non-permanent member of the United Nations Security Council;

Whereas the Greek-American community has greatly contributed to American society and has helped forge the strong ties between the United States and Greece;

Whereas the Governments and people of Greece and the United States are at the forefront of efforts to advance freedom, democracy, peace, stability, and human rights;

Whereas those efforts and similar ideals have forged a close bond between the peoples of Greece and the United States; and

Whereas it is proper and desirable for the United States to celebrate March 25, 2025, Greek Independence Day, with the people of Greece and to reaffirm the democratic principles from which those two great countries were founded: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) extends sincere congratulations and best wishes to the people of Greece as they celebrate the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece;

(2) expresses support for the principles of democratic governance to which the people of Greece are committed;

(3) commends the Greek-American community for its contributions to the United

States and its role as a bridge between the two countries;

(4) notes the important role that Greece has played in the wider European region and in the community of nations since gaining its independence 204 years ago;

(5) appreciates the ever-stronger bilateral relationship, based on shared values and interests, including the important energy and security partnership that exists between the United States and Greece, and the important role that Greece plays in bolstering European energy security; and

(6) appreciates Greece as a valued NATO ally and its critical role in ensuring regional stability.

SENATE RESOLUTION 142—RECOGNIZING THE HERITAGE, CULTURE, AND CONTRIBUTIONS OF AMERICAN INDIAN, ALASKA NATIVE, AND NATIVE HAWAIIAN WOMEN IN THE UNITED STATES

Ms. MURKOWSKI (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Ms. BALDWIN, Mr. BENNET, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BOOKER, Ms. CANTWELL, Ms. COLLINS, Ms. CORTEZ MASTO, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. CRAPO, Mr. DAINES, Mr. GALLEGOS, Mr. HEINRICH, Mr. HICKENLOOPER, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. HOEVEN, Mr. KING, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. LUJÁN, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. PADILLA, Ms. ROSEN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. SCHIFF, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Ms. SMITH, Mr. SULLIVAN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. WARNER, Ms. WARREN, Mr. WYDEN, and Ms. DUCKWORTH) submitted the following resolution; which was considered and agreed to:

S. RES. 142

Whereas the United States celebrates National Women’s History Month every March to recognize and honor the achievements of women throughout the history of the United States;

Whereas approximately 5,300,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women, alone or in combination, live in the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women—

(1) have helped shape the history of their communities, Tribes, and the United States;

(2) have fought to defend and protect the sovereign rights of Native Nations; and

(3) have demonstrated resilience and courage in the face of a history of threatened existence, constant removals, and relocations;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women contribute to their communities, Tribes, and the United States through military service, public service, and work in many industries, including business, education, science, medicine, literature, and fine arts, including Pablita “Tse Tsan” Velarde, a Santa Clara Pueblo artist and painter whose art work depicted traditional Pueblo life and preserved Pueblo stories and knowledge, and whose paintings were commissioned for display at Bandelier National Monument;

Whereas, as of 2025, more than 4,400 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are bravely serving as members of the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas, as of 2025, more than 43,000 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women, alone or in combination, are veterans who made lasting contributions to the Armed Forces of the United States;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women broke down his-

torical gender barriers to enlistment in the military, including—

(1) Laura Beltz Wright, an Inupiat Eskimo sharpshooter of the Alaska Territorial Guard during World War II;

(2) Minnie Spotted Wolf of the Blackfeet Tribe, the first Native American woman to enlist in the United States Marine Corps in 1943; and

(3) Marcella LeBeau of the Cheyenne River Sioux Tribe, a decorated veteran who served as an Army combat nurse during World War II and received the French Legion of Honour for her bravery and service;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made the ultimate sacrifice for the United States, including Lori Ann Piestewa, a member of the Hopi Tribe who was the first Native American woman to be killed in action while serving on foreign soil and the first woman serving in the Armed Forces of the United States to be killed in the Iraq War in 2003;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to the economic development of Native Nations and the United States as a whole, including Elouise Cobell of the Blackfeet Tribe, a recipient of the Presidential Medal of Freedom, who—

(1) served as the treasurer of the Blackfeet Tribe;

(2) founded the first Tribal-owned national bank; and

(3) led the fight against Federal mismanagement of funds held in trust for more than 500,000 Native Americans;

Whereas, as of 2024, more than 11,600 American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women owned an employing business;

Whereas, as of 2024, Native women-owned businesses employed more than 72,000 workers and generated more than \$11,200,000,000 in revenue;

Whereas, as of 2019, American Indian and Alaska Native women have opened a net average of 30 new employing businesses per day;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have made significant contributions to the fields of medicine and health, including—

(1) Susan La Flesche Picotte of the Omaha Tribe, who is widely acknowledged as the first Native American to earn a medical degree; and

(2) Annie Dodge Wauneka of the Navajo Nation, who—

(A) advocated for better public health, education, and living conditions on the Navajo Nation leading to her becoming 1 of the first female council members for the Navajo Nation in 1951; and

(B) was the first Native American to receive a Presidential Medal of Freedom in 1963;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have contributed to important scientific advancements, including—

(1) Floy Agnes Lee of the Santa Clara Pueblo, who—

(A) worked on the Manhattan Project during World War II; and

(B) pioneered research on radiation biology and cancer;

(2) Native Hawaiian Isabella Kauakea Yau Yung Aiona Abbott, who—

(A) was the first woman on the biological sciences faculty at Stanford University; and

(B) in 1997, was awarded the Gilbert Morgan Smith medal, the highest award in marine botany from the National Academy of Sciences; and

(3) Mary Golda Ross of the Cherokee Nation, who—

(A) is considered the first Native American engineer of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration;

(B) helped develop spacecrafts for the Gemini and Apollo space programs; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2019 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions; Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have achieved distinctive honors in the art of dance, including Maria Tallchief or Wa-Xthe-Thon-ba of the Osage Nation, who—

(1) was the first major prima ballerina of the United States and was a recipient of a Lifetime Achievement Award from the Kennedy Center; and

(2) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 1 dollar coin with her sister Marjorie Tallchief of the Osage Nation, Yvonne Chouteau of the Shawnee Tribe, Rosella Hightower of the Choctaw Nation, and Moscelyne Larkin of the Eastern Shawnee Tribe of Oklahoma and the Peoria Tribe of Indians of Oklahoma, collectively known as the “Five Moons”, for the legacy they left on ballet;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have accomplished notable literary achievements, including Northern Paiute author Sarah Winnemucca Hopkins, who wrote and published 1 of the first Native American autobiographies in United States history in 1883;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have regularly led efforts to protect their traditional ways of life and to revitalize and maintain Native cultures and languages, including—

(1) Esther Martinez, a Tewa linguist and teacher who developed a Tewa dictionary and was credited with revitalizing the Tewa language;

(2) Mary Kawena Pukui, a Native Hawaiian scholar who published more than 50 academic works and was considered the most noted Hawaiian translator of the 20th century;

(3) Katie John, an Ahtna Athabaskan of Mentasta Lake, who was the lead plaintiff in lawsuits that strengthened Native subsistence fishing rights in Alaska and who helped create the alphabet for the Ahtna language;

(4) Edith Kenao Kanaka’ole, a Native Hawaiian language and cultural practitioner who—

(A) founded her own hula school, Hālau o Kekuhi;

(B) helped develop some of the first courses in Hawaiian language and culture for public schools and colleges; and

(C) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2023 quarter honoring her significant contributions and accomplishments perpetuating Native Hawaiian culture and arts; and

(5) Dr. Gladys Iola Tantaquidgeon, a Mohegan medicine woman and anthropologist, who worked for 50 years at the Tantaquidgeon Indian Museum in Connecticut, the oldest Native American owned and operated museum in the United States, which she founded with her father and brother to preserve the culture and history of their Tribe, and which contributed to the Tribe’s Federal recognition in 1994;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have excelled in athletic competition and created opportunities for other female athletes within their sport, including Rell Kapoliokaehukai Sunn, who—

(1) was ranked as longboard surfing champion of the world; and

(2) co-founded the Women’s Professional Surfing Association in 1975, the first professional surfing tour for women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have played a vital role in advancing civil rights, protecting human rights, advocating for land

rights, and safeguarding the environment, including—

(1) Elizabeth Wanamaker Peratrovich, Tlingit, a member of the Lukaax̄.ádi clan in the Raven moiety with the Tlingit name of K̄. aax̄. gal.aat, who—

(A) helped secure the passage of House Bill 14, commonly known as the Anti-Discrimination Act of 1945 (H.B. 14, Laws of Alaska, 17th Regular Session, Territorial Legislature, Feb. 16, 1945), in the Alaska Territorial Legislature, the first anti-discrimination law in the United States; and

(B) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2020 1 dollar coin honoring Native Americans and their contributions; (2) Zitkala-Sa, a Yankton Dakota writer and advocate, whose work during the early 20th century helped advance the citizenship, voting, and land rights of Native Americans; and

(3) Mary Jane Fate, of the Koyukon Athabaskan village of Rampart, who—

(A) was the first woman to chair the Alaska Federation of Natives;

(B) was a founding member of the North American Indian Women’s Association; and

(C) was an advocate for settlement of Indigenous land claims in Alaska;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have succeeded as judges, attorneys, and legal advocates, including—

(1) Eliza “Lyda” Conley, a Wyandot-American lawyer and the first Native woman admitted to argue a case before the Supreme Court of the United States in 1909; and

(2) Emma Kailikapiolono Metcalf Beckley Nakuina, a Native Hawaiian who served as the first female judge in Hawaii;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are dedicated public servants, holding important positions in the Federal judicial branch, the Federal executive branch, State governments, and local governments;

Whereas American Indian and Alaska Native women have served as remarkable Tribal councilwomen, Tribal court judges, and Tribal leaders, including Wilma Mankiller, who—

(1) was the first woman elected to serve as Principal Chief of the Cherokee Nation;

(2) fought for Tribal self-determination and the improvement of the community infrastructure of her Tribe; and

(3) was recognized by the Federal Government on the 2022 quarter honoring her legacy of leadership for Native people and women;

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women have also led Native peoples through notable acts of public service, including—

(1) Kaahumanu, who was the first Native Hawaiian woman to serve as regent of the Kingdom of Hawaii; and

(2) Polly Cooper, of the Oneida Indian Nation, who—

(A) walked from central New York to Valley Forge as part of a relief mission to provide food for the Army led by General George Washington during the American Revolutionary War; and

(B) was recognized for her courage and generosity by Martha Washington;

Whereas the United States should continue to invest in the future of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women to address the barriers those women face, including—

(1) access to justice;

(2) access to health care; and

(3) opportunities for educational and economic advancement; and

Whereas American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women are the life givers, the culture bearers, and the caretakers of Native peoples who have made pre-

cious contributions, enriching the lives of all people of the United States: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) celebrates and honors the successes of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women and the contributions those women have made and continue to make to the United States; and

(2) recognizes the importance of providing for the safety and upholding the interests of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women.

SENATE RESOLUTION 143—SUPPORTING THE DESIGNATION OF MAY 29, 2025, AS “MENTAL HEALTH AWARENESS IN AGRICULTURE DAY” TO RAISE AWARENESS AROUND MENTAL HEALTH IN THE AGRICULTURAL INDUSTRY AND WORKFORCE AND TO CONTINUE TO REDUCE STIGMA ASSOCIATED WITH MENTAL ILLNESS

Mrs. FISCHER (for herself, Mr. BENNET, Mr. MARSHALL, Ms. SMITH, Mr. MORAN, Mr. TILLIS, Mr. COONS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCHIFF, Mr. PETERS, Mr. DURBIN, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. RICKETTS, and Mr. HOEVEN) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 143

Whereas, according to the 2022 Census of Agriculture of the Department of Agriculture, less than 2 percent of the population of the United States (3,370,000 producers) provide high-quality food, fuel, and fiber to the United States and abroad;

Whereas, according to the Economic Policy Institute, there are approximately 1,600,000 farmworkers in the United States;

Whereas, according to the National Rural Health Association, the rate of suicide among farmers is 3.5 times higher than among the general population;

Whereas, according to the Mortality-Linked National Health Interview Survey, the rate of suicide among farmworkers is 1.4 times higher than rates across all other occupations;

Whereas May is “National Mental Health Awareness Month”; and

Whereas the stigma surrounding mental and behavioral health persists and acknowledging this public health crisis and creating awareness is as important as ever: Now, therefore, be it

*Resolved*, That the Senate—

(1) designates May 29, 2025, as “Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day” to raise awareness around mental health in the agricultural industry and reduce the stigma associated with mental illness;

(2) recognizes the important role of individuals in agriculture as providers of high-quality products to the United States and the world;

(3) seeks to create awareness for the unique challenges agricultural producers and workers face, such as weather unpredictability, labor intensity and shortages, farm succession, and fluctuating commodity and market prices;

(4) highlights the resources available through the Farm and Ranch Stress Assistance Network of the Department of Agriculture in connecting agricultural producers and workers to stress assistance programs; and

(5) encourages all individuals to observe Mental Health Awareness in Agriculture Day

as an opportunity to promote mental well-being and awareness for current and future agricultural producers and workers.

#### AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. CORNYN. Mr. President, I have seven requests for committees to meet during today's session of the Senate. They have the approval of the Majority and Minority Leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committees are authorized to meet during today's session of the Senate:

##### COMMITTEE ON ENVIRONMENT AND PUBLIC WORKS

The Committee on Environment and Public Works is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### COMMITTEE ON THE JUDICIARY

The Committee on the Judiciary is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 10:15 a.m., to conduct a hearing on nominations.

##### SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE

The Select Committee on Intelligence is authorized to meet during

the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a closed briefing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON PERSONNEL

The Subcommittee on Personnel of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 2:30 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

##### SUBCOMMITTEE ON STRATEGIC FORCES

The Subcommittee on Strategic Forces of the Committee on Armed Services is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Wednesday, March 26, 2025, at 9:30 a.m., to conduct a hearing.

#### PRIVILEGES OF THE FLOOR

Mr. MERKLEY. Mr. President, I would ask unanimous consent that privileges of the floor be granted to Nathan Sansone today, my shadow intern.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ORDERS FOR THURSDAY, MARCH 27, 2025

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it stand adjourned until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 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; and notwithstanding rule XXII, the Senate proceed to legislative session and resume consideration of Calendar No. 34, S.J. Res. 18; and that at 11:20 a.m., the Senate vote

on passage of the joint resolution; further, that following disposition of the joint resolution, the Senate proceed to executive session and resume consideration of Executive Calendar No. 43, Paul Lawrence, and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture; and if cloture is invoked, the Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2 p.m.; finally, that if any nominations are confirmed during Thursday's session, the motions to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table, and the President be immediately notified of the Senate's action.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

#### ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M. TOMORROW

Mr. THUNE. Mr. President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 9:12 p.m., adjourned until Thursday, March 27, 2025, at 10 a.m.

#### CONFIRMATIONS

Executive nominations confirmed by the Senate March 26, 2025:

##### EXECUTIVE OFFICE OF THE PRESIDENT

JAMES BISHOP, OF NORTH CAROLINA, TO BE DEPUTY DIRECTOR OF THE OFFICE OF MANAGEMENT AND BUDGET.

##### DEPARTMENT OF JUSTICE

AARON REITZ, OF TEXAS, TO BE AN ASSISTANT ATTORNEY GENERAL VICE HAMPTON Y. DELLINGER.

##### DEPARTMENT OF THE TREASURY

MICHAEL FAULKENDER, OF MARYLAND, TO BE DEPUTY SECRETARY OF THE TREASURY.

# EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

HONORING FLORIDA HOUSE REPRESENTATIVE LAUREN MELO

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2025*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor the achievements of an inspiring leader and pillar in our Southwest Florida community, Florida House Representative Lauren Uhlich Melo, in recognition of Women's History Month.

From an early age, Representative Melo expressed a calling to serve those in her community. Her first step in becoming the servant leader we know today began when she chose to volunteer with the Florida Guardian ad Litem program. As a Guardian ad Litem, she was responsible for representing the best interests of a minor child, an incapacitated adult, or other vulnerable individual in a legal case, a job few can or are willing to take on.

When the time came to begin a new chapter of her life and career, Representative Melo transitioned towards pursuing business administration which allowed her to start a thriving enterprise in Southwest Florida. In 1991, Representative Melo founded her own trucking company with nothing but a single truck, eventually growing the fleet to over 100 trucks and providing vital job opportunities for our community. While many know her for being a formidable entrepreneur, Representative Melo has likewise proven herself to be a dauntless fighter in the face of great adversity. Nothing demonstrated this more clearly than when she was forced to confront one of life's toughest battles: a fight against breast cancer. Even as she served her community and supported her son, Dare, who was then deployed on his first combat mission to Afghanistan, Representative Melo was forced to face her own war on her health at home. During a year-and-a-half battle with breast cancer, she continued to lead her business without interruption and remained a resilient and stalwart presence in her community. Despite these hardships, Representative Melo's health improved, as she bravely beat back the cancer, her firm remained successful, and she was able to welcome her son home as a combat veteran.

To this day, Representative Melo's personal fight against breast cancer has fueled her advocacy for related causes. She actively participates with the Florida Breast Cancer Foundation's Virtual Advocacy Days, while being a dedicated advocate for veterans, understanding firsthand the sacrifices that military families make. Her passion and service for her community ultimately culminated in her decision to run for state office herself and becoming an exceedingly effective legislator. Most recently, in 2020, Lauren was elected as the State Representative for Florida's District 80, and following redistricting, now represents District 82. Her re-election in both 2022 and 2024 are a testament to her continued leadership and the trust her constituents have in her abil-

ity to understand their needs and to work tirelessly for them.

Representative Melo is not just a public servant—she is a survivor, devoted wife to her husband Robert Melo, a proud mother to her three children, Rachele, Dare, and Annabelle, and a loving grandmother to her two grandchildren, Ruby and Lily.

As we celebrate Women's History Month, let us reflect on the incredible contributions of women like Representative Lauren Uhlich Melo. It is an honor to recognize her today, and I look forward to witnessing the impact she will continue to have on our community and beyond.

RECOGNIZING MS. KAREN PARTIN

**HON. CHARLES J. "CHUCK" FLEISCHMANN**

OF TENNESSEE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2025*

Mr. FLEISCHMANN. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to commemorate and recognize Ms. Karen Partin, who, on January 30, 2025, completed 1 million miles of long-haul driving without an accident.

Ms. Partin is a professional long-haul truck driver for McKee Foods Corporation based in Collegedale, Tennessee. She began her career at McKee Foods Corporation in September 1987. Starting in the Manufacturing Production Area, Karen first transferred to Shipping, then to the Transportation Department Dispatch Office approximately eleven years later. Fast-forward four more years, in 2002, she moved to Corporate Fleet Safety, where she began to learn about Safety in the trucking industry.

In 2004, Karen chose to work part-time to fulfill her lifelong dream of being a long-haul truck driver. Karen returned to school to pursue a CDL. Two years later, Karen was a full-time professional semi-truck driver, bringing with her an abundance of safety knowledge from her time in Corporate Fleet Safety. The American Trucking Research Institute confirms that women make up only 8.1 percent of all U.S. professional truck drivers and only 2.7 percent of over-the-road truck drivers.

Always a goal-setter, Karen began the pursuit of reaching one million safe miles. It is a milestone for every professional truck driver and an especially difficult goal for a woman professional truck driver. Since her professional driving career began in 2006, Karen has continued to further her education, completing, with Honors, a Business Management course through Cleveland State Community College. Karen recently completed an Advanced Critical Thinking course offered by McKee Foods and is continuously completing learning courses through LinkedIn Learning.

Karen is a member of Women in Trucking and She Trucking. Her employer, McKee Foods, recently recognized Karen as a Road Team Captain with the Tennessee Trucking

Association. As a Road Team Captain, Karen visits local schools to teach students how to share the road safely with big trucks and promote the professional truck driving profession. Karen is a role model for young adults, particularly women, to consider trucking and logistics as a career.

Karen promotes a healthy lifestyle for herself and other professional truck drivers. She emphasizes the need to stay fit and healthy is vital as a long-haul truck driver. Karen is also the proud mother of two sons and has one granddaughter.

I am honored to recognize Karen Partin for completing this unique and coveted milestone.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

**HON. BRITTANY PETERSEN**

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2025*

Ms. PETERSEN. Mr. Speaker, I recently gave birth and am unable to travel to D.C. to vote. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA on Roll Call No. 74; NAY on Roll Call No. 75; and NAY on Roll Call No. 76.

HONORING ZOE PRIETO

**HON. MARIO DIAZ-BALART**

OF FLORIDA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

*Wednesday, March 26, 2025*

Mr. DIAZ-BALART. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor a remarkable woman whose lifelong dedication to service has profoundly impacted the lives of countless children and families in South Florida. Zoe Prieto, a devoted leader, mother, grandmother, and cancer survivor, has spent decades ensuring that children in need receive the resources, support, and opportunities they otherwise might not.

For the past 13 years, Zoe has served as President of the Children in Action Foundation, a nonprofit organization established in 1996 to support underserved children in Miami-Dade County and beyond. From the moment she took on this role, she has remained relentless in her pursuit of guaranteeing that the Foundation live out its mission of "Making a Difference One Child at a Time".

Under Zoe's leadership, the Foundation has provided school supplies, holiday meals, Christmas gifts, and financial assistance for medical treatments to children and families who need them most. Operating entirely through volunteer efforts, the organization has grown to serve 28 elementary schools across communities in South Florida, impacting the lives of countless families across Florida's 26th congressional district. Through every season of the year, Zoe and the Children in Action Foundation are present to serve our community. At the start of the school year, the Foundation personally delivers backpacks

• 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.

filled with school supplies to 350 students. At Thanksgiving, 200 families receive baskets filled with turkeys and meal essentials. During the holiday season, over 400 children gather for a Christmas toy giveaway, where they are treated to a day of games and a special holiday meal. Every child receives a wrapped toy, and 100 bicycles are raffled to spread even more joy. No matter the time of year, and in instances where many families feel the strain the most, Zoe and the Foundation are there to stand in the breach.

Looking to the future, Zoe and her team are working to expand their impact even further by launching summer and after-school programs that will provide children, including those with special needs, with opportunities to grow and develop strong values of good citizenship and volunteerism. Their undying drive to serve and to meet the members of our community where they are only serves to build on their growing legacy across South Florida.

Beyond her leadership, Zoe's personal resilience serves as an inspiration to all who know her. A brave cancer survivor of 37 years, she has long embodied the spirit of hope and of perseverance and has pushed through adversity to share that with those around her. Through her efforts, she has given children joy when starting a new school year and given parents the relief of knowing their child can receive the medical care they need.

Zoe Prieto is a shining example in our community of a servant leader. Her unwavering commitment to improving the lives of children and families exemplifies the true spirit of Women's History Month. It is with great admiration and appreciation that I recognize and celebrate Zoe Prieto's contributions toward "Making a Difference One Child at a Time".

TRIBUTE TO JESSICA MILLAN  
PATTERSON

HON. KEN CALVERT

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Wednesday, March 26, 2025

Mr. CALVERT. Mr. Speaker, I rise today to honor and thank Jessica Millan Patterson, who is stepping down as the Chairwoman of the California Republican Party, after serving in that role since 2019. Jessica has been a true leader in the Golden State and served as an effective advocate for the Republican Party.

Prior to her election as Chairwoman, Jessica held staff positions with the California Republican Party, Republican National Committee, and statewide and national candidates for more than two decades, including leadership positions for Governor Arnold Schwarzenegger, Mayor Rudy Giuliani, and Senator John McCain. Jessica then co-founded and served as CEO of California Trailblazers, a candidate recruitment and training organization modeled after the national Young Guns program.

In 2019, Jessica was elected as Chairwoman of the California Republican Party. In that role Jessica made diverse community engagement a priority, recruiting and supporting candidates who reflect the districts they hoped to serve. She brought the Republican Party to communities, where it may have never been before to engage voters about the party's mission and learn about the issues that matter

most to residents. After an historic 2020 election cycle in which Republicans picked up House seats in California, Jessica was re-elected for a second term in 2021 and a third and final term in the spring of 2023. Under her leadership, Republicans also picked up California seats in 2022, that helped secure a Republican House majority.

Jessica clearly possesses a passionate belief in shaping a brighter future for California and a dedication to the Republican Party she has served so faithfully. On behalf of the entire California Republican House Delegation, I want to express my heartfelt thanks and praise for Jessica's significant contributions. I wish Jessica and her family the very best in the years to come.

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Thursday, March 27, 2025 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 1

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Lieutenant General John D. Caine (Retired), to be general and Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff, Department of Defense. SD-G50
- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry  
To hold hearings to examine S. 222, to amend the Richard B. Russell National School Lunch Act to allow schools that participate in the school lunch program to serve whole milk. SR-328A
- 10:30 a.m.  
Committee on Foreign Relations  
To hold hearings to examine certain nominations. SD-419
- Committee on Veterans' Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine pending nominations. SR-418
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
Subcommittee on Antitrust, Competition Policy, and Consumer Rights  
To hold hearings to examine big fixes for big tech. SD-226

APRIL 2

- 10 a.m.  
Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation  
To hold hearings to examine restoring Boeing's status as a great American manufacturer, focusing on safety first. SD-G50
- Committee on Energy and Natural Resources  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Katharine MacGregor, of Florida, to be Deputy Secretary of the Interior, and James Danly, of Tennessee, to be Deputy Secretary of Energy. SD-366
- Committee on Environment and Public Works  
To hold hearings to examine constructing the Surface Transportation Reauthorization bill, focusing on United States Secretary of Transportation's perspective. SD-406
- Committee on Foreign Relations  
Business meeting to consider pending calendar nominations. S-116
- 10:15 a.m.  
Committee on the Judiciary  
To hold hearings to examine District Judges, focusing on exploring legislative solutions to the bipartisan problem of universal injunctions. SD-226
- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Indian Affairs  
To hold an oversight hearing to examine Native American education, focusing on Federal programs at the U.S. Department of Education. SD-628
- Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship  
Business meeting to consider an original bill entitled, "SBA Fraud Enforcement Extension Act". SR-428A

APRIL 3

- 9:30 a.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
To hold hearings to examine the posture of the United States European Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed hearing in SVC-217. SD-G50
- Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs  
To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Scott Kupor, of California, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Eric Matthew Ueland, of Virginia, to be Deputy Director for Management, Office of Management and Budget. SD-342

APRIL 9

- 2:30 p.m.  
Committee on Armed Services  
Subcommittee on Personnel  
To hold hearings to examine personnel policies and programs in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and the Future Years Defense Program. SR-222

# Daily Digest

## Senate

### Chamber Action

*Routine Proceedings, pages S1841–S1878*

**Measures Introduced:** Thirty bills and six resolutions were introduced, as follows: S. 1132–1161, S.J. Res. 39, and S. Res. 139–143. **Pages S1871–72**

#### Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Report on the Activities of the Committee on Finance During the 118th Congress”. (S. Rept. No. 119–6) **Page S1871**

#### Measures Passed:

**Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales:** By 70 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 151), Senate passed H.J. Res. 25, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Internal Revenue Service relating to “Gross Proceeds Reporting by Brokers That Regularly Provide Services Effectuating Digital Asset Sales”. **Pages S1856–64**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session to consider the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1856**

By 70 yeas to 28 nays (Vote No. 150), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1856**

**National Asbestos Awareness Week:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 140, designating the first week of April 2025 as “National Asbestos Awareness Week”. **Page S1864**

**Greece Independence 204th Anniversary:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 141, recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States. **Page S1864**

**American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian Women:** Senate agreed to S. Res. 142, recognizing the heritage, culture, and contributions of American Indian, Alaska Native, and Native Hawaiian women in the United States. **Page S1864**

**Girl Scouts of the United States of America 113th Birthday:** Committee on the Judiciary was discharged from further consideration of S. Res. 120, recognizing Girl Scouts of the United States of America on its 113th birthday and celebrating its founder, Juliette Gordon Low, and the legacy of providing girls with a secure and inclusive space where they can explore their world, build meaningful relationships, and have access to experiences that prepare them for a life of leadership, and the resolution was then agreed to. **Page S1864**

#### Measures Considered:

**Overdraft Lending—Agreement:** Senate began consideration of S.J. Res. 18, disapproving the rule submitted by the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection relating to “Overdraft Lending: Very Large Financial Institutions”. **Page S1864**

During consideration of this measure today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 47 nays (Vote No. 152), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to consideration of the joint resolution. **Page S1864**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, Senate continue consideration of the joint resolution at approximately 10 a.m., on Thursday, March 27, 2025; that at 11:20 a.m., Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution; that following disposition of the joint resolution, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked, Senate vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2 p.m. **Page S1878**

**Terminating the National Emergency Related to Canadian Imports—Agreement:** A unanimous-consent-time agreement was reached providing that notwithstanding Rule XXII, at time to be determined by the Majority Leader, following consultation with the Democratic Leader, no earlier than Tuesday, April 1, 2025, S.J. Res. 37, terminating the national emergency declared to impose duties on articles imported from Canada, be discharged from the Committee on Finance and Senate begin consideration; and that there be six hours for debate only

with the time equally divided between the Leaders or their designees, on the joint resolution; and that following the use or yielding back of that time, Senate vote on passage of the joint resolution.

**Page S1864**

**Nominations Confirmed:** Senate confirmed the following nominations:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 145), James Bishop, of North Carolina, to be Deputy Director of the Office of Management and Budget.

**Pages S1841–45, S1878**

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 147), Aaron Reitz, of Texas, to be an Assistant Attorney General.

**Pages S1845–48, S1878**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 53 yeas to 45 nays (Vote No. EX. 146), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Page S1845**

By 53 yeas to 43 nays (Vote No. EX. 149), Michael Faulkender, of Maryland, to be Deputy Secretary of the Treasury.

**Pages S1848–56, S1878**

During consideration of this nomination today, Senate also took the following action:

By 52 yeas to 46 nays (Vote No. EX. 148), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination.

**Page S1848**

**Messages from the House:** **Pages S1868–69**

**Measures Referred:** **Page S1869**

**Measures Discharged:** **Page S1869**

**Executive Communications:** **Pages S1869–71**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Pages S1872–73**

**Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions:**  
**Pages S1873–78**

**Additional Statements:** **Pages S1867–68**

**Authorities for Committees to Meet:** **Page S1878**

**Privileges of the Floor:** **Page S1878**

**Record Votes:** Eight record votes were taken today. (Total—152) **Pages S1845, S1848, S1855–56, S1863–64**

**Adjournment:** Senate convened at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 9:12 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Thursday, March 27, 2025. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S1878.)

## Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

### DEFENSE AUTHORIZATION REQUEST

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Strategic Forces concluded open and closed hearings to

examine the United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2026 and Future Years Defense Program, after receiving testimony from General Anthony J. Cotton, USAF, Commander, United States Strategic Command, and General Stephen N. Whiting, USSF, Commander, United States Space Command, both of the Department of the Air Force, Department of Defense.

### MILITARY SERVICE ACADEMIES

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Personnel concluded an oversight hearing to examine the status of the Military Service Academies, after receiving testimony from Lieutenant General Steven W. Gilland, USA, Superintendent of the United States Military Academy, Vice Admiral Yvette M. Davids, USN, Superintendent of the United States Naval Academy, and Lieutenant General Tony D. Bauernfeind, USAF, Superintendent of the United States Air Force Academy.

### NOMINATIONS

*Committee on Environment and Public Works:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Brian Nesvik, of Wyoming, to be Director of the United States Fish and Wildlife Service, who was introduced by Senator Barrasso, and Jessica Kramer, of Wisconsin, and Sean Donahue, of Florida, both to be an Assistant Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

### INDO-PACIFIC ALLIANCES

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine Indo-Pacific alliances and burden sharing in today's geopolitical environment, after receiving testimony from Randall G. Schriver, Project 2049 Institute, Arlington, Virginia; Oriana Skylar Mastro, Stanford University Freeman Spogli Institute for International Studies, Stanford, California; and Victor D. Cha, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.

### CHINA AND TAIWAN

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* Subcommittee on Western Hemisphere, Transnational Crime, Civilian Security, Democracy, Human Rights, and Global Women's Issues concluded a hearing to examine People's Republic of China influence and the status of Taiwan's diplomatic allies in the Western Hemisphere, after receiving testimony from Evan Ellis, Center for Strategic and International Studies, Washington, D.C.; and Samantha Custer, William and Mary Global Research Institute, Williamsburg, Virginia.

## NOMINATIONS

*Committee on the Judiciary:* Committee concluded a hearing to examine the nominations of Patrick David Davis, of Maryland, John Andrew Eisenberg, of Virginia, and Brett Shumate, of Virginia, each to be an Assistant Attorney General, Department of Justice,

after the nominees testified and answered questions in their own behalf.

## INTELLIGENCE

*Select Committee on Intelligence:* Committee met in closed session to receive a briefing on certain intelligence matters from officials of the intelligence community.

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## House of Representatives

### *Chamber Action*

**Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced:** 45 public bills, H.R. 2350–2394; and 5 resolutions, H. Res. 254–258 were introduced. **Pages H1300–02**

**Additional Cosponsors:** **Page H1303**

**Reports Filed:** There were no reports filed today.

**Speaker:** Read a letter from the Speaker wherein he appointed Representative Knott to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1277**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 10:54 a.m. and reconvened at 12 p.m. **Page H1283**

**Recess:** The House recessed at 12:11 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1284**

**Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator Freezers”:** The House considered H.J. Res. 75, providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator Freezers”. Consideration is expected to resume Thursday, March 27th. **Pages H1284–90**

H. Res. 242, the rule providing for consideration of the joint resolutions (H.J. Res. 24) and (H.J. Res. 75) and the bill (H.R. 1048) was agreed to yesterday, March 25th.

**Meeting Hour:** Agreed by unanimous consent that when the House adjourns today, it adjourn to meet at 9 a.m. tomorrow, March 27th. **Page H1290**

**Quorum Calls—Votes:** There were no Yea and Nay votes, and there were no Recorded votes. There were no quorum calls.

**Adjournment:** The House met at 10 a.m. and adjourned at 3:49 p.m.

### *Committee Meetings*

#### NATIONAL TRANSPORTATION SAFETY BOARD

*Committee on Appropriations:* Subcommittee on Transportation, Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies held an oversight hearing on the National Transportation Safety Board. Testimony was heard from Jennifer Homendy, Chair, National Transportation Safety Board.

#### U.S. SPECIAL OPERATIONS FORCES AND COMMAND—CHALLENGES AND RESOURCE PRIORITIES FOR FISCAL YEAR 2026

*Committee on Armed Services:* Subcommittee on Intelligence and Special Operations held a hearing entitled “U.S. Special Operations Forces and Command—Challenges and Resource Priorities for Fiscal Year 2026”. Testimony was heard from General Bryan P. Fenton, Commander, U.S. Special Operations Command; and Colby Jenkins, Performing the Duties of the Assistant Secretary of Defense for Special Operations and Low Intensity Conflict, Department of Defense.

#### THE WORLD WILD WEB: EXAMINING HARMS ONLINE

*Committee on Energy and Commerce:* Subcommittee on Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade held a hearing entitled “The World Wild Web: Examining Harms Online”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**A NEW ERA FOR THE CONSUMER  
FINANCIAL PROTECTION BUREAU:  
BALANCING POWER AND  
REPRIORITIZING CONSUMER  
PROTECTIONS**

*Committee on Financial Services:* Subcommittee on Financial Institutions held a hearing entitled “A New Era for the CFPB: Balancing Power and Reprioritizing Consumer Protections”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**ANTI-AMERICAN AIRWAVES:  
ACCOUNTABILITY FOR THE HEADS OF  
NATIONAL PUBLIC RADIO AND PUBLIC  
BROADCASTING SERVICE**

*Committee on Oversight and Government Reform:* Subcommittee on Delivering on Government Efficiency held a hearing entitled “Anti-American Airwaves: Accountability for the Heads of NPR and PBS”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**TO THE DEPTHS, AND BEYOND:  
EXAMINING BLUE ECONOMY  
TECHNOLOGIES**

*Committee on Science, Space, and Technology:* Subcommittee on Environment held a hearing entitled “To the Depths, and Beyond: Examining Blue Economy Technologies”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**AMERICA BUILDS: HOW TRUCKING  
SUPPORTS AMERICAN COMMUNITIES**

*Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure:* Subcommittee on Highways and Transit held a hearing entitled “America Builds: How Trucking Supports American Communities”. Testimony was heard from public witnesses.

**LEGISLATIVE MEASURES**

*Committee on Veterans' Affairs:* Subcommittee on Disability Assistance and Memorial Affairs held a hearing on H.R. 647, the “Ensuring Veterans’ Final Resting Place Act of 2025”; H.R. 1039, the “Clear Communication for Veterans Claims Act”; H.R. 1228, the “Prioritizing Veterans’ Survivors Act”; H.R. 1286, the “Simplifying Forms for Veterans Claims Act”; H.R. 1344, the “Dennis and Lois Krisfalusy Act; legislation on the Veterans’ Compensation Cost-of-Living Adjustment Act of 2025; legislation on the Review Every Veterans Claim Act of 2025; legislation on the Veteran Appeals Transparency Act of 2025; legislation on the Improving VA Training for Military Sexual Trauma Claims Act; legislation on the Veterans Claims Education Act; legislation on the Survivors Benefits Delivery Improvement Act of 2025; and legislation on the Board of Veterans Appeals’ Attorney Retention and Back-

log Reduction Act. Testimony was heard from Representatives Self, Kim, Pfluger, Yakym, Barrett, and Bresnahan; Colonel Andrew Shurtleff, U.S. Air Force (Retired); Kenesha Britton, Assistant Deputy Undersecretary, Field Operations, Veterans Benefits Administration, Department of Veterans Affairs; and public witnesses.

**ANNUAL WORLDWIDE THREATS HEARING**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Annual Worldwide Threats Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Tulsi Gabbard, Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; John Ratcliffe, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; General Timothy D. Haugh, Director, National Security Agency, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Jeffrey A. Kruse, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense.

**ANNUAL WORLDWIDE THREATS HEARING**

*Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence:* Full Committee held a hearing entitled “Annual Worldwide Threats Hearing”. Testimony was heard from Tulsi Gabbard, Director, Office of the Director of National Intelligence; John Ratcliffe, Director, Central Intelligence Agency; Kash Patel, Director, Federal Bureau of Investigation, Department of Justice; General Timothy D. Haugh, Director, National Security Agency, Department of Defense; and Lieutenant General Jeffrey A. Kruse, Director, Defense Intelligence Agency, Department of Defense. This hearing was closed.

*Joint Meetings*

No joint committee meetings were held.

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**COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR THURSDAY,  
MARCH 27, 2025**

*(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)*

**Senate**

*Committee on Armed Services:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Troy Meink, of Virginia, to be Secretary of the Air Force, Michael Duffy, of Virginia, to be Under Secretary for Acquisition and Sustainment, Emil Michael, of Florida, to be Under Secretary for Research and Engineering, and Keith Bass, of Texas, to be an Assistant Secretary, all of the Department of Defense, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

*Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs:* to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Jonathan Gould, of Virginia, to be Comptroller of the Currency for a term of five years, Luke Pettit, of the District of Columbia, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Treasury, Paul

Atkins, of Virginia, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission for the remainder of the term expiring June 5, 2026, and Marcus Molinaro, of New York, to be Federal Transit Administrator, 10 a.m., SD-538.

*Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation:* Subcommittee on Aviation, Space, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine the National Transportation Safety Board preliminary report, focusing on the DCA midair collision, 10 a.m., SD-106.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Arielle Roth, of the District of Columbia, to be Assistant Secretary of Commerce for Communications and Information, 2:15 p.m., SR-253.

*Committee on Foreign Relations:* business meeting to consider S. 860, to modify the information about countries exporting methamphetamine that is included in the annual International Narcotics Control Strategy Report, to require a report to Congress on the seizure and production of certain illicit drugs, to impose sanctions with respect to the production and trafficking into the United States, of synthetic opioids, S. 868, to support democracy and the rule of law in Georgia, S. Res. 86, expressing the sense of the Senate regarding United Nations General Assembly Resolution 2758 (XXVI) and the harmful conflation of China's "One China Principle" and the United States' "One China Policy", S. Res. 98, condemning Beijing's destruction of Hong Kong's democracy and rule of law, S. Res. 106, supporting the goals of International Women's Day, S. 799, to establish and implement a multi-year Legal Gold and Mining Partnership Strategy to reduce the negative environmental and social impacts of illicit gold mining in the Western Hemisphere, S. 821, to provide for increased reporting regarding Department of State Taiwan guidelines, S. 555, to direct the Secretary of State to establish a national registry

of Korean American divided families, and S. 842, to counter efforts by Hezbollah to conduct terrorist activities in Latin America, S. Res. 52, recognizing religious freedom as a fundamental right, expressing support for international religious freedom as a cornerstone of United States foreign policy, and expressing concern over increased threats to and attacks on religious freedom around the world, and an original resolution recognizing the 204th anniversary of the independence of Greece and celebrating democracy in Greece and the United States, and the nominations of Peter Hoekstra, of Michigan, to be Ambassador to Canada, George Glass, of Oregon, to be Ambassador to Japan, and Ronald Johnson, of Florida, to be Ambassador to the United Mexican States, all of the Department of State, 11 a.m., S-116, Capitol.

*Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions:* to hold hearings to examine ensuring safe learning environments for all students, focusing on protests on campus, 10 a.m., SD-430.

*Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship:* business meeting to consider S. 1047, to prohibit individuals convicted of defrauding the Government from receiving any assistance from the Small Business Administration, S. 1093, to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Rural Affairs, and the nominations of William Briggs, of Texas, to be Deputy Administrator, and Casey Mulligan, of Illinois, to be Chief Counsel for Advocacy, both of the Small Business Administration, 9:30 a.m., SR-428A.

## House

*Committee on Foreign Affairs,* Western Hemisphere Subcommittee, hearing entitled "INL Should Fight Crime, Not Fight Conservatives", 11 a.m., 2172 Rayburn.

*Next Meeting of the SENATE*

10 a.m., Thursday, March 27

*Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES*

9 a.m., Thursday, March 27

## Senate Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Senate will continue consideration of S.J. Res. 18, Overdraft Lending, and vote on passage of the joint resolution at 11:20 a.m.

Following disposition of S.J. Res. 18, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Paul Lawrence, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Veterans Affairs, and vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon. If cloture is invoked on the nomination, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination at 2 p.m.

## House Chamber

**Program for Thursday:** Consideration of H.J. Res. 24—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Walk-In Coolers and Walk-In Freezers”. Complete consideration of H.R. 1048—Defending Education Transparency and Ending Rogue Regimes Engaging in Nefarious Transactions Act. Complete consideration of H.J. Res. 75—Providing for congressional disapproval under chapter 8 of title 5, United States Code, of the rule submitted by the Office of Energy Efficiency and Renewable Energy, Department of Energy relating to “Energy Conservation Program: Energy Conservation Standards for Commercial Refrigerators, Freezers, and Refrigerator Freezers”.

## Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

## HOUSE

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# Congressional Record

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