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House of Representatives

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

DESIGNATION OF SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

WASHINGTON, DC,
April 19, 2021.

I hereby appoint the Honorable DEBBIE DINGELL to act as Speaker pro tempore on this day.

NANCY PELOSI,
Speaker of the House of Representatives.

MORNING-HOUR DEBATE

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

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

VALUE OF INFRASTRUCTURE

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

Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, as the son of a civil engineer, I was raised with an understanding of the value of infrastructure that serves people and benefits communities. My commitment to infrastructure has spanned decades. As a young man, I put shovel to the road for the construction of highways and bridges; and now, today, I advocate for infrastructure improvements in Congress.

As we know all too well in rural Pennsylvania, infrastructure has real-life consequences for communities. At its core, improving roads, bridges, and other key infrastructure should be a commonsense, bipartisan priority. Failing infrastructure does not discriminate. A broken bridge can harm Democrats just as it can harm Republicans.

Unfortunately, the so-called infrastructure reform put forth by President Biden fails to take seriously the challenges that we are currently facing in Pennsylvania and around the entire country. In the rural district that I represent, we know the importance of true infrastructure. We need to make our roadways and bridges safer, we need to improve our transportation systems, and we desperately need to deploy reliable internet to those lacking access to broadband. This is what true infrastructure is. But, unfortunately, that is not the Biden plan.

Let's look at the facts. In President Biden's infrastructure plan, less than 6 percent would go to roads and bridges; less than 2 percent would go to waterways, locks, dams, ports, and airports; and less than 5 percent, unfortunately, would go to broadband.

With \$600 billion devoted to the Green New Deal, this has never been about infrastructure. In Pennsylvania, the extreme policies championed in the Biden plan will crush our vital manufacturing and energy industries. This plan prioritizes the progressive agenda over the needs of the American workers and small businesses.

In the name of infrastructure, Democrats want to kill jobs, raise taxes, burden families, and stunt our recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

Today, I ask a very simple question: Is it worth it?

As we seek to define infrastructure and consider improvements to our Nation's fundamental infrastructure needs, I urge all of my colleagues to

dispense with the political games. We need roads, bridges, and reliable internet. We do not need the Green New Deal. Stop calling this infrastructure. Stop hiding progressive policies in Trojan horses. Stop trying to trick the American people.

While I stand ready to work with the President and House Democrats on what is true infrastructure reform, this plan is further evidence that the Biden-Harris administration are more happy to push their radical agenda at the expense of hardworking Americans.

Instead of propelling these radical policies, this could be a good-faith opportunity to deliver results for the American people. If we work together, we can get this job done. From deploying rural broadband to sustaining our basic roads, we must bridge this divide.

HONORING THE LIFE AND LEGACY OF STEVEN KOPPERUD

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

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of one of the great voices for American agriculture here in our Nation's Capital, Steven L. Kopperud.

His death this past year was sudden and a shock to all of us who knew him. Steve was always the same, from the first day I met him almost 25 years ago until the last time we talked. He was a great friend, one whom you could trust to shoot you straight. As are so many in the agriculture arena, he was a down-to-earth, great guy; the type you could pick up a conversation with as though you had just talked yesterday when, in fact, it could have been a year or more; the type who would always be there for you. And if it was a policy question, he always, always, had the facts. He believed in his work, and he was passionate about it.

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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After growing up in Minneapolis and attending the University of Minnesota, Steve started his career in journalism, writing for the Minneapolis Star Tribune and the San Diego Union-Tribune. He eventually became the Washington bureau chief for Feedstuffs, which further introduced him to the world of agriculture.

From there, he launched a long, distinguished career in advocacy, lobbying on all things animal, everything from food, livestock, poultry, trade, and animal welfare, to biotech, among countless other agricultural issues. He was a founder of the Animal Alliance Association, and eventually started his own firm to represent clients across the Nation's agriculture sector.

Steve played an instrumental role in the passage of every farm bill in the past 35 years, from his first in 1985 to his last in 2018. He could always be found in the Halls of Congress, the White House, or USDA, making the case for commonsense agriculture policies critical to our producers and American consumers. And by the fortuitous nature of events early on in his career, he became a key voice with great expertise in the animal welfare policy arena.

Steve leaves behind his wife, Judith, of more than 45 years, and many, many friends. The contributions he made to agriculture were numerous, leaving a great legacy of advocacy that has benefited American producers and has helped to feed the world. His was a life very well-lived, and American agriculture is that much better because of Steve Kopperud, and so is our country.

TRIBUTE TO CAROLYN JUSTICE

Mr. ROUZER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to pay particular tribute to an individual who has been an institution in the Cape Fear region for decades, my friend and former colleague in the State legislature, Carolyn Justice.

Carolyn served five terms in the North Carolina House of Representatives, representing New Hanover and Pender Counties. Before her service in the State legislature, she served on Pender County's Board of Commissioners. She has also served as a trustee of New Hanover Regional Medical Center, Pender Memorial Hospital, and as chair of the Lower Cape Fear River Program.

Now, I got to know Carolyn while serving in the State Senate. She was a co-chair of the State House Appropriations Subcommittee on Agriculture and Natural and Economic Resources, while I was co-chair of the Senate Appropriations Subcommittee. So we got to know each other quite well as we went line by line of the State budget, making cuts to the programs under our purview.

The economic collapse of 2008 and 2009 had left the State budget in shambles, and it was our job to help balance it. These were not easy decisions, but, with Carolyn as a key partner, we made the budget numbers work while doing our best to fund the programs of most value to the citizens of the State.

Through her service and kindness to others, Carolyn Justice continues to leave an indelible mark on southeastern North Carolina. This is why it is so fitting that she was recently named by the Wilmington Star-News in March, which was Women's History Month 2021, as one of 106 women who have made the Port City area a better place.

I don't know of anyone who stands stronger for the Cape Fear region and the causes in which she believes. This is a well-deserved honor for a very distinguished public servant and my great friend and colleague.

CELEBRATING THE NOMINATION OF REAR ADMIRAL MICHAEL BOYLE

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Florida (Mrs. CAMMACK) for 5 minutes.

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the service, sacrifice, and recent nomination of one of my constituents, Rear Admiral Michael E. Boyle.

Admiral Boyle has served as director of Maritime Operations for the U.S. Pacific Fleet since June of 2020. Admiral Boyle was designated a naval aviator in January of 1990.

In his 30 years of dedicated service, he has held numerous positions throughout the United States Naval Command. Whether it was operational tours, like aboard the USS *Forrestal* in support of Operation Provide Comfort in Northern Iraq, or aboard the USS *Saratoga* in support of Operation Provide Promise in Bosnia, Admiral Boyle has shown what leadership, fortitude, and duty look like in the United States Navy.

I commend the Secretary of Defense, General Lloyd Austin for his nomination of Rear Admiral Boyle to the rank of two-star flag officer, rear admiral, in the United States Navy. His work in keeping our Nation safe and securing American interests abroad have not gone unnoticed.

I want to personally thank Rear Admiral Michael Boyle for his service to this country and his steadfast duty in defense of our Constitution.

Congratulations, Admiral. Semper Fortis.

HONORING ASSISTANT CHIEF OF POLICE JOHN JOCK

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the distinguished service of Assistant Chief of Police John Jock of the Orange Park Police Department.

Over the past 25 years, Assistant Chief Jock has worked under three police chiefs, four town managers, and has become a valued member of the force in our community. Starting as a patrol officer for the OPPD back in 1996, he has earned promotions three times, achieving the rank of assistant police chief, and even receiving his master's degree in the process.

He graduated from the FDLE Florida Leadership Academy in 2011, and served

on the Clay County SWAT team for over a decade. Mr. Jock has been on the front lines of law enforcement for a quarter century and, in that time, has investigated and solved criminal cases, provided disaster training and communication, and has been a valued community leader.

As a citizen of Orange Park for the last 22 years, Assistant Chief Jock entered retirement earlier this month after 25 years of service. As the wife of a fellow SWAT team member, I want to wish him and his family a happy, safe, and productive retirement.

HONORING CAPTAIN MARK ELAM

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and celebrate the life and service of Captain Mark Elam of the Putnam County Department of Corrections.

Captain Elam served in the Putnam County Sheriff's Office for nearly 20 years and, in that time, proved himself to be a hardworking servant.

Before joining the sheriff's office, Mark served 4 years in the United States Marine Corps. But the role that he excelled at the most was as a family man. He was a devoted husband to his wife, Lachrisha, for 15 years and a father to two children. Before Captain Elam's death last week, Mark and his wife were in the process of adopting five siblings.

He had a servant's heart and so much compassion to give. His loss leaves a hole in the Putnam County law enforcement community, but his memory will live on in the work and good deeds he did in life.

I want to extend my condolences to his wife, children, and the entire Putnam County Sheriff's Office in their enormous loss.

God bless Captain Elam and his family.

You've got the watch.

□ 1215

HONORING GILCHRIST COUNTY SHERIFF'S SERGEANT NOEL RAMIREZ AND DEPUTY TAYLOR LINDSEY

Mrs. CAMMACK. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and remember Gilchrist County Sheriff's Sergeant Noel Ramirez and Deputy Taylor Lindsey who were both gunned down in the line of duty 3 years ago today.

On April 19, 2018, Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey were eating lunch at a restaurant in Trenton, Florida, when a coward fired through a window and killed both officers in the line of duty. That man—whose name does not deserve to be mentioned—killed those two officers, consumed by a radical hate for law enforcement. That same hate for law enforcement that we saw then I continue to see today.

Now more than ever we need to publicly and boldly support our law enforcement officers.

Noel and Taylor's deaths remind us of the constant vigilance that an officer needs to have in order to return home safely to their families every night. Being an LEO is a difficult and often thankless job.

I want to take a moment to thank Sergeant Ramirez and Deputy Lindsey for their service and sacrifice to our community. We honor their legacy by continuing to say their names and remember their sacrifice and love for our hometown.

I pledge to always have our brothers and sisters in uniform's six.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 12 o'clock and 16 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1400

AFTER RECESS

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

PRAYER

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

God our shepherd, You have entrusted us with the responsibility to tend Your sheep, to feed them and watch over them. May we be worthy of this mantle of awesome responsibility and live wholeheartedly into this task. May nothing we do be done simply out of obligation. But having received Your tender mercies in our own lives, may we be eager to serve You and those whom You have commended to our care.

And if we lose sight of Your claim on our lives and waver in our duties, call us to examine the multitude of instances where You have showered Your grace upon us.

How then can we help but be so transformed that we would want nothing else but to give of ourselves from the depths of our souls?

May we then be examples of what it means to serve You. May we live lives of kindness and humility, not lifting ourselves up, but waiting with patience for the moment when, in the fullness of time, You reveal the purpose for all our efforts and energies, in Your gracious plan.

In the meantime, we cast ourselves—our anxieties, our best intentions, and our most fervent hopes on You—in sure and certain hope of Your steadfast love for us.

It is in the strength of Your name we pray.

Amen.

THE JOURNAL

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

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The SPEAKER. Will the gentlewoman from Nevada (Ms. TITUS) come forward and lead the House in the Pledge of Allegiance.

Ms. TITUS 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.

DOUBLE STANDARDS

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

Mrs. MCCLAIN. Madam Speaker, today I rise because of the double standards in this Chamber. Once again, this weekend we saw a Member of the majority openly call for more confrontation in a Minneapolis suburb. That very night there was a drive-by shooting in that community where police and National Guardsmen were targeted.

If this were reversed, if this were said by a Republican, you know, Madam Speaker, that the majority in this Chamber would move to strip that Representative of their committees and possibly move to expel them from Congress.

We have actually seen this before.

If what President Trump said on January 6 was inciting a riot, then what do the words "get more confrontational" mean?

Are those not the words someone would use if they wanted to incite more violence or insurrection?

If the majority cares about this institution, and if the majority cares about our Nation, then they need to get their own house in order and tamp down this vile rhetoric.

RECOGNIZING LORRIE FORD MERKER

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

Mr. CARTER of Georgia. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Lorrie Ford Merker for all the work she has done to improve the lives of Georgia's blueberry farmers.

Lorrie has made outstanding contributions to the blueberry industry for three decades. Born and raised in southeastern Michigan, Lorrie graduated from Michigan State University and has spent her entire adult life improving the agriculture sector.

For the past 32 years Lorrie has worked with the Michigan Blueberry Growers Association which represents 250 growers in eight States and British

Columbia. She has also been involved in advocacy at the State and national levels to promote an understanding of the labor and environmental challenges facing farmers.

Throughout her career she has accumulated a long list of awards and accomplishments, including the North American Blueberry Council's Alex Wetherbee Award, for her outstanding contributions to the promotion and marketing of blueberries.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Lorrie for all the work she has done for Georgia's blueberry growers and for growers across the country.

HONORING BERNELL TRAMMELL

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

Mr. GROTHMAN. Madam Speaker, I rise in honor of the great Bernell Trammell of Milwaukee, Wisconsin, who owned eXpressions Journal Publications, which was located on 915 East Wright Street.

Bernell Trammell was an avid reader and a very religious man who liked people. He graduated from Lincoln High School in Milwaukee.

Last July 23, he was shot dead carrying a sign for Donald Trump.

I would like to ask the city of Milwaukee to dial up the investigation for the murder of Bernell Trammell. I believe it is a shame in Milwaukee that when someone—one of few people—stands up and announces by a sign that he is voting for Donald Trump that he would be shot dead.

He was an iconoclast, he was a very spiritual man delving in different religions, and he was all over the political spectrum as far as the people he endorsed. But while he was carrying a Donald Trump sign, he was shot down last July 23.

I beg the city of Milwaukee to do something about this horrible crime.

MARIJUANA BANKING BILL

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1996, the marijuana banking bill. This legislation is about legitimizing and bankrolling the marijuana industry and making legalization inevitable.

It is sad that the House is voting on this bill during a time when our country is seeing increases in addiction, depression, and suicide. Rather than helping victims of despair, we are enhancing the financial benefits for those peddling and profiting off the sale of marijuana.

We are not even directly debating our drug laws. No. We are cowardly debating if we should reward States for undermining the rule of law.

Despite what the swamp says, we don't need recreational marijuana. As

recently as 2016, the DEA determined that marijuana should remain a schedule I substance.

I don't care what the lobbyists or talking heads for the marijuana industry like John Boehner say, I care about keeping dangerous substances away from our children and standing for the values I was elected to fight for.

The last thing our country needs is our help facilitating the profitability of addictive, behavior-altering, recreational drug use.

I oppose the bill, and I urge every Member to do the same.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. TITUS). Pursuant to clause 4 of rule I, the following enrolled bills were signed by the Speaker on Friday, April 16, 2021:

S. 164, to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes;

S. 415, to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity;

S. 578, to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

RECESS

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

Accordingly (at 2 o'clock and 8 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1430

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 2 o'clock and 30 minutes p.m.

ANNOUNCEMENT BY THE SPEAKER PRO TEMPORE

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MORALE, RECOGNITION, LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 490) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 490

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 "Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2021" or the "DHS MORALE Act".

SEC. 2. CHIEF HUMAN CAPITAL OFFICER RESPONSIBILITIES.

Section 704 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 344) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (1)—

(i) by inserting ", including with respect to leader development and employee engagement," after "policies";

(ii) by striking "and in line" and inserting "in line"; and

(iii) by inserting "and informed by best practices within the Federal government and the private sector," after "priorities,";

(B) in paragraph (2), by striking "develop performance measures to provide a basis for monitoring and evaluating" and inserting "use performance measures to evaluate, on an ongoing basis,";

(C) in paragraph (3), by inserting "that, to the extent practicable, are informed by employee feedback" after "policies";

(D) in paragraph (4), by inserting "including leader development and employee engagement programs," before "in coordination";

(E) in paragraph (5), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: "that is informed by an assessment, carried out by the Chief Human Capital Officer, of the learning and developmental needs of employees in supervisory and non-supervisory roles across the Department and appropriate workforce planning initiatives";

(F) by redesignating paragraphs (9) and (10) as paragraphs (13) and (14), respectively; and

(G) by inserting after paragraph (8) the following new paragraphs:

"(9) maintain a catalogue of available employee development opportunities, including the Homeland Security Rotation Program pursuant to section 844, departmental leadership development programs, interagency development programs, and other rotational programs;

"(10) ensure that employee discipline and adverse action programs comply with the requirements of all pertinent laws, rules, regulations, and Federal guidance, and ensure due process for employees;

"(11) analyze each Department or Government-wide Federal workforce satisfaction or morale survey not later than 90 days after the date of the publication of each such survey and submit to the Secretary such analysis, including, as appropriate, recommendations to improve workforce satisfaction or morale within the Department;

"(12) review and approve all component employee engagement action plans to ensure such plans include initiatives responsive to the root cause of employee engagement challenges, as well as outcome-based performance measures and targets to track the progress of such initiatives;"

(2) by redesignating subsections (d) and (e) as subsections (e) and (f), respectively;

(3) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

"(d) CHIEF LEARNING AND ENGAGEMENT OFFICER.—The Chief Human Capital Officer may designate an employee of the Department to serve as a Chief Learning and Engagement Officer to assist the Chief Human Capital Officer in carrying out this section."; and

(4) in subsection (e), as so redesignated—

(A) by redesignating paragraphs (2), (3), and (4) as paragraphs (5), (6), and (7), respectively; and

(B) by inserting after paragraph (1) the following new paragraphs:

"(2) information on employee development opportunities catalogued pursuant to paragraph (9) of subsection (b) and any available data on participation rates, attrition rates, and impacts on retention and employee satisfaction;

"(3) information on the progress of Department-wide strategic workforce planning efforts as determined under paragraph (2) of subsection (b);

"(4) information on the activities of the steering committee established pursuant to section 711(a), including the number of meetings, types of materials developed and distributed, and recommendations made to the Secretary;"

SEC. 3. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT STEERING COMMITTEE AND ACTION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 711. EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT.

"(a) STEERING COMMITTEE.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Secretary shall establish an employee engagement steering committee, including representatives from operational components, headquarters, and field personnel, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees, and chaired by the Under Secretary for Management, to carry out the following activities:

"(1) Identify factors that have a negative impact on employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, such as perceptions about limitations on career progression, mobility, or development opportunities, collected through employee feedback platforms, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(2) Identify, develop, and distribute initiatives and best practices to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department, including through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(3) Monitor efforts of each component to address employee engagement, morale, and communications based on employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate.

"(4) Advise the Secretary on efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within specific components and across the Department.

"(5) Conduct regular meetings and report, not less than once per quarter, to the Under Secretary for Management, the head of each component, and the Secretary on Department-wide efforts to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications.

"(b) ACTION PLAN; REPORTING.—The Secretary, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer, shall—

“(1) not later than 120 days after the date of the establishment of the employee engagement steering committee under subsection (a), issue a Department-wide employee engagement action plan, reflecting input from the steering committee and employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications in accordance with paragraph (1) of such subsection, to execute strategies to improve employee engagement, morale, and communications within the Department; and

“(2) require the head of each component to—

“(A) develop and implement a component-specific employee engagement plan to advance the action plan required under paragraph (1) that includes performance measures and objectives, is informed by employee feedback provided through annual employee surveys, questionnaires, and other communications, as appropriate, and sets forth how employees and, where applicable, their labor representatives are to be integrated in developing programs and initiatives;

“(B) monitor progress on implementation of such action plan; and

“(C) provide to the Chief Human Capital Officer and the steering committee quarterly reports on actions planned and progress made under this paragraph.

“(c) TERMINATION.—This section shall terminate on the date that is five years after the date of the enactment of this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 710 the following new item:

“Sec. 711. Employee engagement.”.

(c) SUBMISSIONS TO CONGRESS.—

(1) DEPARTMENT-WIDE EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT ACTION PLAN.—The Secretary of Homeland Security, acting through the Chief Human Capital Officer of the Department of Homeland Security, shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the Department-wide employee engagement action plan required under subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section) not later than 30 days after the issuance of such plan under such subsection (b)(1).

(2) COMPONENT-SPECIFIC EMPLOYEE ENGAGEMENT PLANS.—Each head of a component of the Department of Homeland Security shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate the component-specific employee engagement plan of each such component required under subsection (b)(2) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 not later than 30 days after the issuance of each such plan under such subsection (b)(2).

SEC. 4. ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARD PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.), as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by adding at the end the following new section:

“SEC. 712. ANNUAL EMPLOYEE AWARD PROGRAM.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary may establish an annual employee award program to recognize Department employees or groups of employees for significant contributions to the achievement of the Department’s goals and missions. If such a program is established, the Secretary shall—

“(1) establish within such program categories of awards, each with specific criteria, that emphasizes honoring employees who are at the non-supervisory level;

“(2) publicize within the Department how any employee or group of employees may be nominated for an award;

“(3) establish an internal review board comprised of representatives from Department components, headquarters, and field personnel to submit to the Secretary award recommendations regarding specific employees or groups of employees;

“(4) select recipients from the pool of nominees submitted by the internal review board under paragraph (3) and convene a ceremony at which employees or groups of employees receive such awards from the Secretary; and

“(5) publicize such program within the Department.

“(b) INTERNAL REVIEW BOARD.—The internal review board described in subsection (a)(3) shall, when carrying out its function under such subsection, consult with representatives from operational components and headquarters, including supervisory and non-supervisory personnel, and employee labor organizations that represent Department employees.

“(c) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this section may be construed to authorize additional funds to carry out the requirements of this section or to require the Secretary to provide monetary bonuses to recipients of an award under this section.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, as amended by section 3 of this Act, is further amended by inserting after the item relating to section 711 the following new item:

“Sec. 712. Annual employee award program.”.

SEC. 5. INDEPENDENT INVESTIGATION AND IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall investigate whether the application in the Department of Homeland Security of discipline and adverse actions are administered in an equitable and consistent manner that results in the same or substantially similar disciplinary outcomes across the Department for misconduct by a non-supervisory or supervisor employee who engaged in the same or substantially similar misconduct.

(b) CONSULTATION.—In carrying out the investigation described in subsection (a), the Comptroller General of the United States shall consult with the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security and the employee engagement steering committee established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by section 3(a) of this Act).

(c) ACTION BY UNDER SECRETARY FOR MANAGEMENT.—Upon completion of the investigation described in subsection (a), the Under Secretary for Management of the Department of Homeland Security shall review the findings and recommendations of such investigation and implement a plan, in consultation with the employee engagement steering committee established pursuant to subsection (b)(1) of section 711 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002, to correct any relevant deficiencies identified by the Comptroller General of the United States in such investigation. The Under Secretary for Management shall direct the employee engagement steering committee to review such plan to inform committee activities and action plans authorized under such section 711.

SEC. 6. IMPACTS OF SHUTDOWN.

Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of

Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate regarding the direct and indirect impacts of the lapse in appropriations between December 22, 2018, and January 25, 2019, on—

(1) Department of Homeland Security human resources operations;

(2) the Department’s ability to meet hiring benchmarks; and

(3) retention, attrition, and morale of Department personnel.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 490, the DHS MORALE Act.

Every day, the Department of Homeland Security workforce carries out an array of critical missions, from screening travelers to securing cyberspace, to responding to disasters.

The 240,000 men and women who make up this workforce should feel appreciated, not only by the American people, but also by DHS. Unfortunately, that does not seem to be the case.

The Office of Personnel Management has found that DHS employees are consistently less satisfied with their jobs compared to the average Federal employee. Since 2005, DHS’ own employees ranked the Department dead last among large Federal departments in the annual Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey. Scratching below the surface, the Best Places to Work in the Federal Government survey found that DHS’ workforce is the most dissatisfied when it comes to training, teamwork, work-life balance, and support for diversity.

In response to the concerns expressed by the workforce, Chairman THOMPSON introduced the DHS MORALE Act to require DHS to create and implement policies related to leadership development, employee engagement, career progression, and employee recognition.

Specifically, H.R. 490 requires the Department to prioritize career development opportunities and leadership development opportunities for DHS employees.

Additionally, it would require DHS to establish an employee engagement steering committee comprised of employees across the Department to better identify the causes of low morale

and what initiatives are working to improve it, and to establish an annual employee award program to recognize those in the DHS workforce who go above and beyond in their work to protect the homeland.

Identical versions of this measure have been approved by the House in prior Congresses.

This Congress, a new provision was added to the bill to respond to recommendations issued last month by the Government Accountability Office regarding morale challenges at the Department.

The provision directs DHS' chief human capital officer to review and approve DHS component agency plans to ensure they include initiatives to address the root causes of low morale and performance metrics for measuring implementation of those initiatives.

Enactment of H.R. 490 will help put DHS on a path toward fixing the longstanding morale problems at DHS.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 490, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 490, the Department of Homeland Security MORALE Act of 2021.

This legislation, sponsored by Chairman THOMPSON, will empower the Department's chief human capital officer to improve leadership development, employee engagement, and morale at the Department, which consistently ranks near the bottom of all Federal departments.

This bill will support the Department's most important asset, the many dedicated security professionals that work diligently to better protect our Nation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 490, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, H.R. 490 will improve morale among the Department's 240,000 employees. That is why it has the support of unions representing DHS employees: The National Border Patrol Council, the National Treasury Employees Union, and the American Federation of Government Employees.

Enactment of H.R. 490 will also force DHS to examine the root causes of the longstanding morale problems and develop responsive approaches to move the Department forward in a positive direction.

Madam Speaker, I ask for my colleagues' support, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 490, "DHS MORALE Act," which expands the duties of the Chief Human Capital Officer to address morale throughout the Department of Homeland Security.

The bill provides for:

1. leader development and employee engagement,
2. maintaining a catalogue of available employee development opportunities, and
3. issuing a DHS-wide employee engagement action plan.

The bill directs DHS to establish an employee engagement steering committee and authorizes it to establish an annual employee award program.

DHS is also required to report to the congressional homeland security committees the impacts of the lapse in appropriations between December 22, 2018 and January 25, 2019 on (1) DHS human resources operations; (2) DHS's ability to meet hiring benchmarks; and (3) retention, attrition, and morale of DHS personnel.

As a senior member of this committee I have long been troubled by the low morale, employee retention and job opportunities within the entire agency and what impact these issues have had on homeland security.

Over my service on this committee, from its inception, I have learned a great deal about the capacity and strength of the men and women who work at the Department of Homeland Security.

I hold them in the highest regard for their dedication and service to our country.

This nation depends on the men and women of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) to protect citizens from those who wish to do them harm.

DHS is charged with protecting the nation from terrorism threats.

The agency also assists local, state, and federal law enforcement to prepare to meet those threats which are significantly different than what was seen on September 11, 2001.

Because of the dedication of DHS professionals, we are better prepared to face these challenges as one nation united against a common foe.

The Department of Homeland Security was not created to protect the nation from desperate people escaping violence and poverty, seeking asylum in our country or the ravages of a virus attacking and killing over half a million Americans.

It was created to prevent attacks against our nation such as the one carried out by foreign terrorists who used commercial planes as missiles to destroy the World Trade Center Towers, and a section of the west side of the Pentagon, and would have killed more if not for the heroic acts of the passengers on Flight 93 to stop the attackers from reaching their ultimate destination right here at our nation's Capitol.

On January 6, 2021, our nation was once again threatened, but it was from an enemy found on our own shores led by the former President of the United States to attack the Capitol building during the constitutionally mandated Joint Meeting of Congress to count the ballots cast by presidential electors and announce the results and the winner to the nation and the world.

Today, our nation faces multiple crisis at the same time that are challenging our way of life, values, and resolve; challenges the American

people are, and will be, prepared to face and overcome.

As Americans we are best when we are true to the values we hold dear, beginning with fidelity to the Constitution and the laws of the United States.

The Department of Homeland Security has had low employee morale and low employee engagement since it began operations in 2003 and this must change.

In 2019, the Government Accountability Office (GAO) issued a report on DHS employee morale.

This report addressed:

1. drivers of employee engagement at DHS and
2. the extent that DHS has initiatives to improve employee engagement and ensures effective engagement action planning.

GAO analyzed employee trends within DHS, reviewed component employee engagement action plans and met with officials from DHS and component human capital offices as well as unions and employee groups.

I was at the Capitol on September 11, 2001, and I will never forget the Members who were there with me as we sang God Bless America on the steps of the Capitol.

In the days and weeks following the attacks, we were uncertain what threat might come and how many lives might be lost as we worked to put resources in place to deal with an enemy that might be among us.

Over the past nineteen years we have learned a great deal about homeland security, but we must learn more about making sure that agency professionals have what they need to excel.

We will be better prepared to face these challenges as one nation, united against a common foe, when morale issues within DHS have been effectively addressed.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 490, DHS MORALE Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 490.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

TRUSTED TRAVELER RECONSIDERATION AND RESTORATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 473) to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 473

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 “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. COMPTROLLER GENERAL REVIEW.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs. Such review shall examine the following:

(1) The extent to which the Department of Homeland Security tracks data and monitors trends related to trusted traveler programs, including root causes for identity-matching errors resulting in an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program being reinstated.

(2) Whether the Department coordinates with the heads of other relevant Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial entities regarding redress procedures for disqualifying offenses not covered by the Department’s own redress processes but which offenses impact an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program.

(3) How the Department may improve individuals’ access to reconsideration procedures regarding a disqualifying offense for enrollment in a trusted traveler program that requires the involvement of any other Federal, State, local, Tribal, or territorial entity.

(4) The extent to which travelers are informed about reconsideration procedures regarding enrollment in a trusted traveler program.

SEC. 3. ENROLLMENT REDRESS.

Notwithstanding any other provision of law, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall, with respect to an individual whose enrollment in a trusted traveler program was revoked in error extend by an amount of time equal to the period of revocation the period of active enrollment in such a program upon re-enrollment in such a program by such an individual.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today to support H.R. 473, the Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.

Before the pandemic, millions of travelers participated in DHS’ trusted traveler programs, like TSA’s PreCheck and CBP’s Global Entry, NEXUS, SENTRI, and FAST programs, to get them where they need to go a little faster.

These are win-win programs where DHS moves vetted goods and people in an expeditious manner, thereby freeing

up screening resources to focus on higher-risk travelers.

Given the benefits of these programs, it is troubling to hear about people being unable to enroll in one of these programs, despite meeting all of the security requirements needed to participate.

We all have an interest in ensuring that the vetting for these programs is thorough and, where there are identifying matching errors or other issues that may result in a qualified applicant being wrongly rejected, the issues get addressed in a timely way.

To ensure these programs are operating effectively and consistently, H.R. 473 directs the Government Accountability Office to review DHS’ trusted traveler programs. The GAO’s study will provide important insight into the Department’s identity matching process and the redress options available to those who are improperly rejected.

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

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 473, the Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.

This bill, sponsored by Ranking Member JOHN KATKO and cosponsored by Chairwomen WATSON COLEMAN and SLOTKIN, seeks to ensure the rights of travelers who have erroneously had their trusted traveler status revoked.

From the CBP’s Global Entry and NEXUS to TSA’s PreCheck programs, the Department of Homeland Security’s trusted traveler programs are critical to the safe and secure free movement of people. However, there are instances in which individuals are mistaken for people with the same or similar name or who otherwise find themselves in a position where they lose their trusted traveler status based on a database error.

For those unfortunate persons, the process of getting their trusted traveler status reinstated by DHS involves timely, cumbersome, and confusing bureaucratic hurdles, often among several Federal agencies. In these instances, travelers lose valuable time off of their trusted traveler enrollment period, even though they spent hard-earned money to apply.

H.R. 473 seeks to bring relief to the traveling public who are in need of having their trusted traveler status reinstated. The bill requires a comprehensive review by the Government Accountability Office on the existing DHS processes related to trusted traveler programs and how the Department can improve individuals’ access to having their trusted traveler status reinstated when it has been revoked in error.

Additionally, H.R. 473 directs the Secretary of Homeland Security to extend an individual’s enrollment in a trusted traveler program by a period commensurate with the amount of

time they lost in their enrollment due to an error.

I thank Ranking Member KATKO for his leadership on this bipartisan bill, and I thank Chairman THOMPSON for his commitment to bringing it to the floor today.

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I am prepared to close, and I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. GARBARINO. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, I urge Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, the Department of Homeland Security’s trusted traveler programs are important tools in the Department’s toolbox to screen people efficiently and concentrate its resources on high-risk travelers.

It is critical that the Department’s processes to vet enrollees be fair, consistent, and based on accurate information. The GAO assessment directed by this bill will help drive DHS to work towards those ends.

Madam Speaker, I thank my colleague from New York (Mr. KATKO) for introducing this bill. I urge its passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 473, the “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021,” which directs the Government Accountability Office to review Department of Homeland Security (DHS) trusted traveler programs, and DHS to extend the enrollment period where an individual’s participation in a trusted traveler program was revoked in error.

The Trusted Traveler consists of several programs that include: Global Entry, TSA Pre✓, SENTRI, NEXUS, and FAST.

The Trusted Traveler Programs are risk-based programs to facilitate the entry of pre-approved travelers.

All applicants are vetted to ensure that they meet the qualifications for the program to which they are applying.

Receiving a “Best Match” or program recommendation based on eligibility or travel habits does not guarantee acceptance into any Trusted Traveler program.

We will be better prepared to face these challenges as one nation united against a common foe, when morale issues within DHS have been effectively addressed.

I urge all members to join me in voting for H.R. 473 the “Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 473.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 370) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 370

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 “Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. TECHNICAL CORRECTIONS TO QUADRENNIAL HOMELAND SECURITY REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 707 of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 347) is amended—

(1) in subsection (a)(3)—
(A) in subparagraph (B), by striking “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(B) by redesignating subparagraph (C) as subparagraph (D); and

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

“(C) representatives from appropriate advisory committees established pursuant to section 871, including the Homeland Security Advisory Council and the Homeland Security Science and Technology Advisory Committee, or otherwise established, including the Aviation Security Advisory Committee established pursuant to section 44946 of title 49, United States Code; and”;

(2) in subsection (b)—

(A) in paragraph (2), by inserting before the semicolon at the end the following: “based on the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B)”;

(B) in paragraph (3)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “describe”; and

(ii) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(C) in paragraph (4)—

(i) by inserting “, to the extent practicable,” after “identify”;

(ii) by striking “budget plan required to provide sufficient resources to successfully” and inserting “resources required to”; and

(iii) by striking the semicolon at the end and inserting the following: “, including any resources identified from redundant, wasteful, or unnecessary capabilities or capacities that may be redirected to better support other existing capabilities or capacities, as the case may be; and”;

(D) in paragraph (5), by striking “; and” and inserting a period; and

(E) by striking paragraph (6);

(3) in subsection (c)—

(A) in paragraph (1), by striking “December 31 of the year” and inserting “60 days after the date of the submission of the President’s budget for the fiscal year after the fiscal year”;

(B) in paragraph (2)—

(i) in subparagraph (B), by striking “description of the threats to” and inserting “risk assessment of”;

(ii) in subparagraph (C), by inserting “, as required under subsection (b)(2)” before the semicolon at the end;

(iii) in subparagraph (D)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a description”; and

(II) by striking “budget plan” and inserting “resources required”;

(iv) in subparagraph (F)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”; and

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(v) in subparagraph (G)—

(I) by inserting “to the extent practicable,” before “a discussion”;

(II) by striking “the status of”;

(III) by inserting “and risks” before “to national homeland”; and

(IV) by inserting “and” after the semicolon at the end;

(vi) by striking subparagraph (H); and

(vii) by redesignating subparagraph (I) as subparagraph (H);

(C) by redesignating paragraph (3) as paragraph (4); and

(D) by inserting after paragraph (2) the following new paragraph:

“(3) DOCUMENTATION.—The Secretary shall retain and, upon request, provide to Congress the following documentation regarding each quadrennial homeland security review:

“(A) Records regarding the consultation carried out pursuant to subsection (a)(3), including the following:

“(i) All written communications, including communications sent out by the Secretary and feedback submitted to the Secretary through technology, online communications tools, in-person discussions, and the inter-agency process.

“(ii) Information on how feedback received by the Secretary informed each such quadrennial homeland security review.

“(B) Information regarding the risk assessment required pursuant to subsection (c)(2)(B), including the following:

“(i) The risk model utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(ii) Information, including data used in the risk model, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iii) Sources of information, including other risk assessments, utilized to generate such risk assessment.

“(iv) Information on assumptions, weighing factors, and subjective judgments utilized to generate such risk assessment, together with information on the rationale or basis thereof.”;

(4) by redesignating subsection (d) as subsection (e); and

(5) by inserting after subsection (c) the following new subsection:

“(d) REVIEW.—Not later than 90 days after the submission of each report required under subsection (c)(1), the Secretary shall provide to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate information on the degree to which the findings and recommendations developed in the quadrennial homeland security review that is the subject of such report were integrated into the acquisition strategy and expenditure plans for the Department.”.

(b) EFFECTIVE DATE.—The amendments made by this Act shall apply with respect to a quadrennial homeland security review conducted after December 31, 2021.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative

days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 370, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act.

Since 2007, the Department of Homeland Security has been required to produce a quadrennial review of the sprawling Federal department to help chart its course for the future. To date, DHS has issued two Quadrennial Homeland Security Reviews, or QHSRs. The third review, which was due by December 31, 2017, was never released by the Trump administration.

Congress mandated that DHS, like the Defense Department, undertake a bottom-up review every 4 years in recognition of the fact that it has a vital, complex, and ever-expanding set of missions that need to be assessed in regular intervals to help DHS stay ahead of the constantly evolving threats facing our country.

With the deadline for the fourth QHSR fast approaching, the gentleman from New Jersey (Mrs. Watson Coleman) reintroduced this bill to ensure that deficiencies that the Government Accountability Office identified in prior reviews are fully addressed.

In 2016, GAO issued a report that identified several weaknesses in how the Department developed the first two QHSRs. GAO, for example, expressed concerns about the degree to which the Department retained documentation to explain its findings and emphasized that documentation of the review process is essential to ensuring the repeatability of the review process.

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Importantly, H.R. 370 requires that DHS retain and, when requested, provide to Congress certain documentation related to each QHSR.

It also addresses weaknesses that GAO identified with respect to consultation with Homeland Security stakeholders and directs robust consultation with State and local governments, academic institutions, and other stakeholders.

Finally, H.R. 370 requires DHS to undertake and document a risk analysis to inform its policy positions, a critical feature that was lacking in prior reviews.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 370, the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act. This legislation makes important improvements to the Quadrennial Homeland Security Review.

This bill has strong bipartisan support from the committee.

Madam Speaker, I urge Members to support this bill. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, DHS is a sprawling \$50 billion Federal agency with a diverse array of mission sets. As such, it is critical that, every 4 years, DHS carry out a rigorous bottom-up, risk-informed review of the entire department that reflects robust engagement with Homeland Security partners to produce a QHSR that can drive the department's strategic vision for years to come.

Enactment of H.R. 370 will help ensure that happens and that, in the years ahead, DHS better aligns its budgets and programs with its ever-expanding missions.

An identical version of this measure passed the House last Congress by a vote of 415-0.

Madam Speaker, I urge the passage of H.R. 370 and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 370.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

HOMELAND SECURITY ACQUISITION PROFESSIONAL CAREER PROGRAM ACT

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 367) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an acquisition professional career program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 367

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 "Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act".

SEC. 2. AUTHORIZATION OF THE ACQUISITION PROFESSIONAL CAREER PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Title VII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 341 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 711. ACQUISITION PROFESSIONAL CAREER PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department an acquisition professional career program to develop a cadre of acquisition professionals within the Department.

"(b) ADMINISTRATION.—The Under Secretary for Management shall administer the

acquisition professional career program established pursuant to subsection (a).

"(c) PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Under Secretary for Management shall carry out the following with respect to the acquisition professional career program.

"(1) Designate the occupational series, grades, and number of acquisition positions throughout the Department to be included in the program and manage centrally such positions.

"(2) Establish and publish on the Department's website eligibility criteria for candidates to participate in the program.

"(3) Carry out recruitment efforts to attract candidates—

"(A) from institutions of higher education, including such institutions with established acquisition specialties and courses of study, historically Black colleges and universities, and Hispanic-serving institutions;

"(B) with diverse work experience outside of the Federal Government; or

"(C) with military service.

"(4) Hire eligible candidates for designated positions under the program.

"(5) Develop a structured program comprised of acquisition training, on-the-job experience, Department-wide rotations, mentorship, shadowing, and other career development opportunities for program participants.

"(6) Provide, beyond required training established for program participants, additional specialized acquisition training, including small business contracting and innovative acquisition techniques training.

"(d) REPORTS.—Not later than December 31, 2021, and annually thereafter through 2027, the Secretary shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the acquisition professional career program. Each such report shall include the following information:

"(1) The number of candidates approved for the program.

"(2) The number of candidates who commenced participation in the program, including generalized information on such candidates' backgrounds with respect to education and prior work experience, but not including personally identifiable information.

"(3) A breakdown of the number of participants hired under the program by type of acquisition position.

"(4) A list of Department components and offices that participated in the program and information regarding length of time of each program participant in each rotation at such components or offices.

"(5) Program attrition rates and post-program graduation retention data, including information on how such data compare to the prior year's data, as available.

"(6) The Department's recruiting efforts for the program.

"(7) The Department's efforts to promote retention of program participants.

"(e) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

"(1) HISPANIC-SERVING INSTITUTION.—The term 'Hispanic-serving institution' has the meaning given such term in section 502 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1101a).

"(2) HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGES AND UNIVERSITIES.—The term 'historically Black colleges and universities' has the meaning given the term 'part B institution' in section 322(2) of Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1061(2)).

"(3) INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.—The term 'institution of higher education' has the meaning given such term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001)."

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 710 the following new item:

"Sec. 711. Acquisition professional career program."

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 367, the Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act.

H.R. 367 authorizes the Department of Homeland Security's Acquisition Professional Career Program which, since 2008, has been credited with helping DHS onboard over 300 new hires into its acquisition workforce.

At DHS, acquisition professionals, such as contract specialists, are responsible for spending billions of dollars each year on the goods and services needed for the department to carry out its missions. They acquire everything from disaster relief supplies for FEMA to Coast Guard cutters and software designed to protect Federal Government networks from cyber threats.

Unfortunately, when it comes to hiring and retaining acquisitions professionals, DHS has experienced chronic staffing shortages that, in the view of the Government Accountability Office, create a persistent challenge for DHS that can negatively affect the ability of DHS to acquire vital capabilities on time and on budget.

H.R. 367 seeks to address this challenge by codifying DHS' rigorous development program in which participants are provided with acquisition training, mentorship, department-wide rotations, and other career development opportunities.

Enactment of this measure will help DHS maintain a pipeline for its acquisition workforce to directly support the department's frontline officers and provide them with the tools that they need.

A prior version of this bill passed the House by a voice vote last September on a bipartisan basis.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 367, the Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act. This legislation will help create a pipeline for the Department of Homeland Security to better recruit talented acquisition professionals.

This critical program is an important step to making DHS more agile and efficient in its role of protecting our Nation.

I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 367.

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

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I want to thank my colleague from Nevada for her leadership on this bill.

Americans look to DHS to respond after a disaster, prevent terrorism, and protect cyberspace. Within DHS, its leaders at every level of the organization look to the acquisition workforce to ensure that the department has the tools needed to get the job done.

Since 2008, DHS' Acquisition Professional Career Program has created a vital pipeline for the department to hire acquisitions professionals who develop their knowledge and skills in house at DHS.

Enactment of H.R. 367 would ensure that DHS is able to continue to run this successful program which the department has come to rely on to help address chronic staffing shortages within its acquisition workforce.

Again, I want to thank and commend the gentlewoman, Congresswoman TITUS from Nevada, who is presently presiding over the House, for her leadership on H.R. 367.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 367. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 367, the "Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act," which establishes in the Department of Homeland Security an acquisition professional career program to develop a cadre of acquisition professionals.

Acquisition professionals work in one of six career fields, each of which plays a vital role in Department Acquisition.

The six Acquisition career fields include:

1. Contract Specialist,
2. Program Manager,
3. Logistician,
4. Systems Engineer,
5. Industrial Engineer/Cost Estimator, and
6. IT Acquisition Specialist.

Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program participants are appointed to rotational assignments within department components to gain experience in a wide variety of work environments.

The program is three years, and upon successful completion participants are placed into a permanent full-time position at the GS-12 grade.

Job applications to the Department of Homeland Security go through multiple levels of review.

Human Resources Specialists screen applications to determine whether basic eligibility requirements are met for the position and rate

applications according to the additional qualifications listed in the job announcement.

If the application rates among the best qualified, it will be forwarded to the hiring manager who will make the final selection.

Selection procedures are subject to Federal Civil Service laws, which ensures that all applicants receive fair and equal treatment in the hiring process.

Acquisition Professionals are responsible for nearly \$20 billion in annual purchases for the Department of Homeland Security.

The Management Directorate shall administer this essential program, including carrying out recruitment efforts and providing specialized acquisition training.

I ask my colleagues to join me in voting for passage of H.R. 367.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 367.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTEGE PROGRAM ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 408) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protege program, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 408

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 "Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle H of title VIII of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 451 et seq.) is amended by adding at the end the following new section:

"SEC. 890B. MENTOR-PROTÉGÉ PROGRAM.

"(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established in the Department a mentor-protégé program (in this section referred to as the 'Program') under which a mentor firm enters into an agreement with a protégé firm for the purpose of assisting the protégé firm to compete for prime contracts and subcontracts of the Department.

"(b) ELIGIBILITY.—The Secretary shall establish criteria for mentor firms and protégé firms to be eligible to participate in the Program, including a requirement that a firm is not included on any list maintained by the Federal Government of contractors that have been suspended or debarred.

"(c) PROGRAM APPLICATION AND APPROVAL.—

"(1) APPLICATION.—The Secretary, acting through the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization of the Department, shall establish a process for submission of an application jointly by a mentor firm and the protégé firm selected by the mentor firm. The application shall include each of the following:

"(A) A description of the assistance to be provided by the mentor firm, including, to the extent available, the number and a brief description of each anticipated subcontract to be awarded to the protégé firm.

"(B) A schedule with milestones for achieving the assistance to be provided over the period of participation in the Program.

"(C) An estimate of the costs to be incurred by the mentor firm for providing assistance under the Program.

"(D) Attestations that Program participants will submit to the Secretary reports at times specified by the Secretary to assist the Secretary in evaluating the protégé firm's developmental progress.

"(E) Attestations that Program participants will inform the Secretary in the event of a change in eligibility or voluntary withdrawal from the Program.

"(2) APPROVAL.—Not later than 60 days after receipt of an application pursuant to paragraph (1), the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall notify applicants of approval or, in the case of disapproval, the process for resubmitting an application for reconsideration.

"(3) RESCISSION.—The head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization may rescind the approval of an application under this subsection if it determines that such action is in the best interest of the Department.

"(d) PROGRAM DURATION.—A mentor firm and protégé firm approved under subsection (c) shall enter into an agreement to participate in the Program for a period of not less than 36 months.

"(e) PROGRAM BENEFITS.—A mentor firm and protégé firm that enter into an agreement under subsection (d) may receive the following Program benefits:

"(1) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive evaluation credit for participating in the Program.

"(2) With respect to an award of a contract that requires a subcontracting plan, a mentor firm may receive credit for a protégé firm performing as a first tier subcontractor or a subcontractor at any tier in an amount equal to the total dollar value of any subcontracts awarded to such protégé firm.

"(3) A protégé firm may receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from a mentor firm, including a subcontract award.

"(f) REPORTING.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the head of the Office of Small and Disadvantaged Business Utilization shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs and the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship of the Senate and the Committee on Homeland Security and the Committee on Small Business of the House of Representatives a report that—

"(1) identifies each agreement between a mentor firm and a protégé firm entered into under this section, including the number of protégé firm participants that are—

"(A) small business concerns;

"(B) small business concerns owned and controlled by veterans;

"(C) small business concerns owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans;

"(D) qualified HUBZone small business concerns;

“(E) small business concerns owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals;

“(F) small business concerns owned and controlled by women;

“(G) historically Black colleges and universities; and

“(H) minority institutions of higher education;

“(2) describes the type of assistance provided by mentor firms to protégé firms;

“(3) identifies contracts within the Department in which a mentor firm serving as the prime contractor provided subcontracts to a protégé firm under the Program; and

“(4) assesses the degree to which there has been—

“(A) an increase in the technical capabilities of protégé firms; and

“(B) an increase in the quantity and estimated value of prime contract and subcontract awards to protégé firms for the period covered by the report.

“(g) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this section may be construed to limit, diminish, impair, or otherwise affect the authority of the Department to participate in any program carried out by or requiring approval of the Small Business Administration or adopt or follow any regulation or policy that the Administrator of the Small Business Administration may promulgate, except that, to the extent that any provision of this section (including subsection (h)) conflicts with any other provision of law, regulation, or policy, this section shall control.

“(h) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

“(1) **HISTORICALLY BLACK COLLEGE OR UNIVERSITY.**—The term ‘historically Black college or university’ means any of the historically Black colleges and universities referred to in section 2323 of title 10, United States Code, as in effect on March 1, 2018.

“(2) **MENTOR FIRM.**—The term ‘mentor firm’ means a for-profit business concern that is not a small business concern that—

“(A) has the ability to assist and commits to assisting a protégé to compete for Federal prime contracts and subcontracts; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(3) **MINORITY INSTITUTION OF HIGHER EDUCATION.**—The term ‘minority institution of higher education’ means an institution of higher education with a student body that reflects the composition specified in section 312(b) of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1058(b)).

“(4) **PROTÉGÉ FIRM.**—The term ‘protégé firm’ means a small business concern, a historically Black college or university, or a minority institution of higher education that—

“(A) is eligible to enter into a prime contract or subcontract with the Department; and

“(B) satisfies any other requirements imposed by the Secretary.

“(5) **SMALL BUSINESS ACT DEFINITIONS.**—The terms ‘small business concern’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by veterans’, ‘small business concern owned and controlled by service-disabled veterans’, ‘qualified HUBZone small business concern’, ‘and small business concern owned and controlled by women’ have the meanings given such terms, respectively, under section 3 of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 632). The term ‘small business concern owned and controlled by socially and economically disadvantaged individuals’ has the meaning given such term in section 8(d)(3)(C) of the Small Business Act (15 U.S.C. 637(d)(3)(C)).”

(b) **CLERICAL AMENDMENT.**—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting

after the item relating to section 890A the following new item:

“Sec. 890B. Mentor-protégé program.”

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise today in strong support of H.R. 408, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021.

Since the earliest days of the Department of Homeland Security, it has operated a mentor-protégé program to encourage large businesses to help small businesses build their capacity to compete for government contracts.

However, this important program was never codified in law. H.R. 408 not only authorizes the existing program but improves it.

Small businesses, including woman-, veteran-, and minority-owned firms, are the backbone of our economy, but far too often complex Federal contracting requirements shut them out of the Federal marketplace.

Building and sustaining a reliable pool of small business vendors is critical to ensuring that DHS’ ever-evolving contracting needs are met and America’s security is enhanced.

H.R. 408 seeks to build and sustain this pool by incentivizing large businesses to provide technical, managerial, and financial assistance and subcontracting opportunities to small businesses.

The bill requires participating businesses to commit to a mentor-protégé relationship for 3 years to help establish long-term relationships between large and small contractors.

Additionally, to ensure that Congress can monitor the effectiveness of the program in an ongoing way, it requires DHS to annually report on program participation and the benefits conferred upon small businesses.

Enactment of H.R. 408 will ensure the continued and lasting success of the mentor-protégé program, a vital small business development program.

It should also be noted that this bill passed the House unanimously during the 116th Congress.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to once again support this legislation. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 408, the Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021. This legislation will help the department better improve its contracting with small and disadvantaged firms. In doing so, the department will become stronger and more diverse.

I urge all my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 408. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, formally authorizing the Department of Homeland Security’s mentor-protégé program will ensure the continued success of this important small business program.

John Crosby, the famous conductor, once said, “A mentor is a brain to pick, an ear to listen, and a push in the right direction.”

DHS is to be commended for recognizing that there are small businesses with novel technologies that want to help keep America secure, but may lack experience in the Federal marketplace and need a mentor to give them a push in the right direction.

I thank the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. MCEACHIN) for introducing this bill to help grow partnerships between small businesses and DHS.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 408. I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 408, the “Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021,” which provides statutory authority for the mentor-protégé program of the Department of Homeland Security (DHS) under which a mentor firm enters into an agreement with a protégé firm to assist the latter to compete for prime contracts and subcontracts of DHS.

The Mentor-Protégé program is designed to motivate and encourage large business prime contractor firms to provide mutually beneficial developmental assistance to small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns.

The participating Mentor-Protégé Companies, program is also designed to:

1. Improve the performance of contracts and subcontracts.
2. Foster the establishment of long-term business relationships between large prime contractors and small business subcontractors.
3. Strengthen subcontracting opportunities and accomplishments through three incentives.

ELIGIBILITY FOR PARTICIPATION

All firms must be in good standing in the federal marketplace.

The program excludes firms that are on the Federal List of Debarred or Suspended Contractors.

A Mentor Firm is open to any large business firm that demonstrates the commitment and capability to assist in the development of small business protégés.

A Protégé Firm can partner with all small businesses that meet the definition of small business concern at FAR 19.001, based on their primary NAICS code, are eligible to be protégé firms.

This includes small business, veteran-owned small business, service-disabled veteran-owned small business, HUBZone small business, small disadvantaged business, and women-owned small business concerns.

Benefits for Mentors to participate in this program include for acquisitions that require for a subcontracting plan, mentors are eligible to receive credit in the source selection/evaluation criteria process for mentor-protégé participation.

Additionally, a post-award incentive for subcontracting plan credit is available by recognizing costs incurred by a mentor firm in providing assistance to a protégé firm and using this credit for purposes of determining whether the mentor firm attains a subcontracting plan participation goal applicable to the mentor firm under a Homeland Security contract.

The program benefits the Protégé by allowing them to receive technical, managerial, financial, or any other mutually agreed upon benefit from mentors including work that flows from a government or commercial contract through subcontracting or teaming arrangements. The assistance could result in significant small business development.

The benefits to the Department of Homeland Security is the opportunity to move from the traditional large business prime contractor/small business subcontractor model to a mentor-protégé relationship model based on mutual agreement, trust, and meaningful business development.

Additionally, mentor-protégé arrangements may provide the Department of Homeland Security with greater assurance that a protégé subcontractor will be able to perform under a contract than a similarly situated non-protégé subcontractor.

Further, protégé firms gain opportunities to seek and perform government and commercial contracts through the guidance and support of mentor firms that may not have been available to them without the mentor-protégé program.

This type of program is working in the Department of Defense with great success. It is time to formalize the work of the mentor-protégé program with DHS.

I ask that my colleagues join me in voting for H.R. 408.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 408.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

CBRN INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING ACT OF 2021

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules

and pass the bill (H.R. 397) to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 397

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 “CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Subtitle A of title II of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121 et seq.) is amended by inserting after section 210G the following new section:

“SEC. 210H. CHEMICAL, BIOLOGICAL, RADIOLOGICAL, AND NUCLEAR INTELLIGENCE AND INFORMATION SHARING.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—The Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security shall—

“(1) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of terrorist actors, their claims, and their plans to conduct attacks involving chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials against the United States, including critical infrastructure;

“(2) support homeland security-focused intelligence analysis of global infectious disease, public health, food, agricultural, and veterinary issues;

“(3) support homeland security-focused risk analysis and risk assessments of the homeland security hazards described in paragraphs (1) and (2), including the transportation of chemical, biological, nuclear, and radiological materials, by providing relevant quantitative and nonquantitative threat information;

“(4) leverage existing and emerging homeland security intelligence capabilities and structures to enhance early detection, prevention, protection, response, and recovery efforts with respect to a chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear attack;

“(5) share information and provide tailored analytical support on such threats to State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, and other Federal agencies, as well as relevant national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders, as appropriate; and

“(6) perform other responsibilities, as assigned by the Secretary.

“(b) COORDINATION.—Where appropriate, the Office of Intelligence and Analysis shall coordinate with other relevant Department components, including the Countering Weapons of Mass Destruction Office and the National Biosurveillance Integration Center, agencies within the intelligence community, including the National Counter Proliferation Center, and other Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities, including officials from high-threat urban areas, State and major urban area fusion centers, and local public health departments, as appropriate, and enable such entities to provide recommendations on optimal information sharing mechanisms, including expeditious sharing of classified information, and on how

such entities can provide information to the Department.

“(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

“(1) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term ‘intelligence community’ has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

“(2) NATIONAL BIOSECURITY AND BIODEFENSE STAKEHOLDERS.—The term ‘national biosecurity and biodefense stakeholders’ means officials from Federal, State, local, Tribal, and territorial authorities and individuals from the private sector who are involved in efforts to prevent, protect against, respond to, and recover from a biological attack or other phenomena that may have serious health consequences for the United States, including infectious disease outbreaks.”.

(b) CLERICAL AMENDMENT.—The table of contents in section 1(b) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 is amended by inserting after the item relating to section 201E the following new item:

“Sec. 210H. Chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing.”.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and annually thereafter for each of the following four years, the Secretary of Homeland Security shall report to the appropriate congressional committees on the following:

(A) The intelligence and information sharing activities under section 210H of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (as added by subsection (a) of this section) and of all relevant entities within the Department of Homeland Security to counter the threat from attacks using chemical, biological, radiological, or nuclear materials.

(B) The Department’s activities in accordance with relevant intelligence strategies.

(2) ASSESSMENT OF IMPLEMENTATION.—The reports required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(A) An assessment of the progress of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security in implementing such section 210F.

(B) A description of the methods established to carry out such assessment.

(3) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate and any committee of the House of Representatives or the Senate having legislative jurisdiction under the rules of the House of Representatives or Senate, respectively, over the matter concerned.

SEC. 3. DISSEMINATION OF INFORMATION ANALYZED BY THE DEPARTMENT TO STATE, LOCAL, TRIBAL, TERRITORIAL, AND PRIVATE ENTITIES WITH RESPONSIBILITIES RELATING TO HOMELAND SECURITY.

Paragraph (6) of section 201(d) of the Homeland Security Act of 2002 (6 U.S.C. 121(d)) is amended by striking “and to agencies of State” and all that follows through the period at the end and inserting “to State, local, tribal, territorial, and private entities with such responsibilities, and, as appropriate, to the public, in order to assist in preventing, deterring, or responding to acts of terrorism against the United States.”.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

□ 1500

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Is there objection to the request of the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES)?

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

I rise in support of H.R. 397, the Chemical, Biological, Radiological, and Nuclear Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021.

This past year, we have witnessed a global pandemic dominate nearly every aspect of American life and claim the lives of over half a million people. As it tore through our communities, it also brought into stark focus hard truths about inequities in our healthcare system, the reliability of our PPE pipeline, the need for better information sharing between the Federal Government and State, local, and private-sector partners.

The legislation before us seeks to promote timely sharing of intelligence about chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear threats, or CBRN threats. It does so by specifically directing the Department of Homeland Security to analyze CBRN-related terrorist threats and share threat information with Federal, State, and local partners.

In the event of an attack of this nature, situational awareness at all levels of government is key. Better situational awareness is also important to help New York City and other DHS grant recipients more efficiently target their grant dollars to address threats.

Earlier versions of this bill overwhelmingly passed in the House in the last three Congresses, and I urge my colleagues to support the measure once again.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in support of H.R. 397, the CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021.

We all know that terrorist groups have long sought to develop the capability to attack our Nation with chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials. H.R. 397 would address this threat by requiring the Office of Intelligence and Analysis, within the Department of Homeland Security, to support the homeland security-focused analysis of terrorist capabilities related to chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear materials, as well as threats to the homeland from global infectious diseases.

To improve coordination with local law enforcement, H.R. 397 requires the Office of Intelligence and Analysis to

share threat information not only with Federal entities but also State, local, Tribal, and territorial agencies.

I commend my colleague, the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GIMENEZ), for introducing this important legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, effective prevention and response to terrorism and naturally occurring threats start with information-sharing.

At a time when threats are changing at such a rapid pace, H.R. 397 will help to facilitate information-sharing to better safeguard the homeland from bad actors.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 397, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 397, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

TRANSIT SECURITY GRANT PROGRAM FLEXIBILITY ACT

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 396) to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 396

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 “Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act”.

SEC. 2. ALLOWABLE USES OF FUNDS FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Subparagraph (A) of section 1406(b)(2) of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135(b)(2); Public Law 110-53) is amended by inserting “and associated backfill” after “security training”.

SEC. 3. PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE FOR PUBLIC TRANSPORTATION SECURITY ASSISTANCE GRANTS.

Section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53) is amended—

(1) by redesignating subsection (m) as subsection (n); and

(2) by inserting after subsection (1) the following new subsection:

“(m) PERIODS OF PERFORMANCE.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in paragraph (2), funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subsection (b) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 36 months.

“(2) EXCEPTION.—Funds provided pursuant to a grant awarded under this section for a use specified in subparagraph (M) or (N) of subsection (b)(1) shall remain available for use by a grant recipient for a period of not fewer than 55 months.”.

SEC. 4. GAO REVIEW.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a review of the public transportation security assistance grant program under section 1406 of the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 (6 U.S.C. 1135; Public Law 110-53).

(b) SCOPE.—The review required under paragraph (1) shall include the following:

(1) An assessment of the type of projects funded under the public transportation security grant program referred to in such paragraph.

(2) An assessment of the manner in which such projects address threats to public transportation infrastructure.

(3) An assessment of the impact, if any, of this Act (including the amendments made by this Act) on types of projects funded under the public transportation security assistance grant program.

(4) An assessment of the management and administration of public transportation security assistance grant program funds by grantees.

(5) Recommendations to improve the manner in which public transportation security assistance grant program funds address vulnerabilities in public transportation infrastructure.

(6) Recommendations to improve the management and administration of the public transportation security assistance grant program.

(c) REPORT.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act and again not later than five years after such date of enactment, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to the Committee on Homeland Security of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs of the Senate a report on the review required under this section.

SEC. 5. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) and the gentleman from New York (Mr. GARBARINO) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES).

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative

days to revise and extend their remarks and to include extraneous material on this measure.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in strong support of H.R. 396, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

This legislation, as introduced by my colleague from New York (Mr. GARBARINO), seeks to make common-sense adjustments to a DHS grant program that helps keep my constituents safe.

H.R. 396 requires technical changes to the Transit Security Grant Program to allow grant funding to be used for backfill staffing when associated with security training and give transit authorities more time to expend grant funds on security improvements for public transportation systems or infrastructure.

Our transit systems are absolutely vital to daily travel and commerce. According to U.S. Census figures, 56 percent of all New Yorkers rely on public transportation. In New York City, over 5 million people depend on our trains and subways on a normal workday.

Under the TSGP, New York City's Metropolitan Transit Authority received about \$20 million in fiscal year 2020 to protect riders from acts of terrorism and other targeted violence.

H.R. 396 is informed by feedback from grantees about challenges with the program over the years, and it is intended to ensure that the Transit Security Grant Program remains current, and that funding reaches maximum impact.

Enactment of this bill will help improve a key DHS grant program and better secure our Nation's transportation infrastructure.

Madam Speaker, I urge my House colleagues to support this legislation, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

I rise today in strong support of my bill, H.R. 396, the Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act.

Whether it is bus systems, ferries, or passenger rail, the Transit Security Grant Program provides needed funds to transit agencies to protect critical surface transportation infrastructure and the traveling public from acts of terrorism.

Unfortunately, we have already witnessed multiple attacks across the globe: the 2005 bombing of the Tube in London, the 2016 metro station bombing in Brussels, and the 2017 New York Port Authority bombing.

With billions of riders using surface transportation annually, and limited security screening, it should come as no surprise that surface transportation has been and continues to be a terror

target. As such, we must ensure that first responders and transit agencies have the tools needed to secure our transit system.

The Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act seeks to address challenges associated with fluctuating periods of performance by codifying the period of performance at 36 months for the majority of eligible projects and extending it to 55 months for vital large-scale capital security projects. This ensures that these major projects can be successfully completed in the allotted time.

Additionally, while Transit Security Grant Program awards can be used to provide personnel with essential security training, recipients of awards are not currently permitted to use the grant program funds to pay for backfilling personnel attending such training. This may, in turn, inhibit some transit agencies from sending their staff to vital security training.

H.R. 396 will permit Transit Security Grant Program funds to be used for this purpose, consistent with other Homeland Security grant programs.

Given the evolving threat landscape, and the continued calls from extremist groups for lone-wolf attacks to target crowded areas, it is imperative that the Transit Security Grant Program provide flexible solutions for grant recipients in order to protect these soft targets and keep everyday commuters safe.

I am proud to continue the great work of former New York Members Dan Donovan and Peter King in introducing this important piece of legislation.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to join me in supporting H.R. 396, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, New York City has the largest public transit system in the country, and New York City has the greatest vulnerability to terrorism.

I thank my colleague, Congressman GARBARINO, for his leadership in advocating for transportation systems across the country.

H.R. 396 is a measure that this country needs. I believe all of us in this body can agree that securing America's transit systems is critical to homeland security, and so too must we invest to make and keep it safe.

Enactment of H.R. 396 would bolster the security of what, in the view of my constituents, is about as critical as critical infrastructure gets and protect these systems and their riders against terrorist attacks and targeted violence.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 396, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. TORRES) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 396.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

RECESS

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 12(a) of rule I, the Chair declares the House in recess for a period of less than 15 minutes.

Accordingly (at 3 o'clock and 13 minutes p.m.), the House stood in recess.

□ 1527

AFTER RECESS

The recess having expired, the House was called to order by the Speaker pro tempore (Ms. TITUS) at 3 o'clock and 27 minutes p.m.

IMPROVING FHA SUPPORT FOR SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGES ACT OF 2021

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1532) to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1532

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 "Improving FHA Support for Small-Dollar Mortgages Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. REVIEW OF FHA SMALL-DOLLAR MORTGAGE PRACTICES.

(a) CONGRESSIONAL FINDINGS.—The Congress finds that—

(1) affordable homeownership opportunities are being hindered due to the lack of financing available for home purchases under \$70,000;

(2) according to the Urban Institute, small-dollar mortgage loan applications in 2017 were denied by lenders at double the rate of denial for large mortgage loans, and this difference in denial rates cannot be fully explained by differences in the applicants' credit profiles;

(3) according to data compiled by Attom Data solutions, small-dollar mortgage originations have decreased 38 percent since 2009, while there has been a 65-percent increase in origination of mortgages for more than \$150,000;

(4) the FHA's mission is to serve credit-worthy borrowers who are underserved and, according to the Urban Institute, the FHA serves 24 percent of the overall market, but only 19 percent of the small-dollar mortgage market; and

(5) the causes behind these variations are not fully understood, but merit study that could assist in furthering the Department of Housing and Urban Development's mission, including meeting the housing needs of borrowers the program is designed to serve and reducing barriers to homeownership, while

protecting the solvency of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund.

(b) REVIEW.—The Secretary of Housing and Urban Development shall conduct a review of its FHA single-family mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products to identify any barriers or impediments to supporting, facilitating, and making available mortgage insurance for mortgages having an original principal obligation of \$70,000 or less. Not later than the expiration of the 12-month period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary shall submit a report to the Congress describing the findings of such review and the actions that the Secretary will take, without adversely affecting the solvency of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, to remove such barriers and impediments to providing mortgage insurance for such mortgages.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, when it comes to promoting access to homeownership, much of the focus tends to be on how high housing prices are pricing many borrowers out of homeownership. But the landscape of homeownership opportunities is varied, and for many communities, the lack of access to traditional mortgage financing for small-dollar mortgages continues to be a major barrier.

Specifically, I am talking about mortgage financing for homes that are priced at \$70,000 or less. For many rural communities, and predominantly communities of color that are struggling to overcome the impacts of the foreclosure crisis, there are lower-value homes that would otherwise be ideal homeownership opportunities for first-time home buyers and working class families, but the lack of traditional mortgage financing options acts as a barrier to those opportunities.

□ 1530

Data from the Urban Institute shows that these small-dollar mortgages are denied by lenders at double the rate compared to larger loans, and this trend cannot be explained away by differences in the creditworthiness of applicants.

The bottom line is that lenders don't make as much money originating these smaller loans, so they are less likely to make loans on collateral that don't maximize their profit.

The Federal Housing Administration was designed to serve underserved markets and could be instrumental in promoting more small-dollar mortgage lending, but the data shows that the FHA is actually disproportionately failing to serve this market. So this bill would require the FHA to identify barriers to better serving the small-dollar mortgage market and to come up with an actionable plan to reduce those barriers.

This bill is desperately needed at a time when mortgage rates are at historic lows and home prices continue to rise. We must support affordable housing options for individual borrowers and their pursuit of the American Dream of homeownership.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1532.

Some studies suggest that small-dollar mortgages, which are amounts less than \$70,000, may be disproportionately denied compared to loans of higher amounts, even when credit profiles are similar.

If true, this could be an issue for families in my district and across the country who are trying to buy their first home, particularly in rural America.

H.R. 1532 is a bipartisan bill reported last Congress by the House Financial Services Committee that seeks to understand the challenges associated with small-dollar lending and why.

This bill asks the fundamental questions: Why not have the FHA review its own policies? Why shouldn't the FHA look to determine whether there are borrowers who would otherwise qualify for a mortgage and who are being left out of the market as an unintended consequence of the FHA's own regulations?

After all, the FHA's mission is to serve creditworthy borrowers who are underserved by the private market. This includes serving without bias as to how small a loan seeking insurance should be or might be.

Moreover, the FHA should understand whether its own regulations are hurting borrowers' access to credit and remedy the problem without affecting the health of the Mutual Mortgage Insurance Fund, which is at issue.

Madam Speaker, I would like to thank my colleagues on the subcommittee, in particular Mr. CLEAVER and Ranking Member STIVERS, for bringing this issue to our attention and for their work on this important bill.

H.R. 1532 is a positive example of Congress identifying a problem and working together in a bipartisan way to understand the causes and to identify a reasonable solution.

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I would inquire through the Chair if my colleague has any remaining speakers.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I do not.

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

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield such time as she may consume to the gentlewoman from Michigan (Ms. TLAIB).

Ms. TLAIB. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Improving FHA Support for Small-Dollar Mortgages Act.

Housing is one of the most vital ways families have a shot at financial stability and freedom. However, affordable homeownership opportunities are being denied to my residents because of the lack of financing available for home purchases under \$70,000.

In fact, small-dollar mortgage loan applications in 2017 were denied by lenders at double the rate of denial for large mortgage loans. This is largely because the banks have decided that small-dollar mortgages are riskier because they rely on bogus credit score thresholds and the loans don't give them enough profit.

This impacts majority Black and Brown communities, as well as low-income communities that are unbanked and underbanked.

Madam Speaker, in my district alone, 68,000—or nearly 50 percent—of our owner-occupied homes are valued under \$70,000. Think about that for a second. Almost half of the homes in my district stand little chance of getting financing from a bank.

My bill directs the Department of Housing to report on barriers to making small-dollar mortgage insurance available for mortgages under \$70,000. It also requires HUD to report on policies, practices, and actions that will be taken to remove such barriers, to making available mortgage insurance for mortgages of \$70,000 or less.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to please vote in support of my bill to ensure that every family has access to homeownership.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative TLAIB for her work on this important bill, as we work to improve access to affordable homeownership. This bill is an important step that will help us better understand and break down the barriers to obtaining traditional mortgage financing for small-dollar mortgages.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1532.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

FAIR DEBT COLLECTION PRACTICES FOR SERVICEMEMBERS ACT

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1491) to amend the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1491

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 "Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act".

SEC. 2. ENHANCED PROTECTION AGAINST DEBT COLLECTOR HARASSMENT OF SERVICEMEMBERS.

(a) COMMUNICATION IN CONNECTION WITH DEBT COLLECTION.—Section 805 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692c) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(e) COMMUNICATIONS CONCERNING SERVICE-MEMBER DEBTS.—

"(1) DEFINITION.—In this subsection, the term 'covered member' means—

"(A) a covered member or a dependent as defined in section 987(i) of title 10, United States Code; and

"(B)(i) an individual who was separated, discharged, or released from duty described in such section 987(i)(1), but only during the 365-day period beginning on the date of separation, discharge, or release; or

"(ii) a person, with respect to an individual described in clause (i), described in subparagraph (A), (D), (E), or (I) of section 1072(2) of title 10, United States Code.

"(2) PROHIBITIONS.—A debt collector may not, in connection with the collection of any debt of a covered member—

"(A) threaten to have the covered member reduced in rank;

"(B) threaten to have the covered member's security clearance revoked; or

"(C) threaten to have the covered member prosecuted under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice)."

(b) UNFAIR PRACTICES.—Section 808 of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (15 U.S.C. 1692f) is amended by adding at the end the following:

"(9) The representation to any covered member (as defined under section 805(e)(1)) that failure to cooperate with a debt collector will result in—

"(A) a reduction in rank of the covered member;

"(B) a revocation of the covered member's security clearance; or

"(C) prosecution under chapter 47 of title 10, United States Code (the Uniform Code of Military Justice)."

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

The Comptroller General of the United States shall conduct a study and submit a report to Congress on the impact of this Act on—

(1) the timely delivery of information to a covered member (as defined in section 805(e) of the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act, as added by this Act);

(2) military readiness; and

(3) national security, including the extent to which covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncollected debt.

SEC. 4. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on this legislation.

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative DEAN for her leadership on this important bill, which will provide much-needed relief and protection for our servicemembers.

Two out of every five servicemembers' complaints submitted to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau are about predatory debt collection practices. Some examples of what servicemembers reported experiencing include inappropriate threats of punishment under the Uniform Code of Military Justice, threats to the rank and security clearance of the servicemember, and even reports of debt collectors inappropriately contacting the commanding officer of the debt holder.

It is a disgrace that people serving in the military are being threatened and intimidated. The impact of these abusive collection practices is severe. Servicemembers have reported increased stress and hardship because of predatory debt collectors.

These unfair and unnecessary practices against people who are putting their lives on the line for this country must end, which is why the National Military Family Association; the National Consumer Law Center; and the former CFPB Assistant Director for Servicemember Affairs, retired Army Colonel Paul Kantwill, all support this bill.

I am happy to say that Democrats and Republicans agree that Congress should put a halt to these abusive practices, and this bill does just that. Congresswoman DEAN's work across the

aisle and with the House Armed Services Committee last Congress resulted in a House floor vote of 355-0.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to unanimously support this bill again so we can better protect our servicemembers, who do so much to protect us.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1491, the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.

I thank Representative DEAN for offering this legislation.

Madam Speaker, our servicemembers put their lives on the line for us every day. To that end, we must ensure they are adequately protected from abuse or harassment related to outstanding debt. I am pleased that we were able to work in a bipartisan fashion to meet this goal.

H.R. 1491 prohibits debt collectors from using threats against a servicemember's rank or security clearance, or threats of prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice. Not only are such practices unfair, they also create the risk of harm to military readiness.

Last Congress, during the committee markup of H.R. 1491, Republicans expressed concerns that there were too many unanswered questions about how this bill could impact military readiness. The gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), who has had a distinguished career in our military, offered an amendment, which directs the Comptroller General of the United States to conduct a study on the impact this bill has on readiness with servicemembers regarding debts in collection, as well as military readiness and national security. This commonsense approach ensures that Congress understands and is able to account for the connection between national security and the protection of servicemembers from unfair practices.

Madam Speaker, I thank the Democrat majority for accepting this amendment, and I am glad that it continues to be included in this bill we are considering today. This makes this a far more lasting bill, I believe, and more impactful on the people that the author and this Congress want to ensure are taken care of, and those are the folks who serve and protect us each and every day.

As a reminder, this bill passed the House unanimously in March of last year.

All Americans deserve to be treated with dignity and respect when faced with repaying a debt. This is especially true for our servicemembers, who fight for our freedoms every day.

Madam Speaker, this bill contains important safeguards. I urge my colleagues to vote "yes," and I reserve the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentlewoman

from Pennsylvania (Ms. DEAN), who is also the sponsor of this legislation.

Ms. DEAN. Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman for yielding to me. I also thank the ranking member and the committee in its entirety for working on this bill together. It is a sign of bipartisanship, one that I can be proud of and we can all be proud of.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1491, the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.

Every day, we are reminded of the significant sacrifices our troops make to protect us. As Members of Congress, I believe we have a responsibility to protect those who protect us.

The Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act works to live up to this responsibility by addressing abusive debt collection practices specifically targeting servicemembers.

According to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau, approximately 40 percent of complaints filed by servicemembers concern debt collection, as compared to only 26 percent by nonservicemembers. These debt collection practices are manipulative and have negative career implications for soldiers, like contacting their superior officers or threatening them with rank reductions.

Unfortunately, these practices do not stop with the servicemembers. Debt collectors also target military spouses, unfairly burdening our military families who have sacrificed so much.

These tactics are egregious and must stop. Our servicemen and -women make extraordinary sacrifices on our behalf. The last thing they need is harassment from debt collectors who take advantage of their service, which is why I am pleased to rise in support of the bill today.

□ 1545

Specifically, my bill amends the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act and prohibits a debt collector from communicating with a servicemember's chain of command or a dependent for the purpose of threatening to have their rank reduced or threatening to revoke their security clearance.

This legislation will help ensure that our military families are not unnecessarily targeted and shield them from bad practices from debt collectors. We recognize our servicemembers' spirit of service, and we must do our part to be of service to them.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members, as they did last Congress, to support the Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act.

Mr. MCHENRY. Madam Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, in closing, I yield myself the balance of my time.

Madam Speaker, I commend Congresswoman DEAN for her excellent work on H.R. 1491 to help ensure our servicemembers are not threatened or harassed by unscrupulous debt collectors.

Madam Speaker, I urge all Members to support our servicemembers by voting "yes" on H.R. 1491, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Madam Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1491, the "Fair Debt Collection for Servicemembers Act," which addresses abusive debt collection practices affecting members of the military by amending the Fair Debt Collection Practices Act (FDCPA) by adding servicemember-specific provisions to Section 805 (covering prohibited communications in connection with debt collection) and 808 (defining unfair practices that constitute a violation of the Act).

H.R. 1491 specifically prohibits debt collectors from making threats of rank reduction, revocation of security clearance or prosecution under the Uniform Code of Military Justice.

Further, the bill requires the Government Accountability Office to report the impact of this act on military readiness and national security, including the extent covered members with security clearances would be impacted by uncollected debt.

While all Americans are covered by laws barring debt collectors from overly aggressive or deceptive tactics, military members and their families face particular financial challenges requiring extra protections: in service to their country, they relocate frequently, deploy overseas and are a prime target for scammers.

Military members are also more vulnerable to debt collectors in some instances, and debt collectors have taken advantage of this vulnerability by targeting members of the Armed Services through calling their superior officers, threatening reduction in rank and even courts-martial.

This past year has seen a rise in aggressive debt collections due to the impact of COVID-19, according to the Consumer Financial Protection Bureau ("CFPB").

According to the CFPB, in the past year credit and consumer reporting complaints accounted for more than 58 percent of complaints received by the CFPB, followed by debt collection (15 percent), credit card (7 percent), checking or savings (6 percent), and mortgage complaints (5 percent).

Nearly 40 percent of complaints filed by servicemembers with the CFPB concern debt collection—as compared to only 26 percent by non-servicemembers.

This pandemic has been among the most disruptive long-term events we will see in our lifetimes, and it is not surprising that the shockwaves it sent across the planet were felt deeply in the consumer financial marketplace.

Our servicemen and servicewomen make extraordinary sacrifices on our behalf, and they should not be forced to confront aggressive and manipulative debt collectors who capitalize on the strains required of them in the course of their duties.

It is critical for the United States Congress to stand with the women and men who have served our country and remove the unethical methods debt collectors use to prey upon our servicemembers.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting H.R. 1491, and address these abusive debt collection practices; the patriots serving our country deserve no less.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts

(Ms. PRESSLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1491.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

HOUSING FINANCIAL LITERACY ACT OF 2021

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1395) to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1395

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 "Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. DISCOUNT ON MORTGAGE INSURANCE PREMIUM PAYMENTS FOR FIRST-TIME HOMEBUYERS WHO COMPLETE FINANCIAL LITERACY HOUSING COUNSELING PROGRAMS.

The second sentence of subparagraph (A) of section 203(c)(2) of the National Housing Act (12 U.S.C. 1709(c)(2)(A)) is amended—

(1) by inserting before the comma the following: "and such program is completed before the mortgagor has signed an application for a mortgage to be insured under this title or a sales agreement"; and

(2) by striking "not exceed 2.75 percent of the amount of the original insured principal obligation of the mortgage" and inserting "be 25 basis points lower than the premium payment amount established by the Secretary under the first sentence of this subparagraph".

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise to support H.R. 1395, the Housing Financial Literacy Act, a bipartisan bill authored by

Representative BEATTY who is the chairwoman of the Subcommittee on Diversity and Inclusion. The bill is also cosponsored by Representative STIVERS.

This bill would incentivize prospective home buyers to undergo housing counseling by offering a discount on FHA-backed mortgages for doing so. Research has consistently demonstrated that loans made to borrowers who have received pre-purchase counseling perform better than loans made to comparable borrowers who did not receive pre-purchase counseling on their mortgage.

When borrowers are able to stay current on their mortgage payments, lenders save money too. A 2013 study by Freddie Mac found that when 90-day delinquencies were lowered by 29 percent, lenders saved an average of \$1,000 per loan. So this bill would not only benefit consumers during an environment of historically low mortgage rates, it would also help further improve the financial health of the FHA.

Madam Speaker, I thank Representative BEATTY for her leadership on this commonsense, data-driven bill. I urge my colleagues to vote “yes” on H.R. 1395, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I want to thank the gentlewoman from Ohio (Mrs. BEATTY) for all of her hard work on H.R. 1395, the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021.

The Federal Housing Administration, FHA, currently provides government-backed mortgage insurance to more than \$1.3 trillion in loans. FHA insurance allows a wide array of borrowers to qualify for mortgages. This includes many low- and moderate-income families who might not otherwise have access to credit through traditional underwriting.

In fiscal year 2020, the FHA insured over 800,000 forward mortgage purchase loans, with more than 83 percent going to first-time home buyers. Given the large population of first-time home buyers using FHA, it makes sense to encourage those individuals to seek out ways to strengthen their financial knowledge and better prepare them for the challenges of homeownership.

Right now, current law states that FHA has the ability to provide first-time homeowners with a discount on their FHA upfront premiums. However, the homeowner must complete an approved homeownership financial counseling course.

Yet, the statute is drafted in such a way that the provision only applies in particular circumstances. This includes when FHA upfront premiums exceed 2.75 percent. Since FHA upfront premiums are currently set at 1.75 percent, the rate has not been exceeded in a decade. Thus, FHA does not currently provide an upfront premium discount to first-time home buyers who complete a financial counseling course.

H.R. 1395 would amend current law to require FHA to provide a one-quarter percent upfront premium discount, from the prevailing rate, in order to help those first-time home buyers get financial literacy and then get the discount. This equates to about \$625 of savings off the current premium structure on a \$250,000 mortgage. This is not an insignificant amount.

Given the nature of this, I think it is great to have a financial benefit for people understanding financial consequences. I think there are many other areas in our government that would benefit from this type of thinking.

The hope is that by making such a discount mandatory, more first-time home buyers will seek out financial literacy counseling which, in turn, will produce better outcomes for a traditionally at-risk group of home buyers.

The bottom line is that FHA is a valuable tool to help expand the universe of mortgage credit in our housing system. We ought to be doing all that we can to ensure that we are using our limited public resources to encourage all borrowers to be well-prepared for the commitments of homeownership through financial counseling or through other effective means of creating more stable and reliable borrowers.

So I think this is a very good bill thoughtfully done by Mrs. BEATTY, and it is bipartisan, coming out of committee last Congress.

Madam Speaker, I have no more speakers. I urge its adoption, I ask my colleagues to vote “yes,” and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself the remainder of my time.

Madam Speaker, I thank the gentlewoman from Ohio for pushing this bill forward.

This bill incentivizes financial literacy that will help avoid delinquencies and lower the upfront cost of homeownership for so many.

Madam Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I yield back the balance of my time.

Ms. JOHNSON of Texas. Madam Speaker, for many generations, the idea of the American Dream has been homeownership. Yet the goal for many Americans of owning the place they call home is more distant than ever before. It doesn't just require savings and a good credit score anymore—but also a strong financial plan to ensure that you can hold on to it for the years to follow.

That is why I am proud today to support H.R. 1395, the Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021. This bill, introduced by my good friend and chair of the Congressional Black Caucus, Congresswoman Joyce Beatty of Ohio, provides a financial incentive for first-time homebuyers who choose to take a financial literacy course by providing a discount on mortgage insurance through the Federal Housing Administration (FHA).

This bill would greatly benefit first-time homebuyers by not just saving them money during the homebuying process, but also pro-

viding them the tools needed to build a strong financial plan. I urge all my colleagues to support this legislation and hope the Senate will swiftly pass this bill so that first-time homebuyers are able to benefit from this opportunity as soon as possible.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1395.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

NATIONAL SENIOR INVESTOR INITIATIVE ACT OF 2021

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1565) to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1565

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 “National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2021” or the “Senior Security Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.

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

“(k) SENIOR INVESTOR TASKFORCE.—

“(1) ESTABLISHMENT.—There is established within the Commission the Senior Investor Taskforce (in this subsection referred to as the ‘Taskforce’).

“(2) DIRECTOR OF THE TASKFORCE.—The head of the Taskforce shall be the Director, who shall—

“(A) report directly to the Chairman; and

“(B) be appointed by the Chairman, in consultation with the Commission, from among individuals—

“(i) currently employed by the Commission or from outside of the Commission; and

“(ii) having experience in advocating for the interests of senior investors.

“(3) STAFFING.—The Chairman shall ensure that—

“(A) the Taskforce is staffed sufficiently to carry out fully the requirements of this subsection; and

“(B) such staff shall include individuals from the Division of Enforcement, Office of Compliance Inspections and Examinations, and Office of Investor Education and Advocacy.

“(4) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF TASKFORCE.—All members of the Taskforce appointed under paragraph (2) or (3) shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

“(5) MINIMIZING DUPLICATION OF EFFORTS.—In organizing and staffing the Taskforce, the Chairman shall take such actions as may be

necessary to minimize the duplication of efforts within the divisions and offices described under paragraph (3)(B) and any other divisions, offices, or taskforces of the Commission.

“(6) FUNCTIONS OF THE TASKFORCE.—The Taskforce shall—

“(A) identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

“(B) identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes in the regulations of the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

“(C) coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission, other taskforces that may be established within the Commission, self-regulatory organizations, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council; and

“(D) consult, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and other Federal agencies.

“(7) REPORT.—The Taskforce, in coordination, as appropriate, with the Office of the Investor Advocate and self-regulatory organizations, and in consultation, as appropriate, with State securities and law enforcement authorities, State insurance regulators, and Federal agencies, shall issue a report every 2 years to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs and the Special Committee on Aging of the Senate and the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives, the first of which shall not be issued until after the report described in section 3 of the National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2021 has been issued and considered by the Taskforce, containing—

“(A) appropriate statistical information and full and substantive analysis;

“(B) a summary of recent trends and innovations that have impacted the investment landscape for senior investors;

“(C) a summary of regulatory initiatives that have concentrated on senior investors and industry practices related to senior investors;

“(D) key observations, best practices, and areas needing improvement, involving senior investors identified during examinations, enforcement actions, and investor education outreach;

“(E) a summary of the most serious issues encountered by senior investors, including issues involving financial products and services;

“(F) an analysis with regard to existing policies and procedures of brokers, dealers, investment advisers, and other market participants related to senior investors and senior investor-related topics and whether these policies and procedures need to be further developed or refined;

“(G) recommendations for such changes to the regulations, guidance, and orders of the Commission and self-regulatory organizations and such legislative actions as may be appropriate to resolve problems encountered by senior investors; and

“(H) any other information, as determined appropriate by the Director of the Taskforce.

“(8) REQUEST FOR REPORTS.—The Taskforce shall make any report issued under paragraph (7) available to a Member of Congress who requests such a report.

“(9) SUNSET.—The Taskforce shall terminate after the end of the 10-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this subsection.

“(10) SENIOR INVESTOR DEFINED.—For purposes of this subsection, the term ‘senior investor’ means an investor over the age of 65.

“(11) USE OF EXISTING FUNDS.—The Commission shall use existing funds to carry out this subsection.”.

SEC. 3. GAO STUDY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 2 years after the date of enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit to Congress and the Senior Investor Taskforce the results of a study of financial exploitation of senior citizens.

(b) CONTENTS.—The study required under subsection (a) shall include information with respect to—

(1) economic costs of the financial exploitation of senior citizens—

(A) associated with losses by victims that were incurred as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(B) incurred by State and Federal agencies, law enforcement and investigatory agencies, public benefit programs, public health programs, and other public programs as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens;

(C) incurred by the private sector as a result of the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(D) any other relevant costs that—

(i) result from the financial exploitation of senior citizens; and

(ii) the Comptroller General determines are necessary and appropriate to include in order to provide Congress and the public with a full and accurate understanding of the economic costs resulting from the financial exploitation of senior citizens in the United States;

(2) frequency of senior financial exploitation and correlated or contributing factors—

(A) information about percentage of senior citizens financially exploited each year; and

(B) information about factors contributing to increased risk of exploitation, including such factors as race, social isolation, income, net worth, religion, region, occupation, education, home-ownership, illness, and loss of spouse; and

(3) policy responses and reporting of senior financial exploitation—

(A) the degree to which financial exploitation of senior citizens unreported to authorities;

(B) the reasons that financial exploitation may be unreported to authorities;

(C) to the extent that suspected elder financial exploitation is currently being reported—

(i) information regarding which Federal, State, and local agencies are receiving reports, including adult protective services, law enforcement, industry, regulators, and professional licensing boards;

(ii) information regarding what information is being collected by such agencies; and

(iii) information regarding the actions that are taken by such agencies upon receipt of the report and any limits on the agencies’ ability to prevent exploitation, such as jurisdictional limits, a lack of expertise, resource challenges, or limiting criteria with regard to the types of victims they are permitted to serve;

(D) an analysis of gaps that may exist in empowering Federal, State, and local agencies to prevent senior exploitation or respond effectively to suspected senior financial exploitation; and

(E) an analysis of the legal hurdles that prevent Federal, State, and local agencies from effectively partnering with each other and private professionals to effectively respond to senior financial exploitation.

(c) SENIOR CITIZEN DEFINED.—For purposes of this section, the term ‘senior citizen’ means an individual over the age of 65.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentlewoman from

Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentlewoman from Massachusetts.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act of 2021, which would help protect America’s senior investors who can be disproportionately vulnerable to investment-related frauds.

In 2017 alone, State securities regulators conducted nearly 4,709 investigations, leading to more than 2,100 enforcement actions, including 255 criminal prosecutions. These actions have resulted in approximately \$486 million in restitution for harmed investors, nearly \$79 million in fines and/or penalties, and 1,985 years in incarceration or probation being ordered.

The National Council on Aging estimated that elder financial abuse and fraud costs older Americans from \$2.9 billion to \$36.5 billion annually. Moreover, in a February bulletin, the FINRA, the NASAA, and the SEC’s Office of Investor Education and Advocacy noted that COVID-19’s unprecedented quarantines and social isolation may leave senior investors even more susceptible to financial fraud than ever before.

This bill would establish a Senior Investor Task Force within the U.S. Securities and Exchange Commission. In coordination and consultation with State securities administrators, self-regulatory organizations, Federal law enforcement agencies, and others, the task force would be charged with identifying issues related to investors who are older than 65 years of age. The bill would also require biennial task force reports and require the GAO to complete a study on senior financial exploitation.

I strongly support the safety of America’s senior investors and their right to enjoy the retirement funds that they have worked so hard to earn. I also support regulators and law enforcement in holding fraudsters who prey upon the elderly accountable.

It is for all these reasons I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting the Senior Security Act of 2021.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act.

I would like to thank my colleagues, Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH of Indiana and Mr. GOTTHEIMER of New Jersey for their work on this important piece of bipartisan legislation that will strengthen current efforts to protect senior investors.

Madam Speaker, American capital markets provide every mom-and-pop investor with the opportunity to realize the American Dream. Our capital markets allow individuals and families to grow their nest egg for retirement, their children to have an opportunity for college tuition, or to save and purchase a home.

Moreover, as Americans age, they are an important part of the success and vibrancy of the U.S. capital markets. In fact, Americans over the age of 50 already account for roughly 77 percent of financial assets in the United States. To that end, fraud and exploitation of any kind in our capital markets threatens the integrity of our markets and harm investors seeking to build their nest eggs.

It is especially problematic when the fraud targets senior investors. Protecting senior investors and preventing such predatory behavior within our financial markets is a goal that we all share, regardless of party. This bill will support the Securities and Exchange Commission's current efforts to protect against increasing instances of financial exploitation against senior investors.

H.R. 1565 creates an interdivisional task force at the Securities and Exchange Commission to examine and identify challenges faced by senior investors.

We already have some data on senior citizens who are targeted by financial exploitation. These statistics are alarming. Older Americans lose up to \$36 billion each year to financial scams and abuse. One in five seniors have reported being victims of exploitation, and only a small number of cases of financial abuse are even reported. The rates of exploitation are only rising. In fact, The New England Journal of Medicine calls elder financial exploitation a virtual epidemic.

There are concerns that the COVID-19 pandemic has only exacerbated the trend. In addition to Congress, many States are already taking action, and that is a good thing.

This bipartisan bill is an important step for the Federal Government. The bill requires the SEC to identify current issues and challenges facing senior investors and to make policy recommendations for addressing these issues harming senior investors.

Madam Speaker, protecting senior investors and safeguarding the integrity of our financial markets are objectives I believe we can get behind. In our duty to protect our constituents, especially those most vulnerable who contribute so much to society, we need to be helpful and supportive. For that reason, I urge my colleagues to support this bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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Ms. PRESSLEY. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. GOTTHEIMER), who is a sponsor of this legislation.

Mr. GOTTHEIMER. Madam Speaker, I am honored to rise in support of the bipartisan Senior Security Act, which will help protect vulnerable seniors from hucksters and scam artists. I would like to thank my good friend, Congressman TREY HOLLINGSWORTH, for working with me on this crucial bill, and also Senators SUSAN COLLINS and KYRSTEN SINEMA, who have introduced companion legislation in the Senate.

Since I took office, I have been committed to helping seniors save their hard-earned money for retirement, helping them cut their taxes and afford prescription drugs, and protecting Social Security and Medicare so that, at the end of the day, they can afford to stay in northern New Jersey and enjoy their lives with their friends, children, and grandchildren.

Unfortunately, far too many of our seniors have had their hard-earned retirement savings stolen right out from under them when a scammer calls or shows up at their door. There are millions of seniors across the country who have been the victims of financial scams and abuses. It is appalling; it is offensive; and it is unacceptable.

Older Americans lose approximately \$3 billion each year to financial scams and abuse. Approximately 7 million Americans have been victims of exploitation, and that is only what is being reported. Only 1 in every 24 cases of elder abuse actually gets reported.

IRS impersonation calls and fraudulent tech support calls are among the most widely used and costly scams targeting older Americans. In fact, more than 2.5 million Americans have been targeted by scammers impersonating IRS officials, costing more than 15,800 taxpayers at least \$80 million since 2013. More than 3 million Americans are victims of tech support scams or scammers pretending to be with a reputable tech company who persuade seniors to provide personal bank account information.

My mom was even a victim of one of these scammers. Someone claiming to be an IRS agent threatened her. I remember she called me and thought that I had messed up her tax return, but it was a scammer.

COVID scammers are also now targeting older Americans with promises of quicker access to vaccines or pandemic relief benefits, preying on those whose only wish is to hug their family members again.

We are here today to do something about it by voting on the Senior Security Act to help protect American seniors from scams. My bipartisan bill creates a new senior investor task force at the SEC to fight back against these hucksters scamming our seniors. The task force will also identify challenges that senior investors encounter and areas within the SEC or self-regulatory

organizations where senior investors would benefit from changes.

The task force will also coordinate with other Federal regulators, State regulators, and law enforcement to ensure that we are doing as much as we can at every level of government to stop this. Our legislation will also make antifraud enforcement even more common by giving law enforcement stronger tools and information via the new senior investor task force.

The task force will submit regular reports to Congress, outlining trends that are impacting senior investors. This will be a cop on the beat to make sure we keep up with the changes in financial scams and to be ahead of new issues as they arise.

Our seniors have given us so much. We should always have their backs and help protect them from predators who want to take advantage of them during their twilight years. I urge my colleagues to support this commonsense, bipartisan bill.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield such time as he may consume to the gentleman from Indiana (Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH), the coauthor of this bill.

Mr. HOLLINGSWORTH. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of this legislation.

As I travel the district and travel across the State, I constantly get asked two very important questions: What is Washington doing for Americans? And, what is happening on a bipartisan basis in Washington, D.C.?

When I travel back home this Thursday, I will be able to answer that this legislation checks both of those boxes. I am deeply proud to work with my good friend, Mr. GOTTHEIMER, on this important legislation to keep our senior citizens safe from fraudsters and hucksters who are constantly pursuing them.

Much has been spoken already in this Chamber about the "what" of this bill, but I wanted to emphasize the "why."

It is for the 74-year-old Hoosier walking through our Jeffersonville office who has lost her life savings because she thought she was interfacing with the IRS.

It is for the senior couple walking through our Franklin doors thinking they were helping get their grandson out of jail but, instead, were dealing with a huckster.

It is for all the senior citizens across this country who are constantly getting the calls, constantly getting the phishing emails, constantly seeing text messages trying to get at their life savings. Those are the ones who report it. As Mr. GOTTHEIMER said, only 1 in 24 of these crimes gets reported.

This is something we have to end. We have to get one step ahead. I can't wait to travel back home to the Hoosier State later this week and tell them this Chamber advanced a piece of legislation to protect our senior citizens, to protect Americans, and to get us one step ahead of those fraudsters.

Ms. PRESSLEY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Texas (Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ).

Mr. VICENTE GONZALEZ of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1565, the Senior Security Act.

This commonsense legislation will provide much-needed information for policymakers and regulators to fine-tune protections for elderly investors.

In south Texas, where we share the deep value of respect for our elders, we say society is judged on how we care for our parents, our grandparents, and beyond. We all know how closely financial health is tied to overall well-being. I am proud to support this legislation that equips us to identify better ways to protect our senior citizens and for them to protect themselves from fraud and scammers.

This Senior Security Act aims to protect our seniors and prevent these attacks from happening. This legislation will build upon the Senior Safe Act by creating an interdivisional task force at the Securities and Exchange Commission to examine and identify challenges facing seniors and investors.

Within 2 years of enactment, the U.S. Government Accountability Office must study and report the economic costs of the financial exploitation of our seniors. Let's be clear: Scammers will stop at nothing to take advantage of our seniors, and it is up to us in this House to stop them.

Mr. Speaker, I encourage my congressional colleagues to join me in supporting this important piece of legislation, and I urge its passage.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1565 will help our financial regulators better protect our Nation's seniors and the retirement funds they spent their entire lives building. I urge all of my colleagues to stand up for senior investors and vote "yes" on H.R. 1865.

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

Ms. JACKSON LEE. Mr. Speaker, I rise in strong support of H.R. 1565, the "Senior Security Act," which will help stop financial predators from scamming seniors out of their savings by creating a federal Senior Investor Taskforce within the Securities and Exchange Commission (SEC) to strengthen protections and safeguards for senior investors.

This legislation will establish the Senior Investor Taskforce at the SEC, which will be charged with identifying problems senior investors encounter, including financial exploitation and cognitive decline, as well as identifying regulatory changes that could help senior investors.

The established Senior Investor Taskforce will be required to:

Identify challenges that senior investors encounter, including problems associated with financial exploitation and cognitive decline;

Identify areas in which senior investors would benefit from changes at the Commission or the rules of self-regulatory organizations;

Coordinate, as appropriate, with other offices within the Commission and other

taskforces that may be established within the Commission, self-regulatory organizations, and the Elder Justice Coordinating Council;

Consult, as appropriate, with state securities and law enforcement authorities, state insurance regulators, and other federal agencies; and

Submit a biennial report to Congress.

Every day, and far too often, vulnerable seniors in Texas and across the country fall victim to financial scammers.

Seniors have worked their entire lives with the promise of a safe and secure retirement, but unfortunately criminals are taking advantage of uncertainty surrounding the pandemic and working overtime to target them.

No senior should ever have to worry that picking up the phone could mean being scammed out of thousands of dollars, but unfortunately, for too many members of our communities, that is exactly what is happening.

Retirement accounts are not the only damage these scams target—they damage the independence and trust of a vulnerable community.

During the COVID-19 pandemic, we have seen instances of fraud rise in unprecedented numbers, as scammers attempt to take advantage of senior citizens and deprive them of their hard-earned savings.

Bad actors preying on older Americans is, unfortunately, nothing new, but in the midst of a global pandemic impacting Americans' lives and livelihoods, cracking down on those scams must be a priority.

One such scam was thwarted by Houston police and the Harris County District Attorney, who made an arrest in February in an international cyber-scam that bilked unsuspecting, mostly elderly victims out of more than \$1 million.

According to a report from the Senate Special Committee on Aging released last Congress, older Americans lose approximately \$3 billion each year to financial scams and abuse.

Although 1 in 20 seniors in the U.S. is a target of fraud schemes, the National Adult Protective Services Association has found that only 1 in 44 seniors report that they are victims of a fraud scheme.

Fraudulent IRS impersonation and tech support calls are among the common and costly scams, and according to the Treasury Inspector General for Tax Administration, more than 2.5 million Americans have been targeted by scammers impersonating IRS officials.

Since 2013, more than 15,800 taxpayers have lost at least \$80 million from this type of scam alone.

Furthermore, Microsoft estimates that more than 3 million Americans are victims of technical support scams, where scammers pretend to be with a reputable tech company and persuade seniors to provide personal and bank information.

Although we do know a few statistics, the lack of good, recent data on senior financial exploitation is a problem that H.R. 1565 would significantly aid in resolving.

For this reason, I urge all members to join me in voting to pass H.R. 1565, the Fraud and Scam Reduction Act, which is critical to protecting seniors' hard-earned savings and stopping fraudulent schemes before it is too late.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. TAKANO). The question is on the motion offered by the gentlewoman from

Massachusetts (Ms. PRESSLEY) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1565.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

PROMOTING TRANSPARENT STANDARDS FOR CORPORATE INSIDERS ACT

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1528) to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5-1 trading plans, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1528

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 "Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act".

SEC. 2. SEC STUDY.

(a) STUDY.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Securities and Exchange Commission shall carry out a study of whether Rule 10b5-1 (17 CFR 240.10b5-1) should be amended to—

(A) limit the ability of issuers and issuer insiders to adopt a plan described under paragraph (c)(1)(i)(A)(3) of Rule 10b5-1 ("trading plan") to a time when the issuer or issuer insider is permitted to buy or sell securities during issuer-adopted trading windows;

(B) limit the ability of issuers and issuer insiders to adopt multiple trading plans;

(C) establish a mandatory delay between the adoption of a trading plan and the execution of the first trade pursuant to such a plan and, if so and depending on the Commission's findings with respect to subparagraph (A)—

(i) whether any such delay should be the same for trading plans adopted during an issuer-adopted trading window as opposed to outside of such a window; and

(ii) whether any exceptions to such a delay are appropriate;

(D) limit the frequency that issuers and issuer insiders may modify or cancel trading plans;

(E) require issuers and issuer insiders to file with the Commission trading plan adoptions, amendments, terminations and transactions; or

(F) require boards of issuers that have adopted a trading plan to—

(i) adopt policies covering trading plan practices;

(ii) periodically monitor trading plan transactions; and

(iii) ensure that issuer policies discuss trading plan use in the context of guidelines or requirements on equity hedging, holding, and ownership.

(2) ADDITIONAL CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out the study required under paragraph (1), the Commission shall consider—

(A) how any such amendments may clarify and enhance existing prohibitions against insider trading;

(B) the impact any such amendments may have on the ability of issuers to attract persons to become an issuer insider;

(C) the impact any such amendments may have on capital formation;

(D) the impact any such amendments may have on an issuer's willingness to operate as a public company; and

(E) any other consideration that the Commission considers necessary and appropriate for the protection of investors.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than the end of the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the Commission shall issue a report to the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives and the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate containing all findings and determinations made in carrying out the study required under section (a).

(c) RULEMAKING.—After the completion of the study required under subsection (a), the Commission shall, subject to public notice and comment, revise Rule 10b5-1 consistent with the results of such study.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, H.R. 1528, the Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act, is a bill introduced by Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for several Congresses to strengthen confidence in our capital markets by ensuring everyone plays by the same rules.

This bill passed with overwhelming bipartisan support in the last Congress and is designed to promote strong enforcement against financial fraud by ensuring corporate executives cannot indirectly or illegally trade on material nonpublic information they know about their companies.

The Securities and Exchange Commission, the SEC, prohibits insider trading as a fraud that hurts investors as well as the integrity of our capital markets. Those accused of illegal insider trading sometimes defend themselves using the SEC's rule for trading plans and claim any trades that occurred while they possessed inside information were made pursuant to a preapproved trading plan. But the rule for trading plans has several shortcomings and loopholes that may allow corporate insiders to get away with insider trading.

This bill would require the SEC to study whether to amend its rule for trading plans to limit the ability of corporate insiders to, for example, adopt multiple overlapping plans or change their plans to indirectly take advantage of inside information. This bill would then require the SEC to report to Congress and revise its rules based on the results of the study.

This bill is needed to protect confidence in our markets. For example, last year, we saw numerous pharmaceutical executives profiting from conveniently timed announcements regarding the companies' progress toward a COVID-19 vaccine.

For instance, shortly after Moderna announced positive results for its vaccine, the pharmaceutical company's CEO altered his trading plan to increase the number of shares sold through the plan. Shortly thereafter, he sold shares for millions of dollars in profit.

Similarly, on the same day Pfizer announced positive data regarding its vaccine, Pfizer's CEO sold more than \$5 million worth of shares as part of his trading plan.

This bill is supported by investor and consumer advocates, public pension funds, and State securities regulators, including the California Public Employees' Retirement System, the Council of Institutional Investors, and the North American Securities Administrators Association.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote "yes" on this bipartisan bill, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1528, the Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act.

As my colleague stated, this is bipartisan legislation that strikes an important balance. It protects retail investors in the market from illicit insider trading while, at the same time, ensuring that the rules governing insider trading are clear, fair, and not prohibitively onerous.

I thank my colleagues for supporting this bill last Congress, and I think they should do so this Congress. Thwarting and punishing fraud and abuse within our financial markets is not a Republican or Democrat issue. This includes illegal insider trading. When a corporate insider gains an unfair advantage by violating current insider trading rules and trading on material nonpublic information, that illegal behavior harms Main Street investors.

□ 1615

It harms those who diligently put their hard-earned money aside for retirement.

It is important to note that not every corporate insider or executive trading in the stock of his or her company is a bad actor. The Securities and Exchange Commission's current rules and guidelines allow corporate insiders to pur-

chase and sell securities of their company without fear of insider trading liability. Most corporate insiders carefully follow this rule called rule 10b5-1, and they follow it to the letter of the law.

Moreover, this rule ensures that insider trading guidelines are fair tools when properly followed. These rules are designed to allow corporate insiders to liquidate their stock options when needed, such as when trying to pay for a child's education, buying a house, or paying medical expenses.

Furthermore, allowing insiders to purchase and sell securities at a predetermined time on a scheduled basis under rule 10b5-1 ensures market stability.

This rule also decreases the risk of volatility by preventing fraudulent behavior, such as the so-called pump-and-dump schemes that some have tried to take advantage of.

This bill requires the SEC to study whether this current rule should be amended. In studying the rule, the SEC is directed to consider how any amendments would clarify and enhance existing prohibitions against insider trading. Importantly, though, the bill also requires the SEC to weigh any potential amendments against the important benefits of this rule.

The SEC is also directed to consider what effects amending the rules would have on attracting qualified candidates for open insider positions, such as capital formation, and a company's willingness to go public.

I am pleased that this is a bipartisan legislation that thoughtfully balances the meaningful goals of protecting everyday investors with facilitating economic growth opportunities, and I think that ensures that we keep a healthy capital markets function here in the United States.

Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers on my side, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

In closing, I urge my colleagues to vote "yes" on H.R. 1528, which will help prevent corporate insiders from using inside information to rig the game in their favor at the expense of investors and the integrity of our markets.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1528.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1996) to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill. The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1996

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS; PURPOSE.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021” or the “SAFE Banking Act of 2021”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents; purpose.
- Sec. 2. Safe harbor for depository institutions.
- Sec. 3. Protections for ancillary businesses.
- Sec. 4. Protections under Federal law.
- Sec. 5. Rules of construction.
- Sec. 6. Requirements for filing suspicious activity reports.
- Sec. 7. Guidance and examination procedures.
- Sec. 8. Annual diversity and inclusion report.
- Sec. 9. GAO study on diversity and inclusion.
- Sec. 10. GAO study on effectiveness of certain reports on finding certain persons.
- Sec. 11. Application of this Act with respect to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers.
- Sec. 12. Banking services for hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers.
- Sec. 13. Requirements for deposit account termination requests and orders.
- Sec. 14. Definitions.
- Sec. 15. Discretionary surplus funds.

(c) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this Act is to increase public safety by ensuring access to financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers and reducing the amount of cash at such businesses.

SEC. 2. SAFE HARBOR FOR DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—A Federal banking regulator may not—

(1) terminate or limit the deposit insurance or share insurance of a depository institution under the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1811 et seq.), the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1751 et seq.), or take any other adverse action against a depository institution under section 8 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1818) solely because the depository institution provides or has provided financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(2) prohibit, penalize, or otherwise discourage a depository institution from providing financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider or to a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian Tribe that exercises jurisdiction over cannabis-related legitimate businesses;

(3) recommend, incentivize, or encourage a depository institution not to offer financial

services to an account holder, or to downgrade or cancel the financial services offered to an account holder solely because—

(A) the account holder is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or is an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(B) the account holder later becomes an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(C) the depository institution was not aware that the account holder is an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(4) take any adverse or corrective supervisory action on a loan made to—

(A) a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the business is a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider;

(B) an employee, owner, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the employee, owner, or operator is employed by, owns, or operates a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable; or

(C) an owner or operator of real estate or equipment that is leased to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, solely because the owner or operator of the real estate or equipment leased the equipment or real estate to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, as applicable; or

(5) prohibit or penalize a depository institution (or entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution) for, or otherwise discourage a depository institution (or entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution) from, engaging in a financial service for a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider.

(b) **SAFE HARBOR APPLICABLE TO DE NOVO INSTITUTIONS.**—Subsection (a) shall apply to an institution applying for a depository institution charter to the same extent as such subsection applies to a depository institution.

SEC. 3. PROTECTIONS FOR ANCILLARY BUSINESSES.

For the purposes of sections 1956 and 1957 of title 18, United States Code, and all other provisions of Federal law, the proceeds from a transaction involving activities of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider shall not be considered proceeds from an unlawful activity solely because—

(1) the transaction involves proceeds from a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider; or

(2) the transaction involves proceeds from—

(A) cannabis-related activities described in section 14(4)(B) conducted by a cannabis-related legitimate business; or

(B) activities described in section 14(13)(A) conducted by a service provider.

SEC. 4. PROTECTIONS UNDER FEDERAL LAW.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to providing a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business (where such cannabis-related legitimate business operates within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable) or a service provider (wherever located), a depository institution, entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution, or insurer that provides

a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, and the officers, directors, and employees of that depository institution, entity, or insurer may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for providing such a financial service; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from such a financial service.

(b) **PROTECTIONS FOR FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AND FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS.**—With respect to providing a service to a depository institution that provides a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business (where such cannabis-related legitimate business operates within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable) or service provider (wherever located), a Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank, and the officers, directors, and employees of the Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank, may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for providing such a service; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from such a service.

(c) **PROTECTIONS FOR INSURERS.**—With respect to engaging in the business of insurance within a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to a law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country, as applicable, an insurer that engages in the business of insurance with a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider or who otherwise engages with a person in a transaction permissible under State law related to cannabis, and the officers, directors, and employees of that insurer may not be held liable pursuant to any Federal law or regulation—

(1) solely for engaging in the business of insurance; or

(2) for further investing any income derived from the business of insurance.

(d) **FORFEITURE.**—

(1) **DEPOSITORY INSTITUTIONS.**—A depository institution that has a legal interest in the collateral for a loan or another financial service provided to an owner, employee, or operator of a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or to an owner or operator of real estate or equipment that is leased or sold to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing such loan or other financial service.

(2) **FEDERAL RESERVE BANKS AND FEDERAL HOME LOAN BANKS.**—A Federal reserve bank or Federal Home Loan Bank that has a legal interest in the collateral for a loan or another financial service provided to a depository institution that provides a financial service to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, or to an owner or operator of real estate or equipment that is leased or sold to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, shall not be subject to criminal, civil, or administrative forfeiture of that legal interest pursuant to any Federal law for providing such loan or other financial service.

SEC. 5. RULES OF CONSTRUCTION.

(a) **NO REQUIREMENT TO PROVIDE FINANCIAL SERVICES.**—Nothing in this Act shall require

a depository institution, entity performing a financial service for or in association with a depository institution, or insurer to provide financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business, service provider, or any other business.

(b) **GENERAL EXAMINATION, SUPERVISORY, AND ENFORCEMENT AUTHORITY.**—Nothing in this Act may be construed in any way as limiting or otherwise restricting the general examination, supervisory, and enforcement authority of the Federal banking regulators, provided that the basis for any supervisory or enforcement action is not the provision of financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider.

(c) **BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.**—Nothing in this Act shall interfere with the regulation of the business of insurance in accordance with the Act of March 9, 1945 (59 Stat. 33, chapter 20; 15 U.S.C. 1011 et seq.) (commonly known as the “McCarran-Ferguson Act”) and the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5301 et seq.).

SEC. 6. REQUIREMENTS FOR FILING SUSPICIOUS ACTIVITY REPORTS.

Section 5318(g) of title 31, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(5) **REQUIREMENTS FOR CANNABIS-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES.**—

“(A) **IN GENERAL.**—With respect to a financial institution or any director, officer, employee, or agent of a financial institution that reports a suspicious transaction pursuant to this subsection, if the reason for the report relates to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider, the report shall comply with appropriate guidance issued by the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network. Not later than the end of the 180-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this paragraph, the Secretary shall update the February 14, 2014, guidance titled ‘BSA Expectations Regarding Marijuana-Related Businesses’ (FIN-2014-G001) to ensure that the guidance is consistent with the purpose and intent of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021 and does not significantly inhibit the provision of financial services to a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider in a State, political subdivision of a State, or Indian country that has allowed the cultivation, production, manufacture, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, sale, or purchase of cannabis pursuant to law or regulation of such State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over the Indian country.

“(B) **DEFINITIONS.**—For purposes of this paragraph:

“(i) **CANNABIS.**—The term ‘cannabis’ has the meaning given the term ‘marihuana’ in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

“(ii) **CANNABIS-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.**—The term ‘cannabis-related legitimate business’ has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

“(iii) **INDIAN COUNTRY.**—The term ‘Indian country’ has the meaning given that term in section 1151 of title 18.

“(iv) **INDIAN TRIBE.**—The term ‘Indian Tribe’ has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a).

“(v) **FINANCIAL SERVICE.**—The term ‘financial service’ has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

“(vi) **SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term ‘service provider’ has the meaning given that term in section 14 of the SAFE Banking Act of 2021.

“(vii) **STATE.**—The term ‘State’ means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico,

and any territory or possession of the United States.”.

SEC. 7. GUIDANCE AND EXAMINATION PROCEDURES.

Not later than 180 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Financial Institutions Examination Council shall develop uniform guidance and examination procedures for depository institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers.

SEC. 8. ANNUAL DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION REPORT.

The Federal banking regulators shall issue an annual report to Congress containing—

(1) information and data on the availability of access to financial services for minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related legitimate businesses; and

(2) any regulatory or legislative recommendations for expanding access to financial services for minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related legitimate businesses.

SEC. 9. GAO STUDY ON DIVERSITY AND INCLUSION.

(a) **STUDY.**—The Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study on the barriers to marketplace entry, including in the licensing process, and the access to financial services for potential and existing minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related legitimate businesses.

(b) **REPORT.**—The Comptroller General shall issue a report to the Congress—

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

(2) containing any regulatory or legislative recommendations for removing barriers to marketplace entry, including in the licensing process, and expanding access to financial services for potential and existing minority-owned and women-owned cannabis-related legitimate businesses.

SEC. 10. GAO STUDY ON EFFECTIVENESS OF CERTAIN REPORTS ON FINDING CERTAIN REPORTS.

Not later than 2 years after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall carry out a study on the effectiveness of reports on suspicious transactions filed pursuant to section 5318(g) of title 31, United States Code, at finding individuals or organizations suspected or known to be engaged with transnational criminal organizations and whether any such engagement exists in a State, political subdivision, or Indian Tribe that has jurisdiction over Indian country that allows the cultivation, production, manufacture, sale, transportation, display, dispensing, distribution, or purchase of cannabis. The study shall examine reports on suspicious transactions as follows:

(1) During the period of 2014 until the date of the enactment of this Act, reports relating to marijuana-related businesses.

(2) During the 1-year period after date of the enactment of this Act, reports relating to cannabis-related legitimate businesses.

SEC. 11. APPLICATION OF THIS ACT WITH RESPECT TO HEMP-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND HEMP-RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The provisions of this Act (other than sections 6 and 10) shall apply with respect to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers in the same manner as such provisions apply with respect to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers.

(b) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CBD.**—The term “CBD” means cannabidiol.

(2) **HEMP.**—The term “hemp” has the meaning given that term under section 297A

of the Agricultural Marketing Act of 1946 (7 U.S.C. 1639o).

(3) **HEMP-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.**—The term “hemp-related legitimate business” means a manufacturer, producer, or any person or company that—

(A) engages in any activity described in subparagraph (B) in conformity with the Agricultural Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) and the regulations issued to implement such Act by the Department of Agriculture, where applicable, and the law of a State or political subdivision thereof or Indian Tribe; and

(B) participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling hemp, hemp-derived CBD products, and other hemp-derived cannabinoid products, including cultivating, producing, extracting, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing hemp, hemp-derived CBD products, and other hemp-derived cannabinoid products.

(4) **HEMP-RELATED SERVICE PROVIDER.**—The term “hemp-related service provider”—

(A) means a business, organization, or other person that—

(i) sells goods or services to a hemp-related legitimate business; or

(ii) provides any business services, including the sale or lease of real or any other property, legal or other licensed services, or any other ancillary service, relating to hemp, hemp-derived CBD products, or other hemp-derived cannabinoid products; and

(B) does not include a business, organization, or other person that participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling hemp, hemp-derived CBD products, or other hemp-derived cannabinoid products, including cultivating, producing, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing hemp, hemp-derived CBD products, and other hemp-derived cannabinoid products.

SEC. 12. BANKING SERVICES FOR HEMP-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESSES AND HEMP-RELATED SERVICE PROVIDERS.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—The Congress finds that—

(1) the Agriculture Improvement Act of 2018 (Public Law 115-334) legalized hemp by removing it from the definition of “marihuana” under the Controlled Substances Act;

(2) despite the legalization of hemp, some hemp businesses (including producers, manufacturers, and retailers) continue to have difficulty gaining access to banking products and services; and

(3) businesses involved in the sale of hemp-derived CBD products are particularly affected, due to confusion about the legal status of such products.

(b) **FEDERAL BANKING REGULATORS’ HEMP BANKING GUIDANCE.**—Not later than the end of the 90-day period beginning on the date of enactment of this Act, the Federal banking regulators shall update their existing guidance, as applicable, regarding the provision of financial services to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers to address—

(1) compliance with financial institutions’ existing obligations under Federal laws and implementing regulations determined relevant by the Federal banking regulators, including subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code, and its implementing regulation in conformity with this Act and the Department of Agriculture’s rules regulating domestic hemp production (7 C.F.R. 990); and

(2) best practices for financial institutions to follow when providing financial services, including processing payments, to hemp-related legitimate businesses and hemp-related service providers.

(c) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) FINANCIAL INSTITUTION.—The term “financial institution” —

(A) has the meaning given that term under section 5312(a) of title 31, United States Code; and

(B) includes a bank holding company, as defined under section 2(a) of the Bank Holding Company Act of 1956 (12 U.S.C. 1841(a)).

(2) HEMP TERMS.—The terms “CBD”, “hemp”, “hemp-related legitimate business”, and “hemp-related service provider” have the meaning given those terms, respectively, under section 11.

SEC. 13. REQUIREMENTS FOR DEPOSIT ACCOUNT TERMINATION REQUESTS AND ORDERS.

(a) TERMINATION REQUESTS OR ORDERS MUST BE VALID.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—An appropriate Federal banking agency may not formally or informally request or order a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or group of customer accounts or to otherwise restrict or discourage a depository institution from entering into or maintaining a banking relationship with a specific customer or group of customers unless—

(A) the agency has a valid reason for such request or order; and

(B) such reason is not based solely on reputation risk.

(2) TREATMENT OF NATIONAL SECURITY THREATS.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency believes a specific customer or group of customers is, or is acting as a conduit for, an entity which—

(A) poses a threat to national security;

(B) is involved in terrorist financing;

(C) is an agency of the Government of Iran, North Korea, Syria, or any country listed from time to time on the State Sponsors of Terrorism list;

(D) is located in, or is subject to the jurisdiction of, any country specified in subparagraph (C); or

(E) does business with any entity described in subparagraph (C) or (D), unless the appropriate Federal banking agency determines that the customer or group of customers has used due diligence to avoid doing business with any entity described in subparagraph (C) or (D),

such belief shall satisfy the requirement under paragraph (1).

(b) NOTICE REQUIREMENT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency formally or informally requests or orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or a group of customer accounts, the agency shall—

(A) provide such request or order to the institution in writing; and

(B) accompany such request or order with a written justification for why such termination is needed, including any specific laws or regulations the agency believes are being violated by the customer or group of customers, if any.

(2) JUSTIFICATION REQUIREMENT.—A justification described under paragraph (1)(B) may not be based solely on the reputation risk to the depository institution.

(c) CUSTOMER NOTICE.—

(1) NOTICE REQUIRED.—Except as provided under paragraph (2) or as otherwise prohibited from being disclosed by law, if an appropriate Federal banking agency orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or a group of customer accounts, the depository institution shall inform the specific customer or group of customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination described under subsection (b).

(2) NOTICE PROHIBITED.—

(A) NOTICE PROHIBITED IN CASES OF NATIONAL SECURITY.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency requests or orders a depository institution to terminate a specific customer account or a group of customer accounts based on a belief that the customer or customers pose a threat to national security, or are otherwise described under subsection (a)(2), neither the depository institution nor the appropriate Federal banking agency may inform the customer or customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination.

(B) NOTICE PROHIBITED IN OTHER CASES.—If an appropriate Federal banking agency determines that the notice required under paragraph (1) may interfere with an authorized criminal investigation, neither the depository institution nor the appropriate Federal banking agency may inform the specific customer or group of customers of the justification for the customer’s account termination.

(d) REPORTING REQUIREMENT.—Each appropriate Federal banking agency shall issue an annual report to the Congress stating—

(1) the aggregate number of specific customer accounts that the agency requested or ordered a depository institution to terminate during the previous year; and

(2) the legal authority on which the agency relied in making such requests and orders and the frequency on which the agency relied on each such authority.

(e) DEFINITIONS.—For purposes of this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE FEDERAL BANKING AGENCY.—The term “appropriate Federal banking agency” means—

(A) the appropriate Federal banking agency, as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

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

(2) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “depository institution” means—

(A) a depository institution, as defined under section 3 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813); and

(B) an insured credit union.

SEC. 14. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) BUSINESS OF INSURANCE.—The term “business of insurance” has the meaning given such term in section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5481).

(2) CANNABIS.—The term “cannabis” has the meaning given the term “marihuana” in section 102 of the Controlled Substances Act (21 U.S.C. 802).

(3) CANNABIS PRODUCT.—The term “cannabis product” means any article which contains cannabis, including an article which is a concentrate, an edible, a tincture, a cannabis-infused product, or a topical.

(4) CANNABIS-RELATED LEGITIMATE BUSINESS.—The term “cannabis-related legitimate business” means a manufacturer, producer, or any person or company that—

(A) engages in any activity described in subparagraph (B) pursuant to a law established by a State or a political subdivision of a State, as determined by such State or political subdivision; and

(B) participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling cannabis or cannabis products, including cultivating, producing, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing cannabis or cannabis products.

(5) DEPOSITORY INSTITUTION.—The term “depository institution” means—

(A) a depository institution as defined in section 3(c) of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1813(c));

(B) a Federal credit union as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752); or

(C) a State credit union as defined in section 101 of the Federal Credit Union Act (12 U.S.C. 1752).

(6) FEDERAL BANKING REGULATOR.—The term “Federal banking regulator” means each of the Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, the Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, the Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, the Federal Housing Finance Agency, the Financial Crimes Enforcement Network, the Office of Foreign Asset Control, the Office of the Comptroller of the Currency, the National Credit Union Administration, the Department of the Treasury, or any Federal agency or department that regulates banking or financial services, as determined by the Secretary of the Treasury.

(7) FINANCIAL SERVICE.—The term “financial service” —

(A) means a financial product or service, as defined in section 1002 of the Dodd-Frank Wall Street Reform and Consumer Protection Act (12 U.S.C. 5481), regardless if the customer receiving the product or service is a consumer or commercial entity;

(B) means a financial product or service, or any combination of products and services, permitted to be provided by—

(i) a national bank or a financial subsidiary pursuant to the authority provided under—

(I) the provision designated “Seventh” of section 5136 of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 24); or

(II) section 5136A of the Revised Statutes of the United States (12 U.S.C. 24a); and

(ii) a Federal credit union, pursuant to the authority provided under the Federal Credit Union Act;

(C) includes the business of insurance;

(D) includes, whether performed directly or indirectly, the authorizing, processing, clearing, settling, billing, transferring for deposit, transmitting, delivering, instructing to be delivered, reconciling, collecting, or otherwise effectuating or facilitating of payments or funds, where such payments or funds are made or transferred by any means, including by the use of credit cards, debit cards, other payment cards, or other access devices, accounts, original or substitute checks, or electronic funds transfers;

(E) includes acting as a money transmitting business which directly or indirectly makes use of a depository institution in connection with effectuating or facilitating a payment for a cannabis-related legitimate business or service provider in compliance with section 5330 of title 31, United States Code, and any applicable State law; and

(F) includes acting as an armored car service for processing and depositing with a depository institution or a Federal reserve bank with respect to any monetary instruments (as defined under section 1956(c)(5) of title 18, United States Code.

(8) INDIAN COUNTRY.—The term “Indian country” has the meaning given that term in section 1151 of title 18.

(9) INDIAN TRIBE.—The term “Indian Tribe” has the meaning given that term in section 102 of the Federally Recognized Indian Tribe List Act of 1994 (25 U.S.C. 479a).

(10) INSURER.—The term “insurer” has the meaning given that term under section 313(r) of title 31, United States Code.

(11) MANUFACTURER.—The term “manufacturer” means a person who manufactures, compounds, converts, processes, prepares, or packages cannabis or cannabis products.

(12) PRODUCER.—The term “producer” means a person who plants, cultivates, harvests, or in any way facilitates the natural growth of cannabis.

(13) SERVICE PROVIDER.—The term “service provider”—

(A) means a business, organization, or other person that—

(i) sells goods or services to a cannabis-related legitimate business; or

(ii) provides any business services, including the sale or lease of real or any other property, legal or other licensed services, or any other ancillary service, relating to cannabis; and

(B) does not include a business, organization, or other person that participates in any business or organized activity that involves handling cannabis or cannabis products, including cultivating, producing, manufacturing, selling, transporting, displaying, dispensing, distributing, or purchasing cannabis or cannabis products.

(14) STATE.—The term “State” means each of the several States, the District of Columbia, the Commonwealth of Puerto Rico, and any territory or possession of the United States.

SEC. 15. DISCRETIONARY SURPLUS FUNDS.

Section 7(a)(3)(A) of the Federal Reserve Act (12 U.S.C. 289(a)(3)(A)) is amended by replacing the dollar figure by \$6,000,000.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr. MCHENRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. PERLMUTTER. 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 materials on H.R. 1996.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I am proud we are here today to pass this bill about public safety, accountability, and respecting States' rights. Forty-seven States, four U.S. territories, and the District of Columbia have spoken and legalized some form of recreational or medical cannabis, including CBD products. 318 million people live in those 47 States. That is 97.7 percent of the population of America.

However, because cannabis remains illegal under Federal law, the Controlled Substance Act, businesses in these States are forced to deal in cash; and the businesses, their employees, and ancillary businesses can't access the banking system.

The fact is that the people in States and localities across the country are voting to approve some level of cannabis use, and we need these cannabis businesses and employees to have access to checking accounts, payroll accounts, lines of credit, credit cards, and more. This will improve transparency and accountability and help law enforcement root out illegal transactions to prevent tax evasion, money laundering, and other white-collar crime.

Most importantly, this will reduce the risk of violent crime in our communities. These businesses and their employees become targets for crime, robbery, assault, and more by dealing in all cash, and this puts the employees and the store owners at risk.

Over the last year in Oregon alone, a string of more than 100 robberies and burglaries at cannabis businesses culminated in a murder when Michael Arthur, a dispensary employee, was shot to death during a robbery.

Just last week in Colorado, an innocent bystander was shot during an attempted break-in at a medical cannabis business. And in Colorado, we are always reminded of Travis Mason, the young father and Marine Corps vet, who was murdered while working as a security guard for a cannabis business.

We must do better for these employees, their families, and all our communities.

The SAFE Banking Act will create a safe harbor for financial institutions and their employees who choose to do business with a cannabis company. Section 3 of the bill is particularly important to not only cannabis businesses, but everyone who might do business with a cannabis-related company. This section would protect ancillary businesses, like real estate owners, accountants, electricians, and vendors, by clarifying the proceeds from legitimate cannabis businesses are not unlawful under Federal laws. This proceeds section is the key provision allowing all cannabis-related businesses and their service providers and landlords to access the banking system without fear of reprisal.

This bill now has 177 bipartisan cosponsors, and one-third of the Senate is cosponsoring the companion bill from Senators MERKLEY and DAINES.

Last Congress, the SAFE Banking Act passed the House 321–103, with the support of 91 Republicans. The broad base of support for this legislation generated a diverse group of cosponsors and endorsing organizations from banking, credit union, and insurance trade associations to labor unions, cannabis businesses and advocates, and State government leaders.

There are, obviously, many more marijuana issues we need to address working together, including additional research, tax issues, and criminal justice reforms. Passing this bill will show that Congress can work together in a bipartisan way to address outdated marijuana laws. I hope this bill is an icebreaker for the House to take up other reforms and finally remove the conflict between State and Federal laws.

In summary, even if you are opposed to the legalization of cannabis, you should support this bill. American voters have spoken and continue to speak, and the fact is that you can't put the genie back in the bottle. Prohibition is over. The SAFE Banking Act is focused solely on taking cash off the streets and making our communities safer,

and only Congress can take these steps to provide this certainty for businesses, employees, and financial institutions across the country.

Mr. Speaker, I thank Representatives VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS, DAVIDSON, JOYCE, CORREA, and BLUMENAUER for their partnership on this bill and their commitment to making our communities safer. I also thank Representatives LUETKEMEYER, BARR, and PORTER for their contributions to the text of this bill and their support. Finally, I thank Chairwoman MAXINE WATERS for her support over the years and for continuing to make this a priority.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to join me in voting “yes” on the SAFE Banking Act, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in opposition to H.R. 1996.

I want to begin by commending my colleague from Colorado, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for the way that he has approached this legislation. He is incorporating a lot of ideas from Members all across this Chamber and from across the country. He has doggedly pursued this legislation for many years, and I want to commend him for that.

I also want to thank my colleagues, Mr. STIVERS and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, for the way they have approached this bill. I think this is a testament to constructive criticism of a bill and it becoming better as a result of it.

Let me say, regardless of your position on this bill, I do think the fact remains that cannabis is a prohibited substance under schedule I of the Controlled Substances Act.

Let me further state that, by enacting this legislation, we are effectively kneecapping law enforcement in legalizing money laundering. These are concerns that I have, that still remain.

By effectively legalizing money laundering, we are inserting a new level of risk in our financial system. We are preventing our legal entities from doing their jobs. We are encouraging bad actors and placing our financial institutions at risk.

Rather than dealing with the issues of cannabis and the question of its Federal legalization, we are dealing with a component of the challenge, which is the banking of it, and it is a challenge. I think we are adding a new risk to our banking system and our anti-money laundering reforms that we passed just in January of this year. That seems counterintuitive to me.

For years, Congress has worked to reform our anti-money laundering laws. Now, in one fell swoop, we are undoing a lot of that hard work and we are going to make it easier for money launderers.

If you want to help the system, if you want to give financial institutions the certainty and security they want and need to do the job with the cannabis industry, where it is legalized in these

States, we should debate the merits of cannabis remaining a schedule I substance, not pass a bill that skirts around the substance of the issue.

This bill we are considering today is one of the biggest changes to U.S. drug policy, yet it was done with little debate this Congress. There has been a lot of debate overall in this Congress, far more than the Senate has even had, on the question of cannabis.

This bill, which is really the first step in legalizing cannabis at the Federal level, was reported out of the Financial Services Committee last Congress, and it is a committee that really has no jurisdiction over the Controlled Substances Act. We only had one hearing featuring one panel of witnesses. We haven't had a hearing this Congress to discuss changes over the last 2 years, let alone a markup to discuss any changes that might strengthen or impact the bill.

For example, late last year, Congress passed a sweeping bipartisan anti-money laundering piece of legislation. These reforms include prohibitions on the concealment of sources of assets in monetary transactions; a prohibition, I will add, that comes with a steep penalty of up to 10 years in prison and up to \$1 million in fines.

If we were doing our due diligence, we would have done a deeper discussion on how these new AML Act changes would impact banks working with cannabis industries as clients instead of me raising this issue at the eleventh hour on the floor, which is what I have got to resort to.

In addition to this concern, I believe I have voiced many other concerns, including our need to better comprehend and address the supervisory and regulatory issues that would result from enactment of H.R. 1996.

Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD a letter from Ranking Member LUETKEMEYER of the Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions and myself as ranking member of the full Committee on Financial Services.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
COMMITTEE ON FINANCIAL SERVICES,
Washington, DC, March 21, 2019.

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

Hon. GREGORY W. MEEKS,
Chairman, Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Financial Institutions, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND CHAIRMAN MEEKS: We write today to seek your agreement to delay consideration of H.R. 1595, the SAFE Act, currently scheduled to be marked up on March 26, 2019, until the Committee has a better understanding of the full range of consequences that enacting such legislation may trigger. As you know, marijuana is a schedule I controlled substance as defined in 21 U.S.C. §802. The impact that many state laws, which have legalized marijuana, have on the federal laws governing the manufacturing, use, and sale of marijuana, including proceeds, raise many questions and concerns. Any change to these statutes, or

those that impact them, has the potential to divide the Congress and the country. We must ensure that Congress has done its due diligence, including conducting thorough oversight and review, before moving such legislation.

The hearing at the Committee on Financial Services on February 13, 2019, made clear that we need to better comprehend and address the supervisory and regulatory issues that would result from enactment of H.R. 1595. Many outstanding questions remain, which include but are not limited to the following:

1. What changes to our banking laws are necessary to implement the SAFE Banking Act or other legislation creating a safe harbor for cannabis-related businesses?

2. How would individual agencies enforce Bank Secrecy Act (BSA) requirements following enactment of the SAFE Banking Act? What changes would be required of BSA requirements?

3. How would individual agencies enforce anti-money laundering (AML) regulations following enactment of the SAFE Banking Act? Would AML reforms be necessary?

4. How would individual agencies enforce Know Your Customer (KYC) rules following enactment of the SAFE Banking Act? What changes would be required of KYC rules?

5. How would individual agencies enforce Suspicious Activity Report (SAR) filing requirements and guidelines following passage of the SAFE Banking Act? What changes would be required of SAR filing requirements and guidelines to ensure illicit financial activities were not being financed?

6. How would individual agencies enforce Currency Transaction Report (CTR) filing requirements and guidelines following enactment of the SAFE Banking Act? What changes would be required of CTR filing requirements and guidelines?

7. In what ways are agencies working with state counterparts, including state banking and securities supervisors, under the existing regime? How would those cooperative relationships change with enactment of H.R. 1595?

8. Would H.R. 1595 require conforming changes to any of the statutes, rules, and requirements previously listed to ensure there are no unintended consequences, such as cartels and other bad actors gaining access to our financial system?

9. Would the safe harbor require any changes to the rules or processes governing federal deposit insurance systems?

10. What are the implications of H.R. 1595 on nonbank financial firms, including insurers and investment companies?

11. What are the implications of H.R. 1595 on third parties, including payment processors?

12. What are the implications of H.R. 1595 on individual and institutional investors of cannabis-related businesses?

13. What are the implications of H.R. 1595 on federal, state, and local law enforcement, including the Department of Justice and the Drug Enforcement Agency?

14. How are the proceeds from state licensed growers and distributors taxed under federal law? Relatedly, what conforming changes to our tax code are necessary?

15. What are the implications of H.R. 1595 on other products and services offered by financial institutions, including but not limited to mortgage products, deposit advance products or general commercial lending?

As Members of Congress, and the Committee of primary jurisdiction, we owe it to our constituents and to the public to fully

understand the implications of any legislation before supporting or opposing it. We urge you to hold H.R. 1595 and any related legislation until we have a full understanding of the consequences of this bill.

Sincerely,

PATRICK MCHENRY
Ranking Member.
BLAINE LUETKEMEYER,
Ranking Member.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, this letter raises a number of concerns, including:

What changes to our banking laws are necessary to implement the SAFE Banking Act, a number of questions that I have;

What agencies are going to be necessary for this working group to actually ensure that the letter of this law is adhered to by the executive branch, that they actually follow it as the writer of the legislation intends;

How the executive branch will interpret the "know your customer" rules enacted in the SAFE Banking Act, compared to what we enacted just 2 months ago, 3 months ago;

How we would deal with suspicious activity reporting requirements under the new guidelines of the SAFE Banking Act, compared to what we enacted at the end of last year;

How we deal with currency transaction reports under this law, compared to what we just passed; and

What are the implications on nonbank financial firms as well, such as insurers and investment companies.

Mr. Speaker, I think the author of the bill intends for insurers and investment companies and banks to have the same qualifications when they are handling money that has touched the cannabis industry. I think that is the intent.

□ 1630

Mr. Speaker, I think we need to understand whether or not the administration would follow that intent that the author has stated clearly in debates here on the House floor last Congress and this Congress and, furthermore, whether or not Federal, State, and local law enforcement will have a similar interpretation that the writer of this bill says is his intent, that Federal law enforcement should hear the voice of Congress and hear this step to legalization which is part of this bill.

I do not think it is the author of the bill's idea to get into sort of the broader conversation about legalization at the State level and what we should do at the Federal level in this bill. However, that is a part of it.

In March of 2019, the National Sheriffs' Association voiced concern with this bill, saying that it could easily be exploited. They echoed my concerns that "allowing banking access for a Schedule 1 drug gives money laundering access to international drug cartels, which are already using the cover of legalization."

Mr. Speaker, I include that letter in the RECORD.

NATIONAL SHERIFFS' ASSOCIATION,
March 19, 2019.

Hon. MAXINE WATERS,
Chairwoman, House of Representatives, Com-
mittee on Financial Services, Washington,
DC.

Hon. PATRICK MCHENRY,
Ranking Member, House of Representatives,
Committee on Financial Services, Wash-
ington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRWOMAN WATERS AND RANKING
MEMBER MCHENRY: On behalf of the National
Sheriffs' Association (NSA) and more than
3,080 sheriffs nationwide, I write to express
our deep concern and opposition to H.R. 1595,
The SAFE Banking Act. This bill creates
protections for depository institutions that
provide financial services to cannabis-re-
lated businesses and service providers for
such businesses.

H.R. 1595 will increase the legalization of
marijuana across the Nation, which we un-
derstand is an intended consequence of this
bill. Furthermore, allowing banking access
for a Schedule 1 drug gives money laundering
access to international drug cartels, which
are already using the cover of legalization.
This will inevitably open the door to other
criminal activity!

NSA is concerned with the welfare and
safety of citizens and works to preserve their
rights to live and work in communities
where drug abuse is not accepted and they
are not subjected to the adverse effects of
drug abuse. The dangers of illegal drugs, in-
cluding marijuana, and the threat to public
safety caused by their use in terms of high-
way safety, criminal activity, and domestic
violence are well-documented.

NSA believes that any legislation regard-
ing national legalization must engage the
nation's law enforcement agencies in order
to have a comprehensive discussion regard-
ing the potential implications this bill could
have on our communities. We urge The
House of Representatives to defeat this dan-
gerous bill.

Sincerely,

JONATHAN F. THOMPSON,
Executive Director and CEO.

Mr. MCHENRY. Furthermore, we see
cannabis-legal States like California,
Washington, and Colorado, as the sub-
ject of recent news reports that cartels
have found that it is easier to grow and
process marijuana in legal States like
Colorado and ship it throughout the
United States than it is to bring it
from Mexico or Cuba. I include that ar-
ticle in the RECORD, Mr. Speaker.

[From Global Power, May 29, 2018]

FOREIGN CARTELS EMBRACE HOME-GROWN
MARIJUANA IN POT-LEGAL STATES

(By Dennis Romero, Gabe Gutierrez, Andrew
Blankstein and Robert Powell)

LOS ANGELES.—General Jeff Sessions
called it “one of the largest residential for-
feiture actions in American history.”

In early April, local and federal authorities
descended upon 74 marijuana grow houses in
the Sacramento area they say were under-
written by Chinese organized crime. They
filed court paperwork to seize the properties,
worth millions of dollars.

Federal officials allege that legal recre-
ational marijuana states like California,
Colorado and Washington, where enforce-
ment of growing regulations is hit-or-miss,
have been providing cover for transnational
criminal organizations willing to invest big
money to buy or rent property to achieve
even bigger returns.

Chinese, Cuban and Mexican drug rings
have purchased or rented hundreds of homes
and use human trafficking to bring inexperi-

enced growers to the United States to tend
them, federal and local officials say.

The suspects are targeting states that have
already legalized marijuana “in an attempt
to shroud their operations in our legal en-
vironment here and then take the marijuana
outside of the state,” said Mike Hartman,
executive director of the Colorado Depart-
ment of Revenue, which regulates and li-
censes the cannabis industry. Authorities
say they’ve seen an increase in these “home
grows” since the launch of recreational pot
sales in Colorado.

While California and Washington have
mainly seen organized criminals from China
buying homes and converting them into
grow houses, Colorado has largely been grap-
pling with Cuban and Mexican-led cartels,
said Sheriff Bill Elder of the El Paso County
Sheriffs Office in Colorado.

“They have found that it’s easier to grow
and process marijuana in Colorado, ship it
throughout the United States, than it is to
bring it from Mexico or Cuba,” Elder said.

A ‘MASSIVE’ MARIJUANA NETWORK

In El Paso County, NBC News witnessed
firsthand the damage a commercial-scale
cannabis grow can do to a home otherwise
built for an average American family. Grow-
ers pose as legitimate renters, and by the
time authorities disrupt their operation,
homes have been gutted and trashed.

“We’ve fallen through floors,” U.S. Drug
Enforcement Agency Special Agent Randy
Ladd said. “The electrical damage, they
draw so much current that you’ll see, in
some places, the wires are fused inside of the
electrical box. And—a lot of people—they
don’t wanna pay the high electric bills. So
what they do is they take jackhammers and
pickaxes and they cut through the founda-
tion of the house, so that they could steal
the power.”

One of the biggest busts so far came last
June, when the Colorado attorney general’s
office announced that “a massive illegal
interstate marijuana distribution and cul-
tivation network stretching from Colorado
to Texas” had been dismantled. It was alleg-
edly Chinese-connected, Ladd said.

Authorities said the network was respon-
sible for securities fraud, millions of dollars
of laundered cash, 2,600 “illegally cul-
tivated” marijuana plants and 4,000 pounds
of harvested cannabis, according to the Colo-
rado attorney general’s statement.

The operation took place in 18 warehouses
and storage units and 33 homes, mostly in
the Denver area, authorities said. “These
seizures are believed to only scratch the sur-
face,” the office said.

Ladd alleged that some Chinese crews
cover immigrants’ costs of traveling to
America in exchange for work in the grow
houses. “It’s like indentured servitude,” he
said. “It is a form of human trafficking.”

The workers often fly from China to Bel-
gium, and from Belgium to Mexico, before
making asylum claims at the border and
then disappearing by the time they’re sched-
uled to tell their stories in court, Ladd said.
Often when grow houses are raided, immigra-
tion fugitives are discovered, he said.

The grow homes are usually purchased by
shell property management companies, Ladd
said. “These growers can hide in plain
sight,” he said.

HOW FOREIGN CARTELS OPERATE IN THE U.S.

The Sacramento-area raids, which also
struck Calaveras, Placer, San Joaquin, El
Dorado, Yuba and Amador counties, shed
some light on how many of the foreign rings
operate.

Northern California-based DEA Special
Agent Casey Rettig said suspects send cash
to the United States in \$9,999 increments,
just below the mandated reporting threshold,

and receive funds from China that fly under
that nation’s \$50,000 foreign spending limit.
They then purchase homes with the help of
cash lenders instead of traditional mortgage
firms.

Last fall, a scenario fitting that pattern
unfolded in Grays Harbor County, Wash-
ington, southwest of Seattle, as a drug task
force busted an alleged cultivation ring fund-
ed by organized crime in China.

More than 40 suspects were arrested and
\$80 million worth of cannabis was seized, the
Grays Harbor County Sheriff’s Office said.
“The majority of these homes were pur-
chased with cash, and information was devel-
oped that these purchases were conducted by
Chinese nationals involved in organized
crime,” according to a statement from the
Sheriff’s Office.

And just this month, search warrants were
served at 19 locations in the Puget Sound
area of Washington state, a federal official
who did not want her name used said. The
ring was allegedly run by three Chinese na-
tionals who produced thousands of pounds of
cannabis destined for greater New York, the
U.S. attorney’s office in Seattle alleges.

The suspects, who face drug conspiracy
charges, purchased homes with the help of
multiple wire transfers from China that in-
cluded dollar figures—\$2,000 to \$5,900—they
believed would fly under the radar, according
to a federal complaint.

Ultimately it was the houses’ exorbitant
electricity use—up to 38,477 kilowatt hours
in one day versus the American average of
just 30—that made them targets of a federal
investigation, according to the filing.

Even a single grow house can contain a
large marijuana operation. In April, police in
Pomona, California, an suburb in Los Angeles
County, announced they discovered a 23-
room grow house allegedly run by Chinese
nationals. Fifty-five-hundred marijuana
products, including 2,900 plants and nearly 21
pounds of cannabis, were seized, police said.

“The grow operation used advanced sys-
tems of lighting, air conditioning, fans, ex-
haust blowers and air-filtering systems to
control the climate inside the buildings and
the odor of marijuana,” according to a Po-
mona police statement.

Pomona police spokeswoman Aly Mejia
said a gun and \$6,900 in cash were also found.

The DEA’s Rettig, speaking from her base
in San Francisco, said the Chinese opera-
tions are “illegal under state law.” In Cali-
fornia, marijuana growers, producers and re-
tailers need state and local licenses. Cities
can opt out and ban such businesses alto-
gether.

Rettig said even with the Golden State’s
sky-high housing market—the median price
of a home is \$535,100, according listings site
Zillow—overseas criminals know that “mari-
juana can fetch three times as much out of
state.”

“There’s a great profit motive in it,” the
DEA’s Ladd said. “In Colorado, marijuana le-
galization has magnified the black market.
The standard price per pound here is \$2,000,
but they can get \$3,500 to \$4,500 by shipping
it back East. The profits are great there.”

Mr. MCHENRY. Furthermore, be-
cause of this patchwork at the State
level, I think you are seeing additional
concerns at the southern border right
now, and I will include for the RECORD
a letter that the former Border Patrol
chief submitted that in February alone
there was nearly \$14 million a day of
marijuana caught at the southern border.

Despite these many issues I still have
with the SAFE Banking Act, I do ap-
preciate the work that my colleagues

have put into this legislative effort, but considering that the larger issue of cannabis legalization has not yet been debated here on the House floor, I think it is premature for the Financial Services Committee to do the full work of this Congress on the question of cannabis legalization at the Federal level. I think that would be better left to the Judiciary Committee, with a wider debate here on the House floor, and I would encourage that wider debate.

Notwithstanding that, I would like to thank my colleagues for the hard work that they have put into this legislation. Even if I have concerns, I know that there is more than sufficient support to pass this under the suspension calendar, and that would not happen were it not for the good legislative work of my colleague and friend from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

I do believe that my colleague was quite intentional about the date that he wanted to actually have the vote here on the House floor. With that, for those of you who don't know, tomorrow is 4/20/21, 4/20 being the operative date.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina for his many compliments. I would just remind him, we are the Financial Services Committee. We have a certain amount of jurisdiction that deals with financial institutions and financial services, and that is what this bill is focused on, dealing with so much cash generated by this industry, whether we do anything or not, and to try to advance public safety in the process.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from New York (Ms. VELÁZQUEZ), the chair of the Small Business Committee, who had a lot to do with writing the Small Business piece of this.

Ms. VELÁZQUEZ. Mr. Speaker, I am a proud original cosponsor of H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act, and I rise in strong support.

I would also like to take this opportunity to recognize the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for his extraordinary leadership on this legislation.

When the pandemic first hit and stay-at-home orders went into place, many small cannabis businesses were deemed essential. Yet, just as States recognized these businesses as critical, Federal law still fails to provide them the same access to key financial services, like banking and insurance.

H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act, will address this problem, enabling them to grow and hire more workers. Failing to allow cannabis businesses to utilize financial products and services not only creates artificial barriers for these small businesses, it is also an issue of public safety, as these high-volume cash businesses are frequently the target of robberies and break-ins.

That is why the SAFE Banking Act is so important and why, as chair of the House Small Business Committee

and senior member of the Financial Services Committee, I am proud to stand by it since its first introduction.

I thank Mr. PERLMUTTER for his leadership. Let's pass this legislation once and for all.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. STIVERS), the subcommittee chair on Housing, Community Development, and Insurance.

Mr. STIVERS. Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Congressman PERLMUTTER for his hard work on this. I am an unlikely person to support this bill because I am opposed to recreational marijuana, but I came to this because a company that is just outside my district that sells nutrients now finds themselves in the situation where 25 percent of their profits come from selling to legal marijuana businesses, and they are being threatened, a Fortune 500 company, with losing their bank accounts.

We can't let that happen. We have got to make sure that we stand up for safety and stand up for common sense. That is what this bill does.

Three points about this bill. Number one, it encourages safety because money that is in a bank account can be frozen and can be tracked.

By the way, this bill also increases suspicious activity reports, so this idea about money laundering doesn't work because there are suspicious activity reports that are expanded under the bill, and you can freeze and track the money, which is really important. That is why a lot of folks in law enforcement like this bill.

The final thing is, this bill includes provisions to stop Operation Choke Point that Republicans couldn't even get passed when we had the presidency, the Senate, and the House, and we got that negotiated into this bill. It helps in a big way to make sure that there's not an Operation Choke Point in the future, so nobody can choke off legal businesses from their bank accounts and from access to the payments system. That is a big deal. I want to thank Congressman PERLMUTTER for allowing that.

Finally, before my time is up, I want to acknowledge Congressman WARREN DAVIDSON, who isn't going to be able to fly in in time for this. Congressman DAVIDSON has been working on this bill with me for almost 2 years with Congressman PERLMUTTER. WARREN DAVIDSON has done an amazing job. I just want to acknowledge his hard work, all his efforts. We wouldn't be here today but for Congressman WARREN DAVIDSON.

I urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1996.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I would also like to thank Mr. STIVERS for working with me so much over the last few years on this. I am going to miss him as he chooses to take another path in the near future. I just want to say on the floor, that he is a real credit to this institution.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from California (Mr. CORREA).

Mr. CORREA. Mr. Speaker, the SAFE Banking Act can be summarized in three basic points. First of all, this measure does not legalize anything at the State level. Today, 47 States, four U.S. territories, and D.C., representing 98 percent of the U.S. population, have legalized cannabis in one form or another.

Second, this is essentially a States' rights issue. This measure essentially says that when a State legalizes cannabis, the Federal Government will respect that decision when it comes to banking.

Finally, this measure is essentially about helping our local police officers back home do their job safely and effectively. We already give our local police officers the impossible job of taking care of the homeless and the mentally ill, and now we are asking our police officers to protect the legalized cannabis industry, a cash business, from those criminals that would prey upon them. This just doesn't make sense.

Today, because of Federal law, the cannabis industry can only operate on a cash basis. They pay their Federal, State, and local taxes with cash. Let me repeat. Today, the cannabis industry pays their Federal taxes with cash. They pay their employees with cash. They pay their rent with cash, and they pay their bills with cash. This is no way to keep our streets safe.

Let's help our local police officers keep our communities safe. Let's get the cash out of the cannabis industry, and let's pass H.R. 1996.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Kentucky (Mr. BARR), the ranking member of the Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations of the House Financial Services Committee.

Mr. BARR. Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of the SAFE Banking Act.

Kentuckians have a deep interest in the production, cultivation, and sale of nonintoxicating industrial hemp and hemp-derived products, including CBD. In fact, Kentucky boasts a proud heritage and agricultural tradition in industrial hemp. Henry Clay, the great Speaker of the House who once represented the district that I now represent, was, in fact, an industrial hemp farmer.

More recently, the Commonwealth has seen a revival in the industrial hemp industry, resulting in much growth and job creation in this area. Much of the growth of the industry occurred as a result of the Industrial Hemp Research Pilot Program established under the 2014 farm bill and the 2018 farm bill, which took it a step further and fully legalized industrial hemp.

Despite these positive steps forward, hemp businesses still have trouble accessing certain financial services. Just today I spoke with a CBD retailer in my district who confirmed that while the situation has improved somewhat over the last few years, access to card

processing services is uneven and uncertain. This bill will provide additional clarity for banks, insurance companies, and card processors that they can, in fact, do business with legally operating hemp businesses. It would also direct our Federal financial regulators to update best practices for serving hemp and CBD businesses.

Since we last debated this bill, conditions have improved for hemp financing. In December 2019, financial regulators jointly issued guidance confirming that banks are free to provide banking services to the hemp industry, just as they are for any other agricultural commodity. Unfortunately, there is still work to do to ensure that these legal hemp businesses have full access to the financial system. There remains some ambiguity, specifically regarding payment processors' dealings with hemp businesses. This bill makes needed clarifications.

I want to thank the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) for working across the aisle on this bill. He and his team took great care to ensure that these changes were incorporated into the bill and made the needed clarifications. I thank him for his cooperation. This will have a meaningful impact on Kentucky farmers, small businesses, and a burgeoning industry in Kentucky and across the country.

I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Kentucky for his work on this bill and his input on the card processing piece of the legislation.

I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Oregon (Mr. BLUMENAUER). He has put the effort together across a whole range of cannabis issues. I thank him for his steadfast work on this subject.

□ 1645

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Mr. Speaker, it is an honor to be here with my friend, Mr. PERLMUTTER, and the bipartisan support that we are receiving from Mr. STIVERS. We are going to hear in a moment from the distinguished gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), who has been a champion.

Sadly, I feel my good friend from North Carolina could have given his speech 25 years ago. The legalization train has left the station. This is a business in the United States that is approaching \$20 billion of revenue this year.

As has been pointed out, 97 percent of the American public has access to some form of legal cannabis. Medical cannabis, 4 million patients utilize it.

Mr. Speaker, this is an issue that has arrived, and it is being held captive of the past practice by pretending that the Federal Government can wish away the legalization of this subject. They can't. The flawed Federal policies create serious problems.

As Mr. PERLMUTTER pointed out, we have had over 100 robberies in my community, including a fatality. These

cash-only enterprises are sitting ducks for people who have nefarious aims. It is an invitation for money laundering now because of the vast amount of cash that is circulated.

It impacts so many legitimate businesses, real estate, insurance, attorneys, accountants, who get caught up. We already heard reference to what happened to Mr. STIVERS' constituent in Ohio, a business that provides gardening supplies, that risks losing their bank account.

It is time for us to address this inconsistency. It is time for us to pass, again, the SAFE Banking Act. And it is time for us to move forward with legalization on the Federal level with the MORE Act, which will resolve these inconsistencies.

Once and for all, give the American people what they want and what they repeatedly vote for across the country. Unleash this State legal business to realize its full potential for health, the economy, and a cry for racial justice.

I appreciate us being at this point for a critical first step along the torturous path to full legalization, which I am confident will happen this Congress and not a moment too soon.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tragic passing of Steve Fox, a pioneering advocate, strategist, a true leader in the marijuana cannabis legalization effort.

It is fitting today that we are passing the SAFE Banking Act. We wouldn't be where we are today without Steve and his amazing efforts. His life work, leadership, and strategic brilliance are unmatched.

Passing this critical legislation today would be a small part of a fitting memorial for a man whose efforts made it possible, indeed, imperative to solve this problem.

I first met Steve as we were strategizing on the Oregon legalization effort. Back in 2013, after the Colorado legalization campaign that he orchestrated had passed and before Oregon joined the ranks of legalization, he was already a legend. He pioneered so much of the groundwork for the legalization movement that exploded after the success of the Colorado campaign which owed so much to his strategic brilliance.

Steve was thoughtful, hardworking, and self-effacing. While this has become a national movement with many leaders now emerging, none compare with Steve. Few will fully understand his many contributions and importance. I for one will miss his genuine, quiet leadership.

As someone who's been working on this longer than anyone in American politics, I know we are all deeply, deeply indebted to Steve. We mourn his loss, extend our thoughts to his family and many friends.

This should be the year that we finish the pioneering work of his career. It would be a fitting capstone to a lifetime of cannabis leadership, activism, and progress.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I would say that if we are going to have legalization of cannabis, let's have legalization of cannabis and do it in regular order in the House of Representatives, not have it come through the Financial Services Committee. I wanted to be clear, and I wanted to make sure my colleague heard that.

But I do commend my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for taking every bit of the jurisdiction that we currently have and using it smartly for the best outcome possible.

I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Ohio (Mr. JOYCE), my colleague and good friend.

Mr. JOYCE of Ohio. Mr. Speaker, I rise in favor of H.R. 1996, the SAFE Banking Act of 2021, and I am proud to help lead this commonsense, overdue effort.

The vast majority of States, including my own, have enacted laws that, to varying degrees, permit their residents to use cannabis. However, the Federal Government has not only infringed on the inherent right of these States to implement those laws, but also stifled medical research, diverted law enforcement resources needed elsewhere, and hindered legitimate businesses, businesses that provide vital services to cancer patients, veterans, and those seeking opioid alternatives for pain management.

Because of the Federal interference in this arena, cannabis companies are not afforded the same access to financial services as every other legal business in our country.

With banks refusing to accept their money out of fear of Federal repercussions, these businesses are forced to operate in all cash. They pay their workers in cash, store cash in vaults on-site, and hire armored cars and trucks to transport cash to pay taxes.

As a former prosecutor, I can tell my colleagues that this is a serious public safety issue.

But it is not just cannabis companies that are paying the price for this antiquated policy. Small businesses that provide services to State-legal cannabis companies can also be targeted by the Federal Government, such as plumbers, electricians, and even soil and fertilizer businesses.

Regardless of where you stand on the legality of cannabis, I think we can all agree that it shouldn't be that hard to sell a bag of dirt.

At a time when small businesses are just beginning to recover from the economic destruction caused by COVID-19, the Federal Government should be supporting them, not standing in their way. Congress must provide financial certainty to these businesses and safety to their employees.

Many of my colleagues have shied away from this issue because they are under the impression that it doesn't impact their constituents. But as I have outlined here today, it most certainly does.

The American people across the majority of States, both red and blue, have voted to enact sensible cannabis reforms. I encourage all of my colleagues to respect the will of their constituents and the rights of their States and begin engaging in these reforms.

It is past time we address the antiquated cannabis policies and remove unnecessary red tape. I strongly urge

my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to vote in favor of the SAFE Banking Act so we can take a step in that direction.

The Federal Government can no longer afford to fail on an issue that our States have taken the lead on.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, may I inquire how much time I have remaining.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The gentleman from North Carolina has 5 minutes remaining.

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1½ minutes to the gentleman from Florida (Mr. GAETZ).

Mr. GAETZ. Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member of the Financial Services Committee for yielding.

I rise in support of the SAFE Banking Act, which I am honored to introduce with my colleagues, Mr. JOYCE, Mr. PERLMUTTER, Mr. BLUMENAUER, and others.

It seems the war on drugs is a lot like so many of the other forever wars that this Congress confronts, deeply unpopular in all parts of the country except Washington, D.C.

I commend the majority party for bringing this bill to the floor and allowing businesses that serve particularly medical marijuana patients the opportunity to access the U.S. financial system.

There is an important part of this legislation that bears note. With the SAFE Banking Act, we will have an unprecedented opportunity for research and collaboration, which did not exist previously and which doesn't exist now.

There are so many universities, medical centers, other research institutions that would like to partner with and work alongside marijuana businesses with the opportunity to improve health outcomes for patients and to bring relief to people who badly need it.

I would implore my colleagues in the majority party to reach out to President Biden as I did to President Trump. Ask him to take executive action to remove marijuana from the list of schedule I drugs so that we can accelerate marijuana reform for the benefit of our fellow Americans and those who are in need and in pain and are counting on it.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I include in the RECORD these endorsements for the SAFE Banking Act, including from the American Bankers Association, the American Council of Independent Laboratories, the American Council of Life Insurers, the American Financial Services Association, the American Land Title Association, the American Property Casualty Insurance Association, the American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp, the Arizona Dispensaries Association, the California Cannabis Industry Association, and the National Armored Car Association. It goes on forever. I am not going to list all of these. There are about 50 different endorsements.

H.R. 1996, THE SAFE BANKING ACT OF 2021—
ENDORSEMENTS

American Bankers Association; American Council of Independent Laboratories; American Council of Life Insurers; American Financial Services Association; American Land Title Association; American Property Casualty Insurance Association; American Trade Association for Cannabis and Hemp; Arizona Dispensaries Association; California Cannabis Industry Association; California and Nevada Credit Union Leagues; Cannabis Business Association of Illinois; Colorado Bankers Association; Colorado Municipal League; Credit Union National Association; Council of Insurance Agents & Brokers; Electronic Transactions Association; Independent Community Bankers of America; Independent Insurance Agents & Brokers of America; Law Enforcement Action Partnership; Mountain West Credit Union Association; National Armored Car Association; National Association of Mutual Insurance Companies; National Association of Professional Insurance Agents; National Association of Realtors.

National Cannabis Roundtable; National Cannabis Industry Association; National Medicinal Cannabis Coalition; National Organization for the Reform of Marijuana Laws; Minority Cannabis Business Association; Policy Center for Public Health & Safety; Reinsurance Association of America; Rural County Representatives of California; The Real Estate Roundtable; United Food and Commercial Workers; U.S. Cannabis Council; U.S. Hemp Roundtable; Wholesale & Specialty Insurance Association; TerrAscend USA; NUG, Inc.; Cresco Labs; 4Front Ventures; Terrapin Care Station; Full Spectrum Omega, Inc.; National Association of State Treasurers; Four Attorneys General from Colorado, the District of Columbia, North Dakota, and Ohio; 21 Governors from California, Colorado, Connecticut, Illinois, Louisiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Nevada, Nevada, New Jersey, New Mexico, New York, Oregon, Pennsylvania, U.S. Virgin Islands, Utah, Virginia, Washington, West Virginia, and Wisconsin; 51 state and territory banking associations.

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

I want to repeat this from my earlier remarks. This bill represents one of the biggest changes to U.S. drug policy. If we want banks to provide services risk-free, then we should do it thoughtfully and address the legality of cannabis instead of this workaround. This bill represents a yeoman's task of a legal framework so that funds from cannabis in those legalized States can be legally banked.

But that is not a holistic approach to this issue, nor should it be the Financial Services Committee leading the debate, which we have had one hearing on in the last 3 years in this committee—actually, you could say probably one hearing in the last decade on the Financial Services Committee. Yet, we have this bill, which, frankly, on its face is a very well-balanced bill to fix a glaring problem that is happening across the country.

This bill will legalize the banking of a federally illegal product. I am sure the irony of this is not at all lost on the American public.

The drug cartels, frankly, are keen to this, and other bad actors are keen to this. They will attempt to take advan-

tage of this if it is not well-implemented, if it is not thoughtfully implemented, especially if those things are not the case.

No matter how we spin what is happening right now, we currently have a crisis at the southern border, and human trafficking is certainly a part of that; a desire to come to the United States is certainly a part of that; and the movement of illegal drugs into the United States is certainly a part of that. This doesn't help with that crisis at the southern border.

Again, we are the House Financial Services Committee. We are not the Homeland Security Committee, and we are not the Appropriations Committee, so we can't fix all things within our jurisdiction.

Let me close with this. I do not support this bill because it represents a workaround to a much bigger debate that we need to have in the United States, and that is whether or not cannabis should remain a schedule I substance under the Controlled Substances Act. This fact is the bigger issue that I think this Congress should wrestle with, and I would welcome it. In fact, I think we can have a much more nuanced debate here.

But I do want to close by thanking my colleagues for creating a very thoughtful product. This legislative text is much improved upon from where it was originally. I thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for leading that conversation and leading that set of negotiations.

It has taken years to produce this product. It is strong legislative text. It is a strong legal framework. Even though I have pointed out a number of its deficiencies and challenges, I do see on its face how this would resolve a huge problem in a large number of States.

I understand that, and I am inviting the larger discussion about cannabis, as well. I think we need to have that conversation.

But I do thank my colleague, Mr. PERLMUTTER, for his leadership there, and I thank my colleagues, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. DAVIDSON, and Mr. JOYCE, on our side of the aisle for engaging in that, as well as Mr. LUETKEMEYER and Mr. BARR who dealt with particular issues in their States and their jurisdictions, as well.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote "no," but I understand if they do vote "yes." I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from North Carolina. To his point that there is a broader discussion that has to take place, the purpose of this bill is a public safety purpose. Its purpose is to keep people from being killed, from being robbed, and from being assaulted. That is within the Financial Services Committee arena because, at this point, the cannabis industry and the people who serve it in one way or another have to deal in cash, which really creates the

potential for the robberies, for the murders, and for the assaults.

We have been able to gather a lot of support for this. I mentioned the bankers, the credit unions, the insurance industry, the cannabis industry, obviously, the real estate industry, the armored cars, and the minority cannabis industry. Law enforcement is supportive of this. We have the National Treasurers Association, 21 Governors, and attorneys general because they know this is a public safety matter and that we really need to address it.

We have been working on it for some time, as the gentleman from North Carolina mentioned, but we need to get this to the Senate. They need to take whatever action they want to take, but we have to make our communities and these businesses safer.

The SAFE Banking Act is about public safety. Our bill is narrowly tailored to get cash off the streets and improve public safety.

I thank my lead cosponsors on this bill, Representatives VELÁZQUEZ, STIVERS, and DAVIDSON, and all of my colleagues who have listened to me talk about the need to address this problem for the last 8 years.

□ 1700

I also thank the staff of the Committee on Financial Services, the staff from my lead cosponsors, and my own staff, who put so much time into this bill.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all of my colleagues to vote “yes” on the SAFE Banking Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1996, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

ELIMINATE BARRIERS TO INNOVATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1602) to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to jointly establish a digital asset working group, and for other purposes.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1602

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 “Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. WORKING GROUP TO SUPPORT INNOVATION WITH RESPECT TO DIGITAL ASSETS.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this section, the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall jointly establish a working group (to be known as the “SEC and CFTC Working Group on Digital Assets”) to carry out the report required under subsection (c)(1).

(b) MEMBERSHIP.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall be composed of members appointed in accordance with paragraph (2).

(2) APPOINTMENT OF MEMBERS.—

(A) REPRESENTATIVES OF COMMISSIONS.—The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall each appoint an equal number of employees of each such Commission to serve as members of the Working Group.

(B) REPRESENTATIVES OF NONGOVERNMENTAL STAKEHOLDERS.—

(i) APPOINTMENT.—The Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission shall each appoint an equal number of nongovernmental representatives to serve as members of the Working Group, except that such number of members may not be greater than or equal to the number of members appointed under subparagraph (A).

(ii) REQUIRED MEMBERS.—The members of the Working Group appointed under clause (i) shall include at least one representative from each of the following:

(I) Financial technology companies that provide products or services involving digital assets.

(II) Financial firms under the jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(III) Institutions or organizations engaged in academic research or advocacy relating to digital asset use.

(IV) Small businesses engaged in financial technology.

(V) Investor protection organizations.

(VI) Institutions and organizations that support investment in historically-underserved businesses.

(C) NO COMPENSATION FOR MEMBERS OF THE WORKING GROUP.—

(i) FEDERAL EMPLOYEE MEMBERS.—All members of the Working Group appointed under subparagraph (A) shall serve without compensation in addition to that received for their services as officers or employees of the United States.

(ii) NON-FEDERAL MEMBERS.—All members of the Working Group appointed under subparagraph (B) shall serve without compensation.

(c) REPORT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, the Working Group shall submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the relevant committees a report that contains—

(A) an analysis of—

(i) the legal and regulatory framework and related developments in the United States relating to digital assets, including—

(I) the impact that lack of clarity in such framework has on primary and secondary markets in digital assets; and

(II) how the domestic legal and regulatory regimes relating to digital assets impact the competitive position of the United States; and

(ii) developments in other countries relating to digital assets and identification of how these developments impact the competitive position of the United States; and

(B) recommendations—

(i) for the creation, maintenance, and improvement of primary and secondary markets in digital assets, including for improving the fairness, orderliness, integrity, efficiency, transparency, availability, and efficacy of such markets;

(ii) for standards concerning custody, private key management, cybersecurity, and business continuity relating to digital asset intermediaries; and

(iii) for best practices to—

(I) reduce fraud and manipulation of digital assets in cash, leveraged, and derivatives markets;

(II) improve investor protections for participants in such markets; and

(III) assist in compliance with anti-money laundering and countering the financing of terrorism obligations under the Bank Secrecy Act.

(2) REPORT LIMITED TO SEC AND CFTC AUTHORITIES.—The analysis and recommendations provided under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of paragraph (1) may only relate to the laws, regulations, and related matters that are under the primary jurisdiction of the Securities and Exchange Commission or the Commodity Futures Trading Commission.

(d) NONAPPLICABILITY OF FACA.—The Federal Advisory Committee Act (5 U.S.C. App.) shall not apply to the Working Group.

(e) TERMINATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Working Group shall terminate on the date that is 1 year after the date of the enactment of this section, except that the Chairman of the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Chairman of the Commodity Futures Trading Commission may, jointly, extend the Working Group for a longer period, not to exceed one year.

(2) SECOND REPORT IN THE CASE OF EXTENSION.—In the case of an extension of the Working Group under paragraph (1), the Working Group shall, not later than the last day of such extension, submit to the Securities and Exchange Commission, the Commodity Futures Trading Commission, and the relevant committees a report that contains an update to the analysis and recommendations required under subparagraphs (A) and (B) of subsection (c)(1).

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) BANK SECRECY ACT.—The term “Bank Secrecy Act” means—

(A) section 21 of the Federal Deposit Insurance Act (12 U.S.C. 1829b);

(B) chapter 2 of title I of Public Law 91-508 (12 U.S.C. 1951 et seq.); and

(C) subchapter II of chapter 53 of title 31, United States Code.

(2) HISTORICALLY-UNDERSERVED BUSINESSES.—The term “historically-underserved businesses” means women-owned businesses, minority-owned businesses, and rural businesses.

(3) RELEVANT COMMITTEES.—The term “relevant committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Financial Services of the House of Representatives;

(B) the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Agriculture of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry of the Senate.

(4) WORKING GROUP.—The term “Working Group” means the working group established under subsection (a).

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) and the gentleman from North Carolina (Mr.

MCHEMRY) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Colorado.

GENERAL LEAVE

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

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1602, the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021.

Digital assets are a fast-growing but poorly understood area of finance and technology, and I believe this bipartisan legislation will help Americans, small businesses, fintechs, and financial institutions using digital assets to better understand the legal and regulatory landscape.

Last Congress, the Committee on Financial Services established the Task Force on Financial Technology, which was chaired by Congressman LYNCH, who is co-leading this bipartisan bill with Ranking Member MCHEMRY. I thank both of them for their hard work on this legislation.

We must look carefully and diligently at how digital asset markets are used, as they present unique challenges to regular retail investors.

Cryptocurrencies, security tokens, and other digital assets, including those utilizing blockchain and distributed ledger technology, are new technologies. How we regulate investment in them will be one of the most important questions in the financial services space.

If digital assets are used by retail investors, we must ensure these products provide adequate protections, disclosures, and notifications to make sure ordinary investors are not defrauded or have their household finances ruined due to excessive volatility.

This is especially important during this unprecedented COVID-19 crisis, with many people struggling financially and possibly drawn to risky investments or scams.

This bill would require the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to establish a working group on digital assets. The working group will investigate the legal and regulatory framework and best practices related to digital assets. The working group will report to Congress on its findings to help this body and the public better address these evolving markets.

I thank Representative LYNCH and Representative MCHEMRY for their thoughtful and bipartisan approach to this legislation, and I look forward to the work of the SEC and the CFTC on this important issue.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act. This a bipartisan bill that addresses the much-needed collaboration between the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission.

What we have is a regulation of commodities through one entity of our Federal Government here in the United States and regulation of securities by another entity of our government. What we need is conversation between those two entities about the nature of digital assets and cryptocurrencies.

We have neither a security nor a commodity in what is a new creation of digital assets. Now what we see with the CFTC is that everything is a commodity in their worldview, and the Securities Exchange Commission thinks: Well, you are close. Everything is actually a security.

They each want to regulate something that is not in their nature to regulate or not in the substance of their capacity to regulate. We have neither fish nor fowl, neither security nor what the Commodity Futures Trading Commission wants to regulate in their world. So, you have neither fish nor fowl when it comes to this new creation of cryptocurrencies.

The fact is that the "Bitcoin Whitepaper," written by Satoshi Nakamoto, as they call themselves, is more than a decade old. What we have seen in that time period is the valuation of bitcoin, and then things that are like bitcoin that use an encrypted ledger system in the blockchain and tokenization to open up the value of that new creation of a blockchain, that new creation of cryptocurrencies is now valued over \$2 trillion globally.

Most of that innovation has happened outside of the United States because we don't have a legal and regulatory framework that is permissive of the raising of capital in order to develop those technologies. So, people in the United States, American citizens, are missing out on innovation and the potential economic upside of those innovations.

I would say this is one of the few pieces of technology in the last 100 years that Americans have not been the drivers of. In fact, we are reacting a lot to what is happening globally.

I thank my colleague, Mr. LYNCH, for his thoughtful engagement on this bill and his important structural changes to make sure this can be a bipartisan bill. Those conversations really are that balance between economic opportunity and growth that a lot of us on the Republican side want to emphasize at all costs, frankly, and then the protection of our citizens that some on the left want to have at all costs.

Mr. Speaker, striking that balance is really necessary for us as legislators. Let's just be pragmatic and honest

about it. Mr. LYNCH has brought some nice changes to this bill that actually will enable it to be a bipartisan vote, I hope.

Mr. Speaker, what this bill does, with our colleagues from the House Committee on Agriculture, is it requires the Securities and Exchange Commission and the Commodity Futures Trading Commission to establish a working group focused on digital assets. This is the first step to opening the dialogue between our regulators and market participants and will move to much-needed clarity.

The fact is that this working group will produce a report within a year that includes an analysis of the domestic regulatory framework necessary for the development of cryptocurrencies and digital assets here in the United States. It is really important that we get our act together, that we be technology-permissive, that we ensure that it is legitimate money raised here, that our existing laws are adhered to, but that we adapt and change and don't allow the debate between the CFTC, which sees everything as fish, and the Securities and Exchange Commission, which sees everything as fowl.

When we look at this new entity, which is neither fish nor fowl, we have to have a small regulatory framework for that.

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

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. LYNCH).

Mr. LYNCH. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman from Colorado for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise to speak in support of the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act. It has been 12 years since the cryptocurrency bitcoin was first introduced. Since then, digital assets have proliferated around the world. By one estimate, there are more than 4,000 cryptocurrencies and other digital tokens in use today.

While we haven't yet encountered a large-scale crisis, the lack of clarity in cryptocurrency regulation has become a real barrier in developing a framework to optimize the potential benefits of this technology.

U.S. financial regulations historically have been developed in response to financial disasters. We had the creation of the FDIC, which followed over 1,000 bank failures during the Depression. Similarly, the development of the CFPB occurred after the 2008 financial crisis.

This bill, H.R. 1602, is an opportunity for Congress and our regulators to act proactively toward financial innovation rather than to address gaps in our regulatory framework after the fact. Digital assets have the potential to make transactions more efficient, improve the raising of capital for small businesses, and increase inclusion across our financial system. However, the rapid rise of this technology has

created some concerns and questions about consumer protection and about how to ensure that we gain the benefits of this innovation while mitigating potential risks.

This bill, H.R. 1602, will create critical collaboration between the SEC, the CFTC, and Congress on the topic of digital assets. It will bring our regulators, small businesses, fintech companies, and investor protection groups to the same table to discuss cybersecurity investor protections and the creation of inclusive and transparent markets. In short, our hope is that this bill will help get the regulatory framework of digital assets right before a crisis occurs.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, for working on this bill and also Chairwoman WATERS for her support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge my colleagues to vote “yes.”

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Mr. Speaker, I know the gentleman will forgive me, but I listed a lot of people on the SAFE Banking Act that I want to thank. One person who I forgot, and I would be remiss, is Mr. Denny Heck, who is now Lieutenant Governor of Washington and who was also instrumental in putting that together.

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I concur that our colleague, Mr. Heck, was instrumental in these debates. I miss his lively debates in committee markup, but, frankly, given the sick burns he has given me there, I think I am better off with him as Lieutenant Governor. But I concur with the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER).

Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Pennsylvania (Mr. THOMPSON), the ranking member of the Committee on Agriculture.

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today to express my support of the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act offered by my friend from North Carolina and the ranking member of the Committee on Financial Services, Mr. MCHENRY.

The CFTC and the SEC have a long history of collaboration in financial market regulation. The working group created through this legislation will continue to build on this good work.

Digital assets present unique new questions for regulators: How and where do these assets fit into the existing regulatory regime? What new standards are needed to continue to meet our bedrock principle of customer protection? Where do the CFTC and the SEC need to adjust their regulations to address the novel features and purposes of digital assets?

While both the CFTC and the SEC are hard at work applying their statutory responsibilities and regulations to these digital assets, the disruptive, novel nature of these new type of assets demand a more holistic examina-

tion. This working group, with its mix of CFTC, SEC, and nongovernmental members, will be well placed to examine these important questions.

The Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act is a step forward in providing clear rules of the road for the creation, exchange, custody, and use of the full sweep of these new assets.

Mr. Speaker, I thank the ranking member, Mr. MCHENRY, and his staff for working with us at the House Committee on Agriculture on refinements to improve this legislation.

I cannot close, though, without singing the praises of the CFTC. The Commission has been focused on this explosion in new technology from the very beginning. The Commission created LabCFTC almost 4 years ago, and it remains the premier Federal fintech office.

They have proven themselves to be an agile regulator and adept at understanding new technologies and their implications. The Committee on Agriculture has welcomed these developments and sought to strengthen the CFTC’s authorities and resources to meet the challenges in regulating these new financial products. The bill before us today complements these efforts.

Mr. Speaker, I look forward to working with Mr. MCHENRY and Chairwoman WATERS on this and other legislation and oversight to build upon this work. I urge my colleagues to support financial innovation and vote “yes” on this important legislation.

□ 1715

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

Mr. MCHENRY. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentlewoman from Minnesota (Mrs. FISCHBACH), a member of the House Agriculture Committee and a leader on agriculture issues.

Mrs. FISCHBACH. Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague from North Carolina for yielding to me.

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of the Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act. As the ranking member of the Commodity Exchanges, Energy, and Credit Subcommittee, I am looking forward to digging in on the many issues surrounding digital assets, particularly digital commodities.

Digitally native assets represent a new way for people to interact with each other and potentially organize productive activities. Whatever promise this innovative technology may hold, it will not be realized if it is subjected to outdated and unworkable regulations.

One of the great strengths our financial system in the U.S. has is that the rules are well-formed, longstanding, and fit for purpose. While we may argue about the details, the basic principles of the U.S. financial markets, and the rules which apply to legacy assets, are well understood.

Digital assets, on the other hand, present new challenges. While the prin-

ciples won’t change, the rules that bring those principles into effect may have to change.

This working group will give the CFTC, the SEC, and the market participants a critical venue to examine those principles and bring needed clarity to the application of existing rules on digital asset transactions.

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

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I thank my colleague, Mr. LYNCH, for his leadership on this important issue and the issues of financial technology.

Frankly, one of the healthier conversations we get to have on the Financial Services Committee is on the nature and the deployment of the technology. It is neither the pure conversation of less or more regulation. It is a completely different scope of what we are doing in terms of laws that ensure that we have financial inclusion and allow offers for products to be cheaper, more affordable, and more widely distributed across the country. So I think this is a healthy thing for us to have this conversation on the Financial Services Committee.

This bill today is an important working group between the CFTC and the Security and Exchange Commission. That conversation between these two agencies, I hope, will bring us a new permissive regulatory framework for digital assets here in the United States and allow for the wider deployment and development of cryptocurrencies and all the technologies that are underlying those cryptocurrencies, those huge opportunity sets for American consumers in the development of these new assets in this first generation, but also the wire deployment of these technologies, whether it is in driverless vehicles or in the nature of how we interact with each other in the financial markets.

There are huge opportunities around digital assets, and this is the first step in Congress having a smart regulatory framework here in the United States for digital assets.

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

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

Mr. Speaker, I commend Mr. MCHENRY and Mr. LYNCH for their bipartisan work on this legislation directing the SEC and the CFTC to work together with all relevant stakeholders to study the use of digital assets.

The working group created by this legislation will, undoubtedly, benefit the American public on this important topic.

Mr. Speaker, I urge all Members to support this legislation by voting “yes” on this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1602.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. BISHOP of North Carolina. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 130) condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong special administrative region.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 130

Whereas despite international condemnation, the Government of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") continues to disregard its international legal obligations under the Joint Declaration of the Government of the United Kingdom of Great Britain and Northern Ireland and the Government of the People's Republic of China on the Question of Hong Kong ("Joint Declaration"), in which the PRC committed that—

- (1) Hong Kong would enjoy a high degree of autonomy;
- (2) for at least 50 years the "social and economic systems in Hong Kong" would remain unchanged; and
- (3) the personal rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong would be protected by law;

Whereas, as part of its continued efforts to undermine the established rights of the Hong Kong people, the PRC National People's Congress Standing Committee ("Standing Committee") passed and imposed upon Hong Kong oppressive and intentionally vague national security legislation on June 30, 2020, that grants Beijing sweeping powers to punish acts of "separating the country, subverting state power, and organizing terrorist activities";

Whereas the legislative process by which the Standing Committee imposed the national security law on Hong Kong bypassed Hong Kong's local government in a potential violation of the Basic Law of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region of the People's Republic of China ("Basic Law"), and involved unusual secrecy, as demonstrated by the fact that the legislation was only the second law since 2008 that the Standing Committee has passed without releasing a draft for public comment;

Whereas, on July 30, 2020, election officials of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Re-

gion (HKSAR) disqualified twelve pro-democracy candidates from participating in the September 6 Legislative Council elections, which were subsequently postponed for a year until September 5, 2021, by citing the public health risk of holding elections during the COVID-19 pandemic;

Whereas, on July 31, 2020, in an attempt to assert extraterritorial jurisdiction, the HKSAR Government announced indictments of and arrest warrants for six Hong Kong activists living overseas, including United States citizen Samuel Chu, for alleged violations of the national security law;

Whereas, on November 11, 2020, the HKSAR Government removed four lawmakers from office for allegedly violating the law after the Standing Committee passed additional legislation barring those who promoted or supported Hong Kong independence and refused to acknowledge PRC sovereignty over Hong Kong, or otherwise violates the national security law, from running for or serving in the Legislative Council;

Whereas, on December 2, 2020, pro-democracy activists Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam were sentenced to prison for participating in 2019 protests;

Whereas ten of the twelve Hong Kong residents (also known as "the Hong Kong 12") who sought to flee by boat from Hong Kong to Taiwan on August 23, 2020, were taken to mainland China and sentenced on December 30, 2020, to prison terms ranging from seven months to three years for illegal border crossing;

Whereas, on December 31, 2020, Hong Kong's highest court revoked bail for Jimmy Lai Chee-Ying, a pro-democracy figure and publisher, who was charged on December 12 with colluding with foreign forces and endangering national security under the national security legislation;

Whereas, on January 4, 2021, the Departments of Justice in Henan and Sichuan province threatened to revoke the licenses of two lawyers hired to help the Hong Kong 12; and

Whereas, on January 5, 2021, the Hong Kong Police Force arrested more than fifty opposition figures, including pro-democracy officials, activists, and an American lawyer, for their involvement in an informal July 2020 primary to select candidates for the general election originally scheduled for September 2020, despite other political parties having held similar primaries without retribution: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) condemns the actions taken by the Government of the People's Republic of China ("PRC") and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region ("HKSAR"), including the adoption and implementation of national security legislation for Hong Kong through irregular procedures, that violate the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong that are guaranteed by the Joint Declaration and its implementing document, the Basic Law;

(2) reaffirms its support for the people of Hong Kong, who face grave threats to their rights and freedoms;

(3) calls on the governments of the PRC and HKSAR to—

- (A) respect and uphold—
 - (i) commitments made to the international community and the people of Hong Kong under the Joint Declaration; and
 - (ii) the judicial independence of the Hong Kong legal system; and
- (B) release pro-democracy activists and politicians arrested under the national security law; and

(4) encourages the President, the Secretary of State, and the Secretary of the Treasury to coordinate with allies and partners and

continue United States efforts to respond to developments in Hong Kong, including by—

(A) providing protection for Hong Kong residents who fear persecution;

(B) supporting those who may seek to file a case before the International Court of Justice to hold the Government of the PRC accountable for violating its binding legal commitments under the Joint Declaration;

(C) encouraging allies and partner countries to instruct, as appropriate, their respective representatives to the United Nations to use their voice, vote, and influence to press for the appointment of a United Nations special mandate holder to monitor and report on human rights developments in Hong Kong;

(D) ensuring the private sector, particularly United States companies with economic interests in Hong Kong, is aware of risks the national security legislation poses to the security of United States citizens and to the medium and long-term interest of United States businesses in Hong Kong;

(E) continuing to implement sanctions authorities, especially authorities recently enacted to address actions undermining the rights and freedoms of the Hong Kong people such as the Hong Kong Autonomy Act (Public Law 116-149) and the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act of 2019 (Public Law 116-76), with respect to officials of the Chinese Communist Party, the Government of the PRC, or the Government of the HKSAR who are responsible for undermining such rights and freedoms; and

(F) coordinating with allies and partners to ensure that such implementation of sanctions is multilateral.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 130.

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

There was no objection.

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

Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 130, Condemning Continued Violation of Rights and Freedoms of the People of Hong Kong by People's Republic of China and Government of Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

I have introduced this resolution to demonstrate this body's already strong, bipartisan support for the people of Hong Kong.

The situation in Hong Kong has been alarming for several years now. We have witnessed the degradation of civil liberties and human rights as the PRC continues to disregard its international legal obligations under the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration.

For months, in 2019, the people of Hong Kong peacefully took to the streets in historic numbers to preserve their democracy and demand their rights and freedoms. Unfortunately,

these peaceful protesters were met with excessive force by the police and the further imposition of restrictions on expression and assembly. Thousands have been beaten, injured, and illegally detained in violation of due process.

Rather than listen to the demands of the majority of Hong Kongers, the Chinese Government blatantly bypassed Hong Kong's local government and imposed a sweeping national security law on Hong Kong and its people with very little accountability or transparency. The vague, overly broad measures this security law put in place are little more than a thinly veiled attempt to erode Hong Kong's autonomy and restrict the space for peaceful expression. It steals from the people of Hong Kong the ability to exercise the freedoms of speech and association and creates an environment of fear around the expression of any political sentiment.

It is no surprise that since the passage of this law, political censorship has spiked significantly and Hong Kong officials have become increasingly brazen in undermining democratic norms, such as disqualifying pro-democracy candidates from participating in the legislative council elections and removing democratically elected lawmakers from office.

Hong Kong authorities have also used the national security law to target and silence pro-democracy activists at home and abroad. They have even issued arrest warrants for activists living overseas, including a U.S. citizen, for alleged violations of national security law.

Hundreds of pro-democracy figures and activists have been arrested or sentenced to prison, including Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, Ivan Lam, the "Hong Kong 12," and Jimmy Lai Chee-Ying, while others await a further crackdown. But the resolve of the people of Hong Kong has not wavered, and neither will the resolve of the people of the United States, our allies, and this body.

Mr. Speaker, see, democracy is the cornerstone of the work we do in the people's House. We must support the people of Hong Kong as they fight for the rights and freedoms promised to them under the Basic Law. With the passage of this resolution, the House reaffirms its continued support for the people of Hong Kong.

We stand by activists who continue to come forward in their cause for democracy and human rights at great risk to themselves, their families, and their future. But by passing this resolution, the House sends a strong, bipartisan message demanding that the Chinese and Hong Kong Governments respect the will of the people of Hong Kong.

We will continue to push for democracy and respect for human rights in Hong Kong. We will continue to demonstrate that we stand in solidarity with the pro-democracy figures and activists who have made tremendous sacrifices for their city and for their core human rights.

This is an important resolution, and I support it and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

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

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

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentlewoman from California (Ms. PELOSI), the very distinguished Speaker of the House of Representatives.

□ 1730

Ms. PELOSI. Mr. Speaker, I thank the gentleman for yielding and for his very moving and profound statement on democracy and democratic freedoms in Hong Kong. I thank the chairman for his leadership for bringing this important legislation to the floor. I thank the ranking member, Mr. McCAUL, for his leadership, as well, on an ongoing basis on this important issue and for his courtesy for yielding back.

It is always an honor to be with CHRIS SMITH, we have been working on these issues together for 30 years—a very long time—to demonstrate the bipartisan nature of the support that we have for democratic freedoms in Hong Kong, in the House, and in the Senate, bicameral and bipartisan.

Mr. Speaker, Friday was a sad day and a disturbing day for the people of Hong Kong and for all freedom-loving people as sentences were handed down to Martin Lee, a global champion of human rights, and to other pro-democracy leaders for engaging in peaceful protests.

This afternoon, 3 days after that distressing development, I had the privilege to speak with activists from the Hong Kong Democracy Council. It was an inspiration to hear how they and the people of Hong Kong are responding to China's crackdown with great courage; how the dream of real autonomy cannot be extinguished by injustice or intimidation.

In our conversation earlier today—and in all my communications with Hong Kongers—they asked that the United States Congress continue to speak out to support their aspirations for the freedoms that they were promised. We were there when they promised them.

Today, with this resolution, Congress is honoring that call. I thank Chairman MEEKS, Ranking Member McCAUL, again, Representatives BERA and MALINOWSKI, and the distinguished chair of the China Executive Commission, Mr. MCGOVERN, for their work on this important legislation.

H. Res. 130 condemns the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region.

It states that Communist China continues to "disregard its international legal obligations under the joint declaration" which mandates, among other pledges, that "Hong Kong would

enjoy a high degree of autonomy" and "the personal rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong would be protected by law."

This resolution today makes clear that China has trampled on its promises, including its draconian so-called national security law used to target and round up peaceful protesters under the guise of terrorism; disqualification of pro-democracy candidates from participating in the September 6 legislative council elections; the indictments and arrests for six Hong Kong activists living overseas—as the distinguished chairman pointed out, including here in the United States—and the arrests and sentencing of dozens of pro-democracy activists, including, as was mentioned, Joshua Wong, Agnes Chow, and Ivan Lam—and opposition leaders, the Hong Kong 12, of this past December and January. Again, I mention Martin Lee.

The United States Congress has always supported Hong Kong on a bipartisan and bicameral basis, and we remain laser-focused on efforts to support Hong Kong's efforts to maintain and grow the rule of law and freedom of speech in their home, and we are determined to hold China accountable.

Our response must include further strengthening our work with international coalitions—this has to be multilateral—passing legislation in addition to this resolution, to support Hong Kong, building on the passage of the Hong Kong Human Rights and Democracy Act in 2019.

Our legislative response must also address the plight of the Uighurs and Tibetans and the violation of their rights in China; and we must continue to use our platform to speak out about Beijing's crackdown on the global stage and ensure that the voices that the Chinese Government are trying to silence are heard.

In response, our focus must be on human rights. As I always say, if we do not speak out for human rights in China because of commercial interests, then we lose all moral authority to speak out on human rights anywhere in the world.

That is what I have been stating and fighting for—as we have together—since 1991 when I went to Tiananmen Square and unfurled a black-and-white banner reading: To those who died for democracy.

Ever since, many of us have fought to ensure that human rights and trade are firmly linked, from sponsoring the U.S.-China Act in 1993 and in 1994 urging Congress to deny China most-favored nation status to goods made by the PLA in the prisons.

Mr. SMITH and Mr. Frank Wolf went there and saw the evidence of prison labor goods being sent to the U.S. and corporate America just ignoring the whole thing.

Then in 2000 we fought efforts to give China a blank check when it failed to comply with its market commitment under the WTO, and they still continue to do that.

We cannot allow economic interests to blind us to moral injustices committed by China.

On Friday in a speech to court, the storied Hong Kong attorney, Margaret Ng, quoted Sir Thomas More, the patron saint of the legal profession, who was tried for treason because he would not bend the law to the king's will. Margaret Ng ended her statement by paraphrasing his final, famous words:

I stand the law's good servant, but the people's first. For the law must serve the people, not the people the law.

With that, I support an overwhelmingly bipartisan vote for this resolution and for the Congress' continued bipartisan and bicameral work to support the people of Hong Kong in the face of Beijing's exploitation of and assault on the law. It is a very important piece of legislation, and I am so glad it is going to have bipartisan support.

Mr. Speaker, I urge an "aye" vote, and I thank the chair and the ranking member of the committee for their leadership.

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

First of all, let me thank the Speaker for coming down on the floor to give her personal remarks. I know she has a busy schedule, but this really honors and shows her commitment to human rights in Hong Kong and all around the world.

Mr. Speaker, I was proud to join the chairman in leading this measure to condemn the egregious violations of Hong Kong's freedoms. The Chinese Communist Party's relentless oppression of the people of Hong Kong is not a Republican or Democratic issue. We are united as Americans in standing with Hong Kongers.

Hong Kong's pro-democracy movement has inspired people around the world to fight for liberty over tyranny. But in June of last year, the Chinese Communist Party used its sham legislature to enforce a dystopian national security law on Hong Kong. This law criminalizes basic civil liberties, it violated China's treaty commitments, it destroyed the "one country, two systems" model of autonomy, and it inserted the CCP's police state into Hong Kong to crush dissent.

Since it passed, the CCP has purged pro-democracy lawmakers from the government while arresting the CCP's political enemies.

Unfortunately, the CCP's human rights abuses in Hong Kong are far from over. Chairman MEEKS' resolution continues our bipartisan work to call out the CCP's abuses and to stand with the people of Hong Kong, and I urge my colleagues' support for this measure.

Mr. Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), who is the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, Global Human Rights, and International Organizations and has been a champion for human rights more than most people have been in this Congress maybe combined.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Mr. Speaker, I thank my good friend, the ranking member, for his kind remarks. I thank him for his leadership on this resolution, as well. I thank Chairman MEEKS for his leadership on this. It is a bipartisan resolution, and it is very much needed right now. H. Res. 130 condemns the ongoing violation of human rights and the rule of law in Hong Kong perpetrated by the Chinese Communist Party under Xi Jinping and the Government of Hong Kong itself.

As the author of the House-passed, bipartisan Hong Kong Human Rights Act signed into law last Congress, which I first introduced in 2014 and again in 2015, 2017, and then for a final time in 2019, I want to just thank Speaker PELOSI for putting that legislation before this body and for her strong support.

The Speaker mentioned a moment ago how we have worked for well over 30 years on combating human rights abuses in China whether it be Tibet, the ongoing repression and now genocide against the Uighurs, and the crackdown on religious freedom which has now become nothing but pervasive persecution against people of all faiths as well as the Falun Gong. We have worked very, very closely together, and I believe going back to right after Tiananmen Square, that linkage of human rights with trade was the only way to effectuate systemic change. Regrettably, we have lost so far that linkage. But, again, now we are seeing manifestations, particularly in Hong Kong.

Could Taiwan be next? Consider all of the promises that were made—and there were solemn promises made by the dictatorship in Beijing—to respect human rights in Hong Kong. The basic law is now being violated with impunity.

Of course, there is the Sino-U.K. agreement that is being violated. This is an international treaty, and there is the Chinese dictatorship one by one arresting the best, the bravest, and the brightest of Hong Kong and putting them into prison for long prison sentences.

As the Speaker noted a moment ago, we just saw that Joshua Wong got an additional jail sentence on his already 13½-month jail sentence. We know that he is a great young man, and he represents the future of Hong Kong. He now is languishing in prison.

I met Martin Lee in Hong Kong in the early 1990s, and he suggested to me that someday he may find himself in prison. He said that it is worth it for human rights and for democracy. He is an absolutely brave and an absolutely principled lawyer, a former member of the Hong Kong Legislative Council. He too has been convicted under this crackdown on democracy promotion in Hong Kong.

So there are also many, many others. Jimmy Lai was one of five who were just sentenced last Friday. So this is happening in real time every single

day. Once you are arrested and put into prison, the bully boys of the Hong Kong police make sure that you suffer, and you suffer intensely.

So, Mr. Speaker, I want to thank, again, Chairman MEEKS for bringing this forward and, of course, my good friend, Mr. McCAUL.

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

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER), who is a member of the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

Mr. MEIJER. Mr. Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 130, a resolution condemning the violations of the basic rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong. As part of the 1984 Sino-British Joint Declaration on Hong Kong, the People's Republic of China made a series of commitments: that Hong Kong would retain a high degree of autonomy; that its social and economic systems would remain unchanged until at least 2047; and that the personal rights and liberties of the people of Hong Kong would be protected by the law.

Yet we continue to see the PRC infringe on Hong Kong's sovereignty and its people's freedoms. It has been made abundantly clear that the People's Republic of China has no intention of keeping its promises.

Most recently, the PRC forced through the draconian but mundanesounding Law of the People's Republic of China on Safeguarding National Security in the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region. This law casts an authoritarian net over Hong Kong and has empowered a crackdown on vaguely worded political crimes like subversion and collusion with foreign powers. From day one, that law has been abused, with the people of Hong Kong arrested for such crimes as wearing stickers or T-shirts with disagreeable slogans.

The rapid erosion of Hong Kongers' rights and freedoms is absolutely unacceptable, and it is past time that the PRC and its puppet government that it installed in Hong Kong be condemned in the strongest possible terms.

Mr. Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in supporting this resolution to send a clear message that we in the United States will not stand by as the rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong are stripped away.

Mr. MEEKS. Mr. Speaker, I have no further speakers if the gentleman from Texas is ready to close.

Mr. McCAUL. Mr. Speaker, I am prepared to close, and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Mr. Speaker, sadly, we no longer see American flags waving over thousands of peaceful protesters in the streets of Hong Kong. Displaying our symbol of liberty has become a criminal act punishable by life in prison. But even though the freedom-loving people of Hong Kong can no longer publicly ask for our support, we still hear these pleas. Congress hears them, the American people hear them, and it is now

more important than ever that we continue to stand with the people of Hong Kong.

Mr. Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MEEKS for bringing this resolution which I was proud to join as a lead cosponsor, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1745

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

Mr. Speaker, first, let me thank the ranking member for making sure we make a unified, strong, bipartisan statement, and all of my colleagues on the Foreign Affairs Committee on both sides of the aisle because H. Res. 130 sends a strong and unequivocal message: The United States stands firmly in support of the people of Hong Kong and the rights, freedoms, and autonomy they are promised in the joint declaration and basic law.

This resolution signals that the House's support of the people of Hong Kong and their struggle for democracy shall not waiver and shall remain firm and resolute.

Mr. Speaker, I hope that all of my colleagues will join Ranking Member McCAUL and myself in supporting this resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 130.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Mr. Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

CYBER DIPLOMACY ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1251) to support United States international cyber diplomacy, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1251

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

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

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings.
- Sec. 3. Definitions.
- Sec. 4. United States international cyberspace policy.
- Sec. 5. Department of state responsibilities.
- Sec. 6. International cyberspace executive arrangements.

Sec. 7. International strategy for cyberspace.

Sec. 8. Annual country reports on human rights practices.

Sec. 9. Gao report on cyber diplomacy.

Sec. 10. Sense of congress on cybersecurity sanctions against north korea and cybersecurity legislation in vietnam.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The stated goal of the United States International Strategy for Cyberspace, launched on May 16, 2011, is to “work internationally to promote an open, interoperable, secure, and reliable information and communications infrastructure that supports international trade and commerce, strengthens international security, and fosters free expression and innovation . . . in which norms of responsible behavior guide states’ actions, sustain partnerships, and support the rule of law in cyberspace”.

(2) In its June 24, 2013, report, the Group of Governmental Experts on Developments in the Field of Information and Telecommunications in the Context of International Security (referred to in this section as “GGE”), established by the United Nations General Assembly, concluded that “State sovereignty and the international norms and principles that flow from it apply to States’ conduct of [information and communications technology] ICT-related activities and to their jurisdiction over ICT infrastructure with their territory”.

(3) In January 2015, China, Kazakhstan, Kyrgyzstan, Russia, Tajikistan, and Uzbekistan proposed a troubling international code of conduct for information security, which could be used as a pretext for restricting political dissent, and includes “curbing the dissemination of information that incites terrorism, separatism or extremism or that inflames hatred on ethnic, racial or religious grounds”.

(4) In its July 22, 2015, consensus report, GGE found that “norms of responsible State behavior can reduce risks to international peace, security and stability”.

(5) On September 25, 2015, the United States and China announced a commitment that neither country’s government “will conduct or knowingly support cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors”.

(6) At the Antalya Summit on November 15 and 16, 2015, the Group of 20 Leaders’ communiqué—

(A) affirmed the applicability of international law to state behavior in cyberspace;

(B) called on states to refrain from cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property for commercial gain; and

(C) endorsed the view that all states should abide by norms of responsible behavior.

(7) The March 2016 Department of State International Cyberspace Policy Strategy noted that “the Department of State anticipates a continued increase and expansion of our cyber-focused diplomatic efforts for the foreseeable future”.

(8) On December 1, 2016, the Commission on Enhancing National Cybersecurity, which was established within the Department of Commerce by Executive Order 13718 (81 Fed. Reg. 7441), recommended that “the President should appoint an Ambassador for Cybersecurity to lead U.S. engagement with the international community on cybersecurity strategies, standards, and practices”.

(9) On April 11, 2017, the 2017 Group of 7 Declaration on Responsible States Behavior in Cyberspace—

(A) recognized “the urgent necessity of increased international cooperation to promote security and stability in cyberspace”;

(B) expressed commitment to “promoting a strategic framework for conflict prevention, cooperation and stability in cyberspace, consisting of the recognition of the applicability of existing international law to State behavior in cyberspace, the promotion of voluntary, non-binding norms of responsible State behavior during peacetime, and the development and the implementation of practical cyber confidence building measures (CBMs) between States”; and

(C) reaffirmed that “the same rights that people have offline must also be protected online”.

(10) In testimony before the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate on May 11, 2017, Director of National Intelligence Daniel R. Coats identified six cyber threat actors, including—

(A) Russia, for “efforts to influence the 2016 U.S. election”;

(B) China, for “actively targeting the U.S. Government, its allies, and U.S. companies for cyber espionage”;

(C) Iran, for “leverag[ing] cyber espionage, propaganda, and attacks to support its security priorities, influence events and foreign perceptions, and counter threats”;

(D) North Korea, for “previously conduct[ing] cyber-attacks against U.S. commercial entities—specifically, Sony Pictures Entertainment in 2014”;

(E) terrorists, who “use the Internet to organize, recruit, spread propaganda, raise funds, collect intelligence, inspire action by followers, and coordinate operations”; and

(F) criminals, who “are also developing and using sophisticated cyber tools for a variety of purposes including theft, extortion, and facilitation of other criminal activities”.

(11) On May 11, 2017, President Donald J. Trump issued Executive Order 13800 (82 Fed. Reg. 22391), entitled “Strengthening the Cybersecurity of Federal Networks and Infrastructure”, which—

(A) designates the Secretary of State to lead an interagency effort to develop an engagement strategy for international cooperation in cybersecurity; and

(B) notes that “the United States is especially dependent on a globally secure and resilient internet and must work with allies and other partners toward maintaining . . . the policy of the executive branch to promote an open, interoperable, reliable, and secure internet that fosters efficiency, innovation, communication, and economic prosperity, while respecting privacy and guarding against disruption, fraud, and theft”.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives.

(2) INFORMATION AND COMMUNICATIONS TECHNOLOGY; ICT.—The terms “information and communications technology” and “ICT” include hardware, software, and other products or services primarily intended to fulfill or enable the function of information processing and communication by electronic means, including transmission and display, including via the Internet.

(3) EXECUTIVE AGENCY.—The term “Executive agency” has the meaning given the term in section 105 of title 5, United States Code.

SEC. 4. UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE POLICY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—It is the policy of the United States to work internationally to

promote an open, interoperable, reliable, unfettered, and secure Internet governed by the multi-stakeholder model, which—

(1) promotes human rights, democracy, and rule of law, including freedom of expression, innovation, communication, and economic prosperity; and

(2) respects privacy and guards against deception, fraud, and theft.

(b) IMPLEMENTATION.—In implementing the policy described in subsection (a), the President, in consultation with outside actors, including private sector companies, non-governmental organizations, security researchers, and other relevant stakeholders, in the conduct of bilateral and multilateral relations, shall pursue the following objectives:

(1) Clarifying the applicability of international laws and norms to the use of ICT.

(2) Reducing and limiting the risk of escalation and retaliation in cyberspace, damage to critical infrastructure, and other malicious cyber activity that impairs the use and operation of critical infrastructure that provides services to the public.

(3) Cooperating with like-minded democratic countries that share common values and cyberspace policies with the United States, including respect for human rights, democracy, and the rule of law, to advance such values and policies internationally.

(4) Encouraging the responsible development of new, innovative technologies and ICT products that strengthen a secure Internet architecture that is accessible to all.

(5) Securing and implementing commitments on responsible country behavior in cyberspace based upon accepted norms, including the following:

(A) Countries should not conduct, or knowingly support, cyber-enabled theft of intellectual property, including trade secrets or other confidential business information, with the intent of providing competitive advantages to companies or commercial sectors.

(B) Countries should take all appropriate and reasonable efforts to keep their territories clear of intentionally wrongful acts using ICTs in violation of international commitments.

(C) Countries should not conduct or knowingly support ICT activity that, contrary to international law, intentionally damages or otherwise impairs the use and operation of critical infrastructure providing services to the public, and should take appropriate measures to protect their critical infrastructure from ICT threats.

(D) Countries should not conduct or knowingly support malicious international activity that, contrary to international law, harms the information systems of authorized emergency response teams (also known as “computer emergency response teams” or “cybersecurity incident response teams”) of another country or authorize emergency response teams to engage in malicious international activity.

(E) Countries should respond to appropriate requests for assistance to mitigate malicious ICT activity emanating from their territory and aimed at the critical infrastructure of another country.

(F) Countries should not restrict cross-border data flows or require local storage or processing of data.

(G) Countries should protect the exercise of human rights and fundamental freedoms on the Internet and commit to the principle that the human rights that people have offline should also be protected online.

(6) Advancing, encouraging, and supporting the development and adoption of internationally recognized technical standards and best practices.

SEC. 5. DEPARTMENT OF STATE RESPONSIBILITIES.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1 of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a) is amended—

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

(2) by inserting after subsection (f) the following new subsection:

“(g) BUREAU OF INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE POLICY.—

“(1) IN GENERAL.—There is established, within the Department of State, a Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy (referred to in this subsection as the ‘Bureau’). The head of the Bureau shall have the rank and status of ambassador and shall be appointed by the President, by and with the advice and consent of the Senate.

“(2) DUTIES.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—The head of the Bureau shall perform such duties and exercise such powers as the Secretary of State shall prescribe, including implementing the policy of the United States described in section 4 of the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021.

“(B) DUTIES DESCRIBED.—The principal duties and responsibilities of the head of the Bureau shall be—

“(i) to serve as the principal cyberspace policy official within the senior management of the Department of State and as the advisor to the Secretary of State for cyberspace issues;

“(ii) to lead the Department of State’s diplomatic cyberspace efforts, including efforts relating to international cybersecurity, Internet access, Internet freedom, digital economy, cybercrime, deterrence and international responses to cyber threats, and other issues that the Secretary assigns to the Bureau;

“(iii) to coordinate cyberspace policy and other relevant functions within the Department of State and with other components of the United States Government, including through the Cyberspace Policy Coordinating Committee described in paragraph (6), and by convening other coordinating meetings with appropriate officials from the Department and other components of the United States Government on a regular basis;

“(iv) to promote an open, interoperable, reliable, unfettered, and secure information and communications technology infrastructure globally;

“(v) to represent the Secretary of State in interagency efforts to develop and advance the policy described in section 4 of the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021;

“(vi) to act as a liaison to civil society, the private sector, academia, and other public and private entities on relevant international cyberspace issues;

“(vii) to lead United States Government efforts to establish a global deterrence framework for malicious cyber activity;

“(viii) to develop and execute adversary-specific strategies to influence adversary decisionmaking through the imposition of costs and deterrence strategies, in coordination with other relevant Executive agencies;

“(ix) to advise the Secretary and coordinate with foreign governments on external responses to national security-level cyber incidents, including coordination on diplomatic response efforts to support allies threatened by malicious cyber activity, in conjunction with members of the North Atlantic Treaty Organization and other like-minded countries;

“(x) to promote the adoption of national processes and programs that enable threat detection, prevention, and response to malicious cyber activity emanating from the territory of a foreign country, including as such activity relates to the United States’ European allies, as appropriate;

“(xi) to promote the building of foreign capacity relating to cyberspace policy priorities;

“(xii) to promote the maintenance of an open and interoperable Internet governed by the multistakeholder model, instead of by centralized government control;

“(xiii) to promote an international regulatory environment for technology investments and the Internet that benefits United States economic and national security interests;

“(xiv) to promote cross-border flow of data and combat international initiatives seeking to impose unreasonable requirements on United States businesses;

“(xv) to promote international policies to protect the integrity of United States and international telecommunications infrastructure from foreign-based, cyber-enabled threats;

“(xvi) to lead engagement, in coordination with Executive agencies, with foreign governments on relevant international cyberspace and digital economy issues as described in the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021;

“(xvii) to promote international policies to secure radio frequency spectrum for United States businesses and national security needs;

“(xviii) to promote and protect the exercise of human rights, including freedom of speech and religion, through the Internet;

“(xix) to promote international initiatives to strengthen civilian and private sector resiliency to threats in cyberspace;

“(xx) to build capacity of United States diplomatic officials to engage on cyberspace issues;

“(xxi) to encourage the development and adoption by foreign countries of internationally recognized standards, policies, and best practices;

“(xxii) to consult, as appropriate, with other Executive agencies with related functions vested in such Executive agencies by law; and

“(xxiii) to conduct such other matters as the Secretary of State may assign.

(3) QUALIFICATIONS.—The head of the Bureau should be an individual of demonstrated competency in the fields of—

“(A) cybersecurity and other relevant cyberspace issues; and

“(B) international diplomacy.

(4) ORGANIZATIONAL PLACEMENT.—During the 1-year period beginning on the date of the enactment of the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021, the head of the Bureau shall report to the Under Secretary for Political Affairs or to an official holding a higher position in the Department of State than the Under Secretary for Political Affairs. After the conclusion of such period, the head of the Bureau may report to a different Under Secretary or to an official holding a higher position than Under Secretary if, not less than 15 days prior to any change in such reporting structure, the Secretary of State consults with and provides to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives the following:

“(A) A notification that the Secretary has, with respect to the reporting structure of the Bureau, consulted with and solicited feedback from—

“(i) other relevant Federal entities with a role in international aspects of cyber policy; and

“(ii) the elements of the Department of State with responsibility over aspects of cyber policy, including the elements reporting to—

“(I) the Under Secretary for Political Affairs;

“(II) the Under Secretary for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights;

“(III) the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment;

“(IV) the Under Secretary for Arms Control and International Security Affairs; and

“(V) the Under Secretary for Management.

“(B) A description of the new reporting structure for the head of the Bureau, as well as a description of the data and evidence used to justify such new structure.

“(C) A plan describing how the new reporting structure will better enable the head of the Bureau to carry out the responsibilities specified in paragraph (2), including the security, economic, and human rights aspects of cyber diplomacy.

“(5) **RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.**—Nothing in this subsection may be construed to preclude the head of the Bureau from being designated as an Assistant Secretary, if such an Assistant Secretary position does not increase the number of Assistant Secretary positions at the Department above the number authorized under subsection (c)(1).

“(6) **COORDINATION.**—

“(A) **CYBERSPACE POLICY COORDINATING COMMITTEE.**—In conjunction with establishing the Bureau pursuant to this subsection, there is established a senior-level Cyberspace Policy Coordinating Committee to ensure that cyberspace issues receive broad senior level-attention and coordination across the Department of State and provide ongoing oversight of such issues. The Cyberspace Policy Coordinating Committee shall be chaired by the head of the Bureau or an official of the Department of State holding a higher position, and operate on an ongoing basis, meeting not less frequently than quarterly. Committee members shall include appropriate officials at the Assistant Secretary level or higher from—

“(i) the Under Secretariat for Political Affairs;

“(ii) the Under Secretariat for Civilian Security, Democracy, and Human Rights;

“(iii) the Under Secretariat for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment;

“(iv) the Under Secretariat for Arms Control and International Security;

“(v) the Under Secretariat for Management; and

“(vi) other senior level Department participants, as appropriate.

“(B) **OTHER MEETINGS.**—The head of the Bureau shall convene other coordinating meetings with appropriate officials from the Department of State and other components of the United States Government to ensure regular coordination and collaboration on cross-cutting cyber policy issues.

“(b) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy established under section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as added by subsection (a), should have a diverse workforce composed of qualified individuals, including such individuals from traditionally under-represented groups.

“(c) **UNITED NATIONS.**—The Permanent Representative of the United States to the United Nations should use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to oppose any measure that is inconsistent with the policy described in section 4.”

SEC. 6. INTERNATIONAL CYBERSPACE EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The President is encouraged to enter into executive arrangements with foreign governments that support the policy described in section 4.

(b) **TRANSMISSION TO CONGRESS.**—Section 112b of title 1, United States Code, is amended—

(1) in subsection (a) by striking “International Relations” and inserting “Foreign Affairs”;

(2) in subsection (e)(2)(B), by adding at the end the following new clause:

“(iii) A bilateral or multilateral cyberspace agreement.”;

(3) by redesignating subsection (f) as subsection (g); and

(4) by inserting after subsection (e) the following new subsection:

“(f) With respect to any bilateral or multilateral cyberspace agreement under subsection (e)(2)(B)(iii) and the information required to be transmitted to Congress under subsection (a), or with respect to any arrangement that seeks to secure commitments on responsible country behavior in cyberspace consistent with section 4(b)(5) of the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021, the Secretary of State shall provide an explanation of such arrangement, including—

“(1) the purpose of such arrangement;

“(2) how such arrangement is consistent with the policy described in section 4 of such Act; and

“(3) how such arrangement will be implemented.”.

(c) **STATUS REPORT.**—During the 5-year period immediately following the transmittal to Congress of an agreement described in clause (iii) of section 112b(e)(2)(B) of title 1, United States Code, as added by subsection (b)(2), or until such agreement has been discontinued, if discontinued within 5 years, the President shall—

(1) notify the appropriate congressional committees if another country fails to adhere to significant commitments contained in such agreement; and

(2) describe the steps that the United States has taken or plans to take to ensure that all such commitments are fulfilled.

(d) **EXISTING EXECUTIVE ARRANGEMENTS.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding any executive bilateral or multilateral cyberspace arrangement in effect before the date of enactment of this Act, including—

(1) the arrangement announced between the United States and Japan on April 25, 2014;

(2) the arrangement announced between the United States and the United Kingdom on January 16, 2015;

(3) the arrangement announced between the United States and China on September 25, 2015;

(4) the arrangement announced between the United States and Korea on October 16, 2015;

(5) the arrangement announced between the United States and Australia on January 19, 2016;

(6) the arrangement announced between the United States and India on June 7, 2016;

(7) the arrangement announced between the United States and Argentina on April 27, 2017;

(8) the arrangement announced between the United States and Kenya on June 22, 2017;

(9) the arrangement announced between the United States and Israel on June 26, 2017;

(10) the arrangement announced between the United States and France on February 9, 2018;

(11) the arrangement announced between the United States and Brazil on May 14, 2018; and

(12) any other similar bilateral or multilateral arrangement announced before such date of enactment.

SEC. 7. INTERNATIONAL STRATEGY FOR CYBERSPACE.

(a) **STRATEGY REQUIRED.**—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, and in coordination with

the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall develop a strategy relating to United States engagement with foreign governments on international norms with respect to responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

(b) **ELEMENTS.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A review of actions and activities undertaken to support the policy described in section 4.

(2) A plan of action to guide the diplomacy of the Department of State with regard to foreign countries, including—

(A) conducting bilateral and multilateral activities to—

(i) develop norms of responsible country behavior in cyberspace consistent with the objectives specified in section 4(b)(5); and

(ii) share best practices and advance proposals to strengthen civilian and private sector resiliency to threats and access to opportunities in cyberspace; and

(B) reviewing the status of existing efforts in relevant multilateral fora, as appropriate, to obtain commitments on international norms in cyberspace.

(3) A review of alternative concepts with regard to international norms in cyberspace offered by foreign countries.

(4) A detailed description of new and evolving threats in cyberspace from foreign adversaries, state-sponsored actors, and private actors to—

(A) United States national security;

(B) Federal and private sector cyberspace infrastructure of the United States;

(C) intellectual property in the United States; and

(D) the privacy and security of citizens of the United States.

(5) A review of policy tools available to the President to deter and de-escalate tensions with foreign countries, state-sponsored actors, and private actors regarding threats in cyberspace, the degree to which such tools have been used, and whether such tools have been effective deterrents.

(6) A review of resources required to conduct activities to build responsible norms of international cyber behavior.

(7) A plan of action, developed in consultation with relevant Federal departments and agencies as the President may direct, to guide the diplomacy of the Department of State with regard to inclusion of cyber issues in mutual defense agreements.

(c) **FORM OF STRATEGY.**—

(1) **PUBLIC AVAILABILITY.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be available to the public in unclassified form, including through publication in the Federal Register.

(2) **CLASSIFIED ANNEX.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) may include a classified annex, consistent with United States national security interests, if the Secretary of State determines that such annex is appropriate.

(d) **BRIEFING.**—Not later than 30 days after the completion of the strategy required under subsection (a), the Secretary of State shall brief the appropriate congressional committees on the strategy, including any material contained in a classified annex.

(e) **UPDATES.**—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall be updated—

(1) not later than 90 days after any material change to United States policy described in such strategy; and

(2) not later than one year after the inauguration of each new President.

SEC. 8. ANNUAL COUNTRY REPORTS ON HUMAN RIGHTS PRACTICES.

The Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 is amended—

(1) in section 116 (22 U.S.C. 2151n), by adding at the end the following new subsection:

“(h)(1) The report required under subsection (d) shall include an assessment of freedom of expression with respect to electronic information in each foreign country, which information shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country inappropriately attempt to filter, censor, or otherwise block or remove nonviolent expression of political or religious opinion or belief through the Internet, including electronic mail, and a description of the means by which such authorities attempt to inappropriately block or remove such expression.

“(B) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have persecuted or otherwise punished, arbitrarily and without due process, an individual or group for the nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief through the Internet, including electronic mail.

“(C) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have sought, inappropriately and with malicious intent, to collect, request, obtain, or disclose without due process personally identifiable information of a person in connection with that person’s nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief, including expression that would be protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force March 23, 1976, as interpreted by the United States.

“(D) An assessment of the extent to which wire communications and electronic communications are monitored without due process and in contravention to United States policy with respect to the principles of privacy, human rights, democracy, and rule of law.

“(2) In compiling data and making assessments under paragraph (1), United States diplomatic personnel should consult with relevant entities, including human rights organizations, the private sector, the governments of like-minded countries, technology and Internet companies, and other appropriate nongovernmental organizations or entities.

“(3) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘electronic communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

“(B) the term ‘Internet’ has the meaning given the term in section 231(e)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 231(e)(3));

“(C) the term ‘personally identifiable information’ means data in a form that identifies a particular person; and

“(D) the term ‘wire communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.”; and

(2) in section 502B (22 U.S.C. 2304)—

(A) by redesignating the second subsection (i) (relating to child marriage) as subsection (j); and

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

“(k)(1) The report required under subsection (b) shall include an assessment of freedom of expression with respect to electronic information in each foreign country, which information shall include the following:

“(A) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country inappropriately attempt to filter, censor, or otherwise block or remove nonviolent expression of political or religious opinion or belief through the Internet, including electronic mail, and a description of the means by which such authorities attempt to inappropriately block or remove such expression.

“(B) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have persecuted or otherwise punished, arbitrarily and without due process, an individual or group for the nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief through the Internet, including electronic mail.

“(C) An assessment of the extent to which government authorities in the country have sought, inappropriately and with malicious intent, to collect, request, obtain, or disclose without due process personally identifiable information of a person in connection with that person’s nonviolent expression of political, religious, or ideological opinion or belief, including expression that would be protected by the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights, adopted at New York December 16, 1966, and entered into force March 23, 1976, as interpreted by the United States.

“(D) An assessment of the extent to which wire communications and electronic communications are monitored without due process and in contravention to United States policy with respect to the principles of privacy, human rights, democracy, and rule of law.

“(2) In compiling data and making assessments under paragraph (1), United States diplomatic personnel should consult with relevant entities, including human rights organizations, the private sector, the governments of like-minded countries, technology and Internet companies, and other appropriate nongovernmental organizations or entities.

“(3) In this subsection—

“(A) the term ‘electronic communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code;

“(B) the term ‘Internet’ has the meaning given the term in section 231(e)(3) of the Communications Act of 1934 (47 U.S.C. 231(e)(3));

“(C) the term ‘personally identifiable information’ means data in a form that identifies a particular person; and

“(D) the term ‘wire communication’ has the meaning given the term in section 2510 of title 18, United States Code.”.

SEC. 9. GAO REPORT ON CYBER DIPLOMACY.

Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Comptroller General of the United States shall submit a report and provide a briefing to the appropriate congressional committees that includes—

(1) an assessment of the extent to which United States diplomatic processes and other efforts with foreign countries, including through multilateral fora, bilateral engagements, and negotiated cyberspace agreements, advance the full range of United States interests in cyberspace, including the policy described in section 4;

(2) an assessment of the Department of State’s organizational structure and approach to managing its diplomatic efforts to advance the full range of United States interests in cyberspace, including a review of—

(A) the establishment of a Bureau in the Department of State to lead the Department’s international cyber mission;

(B) the current or proposed diplomatic mission, structure, staffing, funding, and activities of the Bureau;

(C) how the establishment of the Bureau has impacted or is likely to impact the structure and organization of the Department; and

(D) what challenges, if any, the Department has faced or will face in establishing such Bureau; and

(3) any other matters determined relevant by the Comptroller General.

SEC. 10. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CYBERSECURITY SANCTIONS AGAINST NORTH KOREA AND CYBERSECURITY LEGISLATION IN VIETNAM.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should designate all entities that knowingly engage in significant activities undermining cybersecurity through the use of computer networks or systems against foreign persons, governments, or other entities on behalf of the Government of North Korea, consistent with section 209(b) of the North Korea Sanctions and Policy Enhancement Act of 2016 (22 U.S.C. 9229(b));

(2) the cybersecurity law approved by the National Assembly of Vietnam on June 12, 2018—

(A) may not be consistent with international trade standards; and

(B) may endanger the privacy of citizens of Vietnam; and

(3) the Government of Vietnam should work with the United States and other countries to ensure that such law meets all relevant international standards.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. GARCIA of Texas). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentleman from Texas (Mr. MCCAUL) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 1251, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1251, the Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021, as amended, by my good friend and the Foreign Affairs Committee’s ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL. I thank him for his work on this important bill.

This Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee aims to prioritize efforts to reassert American leadership on a variety of issues. I can’t think of any issue that is more timely than ensuring American leadership is prepared to confront the growing national security challenge in cyberspace.

The U.S. is increasingly under attack online by foreign actors, whether it is the recent SolarWinds hack or other attempted cyber intrusions on critical American infrastructure.

Now more than ever, we need a senior cyber diplomat who can support American efforts to keep the internet open, interoperable, reliable, and secure.

To demonstrate how seriously the United States takes these issues, it is vital that we strengthen the State Department’s tools to address the challenges in cyberspace to American foreign policy. The State Department needs a bureau capable and focused on tackling the growing global challenges of cybersecurity, the digital economy, and internet freedom in order to be

better prepared to advance America's international interests on cyber policy.

Madam Speaker, that is exactly what this Cyber Diplomacy Act will do. Our allies and adversaries are prioritizing international engagement to set the standards and rules that govern how the internet is structured and used. The United States has always been a leader in this space, and now is the time to redouble our efforts to ensure we remain an influential voice in establishing the rules of the road.

It is critical that the United States prioritize our diplomatic efforts in this area and work with our partners and allies to establish agreed-upon norms. To keep the internet open and accessible, we must push back against countries that will exploit the internet to pilfer our intellectual property and hack into our country's most sensitive information, and which seek to derail international norms.

This bill is critical to supporting these key priorities. It authorizes the Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy to lead the State Department's cyber diplomatic efforts, including on issues relating to international cybersecurity, internet access and freedom, and international cyber threats, including countering terrorists' use of cyberspace.

This bill also directs the President to devise a strategy related to U.S. engagement with foreign governments on international norms with respect to responsible state behavior in cyberspace.

I am also pleased that in authorizing this office, we make clear bipartisan congressional intent that the Bureau of International Cyberspace Policy is comprised of a diverse workforce. Like the rest of our national security policy establishments, we know that ensuring a diverse and inclusive workforce improves the effectiveness of national security activities, and this bill makes that intent very clear.

Madam Speaker, I am pleased to support this critical and, again, bipartisan measure that will reassert American leadership on this important issue, and I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am pleased the House is considering the Cyber Diplomacy Act that I reintroduced this Congress with Chairman MEEKS and a strong roster of bipartisan cosponsors. I also want to thank my good friend from Rhode Island (Mr. LANGEVIN), my co-chair on the Congressional Cybersecurity Caucus. Over the past decade, he and I have worked very hard to advance critical cyber legislation like the law that set up the Cybersecurity and Infrastructure Security Agency at the Department of Homeland Security.

With today's bill, we are taking the protection provided by CISA to the United States to the international stage and, as the chairman mentioned, providing rules of the road, which we do not have today.

The United States has strategic and economic interests in ensuring the internet remains open, reliable, and secure around the world. Unfortunately, not all governments agree.

For example, Russia and China are aggressively promoting their vision of "cyber sovereignty," which emphasizes state control over cyberspace and tramples individual freedoms. That is why the United States and our allies must be prepared to advance our own vision for cyberspace.

The Cyber Diplomacy Act gives the State Department the necessary tools to work with our allies and partners to stop the spread of misinformation, to stop the cyberattacks, and to stop the imposition of their so-called cyber security.

Madam Speaker, a new ambassador will be given the authority to establish critical cyber norms and standards that do not exist today to help define what is good behavior and what is bad.

Let me say that when the SolarWinds attack occurred, in the past, there were no consequences to bad behavior with the Russians or the Chinese, and I was very supportive and proud that President Biden struck back with sanctions against Russia for this bad behavior. That is what this office is really all about.

Without these clear guidelines, it is not possible to mount a strong response to our adversaries' destructive behavior. This bill is long overdue. To me, it is the last piece in terms of our cyber role in the Federal Government, now taking it to the international stage with our allies around the world.

Madam Speaker, again, I want to thank Chairman MEEKS, Mr. LANGEVIN, and all of the bipartisan cosponsors. The recent high-profile attacks remind us that what happens in cyberspace is vitally important to the United States and our allies and partners around the world. This act will enhance our ability to protect and promote our national security, our ability to compete, and the freedoms and ideals America represents to the world.

A decade ago, we had to determine what is the cyber role—or maybe even 15—what the role is of the Federal Government. We knew the Department of Defense and NSA had great offensive capabilities. We needed a civilian agency to work with the private sector to share threat information, and that became the beginning of the cybersecurity agency at the Department of Homeland Security. And, of course, the FBI investigates. But we have never had any international norms or standards or, as the chairman said, the rules of the road.

This bill, as I said, is long overdue. The Russians influenced our elections. There are, finally, sanctions against them. But before that, few consequences occurred. When the Chinese stole 23 million security clearances, including my own, there was zero response from the United States of America.

When these attacks occurred, and when our intellectual property has been stolen, so much so that Keith Alexander, the NSA Director, said it was the "greatest transfer of wealth in human history," with no consequence, we finally shut down the Chinese consulate in Houston because of the tremendous theft of intellectual property through the Texas Medical Center in my home State, including research and development on the vaccine. Then there was a Texas A&M professor being indicted for espionage for giving NASA data to the Chinese. This has to stop.

This act, this cyber diplomacy bill, will ensure that, at the international level, the United States is respected and that we are going to work with our allies to provide the norms and standards that are so desperately needed to better protect our interests and the interests of our allies.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 1251, the Cyber Diplomacy Act, introduced by my friend and the ranking member, Mr. MCCAUL, is bipartisan legislation that is essential to America's national security and positioning our country to meet the current and future threats in cyberspace head-on.

This bill will give the State Department the tools it needs to further secure peace, stability, and economic prosperity for the United States in the cyber realm now and in the future.

Again, I hope all of my colleagues join both Mr. MCCAUL and myself in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

□ 1800

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1251, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

Mr. GOOD of Virginia. Madam Speaker, on that I demand the yeas and nays.

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

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

SUPPORTING PEOPLE OF BELARUS AND THEIR DEMOCRATIC ASPIRATIONS AND CONDEMNING ELECTION RIGGING AND SUBSEQUENT VIOLENT CRACKDOWNS ON PEACEFUL PROTESTERS

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 124) supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent

crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The text of the resolution is as follows:

H. RES. 124

Whereas the Republic of Belarus held a presidential election on August 9, 2020, that was neither free nor fair;

Whereas the presidential election took place without appropriate observation from local independent groups and international delegations;

Whereas since the presidential election, Belarusians have demonstrated their strong desire and commitment to a democratic future by organizing peaceful protests in Minsk and across the country;

Whereas Belarusian civil society, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, has called for the resignation of Alyaksandr Lukashenka, the peaceful transition of power, the organization of new, free, and fair elections and the release of all political prisoners;

Whereas Belarusian opposition leaders have faced intimidation, harassment, and detention, including direct threats leading to the forced exile of Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya in Lithuania as well as the kidnapping and imprisonment of Maria Kalesnikava and other opposition leaders;

Whereas in the months since the election, Belarusian authorities have arbitrarily detained and brutally assaulted tens of thousands of peaceful protesters, journalists, and opposition figures, of which hundreds remain in detention;

Whereas human rights groups have documented hundreds of horrific accounts of torture, including sexual violence and rape, along with other instances ill-treatment and excessive force used against detainees arrested for peaceful protest;

Whereas on August 13 and 14, 2020, relatives of detainees held in the infamous “Akrestsina” detention facility in Minsk recorded the sounds of “incessant beatings which were clearly audible in the street, and numerous voices screaming out in agony with some begging for mercy”;

Whereas thousands of Belarusians have fled to neighboring countries seeking political asylum;

Whereas independent journalists and the free media have faced intimidation, violence, mass arrests and prosecution, with many foreign journalists being stripped of their accreditation;

Whereas Katsyaryna Andreyeva and Darya Chultsovato, two journalists who work for Belsat, an independent Polish-based satellite television station aimed at Belarus, have each been sentenced to two years in prison simply for reporting live from a rally in Minsk in November 2020;

Whereas Ihar Losik, a popular Belarusian blogger on Telegram, went on a hunger strike for 6 weeks to protest the politically-motivated charges that he helped organize riots after the fraudulent presidential election;

Whereas member states of the Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe (OSCE), of which the United States and Belarus are members, invoked paragraph 12 of the 1991 Moscow Document of the Conference on the Human Dimension of the OSCE (Moscow Mechanism) to establish a mission of experts to review allegations of human rights violations;

Whereas the OSCE Rapporteur’s Report under the Moscow Mechanism on Alleged Human Rights Violations related to the presidential elections of August 9, 2020, in

Belarus, published November 5, 2020, concluded that there was “overwhelming evidence that the presidential elections of 9 August 2020 [had] been falsified and that massive and systematic human rights violations [had] been committed by the Belarusian security forces in response to peaceful demonstrations and protests”;

Whereas women have played a leading role in peaceful demonstrations across the country, protesting the police brutality and mass detentions by wearing red and white, carrying flowers, and forming “solidarity chains”;

Whereas the information technology (IT) industry in Belarus has played a prominent role in the democratic movement by demanding an end to violent oppression, as well as creating safe platforms for demonstrators to communicate and track people who have been detained or went missing during mass detentions;

Whereas Belarusian authorities have continually disrupted internet channels in an attempt to limit communication among demonstrators and targeted lead technology companies and their employees advocating for democracy;

Whereas Belarusian state-owned television channels have encouraged violence against peaceful demonstrators;

Whereas a recent survey of IT specialists found that 15 percent of IT specialists working in Belarus have already relocated to neighboring countries, and over 40 percent of IT specialists no longer want to work in Belarus, resulting in a devastating loss of talent for Belarus, possibly permanently damaging the Belarusian technology industry along with the Belarusian economy;

Whereas hundreds of former law enforcement officers in Belarus who have defected in defiance of illegal orders to commit human rights violations and cover up crimes against civilians and those who have assisted law enforcement officers in defecting have faced harassment, financial penalties, arrest, detention, and other punitive measures;

Whereas several peaceful demonstrators have died as a result of police violence, including 31-year-old Roman Bondrenko who was violently beaten by plainclothes police officers and, as a result, suffered head injuries that resulted in his death;

Whereas Belarusian universities continue to expel students and dismiss educators and researchers for participating in peaceful protests;

Whereas child protective services have threatened multiple civic activists with termination of parental rights for bringing minor children to peaceful protests;

Whereas factory workers at state-owned enterprises have been continuously harassed for trying to organize independent trade unions and have been forced to sign political letters opposing sanctions by the European Union under threat of termination of their employment;

Whereas a transatlantic community of legislators has emerged in support of uplifting the democratic aspirations of the Belarusian people;

Whereas international advocacy, including by co-host Latvia, succeeded in preventing the illegitimate Government of Belarus from hosting the 2021 Ice Hockey World Championship;

Whereas the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, and Canada have enacted sanctions and other punitive measures against dozens of individuals and entities found responsible for the perpetration of violence against peaceful demonstrators, opposition members, and journalists, among others;

Whereas Alyaksandr Lukashenka continues to undermine the sovereignty and

independence of Belarus through efforts to integrate Belarus into a so-called “Union States” under the control of Russia;

Whereas the House of Representatives passed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020 with unanimous consent, sending a clear message of overwhelming, bipartisan support for the democratic movement in Belarus;

Whereas the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020 was signed into law via the fiscal year 2021 omnibus spending bill, expanding the President’s authority to impose sanctions related to Belarus, including on Russian individuals who have undermined Belarus’ sovereignty, as well as authorizing increased assistance to counter internet censorship and surveillance technology, support women advocating for freedom and human rights, and support political refugees fleeing the crackdown in Belarus, among other things; and

Whereas the Belarusian opposition, led by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, organized a Day of Solidarity on February 7, 2020, where countries, cities, and political and elected leaders, as well as everyday citizens around the world demonstrated their support for the six months of historic peaceful protests since the fraudulent presidential election that took place on August 9, 2020: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the House of Representatives—

(1) finds that the August 9, 2020, presidential election in Belarus was neither free nor fair and, therefore, does not recognize the government-announced results or Alyaksandr Lukashenka as the legitimate President of Belarus;

(2) calls for new free and fair elections under Organization for Security and Co-operation in Europe observation;

(3) affirms that the people of Belarus have the right to determine the future of Belarus without unwelcome intervention from the Russian Federation or any outside actors in violation of Belarusian independence and sovereignty;

(4) condemns the human rights violations committed by Belarusian authorities, including against peaceful demonstrators, civil society activists, opposition leaders, students, educators, employees at state-owned enterprises, medical personnel, and journalists, and calls for such authorities to halt any further acts of violence against civilians;

(5) calls for the immediate release of all political prisoners and those unlawfully detained in connection with the peaceful demonstrations including independent journalists and family members of United States citizens;

(6) recognizes the sacrifices and bravery of the Belarusian people and the incredible organization by Belarusian women to peacefully demand a free and fair democratic process while enduring the state-sponsored violence that followed the August 9, 2020, election;

(7) calls on Alyaksandr Lukashenka and Belarusian authorities to engage in an open and constructive dialogue with the opposition members and other stakeholders to bring about a peaceful transition of power;

(8) calls for the protection of civil society actors and members of the opposition against arbitrary arrest and violence while conducting peaceful discussions relating to the peaceful transition of power in Belarus;

(9) recognizes the Coordination Council established by Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya as a legitimate institution to participate in a dialogue on a peaceful transition of power;

(10) urges continued cooperation among the United States and its transatlantic allies

and partners to explore avenues in support of the democratic movement in Belarus;

(1) calls for further targeted sanctions coordinated between the United States, the European Union, the United Kingdom, Canada, and other allies and partners against Belarusian authorities who committed human rights violations and engaged in activities that resulted in the falsification of the August 9, 2020, election results;

(2) encourages when considering, in coordination with transatlantic partners, the sanctioning of Belarusian state-owned companies that have directly violated the rights of their workers as a result of their participation in or in connection to the ongoing democratic movement in Belarus that the Administration take into consideration the potential implications of making these companies more vulnerable to takeovers by Russian or Chinese state-owned companies;

(13) calls on the transatlantic community to review and consider reassessing any financial assistance that supports the Lukashenka regime, including participation in state debt issuances or procurement contracts;

(14) supports increasing funds available for foreign assistance to Belarusian civil society groups as well as legal assistance for activists and independent journalists, among others, as called for in the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020;

(15) urges the President to provide the United States Agency for Global Media with a surge capacity (as such term is defined in section 316 of the United States International Broadcasting Act of 1994 (22 U.S.C. 6216)) for programs and activities in Belarus, including to protect the brave independent journalists reporting from within Belarus as called for in the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020;

(16) calls for an international investigation into the human rights abuses committed during and after the August 9, 2020, presidential election; and

(17) continues to support the aspirations of the people of Belarus for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law, and reaffirms that the fulfillment of such aspirations is critical to ensuring the continued strength of Belarusian sovereignty and territorial integrity.

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H. Res. 124.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 124.

This resolution, introduced by the chair of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber, Mr. KEATING, my good friend, is an excellent measure that solidifies this body's already strong bipartisan support for the people of Belarus. I also

thank the ranking member for his work.

After Alyaksandr Lukashenka stole the August 9, 2020, elections, the Belarusian people, led by thousands of women dressed in white and fearless opposition leaders, including Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, peacefully took to the streets in historic numbers to demand the right to chart their own democratic future, a future free of Lukashenka's dictatorial grip.

Tragically, but unsurprisingly, these peaceful protestors were met with the same brutal, violent tactics that have defined Lukashenka's nearly three-decades-long rule. In his desperate attempt to cling to power, thousands were beaten, injured, and illegally detained without due process by security forces. Meanwhile, critical access to the internet, international broadcasting, and other forms of communication and expression were cut off to suppress the dissent, control the flow of information, and prevent the opposition from organizing any further.

But the resolve of the Belarusian people, the brave, peaceful protestors, the opposition in exile, and the vibrant Belarusian diaspora has not wavered. The resolve of the United States, our allies, and this body must not waver either.

With the passing of this resolution, the House shines a spotlight on the illegitimacy of the Lukashenka regime and his abhorrent human rights violations.

We must continue to build on the work of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, an effort led by another distinguished member of the House Foreign Affairs Committee and, as indicated by Ranking Member MCCAUL, a longtime champion for human rights in Belarus, Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. We thank him for his work.

By passing this good, bipartisan resolution, the House will strengthen its longstanding commitment and record on democracy and human rights. We will continue to demonstrate that we stand in solidarity with the freedom-loving Belarusians, who continue to struggle for their fundamental democratic and human rights every day. We do this hand in hand with our allies and partners across the Atlantic.

Madam Speaker, I stand today not only to support this measure, but in support of democracy and the sanctity of the democratic process and solidarity with the people of Belarus.

This is a very important resolution. I support it and I urge all of my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I am honored to join my colleagues today to express our support for the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations.

There is no question that Alyaksandr Lukashenka rigged the presidential

election in Belarus this past August. He is an illegitimate leader who will never be recognized by the community of democratic nations. The scale of the electoral fraud was unprecedented, as was the violent crackdown by Lukashenka's cronies afterwards.

The reports of peaceful protestors being beaten, tortured, and arbitrarily detained and killed are appalling. In a cowardly attempt to conceal their heinous crimes, the regime has repressed independent media, disrupted internet access, and expelled and detained countless journalists.

Given this despicable human rights situation in Belarus, I commend the Biden administration's decision today to renew sanctions against nine Belarusian state-owned enterprises.

Despite the terror inflicted upon them, the Belarusian people have refused to relent. They continue to demand a free and fair vote. Their courage is truly inspiring.

This resolution reminds the corrupt Lukashenka regime that the United States Congress supports the people of Belarus. We echo their calls for the immediate release of more than 300 political prisoners and all of those unlawfully detained by the regime. We also join them in demanding new, free, and fair elections to be held in Belarus.

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

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Massachusetts (Mr. KEATING), the distinguished chair of the Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber; an esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee; and the author of this important bill.

Mr. KEATING. Madam Speaker, I thank the chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, my friend, GREGORY MEEKS of New York, for yielding and for his leadership on this issue.

I also thank the ranking member, my friend and colleague, MICHAEL MCCAUL of Texas, for his support and leadership. I also thank the longtime leader of this cause, Representative CHRIS SMITH, for his support. I thank them both for their bipartisan support.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H. Res. 124.

Today marks just over 8 months since an openly fraudulent presidential election took place in Belarus. In that time, Belarusians have made it clear by marching in the street en masse, with a pronounced leadership of brave women, that they want and need democracy in Belarus.

Despite the peaceful nature of these events, protestors have been beaten and arrested, and opposition leaders have either been forced out of the country, like Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya; or jailed, like Maria Kalesnikava.

This resolution, inspired by the courage of those taking to the streets to defend democracy, makes it clear to the people of Belarus and to the international community that the United

States House of Representatives has reviewed the facts and determined that the 2020 Belarus presidential election was neither free nor fair, and that Alyaksandr Lukashenka cannot and must not be recognized as Belarus's legitimate president.

The resolution also strongly condemns the heinous human rights violations that have been committed by Belarusian authorities and underlines that Belarus is a sovereign nation, whose people have the right to self-determination.

As chairman of the House Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment and Cyber, I held a hearing in March, where we heard firsthand from presidential candidate Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya about the unprecedented violence and verbal, physical, emotional, and sexual assault of peaceful protestors. In their fight for democracy, the Belarusian people have endured unprecedented repression and many protestors have been left severely wounded, and at least eight have been murdered by this reprehensible regime.

Madam Speaker, this resolution is a vital signal of support for the democratic movement in Belarus, that their sacrifice will not be forgotten, and their calls for recognition will not go unanswered.

Madam Speaker, I urge my colleagues to pass this resolution and send a clear message that the United States is paying close attention to the human rights situation in Belarus and will continue to support the people of Belarus in their fight for a new, free, and fair election.

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from New Jersey (Mr. SMITH), the ranking member of the Foreign Affairs Subcommittee on Africa, Global Health, and Global Human Rights; and also the author of the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act that was signed into law last year.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. Madam Speaker, I thank my good friend for yielding and for his leadership, as well as Chairman MEEKS. I especially want to thank Chairman KEATING for authoring this very, very important resolution and for his hearing that he held in March on the situation in Belarus.

Madam Speaker, the resolution condemns Alyaksandr Lukashenka's ongoing and ever-worsening brutality and crackdown on peaceful protestors.

As my colleagues know, the leading opposition presidential candidate, Sviatlana Tsikhanouskaya, who almost certainly won the election in August and helped form the Coordination Council as a means to seek a peaceful transition of power, needs our consistent and robust support and encouragement.

Today, Ms. Tsikhanouskaya is in exile in Lithuania, where she continues to rally the Belarusian people and the world and to demand democracy and human rights for her nation, no matter how long it takes.

More than 8 months have passed since the stolen August presidential election, and about 5 months since President Trump signed the Belarus Democracy, Human Rights, and Sovereignty Act of 2020, which I authored.

Let me point out to my colleagues that I first authored the Belarus Democracy Act in the year 2004. It was enacted into law and reauthorized in 2006 and 2011. What it did was focus on denying visas to human rights abusers and made people who are singled out ineligible for participating in our economy.

In retaliation, I was told I could not visit Belarus. I was denied a visa repeatedly. I finally got there twice and raised human rights issues with Lukashenka himself.

Let me just say that a resolution like this has real impact. Just last week, as a result of an outcry from human rights organizations, the government released Tatsiana Hatsura-Yavorska, the director of the Watch Docs Film Festival in Belarus, and they dropped the charges because of the outcry.

Again, I want to thank Mr. KEATING, the chairman, for doing this.

Let me remind my colleagues, too, that the Russians continue to play a very, very destructive role in the country. This past week alone, Russian authorities detained Yuras Zyankovich, a Belarusian lawyer and U.S. citizen.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I yield 1 minute to the gentleman from Michigan (Mr. MEIJER), a member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H. Res. 124, a resolution to support the people of Belarus in their efforts against corruption and kleptocracy.

On August 9, 2020, Belarus held a presidential election marred by credible reports of widespread election manipulation. Not surprisingly, the Belarusian dictator, Alyaksandr Lukashenka, who has ruled with an iron fist for nearly three decades, commanded an authoritarian 80 percent of the vote.

Since August, Belarusians have taken to the streets peacefully to express their desire for self-determination. Instead of heeding their calls, the regime has responded with extreme violence, arbitrary detention, torture, and other systematic violations of human rights.

This resolution sends a clear message that we in Congress support the Belarusian people and their aspirations for democracy, human rights, and the rule of law.

Madam Speaker, I urge a "yes" vote from all of my colleagues. Passage of this resolution will send a message that we in Congress stand against the violent crackdown of the Lukashenka regime and stand with the people of Belarus.

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

Mr. MCCAUL. Madam Speaker, I am prepared to close and I yield myself the balance of my time.

Today, the people of Belarus know that they are not alone, that they have the support of the United States Congress and the American people.

Madam Speaker, I urge passage, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I join with Ranking Member MCCAUL that this resolution makes it clear that the United States will not be silent on human rights violations as perpetrated by the illegitimate Lukashenko regime and we stand with the Belarusian people in their peaceful fight for democracy. I hope all join in supporting this resolution.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution, H. Res. 124, as amended.

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

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

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

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

YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 965) to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 965

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 "Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021" or "YALI Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. SENSE OF CONGRESS.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the Young African Leaders Initiative, launched in 2010, is a signature effort to invest in the next generation of African leaders;

(2) Africa is a continent of strategic importance and it is vital for the United States to support strong and enduring partnerships with the next generation of African leaders; and

(3) the United States Government should prioritize investments to build the capacity of emerging young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa, including through efforts to enhance leadership skills, encourage entrepreneurship, strengthen public administration and the role of civil society, and connect young African leaders continentally and

globally across the private, civic, and public sectors.

SEC. 3. YOUNG AFRICAN LEADERS INITIATIVE PROGRAM.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—There is established in the Department of State the Young African Leaders Initiative (“YALI”) program.

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The YALI program shall seek to build the capacity of young African leaders in sub-Saharan Africa in the areas of business, civic engagement, or public administration, including through efforts to—

(1) support young African leaders by offering professional development, training, and networking opportunities, particularly in the areas of leadership, innovation, civic engagement, elections, human rights, entrepreneurship, good governance, and public administration; and

(2) provide increased economic and technical assistance to young African leaders to promote economic growth and strengthen ties between United States and African businesses.

(c) **FELLOWSHIPS.**—The YALI program shall award fellowships under the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders program to young African leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions.

(d) **REGIONAL LEADERSHIP CENTERS.**—The YALI program shall seek to establish regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa to offer training to young African leaders ages 18 to 35 who have demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service and leadership, and who have had a positive impact in their communities, organizations, or institutions.

(e) **ACTIVITIES.**—

(1) **UNITED STATES-BASED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall oversee all United States-based activities carried out under the YALI program, including the following:

(A) The participation of Mandela Washington fellows in a six-week Leadership Institute at a United States university or college in business, civic engagement, or public management, including academic sessions, site visits, professional networking opportunities, leadership training, community service, and organized cultural activities.

(B) The participation by Mandela Washington fellows in an annual Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit, to provide such Fellows the opportunity to meet with United States leaders from the private, public, and non-profit sectors.

(2) **AFRICA-BASED ACTIVITIES.**—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, should continue to support YALI programs in sub-Saharan Africa, including the following:

(A) Access to continued leadership training and other professional development opportunities for Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders alumni upon their return to their home countries, including online courses, technical assistance, and access to funding.

(B) Training for young African leaders at regional leadership centers established in accordance with subsection (d), and through online and in-person courses offered by such centers.

(C) Opportunities for networking and engagement with—

(i) other alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship for Young African Leaders;

(ii) alumni of programs at regional leadership centers established in accordance with subsection (d); and

(iii) United States and like-minded diplomatic missions, business leaders, and others as appropriate.

(3) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—To carry out this subsection, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies shall seek to partner with the private sector to pursue public-private partnerships, leverage private sector expertise, expand networking opportunities, and identify funding opportunities as well as fellowship and employment opportunities for participants in the YALI program.

(f) **IMPLEMENTATION PLAN.**—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development and the heads of other relevant Federal departments and agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a plan for implementing the YALI program, including the following:

(1) A description of clearly defined program goals, targets, and planned outcomes for each year and for the duration of implementation of the program.

(2) A strategy to monitor and evaluate the program and progress made toward achieving such goals, targets, and planned outcomes.

(3) A strategy to ensure the program is promoting United States foreign policy goals in Africa, including ensuring that the program is clearly branded and paired with robust public diplomacy efforts.

(g) **REPORT.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter for 5 years, the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees and publish in a publicly accessible, internet-based form, a report on the following:

(1) The progress made toward achieving the goals, targets, and planned outcomes described in subsection (f)(1), including an overview of the program implemented in the previous year and an estimated number of beneficiaries.

(2) An assessment of how the YALI program is contributing to and promoting United States-Africa relations, particularly in areas of increased private sector investment, trade promotion, support to civil society, improved public administration, and fostering entrepreneurship and youth empowerment.

(3) Recommendations for improvements or changes to the program and implementation plan, if any, that would improve their effectiveness during subsequent years of implementation of the program.

(h) **APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate.

(i) **SUNSET.**—The requirements of this section shall terminate on the date that is 5 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from

New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 965.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 965, the YALI Act of 2021, introduced by Representatives KAREN BASS and CHRIS SMITH.

Since 2010 the Young African Leaders Initiative has been building the next generation of Africa's youth to lead the way in civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and business development.

We must remember that by 2050, almost one-third of the world's population will be in Africa, and the United States must continue to forge strong ties with our African partners and cultivate its youth for a future of principled leadership.

By helping Africa's young leaders, YALI remains an important avenue for promoting U.S. foreign policy goals in Africa. It will be key in strengthening our partnerships with African countries that are working to create the pathway for Africa's youth to make positive and enduring impacts on their communities.

If passed, H.R. 965 will provide a strong mandate for the implementation and congressional oversight of YALI and its key initiatives, including the U.S.-based Mandela Washington Fellowship and the Regional Leadership Centers established throughout sub-Saharan Africa.

This, too, is a very important bill. I support it and urge my colleagues to do the same. With that, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mrs. WAGNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 965, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act, led by Representative BASS and Representative SMITH.

YALI provides fellowship opportunities at U.S. universities and other training programs at Regional Leadership Centers throughout sub-Saharan Africa on leadership skills, entrepreneurship, and effective public administration.

Not only is this an investment in future generations of African leaders, but this is also effective diplomacy. At a time when the Chinese Communist Party is ramping up exchange programs across the continent and establishing Confucius Institutes, programs like YALI are critical to providing alternate opportunities.

I urge my colleagues to support this important measure. I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 2 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), the distinguished president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly and esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise on behalf of Ms. BASS, the author of this legislation, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021.

The chairman has described the bill. This is an important piece of legislation, as we help try to nourish and develop the next generation of African leadership.

This is an important initiative for the United States to build on those ties, to build those bridges. I commend Congresswoman BASS for her leadership on the YALI program and for this legislation. I urge its passage. I will include the full statement of Ms. BASS in the RECORD.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I will just say quickly thanks to Representatives BASS and CHRIS SMITH. This will help build the next generation of Africa's youth. I hope all my colleagues will join me in voting for this very important bill.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. CONNOLLY. Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 965, the Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021, introduced by my good friend and Chairwoman of the Africa, Global Health, and Human Rights Subcommittee, Congresswoman KAREN BASS. Her leadership both on the House Foreign Affairs Committee and on this bill is unparalleled, and I am honored to speak on her behalf today.

I also wish to thank Chairman MEEKS and ranking Member MCCAUL for bringing this important legislation to the House floor.

The YALI Act of 2021, is a bipartisan bill that seeks to build the capacity of young African leaders in Africa in the areas of civic engagement, entrepreneurship, and business development by:

Offering professional development and a global network to share expertise, including in the areas of civic leadership, elections, human rights, good governance, and public management;

Providing increased economic and technical assistance to young leaders and entrepreneurs; and strengthening business and economic ties between the United States and the continent;

Awarding Mandela Washington Fellowships to young leaders who have had a positive impact in their communities and demonstrated strong capabilities in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership;

Establishing regional leadership centers in sub-Saharan Africa allowing young leaders to strengthen their skills and aptitude in entrepreneurship, innovation, public service, and leadership.

The YALI program has two vital components that will be carried out by participants in the program. The U.S.-based component led by the Secretary of State, in coordination with the Administrator for USAID will include the following:

The Mandela Washington Fellows will participate in a six-week Leadership Institute at a U.S.-based university or college focusing on

business, civic engagement, or public management. The sessions will include professional networking opportunities, community service, cultural activities, academic learning, and leadership training.

The Mandela Washington Fellows will also participate in the annual Mandela Washington Fellowship Summit held in Washington, D.C., which will provide an opportunity to meet with U.S. leaders from the private, public, and NGO sectors.

The YALI program was built on the premise of young leaders strengthening their knowledge and skills at U.S. institutions, connecting with other Africans from different regions and countries in Africa, and ensuring young leaders can harness their skills and take them back to their home countries while strengthening their own business, public, and civic spaces.

The YALI Act of 2021 would also continue to allow the United States to support and help strengthen the Africa-based component of the program including:

Quality leadership training, professional development, networking, and online courses for Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni when they return to their home countries;

Opportunities for networking with alumni of the Mandela Washington Fellowship; alumni of participants at the YALI Regional Leadership Centers; and American and African professionals and experts; and

Opportunities through the United States Africa Development Foundation to facilitate professional development and sharing of expertise in the home countries of Mandela Washington Fellowship alumni and throughout the African continent.

Through the implementation of the YALI Act of 2021, the United States will:

Promote U.S. policy goals in Africa by providing tools and resources to help young African leaders develop important skills and connections through online campaigns and public diplomacy initiatives; and establish a system for monitoring, evaluating, and continued improvement of the YALI program.

The bipartisan support of H.R. 965 shows that this bill is critical to U.S. national security. It also highlights that our relationship with Africa is a priority, and we want to continue to rebuild and strengthen our partnership in trade and investment, peace and security, and human rights and good governance, because it is in the best interest of the United States and Africa.

Mr. SMITH of New Jersey. I rise in support H.R. 965, of which I am a cosponsor, introduced by my friend and colleague, chairwoman of the Africa Subcommittee, KAREN BASS, to strengthen and formalize our Young African Leaders Initiative program.

The YALI program identifies and invites young leaders from across the African continent to participate in training programs that enhance their leadership skills. Among these individuals, some are selected to participate in the Mandela Washington Fellowship here in the United States.

I have met and spoken with YALI leaders who have participated in the Mandela Fellowship program through Rutgers University in my home state of New Jersey. They are the leaders of tomorrow.

I urge all of my colleagues to join me in supporting this legislation, and again, thank you to Chairwoman BASS for her leadership.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 965, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

PROTECTION OF SAUDI DISSIDENTS ACT OF 2021

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1392) to protect Saudi dissidents in the United States, and for other purposes, as amended.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1392

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 "Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Jamal Khashoggi, a United States resident, Saudi journalist, and Washington Post columnist, was killed and dismembered in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, Turkey on October 2, 2018.

(2) At the time of his murder, Khashoggi was living in Virginia under an "O" visa and was in the process of applying for a permanent residency.

(3) A report by the Office of the Director of National Intelligence (ODNI) found that Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey to capture or kill Khashoggi.

(4) The assessment of the ODNI was based on "the Crown Prince's control of decision-making in the Kingdom, the direct involvement of a key adviser and members of Muhammad bin Salman's protective detail in the operation, and the Crown Prince's support for using violent measures to silence dissidents abroad".

(5) The report also reiterates that "the Crown Prince has had absolute control of the Kingdom's security and intelligence organizations" since 2017.

SEC. 3. RESTRICTIONS ON TRANSFERS OF DEFENSE ARTICLES AND SERVICES, DESIGN AND CONSTRUCTION SERVICES, AND MAJOR DEFENSE EQUIPMENT TO SAUDI ARABIA.

(a) INITIAL PERIOD.—During the 120-day period beginning on the date of the enactment of this Act, the President may not sell, authorize a license for the export of, or otherwise transfer any defense articles or defense services, design and construction services, or major defense equipment under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) to an intelligence, internal security, or law enforcement agency or instrumentality of the Government of Saudi Arabia, or to any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of such agency or instrumentality.

(b) SUBSEQUENT PERIODS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—During the 120-day period beginning after the end of the 120-day period described in subsection (a), and each 120-day period thereafter, the President may not sell, authorize a license for the export of, or otherwise transfer any defense articles or services, design and construction services, or major defense equipment under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.), regardless of the amount of such articles, services, or equipment, to an intelligence, internal security, or law enforcement agency or instrumentality of the Government of Saudi Arabia, or to any person acting as an agent of or on behalf of such agency or instrumentality, unless the President has submitted to the chairman and ranking member of the appropriate congressional committees a certification described in paragraph (2).

(2) CERTIFICATION.—A certification described in this paragraph is a certification that contains a determination of the President that, during the 120-day period preceding the date of submission of the certification, the United States Government has not determined that the Government of Saudi Arabia has conducted any of the following activities:

(A) Forced repatriation, intimidation, or killing of dissidents in other countries.

(B) The unjust imprisonment in Saudi Arabia of United States citizens or aliens lawfully admitted for permanent residence or the prohibition on these individuals and their family members from exiting Saudi Arabia.

(C) Torture of detainees in the custody of the Government of Saudi Arabia.

(c) EXCEPTION.—The restrictions in this section shall not apply with respect to the sale, authorization of a license for export, or transfer of any defense articles or services, design and construction services, or major defense equipment under the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2751 et seq.) for use in—

(1) the defense of the territory of Saudi Arabia from external threats; or

(2) the defense of United States military or diplomatic personnel or United States facilities located in Saudi Arabia.

(d) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the restrictions in this section if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report not later than 15 days before the granting of such waiver that contains—

(A) a determination of the President that such a waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States; and

(B) a detailed justification for the use of such waiver and the reasons why the restrictions in this section cannot be met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs, the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations, the Select Committee on Intelligence, and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

SEC. 4. REPORT ON CONSISTENT PATTERN OF ACTS OF INTIMIDATION OR HARASSMENT DIRECTED AGAINST INDIVIDUALS IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Section 6 of the Arms Export Control Act (22 U.S.C. 2756) states that “no transfers or letters of offer may be issued, no credits or guarantees may be extended, and no export licenses may be issued under this Act with respect to any country determined by the President to be engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States”.

(2) Section 6 of the Arms Export Control Act further requires the President to report any such determination promptly to the Speaker of the House of Representatives, the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives, and to the chairman of the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report on—

(1) whether any official of the Government of Saudi Arabia engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against Jamal Khashoggi or any individual in the United States; and

(2) whether any United States-origin defense articles were used in the activities described in paragraph (1).

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

SEC. 5. REPORT AND CERTIFICATION WITH RESPECT TO SAUDI DIPLOMATS AND DIPLOMATIC FACILITIES IN THE UNITED STATES.

(a) REPORT.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report covering the three-year period preceding such date of enactment regarding whether and to what extent covered persons used diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities to facilitate monitoring, tracking, surveillance, or harassment of, or harm to, other nationals of Saudi Arabia living in the United States.

(b) CERTIFICATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and each 120-day period thereafter, the President shall, if the President determines that such is the case, submit to the appropriate congressional committees a certification that the United States Government has not determined covered persons to be using diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities to facilitate serious harassment of, or harm to, other nationals of Saudi Arabia living in the United States during the time period covered by each such certification.

(2) FAILURE TO SUBMIT CERTIFICATION.—If the President does not submit a certification under paragraph (1), the President shall—

(A) close one or more covered facilities for such period of time until the President does submit such a certification; and

(B) submit to the appropriate congressional committee a report that contains—

(i) a detailed explanation of why the President is unable to make such a certification;

(ii) a list and summary of engagements of the United States Government with the Government of Saudi Arabia regarding the use of diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities described in paragraph (1); and

(iii) a description of actions the United States Government has taken or intends to

take in response to the use of diplomatic credentials, visas, or covered facilities described in paragraph (1).

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (a) and the certification and report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) WAIVER.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President may waive the restrictions in this section if the President submits to the appropriate congressional committees a report not later than 15 days before the granting of such waiver that contains—

(A) a determination of the President that such a waiver is in the vital national security interests of the United States; and

(B) a detailed justification for the use of such waiver and the reasons why the restrictions in this section cannot be met.

(2) FORM.—The report required by this subsection shall be submitted in unclassified form, but may contain a classified annex.

(e) SUNSET.—This section shall terminate on the date that is 3 years after the date of the enactment of this Act.

(f) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and

(B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) COVERED FACILITY.—The term “covered facility” means a diplomatic or consular facility of Saudi Arabia in the United States.

(3) COVERED PERSON.—The term “covered person” means a national of Saudi Arabia credentialed to a covered facility.

SEC. 6. REPORT ON THE DUTY TO WARN OBLIGATION OF THE GOVERNMENT OF THE UNITED STATES.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds that Intelligence Community Directive 191 provides that—

(1) when an element of the intelligence community of the United States collects or acquires credible and specific information indicating an impending threat of intentional killing, serious bodily injury, or kidnapping directed at a person, the agency must “warn the intended victim or those responsible for protecting the intended victim, as appropriate” unless an applicable waiver of the duty is granted by the appropriate official within the element; and

(2) when issues arise with respect to whether the threat information rises to the threshold of “duty to warn”, the directive calls for resolution in favor of warning the intended victim.

(b) REPORT.—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Director of National Intelligence, in coordination with the heads of other relevant United States intelligence agencies, shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report with respect to—

(1) whether and how the intelligence community fulfilled its duty to warn Jamal Khashoggi of threats to his life and liberty pursuant to Intelligence Community Directive 191; and

(2) in the case of the intelligence community not fulfilling its duty to warn as described in paragraph (1), why the intelligence community did not fulfill this duty.

(c) FORM.—The report required by subsection (b) shall be submitted in unclassified form but may contain a classified annex.

(d) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence of the House of Representatives; and
 (B) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Select Committee on Intelligence of the Senate.

(2) DUTY TO WARN.—The term “duty to warn” has the meaning given that term in Intelligence Community Directive 191, as in effect on July 21, 2015.

(3) INTELLIGENCE COMMUNITY.—The term “intelligence community” has the meaning given such term in section 3(4) of the National Security Act of 1947 (50 U.S.C. 3003(4)).

(4) RELEVANT UNITED STATES INTELLIGENCE AGENCY.—The term “relevant United States intelligence agency” means any element of the intelligence community that may have possessed intelligence reporting regarding threats to Jamal Khashoggi.

SEC. 7. DETERMINATION OF BUDGETARY EFFECTS.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from New York.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. MEEKS. I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 1392, as amended.

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

There was no objection.

Mr. MEEKS. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021, an important bill introduced by the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY).

Though Saudi Arabia has taken steps to reform, its progress has been marred by the Saudi Government’s brutality against dissidents and most notably the detention and abuse of numerous peaceful protesters and the brutal killing of Washington Post journalist and U.S. resident, Jamal Khashoggi.

The Biden administration’s release of the DNI report was a good step toward accountability for the killing of Jamal Khashoggi, but further steps need to be taken.

This bill imposes reasonable limits on U.S. weapons transfers to Saudi intelligence agencies shown to be involved in the killing of Jamal Khashoggi and political repression until such repression and abuse of dissidents comes to an end.

In conclusion, let me be clear, nothing in this legislation would deny the Saudi Government the ability to defend its territory against attacks from external threats or inhibit its ability

to defend the United States military, diplomatic personnel, or facilities in the kingdom.

It is important that the United States stands clear on these matters, speaking loudly in defense of human rights and taking action when they are grossly violated.

I ask the support of all my colleagues to vote for this bill.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES,
 COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN AFFAIRS,
 Washington, DC, April 16, 2021.

Hon. ADAM B. SCHIFF,
 House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN SCHIFF: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1392, Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021. I appreciate your willingness to work cooperatively on this legislation.

I acknowledge that provisions of the bill fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence under House Rule X, and that your Committee will forgo action on H.R. 1392 to expedite floor consideration. I further acknowledge that the inaction of your Committee with respect to the bill does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the matters contained in the bill that fall within your jurisdiction. I will also support the appointment of House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence conferees during any House-Senate conference convened on this legislation.

Lastly, I will ensure that our exchange of letters is included in the Congressional Record during floor consideration of the bill. Thank you again for your cooperation regarding the legislation. I look forward to continuing to work with you as the measure moves through the legislative process.

Sincerely,
 GREGORY W. MEEKS,
 Chair.

HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES, PERMANENT SELECT COMMITTEE ON INTELLIGENCE,
 April 19, 2021.

Hon. GREGORY MEEKS,
 Chairman, House Foreign Affairs Committee, House of Representatives, Washington, DC.

DEAR CHAIRMAN MEEKS: I am writing to you concerning H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021. Certain provisions in the legislation fall within the jurisdiction of the House Permanent Select Committee on Intelligence, as set forth in Rule X of the House of Representatives for the 117th Congress.

In the interest of permitting your committee to proceed expeditiously to floor consideration of this important bill, I am willing to waive this committee’s right to sequential referral. By waiving consideration of the H.R. 1392, the Intelligence Committee does not waive any future jurisdictional claim over the subjects contained in the bill which fall within Intelligence’s Rule X jurisdiction.

Please place this letter into the committee report for the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act and into the Congressional Record during consideration of the measure on the House floor. Thank you for the cooperative spirit in which you have worked regarding this matter and others between our respective committees.

Sincerely,
 ADAM B. SCHIFF,
 Chairman.

Mrs. WAGNER. I yield myself such time as I may consume.

Madam Speaker, I want to thank Chairman MEEKS and Representative CONNOLLY for working on this compromise text for the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act that strikes an important balance.

The bill we are voting on today shows that we can strongly advocate for human rights in Saudi Arabia and for its nationals abroad without leaving Saudi Arabia and Americans in the region vulnerable to threats from Iran and other malign actors. This bill shows we can protect our values and our security interests at the same time.

I urge all Members to support this legislation.

I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, I yield 3 minutes to the gentleman from Virginia (Mr. CONNOLLY), distinguished president of the NATO Parliamentary Assembly, esteemed member of the Foreign Affairs Committee, and author of this important bill.

Mr. CONNOLLY. I thank, again, my good friend Mr. MEEKS, the distinguished chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee; Mr. MCCAUL, the ranking member; and my good friend from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) for their support on this bipartisan effort.

We cannot sit idly by in this body and watch an American resident, my constituent, brutally murdered and dismembered in the consulate of Saudi Arabia in Istanbul, Turkey. We cannot allow that to go unaddressed. The human rights abuse that represents is all too characteristic of the methods used by certain forces in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia against dissidents.

America remains the beacon of hope for those who seek freedom, basic simple freedoms to express themselves politically, religiously, and to be able to assemble peacefully. This bill ends the impunity against those voices of dissent. This bill provides that beacon of hope for so many who look to this body for protection and safe harbor.

I urge passage of H.R. 1392, Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act, which passed our committee unanimously, with the enlightened leadership of our distinguished chairman, GREGORY MEEKS, who has always committed himself to human rights.

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of my bill, H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021.

Let me start by thanking my friend and the Chairman of the Foreign Affairs Committee, Mr. GREGORY MEEKS, for his leadership in bringing this important bill to the floor.

In February of this year, more than two years after the cold blooded murder of Washington Post journalist, and my constituent, Jamal Khashoggi, the Director of National Intelligence released a previously classified U.S. intelligence report.

The report clearly stated: “We assess that Saudi Arabia’s Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman approved an operation in Istanbul, Turkey to capture or kill Saudi journalist Jamal Khashoggi.”

It continued: “We base this assessment on the Crown Prince’s control of decision making in the Kingdom, the direct involvement of a key adviser and members of Muhammad bin Salman’s protective detail in the operation, and the Crown Prince’s support for using violent measures to silence dissidents abroad, including Khashoggi.”

Finally, it concluded that “since 2017, the Crown Prince has had absolute control of the Kingdom’s security and intelligence organizations, making it highly unlikely that Saudi officials would have carried out an operation of this nature without the Crown Prince’s authorization.”

We’ve always known, beyond a shadow of a doubt, that Crown Prince Muhammad bin Salman directed the assassination of Jamal Khashoggi.

We also know that this operation is part of a broad and ongoing effort to use violence to intimidate and silence dissidents abroad.

And yet, the previous administration shielded Crown Prince MBS and Saudi Arabia from accountability, signaling this kind of abhorrent behavior was somehow ok, inviting further atrocities.

That impunity ends with this bill.

The Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act will stop the Kingdom and the Crown Prince from acting with impunity to commit gross human rights abuses like these.

My bill is targeted and does four specific things:

One: It limits arms exports to Saudi intelligence, internal security, or law enforcement entities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia has engaged in the following activities:

Forced repatriation, intimidation, or killing of dissidents in other countries;

The unjust imprisonment in Saudi Arabia of United States citizens or residents or the placing of travel restrictions on them or their family members; and

The torture of detainees in the custody of the Government of Saudi Arabia

Two: It requires the closure of one or more Saudi diplomatic facilities if the President finds that Saudi Arabia is using diplomatic or consular personnel to harass or harm Saudi nationals in the United States.

Three: It requires a report on whether Saudi Arabia has been engaged in a consistent pattern of acts of intimidation or harassment directed against individuals in the United States.

Four: Finally, it requires a report on whether the U.S. intelligence community fulfilled its duty to warn Jamal Khashoggi of threats to his life.

These provisions are long overdue.

This bill comes after years of fighting for the victims of Saudi Arabia’s war on dissent.

I have spoken out on behalf of Dr. Saad Aljabri and activist and former political prisoner Loujain Al-Hathloul. I am currently fighting for my constituents, Salah Al-Haider and Aziza Al-Yousef, as they battle political persecution in Saudi Arabia.

Saudi Arabia will not change their ways unless we act.

I ask my colleagues to join me in sending a message to human rights defenders, dissidents, and journalists worldwide and reaffirm the unshakeable American commitment to basic rights and freedoms.

I ask my colleagues to end the “two-year pageant of impunity” by finally holding Saudi Arabia accountable for Jamal Khashoggi’s brutal murder.

I ask my colleagues to support the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021.

Mr. MEEKS. Madam Speaker, let me just thank again Representative GERRY CONNOLLY for this critical bill holding Saudi Arabia accountable for its brutal suppression of dissidents.

Let me also say this helps ensure that the Saudi diplomatic facilities are not used as a staging ground for their efforts to suppress dissidents.

It is crucial that the United States stand strongly in defense of basic rights and freedom of expression and not allow U.S. weapons or support to be used by Saudi Arabia for the purposes of intimidating, abusing, or even killing peaceful Saudi dissidents.

I hope my colleagues will join me. With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

Mr. MEIJER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act. Saudi Arabia is one of our strongest partners in the Middle East. That does not mean, however, that we should cast a blind eye to the Kingdom’s most brutal human rights violations, including the murder of Jamal Khashoggi, a U.S. resident.

This bill, which passed out of the Foreign Affairs Committee with unanimous support, would prohibit arms sales to Saudi Arabia’s security services until the President certifies the Saudi government is not conducting flagrant human rights violations such as torture, the intimidation and assassination of dissidents, and the unjust imprisonment of U.S. citizens.

America is a beacon throughout the world because of our commitment to democratic values and our commitment to human rights. Our actions must match our convictions. We can and should leverage our close relationship to promote human rights in Saudi Arabia. This bill would do exactly that—sending a message to our ally that if it continues to engage in such actions, there will be consequences. I urge my colleagues to support this important legislation.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1392, as amended.

The question was taken.

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

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

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

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

SECURE AND FAIR ENFORCEMENT BANKING ACT OF 2021

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1996) to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related le-

gitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, and for other purposes, as amended, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Colorado (Mr. PERLMUTTER) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, as amended.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 321, nays 101, not voting 7, as follows:

[Roll No. 120]

YEAS—321

Adams	Doggett	Krishnamoorthi
Aguilar	Donalds	Kuster
Allred	Doyle, Michael	Lamb
Amodei	F.	Langevin
Armstrong	Emmer	Larsen (WA)
Auchincloss	Escobar	Larson (CT)
Axne	Eshoo	LaTurner
Bacon	Espallat	Lawrence
Baird	Estes	Lawson (FL)
Balderson	Evans	Lee (CA)
Banks	Feenstra	Lee (NV)
Barr	Ferguson	Leger Fernandez
Barragán	Fitzgerald	Levin (CA)
Bass	Fitzpatrick	Levin (MI)
Beatty	Fletcher	Lieu
Bera	Foster	Lofgren
Bergman	Frankel, Lois	Long
Beyer	Gaetz	Loudermilk
Bice (OK)	Gallego	Lowenthal
Bishop (GA)	Garamendi	Luetkemeyer
Blumenauer	Garbarino	Luria
Blunt Rochester	Garcia (CA)	Lynch
Bonamici	Garcia (IL)	Mace
Bost	Garcia (TX)	Malinowski
Bourdeaux	Gimenez	Malliotakis
Bowman	Golden	Maloney,
Boyle, Brendan	Gomez	Carolyn B.
F.	Gonzales, Tony	Maloney, Sean
Brooks	Gonzalez (OH)	Mann
Brown	Gonzalez,	Manning
Brownley	Vicente	Massie
Burchett	Gottheimer	Mast
Bush	Green (TN)	Matsui
Butterfield	Green, Al (TX)	McBath
Cammack	Griffith	McCarthy
Carbajal	Grijalva	McClintock
Cárdenas	Grothman	McCollum
Carson	Hagedorn	McEachin
Cartwright	Harder (CA)	McGovern
Case	Hayes	McKinley
Casten	Hern	McNerney
Castor (FL)	Herrera Beutler	Meeks
Castro (TX)	Higgins (LA)	Meijer
Cawthorn	Higgins (NY)	Meng
Chu	Hill	Meuser
Ciulline	Himes	Mfume
Clark (MA)	Hinson	Miller (WV)
Clarke (NY)	Hollingsworth	Miller-Meeks
Cleaver	Horsford	Mooney
Clyburn	Houlihan	Moore (AL)
Cohen	Hoyer	Moore (UT)
Cole	Huffman	Moore (WI)
Comer	Issa	Morelle
Connolly	Jackson Lee	Moulton
Cooper	Jacobs (CA)	Mrvan
Correa	Jacobs (NY)	Murphy (FL)
Costa	Jayapal	Nadler
Courtney	Jeffries	Napolitano
Craig	Johnson (GA)	Neal
Crawford	Johnson (OH)	Neguse
Crenshaw	Johnson (SD)	Nehls
Crist	Johnson (TX)	Newhouse
Crow	Jones	Newman
Cuellar	Joyce (OH)	Norcross
Curtis	Kahele	Norman
Davids (KS)	Kaptur	O’Halloran
Davidson	Katko	Oberholte
Davis, Danny K.	Keating	Ocasio-Cortez
Davis, Rodney	Keller	Omar
Dean	Kelly (IL)	Owens
DeFazio	Kelly (PA)	Pallone
DeGette	Khanna	Panetta
DeLauro	Kildee	Pappas
DelBene	Kilmer	Pascrell
Delgado	Kim (CA)	Payne
Demings	Kim (NJ)	Perlmutter
DeSaulnier	Kind	Perry
Deutch	Kinzinger	Peters
Dingell	Kirkpatrick	Phillips

Pingree	Scott, David	Titus
Pocan	Sewell	Tlaib
Porter	Sherman	Tonko
Pressley	Sherrill	Torres (CA)
Quigley	Simpson	Torres (NY)
Raskin	Sires	Trahan
Reed	Slotkin	Trone
Reschenthaler	Smith (WA)	Underwood
Rice (NY)	Smucker	Upton
Rice (SC)	Soto	Valadao
Rodgers (WA)	Spanberger	Van Drew
Rogers (AL)	Spartz	Van Duyn
Ross	Speier	Vargas
Roybal-Allard	Stanton	Veasey
Ruiz	Staubert	Velasquez
Ruppersberger	Stefanik	Waltz
Rush	Steil	Wasserman
Ryan	Steu	Schultz
Salazar	Stevens	Waters
Sánchez	Stivers	Watson Coleman
Sarbanes	Strickland	Welch
Scanlon	Suzuki	Wexton
Schakowsky	Swalwell	Wild
Schiff	Takano	Williams (GA)
Schneider	Taylor	Wilson (FL)
Schrader	Tenney	Womack
Schrier	Thompson (CA)	Yarmuth
Schweikert	Thompson (MS)	Young
Scott (VA)	Thompson (PA)	
Scott, Austin	Timmons	

NAYS—101

Aderholt	Gallagher	Miller (IL)
Allen	Gohmert	Moolenaar
Arrington	Good (VA)	Mullin
Babin	Gooden (TX)	Murphy (NC)
Bentz	Gosar	Nunes
Biggs	Granger	Palazzo
Bilirakis	Graves (LA)	Palmer
Bishop (NC)	Graves (MO)	Pence
Brady	Greene (GA)	Pfleger
Buchanan	Guest	Posey
Buck	Guthrie	Rogers (KY)
Bucshon	Harris	Rose
Budd	Harshbarger	Rosendale
Burgess	Hartzler	Rouzer
Calvert	Herrell	Roy
Carl	Hice (GA)	Rutherford
Carter (GA)	Hudson	Scalise
Carter (TX)	Huizenga	Sessions
Chabot	Jackson	Smith (MO)
Cheney	Johnson (LA)	Smith (NJ)
Cline	Jordan	Steel
Cloud	Joyce (PA)	Stewart
DesJarlais	Kelly (MS)	Tiffany
Diaz-Balart	Kustoff	Turner
Duncan	LaHood	Wagner
Dunn	LaMalfa	Walberg
Fallon	Lamborn	Walorski
Fischbach	Latta	Weber (TX)
Fleischmann	Lesko	Webster (FL)
Fortenberry	Letlow	Wenstrup
Foxx	Lucas	Westerman
Franklin, C.	McCaul	Williams (TX)
Scott	McClain	Wilson (SC)
Fulcher	McHenry	Wittman

NOT VOTING—7

Boebert	Gibbs	Zeldin
Bustos	Price (NC)	
Clyde	Smith (NE)	

□ 1905

Messrs. DUNCAN, CALVERT, ROGERS of Kentucky, MCCAUL, and PFLUGER changed their vote from “yea” to “nay.”

Messrs. MCNERNEY and LONG changed their vote from “nay” to “yea.”

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

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown)	Beatty	Cárdenas
Allred (Wexton)	(Lawrence)	(Gonzalez,
Baird (Walorski)	Buchanan	Vicente)
Barragán (Beyer)	(Cammack)	Costa (Correa)
Bass (Brownley)	Carbajal (Correa)	

Crenshaw	Lawson (FL)	Omar (Pressley)
(Fallon)	(Evans)	Palazzo
Donalds	Lee (CA)	(Fleischman)
(Cammack)	(Khanna)	Payne (Pallone)
Green, Al (TX)	Lieu (Beyer)	Pocan (Raskin)
(Thompson	Lowenthal	Porter (Wexton)
(MS))	(Beyer)	Rush
Grijalva (García	McEachin	(Underwood)
(IL))	(Wexton)	Sewell (DelBene)
Higgins (NY)	Meng (Clark	Stefanik (Katko)
(Kildee)	(MA))	Trahan (Lynch)
Jackson Lee	Mfume	Watson Coleman
(Butterfield)	(Connolly)	(Pallone)
Kind (Connolly)	Moore (WT)	Welch
Kirkpatrick	(Beyer)	(McGovern)
(Stanton)	Moulton	Wilson (FL)
Langevin	(Perlmutter)	(Hayes)
(Lynch)	Napolitano	Wilson (SC)
	(Correa)	(Timmons)

CONDEMNING CONTINUED VIOLATION OF RIGHTS AND FREEDOMS OF PEOPLE OF HONG KONG BY PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA AND GOVERNMENT OF HONG KONG SPECIAL ADMINISTRATIVE REGION

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Mr. CUELLAR). Pursuant to clause 8 of rule XX, the unfinished business is the vote on the motion to suspend the rules and agree to the resolution (H. Res. 130) condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong special administrative region, on which the yeas and nays were ordered.

The Clerk read the title of the resolution.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from New York (Mr. MEEKS) that the House suspend the rules and agree to the resolution.

The vote was taken by electronic device, and there were—yeas 418, nays 1, not voting 11, as follows:

[Roll No. 121]

YEAS—418

Adams	Brown	Cooper
Aderholt	Brownley	Correa
Agullar	Buchanan	Costa
Allen	Buck	Courtney
Allred	Bucshon	Craig
Amodei	Budd	Crawford
Armstrong	Burchett	Crenshaw
Arrington	Burgess	Crist
Auchincloss	Bush	Crow
Axne	Butterfield	Cuellar
Babin	Calvert	Curtis
Bacon	Cammack	Davidson
Baird	Carbajal	Davis, Danny K.
Balderson	Cárdenas	Davis, Rodney
Banks	Carl	Dean
Barr	Carson	DeFazio
Barragán	Carter (GA)	DeGette
Bass	Carter (TX)	DeLauro
Beatty	Cartwright	DelBene
Bentz	Case	Delgado
Bera	Casten	Demings
Bergman	Castor (FL)	DeSaulnier
Beyer	Castro (TX)	DesJarlais
Bice (OK)	Cawthorn	Deutch
Biggs	Chabot	Diaz-Balart
Bilirakis	Cheney	Dingell
Bishop (GA)	Chu	Doggett
Bishop (NC)	Cicilline	Donalds
Blumenauer	Clarke (MA)	Doyle, Michael
Blunt Rochester	Clarke (NY)	F.
Bonamici	Cleaver	Duncan
Bost	Cline	Dunn
Bourdeaux	Cloud	Emmer
Bowman	Clyburn	Escobar
Boyle, Brendan	Cohen	F.
F.	Cole	Estes
Brady	Comer	Evans
Brooks	Connolly	

Fallon	Kustoff	Porter
Feenstra	LaHood	Posey
Ferguson	LaMalfa	Pressley
Fischbach	Lamb	Price (NC)
Fitzgerald	Lamborn	Quigley
Fitzpatrick	Langevin	Raskin
Fleischmann	Larsen (WA)	Reed
Fletcher	Larson (CT)	Reschenthaler
Fortenberry	Latta	Rice (NY)
Foster	LaTurner	Rice (SC)
Foxx	Lawrence	Rodgers (WA)
Frankel, Lois	Lawson (FL)	Rogers (AL)
Franklin, C.	Lee (CA)	Rose
Scott	Lee (NV)	Rosendale
Fulcher	Lee (NV)	Rouzer
Gaetz	Leger Fernandez	Roy
Gallagher	Lesko	Royal-Allard
Gallagher	Letlow	Ruiz
Gallego	Levin (CA)	Ruppersberger
Garamendi	Levin (MI)	Rush
Garbarino	Lieu	Rutherford
García (CA)	Lofgren	Ryan
García (IL)	Long	Salazar
García (TX)	Loudermilk	Sánchez
Jimenez	Lowenthal	Sarbanes
Golden	Lucas	Scalise
Gomez	Luetkemeyer	Scanlon
Gonzales, Tony	Luria	Schakowsky
Gonzalez (OH)	Lynch	Schiff
Gonzalez,	Mace	Schneider
Vicente	Malinowski	Schrader
Good (VA)	Malliotakis	Schrier
Gooden (TX)	Maloney,	Schweikert
Gosar	Carolyn B.	Scott (VA)
Gottheimer	Maloney, Sean	Scott, Austin
Granger	Mann	Scott, David
Graves (LA)	Manning	Sessions
Graves (MO)	Mast	Sewell
Green, Al (TX)	Matsui	Sherman
Greene (GA)	McBath	Sherrill
Griffith	McCarthy	Simpson
Grijalva	McCaul	Sires
Grothman	McClain	Stanton
Guest	McClintock	Staubert
Guthrie	McCollum	Steel
Hagedorn	McEachin	Stefanik
Harder (CA)	McGovern	Steil
Harris	McHenry	Steu
Harshbarger	McKinley	Stevens
Hartzler	McNerney	Stewart
Hayes	Meeks	Stivers
Hern	Meijer	Strickland
Herrell	Meng	Suzuki
Herrera Beutler	Meuser	Swalwell
Hice (GA)	Mfume	Takano
Higgins (LA)	Miller (IL)	Taylor
Higgins (NY)	Miller (WV)	Tenney
Himes	Miller-Meeks	Thompson (CA)
Hinson	Moolenaar	Thompson (MS)
Hollingsworth	Mooney	Thompson (PA)
Horsford	Moore (AL)	Tiffany
Houlahan	Moore (UT)	Timmons
Hoyer	Moore (WI)	Titus
Hudson	Morelle	Tlaib
Huffman	Moulton	Tonko
Huizenga	Mrvan	Torres (CA)
Issa	Mullin	Torres (NY)
Jackson	Murphy (FL)	Trahan
Jackson Lee	Murphy (NC)	Trone
Jacobs (CA)	Nadler	Turner
Jacobs (NY)	Napolitano	Underwood
Jayapal	Neal	Upton
Jeffries	Neguse	Valadao
Johnson (GA)	Nehls	Van Drew
Johnson (LA)	Newhouse	Van Duyn
Johnson (OH)	Newman	Vargas
Johnson (SD)	Norcross	Veasey
Johnson (TX)	Norman	Vela
Jones	Nunes	Velázquez
Jordan	O'Halleran	Wagner
Joyce (OH)	Obernolte	Walberg
Joyce (PA)	Ocasio-Cortez	Walorski
Kahele	Owens	Waltz
Kaptur	Palazzo	Wasserman
Katko	Pallone	Schultz
Keating	Palmer	Pfleger
Keller	Panetta	Phillips
Kelly (IL)	Pappas	Pingree
Kelly (MS)	Pascarell	Pocan
Kelly (PA)	Payne	
Khanna	Pelosi	
Kildee	Pence	
Kilmer	Perlmutter	
Kim (CA)	Perry	
Kim (NJ)	Peters	
Kind	Phillips	
Kinzinger	Pfleger	
Kirkpatrick	Phillips	
Krishnamoorthi	Pingree	
Kuster	Pocan	

Webster (FL)

Welch	Williams (GA)	Womack
Wenstrup	Williams (TX)	Yarmuth
Westerman	Wilson (FL)	Young
Wexton	Wilson (SC)	
Wild	Wittman	

NAYS—1
 Massie
 NOT VOTING—11

Boebert	Gibbs	Rogers (KY)
Bustos	Gohmert	Smith (NE)
Clyde	Green (TN)	Zeldin
Espallat	Hill	

□ 1936

Mr. BABIN changed his vote from “nay” to “yea.”

So (two-thirds being in the affirmative) the rules were suspended and the resolution was agreed to.

The result of the vote was announced as above recorded.

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

Stated for:

Mr. ESPALLAT. Mr. Speaker, had I been present, I would have voted “yea” on rollcall No. 121.

MEMBERS RECORDED PURSUANT TO HOUSE RESOLUTION 8, 117TH CONGRESS

Adams (Brown)	Higgins (NY)	Moulton
Allred (Wexton)	(Kildee)	(Perlmutter)
Baird (Walorski)	Jackson Lee	Napolitano
Barragan (Beyer)	(Butterfield)	(Correa)
Bass (Brownley)	Kind (Connolly)	Omar (Pressley)
Beatty	Kirkpatrick	Palazzo
(Lawrence)	(Stanton)	(Fleischman)
Buchanan	Langevin	Payne (Pallone)
(Cammack)	(Lynch)	Pocan (Raskin)
Carbajal (Correa)	Lawson (FL)	Porter (Wexton)
Cárdenas	(Evans)	Rush
(Gonzalez,	Lee (CA)	(Underwood)
Vicente)	(Khanna)	Sewell (DelBene)
Costa (Correa)	Lieu (Beyer)	Stefanik (Katko)
Crenshaw	Lowenthal	Trahan (Lynch)
(Fallon)	(Beyer)	Watson Coleman
Donalds	McEachin	(Pallone)
(Cammack)	(Wexton)	Welch
Green, Al (TX)	Meng (Clark	(McGovern)
(Thompson	(MA))	Wilson (FL)
(MS))	Mfume	(Hayes)
Grijalva (García	(Connolly)	Wilson (SC)
(IL))	Moore (WI)	(Timmons)
	(Beyer)	

SOUTHEAST ASIA STRATEGIES ACT

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 1083) to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN).

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 1083

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 “Southeast Asia Strategy Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Southeast Asia is the fulcrum of the Indo-Pacific region, providing both a geographic and maritime link between East and South Asia.

(2) The Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN), a regional intergovernmental organization, remains central to the Indo-Pacific region’s institutional architecture and to United States foreign policy toward the region.

(3) The United States has reaffirmed that the security and sovereignty of its Southeast

Asian allies and partners, including a strong, independent ASEAN, remain vital to the prosperity and stability of the Indo-Pacific region.

(4) The United States has committed to deepen longstanding alliances and partnerships with a range of Southeast Asian nations, including by promoting our shared values, democracy, human rights, and civil society.

(5) Since the end of the Second World War, United States investments in strengthening alliances and partnerships with Southeast Asian nations have yielded tremendous returns for United States interests, as working with and through these alliances and partnerships have increased the region’s ability to address common challenges.

(6) ASEAN member states are critical United States security partners in protecting the freedom and openness of the maritime domain and preventing violent extremism and the trafficking of weapons of mass destruction.

(7) ASEAN member states have contributed significantly to regional disaster monitoring and management and emergency response through initiatives such as the ASEAN Coordinating Centre for Humanitarian Assistance on Disaster Management, an inter-governmental organization that facilitates coordination and cooperation among ASEAN member states and international organizations in times of emergency.

(8) According to the 2018 ASEAN Business Outlook Survey, ASEAN member states are vital to the prosperity of the United States economy and exports to ASEAN economies support more than 500,000 jobs in the United States.

(9) The United States and ASEAN have established a new strategic partnership that will enhance cooperation across the economic, political-security, and people-to-people pillars of the relationship.

SEC. 3. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

It is the policy of the United States—

(1) deepen cooperation with ASEAN and ASEAN member states in the interest of promoting peace, security, and stability in the Indo-Pacific region;

(2) affirm the importance of ASEAN centrality and ASEAN-led mechanisms in the evolving institutional architecture of the Indo-Pacific region; and

(3) establish and communicate a comprehensive strategy toward the Indo-Pacific region that articulates—

(A) the role and importance of Southeast Asia to the United States;

(B) the value of the United States-ASEAN relationship;

(C) the mutual interests of all parties;

(D) the concrete and material benefits all nations derive from strong United States engagement and leadership in Southeast Asia; and

(E) efforts to forge and maintain ASEAN consensus, especially on key issues of political and security concern to the region, such as the South China Sea.

SEC. 4. STRATEGY FOR ENGAGEMENT WITH SOUTHEAST ASIA AND ASEAN.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State, in consultation with the heads of other Federal departments and agencies as appropriate, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a comprehensive strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and ASEAN.

(b) MATTERS TO BE INCLUDED.—The strategy required by subsection (a) shall include the following:

(1) A statement of enduring United States interests in Southeast Asia and a description

of efforts to bolster the effectiveness of ASEAN.

(2) A description of efforts to—

(A) deepen and expand Southeast Asian alliances, partnerships, and multilateral engagements, including efforts to expand broad based and inclusive economic growth, security ties, security cooperation and interoperability, economic connectivity, and expand opportunities for ASEAN to work with other like-minded partners in the region; and

(B) encourage like-minded partners outside of the Indo-Pacific region to engage with ASEAN.

(3) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to strengthen the United States partnership with Southeast Asian nations and ASEAN, including to promote broad based and inclusive economic growth, trade, investment, energy innovation and sustainability, public-private partnerships, physical and digital infrastructure development, education, disaster management, public health and global health security, and economic, political, and public diplomacy in Southeast Asia.

(4) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to enhance the capacity of Southeast Asian nations with respect to enforcing international law and multilateral sanctions, and initiatives to cooperate with ASEAN as an institution in these areas.

(5) A summary of initiatives across the whole of the United States Government to promote human rights and democracy, to strengthen the rule of law, civil society, and transparent governance, to combat disinformation and to protect the integrity of elections from outside influence.

(6) A summary of initiatives to promote security cooperation and security assistance within Southeast Asian nations, including—

(A) maritime security and maritime domain awareness initiatives for protecting the maritime commons and supporting international law and freedom of navigation in the South China Sea; and

(B) efforts to combat terrorism, human trafficking, piracy, and illegal fishing, and promote more open, reliable routes for sea lines of communication.

(c) DISTRIBUTION OF STRATEGY.—For the purposes of assuring allies and partners in Southeast Asia and deepening United States engagement with ASEAN, the Secretary of State shall direct each United States chief of mission to ASEAN and its member states to distribute the strategy required by subsection (a) to host governments.

(d) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES DEFINED.—In this section, the term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Affairs and the Committee on Armed Services of the House of Representatives; and

(2) the Committee on Foreign Relations and the Committee on Armed Services of the Senate.

The SPEAKER pro tempore (Ms. NEWMAN). Pursuant to the rule, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) and the gentlewoman from Missouri (Mrs. WAGNER) each will control 20 minutes.

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Mr. Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and to include any extraneous material on H.R. 1083.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of the bipartisan Southeast Asia Strategy Act, of which I am a proud Democratic lead on the bill.

In 2017, Congresswoman WAGNER and I cofounded the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN to strengthen our Nation's relationships in Southeast Asia. ASEAN and its member nations are of critical importance to the United States. Enduring organizations like ASEAN will be key to maintaining a free and open Indo-Pacific.

The United States is already making key investments in the region alongside allies and partners like Japan, Australia, and India—notably, the recent Quad commitment to fund, manufacture, and distribute vaccines across Southeast Asia.

The Southeast Asia Strategy Act will build on these investments by reinforcing ASEAN centrality as U.S. policy and directing the Secretary of State to develop a comprehensive plan for engaging the institution and the region it represents.

This legislation comes at a crucial time for Southeast Asia, notably amidst the deteriorating situation in Myanmar following the recent military coup.

Given the significant and rapidly developing events in the region, Congress must send a message of the importance of the region by passing this bill.

It is also important that the administration nominates a U.S. Ambassador to ASEAN as quickly as possible. It is also imperative that the administration consistently sends senior officials to regional summits. Our Nation needs a voice in Southeast Asia now more than ever.

I urge my colleagues to pass this legislation and help build stronger ties between the United States and the peoples of Southeast Asia. I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise in support of H.R. 1083, the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, important legislation that I introduced to ensure the United States engages proactively and meaningfully in a critical region of the world.

This powerhouse region joins the Indian Ocean and Pacific Ocean regions and serves as a conduit for global trade. The Southeast Asian states are increasingly vital to the prosperity of the U.S. economy, generating hundreds of thousands of American jobs.

The People's Republic of China, eager to undermine U.S. interests in this key region, is aggressively working to expand its influence in Southeast Asia. It seeks to exploit its predatory investment, development, and trade policies;

illegal military installations in the South China Sea; and disinformation campaigns to coerce countries to accept its agenda.

The United States has long enjoyed strong relations with Southeast Asia, and it must now fully realize this strategic partnership. The Southeast Asia Strategic Act will ensure the United States develops and communicates a coherent regional strategy that addresses all aspects of the relationship, from trade and humanitarian goals to diplomatic and security arrangements.

We have a national interest in sustaining U.S. leadership in Southeast Asia, supporting human rights and respect for democratic freedoms, and articulating our strategic priorities.

We will find willing partners in our many friends and allies in the region that share our grave concerns regarding China's belligerence and growing power.

I thank Representative CASTRO, with whom I co-chair the Congressional Caucus on ASEAN, for working with me on this legislation. Congress' strong bipartisan support for U.S. engagement in Southeast Asia sends an unmistakable message of American resolve and leadership to the region.

Madam Speaker, I again urge my colleagues to support H.R. 1083, the Southeast Asia Strategy Act, and I yield back the balance of my time.

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

H.R. 1083, the Southeast Asia Strategies Act, introduced by Mrs. WAGNER, is important legislation that will recommit the United States to strengthening and deepening our ties to southeast Asia and the ASEAN economic union. This bill will reinforce the United States' cooperation with countries in the Indo-Pacific region and lay the groundwork for improved engagement and increased prosperity for America and its partner nations.

Madam Speaker, I hope my colleagues will join me in supporting this bill, and I yield back the balance of my time.

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 1083.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

TROPICAL FOREST AND CORAL REEF CONSERVATION REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2021

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I move to suspend the rules and pass the bill (H.R. 241) to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998.

The Clerk read the title of the bill.

The text of the bill is as follows:

H.R. 241

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 "Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. REAUTHORIZATION.

Section 806(d) of the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998 (22 U.S.C. 2431d(d)) is amended by adding at the end the following new paragraphs:

"(9) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2022.

"(10) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2023.

"(11) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2024.

"(12) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

"(13) \$20,000,000 for fiscal year 2026."

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

The Chair recognizes the gentleman from Texas.

GENERAL LEAVE

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I ask unanimous consent that all Members may have 5 legislative days in which to revise and extend their remarks and include extraneous material on H.R. 241.

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

There was no objection.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise today in support of H.R. 241, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021, introduced by Mr. CHABOT.

In this Congress, the House Foreign Affairs Committee aims to reprioritize and redouble our legislative efforts related to the environment, conservation, and climate change. Climate change already poses a significant threat, and what we do now will significantly impact how damaging climate change will be in the years to come.

If we do not act now, we will fail to mitigate the adverse effects posed by climate change. We will see growing food insecurity, migration and conflict, threatening our shared interests and security.

President Biden has already set a positive, ambitious agenda for international climate action. His first summit, the Climate Leaders Summit, will take place this very week, on April 22, during which the United States will reclaim its leadership role in galvanizing international support for protecting our planet.

We will continue to work closely with other nations in the lead-up to the U.N. Climate Change Conference in Glasgow this November and beyond, understanding that nothing short of an international response can meet this incredible challenge.

We have our work cut out for us, no doubt, which is why I am pleased to

bring forth this excellent bipartisan measure that would reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act. This highly successful debt-for-nature program has yielded tangible environmental benefits and returns on investment since first enacted in 1998. It offers eligible countries the opportunity to reduce debt owed to the United States when they invest in local ecologically and economically vital forest and coral reef ecosystems.

It is a win-win situation. According to the Congressional Research Service, since 1998, restructured debt agreements have saved more than 67 million acres of tropical forests in countries such as Botswana, Brazil, the Philippines, and Indonesia. They help strengthen civil society in conservation and environmental protection efforts and build public-private partnerships in developing countries, thereby advancing U.S. international development and democracy objectives.

Furthermore, these agreements help reduce the debt in these developing countries, lessening fiscal pressures, promoting capital market reforms, and stimulating economic growth while helping to protect the environment.

The world's forests are nature's lungs, and the ocean's coral reefs support a quarter of all marine life. This legislation puts in place economic incentives that can help drive good environmental stewardship, while promoting robust democracies and economic growth overseas.

I am pleased to support this important bill and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I rise this evening in support of H.R. 241, the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 2021, bipartisan legislation that I introduced along with my Democratic colleague, Mr. SHERMAN of California, earlier this year.

Developing countries are home to some of the world's most endangered and biologically diverse tropical forests and coral reefs. These critical ecosystems support the livelihoods of local populations, not to mention an abundance of animal species. Coral reefs are critical to the world's fish stocks and are magnets for tourism and the accompanying economic growth. It is in the interest of the whole world to protect and responsibly manage both tropical rainforests and coral reefs.

Unfortunately, however, whether it is deforestation, pollution, overfishing, or some other cause, these vital natural resources are threatened across the globe.

Today's legislation seeks to safeguard tropical forests and coral reefs by revitalizing the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998. Since the introduction of this legisla-

tion 23 years ago, this effort has been led by Ohio's great Senator, ROB PORTMAN, who was in the House at that time and who is leading the effort in the Senate one more time before he leaves office. Congressman SHERMAN and I were cosponsors of that effort back in 1998, and we are proud of its results over the years.

This program has already protected, as my colleague from Texas mentioned, 67 million acres of tropical forests across the globe. In terms of carbon emission, that is the equivalent of taking 11 million cars off the road.

This program does development right. It forgives debt, which some developing nations owe the United States, in exchange for investment in local conservation. Instead of providing a handout with questionable results, the debt forgiveness comes with requirements that ensure that the money grows local economies and benefits those who rely on healthy ecosystems the most.

Also, by assisting developing countries to properly manage and sustainably develop their own resources, it follows the old adage of "teaching a man to fish" so that the American taxpayer doesn't have to keep providing the fish.

Our constituents back home are rightfully skeptical oftentimes about foreign aid because we have a lot of ineffective programs that spend their money year after year without moving countries towards self-reliance. We owe it to the American taxpayers to ensure that aid programs are targeted, effective, and come to an end. H.R. 241 is all three.

Further, due to the peculiar structure of the type of debt this program forgives, developing countries would not have been paying back the portion that we are forgiving anytime soon anyway. A lot of it has already been outstanding for 10, 20, or even 30 years. Since the U.S. is unlikely to recoup the debt in a reasonable timeframe anyway, we might as well get something in return that benefits those countries, benefits us, and really benefits the entire world and those ecosystems and those forests and the animals that reside there and the coral reefs and the fish and other life that is there. So, really, it benefits so many.

Finally, our legislation is one more tool to counter China. Whereas China's One Belt One Road initiative oftentimes produces corrupt, elite-centered, get-rich-quick debt traps, our program is exactly the opposite. It brings transparency to natural resource management by engaging civil society, focuses on the people who depend on these ecosystems for food and economic activity instead of on elites, fosters sustainable development and is debt forgiveness instead of a debt trap. The One Belt One Road initiative oftentimes gets these countries in a huge debt trap that they never get out of, and China benefits instead of the countries that one thinks might benefit from One Belt One Road.

With this program, the State Department can showcase the U.S. development model and bring real gains in the developing world. It is in the interest of the whole world to protect tropical forests and coral reefs. This program does so in a targeted, proven, sustainable way, and pays for it by forgiving debt we would never have seen repaid anyway.

In my mind, this is a win for the taxpayer, a win for the developing countries, a win for America, and a win for the whole world. I would urge my colleagues to support this legislation.

I, again, thank BRAD SHERMAN, Democratic congressman from California, for his cosponsorship and his leadership on this.

Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

Mr. CASTRO of Texas. Madam Speaker, I reserve the balance of my time.

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

Madam Speaker, I will close by saying this is really a good bill. I thank Senator ROB PORTMAN also for his leadership on this here in the House, when he was here, and then over in the Senate. We took this up after he left the House and have been working on it for years.

I thank Mr. SHERMAN and a lot of Republicans and Democrats for working on this together. This is bipartisan legislation that really does benefit the whole world. I wish we did more stuff like this around here.

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

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

Madam Speaker, H.R. 241, introduced by Mr. CHABOT, is a bipartisan bill that reauthorizes the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act.

The debt-for-nature swaps created by this program have been highly successful in generating support for tropical forest or coral reef conservation activities in exchange for relieving debt owed to the United States Government. This bill is a win-win, protecting forest and coral reef ecosystems, lessening the fiscal burden of low-income countries, and stimulating economic growth in local communities.

I hope my colleagues, both Republican and Democrat, will join me in supporting this bill.

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

The SPEAKER pro tempore. The question is on the motion offered by the gentleman from Texas (Mr. CASTRO) that the House suspend the rules and pass the bill, H.R. 241.

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

A motion to reconsider was laid on the table.

HONORING ROBERT LEDER

(Mr. TORRES of New York asked and was given permission to address the House for 1 minute.)

Mr. TORRES of New York. Madam Speaker, Robert Leder, as his name would suggest, was a natural leader, loved by the thousands of students whose lives he lifted.

I, for one, would not be here were it not for Robert Leder, who set me on a trajectory that led from public housing in the Bronx to the House of Representatives in Washington, D.C. My story is a mere footnote in the much larger legacy of public service that Robert Leder left behind after his passing in 2018.

Mr. Leder entered public education in the 1960s as a Spanish teacher. In the late 1970s, he rose to become the principal of Herbert H. Lehman High School in the Bronx, a position he held for nearly three decades, making him, at the time, the longest-serving educator in America's largest city. As principal, he knew the name of every student. He held everyone around him to the highest standards, but he held himself to the highest standard of all.

We, the alumni of Lehman High School, will always love you, Mr. Leder. We will never forget you.

I will not always be a Member of Congress, but I will always be the grateful student of the greatest educator I have ever known, Robert Leder. May he rest in peace.

□ 2000

CELEBRATING THE 50TH ANNIVERSARY OF THE WEEK OF THE YOUNG CHILD

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

Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the 50th anniversary of the Week of the Young Child. Sponsored by the National Association for the Education of Young Children, the Week of the Young Child focuses on celebrating early learning, young children, their teachers, families, and communities.

This year's celebration took place from April 10th to the 16th. The National Association for the Education of Young Children first established the Week of the Young Child in 1971, recognizing the early childhood years lay the foundation for children's success in school and later in life.

Children's earliest years are the most important when it comes to shaping their learning and development. High-quality early care and educational services directly correlate to the health and well-being of our communities.

Madam Speaker, with more than 400 childcare facilities in my district, and as a senior member of the Education and Labor Committee, I understand the importance of quality early care and

education experiences as well as access to high-quality care.

Madam Speaker, let's take a moment to recognize the vital work performed by early childcare and education professionals and express our gratitude.

RUSSIAN AGGRESSION AGAINST UKRAINE

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

Ms. KAPTUR. Madam Speaker, as co-chair of the bipartisan Congressional Ukraine Caucus, I rise today with deep concern regarding the Kremlin's increased aggression toward our ally, Ukraine.

Currently, Russia is amassing troops in and close to Ukraine. Ukrainian officials estimate about 80,000 Russian troops are amassed on its border.

U.S. European Command General Tod Wolters said, the current Russian force mirrors the size of the infiltration of forces that occurred back in 2014 when Russia illegally invaded Ukrainian territory.

This aggression serves one purpose: Russia's hybrid warfare to threaten the security of the Transatlantic Alliance.

I am so grateful to President Biden for his exceptional leadership and support for Ukraine, and I agree completely that there must be serious consequences should Russia escalate further. I am also thankful for the administration's latest round of punitive sanctions on Russia given its malign behavior.

To strengthen Ukraine's deterrence capabilities, our caucus spearheaded efforts to increase Ukraine's defense assistance funding by \$25 million, up to \$275 million in fiscal year 2021, and to place mandatory sanctions on Nord Stream 2.

Our caucus stands ready to support NATO and the Transatlantic Alliance to ensure the protection of Ukraine's sovereignty.

ENDORSEMENT OF VIOLENCE IS UNCONSCIONABLE

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

Mr. LAMALFA. Madam Speaker, I rise out of great concern for the violence and looting that has taken over Minneapolis. Even more troubling is the seeming endorsement and, yes, incitement of it by Members of this body.

It is unconscionable that a Member of Congress sent to Washington to make the laws that govern our Nation would encourage Americans to disregard those laws. Yet one of our Democratic colleagues, only one day after 136 rioters were arrested, called for protesters to "stay on the street," "get more active," and "get more confrontational" against our law enforcement, urging this escalation by

asking protesters to ignore the city-wide curfew. Hours later, that inevitable escalation did occur, with National Guardsmen and police being fired upon.

These are very dangerous actions. Is this the standard by which we want this House to represent the people of this country, that incitement? I recall a lot of talk some months ago about a much lesser speech being inciteful, language must less geared toward that being inciteful, yet it happens here.

Strong action needs to be taken by Speaker PELOSI and this House against these types of words.

SECURITY ON THE SOUTHERN BORDER

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Under the Speaker's announced policy of January 4, 2021, the gentleman from Texas (Mr. BURGESS) is recognized for 60 minutes as the designee of the minority leader.

Mr. BURGESS. Madam Speaker, I rise tonight to discuss one of the most important problems facing our country, and that is security on our southern border.

I don't think there is any question that most Americans agree that our immigration system is broken, but before we can fix it, we have to address the crisis at our southern border.

And let's be clear, what is happening at the border is a crisis. In fact, the President admitted as much recently. His commander of Public Health Service at the convention center in Dallas, when I went to visit there, maintained that they were in crisis management. You don't manage a crisis unless you are in a crisis, so it is a crisis. It is a humanitarian crisis.

The policies being put forward by this administration, basically absolutely opening the border are, in fact, inhumane. Smugglers, traffickers, foreign banks are profiting and enticing a hopeless people into sending their children or themselves to make this dangerous journey to unlawfully cross our southern border. These bad actors know how to manipulate our laws to their advantage. Putting forward policies that make it easier for them to do so is, in fact, wrong.

During the month of March record numbers of unaccompanied alien children were referred to the Office of Refugee Resettlement at the Department of Health and Human Services. The total number of people coming in without authorization is the highest it has been in 15 years. Customs and Border Protection encountered over 170,000 individuals along our southern border attempting to cross without authorization. Many of them were single adults.

Over the last month, Members from both sides of the aisle, both sides of the Capitol flocked to our southern border to see and assess the situation for

themselves. They held press conferences. They did television interviews and press releases. Yet the reaction from the White House was one of denial.

A little less than 30 days ago President Biden named Vice President HARRIS to be the point person for the administration to bring a resolution to the problems on our southern border. But the Vice President has not ventured to the southern border. She has not had a press conference about what is happening, and certainly we have seen no plan.

It was announced last week that she would be traveling to the Northern Triangle countries of El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras. This would be a great first step. But to fully understand what is happening, Madam Vice President, you need to visit our southern border.

Right now, hundreds of thousands of people come across our southern border from Mexico and from Central American countries through Mexico. And among these thousands are unaccompanied children, who are used as pawns to take advantage of the administration not enforcing our immigration laws. Now smugglers have no issue with using these children as pawns.

From the numbers, we know that America is one of the most generous countries in the world when it comes to accepting migrants. Through our Nation's legal immigration process, we welcome over a million immigrants into America each year. To be clear, these are immigrants who are going through the normal and correct process, waiting in line and following our laws. But how discouraging must it be for them to watch as others take full advantage of our laws not being enforced because of Washington putting forward poor policy. Despite the generosity of the American people, others remain intent on entering our country without the full benefit of the law behind them.

To better understand this problem, it is perhaps important to examine its roots. In 2018 it was important for me to visit Northern Triangle countries for myself to see the situation on the ground, to assess the situation, and determine how the United States can better help and better address the root causes of irregular migration.

The Energy and Commerce Committee, which I am a member of, does not oversee foreign policy, but it does have jurisdiction over the Department of Health and Human Services and subsequently the Office of Refugee Resettlement, which does take care of children who end up in the United States from one of those Northern Triangle countries.

I learned that there are different drivers for people to migrate from each of those countries. There is, unfortunately, corruption at the highest levels of government in that region. One common theme, however, is campaign rhetoric that places an "open for business" sign on our border.

The vast majority of people in the Northern Triangle countries do live below the poverty level and lack the job opportunities to escape these conditions.

In El Salvador there are problems with gangs, and the gangs are violent, medieval levels of violence and brutality. Many of the individuals serving in their government are holdovers from revolutionaries in the civil war which ended over 20 years ago.

Honduras is a country that is a through point for narcotics trafficking and, as a consequence, has many of the problems that you would imagine would be attendant with that type of activity. The current President ran for a second term. Although the law limited him to a single term the Supreme Court gave him a favorable decision. Unfortunately, he won with a very bare majority that only was determined many days after, some significant time after the election. Stop me if you have ever heard this before. But the Honduran President is now subject to extensive protests throughout his country that question the legitimacy of his Presidency.

I will say that the First Lady of Honduras, who has headed a task force aimed at addressing irregular migration, is performing a valuable service. The desire to make change is present, but some of the resources and capacity are lacking.

In Guatemala corruption is rampant at every level of government. There are only a couple of ministers who can be trusted. The corruption is, in this case, exacerbated by term limits because the President can only serve one term, and apparently there is a notion in the country that it is important for the President to prepare for the life after the Presidency while they are in office, so they do not have their focus on performing in the public good.

There is also a significant prejudice against some of the indigenous people in the western highlands of Guatemala. These individuals do make up the majority of migrants who are leaving Guatemala. Guatemala, unfortunately, has one of the highest rates of malnutrition in the world, and there is very little effort to combat this because of the lack of resolve of their central government.

In my travels to the Northern Triangle, I learned that there are people in those countries who do desire their children stay home. They understand the difficulty, the danger in exporting all of your young people. They do not want irregular migration. They do not want mass migration to happen. However, unfortunately, their governments have yet to eradicate the corruption from within.

For example, they do not prohibit financial institutions from contributing to the problem of these desperate populations. The financing of human trafficking from these countries is extremely profitable. Beyond the danger to the migrant, the journey from the

Northern Triangle to our southern border is not cheap. It varies what the estimates are, but families take out loans from \$1,000 to \$10,000 in order to smuggle someone to the United States.

Children that enter the United States will sometimes go to work to send remittances back to their homes so that their family is able to pay off the loan. In fact, it is estimated that as much as 20 percent of the GDP of Honduras comes in the form of remittances, so it is disturbing to learn that legitimate banks in Northern Triangle countries may be in this way aiding the human smuggling trade. It does seem like it is being fueled by cash from sources from which it should not come.

□ 2015

One clear solution to the corruption of these countries is to give more aid to the Bureau of International Narcotics Control and Law Enforcement, a United Nations organization; non-governmental organizations and non-profits; the United States Agency for International Development, USAID; the International Organization for Migration; and other nongovernmental entities.

In addition, the United States Development Finance Corporation, previously known as the Overseas Private Investment Corporation, is facilitating needed investment in the region, and numerous nonprofits and NGOs have set up programs to help poverty-stricken and recent returnees.

One of my fears is what you hear discussed. Increasing the amount of aid to Central American countries will help with this problem. I would simply argue that the money not necessarily go to the governments that are not doing their jobs but to these non-governmental agencies, USAID, and the U.S. Development Finance Corporation, which will provide the economic benefit needed by the people who find it necessary to undergo that irregular migration because their economic circumstances are so dire.

In other words, the governments are not the ones that need the aid. The aid needs to be placed in the hands of those who can and will help the people. The answer to this humanitarian crisis is to not give more aid to the governments of the countries that are failing but to keep supporting the community-building organizations that are on the ground and working to serve their people.

In line with this solution, in September 2018, I introduced H. Res. 1092, expressing the sense of the House that the President should redirect foreign assistance given to El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras away from their central governments and toward the driving causes of illegal immigration into the United States and to those nongovernmental organizations. I have reintroduced this as H. Res. 17 in this Congress.

The inability of the central governments of those countries to deal with

and solve these issues has left over half of their populations living in poverty. In fact, millions of El Salvadorans, Guatemalans, and Hondurans face hunger at points each year.

This is why foreign assistance must be targeted toward the municipal and regional governments in these countries, as well as community-building organizations that have a direct impact on the lives of the people. Simply giving more aid to the central governments when it is not getting to where it is needed is unlikely to solve the problem.

The amount of foreign assistance could be determined by multiplying the number of unaccompanied alien children from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras and redirecting that amount for each country to these non-central government entities.

Focusing on where aid is directed is an essential part of the solution. That is why, in December 2018, I offered an amendment to the Department of Defense Appropriations Act to redirect foreign aid to nongovernmental organizations in Northern Triangle countries and Mexico from being given to the central governments.

Instead, this funding would only be given to regional or municipal governments or educational institutions in these countries, private entities, or other nongovernmental organizations, or faith-based organizations operating in these countries.

To keep individuals, particularly unaccompanied alien children, from arriving at our southern border, the help necessary to make their homes safer and more prosperous is not through their central governments but for institution-building and other areas that can provide them the help they need to show that we are serious and to demonstrate to the central governments of the Northern Triangle countries that the United States cannot be constant caretakers for their children.

To that end, I have introduced several times the Unaccompanied Alien Children Assistance Control Act to withhold aid from El Salvador, Guatemala, and Honduras by the number of children in Federal custody due to their immigration status, multiplied by a multiplier, which is the estimated cost of caring for one unaccompanied alien child.

We should not be surprised that the reversal of the previous administration's immigration policies led to an influx of unlawful crossings at our southern borders. I would take issue with the fact that this is said to be a cyclical uptick. Yes, there are cyclical variations to the number of people who do cross our southern border, but this one is not a cyclical uptick. This influx is a direct result of a policy choice made by the Biden administration.

We faced a similar crisis in 2014, when President Biden was Vice President, and President Obama's administration instituted the dangerous catch and release policy that led to a flood of

unauthorized migrants and unaccompanied minors coming across our southern border. Instead of keeping those who made unauthorized crossings in custody, our immigration and enforcement agencies were required to release those individuals into our country.

People were given a court date, but few, if any, would actually appear. Beyond missing a court date, unauthorized migrants took advantage of our system. Unfortunately, the diversion of so many people coming across the border, the diversion of the attention of our law enforcement officials on the border, has allowed for the free importation of drugs like fentanyl and heroin across our border.

Due to those failures, it is understandable why the previous administration instituted a policy that required the enforcement of our laws. For 4 years, we listened to Members of Congress have these discussions on the border and in the Halls of Congress about the misfortune of those who crossed into our country without the benefit of citizenship.

But what exactly does it mean to put forward a zero-tolerance policy? It means enforcing the laws and giving needed support to our frontline border officials.

No one wants to see a child separated from their parents. This is a problem that Congress needs to fix. It is a problem that Congress can fix.

To understand why this has happened, we look back to the court case of *Reno v. Flores* in 1997, and we look at the asylum laws that were passed in late 2008.

The *Flores* settlement prohibited the detention of children from a noncontiguous country for more than 20 days. After those 20 days, they are placed in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement if they cannot be reunited with family.

Previously, when adults attempted to cross into the United States without authorization, they were placed in immigration detention to await an immigration hearing. But due to the backlog of immigration cases, these adults were being held longer than 20 days. If they entered with a child, the *Flores* settlement required that the child be released. Therefore, the adults were also being released with them, and very few ever showed up for their immigration proceedings.

It changed during the Trump administration. They held unauthorized adults rather than releasing them. And if they entered with children, those children were placed in the care of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

People claimed this was inhumane. If enforcing our laws is inhumane, then we need to change the law. But it seems like what is inhumane is incentivizing an already desperate people to make the dangerous journey to our southern border. To do that in the first place seems inhumane.

We must realize that far too many children are being smuggled into our

country by adults who want to prey on the generosity of Americans. A significant number of adults with children are not even biological relatives to the child with whom they enter. Traffickers, cartels, and smugglers know how to take advantage of a humanitarian crisis.

Being a father and a grandfather, I truly mean it when I say that no one wants to separate a child from their parents. That is why, on September 25, during the Rules Committee hearing, I offered an amendment requiring a plan to promptly reunify children in the custody of the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

It is not inhumane to enforce laws. Putting forth policies that allow children to be used as pawns is itself inhumane. Trekking a child across multiple countries just to smuggle them illegally into another country, that is inhumane.

Stated another way, our laws are not inhumane; nonenforcement is leading to inhumane actions by desperate people. We need to help them at home, not here where the taxpayer is on the hook.

For anyone who turns on the news, you can see the terrible and disheartening situation at the border. So, today, the question is asked: Why would anyone object to enforcement of our laws?

There is significant proof that a zero-tolerance policy for violating our laws is a deterrent for people subjecting themselves to harm by taking a perilous trip to the American southern border.

For example, in early 2017, Department of Homeland Security Secretary John Kelly visited the southern border. It was virtually deserted. In June 2017, a Reuters journalist, Julia Edwards Ainsley, reported on the decreased number of border crossings. She wrote: "Last fall, during the waning months of the Obama administration, hundreds of immigrants crossed the river on rafts at this point each day, many willingly handing themselves over to immigration authorities in hopes of being released into the United States to await court proceedings that would decide their fate."

"Now, the agents look out on an empty landscape. Footpaths up from the water have started to disappear under growing brush, with only the stray baby shoe or toothbrush serving as reminders of that migrant flood."

"The reason for the change, the agents say, is a perception in Mexico and Central America that President Trump has ended the practice known as catch and release, in which immigrants caught in the United States without proper documents were released to live free, often for years, as their cases ran through the court system."

"Now, would-be violators know 'they will be detained and turned right back around,' said one of the two agents, Marlene Castro. 'It is not worth it anymore.'"

So said Julia Edwards Ainsley in June 2017.

What happened between the Obama years and the first years of the Trump administration? When people believe that they will encounter a border wall, or that they will be turned away at the border, they simply do not come.

Our laws are only effective if they are enforced. If Congress truly wants to repair our immigration system, we, the Members of Congress, are obligated to act.

We know this is not the first time in American history that an administration has used a zero-tolerance policy. Over 40 years ago, during the Carter administration, between April 15 and October 31, 1980, there was a mass emigration of Cubans. They left from Cuba's Mariel Harbor to travel to the United States. We remember this as the Mariel boatlift. Because of this emigration, Fidel Castro decided to open his prisons and mental health facilities, sending those Cubans through the Straits of Florida to the United States. President Carter's administration was left grappling with a Cuban refugee crisis.

In a 1997 interview, former Deputy Secretary of State John Bushnell recalled a meeting with President Carter in which he and other key advisers discussed solutions to the Cuban refugee problem:

I remember sitting in that windowless conference room of the National Security Council with the Secretary of State, the Chief of Naval Operations, the Director of the CIA, the head of the Coast Guard, the head of INS, and several other senior officials, debating how to stop this flow of Cubans. National Security Advisor Brzezinski chaired until Carter came in toward the end of the meeting.

There was a long discussion on how the Coast Guard and Navy ships might physically stop the Cuban boats either from leaving the United States or returning back with the Cubans in the Mariel Boatlift. The Navy and Coast Guard, represented at this meeting by admirals, were concerned.

"How can we do this?" they said, and it was suggested that the boats simply could be stopped, physically prevented from entering the United States, without any major loss of life of the passengers. But they did suggest ways of maneuvering the boats to block their passage, which struck me as sort of wild. It sounded to me like they had in mind a picket line of Coast Guard and Navy boats going across the Straits of Florida to stop the movement of these small boats with refugees. This naval discussion went on for a long time but eventually was inconclusive.

Perhaps wisely so.

But from this interview, we understand that President Carter's administration was contemplating how to physically stop Cuban boats from coming to the United States.

Then, moving forward to the early 1990s, rafts of immigrants from Haiti bound for the United States were intercepted at sea, as authorized by policy enacted by President Bush's administration.

□ 2030

A young governor from Arkansas used divisive campaign rhetoric as he

ran against George H.W. Bush for President. Then-Governor Clinton time and again spoke of his disagreement with President Bush's zero-tolerance immigration policy.

During his campaign, Governor Clinton often maligned President Bush for being cruel in the treatment of Haitian refugees traveling to America via boat. Some feared that he was creating an unrealistic expectation for the Haitian people, who were suffering from significant unrest in their country.

In the *New York Times*, an article entitled, "Clinton Inspires Hope and Fear in Haiti," a writer, Douglas Farah, wrote: "It was Mr. Clinton who helped create the expectation of an exodus from Haiti when he condemned the Bush administration for a 'cruel policy of returning Haitian refugees to a brutal dictatorship without an asylum hearing.'"

We all know from our history in November of 1992, Governor Clinton won the Presidential election. Because of President-elect Clinton's promises, the people of Haiti anticipated being welcomed into the United States with open arms. The problem is, after securing the White House, President Clinton changed his mind after learning that perhaps the true toll such an exodus would take as people took to the waters in unseaworthy boats.

In a *Voice of America* address on January 14, 1993—a mere week before he took the oath of office—President-elect Clinton walked back his promise. Let me just read some of President-elect Clinton's remarks that he spoke directly to the people of Haiti over the *Voice of America*.

"For Haitians who do seek to leave Haiti, boat departure is a terrible and dangerous choice. I've been deeply concerned by reports that many of you are preparing to travel by boat to the United States. And, I fear that boat departures in the near future would result in further tragic losses of life.

"For this reason, the practice of returning those who flee Haiti by boat will continue for the time being after I become President. Those who do leave Haiti for the United States by boat will be stopped and directly returned by the United States Coast Guard.

"To avoid the human tragedy of a boat exodus, I wanted to convey this message directly to the Haitian people: Leaving by boat is not the route to freedom."

Well, as you can imagine, this dramatic change did not go without notice. January 17, 1993, the *Chicago Tribune* columnist Stephen Chapman wrote: "The President-elect has a terrible time making up his mind and keeping it made up. A lot of Haitians are disappointed to find he's something less than a man of his word. They're not the only ones."

So just from these historical moments, we can understand that border security is not a new debate; it is not an easy debate. President Carter, President Clinton, President Obama,

all learned the same lesson. It is, in fact, inhumane to encourage anyone to attempt a treacherous journey in order to reach America's borders without the proper authorization to enter.

There are things we must prioritize to move forward. First, having the understanding that enforcing our laws is, in fact, a humanitarian response.

The next step would be security along the southern border. To put it plain and simple: We can finish the wall, which includes having not just the wall, but additional technologies to solve the problem.

In order to solve problems within our broken immigration system, the bleeding needs to stop. You can't put a Band-Aid on an arterial wound. You need to stop the bleeding. Congress first needs to address the humanitarian crisis at our southern border.

So it was encouraging to hear Secretary Mayorkas announce a reconsideration of filling the gaps in the construction on the southern border wall. I recently took a trip down to McAllen. Between McAllen and Laredo, you can see areas where the wall was being built. The construction had stopped. The construction equipment was literally abandoned at the side, but I was grateful that Secretary Mayorkas did say that he was reconsidering filling in the gaps in the construction in the southern border wall. The problem is the smugglers know where those gaps are. They know how to use them to their advantage.

Again, let me say, when it comes to immigration, America is the most generous country in the world. But is it okay for us to allow over 100,000 people a month to enter our country without authorization? Is it all right for us to subject innocent children to a dangerous journey?

Sovereign countries must define and defend their borders. I believe that America is a country worth defending. It is heartbreaking that after achieving operational control of the border after many years, it was abandoned. It was abandoned through a series of executive orders that was signed early in this President's administration. And what has happened in its place, operational control of the border is no longer determined by the United States of America. Operational control of the border is now determined and dictated by cartels.

This week, we are considering two immigration bills: the NO BAN Act and the Access to Counsel Act. The first will prevent the President from banning anyone from entering the United States. The second essentially provides a lawyer to anyone entering our country unlawfully, thus prolonging the wait times for those who are trying to enter our country through the normal legal process. And that all will be done at the taxpayer's expense.

Clearly, these are the wrong solutions at this time. Our priority should be to ensure that every President has the necessary tools to put forward lawful priorities and not prevent them

from doing so. We should be focused on policies that will encourage legal immigration rather than just reacting to illegal immigration.

It is important that we reinstate the “Remain in Mexico Policy,” also known as the Migrant Protection Protocols. We know this program helped limit fraudulent asylum claims from those who thought they would be able to just walk into the United States, and instead had to wait their turn for a hearing while remaining in Mexico. It is not a good idea to allow lawbreakers to jump in front of those who are here lawfully.

We are still in the middle of a pandemic. Now, thankfully, the Biden administration has kept the Trump administration’s CDC Title 42 authority in place—oh, except for people younger than 17 years of age. We are on the verge of ending the pandemic, but we must ensure that we are doing everything we can to prevent additional spread of this coronavirus. Something that would aid in doing that is requiring a negative coronavirus test before someone is released into this country.

What happened when, under an executive order, the Title 42 restrictions were lifted for those under 17? A lot more people under age 17 started coming through, started coming across. The problem is, each of those individuals will eventually be placed with a family, and by not testing for coronavirus, we are risking placing individuals who are infected with the virus with families throughout the country.

So during consideration of the reconciliation bill, the one that was supposed to crush the coronavirus, I offered a motion to instruct at the Budget Committee and an amendment at the Committee on Rules to provide for COVID testing for all arriving at our southern border. This was rejected in the Budget Committee, and the Committee on Rules would not make it in order to have a floor vote on that amendment.

And once migrants are in our Federal custody, we do have responsibility that they receive appropriate and compassionate care. Under the jurisdiction of the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health, we have conducted oversight on the Department of Health and Human Services and the Office of Refugee Resettlement.

Since 2014, I have made multiple trips to the border and multiple trips to ORR facilities. In the last few weeks, I visited Office of Refugee Resettlement shelters in Carrizo Springs, in McAllen and the convention center in downtown Dallas. Since my visit to the Carrizo Springs facility, it has been doubled in size. There are so few beds at ORR shelters along the border, there has been a need to expand further, which is why I visited the Kay Bailey Hutchison Convention Center in Dallas.

It was startling to see those 2,400 cots lined up each to allow a 13- to 17-year-

old boy to sleep at night. They were so close together, any restaurant that tried to open right now with tables placed that close together would be shut down by the public health authorities. And yet, here we were, in fact not just condoning it, we were facilitating it.

Look, the bottom line is, this is not a capacity problem, it is a commitment problem. And we are, unfortunately, on a path to repeat history. Many of us here know the work done by the Committee on Energy and Commerce Subcommittee on Health in 2014. That work led to the unaccompanied minors receiving better health screenings, and better healthcare.

When I visited shelters in 2014, the children did not have access to a doctor. They were not receiving any type of health screening. Today, they have access to a full range of medical and mental health resources and children are being screened for communicable diseases, children are being given vaccinations for the usual childhood diseases prior to their release to sponsors in this country. It makes sense to do that. This protects American communities; this protects American schools, where these children will eventually be enrolled.

Today, when a child is released from an ORR facility, they have a phone number to contact the Department of Health and Human Services after they leave their shelter. And they will also receive a wellness check 30 days after their release to a sponsor.

In 2014, it wasn’t that way, children were not given any means of contact after they left Federal custody, and no follow up was conducted. And unfortunately, you know what is going to happen in that situation. Some children will not be placed with a competent caregiver, and they can fall victim to trafficking or abuse.

Now, because of Members of the subcommittee and Members of the full Committee on Energy and Commerce, if children need help once they leave the shelter, they do have a lifeline. These are helpful resources for those who are entrusted to Federal care. My primary goal is to secure the border and to prevent unaccompanied minors from crossing the United States without benefit of citizenship in the first place. But while it is happening, we must do our best to ensure that they are safe after they arrive.

I understand the care of children is a huge balancing act. Once they are in our care, it becomes our responsibility, and we must ensure that those traveling with them are not using them to game our immigration system. It is simply wrong and potentially harmful to the child, not to check that the adult with which they are traveling is, in fact, related or their legal guardian.

Ultimately, we will have to put an end to this crisis. From our experiences, both recent and throughout history, we know that our rhetoric matters. The message must be clear: Do

not cross the border unlawfully. For years, Presidents, Senators, Representatives, have promised to end “catch-and-release” and restore order on the southern border.

The human traffickers, the coyotes in Central America, use our words spoken in Washington, D.C. They use our words to prey on the disadvantaged in Central American countries to entice families into putting their children on the top of a freight train to travel through the Mexican desert. And they do that by putting a price on the head of each child. They use our words to subject children to the violence of cartels, or worse, children who may not arrive in the United States after beginning that journey.

□ 2045

When we say, or even suggest, that children could receive amnesty at the border, we put innocent lives at risk. Our words turn these children into literal game pieces. We can be compassionate and we can provide a secure border at the same time. These two concepts are not mutually exclusive.

In 1980, as former Deputy Secretary of State Bushnell recalled, Congress appropriated over \$400 million to assist holding and settling Cuban refugees in the United States.

And reflecting on that time, later, former Deputy Secretary Bushnell said, “I used this appropriation as a key example of why foreign aid through the Caribbean Group was a good investment. It was much better to help our neighbors build a good economic future for themselves at home than to have a flood of desperate refugees, which would cost more money to settle.”

I think, today, it would be wise to consider Secretary Bushnell’s reasoning. Perhaps Congress could heed my recommendation to address how we send foreign aid to countries such as El Salvador, Guatemala, Honduras, and Mexico.

Should it be tied to the care that their children receive?

Here is the deal: Why should we reward countries whose children are fleeing for their safety to our country?

Certainly, it is something worth consideration.

It is simply irresponsible and it is inhumane for the American Government to incentivize anyone to subject themselves or their children to that perilous journey on our border. It was a lesson that President Clinton learned. It was a lesson that President Carter learned. It was a lesson that President Obama learned. And I do fear that it is a lesson that President Biden will learn.

We know the solution. We do know what works. Simply put, enforcement of Title 42 protections for all age groups, not accepting those younger than 17. Accept enforcement of Title 42, the CDC requirement that, during a pandemic, we restrict travel across the border.

Reinstitution of the Asylum Cooperative Agreements with Central American countries. At great negotiation

skill, these cooperative agreements were established, but, unfortunately, they have recently been abandoned. They could be reconsidered. They could be reestablished. We are going to have to have agreements with the countries of origin around asylum if we are going to be able to solve the problem.

The Migrant Protection Protocol, "Remain in Mexico," was successful. It did help in the assessment of the Asylum Cooperative Agreements. This could be reinstated, and it is probably time that it was.

In fact, it is past time to end a broken and inhumane pattern. It is past time to stop demonizing those who we ask to enforce our laws. It is past time to understand that nonenforcement of our laws does lead to inhumane actions.

It is up to Congress. We are the legislative branch. We are the ones under the Constitution who are responsible for providing this security at our border. What is so critically important is that we must do it sooner rather than later.

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

SENATE ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The Speaker, on Friday, April 16, 2021, announced her signature to enrolled bills of the Senate of the following titles:

S. 164.—An Act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415.—An Act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578.—An Act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

ADJOURNMENT

The SPEAKER pro tempore. Pursuant to section 11(b) of House Resolution 188, the House stands adjourned until 10 a.m. tomorrow for morning-hour debate and noon for legislative business.

Thereupon (at 8 o'clock and 49 minutes p.m.), under its previous order, the House adjourned until tomorrow, Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10 a.m. for morning-hour debate.

BUDGETARY EFFECTS OF PAYGO LEGISLATION

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YARMUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 1392, the Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

Pursuant to the Statutory Pay-As-You-Go Act of 2010 (PAYGO), Mr. YAR-

MUTH hereby submits, prior to the vote on passage, for printing in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD, that H.R. 2630, the Extending Temporary Emergency Scheduling of Fentanyl Analogues Act, as amended, would have no significant effect on the deficit, and therefore, the budgetary effects of such bill are estimated as zero.

EXECUTIVE COMMUNICATIONS, ETC.

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

EC-839. A letter from the Under Secretary of Defense (Comptroller)/Chief Financial Officer, Department of Defense, transmitting results of the financial statement audits of the Department of Defense, pursuant to 10 U.S.C. 240a(b); Public Law 115-91, Sec. 1002(b)(1); (131 Stat. 1538); to the Committee on Armed Services.

EC-840. A letter from the Senior Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's Consumer Response Annual Report for 2020, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5493(b)(3)(C); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 1013(b)(3)(C); (124 Stat. 1969); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-841. A letter from the Senior Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2020 Annual Report of the Office of Minority and Women Inclusion, pursuant to 12 U.S.C. 5452(e); Public Law 111-203, Sec. 342(e); (124 Stat. 1543); to the Committee on Financial Services.

EC-842. A letter from the Administrator, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Superfund Five-Year Review Report to Congress for FY 2020; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-843. A letter from the Chief of Staff, Media Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Amendment of section 73.622(i), Post-Transition Table of DTV Allotments, Television Broadcast Stations (Columbia, Missouri) [MB Docket No.: 20-428](RM-11870) received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-844. A letter from the Associate Chief, Mobility Division, Wireless Telecommunications Bureau, Federal Communications Commission, transmitting the Commission's final rule — Facilitating Shared Use in the 3100-3550 MHz Band [WT Docket No. 19-348] received March 26, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

EC-845. A letter from the Secretary, Department of the Treasury, transmitting a six-month periodic report on the national emergency with respect to Somalia that was declared in Executive Order 13536 on April 12, 2010, pursuant to 50 U.S.C. 1641(c); Public Law 94-412, Sec. 401(c); (90 Stat. 1257) and 50 U.S.C. 1703(c); Public Law 95-223, Sec. 204(c); (91 Stat. 1627); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-846. A letter from the Assistant Legal Adviser, Office of Treaty Affairs, Department of State, transmitting a report concerning international agreements other than treaties entered into by the United States to be transmitted to the Congress within the sixty-day period specified in the Case-Zablocki Act, pursuant to 1 U.S.C. 112b(a); Public Law 92-403, Sec. 1(a) (as amended by Public Law 108-458, Sec. 7121(b)); (118 Stat. 3807); to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

EC-847. A letter from the Director, Office of Diversity and Inclusion, Board of Governors of the Federal Reserve System, transmitting the Board's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-848. A letter from the Senior Legislative Liaison, Bureau of Consumer Financial Protection, transmitting the Bureau's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-849. A letter from the Associate General Counsel for General Law, Department of Homeland Security, transmitting a nomination, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 3349(a); Public Law 105-277, Sec. 151(b); (112 Stat. 2681-614); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-850. A letter from the Director, Environmental Protection Agency, transmitting the Agency's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-851. A letter from the Chairman, Federal Deposit Insurance Corporation, transmitting the Corporation's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-852. A letter from the Director, Office of Acquisition Policy, Office of Government-wide Policy, General Services Administration, transmitting the Administration's summary presentation of a final rule — Federal Acquisition Regulation: Federal Acquisition Circular 2021-05; Introduction [Docket No.: FAR-2021-0051, Sequence No.: 2] received March 16, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-853. A letter from the Director, National Archives and Records Administration, transmitting the Administration's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-854. A letter from the Director, National Science Foundation, transmitting the Foundation's 2020 No FEAR Act Report, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 2301 note; Public Law 107-174, 203(a) (as amended by Public Law 109-435, Sec. 604(f)); (120 Stat. 3242); to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

EC-855. A letter from the Acting Chairman, Administrative Conference of the United States, transmitting recommendations adopted by the Assembly of the Administrative Conference of the United States at its 73rd Plenary Session; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

EC-856. A letter from the Rules Administrator, Office of General Counsel, Federal Bureau of Prisons, Department of Justice, transmitting the Department's final rule — Inmate Discipline Program: New Prohibited Act Code for Pressuring Inmates for Legal Documents [Docket No.: BOP-1172-F] (RIN: 1120-AB72) received February 23, 2021, 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-857. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, 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.: 31349;

Amdt. No.: 3938] received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-858. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, 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.: 31348; Amdt. No.: 3937] received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-859. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; International Aero Engines AG Turbofan Engines [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1168; Project Identifier AD-2020-01568-E; Amendment 39-21379; AD 2021-01-03] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-860. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Airbus SAS Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-1172; Project Identifier MCAI-2020-01661-T; Amendment 39-21388; AD 2021-02-05] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-861. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment Class E Airspace; Elkhart, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0887; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ACE-22] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-862. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class E Airspace; Prairie Du Chien, WI [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0872; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AGL-33] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-863. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Establishment of Class E Airspace; Fort Riley and Manhattan, KS [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0759; Airspace Docket No.: 20-ACE-20] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-864. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Amendment of Class D and Class E Airspace and Revocation of Class E Airspace; Muskegon, MI [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0871; Airspace Docket No.: 20-AGL-32] (RIN: 2120-AA66) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-865. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; M7 Aerospace LLC Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2020-0910; Project Identifier 2018-

CE-044-AD; Amendment 39-21378; AD 2021-01-02] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-866. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — Airworthiness Directives; Piper Aircraft, Inc. Airplanes [Docket No.: FAA-2018-1046; Product Identifier 2018-CE-049-AD; Amendment 39-21371; AD 2020-26-16] (RIN: 2120-AA64) received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

EC-867. A letter from the Management and Program Analyst, FAA, Department of Transportation, transmitting the Department's final rule — IFR Altitudes; Miscellaneous Amendments [Docket No.: 31354; Amdt. No.: 557] received April 12, 2021, pursuant to 5 U.S.C. 801(a)(1)(A); Public Law 104-121, Sec. 251; (110 Stat. 868); to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

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. WESTERMAN (for himself, Mr. MCCARTHY, Mr. SCHRADER, Mr. AMODEI, Mr. ARMSTRONG, Mr. BACON, Mr. BAIRD, Mr. BARR, Mr. BENTZ, Mr. BISHOP of Georgia, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. CALVERT, Mr. CARL, Mr. CARTER of Georgia, Ms. CHENEY, Mr. COLE, Mr. CRAWFORD, Mr. CRENSHAW, Mr. CUELLAR, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. RODNEY DAVIS of Illinois, Mrs. FISCHBACH, Mr. FORTENBERRY, Ms. FOXX, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. GRANGER, Mr. GRAVES of Louisiana, Ms. HERRELL, Mr. HIGGINS of Louisiana, Mr. HILL, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. JOYCE of Ohio, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mrs. KIM of California, Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. LATTA, Mrs. LESKO, Mr. LUCAS, Ms. MACE, Ms. MALLIOTAKIS, Mr. MANN, Mr. MCCAUL, Mrs. RODGERS of Washington, Mr. MELJER, Mr. MEUSER, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, Mr. MOORE of Utah, Mr. NEWHOUSE, Mr. NUNES, Mr. OBERNOLTE, Mr. OWENS, Mrs. RADEWAGEN, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Mr. ROUZER, Mr. AUSTIN SCOTT of Georgia, Mr. SIMPSON, Mr. STAUBER, Ms. STEFANIK, Mr. STEWART, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. THOMPSON of Pennsylvania, Mr. TIFPANY, Mr. VALADAO, Mr. WEBER of Texas, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. WILSON of South Carolina, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. WOMACK, Mr. YOUNG, and Mr. RESCIENTHALER):

H.R. 2639. A bill to establish forest conservation practices through management, reforestation, and utilization which lead to the sequestration of greenhouse gases, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Agriculture, and in addition to the Committees on Foreign Affairs, Natural Resources, Ways and Means, Science, Space, and Technology, and Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 2640. A bill to amend the Labor-Management Reporting and Disclosure Act of

1959 to require the authorization of members of a labor organization before such organization may make certain political expenditures, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2641. A bill to amend the Reclamation Project Act of 1939 to authorize pumped storage hydropower development utilizing multiple Bureau of Reclamation reservoirs; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Mr. BOST (for himself and Ms. BUSH):

H.R. 2642. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BROWNLEY (for herself, Mr. GRIJALVA, and Mr. LOWENTHAL):

H.R. 2643. A bill to require the Bureau of Safety and Environmental Enforcement to further develop, finalize, and implement updated regulations for offshore oil and gas pipelines to address long-standing limitations regarding its ability to ensure active pipeline integrity and address safety and environmental risks associated with decommissioning, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Natural Resources.

By Ms. BUSH (for herself, Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ, Mr. BOWMAN, Ms. OMAR, Ms. NORTON, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Ms. WILSON of Florida, Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Mr. JONES, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. JAYAPAL, Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. BARRAGÁN, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. GARCÍA of Illinois, Ms. LEE of California, Mr. VARGAS, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. COHEN, Mr. TORRES of New York, Mr. HUFFMAN, Ms. SCHAROWSKY, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. THOMPSON of California):

H.R. 2644. A bill to provide direct funding to local, Tribal, and territorial governments to establish Green New Deal programs and initiatives, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on Transportation and Infrastructure, Natural Resources, Agriculture, Financial Services, Education and Labor, and 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 Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 2645. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Education and Labor.

By Mr. CONNOLLY (for himself, Mr. CURTIS, Mr. BERA, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. SIRES, and Mr. FITZPATRICK):

H.R. 2646. A bill to amend the Taiwan Allies International Protection and Enhancement Initiative (TAIPEI) Act of 2019 to provide that the United States, as a member of any international organizations, should oppose any attempts by the People's Republic of China to resolve Taiwan's status by distorting the decisions, language, policies, or procedures of the organization, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Affairs.

By Mr. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2647. A bill to provide penalties for countries that systematically and unreasonably refuse or delay repatriation of certain nationals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Foreign Affairs, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of

such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2648. A bill to amend the Public Health Service Act to establish a grant program to provide self-harm and suicide prevention services in primary care offices, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 2649. A bill to decriminalize cannabis, to establish an Equitable Licensing Grant Program in the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committees on the Judiciary, Agriculture, Natural Resources, and Small Business, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 2650. A bill to amend the Servicemembers Civil Relief Act to provide for the portability of professional licenses of members of the uniformed services and their spouses, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 2651. A bill to provide for the retrocession of the District of Columbia to Maryland, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary, and in addition to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 2652. A bill to ensure that certain entrepreneurial development services of the Small Business Administration are made available to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business.

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN (for herself, Ms. SALAZAR, Mr. SOTO, Mr. DIAZ-BALART, and Mr. GALLEGO):

H.R. 2653. A bill to rescue domestic medical manufacturing activity by providing incentives in economically distressed areas of the United States and its possessions; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. HIGGINS of New York (for himself, Mr. SMITH of Missouri, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. LARSON of Connecticut, Mr. SUOZZI, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. AXNE, Ms. WASSERMAN SCHULTZ, Mr. VAN DREW, Ms. SCANLON, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. BACON, Mr. ROGERS of Alabama, Miss RICE of New York, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Mr. SCHRADER, and Ms. PINGREE):

H.R. 2654. 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; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, 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. HIMES (for himself and Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York):

H.R. 2655. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to prohibit certain securities trading and related communications

by those who possess material, nonpublic information; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. HIMES (for himself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, Ms. MATSUI, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. TONKO, Ms. ESHOO, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. MEEKS, and Mr. CROW):

H.R. 2656. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Ways and Means, and in addition to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2657. A bill to prohibit Federal funds from being used to develop, implement, support, or endorse vaccine passports; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. KELLER (for himself, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, and Ms. MACE):

H.R. 2658. A bill to clarify that aliens who are not lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States may not be vaccinated until nationals of the United States and aliens who are lawfully admitted for permanent residence in the United States are fully vaccinated for COVID-19, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. LANGEVIN (for himself and Mr. GARBARINO):

H.R. 2659. A bill to establish a grant program at the Department of Homeland Security to promote cooperative research and development between the United States and Israel on cybersecurity; to the Committee on Homeland Security.

By Mr. LATTA (for himself, Mr. PERRY, Mr. ARRINGTON, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. CARL, Mr. CLOUD, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, Ms. MACE, Mrs. HINSON, Mr. WALBERG, Mr. BURGESS, Mr. MCKINLEY, Mrs. MCCLAIN, Mr. JACKSON, and Mr. PENCE):

H.R. 2660. A bill to amend the Federal Water Pollution Control Act to codify the definition of the term "waters of the United States", and for other purposes; to the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE (for herself, Mr. CARTWRIGHT, and Mr. COHEN):

H.R. 2661. A bill to prioritize educating and training for existing and new environmental health professionals; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce, and in addition to the Committee on Education and Labor, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York (for herself, Mr. HOYER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. PORTER, and Mr. LIEU):

H.R. 2662. A bill to amend the Inspector General Act of 1978, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform, and in addition to the Committee on the Budget, for a period to be subsequently determined by the Speaker, in each case for consideration of such provisions as fall within the jurisdiction of the committee concerned.

By Mr. MORELLE (for himself, Mr. JEFFRIES, and Ms. BASS):

H.R. 2663. A bill to prohibit law enforcement officers from using chemical weapons on minors in the course of policing activities, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ (for herself, Ms. NORTON, Ms. PRESSLEY, Mr. BOWMAN, Mr. JONES, Mr. BLUMENAUER, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, Ms. OMAR, Ms. PINGREE, Mr. NADLER, Mr. ESPAILLAT, Mrs. BEATTY, Ms. TLAIB, Mr. NEGUSE, Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SUOZZI, Mrs. DINGELL, Ms. CLARKE of New York, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mrs. NAPOLITANO, Mr. LIEU, Mr. CICILLINE, and Ms. LEE of California):

H.R. 2664. A bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Financial Services.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2665. A bill to direct the Federal Communications Commission to establish a program to make grants to States for the deployment of broadband service in underserved areas by small business broadband providers, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2666. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit providers of broadband internet access service from increasing rates or enforcing data caps or allowances during an emergency or major disaster, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2667. A bill to amend the Communications Act of 1934 to prohibit providers of broadband internet access service from charging consumers above certain amounts for certain equipment; to the Committee on Energy and Commerce.

By Mr. TAKANO:

H. Con. Res. 29. Concurrent resolution supporting the goals and ideals of GLSEN's 2021 Day of Silence in bringing attention to anti-lesbian, gay, bisexual, transgender, queer, and questioning (LGBTQ+) name-calling, bullying, and harassment faced by individuals in schools; to the Committee on Education and Labor, 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 Mrs. GREENE of Georgia:

H. Res. 327. A resolution in the Matter of Representative Maxine Waters; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. GREENE of Georgia:

H. Res. 328. A resolution to Remove Maxine Waters from the Committee on Financial Services for Inciting Violence Against the United States; to the Committee on Ethics.

By Mrs. LESKO (for herself, Mr. GOSAR, Ms. BROWNLEY, Mr. KAHELE, Mr. WEBSTER of Florida, Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. GROTHMAN, Mr. JACOBS of New York, Mr. ADERHOLT, Mrs. CAMMACK, Mrs. HINSON, and Mrs. HARTZLER):

H. Res. 329. A resolution expressing support for the designation of April 18, 2022, as "National Amateur Radio Operators Day"; to the Committee on Oversight and Reform.

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. WESTERMAN:

H.R. 2639.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, clause 2
Article I, Section 8, clause 1
Article I, Section 8, clause 18

By Mr. HUIZENGA:

H.R. 2640.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 of the Constitution of the United States.

By Mr. NEWHOUSE:

H.R. 2641.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8.

By Mr. BOST:

H.R. 2642.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2.

By Ms. BROWNLEY:

H.R. 2643.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. BUSH:

H.R. 2644.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 1 of the Constitution.

By Mrs. BUSTOS:

H.R. 2645.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

This bill is enacted pursuant to the power granted to Congress under Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the United States Constitution.

By Mr. CONNOLLY:

H.R. 2646.

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. COURTNEY:

H.R. 2647.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. DESAULNIER:

H.R. 2648.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8.

By Mr. EVANS:

H.R. 2649.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause I of the Constitution: The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general Welfare of the United States

By Mr. GARCIA of California:

H.R. 2650.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:
Article 1, Section 8, Clause 3 of the United States Constitution: "To regulate Commerce with foreign Nations, and among the several States, and with the Indian Tribes."

By Mr. GOHMERT:

H.R. 2651.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8, US Constitution:

To exercise exclusive Legislation in all Cases whatsoever, over such District (not exceeding ten Miles square) as may, by Cession

of particular States, and the acceptance of Congress, become the Seat of the Government of the United States, and to exercise like Authority over all Places purchased by the Consent of the Legislature of the State in which the Same shall be, for the Erection of Forts, Magazines, Arsenals, dock-Yards, and other needful Buildings

By Mr. GOLDEN:

H.R. 2652.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8 power to regulate commerce

By Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN:

H.R. 2653.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

The Congress shall have Power To lay and collect Taxes, Duties, Imposts and Excises, to pay the Debts and provide for the common Defence and general welfare of the United States; but all Duties, Imposts and Excises shall be uniform throughout the United States; [. . .]—And 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. HIGGINS of New York:

H.R. 2654.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2655.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 1 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. HIMES:

H.R. 2656.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania:

H.R. 2657.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. KELLER:

H.R. 2658.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. LANGEVIN:

H.R. 2659.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article 1, Section 8 of the United States Constitution

By Mr. LATTA:

H.R. 2660.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18:

The Congress shall have Power to make all Laws which shall be necessary and proper for carrying into Executive 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.

Article IV, Section 3, Clause 2:

The Congress shall have the Power to dispose of and make all needful Rules and Regulations respecting the Territory and other Property belonging to the United States.

By Mrs. LAWRENCE:

H.R. 2661.

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 of Officer thereof."

By Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York:

H.R. 2662.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18 of the Constitution of the United States grants the Congress the power to enact this law.

By Mr. MORELLE:

H.R. 2663.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ:

H.R. 2664.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2665.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2666.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

By Mr. VAN DREW:

H.R. 2667.

Congress has the power to enact this legislation pursuant to the following:

Article I, Section 8, Clause 18

ADDITIONAL SPONSORS

Under clause 7 of rule XII, sponsors were added to public bills and resolutions, as follows:

- H.R. 40: Mr. LANGEVIN and Mr. HIMES.
- H.R. 301: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia.
- H.R. 322: Mr. LAMALFA, Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania, and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
- H.R. 350: Mr. GREEN of Texas, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 396: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
- H.R. 402: Mr. RASKIN, Ms. NORTON, Mr. MELJER, Ms. SPANBERGER, Mr. ALLRED, and Mr. SHERMAN.
- H.R. 413: Mr. CLINE.
- H.R. 426: Mr. ROSENDALE.
- H.R. 472: Mr. CURTIS and Mr. JOYCE of Pennsylvania.
- H.R. 571: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York, Mr. SIRES, and Mrs. BEATTY.
- H.R. 695: Mr. MCCAUL.
- H.R. 704: Mr. ISSA and Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 763: Mr. POCAN and Mrs. MCBATH.
- H.R. 793: Mr. KAHELE.
- H.R. 826: Mr. BERA.
- H.R. 855: Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 858: Mr. TONY GONZALES of Texas.
- H.R. 958: Ms. LOIS FRANKEL of Florida.
- H.R. 959: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 1014: Mr. KINZINGER.
- H.R. 1016: Ms. MACE.
- H.R. 1019: Mr. LEVIN of California.
- H.R. 1022: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 1043: Ms. FOX.
- H.R. 1145: Mr. KELLER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Mr. LIEU, and Ms. SPANBERGER.
- H.R. 1158: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 1177: Mr. PASCRELL and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.R. 1179: Mr. SMITH of Nebraska and Mr. JOYCE of Ohio.
- H.R. 1185: Mr. CICILLINE.
- H.R. 1193: Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. NORCROSS, Mr. LAMBORN, and Mr. BILIRAKIS.
- H.R. 1200: Mr. AUCHINCLOSS.
- H.R. 1258: Mr. KAHELE.
- H.R. 1277: Ms. WILLIAMS of Georgia, Ms. HOULAHAN, and Mr. SHERMAN.

- H.R. 1297: Mrs. CAROLYN B. MALONEY of New York.
- H.R. 1304: Mr. KIND, Ms. MOORE of Wisconsin, Ms. STRICKLAND, Mr. CURTIS, and Mrs. LESKO.
- H.R. 1332: Mr. VALADAO, Mr. LYNCH, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mr. KELLY of Mississippi, Mr. STEUBE, Mr. MANN, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Ms. MANNING, Mr. AUCHINCLOSS, Ms. MACE, Mr. FITZGERALD, and Mrs. SPARTZ.
- H.R. 1346: Mrs. SPARTZ.
- H.R. 1378: Ms. ESHOO.
- H.R. 1384: Mr. WESTERMAN and Mr. PAPPAS.
- H.R. 1477: Miss RICE of New York.
- H.R. 1488: Mrs. KIM of California and Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 1491: Miss GONZÁLEZ-COLÓN.
- H.R. 1493: Ms. MACE.
- H.R. 1496: Mr. CLINE.
- H.R. 1525: Ms. FOX.
- H.R. 1553: Mr. PALAZZO.
- H.R. 1587: Ms. BOURDEAUX.
- H.R. 1650: Mrs. SPARTZ.
- H.R. 1684: Ms. PINGREE.
- H.R. 1693: Mr. RESCIENTHALER.
- H.R. 1704: Mrs. SPARTZ.
- H.R. 1730: Mr. LEVIN of California.
- H.R. 1745: Mr. PALMER, Mr. FULCHER, Mr. ROSENDALE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. PALAZZO, Mr. DAVIDSON, Mr. KUSTOFF, Mr. YOUNG, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. COMER, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. GUEST, Mr. GUTHRIE, Mrs. HARTZLER, Mr. TIFFANY, and Mr. JOHNSON of Louisiana.
- H.R. 1769: Mr. UPTON and Mr. NEGUSE.
- H.R. 1783: Ms. BROWNLEY and Ms. LOFGREN.
- H.R. 1808: Mr. GOTTHEIMER.
- H.R. 1842: Mr. SEAN PATRICK MALONEY of New York and Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 1864: Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 1946: Mr. DIAZ-BALART, Mr. COHEN, Mr. BALDERSON, Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BRENDAN F. BOYLE of Pennsylvania, Mr. THOMPSON of Mississippi, Ms. JOHNSON of Texas, Mr. RUSH, Mr. MEEKS, Mr. MCGOVERN, Mrs. WALORSKI, Mr. HERN, Mr. DUNN, Mr. VAN DREW, Mr. RICE of South Carolina, Mr. SMITH of Nebraska, and Mr. POCAN.
- H.R. 1954: Mr. BUCHANAN.
- H.R. 1956: Mr. MCKINLEY.
- H.R. 1996: Mr. COMER, Mr. GOMEZ, Ms. LOFGREN, Ms. ROSS, Mr. CASTRO of Texas, Mrs. TORRES of California, Mr. RUSH, Ms. MENG, Mrs. BICE of Oklahoma, Mr. MRVAN, Mrs. MILLER-MEEKS, and Ms. DAVIDS of Kansas.
- H.R. 2005: Mr. WITTMAN and Mr. KELLY of Mississippi.
- H.R. 2021: Ms. SPANBERGER.
- H.R. 2049: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 2079: Mr. CLEAVER, Ms. CRAIG, and Mr. DELGADO.
- H.R. 2083: Mr. COLE, Mr. STIVERS, Mr. HICE of Georgia, Mr. FULCHER, and Mrs. KIM of California.
- H.R. 2085: Mr. POSEY and Ms. ROSS.
- H.R. 2096: Mr. RASKIN and Mr. DOGGETT.
- H.R. 2102: Mr. KHANNA and Ms. BARRAGÁN.
- H.R. 2124: Mr. MORELLE.
- H.R. 2125: Ms. ROSS.
- H.R. 2144: Mr. KIND.
- H.R. 2168: Mr. PALAZZO.
- H.R. 2188: Mr. JACKSON.
- H.R. 2198: Mr. TONKO, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. NADLER, Mrs. TRAHAN, Ms. TLAIB, Ms. NEWMAN, Ms. VELÁZQUEZ, and Mr. COHEN.
- H.R. 2237: Mr. LOWENTHAL.
- H.R. 2244: Mr. KELLER, Mr. KIM of New Jersey, Mr. NORMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. GONZALEZ of Ohio, Mr. COMER, Ms. MACE, Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota, Ms. ADAMS, Mr. LONG, Mr. CARL, and Mr. LUETKEMEYER.
- H.R. 2294: Mr. BROWN.
- H.R. 2295: Ms. WILSON of Florida.
- H.R. 2339: Mr. KIM of New Jersey.
- H.R. 2349: Mr. BUDD.
- H.R. 2430: Mr. JACKSON.
- H.R. 2486: Mr. GUEST.
- H.R. 2488: Mr. BRADY and Mr. SMITH of Nebraska.
- H.R. 2497: Mrs. NAPOLITANO.
- H.R. 2525: Ms. KUSTER.
- H.R. 2530: Mr. RYAN.
- H.R. 2576: Ms. OCASIO-CORTEZ.
- H.R. 2606: Ms. STEFANIK.
- H.R. 2607: Mr. BROWN.
- H.R. 2616: Mr. DEFAZIO.
- H.R. 2617: Ms. NORTON.
- H.R. 2630: Mr. BILIRAKIS and Mr. TAYLOR.
- H.R. 2638: Ms. NORTON and Mr. GRIJALVA.
- H.J. Res. 11: Mr. LAMBORN, Mr. WITTMAN, Mr. MULLIN, Mr. BUCSHON, Mr. DESJARLAIS, Mr. LONG, and Mr. DIAZ-BALART.
- H. Res. 30: Mr. RASKIN.
- H. Res. 114: Mr. CUELLAR.
- H. Res. 118: Mr. STEWART, Mr. HIGGINS of New York, Mr. GARCIA of California, and Mr. JACKSON.
- H. Res. 124: Mr. TAYLOR.
- H. Res. 130: Mr. DAVIDSON.
- H. Res. 309: Mrs. HINSON.
- H. Res. 314: Mr. KELLY of Pennsylvania, Mr. NORMAN, and Mr. HICE of Georgia.
- H. Res. 317: Mr. FITZPATRICK, Mr. BURCHETT, Mr. KINZINGER, Mr. BUCK, Mr. STEUBE, Ms. TENNEY, Mr. CHABOT, Mr. ISSA, Mr. CICILLINE, Mrs. WAGNER, Mr. CONNOLLY, Ms. TITUS, Mr. GREEN of Tennessee, and Mr. BERA.



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No. 67

Senate

The Senate met at 3 p.m. and was called to order by the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii.

PRAYER

The Chaplain, Dr. Barry C. Black, offered the following prayer:

Let us pray.

O God, our strength, rock, and fortress, we praise Your holy Name. Thank You for being our shield and stronghold.

Today, give our lawmakers the wisdom to seek You, for You deserve their trust. As our Senators remember how You have sustained our Nation in the past, may they have confidence in Your guidance for the future.

Lord, remind them of the times they cried to You for help, and You answered them through Your loving providence. As they recall that when You speak, good things happen, empower them to face whatever the future brings without fear. Use them to speak lifegiving words that bring harmony and hope.

We pray in Your marvelous Name. Amen.

PLEDGE OF ALLEGIANCE

The Presiding Officer led the Pledge of Allegiance, as follows:

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

APPOINTMENT OF ACTING PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will please read a communication to the Senate from the President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY).

The legislative clerk read the following letter:

U.S. SENATE,
PRESIDENT PRO TEMPORE,
Washington, DC, April 19, 2021.

To the Senate:

Under the provisions of rule I, paragraph 3, of the Standing Rules of the Senate, I hereby appoint the Honorable MAZIE K. HIRONO, a Senator from the State of Hawaii, to perform the duties of the Chair.

PATRICK J. LEAHY,
President pro tempore.

Ms. HIRONO thereupon assumed the Chair as Acting President pro tempore.

RESERVATION OF LEADER TIME

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the leadership time is reserved.

RECOGNITION OF THE MAJORITY LEADER

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The majority leader is recognized.

BUSINESS BEFORE THE SENATE

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, the Senate returns this week with a full plate. Today, we will continue to work on two important nominations to the Justice Department: Lisa Monaco and Vanita Gupta. Both should be confirmed by the end of this week. The Senate will also vote to confirm SEC Commissioner Gary Gensler to a full term.

At the same time, the Senate will continue to work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill. Last week, the Senate voted to proceed with the legislation by an overwhelming bipartisan vote of 92 to 6. The process will continue to be bipartisan.

Senator COLLINS has worked with Senator HIRONO—you, Madam President—on a few modifications, which we have welcomed. Senators MORAN and BLUMENTHAL have worked with Senator SCOTT of Florida to incorporate his feedback into their legislation called

the NO HATE Act, which would improve and strengthen the bill.

Senator WARNOCK has worked with Senators HIRONO and COLLINS to include language acknowledging the recent tragic shootings near Atlanta.

All of these ideas will be incorporated into a broader final substitute amendment. I will ensure the Senate votes on the substitute amendment in the coming days. All told, the Senate is on track to finish this bill later this week.

We are seeing that when the Senate is given the opportunity to work, the Senate can work. Members from both sides of the aisle have worked together over the past week to consider, perfect, and—soon—enact legislation responding to a pressing issue.

Regrettably—very regrettably—in recent years, all of us have witnessed a surge of White nationalism and violent extremism in American society. Senators of good will from both sides of the aisle have taken note and developed proposals to give Federal law enforcement officials the tools to better detect, prevent, and prosecute this surge in hate crimes.

The Senate will incorporate many of these ideas in the final substitute amendment to this bill. As a result, I am optimistic we can finish our work on the anti-Asian hate crimes bill later this week in the same manner we started, with an overwhelming bipartisan vote.

And, let me say, it is needed. As I go through New York—I have been to several more rallies, one early this morning—anti-Asian hate crime, unfortunately, is on the upsurge. We hear about the violent acts. We have heard about the deaths. But, every day, thousands—thousands—of Asian Americans are subjected to smaller but nonetheless stinging acts of hate crime by being called names, by being spat upon, by being cursed at, and even just by being stared at in a nasty way like: Who the heck are you?

• This “bullet” symbol identifies statements or insertions which are not spoken by a Member of the Senate on the floor.



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So we must act. We must act both to strengthen the Department of Justice's ability to prosecute more hate crimes and to pay attention to hate crimes and to calculate their number, but also to send a message—two messages, in fact: one to our Asian-American friends—a great 6 percent of America and 10 percent of New York is Asian American—that you are us, we are all Americans together, and we welcome you being here. I, for one, like you, Madam President, would welcome more Asian immigrants coming to America.

But second is a message to those who perpetrate these awful acts: You are not American. We despise what you do, and we are going to remain vigilant until this kind of bigotry is diminished and maybe even snuffed out.

CORONAVIRUS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, on another matter, for the last year, the country has faced a daunting series of crises. After such a difficult year, it is important to take stock of how the country is finally, finally starting to recover.

Over a month ago, Senate Democrats passed the American Rescue Plan, supercharging our Nation's vaccination drive and putting thousands of dollars into the pockets of Americans who needed it most. Already, the benefits are pouring in.

Yesterday, the CDC announced that the country had reached a truly remarkable milestone. Over half of U.S. adults, 130 million Americans, have received at least one dose of the COVID-19 vaccine. It is the result of a rapidly accelerating pace of distribution, which we in the Senate—many of us—pushed for, first in the December bill and then in the ARP bill. The country now averages over 3 million doses per day.

Even better news arrived this morning. Starting today, every single adult in the United States is eligible to get vaccinated. Let me say that again. All U.S. adults in all 50 States, Washington, DC, and Puerto Rico are now eligible to get the vaccine, meeting the deadline President Biden set just 2 weeks ago.

I urge all Americans to go online, find a location where vaccines are being administered, and get the vaccine. Register, sign up, call in. Do whatever you need to do to make yourself an appointment. This is about protecting yourself and protecting your family. We are on our way to beating COVID-19, but everyone needs to do their part, and part of doing your part is being vaccinated.

Inoculating a country of 330 million people—a country the size of a continent—is a momentous task. The fact that we have already reached the halfway point in 4 short months is a credit to the Biden administration and our work here in Congress to fund vaccine production and distribution, and it is a credit to the thousands of medical re-

searchers, scientists, doctors, nurses, and all the public health workers who have made this possible.

Thanks to the American Rescue Plan, our economy has gotten its own shot in the arm. The Treasury Department announced that nearly 159 million stimulus payments—\$376 billion—have reached people across the country. Last week, jobless claims fell to their lowest levels since the start of the pandemic. Global consumer confidence is now higher than it was even before the pandemic. Across the country, the American Rescue Plan is accelerating our economic recovery. Consumer spending is up, businesses are gradually reopening, and American workers are regaining hope and reentering the workforce.

Thanks to our historic investment in American workers, American families, and the American economy, brighter days are just around the corner. All of us who worked hard on passing the ARP and the previous legislation can be very proud of what we were able to do. Now, of course, we are not completely out of the woods yet. Despite the roaring success of the American Rescue Plan, we must continue to bolster our economic recovery and create good-paying jobs for American workers. That is why infrastructure—big, bold infrastructure—remains at the top of our priority list.

There isn't a community in this country without some glaring infrastructure challenges, be they crumbling roads, bridges, or school buildings, aging sewer systems, housing properties, or unreliable internet. If America is going to compete in the 21st century, we can't have an infrastructure that is stuck in the last century, so Congress, in coordination with the Biden administration, is going to work on a comprehensive jobs and infrastructure bill this year.

Today at the White House, President Biden will meet with Members from both parties to continue bipartisan discussions on an infrastructure package. The President has reiterated his intention and desire to work in good faith with our Republican colleagues. Hopefully, our Republican colleagues share that willingness and desire. Reliably investing in our Nation's infrastructure used to unite our two parties. It can do so again.

Here in Congress, we are going to start getting our teeth into the details of an infrastructure package. Right here in the Senate, there are numerous activities going on this week. Tomorrow, the Senate Appropriations Committee will hear from four Cabinet-level officials on the details of the American Jobs Plan: Secretaries Buttigieg, Raimondo, and Fudge, as well as EPA Administrator Michael Regan. Later in the week, the Democratic Steering and Outreach Committee will hear from Secretaries Buttigieg and Raimondo on the President's Build Back Better agenda, and the Democratic caucus will meet with

the Director of the National Economic Council, Brian Deese, on the same subject.

As the Senate begins to shape the contours of a comprehensive infrastructure bill, I will soon move to have the Senate take up a bipartisan water infrastructure bill. This legislation, the Drinking Water and Infrastructure Act, was advanced by the Environment and Public Works Committee on a unanimous vote earlier this year. It will authorize tens of billions of dollars to make sure American families, especially low-income families, have access to safe and clean drinking water.

The drinking water bill could represent a small but important first step in bringing our two parties together on the work on infrastructure. I salute the chairman of EPW, TOM CARPER of Delaware, and the ranking member, Senator CAPITO of West Virginia, for coming together on the legislation. We look forward to working with our Republican colleagues later this work period to get that piece of legislation done.

I yield the floor.

I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

CONCLUSION OF MORNING BUSINESS

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Morning business is closed.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume consideration of S. 937, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 937) to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

AMENDMENT NO. 1445

(Purpose: To improve the bill.)

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I have an amendment at the desk, and I ask for its immediate consideration.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. The clerk will report the amendment.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

The Senator from New York [Mr. SCHUMER] for Ms. HIRONO and Ms. COLLINS proposes an amendment numbered 1445.

Mr. SCHUMER. I ask to dispense with further reading of the amendment.

The ACTING PRESIDENT pro tempore. Without objection, it is so ordered.

(The amendment is printed in today's RECORD under "Text of Amendments.")

Mr. MCCONNELL. Madam President, I suggest the absence of a quorum.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. (Ms. BALDWIN). Without objection, it is so ordered.

COVID-19 HATE CRIMES ACT

Madam President, last week the Senate began consideration of the COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act. It is my understanding that the Democratic leader hopes a final vote on the bill will occur on Wednesday.

Earnest bipartisan conversations have improved this legislation considerably behind the scenes. Senate Republicans have helped make the bill better. And I am confident that with a bipartisan process this week that also include votes on Republican amendments, we will be able to continue moving forward toward the outcome the country deserves.

PROTESTS

Madam President, on an entirely different matter, last summer our Nation began grappling in a renewed way with anger and pain at the fact that our progress toward racial justice remains unfinished. Rightly understood, this is not a struggle against our Nation's founding principles and central pillars; rather, it is a journey to make America even more faithful to itself to ensure that life, liberty, the pursuit of happiness, and equal justice under law are, indeed, the birthright of every single American.

Unfortunately, some of last summer's demonstrations devolved into violent and destructive riots. Small businesses were looted, civic monuments were defaced, and government buildings attacked, not just insults but rocks and Molotov cocktails were thrown at the good men and women of law enforcement. These were efforts to use violence and disorder as a political tactic to influence or overrule our democratic processes and our justice system.

Now, over the last few weeks, Minneapolis returned to center stage with the trial of the police officer who is accused of killing George Floyd last May. Again, the causes of civil rights, equal justice, and rule of law tell us that this trial and every trial must go forward without social pressure, political considerations, and certainly violent threats playing a role. Every single American deserves a fair trial. This is sacred.

You do not balance the scales of justice by trying to tip them, and yet this past weekend, one Democratic House Member from California took it upon herself to visit the protesters in Minneapolis. She said: "We're looking for a guilty verdict." Like somebody window shopping or ordering off a menu, she is looking for a guilty verdict. If that verdict is not reached, the Congresswoman said demonstrators should "not only stay in the street . . . we've got to get more active . . . get more confrontational . . . make sure that they know we mean business."

It is harder to imagine anything more inappropriate than a Member of Congress flying in from California to inform local leaders, not so subtly, that this defendant had better be found guilty or else there will be big trouble in the streets.

Again, so much of our Nation's quest for civil rights and equal justice has been the fight to get rid of extrajudicial violence, to get rid of rigged trials where the outcome was molded by public sentiments or angry mobs. It is beyond the pale for a sitting Member of the U.S. Congress to look at what happened last summer and imply there should be some kind of a sequel, a sequel if a legal case does not unfold as she thinks it should.

Now, just a few hours after those comments, two members, two members of the National Guard who were onsite in Minneapolis keeping the peace were targeted in a driveby shooting. Thankfully, neither was seriously injured. But let's hope it doesn't take an injury or a fatality to remind politicians that their words actually have consequences.

Earlier this year, of course, the country heard many strong opinions from Democrats about whether leaders bear responsibility when reckless words precede criminal violence. Instead of trying to tilt the scales of justice with threats, policymakers should focus on actually making policy.

Last year, Senator TIM SCOTT and Senate Republicans tried to pass legislation that would have expanded body cameras, increased transparency in policing, and finally made lynching, at long last, a Federal crime. Our Democratic colleagues used the filibuster to kill it because it was not anti-police enough. Our colleagues on the far left have enough work to do here in the Capitol without trying to dictate to the judicial branch.

HONG KONG

Madam President, on one final matter, on Friday, the Chinese Communist Party reminded the world what it thinks about justice, due process, and self-governance. Nine of Hong Kong's most devoted pro-democracy advocates received harsh sentences. What was their crime? Well, it was inspiring over a million people to take to the streets in August 2019 to protest peacefully in support of basic freedoms.

It was not the first time Beijing's thin-skinned authoritarians have brought the hammer down on Hongkongers and, sadly, it will not be the last. China's position is supposedly that "only patriots"—only patriots should be allowed to govern Hong Kong.

Let's review what it means to be a PRC patriot. Apparently, it means applauding Hong Kong's new so-called national security law cooked up by mainland partisans and the political repression that it enables. It means applauding saber-rattling and interference with civilian commerce in the South China Sea. It means cheering on the

Communist Party as it uses invasive technology to repress dissent at home and turning a blind eye to the detention and killing of religious and ethnic minorities in broad daylight.

Well, the CCP is right that real patriots should be speaking out and leading in Hong Kong. They are just wrong about who the true patriots actually are. Hong Kong's patriots are people like my friends Jimmy Lai and Martin Lee, who risk their safety to champion democracy. They are the hundreds of thousands of peaceful protesters who carried the torch even as their countrymen have been imprisoned.

I appreciate the voices across the globe who are calling attention to the plight of the real patriots and all the other groups in Beijing's crosshairs.

To the global business and government leaders who haven't yet spoken out, I hope you are watching closely. If Beijing feels comfortable treating Hongkongers this way, just think how little regard the PRC will show for basic international norms.

I am also grateful to our own American leaders who fight for basic human rights, including our Religious Freedom Commissioners Tony Perkins and Gayle Manchin, who have themselves been comically blacklisted by Beijing and rightly wear that as a badge of honor.

I hope the administration will add teeth to its tough talk on China and reassure our friends in Hong Kong that we have their backs.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The majority whip.

IMMIGRATION

Mr. DURBIN. Madam President, I was sure that I wouldn't like him. I was convinced that we weren't going to get along. I had so many grievances against President George W. Bush—the war in Iraq, the interrogation of prisoners—I really was prepared not to like him at all, and then I met him. Darn it. I met him and I liked him and I still do.

We still have some profound differences on issues. I think back on his Presidency, and there are some things that I want to give him credit for. First and foremost, I want to thank him for being our President during 9/11 because, if you remember what he said after 9/11—and how profound it is in light of our history since—he said our war against terrorism is not against people of the Islamic faith; it is a faith of peace. What a remarkable statement to make by a President because we have seen just the opposite since by another President from his party.

He did great work when it came to global health, extraordinary work. He changed the world for the better. I was glad to be his ally in that effort.

That wasn't the sum total of all the work on the good side of the ledger that he had done, and I won't recount the areas of disagreement because there were many, but I do want to tell you that I was touched, personally touched by an article that President

George W. Bush wrote in the Washington Post this weekend. It was about his new book, a collection of paintings entitled "Out of Many, One."

He said, in putting this book together, he was really setting "out to accomplish two things: to share some portraits of immigrants"—and he has become an accomplished painter—"each with a remarkable story," he says, "I try to tell, and to humanize the debate on immigration and reform."

George W. Bush, a proud Republican, speaks not only to the people of America but especially to his own political party in this article. "I hope that these faces, and the stories that accompany them, serve as a reminder," he writes, "that immigration isn't just part of our heritage. New Americans are just as much a force for good now, with their energy, idealism and love of country, as they have always been."

He goes on to talk about some of the amazing stories, the story of a young man from France who followed his dream to become an American soldier and went on to earn the Medal of Honor, the story of a champion runner who barely survived ethnic violence in East Africa and who told President Bush: "America has given me everything I dreamed of as a boy."

He says the backgrounds of these immigrants are varied, "but readers won't have to search hard for a common theme." President Bush writes: "It's gratitude. So many immigrants are filled with appreciation, a spirit nicely summed up," he writes, "by a Cuban American friend who said: 'If I live for a hundred years, I could never repay what this country has done for me.'"

President Bush writes: "The help and respect historically accorded to new arrivals is one reason so many people still aspire and wait to become Americans." And then he asks the important question: "How is it that in a country more generous to new arrivals than any other, immigration policy is a source of so much rancor and ill will?" The short answer, he says, is that the issue has been exploited in ways that do little credit to either party. And no proposal on immigration will have credibility without confidence that our laws are carried out consistently and in good faith.

"One place to start," bless him, he writes, "is DACA (Deferred Action for Childhood Arrivals.) Americans," he writes, "who favor a path to citizenship for those brought here as children, known as 'dreamers,' are not advocating open borders. They just recognize that young men and women who grew up in the United States, and who never knew any other place as home, are fundamentally American. And they ought not be punished for choices made by their parents."

Let me just add, thank you, President Bush. He speaks of our border, and he should. Another opportunity for agreement, he calls it. "I have long

said that we can be both a lawful and a welcoming nation at the same time." He writes we need a secure and efficient border, and we should apply all the necessary resources to ensure it.

He goes on to say we need a modernized asylum system that provides humanitarian support and appropriate legal channels for refugees. The rules for asylum should be reformed by Congress to guard against unmerited entry and reserve that vital status for its intended recipients.

I don't disagree with a word he has written. "Increased legal immigration, focused on employment and skills," and here we may have some area of disagreement, "is also a choice that both parties should be able to get behind." He also writes about improving our temporary entry program for some workers.

And listen to what President George W. Bush writes about the undocumented in America, estimated to be in the numbers of millions, 11 million. Here is what he says: "As for the millions of undocumented men and women currently living in the United States, a grant of amnesty would be fundamentally unfair to those who came legally or are still waiting their turn to become citizens. But undocumented immigrants should be brought out of the shadows through a gradual process in which legal residency and citizenship must be earned, as for anyone else applying for that privilege. Requirements should include . . . work history, payment of a fine and back taxes, English proficiency," and other things.

He closes by saying: "If we trust those instincts in the current debate, then bipartisan reform is possible. And we will again see immigration for what it is: not a problem and source of discord, but a great and defining asset of the United States."

I was touched by those words and still am that he would be so caring and so pointed in his message. That is the basis for bipartisan immigration reform which America desperately needs.

Now I am looking for George W. Bush and the Republicans to join the Democrats in a bipartisan effort to get it done. I have called together a group for that purpose, and we are going to meet again soon to talk about the progress that we might be able to make.

I do want to thank the President. We have a job to do, and we need the values that George W. Bush still brings to the American people in this debate.

GUN VIOLENCE

Madam President, over the weekend in Chicago, a 13-year-old boy, Adam Toledo, on March 29, in the wee hours of the morning, was stopped by police and shot and killed in an alley in the city of Chicago.

Thousands have been gathering since in his memory. The videotape of the arrest was released last week, and there is that stark moment with his hands up, and he is being shot and killed—13 years old.

There is a lengthy debate going on in our city and our Nation about the role

of the police, the fairness of law enforcement, and what is happening with children in areas of poverty and guns. This past weekend, our Nation's epidemic of gun violence continued to devastate families and communities. The Adam Toledo tape wasn't the only thing that happened.

In the city of Chicago, yesterday, Sunday, 7-year-old Jaslyn Adams was shot and killed in the backseat of a car while with her father at a McDonald's drive-through. She was one of 27 people shot in Chicago this weekend—5 of them fatally.

In Kenosha, in the Presiding Officer's home State, a gunman in a tavern, on Sunday morning, killed three people and wounded three more.

In Austin, TX, three people were fatally shot on Sunday morning in a reported domestic violence incident.

Then, on Thursday of last week and for the third time this year, there was another mass shooting in Indianapolis at a FedEx facility. Eight people died.

These were just some of the more than 100 Americans who are killed every single day by guns in this Nation. This, unfortunately, is not an isolated set of incidents, and this is not just a rare tragic weekend. This is America 2021. One of the key parts of an effective response to this crisis is understanding it, and that raises important questions about the news coverage of gun violence as well as anything else.

I ask unanimous consent to have printed in the RECORD an April 5 column of the Chicago Tribune, entitled: "Why aren't Chicago's mass shootings included in the outcry over recent violence in Atlanta, Colorado and California?"

There being no objection, the material was ordered to be printed in the RECORD, as follows:

[From the Chicago Tribune, Apr. 5, 2021]

COLUMN: WHY AREN'T CHICAGO'S MASS SHOOTINGS INCLUDED IN THE OUTCRY OVER RECENT VIOLENCE IN ATLANTA, COLORADO AND CALIFORNIA?

(By Heidi Stevens)

When a gunman killed four people and wounded a fifth at a Southern California office building last week, news outlets, over and over, called it the third in a string of mass shootings.

"The violence in the city of Orange was the third major mass shooting in just over two weeks," an Associated Press story published on chicagotribune.com read. "Last week a gunman opened fire at a supermarket in Boulder, Colorado, and killed 10. A week before that, six Asian women were among eight people killed at three Atlanta-area spas."

No mention of Chicago. In Sunday's New York Times, Nicholas Kristof wrote a column headlined, "How do we stop the parade of gun deaths?" Chicago gun deaths were nowhere to be found.

But 15 people were shot at a party in Chicago's Park Manor neighborhood on March 14 (two days before the Atlanta-area shootings) and eight people were shot outside a Wrightwood neighborhood storefront on March 26 (four days after the Boulder shooting and five days before the Orange shooting.)

What does it say that the violence here is so rarely included in larger discussions—in the media, among politicians—about mass shootings and the trauma they inflict on our nation?

“Mass shootings are mass shootings when they involve white people,” Shaka Rawls, principal of Leo Catholic High School in Chicago’s Auburn Gresham neighborhood, told me. “When they’re Black people, it’s just something that happened over there. When it’s violence perpetrated by and on Black people, the mainstream media can easily turn its back and say, ‘This is what happens in those communities.’ But the impact is huge on those communities.”

I called Rawls because the school he leads is located down the street from the funeral home where 15 people were shot on a Tuesday evening in July. Rawls raced to the scene as soon as he heard the news.

“I will never unsee that,” he said. “I’m traumatized by that, and this isn’t my first rodeo. People are laid out on the ground. People are crying. There’s no ambulance on the scene yet. I’m a school principal. I’m not trained for this.”

But in the days and weeks that followed, he found himself having to advocate for his students and staff to receive counseling and support, when he expected to be fielding offers of help.

“So many things that happen in my community are not looked at as violence perpetrated on human beings,” he said. “Sometimes we have to remind people that these are humans. The people experiencing this trauma are humans.”

On a day-to-day basis, Chicago’s gun violence doesn’t go unnoticed or unremarked upon. City residents and leaders face near-constant criticism and ridicule for our devastatingly high number of shootings and deaths.

But I hear those shootings and deaths lobbed as a jeer far more often than I hear them urgently, thoughtfully discussed as a crisis deserving of all-hands-on-deck solutions. And the failure to include Chicago in the national discourse about mass shootings feels like a symptom of this larger problem: an “othering” of our violence—as if it isn’t as tragic, isn’t as much of an assault on humanity, isn’t as deserving of widespread calls for answers and reform.

“It’s because we’re killing each other, so it’s nothing out of the ordinary,” said Danielle Stipe-Patterson, 32, who lives in Park Manor. “When it should be out of the ordinary. This is traumatic. This is trauma. I can’t even watch certain TV shows because I’m living it. Why watch it for entertainment when I literally hear the gunshots every other night?”

Stipe-Patterson’s dad was shot to death in Roseland when she was 8 years old. He was outside washing his car when he was killed.

“He wasn’t affiliated with any gangs,” Stipe-Patterson said. “He was just a boy from Louisiana who had seven kids and two jobs.”

For several years, Stipe-Patterson worked as a program associate for the Illinois Council Against Handgun Violence conducting workshops and speaking to students in and around Chicago about gun violence and the importance of mental health resources for both prevention and healing.

“At the beginning, I felt like I made a difference,” she said. “I was able to share my story with kids who lost a parent or an uncle or a brother, showing them that you can still make it. After a while, sharing the story over and over and over and coming home and living the problem in the community, it was taxing.”

Now she works for a nonprofit that offers arts programming to kids who can’t attend school because of chronic illness.

She started to feel like legislators and other people in positions of power were less interested in addressing the root causes—racial segregation, long-term disinvestment on the South and West sides, lack of mental health resources, underfunded schools, repeated exposure to trauma—and more interested in simply chalking up Chicago’s violence to gangs.

After a recent shooting on her block, Stipe-Patterson said she and other neighbors tried to get information from police about what happened, how they might help solve the crime, and what to be on the lookout for.

“They wouldn’t tell me anything,” she said. “You have to solve these things in the community, but how are we supposed to be a community if y’all aren’t allowing us to be a community? How are we supposed to change stuff if y’all aren’t being transparent with us?”

Every shooting—whether it takes place on a city sidewalk or inside a church or at a suburban high school—is a product of what the shooter experienced in life, Rawls said.

“Poverty, a desperate outlook on life, poor parenting, bullying at school,” he said. “How did they get the weapon? What’s the economic impact on that community? What’s the social and emotional impact on that community? There is not a catchall solution, but those should be the questions in every case. Every case.”

Firearms are the leading cause of death for children and teens in Illinois, said Kathleen Sances, president and CEO of G-PAC Illinois, a gun violence prevention political action committee.

“An average of 183 children and teens die by guns every year in Illinois,” Sances said. “The gun violence crisis disproportionately affects Black and brown children and teens, who are 13 times more likely to die from gun violence than their white counterparts.”

“Black and brown children are dying and nobody’s doing anything about it,” she continued. “People who don’t live in impacted communities don’t see the violence. They dissociate themselves from those people. And I think the media reinforces this perspective.”

I agree. Yet, as a member of the media, I am engaged in an endless internal dialogue about how and how much to write about the violence in my beloved city. Too little is an insult to the human lives shattered by it and a dodging of the responsibility to shine light on our most pressing problems. Too much risks reinforcing negative stereotypes about a city that is so much more than the violence that has forever plagued it.

Rawls said he feels similarly conflicted over whether he wants more attention paid to Chicago’s mass shootings, whether he would want to see Chicago listed alongside Atlanta and Boulder and Orange in an AP story.

If the attention would result in more federal resources directed at the problem? If the attention were accompanied by an interest in solving the root causes of gun violence, an understanding of Chicago’s porous borders through which weapons flow, an acknowledgment of the levels of trauma and fear that many of his students carry on their shoulders? Sure.

“But the conversations don’t have that tone,” he said. “There’s a, ‘That’s what they get. They shouldn’t have been there’ tone. I’ve seen it.”

More media attention? More politicians invoking Chicago in their gun reform speeches?

“It could be like throwing water on a grease fire,” Rawls said.

I believe we can do better. I believe we—in the media, we in Chicago, we Americans—can refuse to settle into a place where we ac-

cept gun violence as simply the cost of living in this city, where we experience the gun violence here as somehow less remarkable and less remarked upon than gun violence elsewhere. Bullets shattering a funeral on 79th Street are every bit as repellent to human nature as bullets shattering the aisles of a grocery store in Boulder, Colorado.

“I think the best thing to remember is that the things that divide us are socially constructed,” Rawls said. “The things that separate us are created by society. And if we created them, we can dismantle them. I would like for everyone to see each other as humans, to see this is a problem happening to humans, not just those people over there.”

Mr. DURBIN. Heidi Stevens’ column in the Tribune points out that the media often subjectively defines and covers what it considers to be mass shootings. All too often, mass shootings in communities of color are left out of the coverage, and this is wrong. It is unfair. It is nothing short of an outrage. It needs to change.

We need to understand the full scope of this crisis that is killing so many Americans, with reliable, objective data that is quickly made available. The Centers for Disease Control and Prevention keeps count, but there is a time lag with its data on firearm deaths and injuries. Right now, the latest official CDC report on gun deaths is from the year 2019. There is a website, though, Gun Violence Archive, that keeps track of shooting incidents virtually on a realtime basis.

I believe that news coverage of mass shootings in America should use the definition and statistics provided by the Gun Violence Archive. They define a mass shooting as an incident in which four or more people are shot and either killed or injured, not including the shooter. It is a purely numerical standard. It is not subjective. According to the Gun Violence Archive’s definition—I want to put this on the record in the Senate—so far this year, by its definition, there have been 153 mass shootings. Yet we are only 109 days into the year. Nine of this year’s mass shootings so far have taken place in Chicago. Four people have been fatally shot in these shootings, and 50 have been injured. It is important to gather this data as quickly as possible so that we can respond effectively.

Last week, I spoke on the floor and commended President Biden for speaking out. He recently announced an important set of Executive actions on gun violence: steps to limit untraceable ghost guns, help for States to pursue extreme risk protection orders. Incidentally, the State law in Indiana was not, apparently, solid enough or tamperproof enough and was overcome there by the latest mass shooting. There is the reporting on firearms trafficking patterns and nominating experienced veteran David Chipman to be the first Senate-confirmed Director of that Agency since 2015.

You see, many of the critics of gun safety legislation say to just enforce the laws we have, but if you have been around the Senate for more than 15

minutes, you will realize the Agency that has a major responsibility in that, the ATF, is notorious for being underfunded, understaffed, and going without leadership. That is part of the design of the people who really don't even want to see the laws enforced.

I am particularly encouraged by President Biden's commitment to providing Federal resources for community violence interdiction programs through the American Jobs Plan and other grant programs. This is the type of serious investment we need to tackle this crisis. This President is taking constitutional, commonsense steps to reduce gun violence, but what have we done? Nothing.

I held a hearing on gun violence in the Judiciary Committee a few weeks ago. We are going to hold more as Senator BLUMENTHAL, of Connecticut, chairs the subcommittee with that responsibility. Hearings are important so that we can put together legislative reforms and appropriate funds. The House has already passed a bipartisan bill to close gaps in the gun background check system. Really, the ball is in the Senate's court at this moment. We need 10 Senate Republicans to help us get to the 60 votes necessary to overcome Republican filibusters.

Will our Republican colleagues stand up and vote to close these gaps in the law? Will our Republican colleagues support the President's call for funding community violence interdiction?

We need to act. Saving lives from gun violence should not be a partisan issue. It is an American tragedy. Sadly, we learn by the day that it is not an exclusive blue State problem. It is a blue State and a red State problem. It is an American problem. We have had too many mass shootings and too many Americans dying in gun homicides, suicides, and accidents. Let's take the bold action that meets the scale of this public health crisis. Our Nation is counting on us.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Alabama.

BIDEN ADMINISTRATION

Mr. TUBERVILLE. Madam President, today, I want to talk about two very important topics to America and to the folks back home in Alabama: President Biden's so-called infrastructure proposal and his proposed budget for the Department of Defense.

Now, I know infrastructure and defense aren't exactly the peanut butter and jelly of issues, but let me tell you how they go together. With these two proposals, the American people can plainly see just how out of place President Biden's priorities are.

I have traveled every corner of Alabama, from Mobile to Muscle Shoals, to our State's rural communities and urban centers. All the time, I hear that we need improvements to our transportation and infrastructure, and I have seen it with my own eyes. There are over 100,000 miles of public roads and 16,000 bridges in Alabama. More than

1,000 of those bridges have been condemned. Driving on poor roads costs Alabama drivers a total of \$4.2 billion annually due to vehicle operating costs, traffic congestion, and car crashes.

Yet it is not just Alabama. It is everywhere in our country. I have spent decades traveling around the country as a football coach, and I am here to tell you we need help. We need help with our infrastructure. Investment in infrastructure is important and very, very necessary. Sound infrastructure allows people to get work, keeps our goods flowing, and keeps America competitive. That is why every penny of every dollar of any infrastructure proposal should be spent on actual infrastructure.

Sadly, President Biden's proposal fails that test by a long shot. Out of this massive \$2.25 trillion proposal, only 6 percent is for roads and bridges. In fact, the proposal puts more money toward electric cars than roads, bridges, ports, and waterways combined. We have to stop treating government spending like it is monopoly money. When the American people hear about what is included in this bill, I think they will agree.

The Biden administration is using the umbrella term of "infrastructure" for a host of things folks back home don't associate with the word. Here are a couple of spending items that qualify as "infrastructure," according to President Biden: \$400 billion for nursing care and \$213 billion for government housing. I can see and understand where those fit in but not in an infrastructure bill. What gets me is the \$10 billion per year for a Civilian Climate Corps. This \$10 billion includes free housing, free clothing, free food, and an allowance for members while they promote "climate justice"—\$10 billion a year. Now, is that infrastructure?

We can debate the individual merits of these items, but, please, let's not pretend these are for infrastructure, because we need true infrastructure. To call this an infrastructure proposal is really an insult to the English language. The definition of "infrastructure" is not the "kitchen sink" approach. Let's call this proposal what it is—a farce. This proposal is simply the Green New Deal in disguise. They need to disguise it because actual infrastructure improvement is popular, and the Green New Deal is not.

In order to pay for all of this spending, President Biden has proposed raising the corporate tax by 7 percent—the largest Federal tax increase since 1993. This would undo President Trump's Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, which spurred the greatest economy we have had in decades. I can tell you right now the worst possible time to raise taxes is in the middle of a crisis. So many employers have already been hit hard and are just trying to get back on their feet. Remember who really ends up paying for tax increases, especially corporate tax rates. It is the consumer,

like you and me. It is not the corporations.

As Americans for Tax Reform has pointed out, the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act directly led to lower utility bills for hard-working folks across the country. Raising taxes would directly raise electric bills on millions of Americans, essentially taxing them, too. Tax increases threaten family-owned small businesses and family farms, forcing future generations to sell the legacies their parents and their grandparents worked so hard to build.

Here is the real kicker. As the Democrats are out there peddling this proposal as "infrastructure" and "jobs," President Biden's tax increase will eliminate 1 million jobs in the first 2 years alone, according to the National Association of Manufacturers—all of that harm just to pay for the Democrats' wish list consisting of the Green New Deal. That absolutely makes no sense. We need to be focused on creating jobs and getting folks back to work, not destroying jobs for progressive pipe dreams down the road.

This comes on the heels of a massive stimulus that just passed—the one the Democrats called COVID relief, but, really, less than 10 percent of the bill went to COVID and health-related measures.

With all the trillions of new spending proposed by the Biden administration so far, you would think that there wasn't any spending proposal that they didn't like.

Yet when it comes to our national defense, President Biden has shown he cares very little about increasing investment to keep our country safe. President Biden recently released his "skinny budget," which includes a cut of \$7 billion for the Department of Defense after accounting for inflation.

President Biden's proposal and proposed defense budget is disappointing, dangerous, and a disservice to the men and women in uniform. What is more bewildering is that it asks for our troops to do more on a shoestring budget. It adds more duties, like combating climate change and other social priorities of the Democrats to our already thinly stretched forces, and that is very, very dangerous.

Regardless of whether these individual duties may be warranted—and, for the record, I don't think they are—we shouldn't expect our military to do more with less. At a time when our enemies grow bolder and the threats to America are increasing, "do more with less" is the last thing we should tell them to do.

These threats to our Nation are real, and they are getting worse. Russia is likely preparing to invade Ukraine and finish what Putin started in Crimea. North Korea continues to test ballistic missiles. Iran is emboldened to continue its nuclear weapons program.

And then there is China. In recent weeks, China has bullied Taiwan. They think now is the time to test the United States of America. China is

building up their military to directly challenge the United States for global supremacy.

Over the last 10 years, China's defense spending increased by \$200 billion, while the United States of America decreased its defense budget \$400 billion.

We cannot let China continue to gain ground. In order to keep our country safe and protect democratic allies from Chinese aggression, we must stay well ahead of both weapons and technological advances.

President Biden's defense budget is not just dangerous for America. It is bad for us all. Across our State, Alabama has more than 200,000 jobs supporting national defense. The economic impact of the defense sector represents more than 8 percent of our State's GDP.

By underinvesting in defense, the critical work done by the service men and women at Alabama military installations—including Redstone Arsenal, Fort Rucker, Maxwell-Gunter, and others—could be seriously hindered. It will set back our entire State's economy.

I was just at Redstone Arsenal in Huntsville, where I heard firsthand from Army Material Command how badly we need to invest in modernizing our weapons systems across the world.

The best way to avoid a conflict is to have a bigger and better gun than the other guy. Most of President Biden's appointees at the Department of Defense support the 2018 National Defense Strategy, which is a comprehensive plan to compete, deter, and defeat our adversaries.

This defense budget threatens our military modernization efforts and America's ability to provide combat-ready forces. We cannot allow anything close to President Biden's defense budget to become law. Our military needs to focus on winning wars, not planting trees.

The people of Alabama and the men and women in uniform should know that I will stand up to President Biden and the globalists in his administration who want a weak military.

President Biden has gone on and on about unity and his reputation for reaching across the aisle, but ever since he came into office, his actions have been focused on appeasing the far-left, progressive voices in his party. We saw it firsthand with the stimulus bill. Shortly after that, we get this loaded-up, inappropriately named "infrastructure" proposal.

It is not just about the spending, which is a lot, but it is about what is in these proposals—progressive wish-list items that are paid for by the American taxpayer, not the government, the American taxpayer—and are passed on party lines, not bipartisan. And that is where President Biden's priorities clearly lie. He is signaling that he is more willing to invest in progressive policy items than the safety of our Nation and the world.

My colleagues and I are interested in working with President Biden on a bi-

partisan bill that addresses actual infrastructure, and we are ready to work on a defense budget that actually invests in our military and prepares us against the growing threats. We just need a President willing to unite rather than divide our great country.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from Tennessee.

Mrs. BLACKBURN. Madam President, over the past few weeks, my Republican colleagues and I have spent quite a bit of time making sure the American people know just how little of President Biden's 2-plus trillion dollar infrastructure plan will fund actual infrastructure plans to fix roads and bridges that are so in need of repair.

These are things that the Tennesseans have repeatedly told me they want to see in a bill: Fix the roads. Fix the bridges.

What do they want to be taken out of that bill? They want to get rid of some of these provisions that have nothing to do with infrastructure—nothing.

So imagine their disappointment—people who are ready for a highway bill, who are ready for a transportation bill, who are ready for an infrastructure bill—imagine their disappointment when they discovered that all the funding that they had hoped was going to go to potholes and expanding lanes on the interstate and fixing flooded back roads would instead be spent on electric cars, union advocates, and climate change ambassadors.

I know pothole repair isn't flashy, but it is what Tennesseans need. An electric car does not do you one bit of good when you are going to have to have a four-by-four to go pull it out of the mud every single time it rains.

We are pretty practical people, and my wish would be that my colleagues across the aisle would join us in reviewing the needs of the American people—the needs of the American people—and in being practical.

The lack of practicality has been a recurring problem in the months since President Biden took office. It seems that the Democrats here in Washington, DC, can't resist the urge to throw money at social-media friendly causes that not even the most talented communicators have been able to tie to the pressing needs of the American people. They did it with COVID relief, and now they are doing it with this infrastructure boondoggle.

The wish list just doesn't match the PR campaign, and that is a shame because this country has its own wish list of urgently needed items that we really can no longer afford to ignore.

Just a few weeks ago, I took my own trip down to the southern border to get a sense of the situation on the ground, and it is a dire situation. We are facing an environmental crisis, a national security crisis, and a humanitarian crisis that is massive in scope. If we want to talk about infrastructure projects that matter, let's talk about all the infrastructure that President Biden aban-

doned back in January when he halted construction on the wall.

To paraphrase a famous saying, a 450-mile-long stretch of border wall serves the purpose right up until you hit mile 451, and here you can see that is the situation that ranchers and law enforcement officials in southern Arizona are dealing with. The construction just stopped.

President Biden's proclamation ordered contractors to stop work and abandon their progress—immediate, stop. So they walked away because they had to.

What did they leave? They left behind an unfinished wall, piles of supplies, and roads and other infrastructure built to support construction crews. Everything is sitting there—sitting there at the border. The equipment, the border wall—it is all there wasting away—tax dollars right there.

All of that is now vulnerable to exploitation by the cartels and the traffickers because it is sitting there on the border. This is an absolute shame—an absolute shame. And what we know is that the cartels and the traffickers—whether they are drug traffickers or sex traffickers, or whether they are moving gangs—they are taking full advantage of this situation.

I got the chance to see where the coyotes and the drug smugglers are coming across, now that there is no activity on the border to deter them from using access points built into the wall for their own purposes.

In Cochise County alone, officials have seen a 200-percent increase in migrants this year—200 percent.

The holes in the wall have turned into walking paths for the Sinaloa cartel's drug runners. Law enforcement officials have set up an extensive network of cameras, but there are only so many leads that they can chase when the Border Patrol agents, who should be supporting these efforts, are busy implementing useless—useless and detrimental—catch-and-release programs.

And see, you see where there is a gap in the wall. Why do you have these gaps? Because the doors that were to go into these gaps are sitting, not in place. Why do you have these gaps? You have them because the wall components are there in the dirt.

But what did President Biden say? As of today, no more. No more. Stop immediately. Halt. Do not build this wall.

And what is it that our Border Patrol tell us that they need? They need a wall, they need more technology, and they need more agents and officers on the ground. This has been their request for years—for years.

On private property along the border, you can see where migrants have ditched their old clothes in exchange for actual uniforms that identify them to a cartel because they are given them by the cartel. It is their cartel-issued clothing, much like a work uniform.

There are piles of discarded backpacks, water bottles, and medicine at regular intervals. There is no telling

if the people who abandoned these items made it out alive, because we know many do not make it out alive.

Many of them are left to die in the desert by their handlers, the coyotes, and the cartels. It is vital to note that you do not cross that border unless you are working with the cartel, which means you have paid the cartel a fee to come across that border or you have agreed to go into modern-day slavery and work out your fee. Whether it is with a labor gang, an MS-13 gang, sex trafficking gang, you have to work that fee out once you come across.

Now the ranchers who own these long stretches of property have seen evidence of this evil disregard for human life. They will tell you their lands are no longer safe, they do not feel free, and they are constantly on their guard for the safety of themselves and their property.

I understand that immigration enforcement is controversial—so much so that during his campaign, President Biden promised to avoid the issue entirely by halting construction of the border wall forever. But we are living in the real world now, and in the real world, the globe's most powerful and free Republic is being taken advantage of by the West's most terrifying drug lords and human rights abusers, and the Biden administration is letting it happen. Congressional Democrats are letting it happen. Even though they don't want to admit it, it is happening. Look at the reports. Look at the footage. Talk to Customs and Border Patrol, and talk to the sheriffs in these counties.

So I say to my Democratic colleagues: Do something. Do something. Work with us to find common ground and get this situation under control before it is too late. And realize that every town is a border town and every State is a border State until that border is secure.

If you care about human rights, if you care about infrastructure, please care about this issue—care about this issue—the environmental crisis, the humanitarian crisis, and the national security crisis.

You can spend the next 4 years sitting on your hands and blaming President Trump or Leader MCCONNELL or me or any of my Republican colleagues and blame us and say: Well, there is death. There is destruction. There are drugs. And all of that is happening along this border. But that is the thing about winning elections—they do have consequences. And the consequence that is facing our Democratic colleagues right now is leading and leading on this issue. You own this crisis. You own this crisis. It is from President Biden's failed immigration and border strategy. If you fail to act, you will forever own the tragedy—the absolute tragedy that is unfolding along our southern border.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. DUCKWORTH). The Senator from Oklahoma.

ANNIVERSARY OF THE OKLAHOMA CITY BOMBING

Mr. INHOFE. Madam President, this week marks the 26th anniversary of the worst domestic terrorist attack in history, and that was the Oklahoma City bombing. Each year, we mark this solemn occasion, and this year, we come together to do it again.

I remember that day so clearly where 168 people were murdered. I remember the thundering cadence of the police officers, the firemen, and all the first responders as they were going into the—standing there watching them going into a burning building, risking their lives, and many of them died. I had close friends who died that day, and I know there were so many others who lost family and friends and loved ones. It was a day that forever changed our proud State.

I was flying my plane back from the Mexican border to Tulsa, and I didn't have quite enough gas. I had to make a stop in Dallas. I looked up at the FBO, and there were crowds of people around that TV set in Dallas. I went to see what they were watching, and I recognized it. It was our downtown Oklahoma City buildings. The disaster had taken place, and everyone was watching.

We could have let that moment define us and change us for the worse, and it would have been a lot easier to do that, but that is not the Oklahoma way. Second Corinthians reminds us to not lose heart in times of struggle and tragedy, and Oklahoma did not lose heart. What arose from the rubble that day was the Oklahoma Standard—strangers helping strangers, giving sacrificially, and performing acts of service for each other.

I also want to take a moment to recognize the work of the Oklahoma City National Memorial & Museum. For the past two decades, they have upheld their charge to honor those who were killed, those who survived, and those who were changed forever.

So, today, please join me as we remember the victims, their families, and loved ones, as well as extend our thanks to all the first responders who were forever changed on April 19, 1995. Let's honor them by taking a moment to rededicate ourselves to live the Oklahoma Standard embodied in the actions of so many on that fateful day. We owe it to them.

I yield the floor.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Senator from California.

NOMINATION OF VANITA GUPTA

Mr. PADILLA. Madam President, I also rise today to offer my strong support for the nomination of Ms. Vanita Gupta to be the Associate Attorney General of the United States.

In the 44-year history of the position, a woman of color has never served as Associate Attorney General of the United States. We have the opportunity to confirm a qualified, proven, and respected woman of color in Ms. Gupta, and the Senate should not delay any longer.

As Associate Attorney General, Ms. Gupta would help restore professionalism, empathy, and dignity to the highest levels of the Justice Department. Through more than 5 hours of testimony—5 hours—before the Judiciary Committee and in a lengthy career in public service, Ms. Gupta has demonstrated exactly why our Nation would be well served by her leadership in the Department of Justice.

Throughout her career, Ms. Gupta has paid particular attention to the most marginalized and often the least heard among us. From representing wrongfully convicted individuals as a young lawyer to her time in leadership roles at the ACLU, the Leadership Conference, and the Department of Justice, Ms. Gupta has demonstrated her deep commitment to pursuing justice, equity, and equality for all people.

In pursuit of that goal, Ms. Gupta has also demonstrated her desire and ability to work with anyone, including those who might normally disagree with her. Indeed, Ms. Gupta's endorsements from groups like the Fraternal Order of Police and individuals like Grover Norquist confirm that she is a thoughtful listener, a bridge builder, and a consensus seeker.

In this charged political era, it is hard to imagine that any other nominee for Associate Attorney General could give my Republican colleagues more assurance that their views will be fairly considered at the Department of Justice. Yet, our Republican colleagues on the Judiciary Committee requested that Ms. Gupta's nomination be indefinitely stalled and that she be required to testify before the committee again. When those demands were rightfully declined, they chose to vote en bloc against referring Ms. Gupta's nomination to the floor.

But the opposition to Ms. Gupta's nomination is, frankly, frivolous. For 4 years now, the now-minority members of the Judiciary Committee refused to even comment on, let alone criticize, President Trump's tweets antagonizing judges, Senators, everyday Americans, and so many others. Yet now they argue that Ms. Gupta's occasionally impassioned tweets over the last 4 years are somehow disqualifying, despite her sincere apology, her expression of respect for Members of this body, and her promise to participate in turning down the rhetorical temperature. My Republican colleagues' double standard could not be more clear.

Similarly, our Republican colleagues spent the last 4 years hastily confirming judges and nominees who refused to answer basic questions, like whether or not *Brown v. Board of Education* was rightfully decided. Of course it was. But now they argue that more than 5 hours of testimony and 10,000 pages of documents were not sufficient to evaluate Ms. Gupta, who repeatedly answered each and every one of their questions. Again, the double standard could not be more clear.

I could go on and on, but instead of continuing to point out the obvious hypocrisy, let me say a few more words about why I am excited to have Ms. Gupta serve as the Associate Attorney General.

For years now, civil rights, voting rights, environmental justice, immigrants' rights, and consumer rights have found themselves as a second thought in the administration of our justice system. No longer. Under Ms. Gupta's leadership, I look forward to seeing a Justice Department that pursues equal justice for all of our citizens and that recognizes the dignity and humanity of all people.

I look forward to seeing Ms. Gupta work with Republicans and Democrats, with liberals and conservatives to find solutions to our problems, as she has throughout her career. And I look forward to young girls and boys of color once again seeing someone who looks like them in the leadership of our Justice Department and knowing that one day, they, too, can reach such great heights.

Colleagues, let's not wait a moment longer. It is time for us to confirm Ms. Gupta as the next Associate Attorney General of the United States.

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.

Ms. CANTWELL. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the order for the quorum call be rescinded.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will proceed to executive session and resume consideration of the following nomination, which the clerk will report.

The legislative clerk read the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

CLOTURE MOTION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Pursuant to rule XXII, the Chair lays before the Senate the pending cloture motion, which the clerk will state.

The legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 57, Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Jeff Merkley, Debbie Stabenow, Richard Blumenthal, Jacky Rosen, Michael F. Bennet, Tammy Duckworth, Amy Klobuchar, Jon Ossoff, Chris Van Hollen, Martin Heinrich, Mark R. Warner, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher A.

Coons, Dianne Feinstein, Gary C. Peters, Kyrsten Sinema.

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 Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General, shall be brought to a close?

The yeas and nays are mandatory under the rule.

The clerk will call the roll.

The legislative clerk called the roll.

Mr. DURBIN. I announce that the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. HEINRICH) and the Senator from New Mexico (Mr. LUJÁN) are necessarily absent.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The yeas and nays resulted—yeas 94, nays 3, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 154 Leg.]

YEAS—94

Baldwin	Grassley	Portman
Barrasso	Hagerty	Reed
Bennet	Hassan	Risch
Blackburn	Hawley	Romney
Blumenthal	Hickenlooper	Rosen
Blunt	Hirono	Rounds
Booker	Hoeven	Rubio
Boozman	Hyde-Smith	Sanders
Braun	Inhofe	Sasse
Brown	Johnson	Schatz
Burr	Kaine	Schumer
Cantwell	Kelly	Scott (FL)
Capito	Kennedy	Shaheen
Cardin	King	Shelby
Carper	Klobuchar	Sinema
Casey	Lankford	Smith
Cassidy	Leahy	Stabenow
Collins	Lee	Tester
Coons	Lummis	Thune
Cornyn	Manchin	Tillis
Cortez Masto	Markey	Toomey
Cotton	Marshall	Tuberville
Cramer	McConnell	Van Hollen
Crapo	Menendez	Warner
Daines	Merkley	Warnock
Duckworth	Moran	Warren
Durbin	Murkowski	Whitehouse
Ernst	Murphy	Wicker
Feinstein	Murray	Wyden
Fischer	Ossoff	Young
Gillibrand	Padilla	
Graham	Peters	

NAYS—3

Cruz	Paul	Sullivan
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NOT VOTING—3

Heinrich	Luján	Scott (SC)
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The PRESIDING OFFICER (Mr. OSOFF). On this vote, the yeas are 94, the nays are 3.

The motion is agreed to.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Under the previous order, the Senate will resume legislative session.

The majority leader.

EXECUTIVE SESSION

EXECUTIVE CALENDAR—MOTION TO PROCEED

Mr. SCHUMER. Mr. President, I move to proceed to executive session to consider Calendar No. 62, the nomination of Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

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 proceeded to call the roll.

Mr. THUNE. The following Senator is necessarily absent: the Senator from South Carolina (Mr. SCOTT).

The PRESIDING OFFICER (Ms. SMITH). Are there any other Senators in the Chamber desiring to vote?

The result was announced—yeas 50, nays 49, as follows:

[Rollcall Vote No. 155 Leg.]

YEAS—50

Baldwin	Hickenlooper	Reed
Bennet	Hirono	Rosen
Blumenthal	Kaine	Sanders
Booker	Kelly	Schatz
Brown	King	Schumer
Cantwell	Klobuchar	Shaheen
Cardin	Leahy	Sinema
Carper	Lujan	Smith
Casey	Manchin	Stabenow
Coons	Markey	Tester
Cortez Masto	Menendez	Van Hollen
Duckworth	Merkley	Warner
Durbin	Murphy	Warnock
Feinstein	Murray	Warren
Gillibrand	Ossoff	Whitehouse
Hassan	Padilla	Wyden
Heinrich	Peters	

NAYS—49

Barrasso	Graham	Portman
Blackburn	Grassley	Risch
Blunt	Hagerty	Romney
Boozman	Hawley	Rounds
Braun	Hoeven	Rubio
Burr	Hyde-Smith	Sasse
Capito	Inhofe	Scott (FL)
Cassidy	Johnson	Shelby
Collins	Kennedy	Sullivan
Cornyn	Lankford	Thune
Cotton	Lee	Tillis
Cramer	Lummis	Toomey
Crapo	Marshall	Tuberville
Cruz	McConnell	Wicker
Daines	Moran	Young
Ernst	Murkowski	
Fischer	Paul	

NOT VOTING—1

Scott (SC)

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The yeas are 50, the nays are 49.

The motion is agreed to.

The majority leader.

CLOTURE MOTION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I send a cloture motion to the desk.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The cloture motion having been presented under rule XXII, the Chair directs the clerk to read the motion.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

CLOTURE MOTION

We, the undersigned Senators, in accordance with the provisions of rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, do hereby move to bring to a close debate on the nomination of Executive Calendar No. 62, Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General.

Charles E. Schumer, Richard J. Durbin, Mazie K. Hirono, Tammy Baldwin, Tammy Duckworth, Alex Padilla, Maria Cantwell, Sheldon Whitehouse, Cory A. Booker, Debbie Stabenow, Brian Schatz, Tim Kaine, Kirsten E. Gillibrand, Benjamin L. Cardin, Gary C. Peters, Patrick J. Leahy, Christopher Murphy.

LEGISLATIVE SESSION

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I move to proceed to legislative session. The PRESIDING OFFICER. The question is on the motion.

The motion was agreed to.

MORNING BUSINESS

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that the Senate be in a period of morning business, with Senators permitted to speak therein for up to 10 minutes each.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER JACOB CARLSON

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to honor the true heroism of Officer Jacob Carlson of the Casper, WY, police department. On May 6, 2018, Officer Carlson risked his life to save his fellow officer and the lives of several young children when a routine traffic stop turned deadly. Every day, police officers must remain vigilant because, as we have seen, even routine enforcement actions can go sideways at a moment's notice. That happened to Officer Carlson, and his actions speak to his character. He put his life on the line to protect his fellow officer and his community. His courage is inspiring, and I am proud to call him a son of Wyoming. For this action, Officer Carlson has been awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery, and it is a badge he earned.

His years of service and dedication to the Casper Police Department were cut short by what happened, but Officer Carlson's career of service as a police officer and former service in the U.S. Army is a legacy for which he can be proud.

Officer Carlson is a remarkable example of the highest caliber of law enforcement professionals. He is the hero we describe when we teach our children and grandchildren about the police officers who protect our communities.

Officers such as Officer Carlson who protect our great State reinforce my belief that Wyoming truly is the best State in the Nation. When Americans want to see an example of how police officers should comport themselves, they can look upon Wyoming as the shining example. Officer Carlson's actions on May 6, 2018, exemplify why.

The State of Wyoming is blessed to have not only one brave officer deserving of this honor. The second officer is one of the people Officer Carlson protected in the face of adversity, Officer Randi Garrett, whose courage and heroism was also on display that day, is equally deserving and will be honored with a Congressional Badge of Bravery.

My sincere thanks to Officer Carlson for making Casper and the State of Wyoming one of the greatest, safest places to live.

RECOGNIZING OFFICER RANDI GARRETT

Ms. LUMMIS. Madam President, I rise to honor Officer Randi Garrett, whose experience and skill and whose strong character helped save lives on May 6, 2018.

Not only did Officer Garrett act with poise under intense pressure when a routine traffic stop turned violent, but while in immediate and real danger, she kept her focus on her mission, and helped to save the lives of two innocent children and the life of a fellow officer because of it. I shudder at the thought of what might have happened had Officer Garrett not acted with speed and purpose. Officer Garrett has been awarded the Congressional Badge of Bravery for her actions, and I am so proud of her for it.

Officer Garrett is a shining example of what steadfast commitment, leadership and decisionmaking under pressure looks like. It is because of officers like Randi that the people of Casper can feel safe and secure in their community.

As we approach the third anniversary of Officer Randi Garrett's heroism, I know that her acts that day won't be forgotten by the Casper community and by those whose lives she helped to save. For without them, it is unknown the tragedies that may have occurred. Instead, she serves as an example today to every young woman and girl interested in serving their community as an officer. I can think of no better example for young women across the State of Wyoming to aspire to.

Now, as she receives the Congressional Badge of Bravery, I hope it serves as a reminder of a day when her courage was called upon and she answered. This prestigious award is also being given to her counterpart who was there with her that day, Officer Jacob Carlson. Just as they faced danger together, this badge acts as yet another bond that the two of them will continue to share.

My sincere thanks to Officer Garrett for her continued service and dedication to the city of Casper and our great State.

ADDITIONAL STATEMENTS

RECOGNIZING THE KENTUCKY MUSIC HALL OF FAME AND MUSEUM

• Mr. PAUL. Madam President, Kentucky has a rich cultural history and is the birthplace of musical artists from every genre and era. Proudly showcasing this heritage is the Kentucky Music Hall of Fame & Museum in Mount Vernon, KY.

John Lee Lair, who served as a sergeant in the U.S. Army during WWII, returned to the States and joined WLS radio in Chicago, where he turned his lifelong love of music into a career. He founded the Renfro Valley Barn Dance, which was broadcast by several power-

ful AM stations and eventually moved to its final home in Renfro Valley, KY.

Today we honor one of John Lair's three daughters, Ann Lair Henderson, who developed the plan to house the hall of fame and museum in the family's vintage horse stable. Following an act of the Kentucky General Assembly in 2002, this special tribute to Kentucky's storied musicians was born.

The iconic building, which is listed on the National Register of Historic Places, is filled with memorabilia and tributes to over 60 artists as diverse as Rosemary Clooney, Ricky Skaggs, Lionel Hampton, Boots Randolph, and Mary Travers. Nearly 20 years since its founding, Ann Lair Henderson, who recently celebrated her 98th birthday, is still a vital part of the organization that helps recognize the enormous contribution of Kentucky's incredible musical talents. We are grateful for Ann's passion for preserving history and for promoting some of the Commonwealth's finest treasures. She is a treasure in her own right to her local community and a great reminder for us all to keep pursuing those things about which we are truly passionate through every season of life. ●

MESSAGES FROM THE PRESIDENT

Messages from the President of the United States were communicated to the Senate by Ms. Roberts, one of his secretaries.

EXECUTIVE MESSAGES REFERRED

As in executive session the Presiding Officer laid before the Senate messages from the President of the United States submitting sundry nominations which were referred to the appropriate committees.

(The messages received today are printed at the end of the Senate proceedings.)

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE RECEIVED DURING ADJOURNMENT

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

Under the authority of the order of the Senate of January 3, 2021, the Secretary of the Senate, on April 19, 2021, during the adjournment of the Senate, received a message from the House of Representatives announcing that the Speaker had signed the following enrolled bills:

S. 164. An act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

MESSAGE FROM THE HOUSE

At 3:02 p.m., a message from the House of Representatives, delivered by

Mrs. Cole, one of its reading clerks, announced that the House has passed the following bill, without amendment:

S. 422. An act to allow Senators, Senators-elect, committees of the Senate, leadership offices, and other offices of the Senate to share employees, and for other purposes:

The message further announced that the House has passed the following bills, in which it requests the concurrence of the Senate:

H.R. 7. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

H.R. 446. An act to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 941. An act to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1002. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1195. An act to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1215. An act to establish an office within the Federal Trade Commission and an outside advisory group to prevent fraud targeting seniors and to direct the Commission to include additional information in an annual report to Congress on fraud targeting seniors, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1460. An act to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1482. An act to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1487. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1490. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1502. An act to amend the Small Business Act to optimize the operations of the microloan program, lower costs for small business concerns and intermediary participants in the program, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1762. An act to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes, and for other purposes.

H.R. 1899. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes.

ENROLLED BILLS SIGNED

The President pro tempore (Mr. LEAHY) announced that on today, April 19, 2021, he has signed the following enrolled bills, which were previously signed by the Speaker of the House:

S. 164. An act to educate health care providers and the public on biosimilar biological products, and for other purposes.

S. 415. An act to amend the Federal Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to the scope of new chemical exclusivity.

S. 578. An act to improve the health and safety of Americans living with food allergies and related disorders, including potentially life-threatening anaphylaxis, food protein-induced enterocolitis syndrome, and eosinophilic gastrointestinal diseases, and for other purposes.

MEASURES REFERRED

The following bills were read the first and the second times by unanimous consent, and referred as indicated:

H.R. 446. An act to require the Federal Trade Commission to submit a report to Congress on scams targeting seniors, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 941. An act to reauthorize the Stem Cell Therapeutic and Research Act of 2005, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1002. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to authorize the debarment of certain registrants, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

H.R. 1195. An act to direct the Secretary of Labor to issue an occupational safety and health standard that requires covered employers within the health care and social service industries to develop and implement a comprehensive workplace violence prevention plan, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

H.R. 1460. An act to encourage States to require the installation of residential carbon monoxide detectors in homes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1482. An act to amend the Small Business Act to enhance the Office of Credit Risk Management, to require the Administrator of the Small Business Administration to issue rules relating to environmental obligations of certified development companies, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1487. An act to amend the Small Business Act to increase transparency, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1490. An act to amend the Small Business Investment Act of 1958 to improve the loan guaranty program, enhance the ability of small manufacturers to access affordable capital, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1502. An act to amend the Small Business Act to optimize the operations of the microloan program, lower costs for small business concerns and intermediary participants in the program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

H.R. 1762. An act to direct the Federal Trade Commission to submit to Congress a report on unfair or deceptive acts or practices targeted at Indian Tribes or members of Indian Tribes, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

H.R. 1899. An act to amend the Controlled Substances Act to provide for the modification, transfer, and termination of a registration to manufacture, distribute, or dispense controlled substances or list I chemicals, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME

The following bills were read the first time:

H.R. 7. An act to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

S. 1216. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

REPORTS OF COMMITTEES

The following reports of committees were submitted:

By Mr. TESTER, from the Committee on Veterans' Affairs:

Special Report entitled "Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 116th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans' Affairs" (Rept. No. 117-16).

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. PORTMAN (for himself, Mrs. SHAHEEN, and Ms. COLLINS):

S. 1200. A bill to amend the definition of eligible entity in the second draw loan program of the Small Business Administration, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship.

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1201. A bill to restore the United States' international leadership on climate change and clean energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1202. A bill to establish a program to improve community connectivity by identifying and removing or mitigating infrastructural barriers that create obstacles to mobility or economic development or expose the community to pollution and other health and safety risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. RUBIO:

S. 1203. A bill to rescue domestic medical product manufacturing activity by providing incentives in economically distressed areas of the United States and its possessions; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. HAWLEY:

S. 1204. A bill to promote competition in digital markets, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mrs. BLACKBURN (for herself, Mr. CRAMER, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRUZ, Mr. TILLIS, Ms. ERNST, Mr. SCOTT of Florida, and Mr. LEE):

S. 1205. A bill to prohibit the use of Federal funds relating to rejoining the Joint Comprehensive Plan of Action with Iran unless the President commits to submitting any successor agreement to the Senate for its advice and consent as a treaty; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1206. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Labor to modify the pandemic unemployment assistance program, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. WHITEHOUSE:

S. 1207. A bill to amend title 18, United States Code, to require a Federal court to consider certain factors in imposing a sentence on a caretaker, and for other purposes; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

By Mr. MURPHY (for himself and Mr. BLUMENTHAL):

S. 1208. A bill to amend title 31, United States Code, to provide for the issuance of Green Bonds and to establish the United States Green Bank, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Finance.

By Mr. KENNEDY (for himself, Ms. LUMMIS, Mr. ROUNDS, Mr. MORAN, Mr. DAINES, Mr. CRAMER, and Mr. BOOZMAN):

S. 1209. A bill to prohibit the Securities and Exchange Commission from requiring that personally identifiable information be collected under consolidated audit trail reporting requirements, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. BLUMENTHAL (for himself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. CARPER, and Mr. BURR):

S. 1210. A bill to amend the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 to clarify provisions enacted by the Captive Wildlife Safety Act, to further the conservation of certain wildlife species, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1211. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historic Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1212. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

By Mr. VAN HOLLEN (for himself and Mr. BLUNT):

S. 1213. A bill to require the Secretary of Commerce to seek to enter into an agreement with the National Academies of Sciences, Engineering, and Medicine to conduct a study on the top 10 emerging science and technology challenges faced by the United States and develop recommendations to address them, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation.

By Mr. LEE:

S. 1214. A bill to amend the Federal Land Policy and Management Act of 1976 to authorize the Secretary of the Interior and the Secretary of Agriculture to enter into cooperative agreements with States to provide for State administration of allotment management plans; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

By Mr. SULLIVAN (for himself and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1215. A bill to state the policy of the United States regarding the need for reciprocity in the relationship between the United States and the People's Republic of China, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Mr. GRASSLEY (for himself, Ms. HASSAN, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1216. A bill to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances; read the first time.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. WHITEHOUSE, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Ms. SMITH, Mrs. GILLIBRAND,

Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. BENNET, Mr. CARPER, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. BOOKER):

S. 1217. A bill to amend the Securities Exchange Act of 1934 to require certain disclosures relating to climate change, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Mr. SANDERS (for himself, Ms. WARREN, Mr. MARKEY, and Mr. MERKLEY):

S. 1218. A bill to provide economic empowerment opportunities in the United States through the modernization of public housing, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Mrs. FEINSTEIN, Mr. LEAHY, Mr. MERKLEY, and Mr. MARKEY):

S. 1219. A bill to establish the policy of the United States regarding the no-first-use of nuclear weapons; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

By Ms. WARREN (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. KING, Mr. DAINES, Mr. MENENDEZ, Mr. TESTER, Mr. HOEVEN, Ms. KLOBUCHAR, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, Mr. BROWN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. MARKEY, Ms. STABENOW, Mr. WYDEN, Mr. CRAMER, Ms. BALDWIN, Mrs. MURRAY, Mr. CASEY, Mr. CASSIDY, Mr. BOOZMAN, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1220. A bill to amend title 38, United States Code, to recognize and honor the service of individuals who served in the United States Cadet Nurse Corps during World War II, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Veterans' Affairs.

SUBMISSION OF CONCURRENT AND SENATE RESOLUTIONS

The following concurrent resolutions and Senate resolutions were read, and referred (or acted upon), as indicated:

By Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. RUBIO):

S. Res. 164. A resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States should remain at 9; to the Committee on the Judiciary.

ADDITIONAL COSPONSORS

S. 65

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 65, a bill to ensure that goods made with forced labor in the Xinjiang Uyghur Autonomous Region of the People's Republic of China do not enter the United States market, and for other purposes.

S. 138

At the request of Mrs. FEINSTEIN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. DAINES) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 138, a bill to waive certain pay limitations for Department of Agriculture and Department of the Interior employees engaged in emergency wildland fire suppression activities, and for other purposes.

S. 295

At the request of Mr. RUBIO, the name of the Senator from North Carolina (Mr. TILLIS) was added as a cosponsor of S. 295, a bill to designate residents of the Hong Kong Special Ad-

ministrative Region as Priority 2 refugees of special humanitarian concern, and for other purposes.

S. 406

At the request of Mr. PAUL, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mrs. BLACKBURN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 406, a bill to preserve and protect the free choice of individual employees to form, join, or assist labor organizations, or to refrain from such activities.

S. 452

At the request of Ms. STABENOW, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Ms. ERNST) was added as a cosponsor of S. 452, a bill to award a Congressional Gold Medal to Willie O'Ree, in recognition of his extraordinary contributions and commitment to hockey, inclusion, and recreational opportunity.

S. 545

At the request of Mr. PORTMAN, the name of the Senator from North Dakota (Mr. CRAMER) was added as a cosponsor of S. 545, a bill to permanently exempt payments made from the Railroad Unemployment Insurance Account from sequestration under the Balanced Budget and Emergency Deficit Control Act of 1985.

S. 586

At the request of Mrs. CAPITO, the names of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) and the Senator from Nevada (Ms. ROSEN) were added as cosponsors of S. 586, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to combat the opioid crisis by promoting access to non-opioid treatments in the hospital outpatient setting.

S. 611

At the request of Mr. DURBIN, the names of the Senator from Washington (Mrs. MURRAY) and the Senator from Florida (Mr. SCOTT) were added as cosponsors of S. 611, a bill to deposit certain funds into the Crime Victims Fund, to waive matching requirements, and for other purposes.

S. 613

At the request of Mr. TILLIS, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 613, a bill to direct the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to carry out a pilot program on dog training therapy and to amend title 38, United States Code, to authorize the Secretary to provide service dogs to veterans with mental illnesses who do not have mobility impairments.

S. 701

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Nevada (Ms. CORTEZ MASTO) was added as a cosponsor of S. 701, a bill to amend titles XVIII and XIX of the Social Security Act to provide equal coverage of in vitro specific IgE tests and percutaneous tests for allergies under the Medicare and Medicaid programs, and for other purposes.

S. 747

At the request of Mr. PADILLA, the names of the Senator from New York

(Mr. SCHUMER) and the Senator from Vermont (Mr. SANDERS) were added as cosponsors of S. 747, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to provide for the adjustment of status of essential workers, and for other purposes.

S. 800

At the request of Mr. BROWN, the names of the Senator from Montana (Mr. TESTER) and the Senator from West Virginia (Mrs. CAPITO) were added as cosponsors of S. 800, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to permit nurse practitioners and physician assistants to satisfy the documentation requirement under the Medicare program for coverage of certain shoes for individuals with diabetes.

S. 828

At the request of Mr. BARRASSO, the name of the Senator from Arkansas (Mr. BOOZMAN) was added as a cosponsor of S. 828, a bill to amend title XVIII of the Social Security Act to provide for the coverage of marriage and family therapist services and mental health counselor services under part B of the Medicare program, and for other purposes.

S. 844

At the request of Mr. THUNE, the name of the Senator from Arizona (Ms. SINEMA) was added as a cosponsor of S. 844, 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.

S. 892

At the request of Mr. WYDEN, the name of the Senator from Washington (Ms. CANTWELL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 892, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to ensure that kombucha is exempt from any excise taxes and regulations imposed on alcoholic beverages.

S. 895

At the request of Mr. CORNYN, the name of the Senator from Oklahoma (Mr. INHOFE) was added as a cosponsor of S. 895, a bill to amend the Internal Revenue Code of 1986 to provide an exemption from gross income for mandatory restitution or civil damages as recompense for trafficking in persons.

S. 903

At the request of Mrs. BLACKBURN, the name of the Senator from Tennessee (Mr. HAGERTY) was added as a cosponsor of S. 903, a bill to amend the Immigration and Nationality Act to require a DNA test to determine the familial relationship between an alien and an accompanying minor, and for other purposes.

S. 1021

At the request of Ms. DUCKWORTH, the names of the Senator from Maryland (Mr. CARDIN) and the Senator from Michigan (Ms. STABENOW) were added as cosponsors of S. 1021, a bill to ensure affordable abortion coverage and care for every person, and for other purposes.

S. 1112

At the request of Mr. MORAN, the name of the Senator from Kansas (Mr. MARSHALL) was added as a cosponsor of S. 1112, a bill to amend the National Trails System Act to designate the Chisholm National Historic Trail and the Western National Historic Trail, and for other purposes.

S. RES. 134

At the request of Mr. LEE, the name of the Senator from Iowa (Mr. GRASSLEY) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 134, a resolution expressing the sense of the Senate that the President should work with the Government of the United Kingdom to conclude negotiations for a comprehensive free trade agreement between the United States and the United Kingdom.

S. RES. 148

At the request of Ms. WARREN, the name of the Senator from Minnesota (Ms. KLOBUCHAR) was added as a cosponsor of S. Res. 148, a resolution recognizing the importance of paying tribute to those individuals who have faithfully served and retired from the Armed Forces of the United States, designating April 18, 2021, as "Military Retiree Appreciation Day", and encouraging the people of the United States to honor the past and continued service of military retirees to their local communities and the United States.

STATEMENTS ON INTRODUCED BILLS AND JOINT RESOLUTION

By Mr. MENENDEZ (for himself, Ms. HIRONO, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. SHAHEEN, Mr. MERKLEY, Mr. SCHATZ, Mr. MURPHY, Mr. KAINE, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. BOOKER, and Mr. VAN HOLLEN):

S. 1201. A bill to restore the United States' international leadership on climate change and clean energy, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Foreign Relations.

Mr. MENENDEZ. Mr. President, I rise today to speak on the United States Climate Leadership on International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement Act of 2021—the U.S. CLIMATE Act. Mr. President, climate change represents a clear and present threat to the stability, security and prosperity of nations around the world, including the United States. The cost of climate-induced disasters becomes more indisputable and devastating with every passing year. Barring swift and ambitious action, the situation will only worsen.

We've all seen the devastating impacts of climate change. For years, unprecedented tropical storms have destroyed communities in Mozambique, Central America, and the United States, including communities in my home state of New Jersey. This past February, incredibly abnormal and brutal winter weather, exacerbated by climatic disruption to the Arctic's polar vortex, killed eleven people and

left thousands in Texas without power and water. Less than a year prior, deadly wildfires, exacerbated by climate change engulfed California, killing 31 people, and Australia, killing 34 people, and forced thousands to flee their homes and lose their livelihoods. And yet, while hurricanes and storm surges are horrific, climate change is also increasing the intensity, length and geographic expanse of droughts around the world contributing to food insecurity, natural resource scarcity and desertification.

Likewise, intensifying effects of climate change pose an existential threat to hundreds of millions of people and exacerbate global forced migration. Nations like Bangladesh, India, and Indonesia are incredibly vulnerable to mass displacement due to rising sea levels. Island nations like Tuvalu, Seychelles, the Republic of the Marshall Islands and Kiribati are already managing internal migration due to climate change induced sea-level rise. Without ambitious action to both keep global leverage temperatures well below an increase of two degrees Celsius above preindustrial levels it is forecasted that the entirety of certain nations may become uninhabitable within my grandchildren's lifetime. It is a moral imperative for the Senators in this body, and humanity, to act to ensure that is not the world we leave for the generations that will come after us. Today's generations are the first people to personally and regularly experience the effects of climate change on the natural world and its impact on humanity . . . and we are also the last generations that can, and must, act to prevent the worst forecasts from becoming reality.

Changing climate and weather patterns intensification of global food insecurity and resource scarcity especially threaten the lives and security of the world's most vulnerable populations. For months, heavy rainfall and warmer temperatures have triggered a locust plague in East Africa that has lasted more than an entire year. This historic locust plague—triggered by conditions exacerbated by climate change—has threatened agricultural and pastoral livelihoods and worsened already acute food insecurity in the region. At the same time, similar extreme weather patterns are expected to expand and shift the ranges of life-threatening diseases like malaria, West Nile Virus, cholera, and others. Beyond the palpable destruction and devastation of climate-induced crises, climate change is a "threat multiplier," a term coined by the CNA Corporation's Military Advisory Board in 2007 to express the way in which climate change exacerbates instability; conflict and subsequent displacement; terrorism; and other vital security matters.

Clearly, climate change does not begin nor end at any nation's borders. No one is immune to the effects of climate change—which is why we must not only work with the rest of the

world to combat this crisis, but lead the charge. It is simply not enough to enact robust domestic policies—this is a global problem that requires internationally collaborative solutions. What's more, our leadership and renewed international engagement can generate opportunities for Americans. By committing to international agreements and adhering to emerging international production norms, we are opening the global markets for the innovation, ingenuity, and leadership of the American private sector.

I commend the Biden administration's commitment to returning the United States to the global stage, thereby granting us the capacity to re-engage and lead the international community in tackling the greatest threat of our time. President Biden's Executive Order on Tackling the Climate Crisis at Home and Abroad has designated climate action as a core tenant of U.S. diplomacy and national security planning. He has appointed former Secretary of State John Kerry as Special Presidential Envoy for Climate, ensuring that climate considerations have a strong advocate where important decisions are being made. And, under the leadership of President Biden, the United States has officially rejoined the Paris Agreement.

The time for debate and discussion on why and how we must tackle this crisis is over. The science is clear: we must achieve net zero emissions by 2050 in order to ensure a safe and prosperous future for ourselves and our posterity. Now is the time for action and implementation of crucial efforts to save our planet.

Congress can and must do more to support the restoration of the United States' climate diplomacy and leadership. That is why I am introducing the United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technological Enhancement Act, or the U.S. CLIMATE Act, of 2021, a comprehensive piece of legislation to bolster President Biden's bold commitment to U.S. climate leadership by providing resources, programs and policy to support and expedite the realization of United States action that will be essential to regaining the international community's trust and partnership with the U.S. in the global climate fight. It represents a bold course of action that Congress should take to support forward-looking leadership in the White House in their commitment to preventing the worst-case scenarios of climate change from becoming reality.

Title I of the bill establishes climate change as a cross-cutting imperative at the State Department. It also calls for the integration of climate models and forecasting into national security planning across all federal agencies and features directives on protecting our security and environmental interests in the Arctic.

Title II declares support for U.S. cooperation and engagement in international agreements. This includes di-

rectives on re-entry into the Paris Agreements; ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocols; compliance with environmental initiatives of the International Civil Aviation Organization; and the establishment of new international efforts to mitigate transportation sector and greenhouse gas emissions.

Title III integrates climate change mitigation and adaptation efforts into a range of tools and initiatives at USAID, the Department of the Treasury, the Department of State, the DFC, and the United Nations.

Title IV incorporates a clean energy mandate into the United States' diplomatic and development efforts, thereby protecting our own energy security interests and promoting responsible global energy production.

Title V of the bill addresses the United States' bilateral and multilateral engagement on climate change, encouraging U.S. cooperation with China, India, the European Union and other key partners.

Title VI of the U.S. CLIMATE Act integrates our colleague from Hawai'i, Senator HIRONO's Women and Climate Change Act, which acknowledges and addresses the disproportionate effects of climate change on women and girls around the world.

The science is clear: we are running out of time to stave off the most devastating effects of climate change that will directly impact our children and our children's children. After four years of being absent from the conversation, it is time for the United States to not only return to the table, but lead the charge to protect our shared home. We cannot solve this crisis alone—this is not an American problem, this is a global crisis that can only be combatted with coordinated, international action. The U.S. CLIMATE Act of 2021 provides the essential resources, programs, and support for the United States to lead the world forward in the existential fight to save our planet. Mr. President I ask unanimous consent that the full text of the legislation be printed in the RECORD following my remarks, I yield the floor and note the absence of a quorum.

So ordered.

S. 1201

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

SECTION 1. SHORT TITLE; TABLE OF CONTENTS.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This Act may be cited as the “United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement Act of 2021”.

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

- Sec. 1. Short title; table of contents.
- Sec. 2. Findings; sense of Congress.
- Sec. 3. Purpose.
- Sec. 4. Definitions.

TITLE I—CLIMATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

- Sec. 101. Climate diplomacy.
- Sec. 102. Enhancing United States security considerations for global climate disruptions.
- Sec. 103. Arctic diplomacy.

TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

- Sec. 201. Sense of Congress in support of the United States returning to the Paris Agreement.
- Sec. 202. Enhanced United States commitment to the Paris Agreement.
- Sec. 203. Sense of Congress regarding ratification of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol.
- Sec. 204. Compliance with the carbon offset and reduction scheme for international aviation.
- Sec. 205. Short-lived climate pollutants.
- Sec. 206. International cooperation regarding clean transportation and sustainable land use and community development.
- Sec. 207. Sense of Congress on United States reengagement with the Group of Seven and the Group of Twenty on climate action.

TITLE III—CLIMATE CHANGE DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND SUPPORT

- Sec. 301. International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program.
- Sec. 302. United States contributions to the Green Climate Fund.
- Sec. 303. Sense of Congress on United States engagements at the World Economic Forum.
- Sec. 304. Clean energy and the United States International Development Finance Corporation.
- Sec. 305. Consistency in United States policy on development finance and climate change.

TITLE IV—CLEAN ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

- Sec. 401. Energy diplomacy and security within the Department of State.
- Sec. 402. Department of State primacy for energy diplomacy.
- Sec. 403. Reports on United States participation in Mission Innovation and the Clean Energy Ministerial.
- Sec. 404. Reduced deforestation.

TITLE V—BILATERAL AND REGIONAL MULTILATERAL CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND COOPERATION

- Sec. 501. North American Strategy.
- Sec. 502. Accountability and cooperation with China.
- Sec. 503. United States and European Union cooperation on climate finance for developing countries.
- Sec. 504. Sense of Congress on clean energy cooperation with India.
- Sec. 505. Power Africa.
- Sec. 506. Caribbean Energy Initiative.
- Sec. 507. Sense of Congress on conservation of the Amazon River basin.
- Sec. 508. Sense of Congress regarding renewable energy in Indonesia.

TITLE VI—WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

- Sec. 601. Short title.
- Sec. 602. Findings.
- Sec. 603. Definitions.
- Sec. 604. Statement of policy.
- Sec. 605. Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.
- Sec. 606. Development and implementation of strategy and policies to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally.
- Sec. 607. Climate Change within the Office of Global Women's Issues.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS; SENSE OF CONGRESS.

- (a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The Special Report: Global Warming of 1.5°C, published by the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change on October 8, 2018, and the Fourth National Climate Assessment, first published by the United States Global Change Research Program in 2018, concluded that—

(A) the release of greenhouse gas emissions, most notably the combustion of fossil fuels and the degradation of natural resources that absorb atmospheric carbon from human activity, are the dominant causes of climate change during the past century;

(B) changes in the Earth's climate are—

- (i) causing sea levels to rise;
- (ii) increasing the global average temperature of the Earth;
- (iii) increasing the incidence and severity of wildfires; and

(iv) intensifying the severity of extreme weather, including hurricanes, cyclones, typhoons, flooding, droughts, and other disasters that threaten human life, healthy communities, and critical infrastructure.

(2) An increase in the global average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius compared to pre-industrialized levels would cause—

(A)(i) the displacement, and the forced internal migration, of an estimated 143,000,000 people in Latin America, South Asia, and Sub-Saharan Africa by 2050 if insufficient action is taken (according to the World Bank); and

(ii) the displacement of an average of 17,800,000 people worldwide by floods every year (according to the Internal Displacement Monitoring Centre) because of the exacerbating effects of climate change;

(B)(i) more than \$500,000,000,000 in lost annual economic output in the United States (a 10 percent contraction from 2018 levels) by 2100 (according to the Fourth National Climate Assessment); and

(ii) an additional 100,000,000 people worldwide to be driven into poverty by 2030 (according to the World Bank);

(C)(i) greater food insecurity and decreased agricultural production due to climate change's effects on the increased frequency and intensity of extreme weather events; and

(ii) the proliferation of agricultural pests and crop diseases, loss of biodiversity, degrading ecosystems, and water scarcity (according to the United Nations Food and Agriculture Organization); and

(D) more than 350,000,000 additional people worldwide to be exposed to deadly heat stress by 2050.

(3) According to the International Monetary Fund, a persistent annual increase in average global temperature of .04 degrees Celsius would reduce global real gross domestic product per capita by 7.22 percent by 2100.

(4) According to the United Nations Environment Programme, climate change is exacerbating unusual regional weather conditions, which is driving the current and prolonged desert locust outbreak that is threatening food security across East Africa and Southeast Asia.

(5) According to the Intergovernmental Science-Policy Platform on Biodiversity and Ecosystem Services—

(A) an increase in the global average temperature of between 1.5 and 2 degrees Celsius will result in a significant reduction in the worldwide number of land species;

(B) an increase in the global average temperature of 2 degrees Celsius—

(i) will place 5 percent of world's species at risk of extinction; and

(ii) will result in the destruction of more than 99 percent of all coral reefs worldwide; and

(C) an increase in the global average temperature of 4.3 degrees Celsius will place 16

percent of world's terrestrial species at risk of extinction.

(6) According to the International Energy Agency, the United States, China, India, and the European Union (including the United Kingdom) account for more than 58 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions.

(7) China, which is the world's top greenhouse gases emitter and has an outsized impact on the United States' core interest in climate stability—

(A) is likely to achieve its carbon emissions mitigation pledge to the Paris Agreement, contained in its 2015 nationally determined contribution, to "peak" emissions around 2030 ahead of schedule;

(B) announced, on September 22, 2020, a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2060; and

(C) has yet to announce an updated nationally determined contribution.

(8) On October 26, 2020, Japan, the world's third largest economy and fifth greatest carbon emitter, announced a pledge to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. Despite apprehension about growing nuclear energy sources, Japan aims to increase its share of renewable and nuclear energy following new targets unveiled next year.

(9) India has met its growing energy demands by becoming a global leader in renewable energy generation. Despite significant investments in renewable energy, and the implementation of strong national greenhouse gas mitigation policies, India continues to operate some of the world's dirtiest fossil fuel power plants and has high emissions generated from its transportation sector. India is a critical market for foreign investment and will be a major competitor in international clean energy development futures.

(10) India's leadership within the Clean Energy Ministerial, the Mission Innovation initiative, and the International Solar Alliance has put India at the forefront of renewable energy development and helped India achieve a top 5 global rank among clean energy producers. Installed electricity capacity from renewables in India grew by 144 percent between 2014 and 2020. Approximately \$42,000,000,000 was invested into India's renewable energy sector between 2014 and 2019.

(11) The European Union demonstrated its strong commitment to climate action by making the ambitious pledge to reduce the collective greenhouse gas emissions of its 27 member nations by at least 55 percent by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels) and to achieve carbon neutrality by 2050. The European Parliament went even further, voting to reduce its collective economy wide greenhouse gas emissions by 60 percent by 2030 (compared to 1990 levels). These commitments represent substantial improvements from the previous goal of a 40 percent reduction in greenhouse gas emissions by 2030.

(12) The European Union's member nations have also provided the equivalent of approximately \$120,000,000,000 between 2014 and 2020 in support and financing to build climate change resilience and develop low carbon energy capacity throughout the developing world.

(13) The European Union has traditionally been a steadfast partner with United States in the United Nation's Framework Convention on Climate Change by pushing for improved accountability, transparency, and shared responsibility among parties in mitigating global greenhouse gas emissions. As the United State Government's executive branch has pulled away from climate action commitments, the European Union has increased its cooperation with coalitions of States through partnerships such as the United States Climate Alliance.

(14) Among the world's top greenhouse gas emitters, the United States is the only country that—

(A) has rescinded national policies to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(B) has advanced policies aimed at bolstering fossil fuel consumption and extraction, including through the removal of Federal protections of public lands that are critical wilderness areas vital to maintaining healthy natural ecosystems; and

(C) has abstained or withdrawn itself from several global cooperative efforts acknowledging and addressing the climate crisis.

(15) United States leadership during deliberations over the Paris Agreement—

(A) was exemplified by—

(i) its commitment to reduce national emissions by 26 to 28 percent below 2005 levels;

(ii) its leadership in the "Umbrella Group" and its role as cofounder of the "High Ambition Coalition";

(iii) its co-facilitation of the UNFCCC;

(iv) its work with the Ad Hoc Working Group on the Paris Agreement on agenda item 5: Modalities, procedures and guidelines for the transparency framework for action; and

(v) its support for the enhanced transparency framework for action and support referred to in Article 13 of the Paris Agreement;

(vi) its pledge of \$3,000,000,000 to the Green Climate Fund (of which the United States still owed \$2,000,000,000) in support of developing countries' efforts to adapt to climate change and to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; and

(vii) the development of critical bilateral climate action cooperation initiatives with China and India; and

(B) established the United States as essential to uniting the world in climate action cooperation.

(16) The United States' reversal on nearly all climate action policies since 2017, including repealing the Clean Power Plan (announced by President Obama in August 2015), cancelling contributions to the United Nation's Green Climate Fund, abstaining from all G7 and G20 climate action communiques, and withdrawing the United States from the Paris Agreement—

(A) undermines the viability of the Paris Agreement;

(B) harms American diplomacy;

(C) disadvantages the ability of the United State private sector to compete in a clean energy global economy, for which the International Finance Corporation estimates that investments spurred by the Paris Agreement will create up to \$23,000,000,000,000 in new investment opportunities;

(D) erodes the United States' leadership, standing, and trust within the international community; and

(E) concedes leadership and economic opportunity to foreign governments keen on taking advantage of the United States' absence from international climate action initiatives.

(17) The Paris Agreement's central aim is—

(A) to strengthen the global response to the threat of climate change by maintaining the global temperature rise well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels; and

(B) to pursue efforts to further limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius.

(18) The Paris Agreement—

(A) specifies the need for a strong global response to climate change;

(B) acknowledges that all "[p]arties should, when taking action to address climate change, respect, promote and consider their respective obligations on human rights, the right to health, the rights of indigenous

peoples, local communities, migrants, children, persons with disabilities and people in vulnerable situations and the right to development, as well as gender equality, empowerment of women and intergenerational equity”;

(C) notes the importance of “climate justice” when mitigating and adapting to climate change;

(D) recognizes “the need for an effective and progressive response to the urgent threat of climate change”;

(E) requires all parties to put forward their best efforts through nationally determined contributions and to strengthen these efforts in the future;

(F) requires each party to update its nationally determined contribution every 5 years, with each successive nationally determined contribution representing a progression beyond the previous nationally determined contribution, and reflecting the party’s highest possible ambition;

(G) recognizes that marine ecosystems covering more than 70 percent of the Earth’s surface have an integral role in climate balance; and

(H) was developed under the UNFCCC, an international environmental treaty which the United States ratified, with the advice and consent of the Senate on October 15, 1992.

(19) Seventy percent of the Paris Agreement signatories’ nationally determined contributions in support of the goals of the Paris Agreement are ocean-inclusive, and 39 Paris Agreement signatories are focused on the inclusion of ocean action in nationally determined contributions through the BeCause the Ocean initiative.

(20) The United States communicated its nationally determined contribution—

(A) to achieve, by 2025, an economy-wide target of reducing its greenhouse gas emissions by 26 to 28 percent below its 2005 level; and

(B) to make best efforts to reduce its emissions by 28 percent.

(21) A thriving clean energy industry in the United States, which employs more than 500,000 Americans, is essential in achieving these targets.

(22) A number of existing laws and regulations in the United States also are relevant to achieving this target, including—

(A) the Clean Air Act (42 U.S.C. 7401 et seq.);

(B) the Energy Policy Act of 1992 (Public Law 102-486); and

(C) the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (Public Law 110-140).

(23) On November 4, 2020, the United States withdrawal from the Paris Agreement became effective, which at the time resulted in the United States being the only state party (out of 197 parties) to the UNFCCC that is not a party to the Paris Agreement.

(24) On January 20, 2021, President Biden initiated the process for reentering the United States into the Paris Agreement. On February 19, 2021, the United States officially rejoined the Paris Agreement.

(25) Article 8 of the Paris Agreement states, “Parties recognize the importance of averting, minimizing and addressing loss and damage associated with the adverse effects of climate change, including extreme weather events and slow onset events, and the role of sustainable development in reducing the risk of loss and damage.” Such adverse effects include strong winds from hurricanes and tropical storms, and flooding from storm surges and heavy rain, that inflict losses on various sectors of the United States economy.

(26) The Paris Agreement requires that parties “should strengthen their cooperation on enhancing action on adaptation, taking

into account the Cancun Adaptation Framework”, which includes measures to enhance understanding, coordination and cooperation with regard to climate change induced displacement, migration and planned relocation, where appropriate, at the national, regional and international levels.

(27) The Paris Agreement is an example of the multilateral, international cooperation needed to overcome climate change-related challenges facing the global community, such as reducing emissions, promoting economic growth, and deploying clean energy technologies.

(28) The Paris Agreement recognizes “the fundamental priority of safeguarding food security and ending hunger, and the particular vulnerabilities of food production systems to the adverse impacts of climate change.”.

(29) The Paris Agreement recognizes that—

(A) adaptation is a global challenge facing all countries, with local, subnational, national, regional, and international dimensions; and

(B) adapting to the effects of climate change is a key component of the long-term global response to climate change to protect people, livelihoods, and ecosystems.

(30) American leadership during the Paris Agreement negotiations encouraged widespread international participation in the Paris Agreement.

(31) American States, cities, and businesses are stepping up and pledging to meet the Paris Agreement goals in the wake of absent and uncertain leadership by the President.

(32) The Paris Agreement—

(A) has driven innovation in developing cleaner, more reliable, and more affordable forms of energy;

(B) has demonstrated that addressing climate change and providing affordable energy to American consumers are not mutually exclusive; and

(C) has encouraged the United States to develop the Mid-Century Strategy for Deep Decarbonization, which—

(i) was released on November 16, 2016; and

(ii) states, “Energy efficiency improvements enable the energy system to provide the services we need with fewer resources and emissions. Over the past several years, the United States has demonstrated that programs and standards to improve the energy efficiency of buildings, appliances and vehicles can cost-effectively cut carbon pollution and lower energy bills, while maintaining significant support from U.S. industry and consumers.”.

(33) Global temperatures must be kept below 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrialized levels to avoid the most severe impacts of a changing climate, which will require—

(A) global reductions in greenhouse gas emissions from human sources of 40 to 60 percent from 2010 levels by 2030; and

(B) net-zero global emissions by 2050;

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) when the United States proffers a strong commitment and focused leadership on climate action, the rest of the world will likely follow its example;

(2) when the United States abdicates leadership on such matters, other countries are likely to waiver on their commitments to action and retract to insular posturing on matters that require cooperation; and

(3) in order to avert the worst impacts of climate change, which is in the core national interest of the United States, the United States should—

(A) prioritize climate change in its foreign policy, and ensure that climate change is taken into account in all foreign policy decision making;

(B) set the standard for ambition on climate action;

(C) use its diplomatic leverage to create incentives for other countries to take strong action on climate change;

(D) broker, with other world powers, bilateral commitments on emissions reductions and climate finance and support for developing countries, which are critical for—

(i) building trust and consensus around global cooperation on climate action; and

(ii) sending important investment signals to private finance and private industry on investment and development trends;

(E) be transparent in how the United States is delivering on its commitments;

(F) ensure it is adopting and implementing consistent policies and practices with respect to climate change across bilateral and multilateral development finance institutions;

(G) hold other world powers accountable for making and meeting strong commitments;

(H) call for reciprocal standards of transparency; and

(I) support developing countries, in an inclusive manner—

(i) to expand deployment and access to clean energy;

(ii) to plan and invest in climate change adaptation solutions;

(iii) to improve climate change resilience capacities; and

(iv) to promote—

(I) sustainable agriculture practices;

(II) food security; and

(III) natural resource conservation.

SEC. 3. PURPOSE.

The purpose of this Act is to provide authorities, resources, policies, and recommended administrative actions—

(1) to restore United States global leadership on addressing the climate crisis and make United States climate action and climate diplomacy a more central tenet of United States foreign policy;

(2) to improve the United States’ commitment to taking more ambitious action to help mitigate global greenhouse gas emission and improve developing countries’ resilience and adaptation capacities to the effects of climate change;

(3) to reclaim, accept, and fully engage diplomacy within a variety of current and outstanding multilateral institutions that the United States has withdrawn, withheld support, or diminished meaningful engagement from in recent years;

(4) to encourage the pursuit of new bilateral cooperation agreements with other world powers on initiatives to advance global clean energy innovation and deployment and other measures to mitigate global greenhouse gas emissions and improve climate change adaptation capacities;

(5) to ensure that the United States’ national security apparatus integrates critically important data on the compounding effects that climate change is having on global security risks by enhancing our understanding of how, where, and when such effects are destabilizing countries and regions in ways that may motivate conflict, displacement, and other drivers of insecurity; and

(6) to authorize funding and programs to support a reaffirmation of the United States’ commitments to international cooperation and support for developing and vulnerable countries to take climate action.

SEC. 4. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) APPROPRIATE CONGRESSIONAL COMMITTEES.—The term “appropriate congressional committees” means—

(A) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(B) the Committee on Appropriations of the Senate;

(C) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(D) the Committee on Appropriations of the House of Representatives.

(2) CLEAN ENERGY.—The term “clean energy” means—

(A) renewable energy and energy from systems;

(B) energy production processes that emit zero greenhouse gas emissions, including nuclear power;

(C) systems and processes that capture and permanently store greenhouse gas emissions from fossil fuel production and electricity generation units;

(D) products, processes, facilities, or systems designed to retrofit and improve the energy efficiency and electricity generated from electrical generation units, while using less fuel, less or fewer power production resources, or less feedstocks; and

(E) zero emission vehicles.

(3) CLIMATE ACTION.—The term “climate action” means enhanced efforts to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and strengthen resilience and adaptive capacity to climate-induced impacts, including—

(A) climate-related hazards in all countries;

(B) integrating climate change measures into national policies, strategies and planning; and

(C) improving education, awareness-raising, and human and institutional capacity with respect to climate change mitigation, adaptation, impact reduction, and early warning.

(4) CLIMATE CRISIS.—The term “climate crisis” means the social, economic, health, safety, and security impacts on people, and the threats to biodiversity and natural ecosystem health, which are attributable to the wide-variety of effects on global environmental and atmospheric conditions as a result of disruptions to the Earth’s climate from anthropogenic activities that generate greenhouse gas emissions or reduce natural resource capacities to absorb and regulate atmospheric carbon.

(5) CLIMATE DIPLOMACY.—The term “climate diplomacy” means methods of influencing the decisions and behavior of foreign governments and peoples through dialogue, negotiation, cooperation and other measures short of war or violence around issues related to addressing global climate change, including—

(A) the mitigation of global greenhouse gas emissions;

(B) discussion, analysis, and sharing of scientific data and information on the cause and effects of climate change;

(C) the security, social, economic, and political instability risks associated with the effects of climate change;

(D) economic cooperation efforts and trade matters that are related to or associated with climate change and greenhouse gas mitigation from the global economy;

(E) building resilience capacities and adapting to the effects of change;

(F) sustainable land use and natural resource conservation;

(G) accounting for loss and damage attributed to the effects of climate change;

(H) just transition of carbon intense economies to low or zero carbon economies and accounting for laborers within affected economies; and

(I) technological innovations that reduce or eliminate carbon emissions.

(6) CLIMATE SECURITY.—The term “climate security” means the effects of climate change on—

(A) United States national security concerns and subnational, national, and regional political stability; and

(B) overseas security and conflict situations that are potentially exacerbated by dynamic environmental factors and events, including—

(i) the intensification and frequency of droughts, floods, wildfires, tropical storms, and other extreme weather events;

(ii) changes in historical severe weather, drought, and wildfire patterns;

(iii) the expansion of geographical ranges of droughts, floods, and wildfires into regions that had not regularly experienced such phenomena;

(iv) global sea level rise patterns and the expansion of geographical ranges affected by drought; and

(v) changes in marine environments that effect critical geostrategic waterways, such as the Arctic Ocean, the South China Sea, the South Pacific Ocean, the Barents Sea, and the Beaufort Sea.

(7) NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION.—The term “nationally determined contribution” means a country’s pledged efforts to reduce national greenhouse gas emissions and adapt to the effects of climate change, which may include a financial pledge of support or financing to assist developing countries achieve their climate action goals, in accordance with paragraph 2 of Article 4 of the Paris Agreement, which requires each Party—

(A) to “prepare, communicate and maintain successive nationally determined contributions that it intends to achieve”; and

(B) to “pursue domestic mitigation measures, with the aim of achieving the objectives of such contributions”.

(8) NATURAL CLIMATE SOLUTIONS.—The term “natural climate solutions” mean actions to protect, sustainably manage, and restore natural or modified ecosystems that—

(A) address climate change effectively and adaptively; and

(B) simultaneously provide human well-being and environmental benefits.

(9) NATURAL RESOURCES.—The term “natural resources” means the terrestrial, freshwater, estuarine, and marine fish, wildlife, plants, land, air, water, habitats, and ecosystems.

(10) NET ZERO GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—The term “net zero greenhouse gas emissions” means that any anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions are balanced or offset by deliberate activities that absorb or capture and permanently store equivalent amounts of greenhouse gases from the atmosphere.

(11) PARIS AGREEMENT.—The term “Paris Agreement” means the international agreement adopted by parties to the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change’s 21st Conference of Parties in Paris, France on December 12, 2015.

(12) RENEWABLE ENERGY.—The term “renewable energy” means all forms of energy produced from sources that naturally occur or are replenished in nature in a sustainable manner, including bioenergy, geothermal energy, hydropower, ocean energy, solar energy, and wind energy.

(13) RESILIENCE.—The term “resilience” means the ability of human made and natural systems (including their component parts) to anticipate, absorb, cope, accommodate, or recover from the effects of a hazardous event in a timely and efficient manner, including through ensuring the preservation, restoration, or improvement of its essential basic structures and functions.

(14) UNFCCC.—The term “UNFCCC” means the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, done at New York May 9, 1992, and entered into force March 21, 1994.

(15) UNITED STATES-MEXICO-CANADA AGREEMENT; USMCA.—The terms “United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement” and “USMCA” mean the Agreement between the United States of America, the United Mexican States, and Canada, done at Buenos Aires November 30, 2018.

TITLE I—CLIMATE AND NATIONAL SECURITY

SEC. 101. CLIMATE DIPLOMACY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President and the Secretary of State shall prioritize climate action and climate diplomacy in United States foreign policy by—

(1) ensuring diplomacy, support, and interagency coordination for bilateral and multilateral actions to address the climate crisis; and

(2) improving coordination and integration of climate action across all bureaus and United States missions abroad.

(b) CLIMATE ACTION INTEGRATION.—The Secretary of State, through the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment and any other designees, shall—

(1) prioritize climate action and clean energy within the bureaus and offices under the leadership of the Under Secretary for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment;

(2) ensure that such bureaus and offices are coordinating with other bureaus of the Department of State regarding the integration of climate action and climate diplomacy as a cross-cutting imperative across the Department of State;

(3) encourage all Under Secretaries of State—

(A) to assess how issues related to climate change and United States climate action are integrated into their operations and programs;

(B) to coordinate crosscutting actions and diplomatic efforts that relate to climate action; and

(C) to make available the technical assistance and resources of the bureaus and offices with relevant expertise to provide technical assistance and expert support to other bureaus within the Department of State regarding climate action, clean energy development, and climate diplomacy;

(4) manage the integration of scientific data on the current and anticipated effects of climate change into applied strategies and diplomatic engagements across programmatic and regional bureaus of the Department of State and into the Department of State’s decision making processes;

(5) ensure that the relevant bureaus and offices provide appropriate technical support and resources—

(A) to the President, the Secretary of State, and their respective designees charged with addressing climate change and associated issues;

(B) to United States diplomats advancing United States foreign policy related to climate action; and

(C) for the appropriate engagement and integration of relevant domestic agencies in international climate change affairs, including United States participation in multilateral fora; and

(6) carry out other activities, as directed by the Secretary of State, that advance United States climate-related foreign policy objectives, including global greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation activities, and global climate security.

(c) RESPONSIBILITIES OF THE UNDER SECRETARY OF STATE FOR POLITICAL AFFAIRS.—The Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs shall ensure that all foreign missions are—

(1) advancing United States bilateral climate diplomacy;

(2) engaging strategically on opportunities for bilateral climate action cooperation with foreign governments; and

(3) utilizing the technical resources and coordinating adequately with the bureaus reporting to the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy and the Environment.

(d) REPORT.—Not later than 200 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment, in cooperation with the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs, shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees that—

(1) assesses how climate action and United States climate diplomacy is integrated across the Bureaus of the Department of State; and

(2) includes recommendations on strategies to improve cross bureau coordination and understanding of United States climate action and climate diplomacy.

(e) EFFECT OF ELIMINATION OF POSITIONS.—If the positions of Under Secretary of State for Economic Growth, Energy, and the Environment and the Under Secretary of State for Political Affairs are eliminated or undergo name changes, the responsibilities of such Under Secretaries under this section shall be reassigned to other Under Secretaries of State, as appropriate.

(f) CLIMATE CHANGE EXPERTS IN KEY EMBASSIES.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that—

(1) identifies the number of personnel of the Department of State and the United States Agency for International Development who—

(A) dedicate a significant portion of their work to climate change mitigation, climate change adaptation, food security, or clean energy matters; and

(B) are stationed at United States missions in countries that are highly vulnerable to the effects or major greenhouse gas emitters;

(2) analyzes the need for Federal climate change policy specialist personnel in United States embassies, United States Agency for International Development missions, and other United States diplomatic and international development missions; and

(3) includes—

(A) recommendations for increasing climate change expertise within United States missions abroad among foreign service officers; and

(B) options for assigning to such missions climate change attachés from the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of Energy, the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, the Department of Agriculture, the Department of Interior, or other relevant Federal agencies.

(g) CLIMATE CHANGE ADVISORS.—The Secretary of State, or the Secretary's designee, shall have primary responsibility for the management and execution of United States climate diplomacy and related foreign policy and shall make appropriate arrangements with the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, the Secretary of Agriculture, the Administrator of the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration, the Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, and other relevant Federal agencies and departments to assign personnel from such agencies and departments to serve as dedicated advisors on climate change mat-

ters in embassies of the United States or in other United States diplomatic or international development missions.

(h) CLIMATE CHANGE SUPPORT AND FINANCING.—The Secretary of State shall facilitate the coordination among the Department of State and other relevant departments and agencies, including the United States Agency for International Development, the Department of the Treasury, the United States Trade and Development Agency, and the United States International Development Finance Corporation, of contributing development finance or foreign assistance relevant to United States international climate action and in support of United States climate diplomacy.

(i) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to carry out this section.

SEC. 102. ENHANCING UNITED STATES SECURITY CONSIDERATIONS FOR GLOBAL CLIMATE DISRUPTIONS.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of State, in consultation with other relevant agencies, shall conduct biennial comprehensive evaluations of present and ongoing disruptions to the global climate system, including—

(1) the intensity, frequency, and range of natural disasters;

(2) the scarcity of global natural resources, including fresh water;

(3) global food, health, and energy insecurities;

(4) conditions that contribute to—

(A) intrastate and interstate conflicts;

(B) foreign political and economic instability;

(C) international migration of vulnerable and underserved populations;

(D) the failure of national governments; and

(E) gender-based violence; and

(5) United States and allied military readiness, operations, and strategy.

(b) PURPOSES.—The purposes of the evaluations conducted under subsection (a) are—

(1) to support the practical application of scientific data and research on climate change's dynamic effects around the world to improve resilience, adaptability, security, and stability despite growing global environmental risks and changes;

(2) to ensure that the strategic planning and mission execution of United States international development and diplomatic missions adequately account for heightened and dynamic risks and challenges associated with the effects of climate change;

(3) to improve coordination between United States science agencies conducting research and forecasts on the causes and effects of climate change and United States national security agencies;

(4) to better understand the disproportionate effects of global climate disruptions on women, girls, indigenous communities, and other historically marginalized populations; and

(5) to inform the development of the climate security strategy described in subsection (d).

(c) SCOPE.—The evaluations conducted under subsection (a) shall—

(1) examine developing countries' vulnerabilities and risks associated with global, regional, and localized effects of climate change; and

(2) assess and make recommendations on necessary measures to mitigate risks and reduce vulnerabilities associated with effects, including—

(A) sea level rise;

(B) freshwater resource scarcity;

(C) wildfires; and

(D) increased intensity and frequency of extreme weather conditions and events, such

as flooding, drought, and extreme storm events, including tropical cyclones.

(d) CLIMATE SECURITY STRATEGY.—The Secretary shall use the evaluations required under subsection (a)—

(1) to inform the development and implementation of a climate security strategy for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, embassies, consulates, regional bureaus, and other offices and programs operating chief of mission authority, including those with roles in conflict avoidance, prevention and security assistance, or humanitarian disaster response, prevention, and assistance; and

(2) in furtherance of such strategy, to assess, develop, budget for, and (upon approval) implement plans, policies, and actions—

(A) to account for the impacts of climate change to global human health, safety, governance, oceans, food production, fresh water and other critical natural resources, settlements, infrastructure, marginalized groups, and economic activity;

(B) to evaluate the climate change vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and non-defense assets abroad;

(C) to coordinate the integration of climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into all foreign policy and security decision-making processes, including awarding foreign assistance;

(D) to evaluate specific risks to certain regions and countries that are—

(i) vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(ii) strategically significant to the United States;

(E) to enhance the resilience capacities of foreign countries to the effects of climate change as a means of reducing the risks of conflict and instability;

(F) to advance principles of good governance by encouraging foreign governments, particularly nations that are least capable of coping with the effects of climate change—

(i) to conduct climate security evaluations; and

(ii) to facilitate the development of climate security action plans to ensure stability and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion;

(G) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and nondefense assets abroad;

(H) to build international institutional capacity to address climate security implications and to advance United States interests, regional stability, and global security; and

(I) other activities that advance—

(i) the utilization and integration of climate science in national security planning; and

(ii) the clear understanding of how the effects of climate change can exacerbate security risks and threats.

SEC. 103. ARCTIC DIPLOMACY.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the rapidly changing Arctic environment—

(A) creates new national and regional security challenges due to increased military activity in the Arctic;

(B) heightens the risks of potential conflicts spilling over into the Arctic region from interventions and theaters of tension in other regions of the world;

(C) threatens maritime safety due to inadequate regional resource capacity to patrol the increase in vessel traffic this remote region is experiencing from the growing expanses of open Arctic water from diminished annual levels of sea ice;

(D) impacts public safety due to increased human activity in the Arctic region where search and rescue capacity remains very limited; and

(E) threatens the health of the Arctic's fragile and historically pristine environment and the unique and highly sensitive species found in the Arctic's marine and terrestrial ecosystems; and

(2) the United States should reduce the consequences outlined in paragraph (1) by—

(A) carefully evaluating the wide variety and extremely dynamic set of security and safety risks unfolding in the Arctic;

(B) developing policies and making preparations for mitigating and responding to threats and risks in the Arctic;

(C) adequately funding the National Earth System Prediction Capability to substantially improve weather, ocean, and ice predictions on time scales necessary for ensuring regional security and trans-Arctic shipping;

(D) investing in resources, including a significantly expanded icebreaker fleet, to ensure that the United States has adequate capacity to prevent and respond to security threats in the Arctic region; and

(E) pursuing diplomatic engagements with all nations in the Arctic region to reach an agreement for—

(i) maintaining peace and stability in the Arctic region; and

(ii) fostering cooperation on stewardship and safety initiatives in the Arctic region.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) ARCTIC NATIONS.—The term “Arctic Nations” means the 8 nations with territory or exclusive economic zones that extend north of the 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator, namely Russia, Canada, the United States, Norway, Denmark (including Greenland), Finland, Sweden, and Iceland.

(2) ARCTIC REGION.—The term “Arctic Region” means the geographic region north of the 66.56083 parallel latitude north of the equator.

(c) DESIGNATION.—The Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs shall designate a deputy assistant secretary serving within the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs as “Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arctic Affairs”, who shall be responsible for affairs in the Arctic Region.

(d) DUTIES.—The Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arctic Affairs shall—

(1) facilitate the development and coordination of United States foreign policy in the Arctic Region relating to—

(A) meeting national security needs;

(B) protecting the Arctic environment and conserving its biological resources;

(C) promoting environmentally sustainable natural resource management and economic development;

(D) strengthening institutions for cooperation among the Arctic Nations;

(E) involving Arctic indigenous people in decisions that affect them; and

(F) enhancing scientific monitoring and research on local, regional, and global environmental issues;

(2) coordinate the diplomatic objectives, and, as appropriate, represent the United States within multilateral fora that address international cooperation and foreign policy matters in the Arctic Region;

(3) help inform transnational commerce and commercial maritime transit in the Arctic Region;

(4) coordinate the integration of scientific data on the current and projected effects of climate change on the Arctic Region and ensure that such data is applied to the development of security strategies for the Arctic Region;

(5) make available the methods and approaches on the integration of climate science to other regional security planning programs in the Department of State to better ensure that broader decision making processes may more adequately account for the effects of climate change;

(6) serve as a key point of contact for other Federal agencies, including the Department of Defense, the Department of the Interior, the Department of Homeland Security, and the Intelligence Community, on Arctic Region security issues;

(7) develop and facilitate the implementation of an Arctic Region Security Policy in accordance with subsection (f);

(8) use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to encourage other countries and international multilateral organizations to support the principles of the Arctic Region Security Policy implemented pursuant to subsection (f); and

(9) perform such other duties and exercise such powers as the Assistant Secretary of State for Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs and the Secretary of State shall prescribe.

(e) RANK AND STATUS.—The Secretary of State may change the title of the Deputy Assistant Secretary for Arctic Affairs designated under subsection (c) to Special Representative or Special Envoy with the rank of Ambassador if—

(1) the President nominates the person so designated to that rank and status; and

(2) the Senate confirms such person to such rank and status.

(f) ARCTIC REGION SECURITY POLICY.—The Arctic Region Security Policy shall include requirements for the Bureau of Conflict and Stabilization Operations, the Bureau of Political-Military Affairs, embassies, regional bureaus, and other offices with a role in conflict avoidance, prevention and security assistance, or humanitarian disaster response, prevention, and assistance to assess, develop, budget for, and implement plans, policies, and actions—

(1) to enhance the resilience capacities of Arctic Nations to the effects of climate change and increased civilian and military activity from Arctic Nations and other nations that may result from increased accessibility of the Arctic Region due to decreased sea ice, warmer ambient air temperatures and other effects of climate change, as a means of reducing the risk of conflict and instability;

(2) to assess specific added risks to the Arctic Region and Arctic Nations that—

(A) are vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(B) are strategically significant to the United States;

(3) to account for the impacts on human health, safety, stresses, reliability, food production, fresh water and other critical natural resources, and economic activity;

(4) to coordinate the integration of climate change risk and vulnerability assessments into the decision making process on foreign assistance awards to Arctic Nations;

(5) to advance principles of good governance by encouraging and cooperating with Arctic Nations on collaborative approaches—

(A) to sustainably manage natural resources in the Arctic Region;

(B) to share the burden of ensuring maritime safety in the Arctic Region;

(C) to prevent the escalation of security tensions by mitigating against the militarization of the Arctic Region;

(D) to develop mutually agreed upon multilateral policies among Arctic Nations on the management of maritime transit routes through the Arctic Region and work cooperatively on the transit policies for access to

and transit in the Arctic Region by non-Arctic Nations; and

(E) to facilitate the development of Arctic Region Security Action Plans to ensure stability and public safety in disaster situations in a humane and responsible fashion; and

(6) to evaluate the vulnerability, security, susceptibility, and resiliency of United States interests and nondefense assets in the Arctic Region.

TITLE II—INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND CONVENTIONS

SEC. 201. SENSE OF CONGRESS IN SUPPORT OF THE UNITED STATES RETURNING TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) President Trump's decision to withdraw the United States from the Paris Agreement was a mistake that harmed the leadership, economic, national security, and diplomatic interests of the United States; and

(2) the United States' expeditious return to the Paris Agreement is a critical first step to restoring United States leadership among, and in cooperation with, the international community;

(3) resuming United States' global leadership in the Paris Agreement's implementation process is critical to ensuring that the rules and procedures for implementing the Paris Agreement achieve maximum benefits for the United States;

(4) prioritizing the immediate preparation and communication of an updated United States' nationally determined contribution in support of the Paris Agreement will demonstrate a renewed and increasingly ambitious United States' commitment to climate action, which should incorporate—

(A) strategies for achieving domestic greenhouse gas emissions reductions that achieve the United States' 2015 national determined contribution to the Paris Agreement;

(B) an ambitious 2030 mitigation target representing a mid-term goal that signifies the emission reductions trajectory the United States needs to be on to achieve net-zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

(C) commitments to engage constructively with parties to the Paris Agreement regarding the development of strategies to secure ambitious commitments from all parties and to ensure adequate progress on mitigating greenhouses sufficiently to prevent 1.5 degree Celsius increase of warming;

(D) announced intentions of the United States' to accept and fulfill United States obligations to other international agreements to reduce global greenhouse gas emissions, including the International Civil Aviation Organization's Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation and the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;

(E) an intention to resume the United States' cooperation and support for cooperative climate action detailed and announced in various climate change communiqués produced by the G7, the G20, the Arctic Council, the United Nations, and others for which the United States has recently abstained;

(F) a platform and policy incentives for the United States private sector, and State and local governments to accurately account for their contributions to reduce greenhouse gas emissions;

(G) a new, increased contribution pledge to the Green Climate Fund, and contributions to other complementary multilateral funds;

(H) a commitment to resume a leadership role within the Green Climate Fund to achieve accountability, transparency, and management reforms; and

(I) other activities that advance United States climate-related foreign policy objectives, including global greenhouse gas mitigation, climate change adaptation activities, and global climate security;

(5) United States collaboration with other nations, especially developing countries most impacted by the need to transition carbon intensive industrial sectors, and the workforces of these affected industries, on the global transition to environmentally sustainable economies and societies to ensure workers benefit from opportunities that arise in a transition to economies powered by clean energy, including engagements on—

(A) realizing the potential to create significant net gains in employment opportunities through increases in the number of decent jobs through investments in environmentally sustainable production and consumption and management of natural resources;

(B) improving the quality of jobs and increased incomes on a large scale from more productive processes, and environmentally sustainable products and services in sectors such as agriculture, renewable energy, transport, construction, recycling, and tourism;

(C) social inclusion through improved access to affordable, environmentally sustainable energy and payments for environmental services, which are of particular relevance to women and residents in rural areas who face more economic challenges;

(D) protections from the effects of economic restructuring that would otherwise result in the displacement of workers and possible job losses;

(E) training and access to new job opportunities attributable to new environmentally sustainable and clean energy powered enterprises and workplaces;

(F) attracting new environmentally sustainable and clean energy powered enterprises and workplaces to communities transitioning to low carbon economies and assist with adapting to climate change to avoid loss of assets and livelihoods and involuntary migration; and

(G) avoiding adverse effects on the incomes of poor households from higher energy and commodity prices; and

(6) the United States should communicate its intention to achieve net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050.

SEC. 202. ENHANCED UNITED STATES COMMITMENT TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING NEED FOR UPDATED UNITED STATES NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) all parties determine their voluntary contributions to the Paris Agreement, in accordance with Article 4.2 of the Paris Agreement;

(2) the development and submission of a new United States' nationally determined contribution should be prioritized, in accordance with Article 4.9 of the Paris Agreement;

(3) the new United States' nationally determined contribution should—

(A) represent an ambitious 2030 target, in accordance with Articles 4.2 and 4.3 of the Paris Agreement; and

(B) put the United States on an appropriate trajectory towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050; and

(4) the plan required under subsection (b) should—

(A) be developed in accordance with Article 4.13 of the Paris Agreement;

(B) inform United States' obligations under Article 13.7 of the Paris Agreement; and

(C) clearly demonstrate how the United States will achieve the target referred to in paragraph (3).

(b) PLAN FOR DEVELOPING THE UNITED STATES' NATIONALLY DETERMINED CONTRIBUTION.—At least 20 days before the United States submits a new or provisional nationally determined contribution, the President shall consult with, and provide embargoed drafts of the nationally determined contribution to, the appropriate congressional committees.

(c) PUBLIC TRANSPARENCY.—The President shall make available to the public a plan for the United States to meet its nationally determined contribution, which shall include—

(1) ambitious, economy-wide, short-term greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets for 2025 and 2030, with relevant addenda to the plan following its initial submission;

(2) considerations made for populations, regions, industries, and constituencies that could be affected by actions to meet the targets described in paragraph (1) and the failure to meet such targets, including the effect of such actions on—

(A) United States' jobs, wages, and pay;

(B) the cost of energy (such as electricity and gasoline) for consumers; and

(C) the ability to develop and deploy new, innovative, domestically produced technologies;

(3) a description of how the United States may use—

(A) multilateral and bilateral diplomatic tools, in addition to the expert committee established under Article 15 of the Paris Agreement, to encourage and assist other parties to the Paris Agreement to fulfill their announced contributions; and

(B) the mechanisms under Articles 12 and 13 of the Paris Agreement to urge enhanced actions from other parties to achieve the overall objectives of the Paris Agreement;

(4) a description of how the Paris Agreement's loss and damage provisions would affect infrastructure resiliency in the United States;

(5) a coherent and stable policy framework for sustainable enterprise development and decent work opportunities for all United States residents that—

(A) is developed through engagement in social dialogue, particularly in—

(i) communities that have historically experienced environmental injustice; and

(ii) communities with economies that are heavily dependent on fossil fuel production or consumption; and

(B) maintains such social dialogue, in line with international labor standards—

(i) at all stages, from policy design to implementation and evaluation; and

(ii) at all levels, from the national level to the enterprise; and

(6) an accounting of other relevant activities that advance United States foreign policy objectives of—

(A) advancing global greenhouse gas mitigation;

(B) supporting climate change adaptation activities; and

(C) improving global climate security.

(d) EDUCATION AND PUBLIC AWARENESS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The plan developed under subsection (c) shall be consistent with Article 12 of the Paris Agreement, which states “Parties shall cooperate in taking measures, as appropriate, to enhance climate change education, training, public awareness, public participation and public access to information, recognizing the importance of these steps with respect to enhancing actions under this Agreement.”.

(2) RULE OF CONSTRUCTION.—Nothing in this Act may be construed to require or prohibit the President from including in the plan developed under subsection (b), consistent with the prohibition described in section 438 of the General Education Provisions Act (20 U.S.C. 1232a), recommendations to support

State and local educational agencies, in integrating instruction on human-caused climate change and the societal, environmental, and economic effects of such climate change into curricula taught in elementary and secondary schools under the control of such State and local educational agencies, in order to meet the goals and ambitions of the Paris Agreement to ensure climate education and awareness in schools.

(e) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE ACCOUNTABILITY OF PARTIES TO THE PARIS AGREEMENT.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States shall use its diplomatic leverage and the mechanisms of the Paris Agreement that promote transparency, reporting, and accountability among parties to seek to play critical leadership roles on the Paris Agreement's critical working groups, subsidiary bodies, and constituted bodies—

(1) to maximize the United States' ability to hold other parties accountable for meeting the commitments to the Paris Agreement; and

(2) to ensure that all parties commit to and meet ambitious greenhouse gas emissions reductions targets.

SEC. 203. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING RATIFICATION OF THE KIGALI AMENDMENT TO THE MONTREAL PROTOCOL.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) The chemical refrigerant alternative, hydrofluorocarbon (HFC), and its chemical derivatives identified in Annex F of the Montreal Protocol on Substances that Deplete the Ozone Layer, done at Montreal September 16, 1987, which replaced hydrochlorofluorocarbon (HCFC) and chlorofluorocarbon (CFC), are short-lived and highly potent greenhouse gases.

(2) Some HFCs are 4,000 times more potent greenhouse gases than carbon dioxide. The expansion of mass production and worldwide use of HFCs have significantly contributed to the recent worsening of the global climate crisis.

(3) In October 15, 2016, the parties at the 28th Meeting of Parties to the Montreal Protocol, with the support of the United States, adopted an amendment (referred to in the Act as the “Kigali Amendment”) to the Montreal Protocol to globally phase down the production and application of hydrofluorocarbons, most commonly used as refrigerants in air conditioners and for cold storage.

(4) The Kigali Amendment calls for parties to cut the production and consumption of HFCs by more than 80 percent during a 30-year period—

(A) to eliminate an estimated 80,000,000,000 metric tons of carbon dioxide equivalent emissions by 2050; and

(B) to avoid up to 0.5 degree Celsius warming by the end of the century, while continuing to protect the ozone layer.

(5) United States' ratification of the Kigali Amendment will require the advice and consent of the Senate. There is broad bipartisan support for the Kigali Amendment in the Senate, as evidenced by a letter sent by 13 Republican senators to the President on June 4, 2018, urging the President to submit the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for advice and consent.

(6) The Environmental Protection Agency received sufficient domestic legal authority to comply with the international obligations of the Kigali Amendment under title II of the Department of the Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies Appropriations Act, 2021 (division G of Public Law 116-260), which was enacted on December 27, 2020.

(7) As of the date of the introduction of the Act, the President has not submitted the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for advice

and consent and the United States Government has neither ratified nor implemented policies to comply with the Kigali Amendment.

(8) The Kigali Amendment, which has been ratified by 100 parties, entered into force on January 1, 2019.

(9) Adoption of the Kigali Amendment and United States' ratification of and compliance with the Kigali Amendment is supported broadly by affected industry stakeholders and environmental public interest organizations.

(10) Industries in the United States that use and produce fluorocarbons—

(A) contribute more than \$158,000,000,000 annually in goods and services to the economy of the United States; and

(B) employ more than 700,000 individuals, with an annual industry-wide payroll of more than \$32,000,000,000.

(11) Foreign competitors to United States chemical refrigerant and refrigeration equipment based and operating in countries that have ratified the Kigali Amendment and are implementing policies in compliance with the Kigali Amendment are gaining an advantage on United States based industries in the manufacturing and used of next-generation chemicals and equipment.

(12) The United States' ratification of the Kigali Amendment—

(A) would support and promote the technological leadership of the United States' industries to lead global production and marketing of replacement refrigerants and equipment in compliance with the Kigali Amendment; and

(B) according to industry analysis, would potentially create approximately 33,000 new manufacturing jobs in the United States and add approximately \$12,500,000,000 per year to the economy of the United States.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should immediately submit the Kigali Amendment to the Senate for advice and consent; and

(2) the Senate should promptly provide its advice and consent on the Kigali Amendment.

SEC. 204. COMPLIANCE WITH THE CARBON OFFSET AND REDUCTION SCHEME FOR INTERNATIONAL AVIATION.

The Administrator of the Federal Aviation Administration shall promulgate regulations establishing uniform policies and take other necessary actions to implement the terms of the Carbon Offset and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (commonly known as "CORSA"), which was adopted by International Civil Aviation Organization in October 2016 as Assembly Resolution A39-3, and any amendments to such Resolution with which the United States concurs, as means to secure a single global carbon emissions market-based mechanism to facilitate the participation of operators of civil aircraft of the United States in international aviation.

SEC. 205. SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS.

(a) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) HIGH-GWP HFC.—The term "high-GWP HFC" means newly manufactured hydrofluorocarbons with a global warming potential calculated over a 100-year period of greater than 150, as described in the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change.

(2) SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS.—The term "short-lived climate pollutants" means—

- (A) black carbon;
- (B) methane; and
- (C) high-GWP HFC.

(b) IN GENERAL.—The President shall direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies and conferences

(including the United Nations Environment Programme, the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, the Arctic Council, the Group of 7, the Group of 20, the Organization for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), the Association of Southeast Asian Nations, the Asia Pacific Economic Cooperation, the Arctic Council, the Climate and Clean Air Coalition on Short-Lived Climate Pollutants, and the Global Alliance for Climate-Smart Agriculture) to use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body or conference—

(1) commit to significantly increasing efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants;

(2) invest in and develop alternative energy sources, industrial and agricultural processes, appliances, and products to replace sources of short-lived climate pollutants;

(3) enhance coordination with the private sector—

(A) to increase production and distribution of clean energy alternatives, industrial processes, and products that will replace sources of short-lived climate pollutants;

(B) to develop action plans to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants from various private sector operations;

(C) to encourage best technology, methods, and management practices for reducing short-lived climate pollutants;

(D) to craft specific financing mechanisms for the incremental costs associated with mitigating short-lived climate pollutants; and

(E) to grow economic opportunities and develop markets, as appropriate, for short-lived climate pollutants trading, capture, and other efforts that support economic growth using low and zero carbon energy sources;

(4) provide technical assistance to foreign regulatory authorities and governments to remove unnecessary barriers to investment in short-lived climate mitigation solutions, including—

(A) the use of safe and affordable clean energy;

(B) the implementation of policies requiring industrial and agricultural best practices for capturing or mitigating the release of methane from extractive, agricultural, and industrial processes; and

(C) climate assessment, scientific research, monitoring, and technological development activities;

(5) develop and implement clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of projects described in paragraph (4); and

(6) engage international partners in an existing multilateral forum (or, if necessary, establish through an international agreement a new multilateral forum) to improve global cooperation for—

(A) creating tangible metrics for evaluating efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants;

(B) developing and implementing best practices for phasing out sources of short-lived climate pollutants, including expanding capacity for innovative instruments to mitigate short-lived climate pollutants at the national and subnational levels of foreign countries, particularly countries with little capacity to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and deploy clean energy facilities, and countries that lack sufficient policies to advance such development;

(C) encouraging the development of standards and practices, and increasing transparency and accountability efforts for the reduction of short-lived climate pollutants;

(D) integrating tracking and monitoring systems into industrial processes;

(E) fostering research to improve scientific understanding of—

(i) how high concentrations of short-lived climate pollutants affect human health, safety, and our climate;

(ii) changes in the amount and regional concentrations of black carbon and methane emissions, based on scientific modeling and forecasting;

(iii) effective means to sequester short-lived climate pollutants; and

(iv) other related areas of research the United States representatives deem necessary;

(F) encouraging the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other international finance organizations—

(i) to prioritize efforts to combat short-lived climate pollutants; and

(ii) to enhance transparency by providing sufficient and adequate information to facilitate independent verification of their climate finance reporting;

(G) encouraging observers of the Arctic Council (including India and China) to adopt mitigation plans consistent with the findings and recommendations of the Arctic Council's Framework for Action on Black Carbon and Methane;

(H) collaborating on technological advances in short-lived climate pollutant mitigation, sequestration and reduction technologies; and

(I) advising foreign countries, at both the national and subnational levels, regarding the development and execution of regulatory policies, services, and laws pertaining to reducing the creation and the collection and safe management of short-lived climate pollutants.

(c) ENHANCING INTERNATIONAL OUTREACH AND PARTNERSHIP OF UNITED STATES AGENCIES INVOLVED IN GREENHOUSE GAS REDUCTIONS.—

(1) FINDING.—Congress recognizes the success of the United States Climate Alliance and the greenhouse gas reduction programs and strategies established by the Environmental Protection Agency's Center for Corporate Climate Leadership.

(2) AUTHORIZATION OF EFFORTS TO BUILD FOREIGN PARTNERSHIPS.—The Secretary of State shall work with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency to build partnerships, as appropriate, with the governments of foreign countries and to support international efforts to reduce short-lived climate pollutants and combat climate change.

(d) NEGOTIATION OF NEW INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS AND REASSERTION OF TARGETS IN EXISTING AGREEMENTS.—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a report to Congress that—

(1) assesses the potential for negotiating new international agreements, new targets within existing international agreements or cooperative bodies, and the creation of a new international forum to mitigate globally short-lived climate pollutants to support the efforts described in subsection (b);

(2) describes the provisions that could be included in such agreements;

(3) assesses potential parties to such agreements;

(4) describes a process for reengaging with Canada and Mexico regarding the methane targets agreed to at the 2016 North American Leaders' Summit; and

(5) describes a process for reengaging with the countries of the Arctic Council regarding the methane and black carbon targets that were negotiated in 2015 through the Framework for Action.

(e) CONSIDERATION OF SHORT-LIVED CLIMATE POLLUTANTS IN NEGOTIATING INTERNATIONAL AGREEMENTS.—In negotiating any relevant

international agreement with any country or countries after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall—

(1) consider the impact short-lived climate pollutants are having on the increase in global average temperatures and the resulting global climate change;

(2) consider the effects that climate change is having on the environment; and

(3) ensure that the agreement strengthens efforts to eliminate short-lived climate pollutants from such country or countries.

SEC. 206. INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION REGARDING CLEAN TRANSPORTATION AND SUSTAINABLE LAND USE AND COMMUNITY DEVELOPMENT.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) Agriculture, forestry, and other land use accounted for 24 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions during 2010, which—

(A) is caused primarily from agriculture (cultivation of crops and livestock) and deforestation; and

(B) does not take into account the carbon dioxide that ecosystems remove from the atmosphere by sequestering carbon in biomass, dead organic matter, and soils, which offset approximately 20 percent of emissions from this sector.

(2) The transportation sector accounts for 14 percent of global gas emissions and 28 percent of the United States' greenhouse gas emissions.

(3) According to the National Center for Biotechnology Information's report, "National Mitigation Potential from Natural Climate Solutions in the Tropics"—

(A) better land stewardship is needed to achieve the Paris Agreement's temperature goal of holding the increase of global average temperatures well below 2 degrees Celsius, particularly in the tropics;

(B) as countries enhance their nationally determined contributions, confusion persists about the potential contribution of better land stewardship to meeting such goal;

(C) in 50 percent of the tropical countries, cost-effective natural climate solutions could mitigate more than 50 percent of national emissions;

(D) in more than 25 percent of the tropical countries, cost effective natural climate solutions potential is greater than national emissions; and

(E) natural climate solutions can transform national economies and contribute to sustainable development goals.

(4) According to the International Energy Agency—

(A) global transport emissions increased by less than 0.5 percent in 2019 (compared with an average annual increase of 1.9 percent since 2000), owing to efficiency improvements, electrification, and greater use of biofuels;

(B) transportation is responsible for 24 percent of direct carbon dioxide emissions from fossil fuel combustion;

(C) electric car deployment has grown rapidly since 2010, with the global stock of electric passenger cars passing 5,000,000 in 2018 (an increase of 63 percent from the previous year);

(D) in 2018—

(i) approximately 45 percent of all electric cars on the road were in China;

(ii) approximately 24 percent of such cars were in Europe; and

(iii) approximately 22 percent of such cars were in the United States;

(E) existing measures to increase efficiency and reduce energy demand must be deepened and extended for compliance with the Sustainable Development Scenario of the International Energy Agency's World Energy Model;

(F) prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, emissions from aviation and shipping were increasing faster than all other transportation modes; and

(G) energy demand and emissions have continued to rise in all modes of road transport (cars, trucks, buses, and 2- and 3-wheelers), particularly in heavy-duty road freight transport, which account for 75 percent of global transportation sector emissions.

(5) The worldwide market share of sport utility vehicles rose 15 percentage points between 2014 and 2019, and now comprises 40 percent of the global light-duty vehicle market.

(6) China is the world's largest automobile market, with more than 23,700,000 light vehicles sold in China in 2018. As China's road network rapidly continues to expand, the number of vehicle miles traveled per capita will most likely lead to growth in China's transportation sector carbon dioxide emissions.

(7) Even with India's advancement of policies to promote electric vehicles and biofuels—

(A) India relies heavily on oil, and comprises 29 percent of India's total energy consumption;

(B) prior to the COVID-19 pandemic, India was the world's fastest growing aviation market, with passenger numbers for domestic and international flights doubling since 2010;

(C) India is planning to build 100 new airports between 2020 and 2035, and industry analysts have projected up to 520,000,000 Indian air travelers annually by 2037; and

(D) the World Health Organization reports that 15 of the cities worldwide with the worst air pollution are in India, largely due to urban vehicle emissions.

(8) In 2013, Mexico became the first vehicle market in Latin America to establish fuel economy or carbon dioxide emissions standards.

(9) The Department of State, the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration, and the Environmental Protection Agency do not have a program in place to encourage other countries to adopt standards that are compatible with United States fuel economy and emissions standards.

(10) Many countries adopt European emissions standards rather than United States standards, in part because of European diplomatic engagement, disadvantaging United States automakers in international markets.

(b) STATEMENT OF POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to partner, consult, and coordinate with foreign governments, civil society, international financial institutions, subnational communities, agribusiness and automobile industry leaders, and the private sector in a concerted effort—

(1) to raise awareness of—

(A) the greenhouse gas emission contributions from agriculture, forestry, other land uses, and the transportation sector to the annual total of anthropogenic greenhouse gas emissions globally; and

(B) the importance of working cooperatively on the development of multi-faceted and country specific policies and strategies—

(i) to effectively reduce greenhouse gas emissions from agriculture, forestry, other land uses, and the transportation sector; and

(ii) to promote economic growth, opportunities, sustainable land management, and equitable access to mobility, transportation services, and resources among all populations;

(2) to mitigate land use sector emissions through enhanced land use planning, sustainable agriculture practices, sustainable forest management, and community-led conservation and development and other natural climate solutions;

(3) to use the voice and vote of the United States in multilateral institutions to advance international efforts to advance sustainable land-use planning, climate-smart agriculture, sustainable forest management, and community-led conservation and development;

(4) to improve the reliability and sustainability of transportation systems, particularly in developing countries, through a focus on mitigating carbon emissions, improving health and safety outcomes through improved land use and community design, and improved mobility for all populations;

(5) to promote collaboration regarding international research and development in—

(A) zero-emission vehicles;

(B) sustainable urban development and smart growth; and

(C) advanced low carbon biofuels for transportation;

(6) to facilitate and support the ability of parties to the Paris Agreement to more accurately monitor, record, and report transportation sector emissions;

(7) to develop greater cooperation among parties for strengthening the rules and ambition of the Paris Agreement's mitigation targets for transportation sector emissions;

(8) to improve the structural integrity of critical transportation infrastructure to withstand current and forecasted effects of climate change and support community resilience, improved access to jobs, and adaptability to the effects of climate change; and

(9) to explore new opportunities or seek enhanced initiatives within existing multilateral and bilateral agreements to develop mechanisms and policies for reducing transportation sector greenhouse gas emissions.

(c) INTERNATIONAL COOPERATION.—In implementing the policy described in subsection (b), the President should direct the United States representatives to appropriate international bodies to use the influence of the United States, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to advocate that each such body—

(1) promote transportation sector investment in—

(A) electric vehicles and other low and zero carbon transportation technologies; and

(B) sustainable land use development that incorporates—

(i) multi-modal transportation designs aimed at reducing—

(I) traffic congestion;

(II) carbon emissions from motor vehicles;

(III) travel times between high volume destinations within a community;

(IV) vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(V) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(ii) multi-use community designs and dense development that accounts for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities (to reduce individual reliance of motorized personal transportation);

(iii) transportation systems designed—

(I) to maximize the safety of all users; and

(II) to reduce the probability of motorized vehicle crashes, including motorized vehicle crashes that injure or kill pedestrians and bicyclists;

(2) strive to improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically underserved or marginalized populations and communities;

(3) improve environmental quality and community health outcomes through—

(A) safer and more efficient multi-modal transportation systems that reduce vehicle pollution and congestion;

(B) reductions in the amount of impervious surfaces; and

(C) integration of safe pedestrian and bicycling infrastructure;

(4) addresses unique transportation and economic needs of countries' diverse populations and communities in ways that also support a country's achievement of ambitious greenhouse gas mitigation commitments;

(5) enhance coordination and engagement with private sector stakeholders;

(6) provide technical assistance to foreign regulatory authorities and governments to remove barriers to investment in transportation systems, infrastructure and electric vehicles and low and zero carbon fuels; and

(7) use clear, accountable, and metric-based targets to measure the effectiveness of such projects.

(d) **VEHICLE FUEL ECONOMY AND CO₂ EMISSIONS DIPLOMACY INITIATIVE.**—

(1) **DEVELOPMENT.**—The Secretary of State, in consultation with the Secretary of Commerce, the Secretary of Transportation, the Secretary of the Treasury, and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, shall develop a Vehicle Fuel Economy and CO₂ Emissions Diplomacy Initiative to promote the worldwide adoption of vehicle fuel economy and vehicle carbon dioxide emissions standards that are compatible with United States standards.

(2) **RESPONSIBILITIES AND DUTIES.**—

(A) **DIPLOMATIC EFFORTS.**—The Secretary of State shall lead diplomatic efforts to encourage foreign governments to adopt vehicle fuel economy standards and vehicle carbon dioxide emissions standards.

(B) **TECHNICAL ASSISTANCE.**—The Administrator of the National Highway Traffic Safety Administration and the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency shall provide technical assistance to other countries to help such countries to develop new standards, testing regimes, and compliance strategies.

(3) **PROGRAM SCOPE.**—The Vehicle Fuel Economy and CO₂ Emissions Diplomacy Initiative should—

(A) have the goal of reducing oil consumption by at least 2,000,000 barrels per day by 2030, in addition to the reduction anticipated by the implementation of standards in existence as of the date of the enactment of this Act;

(B) include input in developing the program from leaders in United States industry; and

(C) focus special attention on Latin America.

SEC. 207. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES REENGAGEMENT WITH THE GROUP OF SEVEN AND THE GROUP OF TWENTY ON CLIMATE ACTION.

(a) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) President Trump has abstained from several heads of state meetings on climate action and cooperation with the heads of state from countries comprising the Group of Seven (referred to in this section as the "G7") and the Group of Twenty (referred to in this section as the "G20").

(2) The G7 summit held in Charlevoix, Quebec in June 2018 produced a climate action communique that was signed by the heads of state from Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, and the United Kingdom, but was not signed by the United States.

(3) The G7 climate action communique states, "Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom, and the European Union reaffirm their strong commitment to implement the Paris Agreement,

through ambitious climate action, in particular through reducing emissions while stimulating innovation, enhancing adaptive capacity, strengthening and financing resilience and reducing vulnerability; as well as ensuring a just transition, including increasing efforts to mobilize climate finance from a wide variety of sources."

(4) In 2019, the United States blocked the G7 from making any new or additional commitments on climate change, to the expressed disappointment and frustration of the other six heads of state.

(5) The G7, without the active participation of the United States, continues to work together to fulfill clean energy commitments on initiatives such as the 2014 Rome Initiative for Energy Security, the 2015 Hamburg Initiative for Sustainable Energy Security, the 2016 Kitakyushu Initiative on Energy Security for Global Growth, and the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative. However, United States objections to global cooperative climate action have prevented the G7 from undertaking new clean energy and climate action initiatives in recent years.

(6) The 2018 Buenos Aires Leaders Declaration by the G20—

(A) recognizes the risks that climate change poses to global security, global health, and economic development; and

(B) affirms the significance of the Paris Agreement.

(7) The United States insisted on the inclusion of a statement in the G20 Buenos Aires Leaders Declaration, for which the United States was the only subscriber, expressing dissenting opinions on international climate action cooperation and equivocation on "utilizing all energy sources and technologies, while protecting the environment".

(8) In 2019, the G20 narrowly avoided concluding without a leaders' declaration, when the President unsuccessfully tried to pressure the other 19 heads of state to weaken commitments on combating climate change in the 2019 G20 Osaka Leaders Declaration, leaving the United States to provide a dissenting provision articulating its outlier position on climate action in the Declaration.

(b) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 60 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President, acting through the Secretary of State, shall initiate a China-focused agenda at the G7, with respect to—

(1) trade and investment issues and enforcement;

(2) establishing and promulgating international infrastructure standards;

(3) the erosion of democracy in Hong Kong;

(4) human rights concerns in Xinjiang, Tibet, and other areas in the People's Republic of China;

(5) the security of 5G telecommunications;

(6) anti-competitive behavior;

(7) coercive and indentured international finance and conditional provision of foreign assistance;

(8) international influence campaigns;

(9) climate change;

(10) China's domestic and international investments in new coal power plants;

(11) environmental standards; and

(12) coordination with like-minded regional partners, including the Republic of Korea and Australia.

(c) **BRIEFING ON PROGRESS OF NEGOTIATIONS.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall provide a briefing to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives regarding the progress of any negotiations described in subsection (b).

(d) **SENSE OF CONGRESS.**—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should—

(1) in the next G7 communique and G20 Leaders' Declaration—

(A) renounce the United States contrarian positions on climate change expressed in the 2018 and 2019 official documents of the G7 and G20 summits;

(B) renew its commitment to climate cooperation and support for fulfilling the goals of the Paris Agreement in the context of the G7 and the G20;

(C) lead efforts to formalize new mechanisms and commitments to climate action cooperation between the heads of state of the G7 and of the G20, which are aimed at—

(i) increasing ambition on greenhouse gas mitigation; and

(ii) strengthening support for climate finance in developing countries, particularly countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(D) challenge the heads of state of the G7 and the G20 to leverage private financing and increase grants and official development assistance in clean energy and sustainable development projects in their own countries and in developing countries, especially countries that are most vulnerable to the effects of climate change; and

(2) initiate the China-focused agenda described in subsection (b) at the G7.

**TITLE III—CLIMATE CHANGE
DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND SUPPORT
SEC. 301. INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE CHANGE ADAPTATION, MITIGATION, AND SECURITY PROGRAM.**

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **CONVENTION.**—The term "Convention" means the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change, done at New York May 9, 1992, and entered into force March 21, 1994.

(2) **MOST VULNERABLE COMMUNITIES AND POPULATIONS.**—The term "most vulnerable communities and populations" means communities and populations that are at risk of substantial adverse effects of climate change and have limited capacity to respond to such effects, including women, impoverished communities, children, indigenous peoples, and formal and informal workers.

(3) **MOST VULNERABLE DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.**—The term "most vulnerable developing countries" means, as determined by the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, developing countries that are at risk of substantial adverse effects of climate change and have limited capacity to respond to such effects, considering the approaches included in any international treaties and agreements.

(4) **PROGRAM.**—The term "Program" means the International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program established pursuant to subsection (c).

(b) **PURPOSE.**—The purpose of this section is to provide authorities for additional, new, current, and ongoing bilateral and regional international development assistance, and, as appropriate, to leverage private resources, in support of host country driven projects, planning, policies, and initiatives designed to improve the ability of host countries—

(1) to primarily produce reliable renewable energy and reduce or mitigate carbon emissions from the power sector while facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to low-cost clean energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities;

(2) to adapt and become more resilient to current and forecasted effects of climate change; and

(3) to employ—
(A) sustainable land use practices that mitigate desertification and reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation; and

(B) agricultural production practices that reduce poverty while improving soil health, protecting water quality, and increasing food security and nutrition.

(c) ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.—The Secretary of State, in coordination with the Secretary of the Treasury and the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, shall establish a program, to be known as the “International Climate Change Adaptation, Mitigation, and Security Program”, to provide bilateral and regional assistance to developing countries for programs, projects, and activities described in subsection (e).

(d) SUPPLEMENT NOT SUPPLANT.—Assistance provided under this section shall be used to supplement, and not to supplant, any other Federal, State, or local resources available to carry out activities that fit the characteristics of the Program.

(e) POLICY.—It shall be the policy of the United States to ensure that the Program provides resources to developing countries, particularly the most vulnerable communities and populations in such countries, to support the development and implementation of programs, projects, and activities that—

(1) reduce greenhouse gas emissions through the integration and deployment of clean energy, which may include transmission, distribution, and interconnections to renewable energy, while facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities;

(2) advance the use of clean energy technologies facing financial or other barriers to widespread deployment that could be addressed through support under the Program to reduce, sequester, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions;

(3) improve the availability, viability, and accessibility of zero emission vehicles, including support for design and development of transportation networks and land use practices that mitigate carbon emissions in the transportation sector;

(4) support building capacities that may include—

(A) developing and implementing methodologies and programs for measuring and quantifying greenhouse gas emissions and verifying emissions mitigation, including building capacities to conduct emissions inventories and meet reporting requirements under the Paris Agreement;

(B) assessing, developing, and implementing technology and policy options for greenhouse gas emissions mitigation and avoidance of future emissions, including sector-based and cross-sector mitigation strategies;

(C) enhancing the technical capacity of regulatory authorities, planning agencies, and related institutions in developing countries to improve the deployment of clean energy technologies and practices, including through increased transparency;

(D) training and instruction regarding the installation and maintenance of renewable energy technologies; and

(E) activities that support the development and implementation of frameworks for intellectual property rights in developing countries;

(5) improve resilience, sustainable economic growth, and adaptation capacities in response to and in spite of the effects of climate change;

(6) promote appropriate job training and access to new job opportunities in new economic sectors and industries that emerge due to the transition from fossil fuel energy to clean energy, with full labor protections

in accordance with international labor standards;

(7) reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience capacities of communities to the effects of climate change, including effects on—

(A) water availability;

(B) agricultural productivity and food security;

(C) flood risk;

(D) coastal resources;

(E) biodiversity;

(F) economic livelihoods;

(G) health and diseases;

(H) housing and shelter; and

(I) human migration;

(8) help countries and communities adapt to changes in the environment through enhanced community planning, preparedness, and growth strategies that take into account current and forecasted regional and localized effects of climate change;

(9) conserve and restore natural resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity threatened by the effects of climate change to ensure such resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity are healthy and continue to provide natural protections from the effects of climate change such as extreme weather;

(10) provide resources, information, scientific data and modeling, innovative best practices, and technical assistance to support vulnerable developing countries and communities adapt their economies, communities, and security planning efforts to the effects of climate change;

(11) promote sustainable and climate-resilient societies, including through improvements to make critical infrastructure less vulnerable to the effects of climate change;

(12) encourage the adoption of policies and measures, including sector-based and cross-sector policies and measures, that substantially reduce, sequester, or avoid greenhouse gas emissions from the domestic energy and transportation sectors of developing countries;

(13) reduce deforestation and land degradation to reduce greenhouse gas emissions and implement sustainable forestry practices;

(14) promote sustainable land use activities, including supporting development planning, design, and construction with respect to transportation systems and land use that incorporates—

(A) multi-modal transportation designs aimed at reducing—

(i) traffic congestion;

(ii) carbon emissions from motor vehicles;

(iii) travel times between high volume destinations within a community;

(iv) motor vehicle crashes and other threats to motorist and pedestrian safety; and

(v) stormwater runoff from impervious road surfaces, motor vehicle conflicts with wildlife, habitat destruction, and other forms of environmental degradation commonly associated with roads and motor vehicles;

(B) multi-use community designs and dense development that account for locating residential development near essential goods, services, and job opportunities to reduce individual reliance on motorized personal transportation;

(C) transportation systems designed to—

(i) maximize the safety of all users;

(ii) improve mobility by advancing equitable access to transportation services among all populations, particularly historically underserved or marginalized populations and communities; and

(iii) reduce the probability of vehicle crashes and pedestrian and bicyclist injuries and mortalities;

(15) promote sustainable agricultural practices that mitigate carbon emissions, con-

serve soil, and improve food and water security of communities;

(16) foster partnerships with private sector entities and nongovernmental international development organizations to assist with developing solutions and economic opportunities that support projects, planning, policies, and initiatives described in subsection (b);

(17) provide technical assistance and strengthen capacities of developing countries to meet the goals of the conditional nationally determined contributions of those countries;

(18) establish investment channels designed to leverage private sector financing in—

(A) clean energy;

(B) sustainable agriculture and natural resource management; and

(C) the transportation sector as described in paragraph (3); and

(19) provide technical assistance and support for non-extractive activities that provide alternative economic growth opportunities while preserving critical habitats and natural carbon sinks.

(f) PROVISION OF ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, and in consultation with the Secretary of the Treasury and, as appropriate, the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Energy, and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall provide assistance under the Program—

(A) in the form of bilateral assistance pursuant to the requirements under subsection (g);

(B) to multilateral funds or international institutions with programs for climate mitigation or adaptation in developing countries consistent with the policy described in subsection (e); or

(C) through a combination of the mechanisms specified in subparagraphs (A) and (B).

(2) LIMITATION.—

(A) CONDITIONAL DISTRIBUTION TO MULTILATERAL FUNDS OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTIONS.—In any fiscal year, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, may provide up to 40 percent of the assistance available to carry out the Program to 1 or more multilateral funds or international institutions that meet the requirements of subparagraph (B).

(B) MULTILATERAL FUND OR INTERNATIONAL INSTITUTION ELIGIBILITY.—A multilateral fund or international institution is eligible to receive assistance under subparagraph (A)—

(i) if—

(I) such fund or institution is established pursuant to—

(aa) the Convention; or

(bb) an agreement negotiated under the Convention; or

(II) the assistance is directed to 1 or more multilateral funds or international development institutions, pursuant to an agreement negotiated under the Convention; and

(ii) if such fund or institution—

(I) specifies the terms and conditions under which the United States is to provide assistance to the fund or institution, and under which the fund or institution is to provide assistance to recipient countries;

(II) ensures that assistance from the United States to the fund or institution and the principal and income of the fund or institution are disbursed only—

(aa) to support projects, planning, policies, and initiatives described in subsection (b);

(bb) consistent with the policy described in subsection (e); and

(cc) in regular consultation with relevant governing bodies of the fund or institution that—

(AA) include representation from countries among the most vulnerable developing countries; and

(BB) provide public access.

(C) CONGRESSIONAL NOTIFICATION.—The Secretary of State, the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development, or the Secretary of the Treasury shall notify the appropriate congressional committees not later than 15 days before providing assistance to a multilateral fund or international institution under this subsection.

(3) LOCAL CONSULTATIONS.—Programs, projects, and activities supported by assistance provided under this subsection shall require consultations with local communities, particularly the most vulnerable communities and populations in such communities, and indigenous peoples in areas in which any programs, projects, or activities are planned to engage such communities and peoples through adequate disclosure of information, public participation, consultation, and the free prior and informed consent of such peoples, including full consideration of the interdependence of vulnerable communities and ecosystems to promote the resilience of local communities.

(g) BILATERAL ASSISTANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Except to the extent inconsistent with this subsection, the administrative authorities under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.) shall apply to the implementation of this subsection to the same extent and in the same manner as such authorities apply to the implementation of such Act in order to provide the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development with the authority to provide assistance to countries, including the most vulnerable developing countries, for programs, projects, and activities consistent with the purposes described in subsection (b) and the policy described in subsection (e).

(2) CONSIDERATIONS.—In carrying out this subsection, the Administrator shall ensure that—

(A) the environmental impact of proposed programs, projects, and activities is assessed through adequate consultation, public participation, and disclosure of information; and

(B) programs, projects, and activities under this subsection—

(i) avoid environmental degradation, to the maximum extent practicable; and

(ii) are aligned, to the maximum extent practicable, with broader development, poverty alleviation, or natural resource management objectives and initiatives in the recipient country.

(3) COMMUNITY ENGAGEMENT.—The Administrator shall seek to ensure that—

(A) local communities, particularly the most vulnerable communities and populations in areas in which any programs, projects, or activities are carried out under this subsection, are engaged in the design, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of such programs, projects, and activities through disclosure of information, public participation, and consultation; and

(B) the needs and interests of the most vulnerable communities and populations are addressed in national or regional climate change adaptation plans.

(4) CONSULTATION AND DISCLOSURE.—For each country receiving assistance under this subsection, the Administrator shall establish a process for consultation with, and disclosure of information to, local, national, and international stakeholders regarding any

programs, projects, or activities carried out under this subsection.

(h) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022 and each fiscal year thereafter.

SEC. 302. UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE GREEN CLIMATE FUND.

(a) UNITED STATES CONTRIBUTIONS.—On behalf of the United States, the Secretary of the Treasury and the Secretary of State—

(1) shall jointly coordinate contributions to the Green Climate Fund; and

(2) may contribute to the Green Climate Fund, in addition to the amounts authorized under subsection (d), additional amounts from other relevant foreign assistance accounts.

(b) LIMITS ON COUNTRY ACCESS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to ensure that—

(1) the Fund does not provide more than approximately 15 percent of the resources of the Fund to any one country;

(2) each country that receives amounts from the Fund submits to the governing body of the Fund an investment plan that describes how—

(A) energy efficiency or production projects will achieve significant and lasting reductions in national-level greenhouse gas emissions; and

(B) adaptation projects will—

(i) provide long-term enhancements to national and food security;

(ii) protect lives and livelihoods;

(iii) ensure lasting access to freshwater resources; or

(iv) advance public health outcomes; and

(3) in the case of a country that is not classified by the World Bank as having a low-income economy, provides for not less than 15 percent of the total cost of the plan to be contributed from the public funds of the country.

(c) PROJECT AND PROGRAM REQUIREMENTS.—The Secretary of the Treasury, in consultation with the Secretary of State, shall use the voice, vote, and influence of the United States to ensure that support from the Fund is used exclusively to support the deployment by developing countries of clean energy technologies and the development of projects that improve the resilience capacities and ability of countries to adapt to the effects of climate change, including, as appropriate, through the provision of technical support or support for policy or institutional reforms.

(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to the amounts authorized to be appropriated under section 301(h), there are authorized to be appropriated for contributions to the Green Climate Fund—

(1) \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2022;

(2) \$4,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2023;

(3) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2024; and

(4) \$2,000,000,000 for fiscal year 2025.

(e) REPORT TO CONGRESS.—Not later than 240 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Secretary of the Treasury shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report describing—

(1) the purpose of and progress on each project supported by the Fund; and

(2) how each such project furthers the investment plan described in subsection (b)(2) of each country in which the project is implemented.

SEC. 303. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON UNITED STATES ENGAGEMENTS AT THE WORLD ECONOMIC FORUM.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress finds the following:

(1) In 2020, the World Economic Forum (referred to in this section as the “WEF”) in

Davos, Switzerland, put addressing the climate crisis at the top of its agenda. World and business leaders reinforced the need for urgent action to avoid human destruction from the clear and present climate crisis.

(2) At the 2020 annual meeting of the WEF, the President, accompanied by the Secretary of the Treasury, delivered a contrarian message, claiming, “To embrace the possibilities of tomorrow, we must reject the perennial prophets of doom and their predictions of the apocalypse.”

(3) Nevertheless, the WEF, without support from the United States, announced climate initiatives on sustainable markets, reaching carbon neutrality on insurance investment portfolios, decarbonizing the automotive sector through circular economies, and transitioning to healthier, more sustainable food systems.

(4) The one initiative the United States did agree to join is the Trillion Tree Campaign, which aims to grow, restore, and conserve 1 trillion trees by 2030.

(5) The President’s dismissal of the threat climate change poses to economic growth and global security has isolated the United States from the 117 represented countries at the WEF that support its climate agenda and are accelerating their national commitments in other international fora to address climate change.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that at the 2021 WEF, or at an appropriate time and venue as early as possible in 2021—

(1) the Secretary of State should commit to restoring diplomatic engagement and cooperation on mobilizing investment and support for growing the global economy while achieving net zero global greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

(2) the Secretary of the Treasury should announce—

(A) the intention of the United States Government to divest from future investment and support for fossil fuel energy and extraction projects in developing countries; and

(B) the establishment of an international clean energy private finance fund to support the development of large-scale renewable energy projects in middle income countries;

(3) the Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation should commit to—

(A) divesting the United States International Development Finance Corporation from future fossil fuel energy development and extraction projects; and

(B) investing a significant portion of the annual portfolio of the United States International Development Finance Corporation in clean energy development projects; and

(4) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development should commit to prioritizing building resilience and adaption capacities in the most climate-vulnerable countries.

SEC. 304. CLEAN ENERGY AND THE UNITED STATES INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT FINANCE CORPORATION.

(a) IN GENERAL.—Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671) is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(j) CLEAN ENERGY.—

“(1) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Chief Executive Officer of the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a report—

“(A) highlighting the substantial commitment of the Corporation to invest in renewable and other clean energy technologies;

“(B) setting forth—

“(i) a plan to significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects

and subprojects within the Corporation's portfolio, as required by paragraph (2); and

“(ii) a plan for facilitating the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to clean, low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities, as required by paragraph (3); and

“(C) detailing the efforts of the Corporation to reduce all greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation's portfolio, including a full accounting of the reductions, achieved in accordance with the plan described in paragraph (2).

“(2) PLAN TO REDUCE GREENHOUSE GAS EMISSIONS.—

“(A) IN GENERAL.—Not later than one year after the date of the enactment of this subsection, the Corporation shall submit to the appropriate congressional committees a climate change mitigation plan to reduce greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation's portfolio by, relative to October 1, 2020—

“(i) not less than 60 percent by 2025; and

“(ii) 100 percent by 2028.

“(B) IMPLEMENTATION.—The Corporation shall begin implementation of the plan required by subparagraph (A) not later than 20 days after submitting the plan to the appropriate congressional committees.

“(C) REPORT REQUIRED.—Not later than one year after the date on which the Corporation begins implementation under subparagraph (B) of the plan required by subparagraph (A), and every 2 years thereafter until the Corporation achieves the goal of reducing greenhouse gas emissions associated with projects and subprojects within the Corporation's portfolio by 100 percent, the Corporation shall submit a report to the appropriate congressional committees on the Corporation's progress and efforts to achieve the greenhouse gas emissions reductions goals of the plan.

“(3) CLEAN ELECTRICITY TRANSITION.—The Corporation shall seek, in providing support for projects under title II, to facilitate the transition in key global markets from electricity generated from fossil fuel power to clean, low-cost renewable energy sources, in a manner that is equitable for workers and communities, by—

“(A) enabling the phase-out of uneconomic coal-fired power plants that are shielded from competition from renewable energy sources by noncompetitive market structures such as long-term contracts and regulated tariffs;

“(B) using low-cost capital—

“(i) to refinance existing debt on uneconomic coal-fired power plants;

“(ii) to reinvest in renewable energy sources to replace such plants;

“(iii) to support a just transition to renewable energy for affected workers and communities by generating decent jobs that adhere to international labor standards all along the renewable energy supply chain; and

“(iv) to support the upgrading of jobs and skills as well as job creation and improved productivity in more labor-intensive industries that offer employment opportunities on a wide scale; and

“(C) considering—

“(i) competitive approaches, like reverse auctions, to ensure the best value in investing in renewable energy sources; and

“(ii) partnering, as appropriate, with—

“(I) the United States Agency for International Development; and

“(II) the Department of the Treasury with respect to efforts by multilateral development banks (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c))).”

(b) CONFORMING REPEAL.—Section 7079(b) of the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2010 (Public Law 111-117; 123 Stat. 3396) is amended by striking “comment:” and all that follows and inserting “comment.”

SEC. 305. CONSISTENCY IN UNITED STATES POLICY ON DEVELOPMENT FINANCE AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that the strength and credibility of United States climate policy is undermined when there is a lack of consistency between the policies and practices implemented at the United States International Development Finance Corporation and the policies and practices the Corporation promotes at the international financial institutions.

(b) ENHANCING TRANSPARENCY AT MULTILATERAL DEVELOPMENT BANKS.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States to advocate for enhancing transparency by providing sufficient and adequate information to facilitate independent verification of the climate finance reporting of the institution.

(c) POLICY ALIGNMENT.—The Secretary of the Treasury shall instruct the United States executive director of each international financial institution to use the voice and vote of the United States—

(1) to challenge policy-based loans or lending through financial intermediaries that directly or indirectly supports fossil fuels; and

(2) to seek to ensure that all loans, grants, policies, and strategies of the institution are aligned with the objectives of the Paris Agreement.

(d) PROHIBITION.—Section 1451 of the Better Utilization of Investments Leading to Development Act of 2018 (22 U.S.C. 9671), as amended by section 304, is further amended by adding at the end the following:

“(k) CONSISTENCY IN ENVIRONMENTAL AND SOCIAL POLICIES.—The Corporation may not adopt any environmental or social policy that provides less protection for communities and the environment than the level of protection required under title XIII of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262m et seq.).”

(e) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTION DEFINED.—In this section, the term “international financial institution” has the meaning given that term in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c)).

TITLE IV—CLEAN ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND INTERNATIONAL DEVELOPMENT

SEC. 401. ENERGY DIPLOMACY AND SECURITY WITHIN THE DEPARTMENT OF STATE.

(a) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY RESOURCES.—Section 1(c) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956 (22 U.S.C. 2651a(c)) is amended—

(1) by redesignating paragraph (4) as paragraph (5); and

(2) by inserting after paragraph (3) the following:

“(4) ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE FOR ENERGY RESOURCES.—

“(A) AUTHORIZATION FOR ASSISTANT SECRETARY.—Subject to the numerical limitation specified in paragraph (1), there is authorized to be established in the Department of State an Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources.

“(B) PERSONNEL.—The Secretary of State, in collaboration with the Assistant Secretary of State for Energy Resources, and in accordance with the authorization under subparagraph (A), shall ensure that sufficient personnel are dedicated to energy matters within the Bureau of Energy Resources in order—

“(i) to formulate and implement international policies, in coordination with the Secretary of Energy, as appropriate, aimed at protecting and advancing United States energy security interests and international energy development and access to electricity, in accordance with the United Nations sustainable development goals in ways that ensure responsible development of global energy resources by effectively managing United States bilateral and multilateral relations;

“(ii) to ensure that analyses of public health and national security implications of global energy and environmental developments are reflected in the decision-making process within the Department of State;

“(iii) to incorporate energy security and clean energy development priorities into the activities of the Department related to matters involving global energy development, accounting for the effects global energy development has on—

“(I) United States national security;

“(II) quality of life and public health of people, households, and communities, particularly vulnerable and underserved populations affected by, or proximate to, energy development, transmission, and distribution projects;

“(III) United States economic interests;

“(IV) emissions of greenhouse gases that contribute to global climate change; and

“(V) local and regional land use, air and water quality, and risks to public health of communities described in subclause (II);

“(iv) to coordinate energy activities within the Department of State and with relevant Federal departments and agencies;

“(v) to work internationally—

“(I) to support socially and environmentally responsible development of energy resources that mitigate carbon emissions, and the distribution of such resources for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners for their energy security, climate security, and economic development needs;

“(II) to promote—

“(aa) the availability of clean energy technologies, including carbon capture and storage;

“(bb) energy sector innovation;

“(cc) well-functioning global markets for clean energy resources and technologies;

“(dd) expertise for the benefit of the United States and United States allies and trading partners;

“(III) to resolve international disputes regarding the exploration, development, production, or distribution of energy resources;

“(IV) to support the economic, security, and commercial interests of United States persons operating in the energy markets of foreign countries; and

“(V) to support and coordinate international efforts—

“(aa) to alleviate energy poverty;

“(bb) to protect vulnerable, exploited, and underserved populations that are affected or displaced by energy development projects;

“(cc) to account for and mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from energy development projects;

“(dd) to promote fair labor practices, labor protections for workers, and training for and access to good-paying jobs within the clean energy sector; and

“(ee) to increase access to clean energy for vulnerable and underserved communities;

“(vi) to lead the United States commitment to the Extractive Industries Transparency Initiative; and

“(vii) to coordinate energy security and climate security and other relevant functions within the Department of State undertaken as of the date of the enactment of this paragraph by—

“(I) the Bureau of Economic and Business Affairs;

“(II) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs; and

“(III) other offices within the Department of State.”.

(b) **ELIMINATION OF AUTHORITY FOR COORDINATOR FOR INTERNATIONAL ENERGY AFFAIRS.**—Section 931 of the Energy Independence and Security Act of 2007 (42 U.S.C. 17371) is amended—

(1) by striking subsections (a) and (b); and
(2) by redesignating subsections (c) and (d) as subsections (a) and (b), respectively.

SEC. 402. DEPARTMENT OF STATE PRIMACY FOR ENERGY DIPLOMACY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—The Department of State shall have primacy for all United States diplomatic engagements with regard to international energy affairs.

(b) **INTERAGENCY COORDINATION.**—The Secretary of State, as appropriate, shall coordinate with and use the technical expertise and resources of the Department of Energy, the Environmental Protection Agency, the Department of the Interior, and other relevant Federal agencies and departments in the planning and execution of United States foreign policy goals and objectives related to international energy affairs.

SEC. 403. REPORTS ON UNITED STATES PARTICIPATION IN MISSION INNOVATION AND THE CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL.

(a) **MISSION INNOVATION.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the President shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the scope and nature of United States participation in Mission Innovation, including—

(1) who in the United States Government serves as the lead for Mission Innovation;

(2) what objectives the United States has used Mission Innovation to advance;

(3) what partnerships the United States has established through Mission Innovation and the date on which any partnerships the United States brokered were announced;

(4) how the United States has leveraged Mission Innovation to engage in technology transfer arrangements with foreign governments;

(5) how the United States has attracted private sector entities to contribute to and participate in Mission Innovation;

(6) the total amount of funding provided by the United States Government to Mission Innovation each year since the establishment of Mission Innovation; and

(7) the outline of a strategic engagement plan and objectives for delivering new energy technology innovation outcomes through Mission Innovation.

(b) **CLEAN ENERGY MINISTERIAL.**—Not later than 90 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of Energy shall submit to the appropriate committees of Congress a report that details the scope and nature of United States participation in the Clean Energy Ministerial, including—

(1) the number of Clean Energy Ministerial meetings that the Secretary of Energy has participated in;

(2) the diplomatic objectives, including with respect to energy technologies and private sector entities, that the United States has aimed to promote within the Clean Energy Ministerial;

(3) the consensus initiatives, if any, among the chiefs of party to the Clean Energy Ministerial that the United States objected to, refused to join, or refrained from contributing to the development of; and

(4) a plan for restoring United States leadership in using the Clean Energy Ministerial to promote the development and deployment

of renewable energy and carbon mitigation technologies from the energy and transportation sectors.

(c) **APPROPRIATE COMMITTEES OF CONGRESS.**—In this section, the term “appropriate committees of Congress” means—

(1) the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate;

(2) the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources of the Senate;

(3) the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives; and

(4) the Committee on Energy and Commerce of the House of Representatives.

SEC. 404. REDUCED DEFORESTATION.

(a) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **ADMINISTRATOR.**—Except as otherwise expressly provided, the term “Administrator” means the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development.

(2) **DEFORESTATION.**—The term “deforestation” means a change in land use from a forest (including peatlands) to any other land use.

(3) **DEVELOPING COUNTRY.**—The term “developing country” means a country eligible to receive official development assistance according to the income guidelines of the Development Assistance Committee of the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development.

(4) **EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS.**—The term “emissions reductions” means greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved from reduced or avoided deforestation under this section.

(5) **FOREST.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The term “forest” means a terrestrial ecosystem, including wetland forests, comprised of native tree species generated and maintained primarily through natural ecological and evolutionary processes.

(B) **EXCLUSION.**—The term “forest” does not include plantations, such as crops of trees planted by humans primarily for the purposes of harvesting.

(6) **FOREST DEGRADATION.**—The term “forest degradation” is any reduction in the carbon stock of a forest due to the effects of human land-use activities, including such land-use activities on peatlands.

(7) **HUMAN RIGHTS DEFENDER.**—The term “human rights defender” means an individual, group, or association that peacefully contributes to the effective elimination of all violations of human rights and fundamental freedoms of peoples and individuals, including in relation to mass, flagrant, or systematic such violations, such as those resulting from apartheid, all forms of racial discrimination, colonialism, foreign domination or occupation, aggression or threats to national sovereignty, national unity, or territorial integrity, and the refusal to recognize the right of peoples to self-determination and the right of every people to exercise full sovereignty over its wealth and natural resources.

(8) **INTACT FOREST.**—The term “intact forest” means an unbroken expanse of natural ecosystems within the global extent of forest cover that—

(A) covers an area of at least 500 square kilometers and is at least 10 kilometers in each direction; and

(B) contains forest and non-forest ecosystems minimally influenced by human economic activity and large enough that all native biodiversity, including viable populations of wide-ranging species, could be maintained.

(9) **LEAKAGE.**—The term “leakage” means the unexpected loss of anticipated carbon benefits due to the displacement of activities in a project area to areas outside the project, resulting in carbon emissions.

(10) **LEAKAGE PREVENTION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “leakage prevention activities” means activities in developing countries that are directed at preserving existing forest carbon stocks, including forested wetlands and peatlands that might, absent such activities, be lost through leakage.

(11) **NATIONAL DEFORESTATION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “national deforestation reduction activities” means activities in developing countries that reduce a quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation that is calculated by measuring actual emissions against a national deforestation baseline established pursuant to subparagraphs (B) and (C) of subsection (d)(4).

(12) **SUBNATIONAL DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.**—The term “subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities” means activities in developing countries that reduce a quantity of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation and forest degradation that is calculated by measuring actual emissions using an appropriate baseline, or an alternative determined under subsection (d)(4)(B)(ii), established by the Administrator at the State or provincial level.

(b) **PURPOSES.**—The purposes of this section are to provide United States assistance to developing countries to develop, implement, and improve actions that reduce deforestation and forest degradation or conserve or restore forest ecosystems—

(1) to protect the value of forest ecosystems with respect to permanent carbon capture and sequestration in a manner in which such value is measurable, reportable, and verifiable; and

(2) in a manner that—

(A) is consistent with and enhances the implementation of complementary United States policies that support the good governance of forests, biodiversity conservation, and environmentally sustainable development;

(B) takes into consideration the views and participation of local communities and most vulnerable communities and populations (as defined in section 301(a)), particularly forest-dependent communities; and

(C) incorporates the right to free prior and informed consent of indigenous peoples.

(c) **EMISSIONS REDUCTIONS THROUGH REDUCED DEFORESTATION.**—

(1) **ESTABLISHMENT OF PROGRAM.**—Not later than 1 year after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency, the Secretary of Agriculture, and the head of any other appropriate agency, shall establish a program to provide assistance to reduce greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in developing countries, in accordance with this section.

(2) **OBJECTIVES.**—The objectives of the program established under paragraph (1) shall be—

(A) to achieve—

(i) emissions reductions of at least 7,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent in 2025;

(ii) cumulative emissions reductions of at least 11,000,000,000 tons of carbon dioxide equivalent by December 31, 2030; and

(iii) additional emissions reductions in subsequent years;

(B) to build capacity to reduce deforestation at a national level in developing countries experiencing deforestation, which may include—

(i) preparing developing countries to participate in international markets for international offset credits for reduced emissions from deforestation; and

(ii) supporting the development of domestic policy frameworks to ensure effective, efficient, and equitable benefit-sharing of the proceeds of such credits issued by national and subnational governments;

(C) to preserve forest carbon stocks in countries where such forest carbon may be vulnerable to leakage, particularly in developing countries with largely intact native forests;

(D) to build the scientific knowledge and institutional capacity to help developing countries—

(i) monitor the effects of climate change on their forests;

(ii) develop and implement strategies to conserve their forests; and

(iii) support forest-dependent communities adapt to climate change; and

(E) to the extent practicable, to reduce deforestation in ways that reduce the vulnerability and increase the resilience to climate effects for forests and forest-dependent communities.

(d) REQUIREMENTS FOR INTERNATIONAL DEFORESTATION REDUCTION PROGRAM.—

(1) ELIGIBLE COUNTRIES.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), the Administrator may provide assistance under this section only with respect to a developing country that—

(i) the Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, determines—

(I) is experiencing deforestation or forest degradation; or

(II) has standing forest carbon stocks that may be at risk of deforestation or degradation;

(ii) has the legal regimes, standards, and safeguards to ensure that the rights and interests of indigenous peoples and forest-dependent communities are protected in accordance with the standards established under paragraph (4); and

(iii) has entered into a bilateral or multilateral agreement or arrangement with the United States, or is part of an international program supported by the United States to prevent deforestation, that establishes the conditions of participation by the country in the program established under this section, which shall include an agreement to meet the standards established under paragraph (4) for the activities to which such standards apply.

(B) EXCEPTION.—A developing country that does not meet the requirement described in paragraph (1)(A)(ii) may receive assistance under this section for the purpose of building capacity to meet such requirement.

(2) AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—Subject to the requirements of this section, in providing assistance under this section, the Administrator may support activities to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(2), including activities such as—

(A) national deforestation reduction activities;

(B) subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities, including pilot activities, policies, and measures that reduce greenhouse gas emissions and are subject to significant uncertainty;

(C) activities to measure, monitor, and verify deforestation, avoided deforestation, and rates of deforestation, including, if applicable, spatially explicit land use plans that identify intact and primary forest areas and managed forest areas;

(D) leakage prevention activities;

(E) the development and implementation of measurement, monitoring, reporting, and verification capacities and governance structures, including legal regimes, standards, processes, and safeguards, as established under paragraph (4), to enable a country to

quantify emissions reductions for purposes of purchasing or trading subnational emissions reduction credits in carbon markets;

(F) the identification of, and actions to address, the drivers of land use emissions;

(G) programs that would exclude from the United States illegally harvested timber or products made from illegally harvested timber, in accordance with and consistent with the objectives of the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.);

(H) the development and strengthening of governance capacities to reduce deforestation and other land use emissions and to combat illegal logging and associated trade, including the development of systems for independent monitoring of the efficacy of forest law enforcement and increased enforcement cooperation, including joint efforts with Federal agencies, to enforce the Lacey Act Amendments of 1981 (16 U.S.C. 3371 et seq.);

(I) the provision of incentives for policy reforms to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(2);

(J) the development of pilot projects—

(i) to examine where mitigation and adaptation activities in forest ecosystems coincide; and

(ii) to explore means for enhancing the resilience of forest ecosystems and forest-dependent communities;

(K) the promotion of mechanisms to deliver resources for local action and to address the needs, rights, interests, and participation of local and indigenous communities; and

(L) monitoring and evaluation of the results of the activities conducted under this section.

(3) MECHANISMS.—The Administrator shall apply the administrative authorities under the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2151 et seq.), except to the extent inconsistent with the provisions of this section, to the same extent and in the same manner as such authorities apply to the implementation of such Act in order to support activities to achieve the objectives described in subsection (c)(2) by—

(A) developing and implementing programs and project-level activities that achieve such objectives;

(B) to the extent practicable, giving priority in any review process to activities under paragraph (2)(A); and

(C) as appropriate, considering multi-year funding arrangements in carrying out the purposes of this section.

(4) STANDARDS.—The Administrator, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, shall establish program standards that—

(A) ensure that emissions reductions achieved through supported activities—

(i) are additional, measurable, verifiable, and monitored;

(ii) account for leakage, uncertainty, and permanence; and

(iii) at a minimum, meet the standards established under the emissions unit criteria of the Carbon Offsetting and Reduction Scheme for International Aviation (CORSA) developed by the International Civil Aviation Organization (ICAO);

(B) require—

(i) the establishment of a national deforestation baseline for each country with national deforestation reduction activities that is used to account for reductions achieved from such activities; or

(ii) if a developing country has established policies and taken measures to reduce emissions from disturbed peatlands, deforestation, or forest degradation, but has not established a national baseline, the provision of a credible, transparent, accurate, and con-

servative alternative for quantifying emissions;

(C) provide that each national deforestation baseline established under subparagraph (B)(i)—

(i) is national, or subnational on an interim basis, in scope; and

(ii) is consistent with nationally appropriate mitigation commitments or actions with respect to deforestation, taking into consideration—

(I) the average annual historical deforestation rates of the country during a period of at least 5 years; and

(II) the applicable drivers of deforestation and other factors to ensure additionality;

(iii) establishes a trajectory that would result in zero net deforestation by not later than 20 years after the date on which the baseline is established;

(iv) is adjusted over time to account for changing national circumstances; and

(v) is designed to account for all significant sources of greenhouse gas emissions from deforestation in the country;

(D) with respect to assistance provided for activities described in subparagraph (A) or (B) of paragraph (2), require emissions reductions to be achieved and verified before the provision of any assistance under this section;

(E) with respect to accounting for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities that lack the standardized or precise measurement and monitoring techniques needed for a full accounting of changes in emissions or baselines, or are subject to other sources of uncertainty, apply a conservative discount factor to reflect the uncertainty regarding the levels of reductions achieved;

(F) ensure that activities under this section are designed, carried out, and managed—

(i) using forest management practices that, in an open and transparent process—

(I) improve the livelihoods of forest communities in a manner that promotes the maintenance of intact forests, protects associated biodiversity, and restores native forest species and ecosystems while avoiding the introduction of invasive nonnative species;

(II) maintain natural biodiversity, resilience, and carbon storage capacity of forests;

(III) to the extent practicable, do not adversely affect the permanence of forest carbon stocks or emissions reductions;

(IV) include broad stakeholder participation and the free prior and informed consent of affected indigenous peoples; and

(V) take into account the needs and interests of local communities, forest-dependent communities, indigenous peoples, and vulnerable social groups;

(ii) in consultation with, and with the full and effective participation of, local communities, indigenous peoples, and forest-dependent communities in affected areas, as partners and primary stakeholders, before and during the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities; and

(iii) with equitable sharing of profits and benefits derived from the activities with local communities, indigenous peoples, and forest-dependent communities; and

(G) with respect to assistance for all activities under this section, seek to ensure the establishment and enforcement of legal regimes, standards, processes, and safeguards by the country in which the activities are conducted, as a condition of such assistance or as a proposed activity for which such assistance may be provided, which—

(i) protect the rights and interests of local communities, indigenous peoples, forest-dependent communities, human rights defenders, and vulnerable social groups; and

(ii) promote consultations with local communities, indigenous peoples, and forest-dependent communities in affected areas, as partners and primary stakeholders, before and during the design, planning, implementation, monitoring, and evaluation of activities under this section; and

(iii) ensure equitable sharing of profits and benefits from incentives for emissions reductions or leakage prevention with local communities, indigenous peoples, and forest-dependent communities.

(5) SCOPE.—

(A) REDUCED EMISSIONS.—The Administrator shall include reduced emissions from forest degradation and disturbance of peatlands within the scope of activities under this section.

(B) EXPANSION OF AUTHORIZED ACTIVITIES.—If the Administrator determines, in consultation with the Administrator of the Environmental Protection Agency and the Secretary of Agriculture, that sufficient methodologies and technical capacities exist to measure, monitor, and account for the emissions referred to in subparagraph (A), the Administrator may expand the authorized activities under this section, as appropriate, to include reduced soil carbon-derived emissions associated with deforestation and degradation of forested wetlands and peatlands, consistent with a comprehensive approach to maintaining and enhancing forests, increasing climate resiliency, reducing emissions, and increasing removals of greenhouse gases.

(6) ACCOUNTING.—The Administrator shall use a publicly accessible registry to account for and register the emissions reductions achieved through assistance provided under this section each year, after appropriately discounting for uncertainty and other relevant factors as required by the standards established under paragraph (4).

(7) INTERNATIONAL DEFORESTATION REDUCTION PROGRAM INSURANCE ACCOUNT FOR NON-COMPLETION OR REVERSAL.—In furtherance of the objectives described in subsection (c)(2), the Administrator shall develop and implement a program that—

(A) addresses noncompletion or reversal with respect to any greenhouse gas emissions that were not, or are no longer, sequestered; and

(B) may include a mechanism to hold in reserve a portion of the amount allocated for projects to support the program.

(8) EXTENSION OF ASSISTANCE.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Administrator may extend, for an additional 5 years, the period during which assistance is authorized for activities supported by assistance under this section, if the Administrator determines that—

(i) the country in which the activities are conducted is making substantial progress toward adopting and implementing a program to achieve reductions in deforestation measured against a national baseline;

(ii) the greenhouse gas emissions reductions achieved as a result of the activities are not resulting in significant leakage;

(iii) such greenhouse gas emissions reductions are being appropriately discounted to account for any leakage that is occurring; and

(iv) such extension would further advance or ensure achievement of the objectives of the activities.

(B) ASSISTANCE FOR SUBNATIONAL DEFORESTATION AND FOREST DEGRADATION REDUCTION ACTIVITIES.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—If the Administrator extends the period during which assistance is authorized for activities under subparagraph

(A), the Administrator shall determine, based on the criteria specified that subparagraph, whether such assistance should include assistance for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities.

(ii) CONTINUED ASSISTANCE.—The Administrator may extend the period during which assistance is authorized for subnational deforestation and forest degradation reduction activities beyond the 5-year period described in subparagraph (A) in order to further the objectives described in subparagraph (B) or (C) of subsection (c)(2).

(9) COORDINATION WITH FOREIGN ASSISTANCE.—Subject to the direction of the President, the Administrator shall, to the extent practicable and consistent with the objectives described in subsection (c)(2), seek to align activities under this section with broader development, poverty alleviation, or natural resource management objectives and initiatives in countries receiving assistance under this section.

(10) ASSISTANCE AS SUPPLEMENT.—The provision of assistance for activities under this section shall be used to supplement, and not to supplant, any other Federal, State, or local support available to carry out activities under this section.

(11) FUNDING LIMITATION.—Of the funds made available to carry out this section in any fiscal year, not more than 7 percent may be used for the administrative expenses of the United States Agency for International Development in support of activities described in paragraph (2). Such amount shall be in addition to other amounts otherwise available for such purposes.

(12) INDONESIA.—Not less than 10 percent of the funds made available in any fiscal year to carry out this section shall be used for activities described in paragraph (2) in Indonesia.

(e) LEGAL EFFECT.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—Nothing in this section may be construed to supersede, limit, or otherwise affect any restriction imposed by Federal law (including regulations) on any interaction between an entity located in the United States and an entity located in a foreign country.

(2) ROLE OF THE SECRETARY OF STATE.—Nothing in this section may be construed to affect the role of the Secretary of State or the responsibilities of the Secretary under section 622(c) of the Foreign Assistance Act of 1961 (22 U.S.C. 2382(c)).

(f) INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL INSTITUTIONS.—The President shall direct the United States representatives to the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund, and other international financial institutions (as defined in section 1701(c) of the International Financial Institutions Act (22 U.S.C. 262r(c))) to prioritize efforts to combat deforestation.

TITLE V—BILATERAL AND REGIONAL MULTILATERAL CLIMATE DIPLOMACY AND COOPERATION

SEC. 501. NORTH AMERICAN STRATEGY.

(a) IN GENERAL.—The President shall develop a strategy to seek opportunities for trilateral cooperation between the United States, Mexico, and Canada—

(1) to support increased ambition on reducing greenhouse gas emissions among these countries; and

(2) to advance collaboration on the development and promotion of shared climate action goals and interests within multilateral bodies and conferences, including aligning, to the extent possible, the voices, votes, and influence, consistent with the broad foreign policy goals of the United States, to address issues related to climate change and clean energy development.

(b) ELEMENTS AND PRIORITIES.—The strategy described in subsection (a) shall include efforts—

(1) to ensure that potential projects and investments pursued under the United States-Mexico-Canada Agreement—

(A) are compatible with long-term climate goals and the collective targets established under the Paris Agreement; and

(B) meet all environmental and social responsibility standards required under the USMCA;

(2) to explore shared and common interests and cooperative actions to promote clean energy development, climate security, and climate change mitigation strategies within institutions (such as the UNFCCC, the Montreal Protocol, the Green Climate Fund, the Group of Twenty and the United Nations) with programs, initiatives and actions to address the climate crisis that may include—

(A) providing support in developing mid-century low-carbon strategies;

(B) extending coal finance restrictions to coal mining operations; and

(C) strengthening and expanding carbon pricing by—

(i) considering the cost of carbon in long-term decision making;

(ii) supporting the development of national or subnational systems;

(iii) sharing technical expertise; and

(iv) making efforts to align pricing instruments where feasible;

(3) to commit to a methane reduction goal and cooperate to reduce black carbon and to recommit to the formal agreement reached at the June 2016 North American Leaders Summit in Ottawa to reduce methane emissions from the oil and gas sector by 40 to 45 percent by 2025, and to work to develop a new, more ambitious target for 2030;

(4) develop and implement a North American strategy for sustainable transportation—

(A) to encourage State and provincial leaders to negotiate interstate and interprovincial sustainable transportation agreements between Mexican, American, and Canadian jurisdictions;

(B) to expand the West Coast Electric Highway between Canada, the United States, and Mexico; and

(C) to work with automakers to standardize charging infrastructure;

(5) develop and implement coordinated forest and land use strategies to further contribute to emissions mitigation through the adoption of practices and policies that increase carbon sequestration in new and existing forests and reduce emissions from forest conversion to other land uses;

(6) strengthen resilience and equity among low-income and indigenous communities; and

(7) engage international partners in an existing multilateral forum or, if necessary, establish a new multilateral forum to improve global cooperation by—

(A) encouraging the adoption of an emissions reduction target by the International Maritime Organization; and

(B) collaborating with the International Civil Aviation Organization to establish a market-based measure to reduce aviation emissions.

SEC. 502. ACCOUNTABILITY AND COOPERATION WITH CHINA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) successful mitigation of global greenhouse gas emissions to sufficiently avoid the worst forecasted effects of climate change requires global cooperation and coordination of efforts;

(2) all other countries look towards the United States and China, as the world's largest emitters and largest economies, for leadership by example to effectively mitigate

greenhouse gas emissions, develop and deploy energy generation technologies, and integrate sustainable adaptation solutions to the inevitable effects of climate change;

(3) given the volume of China's greenhouse gas emissions and the scientific imperative to swiftly reduce global greenhouse gas emissions to net-zero emissions around 2050, China should—

(A) revise its long-term pledge;

(B) seek to immediately peak its emissions;

(C) begin reducing its greenhouse gas emissions significantly to meet a more ambitious long-term 2050 reductions target; and

(D) update its nationally determined contribution along a trajectory that aligns with achieving a more ambitious net-zero by 2050 emissions target;

(4) it is in the United States' national interest to prioritize climate change in its bilateral engagement with China, as global climate risks cannot be mitigated without a significant reduction in Chinese domestic and overseas emissions;

(5) the United States and China, to the extent practicable, should coordinate on making and delivering ambitious pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions, with aspirations towards achieving net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050;

(6) the United States and its allies should work together, using diplomatic and economic tools, to hold China accountable for any failure by China—

(A) to increase ambition in its 2030 nationally determined contribution, in line with net zero greenhouse gas emissions by 2050 before the 26th Conference of the Parties to the UNFCCC scheduled for November 2021 and meeting a more ambitious nationally determined contribution;

(B) to work faithfully to uphold the principles, goals, and rules of the Paris Agreement;

(C) to avoid and prohibit efforts to undermine or devolve the Paris Agreement's rule or underlying framework, particularly within areas of accountability transparency, and shared responsibility among all parties;

(D) to eliminate greenhouse gas intensive projects from China's Belt and Road Initiative and other overseas investments, including—

(i) working with allies and partners of the United States to eliminate support for coal power production projects in China's Belt and Road Initiative;

(ii) providing financing and project support for cleaner and less risky alternatives; and

(iii) undertaking "parallel initiatives" to enhance capacity building programs and overseas sustainable investment criteria, including in areas such as integrated energy planning, power sector reform, just transition, distributed generation, procurement, transparency, and standards to support low-emissions growth in developing countries; and

(E) to phase out existing coal power plants and reduce net coal power production;

(7) the United States should pursue confidence-building opportunities for the United States and China to undertake "parallel initiatives" on clean energy research, development, finance, and deployment, including through economic and stimulus measures with clear, mutually agreed upon rules and policies to protect intellectual property, ensure equitable, nonpunitive provision of support, and verify implementation, which would provide catalytic progress towards delivering a global clean energy transformation that benefits all people; and

(8) the United States should pursue cooperative initiatives to shift toward the import and consummation of forest and agricultural

commodities that are produced in a manner that does not contribute to deforestation.

SEC. 503. UNITED STATES AND EUROPEAN UNION COOPERATION ON CLIMATE FINANCE FOR DEVELOPING COUNTRIES.

(a) PURPOSE.—The purpose of this section is—

(1) to restore the historic alliance between the United States and countries of the European Union on climate action; and

(2) to renew the United States' commitment to advancing global cooperation on addressing climate change and achieving the goals of the Paris Agreement.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING THE UNITED STATES-EUROPEAN UNION SECURITY AND DEVELOPMENT DIALOGUE.—It is the sense of Congress that the United States should restart the United States-European Union Security and Development Dialogue to focus specifically on climate action, climate security, and clean energy cooperation, including—

(1) partnering and formulating strategies to counter efforts to weaken or change critical elements of the implementation of the Paris Agreement that would disadvantage the United States or the European Union;

(2) building coalitions of like-minded parties committed to achieving large reductions in greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement and putting pressure on all parties to do the same;

(3) coordination on joint strategies to promote climate action by the People's Republic of China, and deter Chinese domestic and international investment in high carbon infrastructure;

(4) finding opportunities to engage and facilitate private sector collaboration regarding clean energy and innovations on greenhouse gas emissions reductions;

(5) exploring the creation of United States-European Union clean energy and climate adaptation, development, and finance mechanisms to support and leverage private sector investment in projects and activities to improve developing countries' resilience capacities, ability to adapt and thrive in the face of the effects of climate change and clean energy development;

(6) scientific research, modeling, forecasting, and data collaboration to improve global understanding and preparation for the compounding effects of climate change; and

(7) intelligence sharing.

(c) DEVELOPMENT FINANCE COOPERATION.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The President should seek opportunities to partner with European Development Finance Institutions to develop financing tools based on shared development finance criteria and mechanisms to support investments in developing countries that support low carbon economic development and promote climate change resiliency and adaptation

(2) PARTNERSHIP FUND.—The Chief Executive Officer of the United States International Development Finance Corporation should partner with the European Bank for Reconstruction and Development to create a fund or multilateral financing mechanism to support clean energy development and climate change adaptation and resilience activities in developing countries.

(3) RESPONSE TO THE PEOPLE'S REPUBLIC OF CHINA'S BELT AND ROAD INITIATIVE.—The President shall work with European counterparts to establish a formal United States-European Commission Working Group to develop a comprehensive strategy to respond to the Belt and Road Initiative established by the Government of the People's Republic of China. United States participants in this proposed working group shall seek to integrate existing efforts into the strategy, including—

(A) the European Union Strategy on Connecting Europe and Asia;

(B) the Three Seas Initiative;

(C) the Blue Dot Network among the United States, Japan, and Australia;

(D) a European Union-Japan initiative that has leveraged \$65,000,000,000 for infrastructure projects and emphasizes transparency standards; and

(E) efforts to address the Government of the People's Republic of China's use of the United Nations to advance the Belt and Road Initiative, including the proliferation of memoranda of understanding between the People's Republic of China and United Nations funds and programs on the implementation of the Belt and Road Initiative.

(4) CO-FINANCING OF INFRASTRUCTURE PROJECTS.—

(A) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—Subject to subparagraph (B), there are authorized to be appropriated such sums as may be necessary to co-finance infrastructure projects that could otherwise be included within China's Belt and Road Initiative.

(B) CONDITIONS.—Amounts appropriated pursuant to subparagraph (A) may not be expended unless—

(i) the United States can leverage existing and future projects that have entered into contracts with the Belt and Road Initiative to further promote transparency and debt sustainability; and

(ii) the projects to be financed—

(I) promote the public good;

(II) will not promote the use of fossil fuels; and

(III) will have substantially lower greenhouse gas intensity than the proposed Belt and Road Initiative alternative.

(d) SUPPORT FOR EASTERN EUROPEAN DEMOCRACY ACT.—Section 2 of the Support for Eastern European Democracy Act (22 U.S.C. 5401) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(2)—

(A) in subparagraph (H), by striking "and" at the end;

(B) in subparagraph (I), by adding "and" at the end; and

(C) by adding at the end the following:

"(J) helping workers and communities in countries most dependent on fossil fuel energy that may be vulnerable to socioeconomic changes due to the European Union's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions.";

(2) in subsection (c), by adding at the end the following:

"(26) JUST TRANSITION ASSISTANCE.—Assistance to support workers and communities in countries most dependent on fossil fuel energy and most vulnerable to socioeconomic changes due to the European Union's transition to net zero greenhouse gas emissions."

SEC. 504. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CLEAN ENERGY COOPERATION WITH INDIA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the United States should support efforts to strengthen India's resilience capacities that ensure people, households, communities, institutions, and systems can assess, anticipate, prevent, adapt to, cope with, and recover from shocks and stresses associated with the effects of climate change;

(2) the United States, through the Bureau of Energy Resources of the Department of State, the United States Agency for International Development, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Department of Energy, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, and the International Trade Administration, should encourage private sector investment in, and financing for, the development and deployment of clean energy and climate mitigation technologies in India;

(3) robust cooperation between the United States and India to develop and deploy clean energy technologies, including private sector cooperation, should be a top bilateral energy diplomacy priority and the top priority in the countries' energy diplomacy and should include—

- (A) clean energy;
- (B) electric vehicles and expansive charging station networks;
- (C) next-generation refrigeration equipment and refrigerants; and
- (D) other technologies and chemicals that are in the interest of United States industry leaders in the refrigeration and chemical coolant industries that are compliant with the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol;

(4) the collaboration between the United States and India on the development and deployment of clean energy technologies has resulted in innovative new technologies that have helped significantly lower the carbon emissions of the power sector in India; and

(5) since demand for energy in India will increase with the expansion of the economy and middle class of India, it is in the interest of United States national security and global security for the United States to support India in growing the energy sector of India in environmentally and socially responsible ways that mitigate greenhouse gas emissions and improve the climate security of India.

SEC. 505. POWER AFRICA.

The Electrify Africa Act of 2015 (Public Law 114-121; 22 U.S.C. 2293 note) is amended—

- (1) in section 3—
 - (A) in paragraph (2), by inserting “mitigate and lower carbon emissions from energy production,” after “development,”;
 - (B) in paragraph (7), by adding “and” at the end;
 - (C) by striking paragraph (8); and
 - (D) by redesignating paragraph (9) as paragraph (8);
- (2) in section 4—
 - (A) in subsection (a)—
 - (i) in paragraph (1), by striking “an appropriate mix of power solutions to provide access to sufficient reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in order to reduce poverty” and inserting “power solutions to provide access to sufficient, reliable, affordable, and sustainable power in order to reduce poverty and energy sector carbon emissions”; and
 - (ii) in paragraph (2), by striking “and technological” and inserting “, advances a country’s mitigation commitments (or conditional mitigation commitments) in accordance with a country’s nationally determined contribution, and supports technological”;
 - (B) in subsection (b)—
 - (i) in paragraph (2)—
 - (I) in subparagraph (F), by striking “and” at the end;
 - (II) in subparagraph (G), by striking the period at the end and inserting “; and”; and
 - (III) by adding at the end the following:

“(H) reduce carbon emissions from the energy sector.”;
 - (ii) in paragraph (4), by striking “the use of a broad power mix, including fossil fuel and”;

- (3) in section 5—
 - (A) in subsection (a)—
 - (i) in paragraph (6), by striking “and” at the end;
 - (ii) by redesignating paragraph (7) as paragraph (8); and
 - (iii) by inserting after paragraph (6) the following:

“(7) deploying renewable energy; and”;
 - (B) by amending subsection (d) to read as follows:

“(d) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There is authorized to be appropriated

\$750,000,000 for each of the fiscal years 2021, 2022, 2023, 2024, and 2025 to provide assistance in accordance with subsection (a) and section 3.”;

(4) in section 7(a)—

- (A) in the matter preceding paragraph (1), by inserting “and every 2 years thereafter,” after “Act,”; and

- (B) in paragraph (1), by striking “power generation” each place such term appears and inserting “renewable energy generation”; and

(5) by adding at the end the following:

“SEC. 8. COORDINATOR FOR POWER AFRICA.

“(a) IN GENERAL.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of the United States Climate Leadership in International Mitigation, Adaptation, and Technology Enhancement Act of 2021, the Administrator for the United States Agency for International Development, under the direction of the Secretary of State, shall appoint a Coordinator for Power Africa, who shall serve in the Bureau Economic Growth, Education, and the Environment of the United States Agency for International Development.

“(b) DUTIES.—The Coordinator for Power Africa shall—

- “(1) be primarily located at a mission in sub-Saharan Africa;
- “(2) lead—
 - “(A) the execution of the Power Africa Initiative in accordance with the purpose and policies set forth in sections 2 and 3; and
 - “(B) the development and execution of the strategy established under section 4;
- “(3) coordinate the Interagency Working Group established under section 4(c);
- “(4) manage the funding appropriated for the Power Africa Initiative by Congress; and
- “(5) execute the directives described in sections 5 and 6.”.

SEC. 506. CARIBBEAN ENERGY INITIATIVE.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

- (1) The countries of the Caribbean are heavily reliant upon imported oil to provide for approximately 90 percent of their energy production.
- (2) The level of dependence is even higher including—
 - (A) Jamaica, which relies on oil for 95.9 percent of its electricity;
 - (B) Barbados, which relies on oil for 96 percent of its electricity;
 - (C) The Virgin Islands, which relies on oil for nearly 100 percent of its electricity; and
 - (D) St. Lucia, which relies on oil for 100 percent of its electricity.

(3) Overreliance on imported fossil fuels has had a detrimental effect on economic development, growth, and competitiveness in the Caribbean.

(4) Since 1970, more than 80 percent of Caribbean coral reefs have been lost due to coastal development and pollution. Soot particulates and climate change caused by burning fossil fuels have seriously damaged coral reefs, which are a significant source of tourism dollars, fishing, biodiversity, and natural beauty.

(5) Air pollution caused by burning oil for electricity—

(A) has serious health impacts in the form of higher rates of asthma and other lung ailments; and

(B) can also exacerbate climate change.

(6) The Caribbean region is particularly vulnerable to sea level rise and stronger storms

(7) Between 2005 and 2018, the dependence of the countries of the Caribbean on oil was perpetuated by the Venezuelan-led Petrocaribe oil alliance, which—

- (A) offered preferential terms for oil sales; and
- (B) supplies some countries with up to 40 percent of their energy production needs.

(8) The ongoing domestic economic crisis and political turmoil in Venezuela has forced the Government of Venezuela to retract its commitments to the Petrocaribe oil alliance and step away as a regional power. Only Cuba still receives preferential Petrocaribe pricing on fuel exports from Venezuela, while other Petrocaribe member countries are experiencing a destabilized flow of oil.

(9) China has spent more than \$244,000,000,000 on energy projects worldwide since 2000, 25 percent of which was spent in Latin America and the Caribbean. Although the majority of this spending was for oil, gas, and coal, China has also been the largest investor in clean energy globally for almost a decade.

(10) The World Bank estimates that the Caribbean will need \$12,000,000,000 in power investments through 2035.

(11) Renewable energy technology costs have decreased dramatically in recent years, offering a more viable economic alternative for energy production. Solar energy prices have fallen by 80 percent since 2008, causing significant market growth, and according to data released by the International Renewable Energy Agency, 1/3 of global power capacity is based in renewable energy.

(12) In 2016, the International Monetary Fund estimated that transportation accounted for 36 percent of the total primary energy consumed in the Caribbean subregion.

(13) According to the United Nations Environment Programme, Latin America and the Caribbean could achieve annual savings of \$621,000,000,000 and a reduction of 1,100,000,000 tons of CO2 by 2050 if the region’s energy and transport sectors reach net zero emissions.

(14) The Caribbean has an abundance of onshore and offshore resources needed for renewable energy, including sun, wind, geothermal, and some hydropower production capacity.

(15) The United States Government is deeply engaged in providing technical and policy assistance to countries of the Caribbean on energy issues through—

- (A) the Energy and Climate Partnership of the Americas;
- (B) Connecting the Americas 2022; and
- (C) bilateral assistance programs.

(16) On February 19, 2014, at the North American Leaders’ Summit, President Barack Obama, Prime Minister Stephen Harper of Canada, and President Enrique Peña Nieto of Mexico reaffirmed their commitment to bring affordable, reliable, and increasingly renewable power to the Caribbean, while opening wider markets for clean energy and green technology.

(17) On June 19, 2015, President Barack Obama announced the Caribbean Energy Security Initiative, which would partner with individual countries—

- (A) to transform its energy sector;
- (B) to work to increase access to finance, good governance, and diversification; and
- (C) to maximize the impact of existing donor effects.

(18) On May 4, 2016, at the United States-Caribbean-Central American Energy Summit, the energy security task force formally launched the Caribbean Sustainable Energy Roadmap and Strategy (C-SERMS) as a mechanism to manage regional coordination and action on energy security and agreed to expand the regional market and transmission system.

(19) The United States has an important opportunity—

- (A) to deepen this engagement;
- (B) to work as a partner with Caribbean countries on a more regional and coordinated basis;
- (C) to help ease the region’s dependence on imported oil; and

(D) to promote affordable alternative sources of energy.

(b) DEFINITIONS.—In this section:

(1) CARIBBEAN COUNTRIES.—The term “Caribbean countries” means countries in the Caribbean region, but does not include Cuba or Venezuela.

(2) CARIBBEAN GOVERNMENTS.—The term “Caribbean governments” means the national governments of the Caribbean countries.

(c) POLICY.—It is the policy of the United States to help Caribbean countries—

(1) achieve greater energy security and improve domestic energy resource mobilization;

(2) lower their dependence on imported fuels;

(3) eliminate the use of diesel, heavy fuel oil, other petroleum products, and coal for the generation of electricity;

(4) increase production of renewable energy; and

(5) meet the greenhouse gas mitigation goals of their national determined contributions to the Paris Agreement.

(d) STRATEGY.—

(1) SUBMISSION.—Not later than 120 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Secretary of State shall submit a multi-year strategy to the Committee on Foreign Relations of the Senate and the Committee on Foreign Affairs of the House of Representatives that describes how the Department of State will promote regional cooperation with Caribbean countries—

(A) to lower dependence on imported fuels, grow domestic clean energy production in the region, strengthen regional energy security, and lower energy sector greenhouse gas emissions;

(B) to decrease dependence on oil in the transportation sector;

(C) to increase energy efficiency, energy conservation, and investment in alternatives to imported fuels;

(D) to improve grid reliability and modernize electricity transmission networks;

(E) to advance deployment of innovative solutions to expand community and individuals’ access to electricity;

(F) to help reform energy markets to encourage good regulatory governance and to promote a climate of private sector investment; and

(G) to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions from the energy and transportation sector.

(2) ELEMENTS.—The strategy required under subsection (a) shall include—

(A) a thorough review and inventory of United States Government activities that are being carried out bilaterally, regionally, and in coordination with multilateral institutions—

(i) to promote energy and climate security in the Caribbean region; and

(ii) to reduce the region’s reliance on oil for electricity generation;

(B) opportunities for marshaling regional cooperation—

(i) to overcome market barriers resulting from the small size of Caribbean energy markets;

(ii) to address the high transportation and infrastructure costs faced by Caribbean countries;

(iii) to ensure greater donor coordination between governments, multilateral institutions, multilateral banks, and private investors; and

(iv) to expand regional financing opportunities to allow for lower cost energy entrepreneurship;

(C) measures to ensure that each Caribbean government has—

(i) an independent utility regulator or equivalent;

(ii) affordable access by third party investors to its electrical grid with minimal regulatory interference;

(iii) effective energy efficiency and energy conservation;

(iv) programs to address technical and non-technical issues;

(v) a plan to eliminate major market distortions;

(vi) cost-reflective tariffs; and

(vii) no tariffs or other taxes on clean energy solutions; and

(D) recommendations for how United States policy, technical, and economic assistance can be used in the Caribbean region—

(i) to advance renewable energy development and the incorporation of renewable technologies into existing energy grids and the development and deployment of micro-grids where appropriate and feasible to boost energy security and reliability, particularly to underserved communities;

(ii) to increase the generation of clean energy sufficiently to replace and allow for the retirement of obsolete fossil fuel energy generation units in Caribbean countries;

(iii) to create regional financing opportunities to allow for lower cost energy entrepreneurship;

(iv) to deploy transaction advisors in the region to help attract private investment and break down any market or regulatory barriers; and

(v) to establish a mechanism for each host government to have access to independent legal advice—

(I) to speed the development of energy-related contracts; and

(II) to better protect the interests of Caribbean governments and citizens.

(3) CONSULTATION.—In devising the strategy under this subsection, the Secretary of State shall work with the Secretary of Energy and shall consult with—

(A) the Secretary of the Interior;

(B) the Secretary of Commerce;

(C) the Secretary of the Treasury;

(D) the Board of Directors of the Export-Import Bank of the United States;

(E) the Board of Directors of the Development Finance Corporation;

(F) the Administrator of the United States Agency for International Development;

(G) the Caribbean governments;

(H) the Inter-American Development Bank;

(I) the World Bank Group; and

(J) the Caribbean Electric Utility Services Corporation.

SEC. 507. SENSE OF CONGRESS ON CONSERVATION OF THE AMAZON RIVER BASIN.

(a) FINDINGS.—Congress makes the following findings:

(1) The Amazon River basin and the Amazon rainforest, often referred to as Amazonia—

(A) covers more than 2,670,000 square miles in Bolivia, Brazil, Colombia, Ecuador, French Guiana, Guyana, Peru, Suriname, and Venezuela; and

(B) is home to more species of plants and animals than any other terrestrial ecosystem on the planet, housing nearly 30 percent of the world’s species, which apart from their intrinsic value as living organisms, have potential value in the form of medicine, research, textiles, food, and other products for the region’s population.

(2) Tens of millions of people depend on services afforded by the Amazon forest, including—

(A) the use of rivers for transportation;

(B) reliance on logging and collection of non-timber forest products as major industries for employment; and

(C) the cultivation of nutrients in floodplain areas for agriculture and areas for which the Amazon Basin is a watershed.

(3) The Amazon River has long been recognized as an important repository of biodiversity and natural resources, not only for local peoples and indigenous communities, but also for the rest of the world due to—

(A) its fresh water, which provides countless services for humans in the form of water agriculture, transportation, and food and serves as an important habitat for countless species, including over 2,500 species of fish and river dolphins;

(B) its medicinal plants, which are continually used by local peoples to treat traditional diseases, including malaria (one of the most lethal diseases in the tropics), and which constitute 70 percent of the plant species in the world found to have anti-cancer properties;

(C) its important role as an oxygen source, producing 20 percent of the Earth’s oxygen and earning the Amazon forest the nickname “lungs of our Earth” for its role in taking in enormous amounts of the carbon dioxide emitted by human activity and the burning of fossil fuels and replacing it with the oxygen we breathe through the process of photosynthesis;

(D) its food supply, which is associated with rainforests, including coffee, rice, chocolate, tomatoes, potatoes, bananas, black pepper, pineapples, and corn;

(E) its role in climate control caused by its exchange of enormous quantities of water and energy with the surrounding atmosphere, which is estimated as being responsible for creating 75 percent of its own rainfall, which feeds the nearby rivers through evapotranspiration before flowing directly into the ocean and influencing the currents that impact the climate; and

(F) ecotourism, which produces annual profits of more than \$11,600,000, which benefits the local economy, enhances the quality of living through securing more jobs, and educates global citizens regarding the importance of maintaining the world’s natural spaces.

(4) Public opinion research, conducted by the Brazilian polling firm Datafolha in 2020, found that—

(A) 87 percent of the respondents felt strongly that conservation of the Amazon is very important;

(B) 73 percent of the respondents are concerned with the rate of increased deforestation in the Amazon basin;

(C) 77 percent of the respondents believed strongly that the conduct and policies of the ministries responsible for management and conservation of the Amazon have contributed to deforestation in the Amazon;

(D) 92.5 percent of the respondents believe Brazil should prioritize the pursuit of economic activities in the Amazon basin that do not contribute to deforestation; and

(E) only 5.6 percent of the respondents think that forests need to be cut down to promote economic growth in the region.

(5) The recent 8,850 square kilometer reduction of the Amazon forest, exacerbated by climate change, has resulted in a significant decrease in the ample benefits described in paragraph (3), in addition to the displacement of many indigenous peoples due to the lessened economic opportunity.

(6) Clear cutting has disrupted the habitat for plants and animals in the region, fracturing the fragile forest ecology by causing species to migrate and sometimes disappear.

(7) As of September 2020, Brazil’s National Institute for Space Research reported that 45,067 fires have burned in the Amazon River basin and more than 63,000 fires have burned in all of Brazil in 2020.

(8) The removal of trees from the Amazon River basin has decreased water and nutrient uptake, while increasing runoff with greater

loads of both nitrogen and phosphorus concentrations, deteriorating the quality of fresh water, and putting the environment at greater risk for disasters like flooding and landslides.

(9) The Government of Brazil has historically recognized the negative repercussions of deforestation via processes like clear cutting, which had facilitated Brazil's establishment and maintenance of numerous successful conservation policies and payments for environmental service programs, such as—

(A) Reducing Emissions from Deforestation and Forest Degradation projects, such as the Juma project in Amazonas and the Surui project in Acre and subnational-scale program in Acre and Mato Grosso, which seek to reduce global warming by stopping emissions related to deforestation;

(B) jurisdictional programs involving the collaboration of several groups, including farmers, government officials, businesses, and nongovernmental organizations, to achieve consensus on sustainability milestones;

(C) the Amazon Fund, which is primarily funded by the Government of Norway to implement payments for forest conservation activities; and

(D) the Bolsa Floresta program in the Brazilian state of Amazonas, which pays landowners and communities to help protect forest areas.

(10) United States and multilateral cooperation efforts to protect and restore the Amazon have yielded significant beneficial impacts, such as—

(A) the reduction of deforestation by more than 80 percent; and

(B) the World Bank's establishment of more than 25 percent of the areas protected from correspondence.

(11) The UNESCO World Heritage site verifies the importance of the Amazon River basin being one of the richest areas in the planet in terms of biodiversity, ecological and biological processes. Deforestation and potential new policies could harmfully limit its natural resources if their benefits are not taken into serious consideration.

(b) SENSE OF CONGRESS.—It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) the President should—

(A) engage with the Government of Brazil, through bilateral and multilateral efforts, on its Amazon development and deforestation policies, in support of the Brazilian people's and the private sector's interest in conserving the Amazon rainforest;

(B) promote stewardship and conservation policies that support sustainable economic growth activities in the Amazon River basin;

(C) consider the Government of Brazil's management and land use conversion of the Amazon River basin policies when assessing, negotiating, or developing new bilateral agreements with Brazil, including trade agreements, or engaging in relevant international forums;

(D) in the spirit of Brazil's leadership hosting the 1992 Rio Summit, which led to the establishment of the UNFCCC, urge the Government of Brazil to enhance the ambition of Brazil's efforts to mitigate greenhouse gas emissions; and

(E) encourage the Government of Brazil, through bilateral and multilateral efforts, to immediately work proactively to address climate change and to promote low carbon and sustainable economic development;

(2) the United States Ambassador to Brazil should immediately engage with the Government of Brazil to support improvements to stewardship efforts of the Amazon rainforest and to assist with urgent efforts to combat fires burning across the Amazon River basin by—

(A) amplifying the Brazilian people's concerns—

(i) about climate change and seeking opportunities for cooperative climate action through the United States-Brazil bilateral relationship; and

(ii) with Brazil's management and land use conversion policies affecting the Amazon River basin;

(B) reinforcing United States' support for the important role civil society is playing to keep the public informed about the importance of Amazon conservation, particularly as it relates to regulating carbon in the Earth's atmosphere; and

(C) offering support for efforts to combat fires in the Amazon River basin that are exacerbating Brazil's environmental crisis; and

(3) the Secretary of the Treasury should provide financial and technical assistance to combat wildfires burning across the Brazil, including in the Amazon River basin.

(c) POLICY STATEMENT.—The Secretary of State shall elevate bilateral engagements around cooperation and peer-to-peer accountability on Brazil's climate action commitments by—

(1) supporting the efforts of the Government of Brazil to increase sustainable development of the Amazon region, including by strengthening environmental enforcement and ending illegal deforestation;

(2) encouraging the Government of Brazil to enforce its conservation laws, which include—

(A) restoring the responsibility of managing indigenous reserves and the demarcation of lands back to indigenous peoples;

(B) deescalating violence against indigenous peoples, prosecuting individuals and entities that threaten or harm indigenous peoples or communities, and maintain the National Indian Foundation;

(C) addressing activities that increase deforestation rates in the Amazon basin, which include—

(i) curtailing indigenous people's land rights; and

(ii) unsustainable cattle ranching, soy bean farming, mining, hydropower dam construction, and highway construction activities;

(D) threatening to degrade Brazil's carbon emissions reductions commitments that are heavily based upon the conservation of Brazil's rainforests; and

(E) addressing challenges for civil society to operate, oversee, and advocate for the continued conservation and restoration of the Amazon River basin;

(3) encouraging, to the maximum extent practicable, the Government of Brazil to develop and deliver ambitious pledges to reduce greenhouse gas emissions under the Paris Agreement, while holding Brazil accountable for delivering on its commitments;

(4) supporting the voice of Brazilian civil society and the role civil society plays in advancing civil society's efforts to protect Brazil's natural resources and helping ensure civil society's abilities to operate, oversee, and advocate for the continued conservation and restoration of the Amazon River basin;

(5) advancing the rights and protections of indigenous peoples whose communities, well-being, and opportunities for economic growth are frequently put at risk by deforestation, extractive industries, commercial scale agriculture, and hydropower dam construction;

(6) listening to and engaging with the people of Brazil on their country's commitments to advancing conservation efforts in the Amazon River basin that allow for sustainable economic growth, while protecting the Amazon rainforest and Amazon River basin's important and unique resources despite the proposed changes;

(7) renewing support for programs that support Amazonian nations, civil society, and local leaders, including indigenous communities, in maintaining critically important conservation efforts to protect and restore the Amazon River basin ecosystem; and

(8) supporting efforts by subnational governments and the private sector to advance sustainable development and reduce deforestation in the Amazon region.

SEC. 508. SENSE OF CONGRESS REGARDING RENEWABLE ENERGY IN INDONESIA.

It is the sense of Congress that—

(1) cooperation on the development and deployment of renewable energy technologies should be a priority in relations between the United States and Indonesia and the top priority in the countries' energy diplomacy;

(2) it is in the interest of United States to support the growth of Indonesia's renewable energy sector in environmentally and socially responsible ways that—

(A) reduce reliance on fossil fuels in ways that do not increase pressure on the land sector or increase land-based emissions;

(B) mitigate greenhouse gas emissions;

(C) provide economic opportunities; and

(D) improve the climate security of Indonesia;

(3) the United States, through the Bureau of Energy Resources of the Department of State, the United States International Development Finance Corporation, the Department of Energy, the Export-Import Bank of the United States, the International Trade Administration, and the United States Agency for International Development, should encourage private sector investment in and financing for the development and deployment of renewable power sources in Indonesia;

(4) the United States should—

(A) support and encourage Indonesia to pursue ambitious growth from solar and wind sources of energy generation; and

(B) provide technical assistance to the Government of Indonesia and subnational authorities on regulatory reforms and addressing other barriers to deployment of renewable energy; and

(5) it is in the interest of United States refrigeration and refrigerant production industries to help serve Indonesia's increased demand for refrigeration and air conditioning, and the adoption of the Kigali Amendment to the Montreal Protocol, is driving innovation and investments in next-generation refrigeration equipment and refrigerants in Indonesia.

TITLE VI—WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE ACT

SEC. 601. SHORT TITLE.

This title may be cited as the "Women and Climate Change Act".

SEC. 602. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) Women in the United States and around the world are—

(A) the linchpin of families and communities; and

(B) often the first to feel the immediate and adverse effects of social, environmental, and economic stresses on their families and communities.

(2) The United Nations has recognized, as a central organizing principle for its work, that "no enduring solution to society's most threatening social, economic and political problems can be found without the full participation, and the full empowerment, of the world's women."

(3) The United Nations Development Programme's Human Development Report 2013 predicted that the number of people living in extreme poverty could increase by up to

3,000,000,000 by 2050 unless environmental disasters are averted by coordinated global action.

(4) Climate change is already forcing the most vulnerable communities and populations in developing countries to face unprecedented climate stress, including—

(A) slow onset effects of climate change, such as sea level rise, increasing temperatures, water scarcity, and drought; and

(B) severe weather events and floods, which can lead to reduced agricultural productivity, food insecurity, and increased disease.

(5) Climate change—

(A) exacerbates issues of resource scarcity and lack of accessibility to primary natural resources, forest resources, and arable land for food production;

(B) contributes to increased tension and instability, particularly in countries and regions with poor or weak governance systems; and

(C) increases the workload and stresses on women farmers, who are estimated to produce nearly 50 percent of the food consumed in most developing countries, which exacerbates food insecurity.

(6) Women will disproportionately face harmful impacts from climate change, particularly in poor and developing countries in which women regularly assume increased responsibility for—

(A) growing the family's food;

(B) collecting water, fuel, and other resources;

(C) earning money; and

(D) sending remittances.

(7) Epidemics, such as malaria and Zika, are expected to worsen and spread due to variations in climate, putting women and girls (especially those who are pregnant, who are lactating, or who hope to become pregnant) and children without access to prevention and medical services at risk.

(8) The direct and indirect effects of climate change have a disproportionate impact on marginalized women, including refugees, displaced persons, migrants, religious, racial, or ethnic minorities, adolescent girls, lesbian and trans women, women living in poverty, and women and girls with disabilities and those infected with HIV.

(9) Conflict has a disproportionate impact on the most vulnerable communities and populations, including women, and can be exacerbated in regions of the world with changing or harsher climates, leading to migration, forced displacement, and conflicts over scarce natural resources, including land and water.

(10) Internally displaced, refugee, and stateless women and girls face extreme violence and threats, including—

(A) being forced to exchange sex for food and humanitarian supplies;

(B) being at increased risk of gender-based violence, sexual exploitation, and abuse;

(C) reduced access to services and care; and

(D) increased risk for contracting HIV or sexually-transmitted infections, having an unplanned pregnancy, and experiencing poor reproductive health

(11) Climate change is predicted to lead to increasing frequency and intensity of extreme weather conditions, precipitating the occurrence of natural disasters around the globe.

(12) The relocation and death of women as a result of climate change-related disasters often has devastating impacts on social support networks, family ties, and the coping capacity of families and communities.

(13) The ability of women to adapt to climate change is constrained by underlying gender inequality, including a lack of—

(A) economic freedoms;

(B) property, land tenure, and inheritance rights;

(C) access to financial resources, education, family planning, and reproductive healthcare services; and

(D) quality tools, equipment, and technology that support economic opportunity and independence.

(14) Despite having unique capabilities and knowledge to promote, plan, and execute activities to enhance communities' climate change adaptation and resilience capacities, women often have insufficient resources, are not empowered to take such actions, and are often excluded from leadership and decision-making processes.

(15) Women have a multiplier effect because women use their income and resources, when given the necessary tools, to increase the well-being of their children and families, playing a critical role in reducing food insecurity, poverty, and socioeconomic effects of climate change.

(16) Women are often underrepresented in the development and formulation of policy regarding mitigation and adaptation to climate change, even though women are often in the best position to provide and consult on adaptive strategies.

SEC. 603. DEFINITIONS.

In this title:

(1) **AMBASSADOR-AT-LARGE.**—The term “Ambassador-at-Large” means the Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues of the Department of State.

(2) **CLIMATE-DISPLACED PERSON.**—The term “climate-displaced person” means any person who, for reasons of sudden or progressive change in the environment that adversely affects his or her life or living conditions—

(A) is obliged to leave his or her habitual home, either within his or her country of nationality or in another country;

(B) is in need of a durable resettlement solution; and

(C) whose government cannot or will not provide such durable resettlement solution.

(3) **DISPARATE IMPACT.**—The term “disparate impact” refers to the historical and ongoing impacts of the pattern and practice of discrimination in employment, education, housing, banking, health, and nearly every other aspect of life in the economy, society, or culture that have an adverse impact on minorities, women, or other protected groups, regardless of whether such practices were motivated by discriminatory intent.

(4) **ENVIRONMENTAL DISASTERS.**—The term “environmental disasters” means specific events caused by human activity that result in seriously negative effects on the environment.

(5) **SPECIAL COORDINATOR.**—The term “Special Coordinator” means the senior coordinator appointed pursuant to section 607(c).

(6) **WORKING GROUP.**—The term “Working Group” means the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change established under section 605.

SEC. 604. STATEMENT OF POLICY.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—It is the policy of the United States, in partnership with affected countries, donor country governments, international financial institutions, international nongovernmental organizations, multilateral organizations, and civil society groups, especially those led by women—

(1) to combat the leading causes of climate change;

(2) to mitigate the effects of climate change on women and girls; and

(3) to elevate the participation of women in policy, program, and community decision-making processes with respect to climate change.

(b) **IMPLEMENTATION.**—The policy described in subsection (a) shall be carried out by—

(1) establishing the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate

Change to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally; and

(2) implementing a coordinated, integrated, evidence-based, and comprehensive strategy on women and climate change through United States policies.

SEC. 605. FEDERAL INTERAGENCY WORKING GROUP ON WOMEN AND CLIMATE CHANGE.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—There is established in the Department of State the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.

(b) **CHAIRPERSON.**—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall serve as the chairperson of the Working Group.

(c) **MEMBERSHIP.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Working Group shall be composed of a senior-level representative from each of the Federal agencies and bureaus and offices of the Department of State described in paragraph (2), as selected by the head of the respective agency or subagency.

(2) **FEDERAL AGENCIES.**—The Federal agencies and bureaus and offices of the Department of State described in this paragraph are—

(A) the Department of State, including—

(i) the Office of Global Women's Issues;

(ii) the Office of Civil Rights;

(iii) the Bureau of Oceans and International Environmental and Scientific Affairs;

(iv) the Bureau of Population, Refugees, and Migration;

(v) the Bureau of Democracy, Human Rights, and Labor; and

(vi) the Bureau of International Organization Affairs;

(B) the United States Agency for International Development;

(C) the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention;

(D) the Environmental Protection Agency;

(E) the National Oceanic and Atmospheric Administration;

(F) the National Institutes of Health;

(G) the National Science Foundation;

(H) the Council on Environmental Quality; and

(I) the Millennium Challenge Corporation.

(3) **REPRESENTATIVES OF ADDITIONAL AGENCIES.**—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, may request the participation of representatives of other relevant agencies or departments on a limited-time basis.

(d) **FUNCTIONS.**—The Working Group shall—

(1) coordinate and integrate the development of all policies and activities of the Federal Government relating to—

(A) combating the effects of climate change on women in the national and international sphere; and

(B) improving the response and strategy of the Federal Government to fight climate change for the security of the United States and the international community;

(2) allow each member of the Working Group to act as a representative for the Working Group within the Federal department or agency of such member to facilitate implementation of the Working Group policies within such department or agency;

(3) ensure that all relevant Federal departments and agencies comply with appropriate guidelines, policies, and directives from the Working Group pertaining to issues and responsibilities related to climate change and women;

(4) ensure that Federal departments or agencies, State governments, and relevant congressional committees, in consultation with nongovernmental organizations and policy experts in the field and State and local government officials who administer or

direct policy for programs relating to climate change and women—

(A) have access to, receive, and appropriately disseminate best practices in the administration of such programs;

(B) have adequate resources to maximize the public awareness of such programs;

(C) increase the reach of such programs;

(D) collect and share relevant data, including sex and age disaggregated data; and

(E) issue relevant guidance; and

(5) identify and disseminate best practices to each relevant Federal department and agency regarding how to improve the collection of data relevant to the disparate impact of climate change on women (especially marginalized women), including—

(A) unpaid and paid care work;

(B) access to decent work opportunities;

(C) community advocacy, activism, and representation;

(D) access to education for women and girls;

(E) access to comprehensive health care, including reproductive health and rights;

(F) participation in professional trades, including agriculture;

(G) rights and access to resources, such as land, financial services and credit, training, and tools and equipment;

(H) abilities to achieve durable solutions to displacement, including integration, return, or resettlement;

(I) food insecurity and desertification;

(J) community infrastructure, multilevel government adaptability, and climate resilience;

(K) climate and weather-related crisis response, including safety from gender-based violence; and

(L) women's involvement and leadership in the development of frameworks and policies for climate resilience.

(e) CONSULTATION.—The Working Group may consult and obtain recommendations from such independent nongovernmental policy experts, State and local government officials, independent groups and organizations, or other groups or organizations as the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, determines will assist in carrying out the mission of the Working Group.

(f) FREQUENCY OF MEETINGS.—The Working Group shall meet not less frequently than quarterly to discuss and develop policies, projects, and programs referred to in subsection (d).

SEC. 606. DEVELOPMENT AND IMPLEMENTATION OF STRATEGY AND POLICIES TO PREVENT AND RESPOND TO THE EFFECTS OF CLIMATE CHANGE ON WOMEN GLOBALLY.

(a) INITIAL STRATEGY REQUIRED.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, in consultation with the Working Group, shall develop and submit to the appropriate congressional committees a United States National and International Strategy to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women.

(b) CONTENTS.—The strategy submitted under subsection (a) shall include—

(1) recognizing the disparate impacts of climate change on women and the efforts of women globally to address climate change;

(2) taking effective action—

(A) to prevent and respond to climate change and mitigate the effects of climate change on women around the world; and

(B) to promote gender equality, economic growth, public health, racial justice, principled humanitarian access, and human rights;

(3) implementing the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals listed in subsection (f) through and beyond 2030 to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally;

(4) implementing balanced gender participation to avoid reinforcing binary roles, especially among individuals from the communities most impacted, in climate change adaptation and mitigation efforts, including in governance and diplomatic positions within the United States Government;

(5) working at the local, national, and international levels, including with individuals, families, and communities, to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women;

(6) systematically integrating and coordinating efforts to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women internationally into United States foreign policy and foreign assistance programs;

(7) investing in research on climate change through appropriate Federal departments or agencies and funding of university and independent research groups on the various causes and effects of climate change;

(8) developing and implementing gender-sensitive frameworks in policies to address climate change that account for the specific impacts of climate change on women;

(9) developing policies to support women who are particularly vulnerable to the impacts of climate change to prepare for, build their resilience to, and adapt to such impacts, including a commitment to increase education and training opportunities for women to develop local resilience plans to address the effects of climate change;

(10) developing and investing in programs, in coordination with the diplomatic missions of other countries, that—

(A) educate and empower women and girls in the United States and around the world;

(B) gather information on how climate change is affecting their lives; and

(C) provide guidance on the needs of their families and communities in the face of climate change;

(11) consulting with representatives of civil society, including nongovernmental organizations, community and faith-based organizations, multilateral organizations, local and international civil society groups, and local climate change organizations and their beneficiaries, that have demonstrated experience in preventing and responding to the effects of climate change on women;

(12) supporting and building local capacity in developing countries, including in governments at all levels and in nongovernmental organizations (especially women-led organizations), to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women;

(13) developing programs to empower women in communities to meaningfully engage in the planning, design, implementation, and evaluation of strategies to address climate change while taking into account their roles and resources;

(14) including women in economic development planning, policies, and practices that directly improve conditions that result from climate change;

(15) integrating gender analysis in all policies and programs in the United States that are globally related to climate change; and

(16) ensuring that such policies and programs support women globally to prepare for, build resilience for, and adapt to, climate change.

(c) UPDATES.—The Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, shall—

(1) consult with the Working Group to collect information and feedback; and

(2) update the strategy and programs to prevent and respond to the effects of climate change on women globally, as the Ambassador-at-Large, or the Special Coordinator, considers appropriate.

(d) IMPLEMENTATION PLAN AND BUDGET REQUIRED.—Not later than 60 days after the submission of the strategy under subsection

(a), the Senior Coordinator shall submit an implementation plan and budget for the strategy to the appropriate congressional committees.

(e) ASSISTANCE AND CONSULTATION.—The Senior Coordinator shall assist and provide consultation to the Secretary of State in preventing and responding to the effects of climate change on women globally.

(f) UNITED NATIONS SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT GOALS THROUGH AND BEYOND 2030.—The United Nations Sustainable Development Goals listed in this subsection are—

(1) ending poverty in all its forms everywhere;

(2) ending hunger, achieving food security and improved nutrition, and promoting sustainable agriculture;

(3) ensuring healthy lives and promoting well-being for all and at all ages;

(4) ensuring inclusive, equitable, and quality education and promoting lifelong learning opportunities for all;

(5) achieving gender equality and empowering all women and girls;

(6) ensuring the availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all;

(7) ensuring access to affordable, reliable, sustainable, and modern energy for all;

(8) promoting sustained, inclusive, and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment, and decent work for all;

(9) building resilient infrastructure, promoting inclusive and sustainable industrialization, and fostering innovation;

(10) reducing inequality within and among countries;

(11) making cities and human settlements inclusive, safe, resilient, and sustainable;

(12) ensuring sustainable consumption and production patterns;

(13) taking urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts;

(14) conserving and sustainably using the oceans, seas, and marine resources for sustainable development;

(15) protecting, restoring, and promoting sustainable use of terrestrial ecosystems, sustainably managing forests, combating desertification, and halting and reversing land degradation and biodiversity loss;

(16) promoting peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, providing access to justice for all, and building effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels; and

(17) strengthening the means of policy implementation and revitalizing the global partnership for sustainable development.

SEC. 607. CLIMATE CHANGE WITHIN THE OFFICE OF GLOBAL WOMEN'S ISSUES.

(a) ESTABLISHMENT.—The Ambassador-at-Large for the Office of Global Women's Issues of the Department of State shall chair the Federal Interagency Working Group on Women and Climate Change.

(b) FUNCTIONS.—The Ambassador-at-Large shall—

(1) direct the activities, policies, programs, and funding of the Department of State relating to the effects of climate change on women, including with respect to efforts to prevent and respond to those effects;

(2) coordinate closely with the Climate Security Coordinator appointed pursuant to section 1(g) of the State Department Basic Authorities Act of 1956, as added by section 102, regarding matters related to climate change's effects on women and related security and diplomatic matters and engagements;

(3) advise the Secretary of State, the relevant heads of other Federal departments and independent agencies, and other entities within the Executive Office of the President, regarding the establishment of—

(A) policies, goals, objectives, and priorities for addressing and combating the effects of climate change on women; and

(B) mechanisms to improve the effectiveness, coordination, impact, and outcomes of programs relating to addressing and combating the effects of climate change on women, in coordination with experts in the field, nongovernmental organizations, and foreign governments; and

(4) identify and assist in the resolution of any disputes that arise between Federal agencies relating to policies and programs to address and combat the effects of climate change on women or other matters within the responsibility of the Office of Global Women's Issues.

(c) SPECIAL COORDINATOR.—The Ambassador-at-Large may appoint a senior coordinator as the designee responsible for carrying out the functions described in subsection (b).

(d) BRIEFING AND REPORT.—Not later than 180 days after the date of the enactment of this Act, and annually thereafter, the Ambassador-at-Large shall—

(1) brief the appropriate congressional committees regarding—

(A) the effects of climate change on women; and

(B) the prevention and response strategies, programming, and associated outcomes with respect to climate change; and

(2) submit an assessment of the human and financial resources necessary to carry out this title to the appropriate congressional committees.

By Mr. CARPER (for himself, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. MARKEY, Mr. SCHUMER, and Mr. COONS):

S. 1202. A bill to establish a program to improve community connectivity by identifying and removing or mitigating infrastructural barriers that create obstacles to mobility or economic development or expose the community to pollution and other health and safety risks, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

Mr. CARPER. Mr. President, I want to share with my colleagues some information regarding the Reconnecting Communities Act, a bill that I have introduced today along with my colleagues Mr. VAN HOLLEN, Mr. CARDIN, Mrs. GILLIBRAND, Mr. PADILLA, Mr. WARNOCK, Mr. SCHUMER and Mr. COONS. This legislation would address the legacy of highway construction built through communities, especially through low-income communities and communities of color, which divided neighborhoods and erected barriers to mobility and opportunity. This legislation implements a central piece of President Biden's American Jobs Plan, which calls for new Federal funding to address the need to remove infrastructure barriers in communities that have been historically disadvantaged and disconnected.

The construction of our interstate highway system throughout the 20th Century had many positive aspects. It facilitated commerce and travel from coast to coast and connected our urban, suburban and rural areas. However, the construction of highways

through established neighborhoods and cities also had a detrimental impact on the people who called those places home.

Blocks of homes were torn down and vibrant commercial streets razed to make way for new highway construction, often without any input from the people who actually lived, worked, and owned businesses there. Many of these neighborhoods never fully recovered, and the highways divided cities, making it difficult to get from one side to the other. This stifled economic development and opportunity for those who were left behind.

In the 1950s and 60s, the construction of I-95 through Wilmington, Delaware resulted in the demolition of homes, churches, and businesses, and cut off neighbors from each other. The ability to easily walk to the store or to church, or to have a sense of community that living in a vibrant city brings, was destroyed for many people who lived near that path of the interstate. And this is not unique to Wilmington. From Baltimore to New Orleans, cities across the country are grappling with what to do with aging interstates blighting their neighborhoods.

The Reconnecting Communities Act is designed to address this legacy of our highway system by funding projects that would remove or reimagine infrastructure barriers, including elevated highway overpasses and highways that were built below grade. The bill would authorize \$15 billion over the next five years to establish a new federal grant program at the Department of Transportation to help States and local entities with planning, construction and local capacity building. Specifically, it would do the following:

First, the bill would provide grants to local and Tribal governments, Metropolitan Planning Organizations and non-profits, to help foster a greater capacity for local communities to participate in the planning and decision-making process for transportation and economic development projects. This would help to ensure that new projects meet local needs.

Second, it would provide grants for planning and feasibility studies, including studies to look at the effect of a project on traffic and congestion, accessibility and equity.

Third, it would provide grants to carry out construction projects that would either remove a highway infrastructure barrier, or re-envision or retrofit the existing structure to improve mobility across it. This includes capping a highway like I-95 in Wilmington, or transforming a highway into an at-grade roadway as has been envisioned in other States.

As communities across the Nation are beginning to reimagine their downtowns to provide more sustainable and equitable access, this bill will support local efforts to reconnect and revitalize areas that were harmed by the construction of the Interstate Highway System.

I would like to thank my colleagues who have joined me by cosponsoring the Reconnecting Communities Act. In particular, I am appreciative of the leadership of the junior senator from Maryland, Mr. VAN HOLLEN, who helped to bring this issue to the attention of the Environment and Public Works Committee last Congress.

I hope that all of my colleagues will join us to advance this important legislation, which I will be working to include in our comprehensive surface transportation reauthorization bill this year.

By Mr. THUNE (for himself, Mr. CRAPO, and Mr. CORNYN):

S. 1206. A bill to limit the authority of the Secretary of Labor to modify the pandemic unemployment assistance program, and for other purposes; 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. 1206

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 "PUA Eligibility Clarification Act of 2021".

SEC. 2. PANDEMIC UNEMPLOYMENT ASSISTANCE.

(a) AMENDMENTS.—Section 2102(a)(3) of the CARES Act (15 U.S.C. 9021(a)(3)) is amended—

(1) in subparagraph (A)(ii)(I)—

(A) in item (ii), by adding "or" at the end; and

(B) by striking item (kk); and

(2) in subparagraph (B)(ii), by striking "through (kk)" and inserting "through (jj)".

(b) REPEAL OF GUIDANCE.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—The Secretary of Labor shall rescind the guidance entitled, Expanded Eligibility Provisions for the Pandemic Unemployment Assistance (PUA) Program, issued on February 25, 2021.

(2) REPAYMENT NOT REQUIRED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), in the case of an individual who received pandemic unemployment assistance amounts pursuant to the guidance described in paragraph (1) before the date of enactment of this Act, the individual shall not be required to repay the amounts.

(B) EXCEPTION.—Subparagraph (A) shall not apply to any individual who, as of the date of enactment of this Act, was approved to receive compensation amounts pursuant to the guidance described in paragraph (1)(A) but had not yet received the amounts.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself and Ms. DUCKWORTH):

S. 1211. A bill to establish the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historic Park in Collinsville, Illinois, Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois, and St. Louis City County, Missouri, and for other purposes; to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources.

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. 1211

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 “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park Act”.

SEC. 2. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **HISTORICAL PARK.**—The term “historical park” means the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park established by section 3(a).

(2) **MAP.**—The term “map” means the map entitled “Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park, Boundary”, numbered CMMC-NHP-107, and dated 05-31-2019.

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

(4) **STATES.**—The term “States” means the States of Illinois and Missouri.

SEC. 3. CAHOKIA MOUNDS MISSISSIPPIAN CULTURE NATIONAL HISTORICAL PARK, ILLINOIS AND MISSOURI.

(a) **ESTABLISHMENT.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), in order to preserve and interpret for the benefit of present and future generations the historical, cultural, and natural resources associated with the life of the Mississippian Culture and to preserve access for Native American spiritual practices and expressions, there is established, as a unit of the National Park System, the Cahokia Mounds Mississippian Culture National Historical Park in—

- (A) Collinsville, Illinois;
- (B) Monroe, Madison, and St. Clair Counties, Illinois; and
- (C) St. Louis City County, Missouri.

(2) **DETERMINATION BY SECRETARY.**—The historical park shall not be established until the date on which the Secretary determines that a sufficient quantity of land, or interests in land, has been acquired in accordance with subsection (c) to constitute a manageable unit.

(3) **NOTICE.**—Not later than 30 days after the date on which the Secretary acquires sufficient land under subsection (c) to achieve compliance with paragraph (2), the Secretary shall publish in the Federal Register a notice of the establishment of the historical park.

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

(b) **BOUNDARY.**—The boundary of the historical park shall be the boundary as depicted on the map.

(c) **LAND ACQUISITION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Subject to paragraph (2), the Secretary may acquire land and interests in land within the boundary of the historical park by—

- (A) donation;
- (B) purchase from a willing seller with donated or appropriated funds; or
- (C) exchange.

(2) **LIMITATION.**—Any land owned by the States or a political subdivision of 1 of the States may be acquired only by donation.

(d) **ADMINISTRATION.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary shall administer the historical park in accordance with—

- (A) this section; and
- (B) the laws generally applicable to units of the National Park System, including—

(i) sections 100101(a), 100751(a), 100752, 100753, and 102101 of title 54, United States Code; and

(ii) chapters 1003 and 3201 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) **COOPERATIVE AGREEMENTS.**—

(A) **IN GENERAL.**—The Secretary may enter into cooperative agreements with the States and political subdivisions of the States, institutions of higher education, nonprofit organizations, Indian Tribes, and individuals—

(i) to identify, interpret, and restore nationally significant historical or cultural and natural resources relating to the life of the Mississippian Culture within the boundaries of the historical park, subject to the condition that such an agreement shall provide for reasonable public access; and

(ii) to conduct research relating to the Mississippian Culture.

(B) **COST-SHARING.**—

(i) **FEDERAL SHARE.**—The Federal share of the total cost of any activity carried out under this paragraph shall be not more than 50 percent.

(ii) **FORM OF NON-FEDERAL SHARE.**—The non-Federal share of the cost of carrying out an activity under this paragraph may be in the form of—

- (I) in-kind contributions; or
 - (II) goods or services fairly valued.
- (e) **GENERAL MANAGEMENT PLAN.**—

(1) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 3 years after the date on which funds are made available to carry out this section, the Secretary shall prepare a general management plan for the historical park in accordance with section 100502 of title 54, United States Code.

(2) **CONSULTATION.**—In preparing the general management plan under paragraph (1), the Secretary shall consult with—

- (A) the States and political subdivisions of the States;
- (B) institutions of higher education;
- (C) nonprofit organizations;
- (D) Indian Tribes; and
- (E) other affected individuals and entities,

including—

- (i) the Illinois Department of Natural Resources;
- (ii) the Osage Tribe; and
- (iii) the HeartLands Conservancy.

By Mr. DURBIN (for himself, Mr. WARNOCK, and Ms. CORTEZ MASTO):

S. 1212. A bill to address the needs of workers in industries likely to be impacted by rapidly evolving technologies; to the Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions.

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. 1212

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 “Investing in Tomorrow’s Workforce Act of 2021”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress makes the following findings:

(1) In 2014, the United States spent just 0.1 percent of the Nation’s Gross Domestic Product on labor market policies, less than half of what the United States spent on labor market policies 30 years ago.

(2) The number of workers receiving federally supported training has declined in the past 3 decades as advances in technology have simultaneously shifted labor market demand over time.

(3) Job losses from automation are more likely to impact women, people of color, and workers making less than \$40,000 annually.

(4) The COVID-19 pandemic has accelerated trends in automation, with 43 percent of businesses in the World Economic Forum’s Future of Jobs survey indicating they plan to reduce their workforce as a result of technology integration.

(5) Strong Federal investment in expanding training services for workers whose jobs may be lost due to automation could prepare the United States workforce to better adapt to changes in the labor market and enter into skilled positions in technologically oriented occupations and industries.

(6) A focus on preparing the workforce of the United States for jobs that utilize advanced technologies could grow wages, increase economic productivity, and boost the competitiveness of the United States.

SEC. 3. DEFINITIONS.

In this Act:

(1) **AUTOMATION.**—The term “automation” means a device, process, or system that functions without continuous input from an operator, including—

- (A) advanced technologies, such as—
 - (i) data collection, classification processing, and analytics; and
 - (ii) 3-D printing, digital design and simulation, and digital manufacturing;
- (B) robotics, including collaborative robotics, and worker augmentation technology;
- (C) autonomous vehicle technology; or
- (D) autonomous machinery technology.

(2) **DISLOCATED WORKER.**—The term “dislocated worker” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(3) **IN-DEMAND INDUSTRY SECTOR OR OCCUPATION.**—The term “in-demand industry sector or occupation” has the meaning given the term in section 3 of that Act.

(4) **INTEGRATED EDUCATION AND TRAINING.**—The term “integrated education and training” has the meaning given the term in section 203 of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3272).

(5) **ELIGIBLE PARTNERSHIP.**—The term “eligible partnership” means an industry or sector partnership, as defined in section 3 of that Act, except that—

(A) for purposes of applying paragraph (26)(A)(iii) of that section, the term “institution of higher education” has the meaning given the term in section 101 of the Higher Education Act of 1965 (20 U.S.C. 1001); and

(B) the partnership shall include, in addition to the representatives described in clauses (i) through (iii) of paragraph (26)(A) of that section, representatives of—

- (i) a State workforce development board or a local workforce development board; and
- (ii) an economic development organization.

(6) **GAO STUDY ON AUTOMATION.**—The term “GAO study on automation” means the study on automation conducted by the Comptroller General of the United States, as directed in House Report 116-450 (incorporated in the explanatory statement regarding the Consolidated Appropriations Act, 2021 (Public Law 116-260) in accordance with section 4 of such Act).

(7) **LOCAL AND STATE WORKFORCE DEVELOPMENT BOARDS.**—The terms “local workforce development board” and “State workforce development board” have the meanings given the terms “local board” and “State board”, respectively, in section 3 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102).

(8) **SECRETARY.**—The term “Secretary” means the Secretary of Labor.

(9) **TRAINING SERVICES.**—The term “training services” means training services described in section 134(c)(3)(D) of that Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(c)(3)(D)).

SEC. 4. GRANTS TO IMPROVE TRAINING FOR WORKERS IMPACTED BY AUTOMATION.

(a) **GRANTS AUTHORIZED.**—

(1) IN GENERAL.—From the amounts appropriated under subsection (g) and beginning after the earlier of the date of submission of the GAO study on automation or October 1, 2022, the Secretary of Labor shall award grants, on a competitive basis, to eligible partnerships to support demonstration and pilot projects relating to the training needs of workers who are, or are likely to become, dislocated workers as a result of automation.

(2) DURATION.—A grant awarded under this section shall be for a period not to exceed 4 years.

(3) USE OF REPORT.—The Secretary shall use the GAO study on automation to inform the grant program carried out under this section.

(b) APPLICATIONS.—

(1) IN GENERAL.—To be eligible to receive a grant under this section, an eligible partnership shall submit an application to the Secretary at such time, in such manner, and containing such information as the Secretary shall reasonably require.

(2) CONTENTS.—Each application submitted under paragraph (1) shall include a description of the demonstration or pilot project to be completed with the grant funds, which description shall include—

(A) a description of the members of the eligible partnership who will be involved in the demonstration or pilot program and the services each member will provide;

(B) a description of the training services that will be available to individuals participating in the demonstration or pilot project, which may include—

(i) a plan to train dislocated workers from industries likely to be impacted by automation and transition the workers into regionally in-demand industry sectors or occupations; and

(ii) a plan to partner with local businesses to retrain, upskill, and re-deploy workers within an industry as an alternative to layoffs;

(C) a plan to provide workers with technology-based skills training, which may include training to provide skills related to coding, systems engineering, or information technology security, in addition to other skills; and

(D) a description of the goals that the eligible partnership intends to achieve to upskill workers and prepare them for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(c) PRIORITIES.—In awarding grants under this section, the Secretary shall give priority to—

(1) eligible partnerships that are located in an area with a high concentration of—

(A) industries with a higher likelihood of being impacted by automation; or

(B) industries included in in-demand industry sectors, as determined under subparagraphs (A)(i) and (B) of section 3(23) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3102(23));

(2) eligible partnerships—

(A) with a plan to provide incumbent worker training—

(i) to assist workers in obtaining the skills necessary to retain employment or avert layoffs; or

(ii) that allows a worker working for an employer to acquire new skills that allow the worker to obtain a higher-skilled or higher-paid position with such employer; and

(B) that partner with local employers that intend to backfill the pre-training positions of the incumbent workers by hiring new workers to fill those positions;

(3) eligible partnerships that will provide workers with a transportation stipend, paid sick leave, paid family and medical leave, access to child care services, or other employment benefits; or

(4) eligible partnerships with a plan to develop a shared training curriculum that can be used across local and regional networks of employers and training providers.

(d) USE OF FUNDS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds for 1 or more of the following:

(1) Providing training services under the demonstration or pilot project, which may include training services that prepare workers for in-demand industry sectors or occupations.

(2) Providing assistance for employers in developing a staff position for an individual who will be responsible for supporting training services provided under the grant.

(3) Purchasing equipment or technology necessary for training services provided under paragraph (1).

(4) Providing job search and other transitional assistance to workers in industries with high rates of job loss.

(5) Providing a training stipend to workers for training services.

(6) Providing integrated education and training.

(e) REPORT.—Not later than 1 year after an eligible partnership's completion of a demonstration or pilot project supported under this section, the eligible partnership shall prepare and submit to the Secretary a report regarding—

(1) the number of workers who received training services through the demonstration or pilot project, disaggregated by type of training service and the age, gender, and race of the workers;

(2) the number of such workers who successfully transitioned into a new position following completion of the training services;

(3) the number of individuals who successfully transitioned into an in-demand industry sector or occupation following completion of the training services;

(4) annual earnings data for individuals who have completed training services through the demonstration or pilot project;

(5) the percentage of individuals described in paragraph (4) who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the second quarter after exit from the training services;

(6) the percentage of individuals described in paragraph (4) who are in education or training activities, or in employment, during the fourth quarter after exit from the training services; and

(7) any practices used by the partnership that should be considered best practices with respect to training workers in industries that have, or are expected to have, high rates of job loss as a result of automation.

(f) GENERAL REQUIREMENTS.—An eligible partnership that receives a grant under this section shall use the grant funds in a manner that is consistent with the labor standards and protections described in section 181 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3241) and nondiscrimination provisions described in section 188 of such Act (29 U.S.C. 3248).

(g) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—There are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section such sums as may be necessary for the first 5 full fiscal years beginning after the earlier of the date of submission of the GAO study on automation or October 1, 2022.

SEC. 5. EXPANSION OF WORKER TRAINING SERVICES.

(a) ADULT AND DISLOCATED WORKER EMPLOYMENT AND TRAINING.—Section 134(d)(1)(A) of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3174(d)(1)(A)) is amended—

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

(2) in clause (xii), by striking the period and inserting “; and”; and

(3) by adding at the end the following:

“(xiii) training programs for individuals who are, or are likely to become, dislocated workers as a result of automation, including activities that prepare the individuals for occupations in the technology sector.”.

(b) NATIONAL DISLOCATED WORKER GRANTS.—Section 170 of the Workforce Innovation and Opportunity Act (29 U.S.C. 3225) is amended—

(1) in subsection (b)(1)(A), by inserting “advances in automation technology,” before “plant closures.”; and

(2) by adding at the end the following:

“(e) AUTHORIZATION OF APPROPRIATIONS.—In addition to any funds reserved under section 132(a)(2)(A) to carry out this section, there are authorized to be appropriated to carry out this section \$40,000,000 for each of fiscal years 2022 through 2026.”.

SUBMITTED RESOLUTIONS

SENATE RESOLUTION 164—EXPRESSING THE SENSE OF THE SENATE THAT THE NUMBER OF JUSTICES OF THE SUPREME COURT OF THE UNITED STATES SHOULD REMAIN AT 9

Mr. DAINES (for himself, Mr. LANKFORD, and Mr. RUBIO) submitted the following resolution; which was referred to the Committee on the Judiciary:

S. RES. 164

Whereas the first section of the Act entitled “An Act to amend the Judicial System of the United States”, approved April 10, 1869 (commonly known as the “Judiciary Act of 1869”) (16 Stat. 44; chapter 22), states that “the Supreme Court of the United States shall hereafter consist of the Chief Justice of the United States and eight associate justices”;

Whereas the Supreme Court of the United States has consisted of a Chief Justice and 8 associate Justices for 152 years;

Whereas previous attempts to increase the number of justices on the Supreme Court of the United States have been rejected and widely condemned by individuals of both political parties;

Whereas, in 1937, when former President Franklin Delano Roosevelt proposed the Judicial Procedures Reform Bill of 1937, a bill that sought to expand the number of justices on the Supreme Court of the United States from 9 justices to 15 Justices, he was harshly criticized by both parties and his own Vice President, John Nance Garner;

Whereas, the 1937 Senate Judiciary Committee report, in response to the Court-packing plan by President Roosevelt, decried the plan as “a needless, futile, and utterly dangerous abandonment of constitutional principle”, that “[i]ts ultimate operation would be to make this government one of men rather than one of law” and that it was “a measure, which should be so emphatically rejected that its parallel will never again be presented to the free representatives of the free people of America”;

Whereas, during the Trump Administration, Democrats have refused to recognize the legitimacy of nominations made by President Trump to the Supreme Court of the United States and have advocated for packing the Court with additional justices appointed by a future Democrat president;

Whereas, in 1983 during a Senate Judiciary Committee hearing, then-Senator Joe Biden

noted that Court packing was a “bonehead idea” and “a terrible, terrible mistake” that “put in question for an entire decade the independence of the most significant body—including the Congress, in my view—the most significant body in this country, the Supreme Court of the United States of America”;

Whereas, in 2005 during a speech on the Senate floor, then-Senator Joe Biden praised members of the Democrat Party for their “act of courage” in opposing the Court-packing plan of President Roosevelt, which he described as a “power grab”;

Whereas, in 2019, the late Justice Ruth Bader Ginsburg stated, “I think it was a bad idea when President Franklin Roosevelt tried to pack the Court”, and that “if anything would make the Court look partisan, it would be that”;

Whereas, in 2021, Justice Stephen Breyer urged supporters of court packing to “think long and hard” about undermining the independence of the court, noting that it is imperative the public “trust that the court is guided by legal principle, not politics” and that “structural alteration motivated by the perception of political influence can only feed that latter perception, further eroding that trust”;

Whereas the Constitution of the United States is based on the principle of separation of powers to provide for checks and balances on each branch of the Federal Government and expanding the Supreme Court of the United States purely for political advantage threatens the separation of powers and the system of checks and balances established in the Constitution of the United States;

Whereas the Federal judiciary is insulated from political influence through lifetime appointments and other measures to preserve its independence and an attempt to expand the Supreme Court of the United States purely for political purposes threatens the independence and integrity of the Supreme Court and, thus, the entirety of the judiciary it oversees; and

Whereas any attempt to increase the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States or “pack the Court” would undermine the democratic institutions and destroy the credibility of the highest court in the United States: Now, therefore, be it

Resolved, That the Senate opposes any attempt to increase the number of justices of the Supreme Court of the United States or otherwise pack the Court.

AMENDMENTS SUBMITTED AND PROPOSED

SA 1445. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WARNOCK)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes.

SA 1446. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 937, *supra*; which was ordered to lie on the table.

TEXT OF AMENDMENTS

SA 1445. Mr. SCHUMER (for Ms. HIRONO (for herself, Ms. COLLINS, Mr. BLUMENTHAL, and Mr. WARNOCK)) proposed an amendment to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; as follows:

Strike all after the first word and insert the following:

1. SHORT TITLE.

This Act may be cited as the “COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act”.

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

(2) According to a recent report, there were nearly 3,800 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination and incidents related to COVID-19 between March 19, 2020, and February 28, 2021, in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(3) During this time frame, race has been cited as the primary reason for discrimination, making up over 90 percent of incidents, and the United States condemns and denounces any and all anti-Asian and Pacific Islander sentiment in any form.

(4) Roughly 36 percent of these incidents took place at a business and more than 2,000,000 Asian-American businesses have contributed to the diverse fabric of American life.

(5) More than 1,900,000 Asian-American and Pacific Islander older adults, particularly those older adults who are recent immigrants or have limited English proficiency, may face even greater challenges in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including discrimination, economic insecurity, and language isolation.

(6) In the midst of this alarming surge in anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents, a shooter murdered the following 8 people in the Atlanta, Georgia region, 7 of whom were women and 6 of whom were women of Asian descent:

- (A) Xiaojie Tan.
- (B) Daoyou Feng.
- (C) Delaina Ashley Yaun González.
- (D) Paul Andre Michels.
- (E) Soon Chung Park.
- (F) Hyun Jung Grant.
- (G) Suncha Kim.
- (H) Yong Ae Yue.

(7) The people of the United States will always remember the victims of these shootings and stand in solidarity with those affected by this senseless tragedy and incidents of hate that have affected the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

SEC. 3. REVIEW OF HATE CRIMES.

(a) **IN GENERAL.**—Not later than 7 days after the date of enactment of this Act, the Attorney General shall designate an officer or employee of the Department of Justice whose responsibility during the applicable period shall be to facilitate the expedited review of hate crimes (as described in section 249 of title 18, United States Code) and reports of any such crime to Federal, State, local, or Tribal law enforcement agencies.

(b) **APPLICABLE PERIOD DEFINED.**—In this section, the term “applicable period” means the period beginning on the date on which the officer or employee is designated under subsection (a), and ending on the date that is 1 year after the date on which the emergency period described in subparagraph (B) of section 1135(g)(1) of the Social Security Act (42 U.S.C. 1320b-5(g)(1)) ends, except that the Attorney General may extend such period as appropriate.

SEC. 4. GUIDANCE.

(a) **GUIDANCE FOR LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCIES.**—The Attorney General shall issue guidance for State, local, and Tribal law enforcement agencies, pursuant to this Act and other applicable law, on how to—

(1) establish online reporting of hate crimes or incidents, and to have online reporting that is equally effective for people with disabilities as for people without disabilities available in multiple languages as determined by the Attorney General;

(2) collect data disaggregated by the protected characteristics described in section 249 of title 18, United States Code; and

(3) expand public education campaigns aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes and reaching victims, that are equally effective for people with disabilities as for people without disabilities.

(b) **GUIDANCE RELATING TO COVID-19 PANDEMIC.**—The Attorney General and the Secretary of Health and Human Services, in coordination with the COVID-19 Health Equity Task Force and community-based organizations, shall issue guidance aimed at raising awareness of hate crimes during the COVID-19 pandemic.

SEC. 5. JABARA-HEYER NO HATE ACT.

(a) **SHORT TITLE.**—This section may be cited as the “Khalid Jabara and Heather Heyer National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2021” or the “Jabara-Heyer NO HATE Act”.

(b) **FINDINGS.**—Congress finds the following:

(1) The incidence of violence known as hate crimes, or crimes motivated by bias, poses a serious national problem.

(2) According to data obtained by the Federal Bureau of Investigation, the incidence of such violence increased in 2019, the most recent year for which data is available.

(3) In 1990, Congress enacted the Hate Crime Statistics Act (Public Law 101-275; 28 U.S.C. 534 note) to provide the Federal Government, law enforcement agencies, and the public with data regarding the incidence of hate crime. The Hate Crime Statistics Act and the Matthew Shepard and James Byrd, Jr. Hate Crimes Prevention Act (division E of Public Law 111-84; 123 Stat. 2835) have enabled Federal authorities to understand and, where appropriate, investigate and prosecute hate crimes.

(4) A more complete understanding of the national problem posed by hate crime is in the public interest and supports the Federal interest in eradicating bias-motivated violence referenced in section 249(b)(1)(C) of title 18, United States Code.

(5) However, a complete understanding of the national problem posed by hate crimes is hindered by incomplete data from Federal, State, and local jurisdictions through the Uniform Crime Reports program authorized under section 534 of title 28, United States Code, and administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation.

(6) Multiple factors contribute to the provision of inaccurate and incomplete data regarding the incidence of hate crime through the Uniform Crime Reports program. A significant contributing factor is the quality and quantity of training that State and local law enforcement agencies receive on the identification and reporting of suspected bias-motivated crimes.

(7) The problem of crimes motivated by bias is sufficiently serious, widespread, and interstate in nature as to warrant Federal financial assistance to States and local jurisdictions.

(8) Federal financial assistance with regard to certain violent crimes motivated by bias enables Federal, State, and local authorities to work together as partners in the investigation and prosecution of such crimes.

(c) **DEFINITIONS.**—In this section:

(1) **HATE CRIME.**—The term “hate crime” means an act described in section 245, 247, or 249 of title 18, United States Code, or in section 901 of the Civil Rights Act of 1968 (42 U.S.C. 3631).

(2) **PRIORITY AGENCY.**—The term “priority agency” means—

(A) a law enforcement agency of a unit of local government that serves a population of not less than 100,000, as computed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; or

(B) a law enforcement agency of a unit of local government that—

(i) serves a population of not less than 50,000 and less than 100,000, as computed by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(ii) has reported no hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program in each of the 3 most recent calendar years for which such data is available.

(3) STATE.—The term “State” has the meaning given the term in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

(4) UNIFORM CRIME REPORTS.—The term “Uniform Crime Reports” means the reports authorized under section 534 of title 28, United States Code, and administered by the Federal Bureau of Investigation that compile nationwide criminal statistics for use—

(A) in law enforcement administration, operation, and management; and

(B) to assess the nature and type of crime in the United States.

(5) UNIT OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—The term “unit of local government” has the meaning given the term in section 901 of title I of the Omnibus Crime Control and Safe Streets Act of 1968 (34 U.S.C. 10251).

(d) REPORTING OF HATE CRIMES.—

(1) IMPLEMENTATION GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to States and units of local government to assist the State or unit of local government in implementing the National Incident-Based Reporting System, including to train employees in identifying and classifying hate crimes in the National Incident-Based Reporting System.

(B) PRIORITY.—In making grants under subparagraph (A), the Attorney General shall give priority to States and units of local government that develop and implement the programs and activities described in subsection (f)(2)(A).

(2) REPORTING.—

(A) COMPLIANCE.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in clause (ii), in each fiscal year beginning after the date that is 3 years after the date on which a State or unit of local government first receives a grant under paragraph (1), the State or unit of local government shall provide to the Attorney General, through the Uniform Crime Reporting system, information pertaining to hate crimes committed in that jurisdiction during the preceding fiscal year.

(ii) EXTENSIONS; WAIVER.—The Attorney General—

(I) may provide a 120-day extension to a State or unit of local government that is making good faith efforts to comply with clause (i); and

(II) shall waive the requirements of clause (i) if compliance with that subparagraph by a State or unit of local government would be unconstitutional under the constitution of the State or of the State in which the unit of local government is located, respectively.

(B) FAILURE TO COMPLY.—If a State or unit of local government that receives a grant under paragraph (1) fails to substantially comply with subparagraph (A) of this paragraph, the State or unit of local government shall repay the grant in full, plus reasonable interest and penalty charges allowable by law or established by the Attorney General.

(c) GRANTS FOR STATE-RUN HATE CRIME HOTLINES.—

(1) GRANTS AUTHORIZED.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General shall make grants to States to create State-run hate crime reporting hotlines.

(B) GRANT PERIOD.—A grant made under subparagraph (A) shall be for a period of not more than 5 years.

(2) HOTLINE REQUIREMENTS.—A State shall ensure, with respect to a hotline funded by a grant under paragraph (1), that—

(A) the hotline directs individuals to—

(i) law enforcement if appropriate; and
(ii) local support services;

(B) any personally identifiable information that an individual provides to an agency of the State through the hotline is not directly or indirectly disclosed, without the consent of the individual, to—

(i) any other agency of that State;

(ii) any other State;

(iii) the Federal Government; or

(iv) any other person or entity;

(C) the staff members who operate the hotline are trained to be knowledgeable about—

(i) applicable Federal, State, and local hate crime laws; and

(ii) local law enforcement resources and applicable local support services; and

(D) the hotline is accessible to—

(i) individuals with limited English proficiency, where appropriate; and

(ii) individuals with disabilities.

(3) BEST PRACTICES.—The Attorney General shall issue guidance to States on best practices for implementing the requirements of paragraph (2).

(f) INFORMATION COLLECTION BY STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

(1) DEFINITIONS.—In this subsection:

(A) COVERED AGENCY.—The term “covered agency” means—

(i) a State law enforcement agency; and

(ii) a priority agency.

(B) ELIGIBLE ENTITY.—The term “eligible entity” means—

(i) a State; or

(ii) a unit of local government that has a priority agency.

(2) GRANTS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—The Attorney General may make grants to eligible entities to assist covered agencies within the jurisdiction of the eligible entity in conducting law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program, including—

(i) adopting a policy on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(ii) developing a standardized system of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the incidence of hate crime;

(iii) establishing a unit specialized in identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(iv) engaging in community relations functions related to hate crime prevention and education such as—

(I) establishing a liaison with formal community-based organizations or leaders; and

(II) conducting public meetings or educational forums on the impact of hate crimes, services available to hate crime victims, and the relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to hate crimes; and

(v) providing hate crime trainings for agency personnel.

(B) SUBGRANTS.—A State that receives a grant under subparagraph (A) may award a subgrant to a unit of local government within the State for the purposes under that subparagraph, except that a unit of local government may provide funding from such a subgrant to any law enforcement agency of the unit of local government.

(3) INFORMATION REQUIRED OF STATES AND UNITS OF LOCAL GOVERNMENT.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—For each fiscal year in which a State or unit of local government receives a grant or subgrant under paragraph (2), the State or unit of local government shall—

(i) collect information from each law enforcement agency that receives funding from the grant or subgrant summarizing the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency to pre-

vent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program; and

(ii) submit to the Attorney General a report containing the information collected under clause (i).

(B) SEMI-ANNUAL LAW ENFORCEMENT AGENCY REPORT.—

(i) IN GENERAL.—In collecting the information required under subparagraph (A)(i), a State or unit of local government shall require each law enforcement agency that receives funding from a grant or subgrant awarded to the State or unit of local government under paragraph (2) to submit a semi-annual report to the State or unit of local government that includes a summary of the law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by the agency during the reporting period to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime, particularly as those activities or programs relate to reporting hate crimes through the Uniform Crime Reports program.

(ii) CONTENTS.—In a report submitted under clause (i), a law enforcement agency shall, at a minimum, disclose—

(I) whether the agency has adopted a policy on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(II) whether the agency has developed a standardized system of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the incidence of hate crime;

(III) whether the agency has established a unit specialized in identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(IV) whether the agency engages in community relations functions related to hate crime, such as—

(aa) establishing a liaison with formal community-based organizations or leaders; and

(bb) conducting public meetings or educational forums on the impact of hate crime, services available to hate crime victims, and the relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to hate crime; and

(V) the number of hate crime trainings for agency personnel, including the duration of the trainings, conducted by the agency during the reporting period.

(4) COMPLIANCE AND REDIRECTION OF FUNDS.—

(A) IN GENERAL.—Except as provided in subparagraph (B), beginning not later than 1 year after the date of this Act, a State or unit of local government receiving a grant or subgrant under paragraph (2) shall comply with paragraph (3).

(B) EXTENSIONS; WAIVER.—The Attorney General—

(i) may provide a 120-day extension to a State or unit of local government that is making good faith efforts to collect the information required under paragraph (3); and

(ii) shall waive the requirements of paragraph (3) for a State or unit of local government if compliance with that subsection by the State or unit of local government would be unconstitutional under the constitution of the State or of the State in which the unit of local government is located, respectively.

(g) REQUIREMENTS OF THE ATTORNEY GENERAL.—

(1) INFORMATION COLLECTION AND ANALYSIS; REPORT.—In order to improve the accuracy of data regarding the incidence of hate crime provided through the Uniform Crime Reports program, and promote a more complete understanding of the national problem posed by hate crime, the Attorney General shall—

(A) collect and analyze the information provided by States and units of local government under subsection (f) for the purpose of developing policies related to the provision of accurate data obtained under the Hate

Crime Statistics Act (Public Law 101-275; 28 U.S.C. 534 note) by the Federal Bureau of Investigation; and

(B) for each calendar year beginning after the date of enactment of this Act, publish and submit to Congress a report based on the information collected and analyzed under subparagraph (A).

(2) CONTENTS OF REPORT.—A report submitted under paragraph (1) shall include—

(A) a qualitative analysis of the relationship between—

(i) the number of hate crimes reported by State law enforcement agencies or other law enforcement agencies that received funding from a grant or subgrant awarded under paragraph (2) through the Uniform Crime Reports program; and

(ii) the nature and extent of law enforcement activities or crime reduction programs conducted by those agencies to prevent, address, or otherwise respond to hate crime; and

(B) a quantitative analysis of the number of State law enforcement agencies and other law enforcement agencies that received funding from a grant or subgrant awarded under paragraph (2) that have—

(i) adopted a policy on identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(ii) developed a standardized system of collecting, analyzing, and reporting the incidence of hate crime;

(iii) established a unit specialized in identifying, investigating, and reporting hate crimes;

(iv) engaged in community relations functions related to hate crime, such as—

(I) establishing a liaison with formal community-based organizations or leaders; and

(II) conducting public meetings or educational forums on the impact of hate crime, services available to hate crime victims, and the relevant Federal, State, and local laws pertaining to hate crime; and

(v) conducted hate crime trainings for agency personnel during the reporting period, including—

(I) the total number of trainings conducted by each agency; and

(II) the duration of the trainings described in subclause (I).

(h) ALTERNATIVE SENTENCING.—Section 249 of title 18, United States Code, is amended by adding at the end the following:

“(e) SUPERVISED RELEASE.—If a court includes, as a part of a sentence of imprisonment imposed for a violation of subsection (a), a requirement that the defendant be placed on a term of supervised release after imprisonment under section 3583, the court may order, as an explicit condition of supervised release, that the defendant undertake educational classes or community service directly related to the community harmed by the defendant’s offense.”.

SA 1446. Mr. WARNOCK submitted an amendment intended to be proposed by him to the bill S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID-19 hate crimes, and for other purposes; which was ordered to lie on the table; as follows:

After section 1, insert the following:

SEC. 2. FINDINGS.

Congress finds the following:

(1) Following the spread of COVID-19 in 2020, there has been a dramatic increase in hate crimes and violence against Asian-Americans and Pacific Islanders.

(2) According to a recent report, there were nearly 3,800 reported cases of anti-Asian discrimination and incidents related to COVID-19 between March 19, 2020, and February 28, 2021, in all 50 States and the District of Columbia.

(3) During this time frame, race has been cited as the primary reason for discrimination, making up over 90 percent of incidents, and the United States condemns and denounces any and all anti-Asian and Pacific Islander sentiment in any form.

(4) Roughly 36 percent of these incidents took place at a business and more than 2,000,000 Asian-American businesses have contributed to the diverse fabric of American life.

(5) More than 1,900,000 Asian-American and Pacific Islander older adults, particularly those older adults who are recent immigrants or have limited English proficiency, may face even greater challenges in dealing with the COVID-19 pandemic, including discrimination, economic insecurity, and language isolation.

(6) In the midst of this alarming surge in anti-Asian hate crimes and incidents, a shooter murdered the following 8 people in the Atlanta, Georgia, region, 7 of whom were women, and 6 of whom were women of Asian descent:

- (A) Xiaojie Tan.
- (B) Daoyou Feng.
- (C) Delaina Ashley Yaun González.
- (D) Paul Andre Michels.
- (E) Soon Chung Park.
- (F) Hyun Jung Grant.
- (G) Suncha Kim.
- (H) Yong Ae Yue.

(7) The people of the United States will always remember the victims of these shootings and stand in solidarity with those affected by this senseless tragedy and incidents of hate that have affected the Asian and Pacific Islander communities.

following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: The Honorable MARCO RUBIO of Florida and The Honorable TIM SCOTT of South Carolina.

MEASURES READ THE FIRST TIME—S. 1216 AND H.R. 7

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I understand that there are two bills at the desk, and I ask for their first reading en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The clerk will read the bills by title for the first time en bloc.

The senior assistant legislative clerk read as follows:

A bill (S. 1216) to extend the temporary scheduling order for fentanyl-related substances.

A bill (H.R. 7) to amend the Fair Labor Standards Act of 1938 to provide more effective remedies to victims of discrimination in the payment of wages on the basis of sex, and for other purposes.

Mr. SCHUMER. I now ask for a second reading, and I object to my own request, all en bloc.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Objection is heard. The bills will be read for the second time on the next legislative day.

AUTHORITY FOR COMMITTEES TO MEET

Mr. PADILLA. Mr. President, I have a request for one committee to meet during today’s session of the Senate. It has the approval of the Majority and Minority leaders.

Pursuant to rule XXVI, paragraph 5(a), of the Standing Rules of the Senate, the following committee is authorized to meet during today’s session of the Senate:

COMMITTEE ON FOREIGN RELATIONS

The Committee on Foreign Relations is authorized to meet during the session of the Senate on Monday, April 19, 2021, at 6 p.m., to conduct a hearing.

NOMINATION REFERRAL

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that, as if in executive session, the nomination of Shannon Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on April 19, 2021, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Without objection, it is so ordered.

APPOINTMENT

The PRESIDING OFFICER. The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96-388, as amended by Public Law 97-84, and Public Law 106-292, reappoints the

ORDERS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, I ask unanimous consent that when the Senate completes its business today, it adjourn until 10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20; that following the prayer and pledge, the morning hour be deemed expired, the Journal of proceedings be approved to date, the time for the two leaders be reserved for their use later in the day, and morning business be closed; that upon the conclusion of morning business, the Senate resume consideration of S. 937, the COVID-19 Hate Crimes legislation; that at 12 noon, the Senate proceed to executive session to resume consideration of the Gensler nomination and the Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; that the Senate recess following the cloture vote on the Gensler nomination until 2:15 p.m. to allow for the weekly caucus meetings; further, that if cloture is invoked on the Gensler nomination, all postcloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m.; that if confirmed, the motion to reconsider be considered made and laid upon the table and the President be immediately notified of the Senate’s action; finally, that following the confirmation vote, the Senate resume legislative session.

The PRESIDING OFFICER. Is there objection?

Without objection, it is so ordered.

ADJOURNMENT UNTIL 10 A.M.
TOMORROW

Mr. SCHUMER. Madam President, if there is no further business to come before the Senate, I ask unanimous consent that it stand adjourned under the previous order.

There being no objection, the Senate, at 7:28 p.m., adjourned until Tuesday, April 20, 2021, at 10 a.m.

NOMINATIONS

Executive nominations received by the Senate:

ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY

FAISAL AMIN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE CHIEF FINANCIAL OFFICER, ENVIRONMENTAL PROTECTION AGENCY, VICE HOLLY W. GREAVES.

DEPARTMENT OF THE INTERIOR

SHANNON ANEAL ESTENOZ, OF FLORIDA, TO BE ASSISTANT SECRETARY FOR FISH AND WILDLIFE, VICE ROBERT WALLACE.

TANYA MARIE TRUJILLO, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF THE INTERIOR, VICE TIMOTHY R. PETTY.

DEPARTMENT OF STATE

LARRY EDWARD ANDRE, JR., OF TEXAS, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE FEDERAL REPUBLIC OF SOMALIA.

ELIZABETH MOORE AUBIN, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE PEOPLE'S DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF ALGERIA.

STEVEN C. BONDY, OF NEW JERSEY, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF BAHRAIN.

MARIA E. BREWER, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-

COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE KINGDOM OF LESOTHO.

MARC EVANS KNAPPER, OF CALIFORNIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE SOCIALIST REPUBLIC OF VIETNAM.

CHRISTOPHER JOHN LAMORA, OF RHODE ISLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF CAMEROON.

TULINABO S. MUSHINGI, OF VIRGINIA, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF ANGOLA, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE DEMOCRATIC REPUBLIC OF SAO TOME AND PRINCIPE.

MICHAEL RAYNOR, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF MINISTER-COUNSELOR, TO BE AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF SENEGAL, AND TO SERVE CONCURRENTLY AND WITHOUT ADDITIONAL COMPENSATION AS AMBASSADOR EXTRAORDINARY AND PLENIPOTENTIARY OF THE UNITED STATES OF AMERICA TO THE REPUBLIC OF GUINEA-BISSAU.

MICHELE JEANNE SISON, OF MARYLAND, A CAREER MEMBER OF THE SENIOR FOREIGN SERVICE, CLASS OF CAREER AMBASSADOR, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF STATE (INTERNATIONAL ORGANIZATION AFFAIRS), VICE KEVIN EDWARD MOLEY, RESIGNED.

DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY

JON EUGENE MEYER, OF OHIO, TO BE GENERAL COUNSEL, DEPARTMENT OF HOMELAND SECURITY, VICE JOHN MARSHALL MITNICK.

THE JUDICIARY

RUPA RANGA PUTTAGUNTA, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE ASSOCIATE JUDGE OF THE SUPERIOR COURT OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA FOR THE TERM OF FIFTEEN YEARS, VICE PATRICIA A. BRODERICK, RETIRED.

CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY

ROBIN C. ASHTON, OF MARYLAND, TO BE INSPECTOR GENERAL, CENTRAL INTELLIGENCE AGENCY, VICE DAVID B. BUCKLEY, RESIGNED.

THE JUDICIARY

DEBORAH L. BOARDMAN, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE RICHARD D. BENNETT, RETIRING.

TIFFANY P. CUNNINGHAM, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE FEDERAL CIRCUIT, VICE EVAN JONATHAN WALLACH, RETIRING.

LYDIA KAY GRIGGSBY, OF MARYLAND, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF MARYLAND, VICE CATHERINE C. BLAKE, RETIRED.

KETANJI BROWN JACKSON, OF THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLUMBIA CIRCUIT, VICE MERRICK B. GARLAND, RETIRED.

CANDACE JACKSON-AKIWUMI, OF ILLINOIS, TO BE UNITED STATES CIRCUIT JUDGE FOR THE SEVENTH CIRCUIT, VICE JOEL M. FLAUM, RETIRED.

JULIEN XAVIER NEALS, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE WILLIAM J. MARTINI, RETIRED.

ZAHID N. QURAIISHI, OF NEW JERSEY, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW JERSEY, VICE PETER G. SHERIDAN, RETIRED.

REGINA M. RODRIGUEZ, OF COLORADO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF COLORADO, VICE MARCIA S. KRIEGER, RETIRED.

MARGARET IRENE STRICKLAND, OF NEW MEXICO, TO BE UNITED STATES DISTRICT JUDGE FOR THE DISTRICT OF NEW MEXICO, VICE ROBERT C. BRACK, RETIRED.

DEPARTMENT OF VETERANS AFFAIRS

PATRICIA L. ROSS, OF OHIO, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (CONGRESSIONAL AND LEGISLATIVE AFFAIRS), VICE BROOKS D. TUCKER.

MARYANNE T. DONAGHY, OF PENNSYLVANIA, TO BE AN ASSISTANT SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS (OFFICE OF ACCOUNTABILITY AND WHISTLEBLOWER PROTECTION), VICE TAMARA BONZANTO.

MATTHEW T. QUINN, OF MONTANA, TO BE UNDER SECRETARY OF VETERANS AFFAIRS FOR MEMORIAL AFFAIRS, VICE RANDY REEVES.

IN THE NAVY

THE FOLLOWING NAMED OFFICER FOR APPOINTMENT IN THE UNITED STATES NAVY TO THE GRADE INDICATED WHILE ASSIGNED TO A POSITION OF IMPORTANCE AND RESPONSIBILITY UNDER TITLE 10, U.S.C., SECTION 601:

To be vice admiral

REAR ADM. WILLIAM J. HOUSTON

EXTENSIONS OF REMARKS

JASMERAE MARTINEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jasmerae Martinez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jasmerae Martinez is a 12th grader at Mapleton Online and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jasmerae Martinez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jasmerae Martinez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
CHARLES SPENCER

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Charles Spencer who passed away at the age of 94 on Monday, March 22. I am grateful for the service of men like Mr. Spencer, and I join his family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Mr. Spencer was born on November 21, 1926 in Clay County. He grew up on his family's farm and spent his entire life as a resident of Itawamba County. In 1944, he was married to his childhood sweetheart, Martha West.

Charles was passionate about education. He spent his life inculcating into his students the value of education. He began his career under the Emergency Certificate in 1947 teaching 5th and 6th grade at Tilden and Banner. He taught social studies and coached the men's and women's basketball teams at Cleveland Vocational School in 1951 and 1952. In 1952 Mr. Spencer earned his BS in Education from Mississippi State University before returning to Itawamba County to serve as principal at Mantachie. He taught night classes to veterans who sought to further their education. In 1972 he returned to Mississippi State to earn his MA in Education Administration. He was then appointed as Superintendent of Education of Itawamba County.

Charles is survived by his son, Keith; daughter, Brenda; grandchildren, Klista, Ina, Matthew, Beth Ann, Stephanie and Max; and great-grandchildren Mia Rae, Aiden, Charlie,

Catherine, Colin, Anthony, Marina, and Alexios.

Mr. Charles Spencer was a central figure in the education of countless Mississippi students and I commend him for his lifetime commitment to his community.

HONORING REPRESENTATIVE
GARY STAPLES

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Gary Staples who passed away on January 2, 2021 at the age of 80. I send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Staples' family and friends.

Born and raised in Laurel Mississippi, he attended the University of Southern Mississippi and Jones County Junior College.

Representative Staples served as a member of the Mississippi House of Representatives for the 88th District. Mr. Staples was loved and respected by his constituents, family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

From serving Mississippi's 88th District for 17 years, he has left behind a legacy of commitment to the State of Mississippi for us to remember him by.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Representative Gary Staples, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

HONORING THE LIFE OF TODD
SPIKER

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Todd Spiker. Todd was a longtime friend of my family and we will miss him dearly.

Todd passed away on Sunday, April 4, 2021. Todd spent a lifetime in service to his country beginning at the age of 19 when he joined the U.S. Army. Upon leaving active duty, he joined the Alabama National Guard and served in the operation Desert Storm with the 214th MP Company.

After graduating from Jacksonville State University, he went to work at the at the City of Gadsden Police Department. Five years later, he would join the Federal Bureau of Investigation as a Special Agent where he would proudly serve for the next 23 years. Todd had a wonderful life and left an incredible legacy. I am grateful for his service and I offer my deepest condolences to his family.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I was en route and got stuck in traffic. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 104.

FAYTHE WILLIAMS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Faythe Williams for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Faythe Williams is an 11th grader at Legacy High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Faythe Williams is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Faythe Williams for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF KEN
SEALS

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ken Seals who passed away on Monday, March 29 at the North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. I join Ken's family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Ken, born to M.L. and Viola Laprade Seals, grew up in Pontotoc. He graduated from Pontotoc High School in 1956 and received his associate's degree from Itawamba Junior College. He later attended Mississippi State University before joining the United States Army. He served in Germany from 1958 to 1961. In 1965, Ken married Shelby Jean Seals. The two were married for 45 years until her passing in 2010.

Ken worked for 33 years as a purchasing agent for Malone and Hyde. He was an active member of First Baptist Church and West

• 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.

Jackson Street Baptist in Tupelo. He was an avid collector of baseball cards and coins.

Left to cherish his memory are his daughter, Diana Lynn; sons, Jeffery Lane and Michael Allen; and ten grandchildren.

I am grateful for the impact of men like Mr. Seals, and I commend him for his lifetime of service to family, state, and country.

HONORING COLONEL GREGORY
MICHEL

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to commend Colonel Gregory Michel for his years of service to the Mississippi Emergency Management Agency. Col. Michel has led our state's emergency agency since 2018—and what a fine job he has done.

Colonel Gregory Michel retired from the military in 2017 after nearly 30 years of service to the Army. He began his career with his command at Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center in Hattiesburg, MS where he served as Installation Commander.

Colonel Michel is a Veteran of Operation Desert Shield/Desert Storm and a Combat Veteran of Operation Iraq Freedom. Col. Michel's military decorations include the Bronze Star and the Combat Infantryman's Badge.

Col. Michel has remained dedicated to our state in his many roles, and during his time at MEMA was responsible for declaring more than nine Presidential Disaster Declarations, a critical piece of post-hurricane recovery efforts.

Although retirement from MEMA might be different given the pandemic, I am confident the impact Col. Michel left on our state and at MEMA will be a lasting one. I want to thank Colonel Michel for his service to our country and to the state of Mississippi.

IN HONOR OF THE 50TH
ANNIVERSARY OF FOSTER CITY

HON. JACKIE SPEIER

OF CALIFORNIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SPEIER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the City of Foster City on the occasion of the 50th Anniversary of its incorporation as a city on April 27, 1971. This is a young city with a long history, and it all began as a salt pond.

Leslie Salt Company sold its land, then known as Brewer's Island, to developer T. Jack Foster and a partner in 1958. The vision for the city was to develop a community that was more aesthetically pleasing, following an orderly development plan with neighborhoods that aged better over time. 218 surface acres of lagoons containing 425 million gallons of water were ultimately created within 4 square miles of land. Financing through bonds issued in the 1960's, totaling \$88.5 million, drove the creation of Foster City. Adjusted for inflation, this sum would be the equivalent of \$738 million in 2021 terms.

Now 33,000 residents inhabit this glistening four square mile jewel adjacent to San Fran-

cisco Bay. Residents love their parks and waterways. There are 24 parks and tennis courts, basketball fields, soccer fields, trails, picnic areas and an unlimited number of smiles from residents. Throughout America, this past year has been challenging because we must either shelter in place or stay distant from one another when outside. Foster City's architecture makes it simple to maintain your mental health.

You can walk a quiet street, go to a trail or park, ride a bike on flat ground throughout the city, and enjoy getting dunked in the bay when your kite sailing skills are overcome by Mother Nature. It's big news in Foster City when jellyfish show up in the lagoons. These marvelous creatures pose special challenges, but modern engineering and a bit of wisdom have kept them on the bay side of the levee system during most years. On occasion, one can even spot the descendants of Brewer Island's once most energetic and prolific of species: jack-rabbits. There's a lot for a rabbit to love about the city, filled as it is by such greenery that it would make Peter Rabbit swap Mr. McGregor's garden for a city block in Foster City.

This wonderful community loves its children. In normal times, youth sports are the center of community life for hundreds of families. Among the city's many wonderful attributes is that its inhabitants come from the four corners of the earth. If you are raised in Foster City and join a youth soccer league, you'd better be prepared for parents who grew up with a soccer ball in every closet. Coupled with all of the foreign languages heard on the streets and what you have is a city that celebrates global diversity and brings people together through sports and cultural programs that highlight the kindness of the human spirit. Global powerhouses Gilead Sciences and Visa International, companies that need to recruit talent globally, call Foster City home in part because it is so welcoming.

Madam Speaker, I close with this other special note about Foster City. In 2003, the city redeveloped its original park and renamed it after the late Congressman Leo J. Ryan. As we know, Congressman Ryan served the people of Foster City and his district until his assassination on November 18, 1978. The people of Foster City did not have to rename a park in memory of a man who died a quarter century earlier, but they did. This tells you something about the character of civic leadership in this community. These good people realized then, and now, that public service is an honorable endeavor, and that those who seek justice and pay the heaviest price because of that most important of goals have died in service to every constituent, past, present and future. Foster City does not forget. It does not forget to enjoy life and it does not forget to honor life.

In the decades to come, on the waterways and the roads, within the council chambers and city offices, and amongst the general populace, this community will thrive. Even when jellyfish bloom in the lagoons, the optimism that sparked the creation of this town never fades. Let us all wish Foster City and its residents another 50 years of friendship and progress.

IN HONOR OF THE ACCOMPLISHMENTS OF COMMANDER HOUSSAIN "SAM" SAREINI, ONE OF THE FIRST MUSLIM-AMERICAN NAVAL COMMANDERS

HON. DEBBIE DINGELL

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. DINGELL. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Commander Houssain "Sam" Sareini of Dearborn, Michigan. His accomplishments and service to our nation are worthy of commendation.

As a young man with an interest in government service, Commander Sareini enlisted in the United States Navy when he was 18 years old. During his first tour of duty, he was selected for the Enlisted Commissioning Program and went on to study Biochemistry at Iowa State University.

Commander Sareini has served in the United States Navy for nearly 27 years in a variety of roles all over the globe. He has served as Air Defense Commander, Reactor Laboratories Division Officer, Chemistry and Radiological Controls Principal Assistant, Radiation Health Officer, Senior Watch Officer, and now Commanding Officer for the USS *Nitze*. A dedicated servicemember, he has earned the Meritorious Service Medal, the Navy Commendation Medal, the Navy Achievement Medal, and the Good Conduct Medal.

On April 9, 2021 at a ceremony in Portsmouth, Virginia, Commander Sareini took command of the USS *Nitze*, an Arleigh Burke-class guided-missile destroyer. He is one of the first ever Muslim-Americans to command his own naval ship. His Islamic faith tells him to "live for others" and military service allows him to do just that. A dedicated leader and an inspiration to all, Commander Sareini embodies the unofficial Navy motto of "Not self, but country."

Madam Speaker, I ask my colleagues to join me in honoring Commander Houssain "Sam" Sareini for his invaluable service to this nation. I join with Commander Sareini's family, friends, and colleagues in extending my gratitude to him for his continued exemplary service to this country and congratulate him on this terrific achievement.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF J.T.
BYRD, JR.

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of J.T. Byrd, Jr. who passed away on December 8th at the age of 97. I send my condolences and prayers to Mr. Byrd's family and friends.

Born and raised in Mississippi, he served as Pastor of Eastlawn Baptist Church, Bethany Baptist Church and Oneal Road Baptist Church. Mr. Byrd was loved and respected by his church members, family, friends and all who had the privilege of knowing him.

I had the distinct honor of meeting Mr. Byrd and honoring his service to our country during an Honor Flight to the nation's capitol.

He leaves behind a legacy of service for us to remember him by. From his service in World War II to his faithful dedication of sharing the gospel with others, we now know he is resting in Glory with his bride.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mr. J.T. Byrd, Jr., a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
BARBARA IVY

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Ms. Barbara Ivy who passed away on February 15, 2021 at North Mississippi Medical Center. I join her family, friends, and loved ones in mourning her loss.

Ms. Ivy was born to Earlie Lewis King and Munola Jones King. In 1968, she graduated from Siggers High School. She worked at Larnier Clothing and Alan White until her retirement in 2007.

On January 29, 2021, Ms. Ivy celebrated 50 years of marriage to her husband Tommie Lee Ivy. The two had three children and a stepson. She was a dedicated wife, mother, and friend. She was a member of Union Missionary Baptist Church in Shannon where she served on the Missionary Society, Deacon's Wife Auxiliary, Kitchen Committee, and the Usher Board.

Left to cherish her memory are her husband, Tommie Lee Ivy; children, Cynthia, Octavius, Timothy, and Marcus; and nine grandchildren.

Ms. Barbara Ivy was a dedicated community servant and a beacon of love and light to all who knew her.

JASMINE TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Jasmine Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Jasmine Torres is a 12th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Jasmine Torres is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Jasmine Torres for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE FRONTLINE
HEALTHCARE WORKERS OF
SOUTH DAKOTA

HON. DUSTY JOHNSON

OF SOUTH DAKOTA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. JOHNSON of South Dakota. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize, celebrate, and honor the frontline healthcare workers of the great state of South Dakota.

Some of these South Dakota heroes are: Katherine Weyer, Kimberley Weyer, Nicole Weyer, Megan Weyerbacher, Morgan Weyer-Coates, James Weyh, Brandon Weyh, Joseph Whalen, Beverly Wharton, Kelly Wharton, Jeanne Wheeler, Rikki Wheeler, Kasandra Wheeler, Kurt Wheeler, Lindsey Wheeler, Kelly Wheelhouse, Andrea Wheelhouse, Nancy Whillock, Deborah Whipple, Alyce Whipple, Jessica WhirlwindSoldier, Barry Whisenant, Sandra Witcher, Debra White, Janii White, Timothy White, Amy White, Lynn White, Robin White, Tanya White, Nicole White, Melanie White, Arlene White, Tamber White, Shannon White, Tanner White, Nadine White, Kyle White, Amanda White, Emma White, Haley White, Bridget White, Victoria White, Rebecca White, Shaleigh White, Whitley White, Brandon White, Jessie White Hat, Kathryn Whites, Brenda Whiting, Jennifer Whiting, Tawnya Whiting, Hannah Whiting.

Samantha Whitley, Richard Whitlock, Abigail Whitlock, Teresa Whitmore, Sarah Whitney, Kylee Whitney, Jessica Whitney, Morgan Whittle, Ashley Wibeto, Kathleen Wick, Andrea Wickersham, Kristy Wickett, Kara Wickman, JoAnn Widrig, Valerie Wiebe, Jeri Wiebe, Kristin Wiebe, Paula Wiebe, Daxx Wiebelhaus, Betty Wiebelhaus-Vosler, Margie Wiebers, Cathy Wiebers, Angie Wiebers, Barbara Wiechmann, Hilary Wieck, Alison Wieczorek, Lacey Wieczorek, Krista Wiedenman, Lisa Wiederhold, Brent Wiederholt, Jeannie Wiege, Jean Wiekamp, Sarah Wielenga, Sarah Wielocha, Jill Wieman, Tanya Wiens, Bonnie Wierenga, Lindsay Wiese, Jaime Wiese, Shanna Wiese, Michele Wieseler, Abbie Wieseler, Emily Wiford, Daylon Wigart, Pearl Wigdahl Aldrich, Miranda Wiggs, Wendy Wight, Elisabeth Wightman, Jennifer Wiik, Vickie Wilbur, Glenda Wilcox, Susan Wilcox, Kimberly Wilcox, Linda Wilcox.

Lauren Wilcoxon, Gail Wild, Pamela Wilde, Jacqueline Wilde, Mandy Wilde, Kristina Wildeman, Michael Wildermuth, Deborah Wile, Alysén Wilén, Cynthia Wiles, Madison Wiley, Lori Wilford, Melanie Wilgers, Jill Wilgers, Holly Wilgers, Katie Wilk, Patty Wilkening, Meridith Wilkens, Richard Wilkins, Kimberly Wilkins, Moriah Wilkinson, Lesley Wilkinson, Sarah Wilkison, Elizabeth Will, Beverly Willadsen, Chantelle Wille, Elizabeth Willers, Kelli Willging, Candace Willhite, Debra Williams, Darlene Williams, Lori Williams, James Williams, Charlene Williams, Gordon Williams, Paul Williams, Marie Williams, Barbara Williams, Lisa Williams, Christy Williams, Jennifer Williams, Katherine Williams, Vanessa Williams, Aileen Williams, Kirstin Williams, Autumn Williams, Britt Williams, Kathy Williams, Sarah Williams, Jennifer Williams, Rebecca Williams, Blair Williams, Kristin Williams, Jael Williams, Rebecca Williams.

Barbara Williams, Melissa Williams, Amie Williams, Amy Williams, Carrie Williams,

Danielle Williams, Teryn Williams, Hanna Williams, Erin Williams, Brandis Williams, Hannah Williams, Annette Williams-Buthe, Marcia Williamson, Carrie Williamson, Brian Williamson, Travis Williamson, Alec Williamson, Mary Willis, Damian Willis, Alana Willis, Stephen Willison, Catharine Willms, Randi Willms, Robert Willoughby, Jessica Willprecht, Wendy Willrodt, Jennifer Wills, Rhonda Willson, Kelie Willson, Hannah Willson, Patricia Willuweit, Jessica Willuweit, Elizabeth Wilson, Cheryl Wilson, Tracy Wilson, Teresa Wilson, Joanna Wilson, Janice Wilson, Terrie Wilson, Donnelle Wilson, Catherine Wilson, Brenda Wilson, Kevin Wilson, Joslin Wilson, Leslie Wilson, Jeremy Wilson, Nicole Wilson, Alexandra Wilson, Stephanie Wilson, Mark Wilson, Lara Wilson, Barbara Wilson, Amy Wilson, Ladonna Wilson.

Holly Wilson, Lili Wilson, Michelle Wilson, Kayleen Wilson, Kristen Wilson, Angel Wilson-Crowe, Glenda Wilts, Kimberly Winckler, Kimberly Winckler, Nichole Winckler, Amanda Winckler, Contessa Windeshausen, Marlaare Windish, Scott Winegar, Katherine Wingate, Julie Wingen, Kathy Wingert, Jennifer Wink, Christina Winker, Hayley Winklepleck, April Winne, Sara Winnett, Betsy Winney, Amy Winrow, Christine Winrow, Jennifer Winsell, Sandra Winter, Colleen Winter, Eileen Winter, Denise Winter, Debra Winter, Mary Winter, Megan Winter, Elizabeth Winter, Venita Winterboer, Andrew Winterboer, Michelle Winters, Haley Winters, Krystina Winthers, Rachel Wintle, Eva Wipf, Rochelle Wipf, Dawn Wipf, Julianne Wipf, Sara Wipf, Emily Wipf, Bridget Wipf, Diane Wirth, Kylie Wirtz, Diane Wirtzfeld, Page Wise, Margo Wishard, Larissa Wishard, GERALYN WISSINK, Elizabeth Withane Abbott.

Laura Withorne-Maloney, Jean Witt, Nichola Witt, Amy Witte, Megan Witte, Alaina Witte, Joan Wittmeier, Amanda Wittmeier, Roxanne Wittmeier, Jennifer Wittrock, Tammi Wittry, Sally Wobig, Lynze Wobig, Kamber Wodtke, James Woehl, Christina Woehl, Samantha Woehl, Connie Woehlhoff, Norma Wohler, Gala Woitte, Nichole Woizeschke, Joyce Wolber, Carly Wolberg, Rebecca Wolbrink, Kristine Wolbrink, Samrawit Woldemariam, Linda Wolden, Kami Woldt, Carly Woldt, Colleen Wolf, Jessie Wolf, Amber Wolf, Malynda Wolf, Jana Wolf, Laurel Wolf, Tyanna Wolf, Muriah Wolf, Melissa Wolfe, Liana Wolfe, Kelsie Wolfenden, Diane Wolff, Rebecca Wolff, Kayla Wolff, Britni Wolff, Andrea Wolff, Ashley Wolfgang, Leslie Wolfname, Rachel Wolkow, Sandra Wollan, Stephanie Wolles, Brenda Wolles, Susan Wollman, Debra Wollman, Adam Wollman, Anna Wollman, Angela Wollmann, Emily Wollmann, Bryce Wollmann, Macy Wollschlager, MaClay Wollschlager, Lauri Wolter, Kelly Wolthuis, Kara Wolthuizen.

Amber Wolthuizen, Kristina Wong, Jacqueline Wonenberg, Daniel Wonenberg, Kelly Wood, Blaire Wood, Jelsie Wood, Colin Wood, Mary Woodard, Mary Woodburn, Amber Woodcock, Cristy Woodcock, Lauren Woodley, Patricia Woodraska, Tara Woodraska, Connie Woodring, Kathy Woods, Sally Woods, Amanda Woods, Matthew Woodson, Teresa Woodward, Gayle Wookey, Holly Wookey, Elizabeth Wookey, Shayna Woledge, Makayla Woledge, Diane Woolery, Patricia Woolridge, Natalie Woolridge, Bernadette Wootten, Anita Wootton, Kaylee Wootton, Amanda Worlie,

Micah Worsley, Caitlin Worth, Amanda Wortman, Micheala Wosje, Cindy Wozna, Alicia Wright, Cherie Wright, Janet Wright, Debra Wright, Allinda Wright, Linda Wright, Sandra Wright, Melissa Wright, Vicki Wright, Shannon Wright, Sara Wright, Melissa Wright, Donna Wright, Brittany Wright, Michael Wright, Elizabeth Wright, Krista Wright, Blake Wright, Kelsie Wright, Ashley Wright, Jessica Wright, Vicki Wright, Madison Wright.

Barbara Wright-Pigman, Gina Wubben, Taylor Wubben, Randa Wuebben, Karla Wuertzer, Andrea Wuestewald, Andrew Wuestewald, Staci Wuestewald, Megan Wulf, Kimberly Wulf-Beens, Tammy Wulff, Becky Wunder, Tina Wunder, Sarah Wunder, Nickkamol Wunggasorn, Kyrstin Wurdeman, Lynne Wurgler, Cassandra Wurpts, Patricia Wurster, Rachel Wurth, Jeanne Wyatt, Julie Wyatt, Brittney Wylie, Anna Wyly, Tracy Wyman, Kari Wynia, Shelley Wynia, Jamie Wynia, Tamara Wynia, Cambria Wynja, Pamela Wyse, Tercilia Ximenes, Kevin Yackley, Neil Yager, Pauline Yammerino, Tammy Yanders, April Yantis, Monica Yanzick, Miriam Yates, Andrew Ybanez, Anna Yde, Melinda Yeager, Elizabeth Yearous, Josephine Yellow, Barbara Yelverton, Hayden Yeradi, Olivia Yerdon, Jamie Yexley, Eskedar Yimer, Melanie Ymker, Elizabeth Ymker, Lynn Ymker, Karyl Yockey, Vutiwe Yolamu, Julie Yonker, Jennifer Yoon, Tina Yopp, Sandra Yordy, Robin York, Mark York, Jessica Yoshino, Charley Yost, Rebecca Yost.

Kami Yost, Nichole Yost, Jacqueline Yotter, Tara Young, Sandra Young, Doyle Young, Mary Young, Laurie Young, Linda Young, Tamara Young, Tamara Young, Jaime Young, Jade Young, Tricia Young, Nicole Young, Chelsea Young, Kamille Young, Breana Young, Katrina Young, Heather Young, Jessica Young, Jordyn Young, Hunter Young, Katharine Young, Judy Youngbluth, Karen Younger, Carla Youngworth, Sandra Youngworth, Renay Youpee, Rashad Yousef, Ashley Yousef, Kathleen Ysbrand, Lindsey Yuill, Tonia Yucker, Jay Yungbluth, Nadia Yusufi, Tricia Zabel, Jacqueline Zachariahs, Renee Zacher, Tracy Zacher, Karen Zacher, Tiffany Zachman, Michelle Zafft, Kathleen Zambo, Carina Zamora, Vicki Zamow-Laney, Janice Zandstra, Jenna Zandstra, Mary Zanon, Dawn Zastoupil, Mariah Zavadil, Sasha Zavesky, Jaycob Zdenek, Tanya Zdenek, Stephanie Zebroski, Afton Zediker, Kari Zeeb, Rachael Zeiger, Alexia Zeigler, Shannon Zell, Emily Zeller, Kendra Zellers, Emily Zellmer, Nancy Zemcuznikov.

Jamie Zens, Ronda Zens, Debra Zens, Jayne Zens, Amy Zens, Nathan Zens, Amy Zepeda, Jessica Zephier, Isabelle Zephier, Joshua Zerfas, London Zerfas, Jannalyn Zevenbergen, Tara Ziebart, Amber Ziebart, Marie Ziebarth, Morgan Ziebarth, Lisa Ziegeldorf, Makyl Ziegler, Antoinette Zierden, Allie Zieske, Meghan Zieske, Jamie Zilverberg, Daniel Zimbardo, Kylee Zimbardo, Peggy Zimmer, Zinta Zimmer, Deborah Zimmerman, Nancy Zimmerman, Holly Zimmerman, Grace Zimmerman, Jody Zimmerman, Teresa Zimmerman, Amanda Zimmerman, Kelli Zimmerman, Whitney Zimmerman, Kari Zimmerman, MacKenzie Zimmerman, Sydney Zimmerman, Amy Zimney, Heather Zimny, Rebecca Zinniel, Susan Zirbel, Toni Zirbel, Callie Zirpel, Brenna Zirpel, Stacey Zlotkowski, Kristen Zobel, Jayne Zobel, Nikki Zobel, Mara Zobrist, Kelly Zoelle, Jennifer Zoelle, Becky Zoeller, Nicole Zoerink, Katy Zogg, Kevin Zogg.

Joseph Zoller, Hope Zomer, Chelsey Zondervan, Karron Zopp, Patrick Zoss, Rebecca Zoss, Natasha Zubke, Paula Zuccaro, Karla Zuehlke, Jill Zuehlke, Lindsey Zuehlke, Kristyne Zuehlke, Christine Zuel, Audrey Zuiderhof, Ilene Zuiderhof, Joyce Zulkosky, Ashley Zuraff, Jean Zwahr, Jerry Zwak, Lori Zwak, Brittany Zwak, Julie Zwart, Taylor Zwart, Mary Zweber, Jennifer Zweber, Christina Zweber, Bailey Zweber, Alyssa Zweifel, Jessica Zweifel, and Wanda Zwieg.

Over the past year they have faced challenges most of us cannot even imagine. They have shown incredible resolve in the face of adversity. They have shown us all how to seek positivity and hope in each day as we weather the storms that come our way.

I couldn't be more thankful to represent the incredible people across South Dakota and all over the nation who work hard each day, not for fame, not for recognition or for money, but for the betterment of their communities. This is what makes America strong. I am grateful for the opportunity to recognize these hard-working individuals.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. MARY E. MILLER

OF ILLINOIS

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. MILLER of Illinois. Madam Speaker, I missed a vote on April 16, 2021. I opposed the legislation in the Education and Labor Committee.

Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 118.

HENRY STRAUSS

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize Henry Leopold Strauss of Denver, Colorado who passed away on April 8, 2021.

Henry was born in Germany in 1927. As Hitler was rising to power his family fled for Spain, then ultimately Denmark. After immigrating to New York in 1937 Henry moved to Denver in 1939. A graduate of East High School and the University of Colorado, Henry obtained a real estate broker's license and opened Strauss Realty. Henry and his first wife, Florence, married in 1958 and spent nearly four decades together before Florence passed away in 1995.

Henry was a strong advocate of civic engagement and was active in Democratic politics and a number of community organizations including the Rotary Club and the Council on Foreign Relations. Henry also served for 22 years on the Metropolitan State University Foundation Board. An avid traveler, Henry was crossing the globe well into his 80s with his second wife, Joan. Henry had a particular appreciation for China and made a impressive total of 26 trips there over the years.

In 1995, Henry set up the Florence G. Strauss Indigenous Medicine Collection Fund to collect books related to complementary

health practices and indigenous therapies around the world. This collection became Henry's greatest pride and joy over the past 25 years and currently contains over 4,000 columns.

Henry was a devoted husband and loving father and grandfather. He is survived by his wife Joan, his son Andy, and daughters Pam and Mimi, and his grandchildren Abbie, Emily, Emma, and Edie. I am deeply grateful for his lifetime of service to our community.

RECOGNIZING THE CAREER OF JERRY BOYD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the career of Jerry Boyd, one of the First African American State Troopers in Northeast Mississippi and the first man of color to serve in Tishomingo County law enforcement. I am grateful for Mr. Boyd's service to the state of Mississippi and join his family and loved ones in celebrating his lifetime of service.

Mr. Boyd, a native of Hernando, attended the University of Mississippi and graduated with a degree in public administration in 1977. In 1980, Jerry attended the Mississippi Highway Patrol School. For 23 years he served Tishomingo County and eventually retired from the MHP.

Jerry Boyd joined the Corinth Police Department where he currently serves as a Lieutenant. After 14 years of dedicated service, Lieutenant Boyd will be retiring from CPD. He will also be retiring as a Lieutenant Colonel after 28 years of service in the Mississippi National Guard.

I am thankful for great men like Jerry Boyd who dutifully protect our great state, and I cherish the opportunity to celebrate his many accomplishments.

HONORING COLONEL BOBBY GINN, UNITED STATES ARMY

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the outstanding military service of Colonel Bobby Ginn. Colonel Ginn, his wife Vicki, and their four children hail from Tylertown, Mississippi. Bobby comes from a long line of family members rich in military tradition. His grandfather served in WWI and his father served in WWII, both mobilizing through Camp Shelby MS, the very same military post that Colonel Ginn commanded from July 2017 through November 2020.

Colonel Ginn grew up working on a dairy farm, later becoming a cattle rancher. However, he had a desire to serve his country and, in 1990, enlisted in the U.S. Army Reserves.

He received his commission in 1993 through Officer Candidate School and served in numerous leadership positions including Company and Battalion Command. He became a

federal technician in 1996 and was assigned to the Maneuver Area Training Equipment Site at Camp Shelby.

In 2007, Colonel Ginn deployed to Iraq as a Company Commander serving in support of Operation Iraqi Freedom. His military career spanned three decades of exemplary service including his most recent leadership role as Commander of the Camp Shelby Joint Forces Training Center.

Colonel Ginn has received numerous prestigious awards including the Bronze Star, the Meritorious Service Medal, the Iraqi Campaign Medal, the Global War on Terrorism Service Medal, the Humanitarian Service Medal, a Meritorious Unit Commendation, and many other commendations including Federal and State Awards.

Colonel Ginn is a graduate of the Command and General Staff Officer Course and earned a master's degree in Strategic Studies at the prestigious U.S. Army War College.

Colonel Bobby Ginn is a true American patriot who chose to answer the call to serve our country. It is an honor to recognize his unwavering dedication to our country.

HONORING BERTINE BAHIGE ON BEING NAMED THE 2021 WYOMING NATIONAL DISTINGUISHED PRINCIPAL

HON. LIZ CHENEY

OF WYOMING

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. CHENEY. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor and congratulate Bertine Bahige on being named the 2021 Wyoming National Distinguished Principal.

Bertine was born and raised in the Democratic Republic of the Congo until he was kidnapped by the Mai Mai Rebel Group who came to his town in eastern DRC looking to abduct new recruits. He escaped after two years and spent five years in a refugee camp before being resettled in the United States. After he arrived in the United States, he juggled three jobs to put himself through community college and never missed a class. Bertine did so well in school that he was offered a scholarship to study at the University of Wyoming, and after graduating, decided to make Wyoming his home and begun looking for ways to give back to his community.

He started his career as a high school teacher in Gillette and is now the Principal at Rawhide Elementary school. Bertine has had such an impact on his students that many of them come back years later to ask him for advice or guidance in their lives. This outstanding accomplishment is a true reflection of Bertine's hard work, dedication, and commitment to his students. Rawhide Elementary school is lucky to have someone who puts students first and values the positive impact teachers have on the students they teach.

I thank Bertine for his dedication to Wyoming students and his contributions to education.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF JOSEPH MCCOY

HON. DONALD S. BEYER, JR.

OF VIRGINIA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BEYER. Madam Speaker, I rise today in memory of Joseph McCoy.

On the morning of April 23, 1897, an African American named Joseph McCoy, just a teenager, was lynched in Alexandria, Virginia. On April 22, Joseph McCoy was arrested without a warrant. That evening and into the early morning of April 23 a white mob made two attempts to break into the police station where he was being held. In the second attempt the mob forcibly took him from his jail cell, shot him, bludgeoned him, and hanged him from the lamppost on the southeast corner of Cameron and Lee Streets. McCoy was buried in a pauper's grave at Penny Hill Cemetery. Joseph McCoy was the first documented lynching victim in Alexandria.

The lynching of Joseph McCoy is only one of 86 documented lynchings committed in Virginia between 1880 and 1930. These acts of premeditated violence were deliberate attempts by whites to terrorize and control black populations across the state.

On April 23, the City of Alexandria's Equal Justice Initiative Community Remembrance Project will hold a remembrance event for Joseph McCoy. It will feature the unveiling of a small in-person marker and a wider commemoration via an In Memoriam web page.

It is incumbent on all of us, particularly those born into privilege, to remember this shameful episode of our history and others like it. In doing so, we are better able to see the continuous chain of racially motivated violence against black Americans that spans our Nation's history. We can truly honor the memory of Joseph McCoy along with the countless number of named and unnamed victims of racial violence by seeking justice for all Americans and working to build a more inclusive society.

HONORING COLONEL PHYLLIS LUTTMAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Colonel Phyllis Luttmann who passed away on March 1, 2021. I send my condolences and prayers to her husband, Walter, as well as her family and friends.

Col. Luttmann joined the Air Force in 1962 and was commissioned as a 1st Lieutenant in October 1969 after receiving her basic nursing education in New Jersey. She served on active duty for 30 years and in the Reserves for 2 years, later retiring in January 1993 from Keesler AFB. Col. Luttmann served at numerous installations as an Operating Room and Central Supply Director including Otis AFB, Massachusetts, Bunker Hill AFB, Indiana, Tuslog Det 37 in Ankara Turkey, Sheppard AFB in Texas, David Grant Medical Center in California, and the Medical Center at Keesler AFB.

Col. Luttmann was very active in numerous professional organizations including the Aerospace Medical Association. She was elected President of the Flight Nurse Section from 1979 through 1980 and during her career received the Brig. Gen. E.A. Hoefly Award for clinical and managerial excellence.

Col. Luttmann was awarded numerous decorations for her service, including the Legion of Merit, Air Force Meritorious Service with two oak leaf clusters, the Joint Services Commendation Medal, and the Air Force Commendation Medal. I admire Colonel Luttmann for her unwavering dedication to our country.

Although we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Colonel Phyllis Luttmann, a loving wife, a dedicated civil servant and a woman of God.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF GERALD THOMAS KIDD

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Mr. Gerald Kidd who passed away on February 20 at North Mississippi Medical Center in Tupelo. I join his family and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Mr. Kidd grew up in Pontotoc County, graduating from Hurricane High School. In 1944 he married Mildred Dowdy. In that same year he entered service as a private in the United States Army and was assigned to the European Theatre during WWII. He was a rifleman in the 2nd platoon of Company B 318th Infantry. Shortly before Christmas of 1944, he was taken prisoner by German soldiers. He was released in April of 1945 and was awarded the purple heart.

Gerald returned to Pontotoc and his wife, Mildred where they had two children. He soon began a career in home building that started in Memphis but quickly moved he and his family around the country. The pair retired to the Alabama Gulf Coast before finally returning to Pontotoc.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife of 77 years, Mildred; children Sandy and Gary; two grandchildren and several great-grandchildren.

I am grateful for the service of men like Mr. Kidd who dedicated their life to family, faith, and country.

FRANCISCA VASQUEZ

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Francisca Vasquez for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Francisca Vasquez is an 11th grader at Lester Arnold High School and received this award because her determination and hard

work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Francisca Vasquez is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Francisca Vasquez for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. BILL HUIZENGA

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HUIZENGA. Madam Speaker, I rise today regarding a missed vote due to attending a friend's funeral. Had I been present for roll call vote number 118, On Passage to the Workplace Violence Prevention for Health Care and Social Service Workers Act, I would have voted "nay." Had I been present for roll call vote number 119, On Passage to the 504 Credit Risk Management Improvement Act, I would have voted "yea."

APRIL VETERAN OF THE MONTH

HON. KEVIN HERN

OF OKLAHOMA

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. HERN. Madam Speaker, I rise to honor the First District of Oklahoma's April Veteran of the Month, Willie Braggs.

Willie Braggs is a retired Air Force officer and Vice Wing Commander of the 138th Fighter Wing of the Oklahoma Air National Guard. His service included two combat tours in the Middle East. Colonel Braggs faithfully served our country for over thirty years and continues to give back to his community and fellow veterans.

He is involved with the Jenks Public School System as their assistant webmaster and varsity photographer for their athletic department. As the father of two Jenks graduates, he is a long-time parent volunteer. Colonel Braggs currently sits on the board of directors for the Coffee Bunker, a non-profit organization that helps service members transition to civilian life. He is a man of impeccable integrity who has dedicated his life to serving others.

He answered the call to defend freedom across the globe and sacrificed whatever was necessary in the name of that noble cause. It is my honor to recognize Willie Braggs as the first Congressional District of Oklahoma's April Veteran of the Month.

HONORING MRS. DELLA
MCCAUGHAN

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mrs. Della McCaughan who passed away on February 4, 2021 at the age of 92. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Born and raised in Pass Christian Mississippi, Della was the youngest child in her family and was honored to claim the Mississippi Gulf Coast as her lifelong home.

Mrs. McCaughan was a teacher in the Biloxi Public School System for 44 years. She was the first person in the nation to teach Marine Biology at the high school level. Additionally, she wrote the first textbook to be used for that purpose.

Della loved teaching and believed in her students, helping them realize their potential. Della was the recipient of many awards. Some of her most valued awards include: Shell Meritt Fellowship, Mother of the Year, and Teacher of the Year. She was awarded an Einstein Congressional Fellowship to work in the U.S. Senate as an educational advisor, and in 1994, received a commendation through Senate Concurrent Resolution Number 578, whereby the Mississippi State Legislature recognized her outstanding career and meritorious service during her years as an educator.

Although we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind to all the young lives she touched. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mrs. Della McCaughan, a loving teacher, mother, wife, and woman of God.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF SCOT
AMES, JR.

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Lt. Scot Ames, Jr. who passed away on a pilot training mission on February 19, 2021. I join his family and his squadron in mourning his loss.

Scot grew up in Pekin, Indiana and attended Eastern High School. He was an athlete and outdoorsman. Before graduating, he earned his Private Pilots License. He attended Indiana State University, where he was an active member of the ISU Bass Fishing Team. He studied Aviation Management and met his wife Audra. The two met almost three years ago and were married in the Fall of 2020.

Scot was known by his squadron for his love of flying. When he was young, he spoke of one day becoming a pilot in the United States Air Force. He was dedicated to his students as an instructor pilot and he impacted countless lives throughout his career.

Left to cherish Scot's memory are his wife, Audra Dial Ames; parents Ginger Bailey and Scot Wayne Ames; sister, Courtney; nieces Fe-

licity and Gwen; nephew Evan; and countless loved ones.

I join my fellow Mississippians in mourning the loss of a talented and dedicated young pilot. He will be deeply missed.

EMMA ARVIZO-AGUIRRE

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Emma Arvizo-Aguirre is a 12th grader at MESA and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Emma Arvizo-Aguirre is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Emma Arvizo-Aguirre for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

HONORING JOSEPH CHERUP, JR.

HON. ELISSA SLOTKIN

OF MICHIGAN

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. SLOTKIN. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor a constituent of mine and a true American hero from Fenton, Michigan—Mr. Joseph Cherup, Jr.

Throughout the course of his life, Mr. Cherup has worn many hats in the service of his nation, his community, and his family. While serving his country in Korea, he proudly wore the cap of an Army captain. As an officer at the Koje Do POW prison, Mr. Cherup was instrumental in negotiating the successful release of General Francis Dodd when he was held hostage for three days.

When Mr. Cherup returned home, he wore the hat of an engineer. He has owned several businesses and was a founding member of the Leelanau Conservancy, Traverse City Condominiums, Custom Electric, Revolution DC, Kolene Corporation, and Trade Winds Bar in Detroit.

But beyond his honorable service and his achievements in business, at his core, Mr. Cherup is simply a kind man who has helped take care of others.

When he was 21 years old, his father, Joseph Sr. passed away, leaving him to care for his mother, Rose, and his younger sister, Delores. In 1984, his mother moved in with him in Fenton so he could take better care of her, which he did until she passed away in 2007.

His entire life, Mr. Cherup has generously donated his time and his money to charities and causes that help others. He has worn

many hats—Army officer, business owner, and loving son. For this and for all he has given back, it is my honor to recognize his contributions on the floor of the People’s House.

IN MEMORY OF STEVE FOX

HON. EARL BLUMENAUER

OF OREGON

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BLUMENAUER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge the tragic passing of Steve Fox, a pioneering advocate, strategist, a true leader in the cannabis legalization effort.

It is fitting today that we are passing the SAFE Banking Act. We wouldn’t be where we are today without Steve and his amazing efforts. His life work, leadership, and strategic brilliance are unmatched.

Passing this critical legislation today would be a small part of a fitting memorial for a man whose efforts made it possible, indeed, imperative to solve this problem.

I first met Steve as we were strategizing on the Oregon legalization effort. Back in 2013, after the Colorado legalization campaign that he orchestrated had passed and before Oregon joined the ranks of legalization, he was already a legend. He pioneered so much of the groundwork for the legalization movement that exploded after the success of the Colorado campaign which owed so much to his strategic brilliance.

Steve was thoughtful, hardworking, and self-effacing. While this has become a national movement with many leaders now emerging, none compare with Steve. Few will fully understand his many contributions and importance. I for one will miss his genuine, quiet leadership.

As someone who’s been working on this longer than anyone in American politics, I know we are all deeply, deeply indebted to Steve. We mourn his loss, extend our thoughts to his family and many friends.

This should be the year that we finish the pioneering work of his career. It would be a fitting capstone to a lifetime of cannabis leadership, activism, and progress.

HAJIR MOHAMMED

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Hajir Mohammed for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Hajir Mohammed is a 12th grader at Eagle Ridge Academy and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Hajir Mohammed is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Hajir Mohammed for winning the Adams County

Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF REVEREND JOSEPH MCKNIGHT

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Reverend Joseph McKnight who passed away February 27, 2021. I join his family, friends, and loved ones in mourning his loss.

Born to Reverend Richard Franklin McKnight and Flora Hicks on January 4, 1956, Rev. McKnight was raised with the conviction of service to God. He grew up near Nashville, Tennessee and graduated high school before continuing his education in Theology and Psychology. At the age of 16 he recognized his call to ministry. In September of 1988 he was ordained as a Licensed Minister with the Assemblies of the Lord Jesus Christ.

Rev. McKnight married Roxan Prater on June 10, 1977. Throughout his ministry he has served as Pastor at Milledgeville Pentecostal Church, Youth President of the Tennessee District ALJC, and Youth Pastor for the Pentecostal Church of Blue Mountain. He has also served on the board of Iron Hill Christian Academy, Chairman of the Board of Blue Mountain Children’s Home, and New Beginnings International Children’s & Family Services Board.

Left to cherish his memory are his wife, Roxann; brothers Robert, Richard, Ron, and Steve; sister, Glenda; and many nieces and nephews.

Rev. McKnight had an immeasurable impact on the faith community across Mississippi and I am grateful to his service to God, family, and state.

HONORING HANK ROGERS

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Mr. Hank Rogers who passed away on January 4, 2021. My deepest condolences and most sincere prayers are with his wife of 49 years, Nancy, as well as his family and friends.

Mr. Rogers grew up in D’Iberville, and proudly lived and raised his family in South Mississippi. He is a 1970 graduate of D’Iberville High School and obtained his associates degree in Drafting from MGCCC.

Hank was a principled man devoted to his faith, his country, and his family. Many describe him as a funny, quick witted, intelligent, strong willed, “Southern Gentleman” who was committed to his beliefs, maintained a strong work ethic and served as a mentor to many in the community.

Hank was a volunteer leader having served as the President of the D’Iberville Historical Society, for two years, “heading up” many

projects geared toward revitalizing his hometown. He was a member of the Mississippi Civil Air Patrol, serving as Wing Commander from 2016 until his death, advancing up to the rank of Colonel. We honor Mr. Rogers for the service he showed to his country and to his community.

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Mr. Hank Rogers, a loving husband, a dedicated civil servant and a man of God.

IN HONOR OF THE HANNAFORD SUPERMARKETS ACHIEVING ZERO WASTE IN THE YEAR 2020

HON. CHRIS PAPPAS

OF NEW HAMPSHIRE

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PAPPAS. Madam Speaker, I rise today to acknowledge Hannaford Supermarkets in producing zero pounds of food waste in 2020. Hannaford Supermarkets has 183 stores located across New England and New York, making it the first large-scale supermarket to achieve this landmark in sustainability. Throughout 2020, Hannaford Supermarkets successfully diverted 65 million pounds of food waste out of landfills.

Instrumental in Hannaford’s success in this endeavor is that each of its 183 stores has a team of hardworking individuals dedicated to rigidly following the U.S. Environmental Protection Agency Food Recovery Hierarchy. After reducing surplus at the source of production, the Food Recovery Hierarchy advises that to create a more sustainable food system, we donate surplus product to food insecure individuals, followed by donations to local farmers for animal feed.

Food recovery and donation have long been staples of Hannaford operations. However, when donations are not feasible, Hannaford Supermarkets partners with Agri-Cycle to engage in the hierarchy’s fourth tier, industrial repurposing. Based in Scarborough, Maine, Agri-Cycle is a food waste recycling company that turns food into energy. Through this partnership, Hannaford has been able to fully realize their zero-food waste goal.

Achieving zero waste is an accomplishment on its own, but I would like to highlight the added difficulty to this task caused by the coronavirus pandemic. As the coronavirus waged on with no clear end in sight, our agriculture and food system industries were disrupted to an unprecedented degree. While shoppers began to decrease their number of supermarket visits to limit their exposure to the disease, they simultaneously began spending more per trip. Hannaford Supermarkets were able to not only weather this supply and demand shock, but also to divert all unsold food away from landfills.

New Hampshire’s way of life is rooted in our natural surroundings and keeping our landfills as empty as possible is imperative to preserving the environment and our natural resources. Hannaford’s pioneering curiosity has led to a landmark achievement in supermarket sustainability. Hannaford Supermarkets’ continuing dedication to sustainability and service are immeasurable.

On behalf of my constituents in New Hampshire's First Congressional District, I want to congratulate Hannaford Supermarkets on the success of its sustainability initiative. I look forward to the continuation of their sustainability initiative and am hopeful about the example this can set for supermarkets across the Nation. Once again, I thank Hannaford Supermarkets for all that it does to protect our environment while also aiding food insecurity.

THE PARRISH FAMILY

HON. JAMES COMER

OF KENTUCKY

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. COMER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize the bravery and sacrifice of the Parrish Brothers of Burkesville, Kentucky.

Barney, Watson, and Taylor Parrish each honorably served their country during World War II, with Barney paying the ultimate sacrifice. The Parrish Brothers' service to our country did not end after World War II as Watson and Taylor continued defending America during the Korean War. During the war, Watson was seriously wounded and returned to duty less than a week later, where he also paid the ultimate sacrifice. After the Korean War, Taylor returned to Kentucky and continued serving others and raising a family in the First District of Kentucky. The family's sacrifice was awarded two purple hearts and a bronze star.

The legacy of the Parrish family leads us all to reflect on the freedoms we hold dear and the sacrifices American heroes make to protect them. The service and sacrifices they bravely gave should not and will not be forgotten. I join their family in friends to celebrate their legacy and honor their noble service to our country.

EVELYN ANNE SMITH

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Evelyn Anne Smith for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Evelyn Anne Smith is an 11th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Evelyn Anne Smith is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Evelyn Anne Smith for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
ROBERT ALLAN SMITH

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Robert Allan Smith. On November 12, 2020 Lieutenant Colonel Robert Allan Smith passed away. Allan served his Nation for over 45 years in the United States Air Force (USAF) and in the Department of Defense (DoD), Pentagon.

Alan was dedicated to his faith. He was a devoted member of the Fort Belvoir Community Chapel, Fort Belvoir, VA. Allan married the love of his life, Dr. Patricia Moseley. Happily, they celebrated over twenty years of joyful devotion. Allan graduated from Mississippi State University with a Bachelor of Science degree and as a member of the USAF Reserve Officer Training Corps. Later he obtained a Masters of Science degree from Troy State University.

Upon his Military commissioning, he completed USAF Pilot Training, Fort Rucker, AL, and a decade later served there as a Flight Examiner, Instructor Pilot, and Academic Instructor. As a Commander for multiple Squadrons and missions worldwide, his leadership and focus on his unit personnel achieved outstanding results in rescue and medical evacuation missions. He was assigned to the Pentagon, USAF Headquarters, and upon retirement began an exemplary career as a federal civilian employee in the DoD, USAF Headquarters.

Mr. Smith is greatly missed by many Military colleagues for his dedication and significant contributions and by his Pentagon Chapel friends. Allan is survived by his devoted brother, David Smith (Jeanne); daughters, Ms. Jenny Pechou, Ms. Ashley Smith and Mrs. Sarah Tinsley (Daniel); and cousins, Maxwell Carroll (Barbara) and Dr. Cheryl Powell (Gil). Allan loved his brothers and sisters-in-law, Mrs. Janet Sellers (David), Frank Moseley (Dr. Christine), and Jeff Moseley (Edith); and father-in-law, Retired CMSgt James Moseley.

I join countless friends, family members, and colleagues in mourning the loss of Lieutenant Colonel Robert Smith. He was an outstanding man dedicated to family, faith, and country, and he will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF DR.
RONALD LUBRITZ

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Dr. Ronald Lubritz who passed away on February 13, 2021 at the age of 87. I send my condolences and prayers to Ronald's wife, Carol, as well as his family and friends.

Born in New Orleans, he grew up in the Big Easy alongside his brothers and sisters. As a young boy during WWII, his father instilled in him a remarkable desire for hard work, integrity, and love for his nation.

Dr. Lubritz joined the National Guard and Reserve where he achieved the rank of Full

Colonel and commanded a Medical Brigade. He graduated from LSU School of Medicine in 1959 and practiced medicine across South Mississippi for more than 62-years.

In honor of his lifelong service to the community of Hattiesburg, the University of Southern Mississippi Veteran Center established a memorial scholarship in his name. The scholarship is entitled "Dr. Ronald Lubritz Excellence in Medical Care Memorial Scholarship."

Although we are sad to hear of his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Dr. Ronald Lubritz, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

HONORING CYNTHIA PEARSON
AND HER OUTSTANDING CONTRIBUTIONS TO THE HEALTH OF WOMEN AND GIRLS

HON. ROSA L. DeLAURO

OF CONNECTICUT

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Ms. DeLAURO. Madam Speaker, it is an honor and pleasure to extend my congratulations to Cynthia Pearson, a leader of the women's health movement for many decades, on her exceptional service to the women of the United States and on her well-earned retirement.

Cynthia has served as Executive Director of the National Women's Health Network (NWHN) for more than 24 years, and prior to that led the organization's program and policy work. In that time she established an exemplary record as an effective and influential advocate, leading campaigns to protect women from risky drugs and devices; require the government to research conditions that affect women; ensure that women have access to full information about medical products and clinical trials; expand women's access to comprehensive reproductive health care services; and protect women against coercion and abuse in health care. I would like to highlight just a few of the accomplishments of her leadership at the NWHN and the contributions it made to advancing research for women's health and increasing access to health care.

In 1987, Cynthia and the National Women's Health Network led a grassroots campaign that convinced the National Cancer Institute to fund the first breast cancer prevention trial that examined the effects of a low-fat diet on breast cancer. And Cynthia helped the NWHN to produce the first-ever fact sheets on breast cancer and African American, Latina, Native American and Asian American women, highlighting the disparities in survival experienced by women of color and building momentum for targeted outreach programs. Her work on breast cancer also included advocacy that prompted the U.S. Congress to investigate the lack of informed consent in trials of a breast cancer treatment drug that was being given to healthy women. As a result of that investigation, the National Institutes of Health (NIH) revised their informed consent rules for government-funded clinical trials, ensuring that future volunteers would be given complete information about serious and potentially fatal risks associated with study drugs.

With Cynthia's leadership, the NWHN became one of the first and most prescient critics of the unproven, yet widespread, use of menopause hormone therapy to prevent heart disease in women. In 1990, Cynthia testified at the Food and Drug Administration, persuading the agency not to approve preventive use of the drugs without first requiring the sponsors to provide the same standard of evidence from placebo controlled trials that it had required for all drugs approved for heart disease prevention in men. A year later, she spearheaded the NWHN's successful advocacy to persuade the NIH to fund and launch the largest ever study of the health of older women, the Women's Health Initiative, which enrolled more than 27,000 women in clinical trials of menopause hormone therapy.

In 2002, Cynthia's skepticism about menopause hormone therapy was proven well-founded when the Women's Health Initiative showed that hormone therapy does not prevent heart disease and, in fact, increases the risk of stroke and in some cases, breast cancer. Cynthia and the NWHN educated women about the results of those trials, so that they could make more informed decisions about whether to use menopause hormone therapy. This led to the largest-ever drop in breast cancer rates. In one decade, more than 160,000 women did not get breast cancer because the NWHN helped them avoid exposure to the drugs that would have caused it. In 2012, Cynthia received the Grassroots Activism Award from the National Breast Cancer Coalition in recognition of this lifesaving work.

Cynthia also successfully advocated for the NIH to fund the only multi-ethnic long-term study of the menopause transition in healthy women. The study enrolled more than 3,000 women and has resulted in nearly 500 publications, providing essential information that enables women to understand what is normal in menopause, and how that's different across race and ethnicity.

Starting in 2007, as a co-founder of Raising Women's Voices for the Health Care We Need, a national collaborative initiative that supports quality affordable health care for all, Cynthia helped build the grassroots support that was integral to the successful enactment of the Affordable Care Act, which extended health insurance coverage to tens of thousands of women. The coverage made possible by the Affordable Care Act has provided women with access to lifesaving health care, including no co-pay coverage for preventive care such as cervical cancer screening and contraceptive care. In recent years, Cynthia worked within the Raising Women's Voices collaborative to help defeat multiple attempts to dismantle the Affordable Care Act and has been instrumental in bringing the voices of women, people of color, and LGBTQ people to the national health care debate.

In the reproductive health arena, working in partnership with the SisterSong Women of Color Reproductive Justice Collective, Cynthia and the NWHN created a statement of principles to guide the provision of long-acting reversible contraceptives. The statement was signed by over a hundred organizations and has helped keep patient autonomy front and center, protecting patients from coercive practices while expanding access to contraception.

Finally, in addition to being an effective educator of consumers and a persuasive advocate in her attempts to influence government

policy, Cynthia has been an essential ally and partner to policymakers working within the federal government. In 2018, she helped organize a lightning-speed advocacy campaign that in just one week saved the Food and Drug Administration Office of Women's Health from an attempt to defund it and prevent its staff from doing the work the office was established to do.

I ask my colleagues to join me in extending our sincerest appreciation to Cynthia Pearson for her vital contributions to the health of women and girls.

RECOGNIZING THE AMERICAN
GOLD STAR MOTHERS, INC.

HON. CHRIS JACOBS

OF NEW YORK

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. JACOBS of New York. Madam Speaker, I would like to take a moment to recognize a recent event that generously contributed to and positively impacted the welfare of our community and citizenry here in the 27th Congressional District of New York. I gladly welcomed the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. to my hometown of Buffalo, New York for their 84th Convention on April 9–10, 2021.

I recognize the American Gold Star Mothers, women that share the tragedy of having children that died in connection to military service or are missing in action. These Gold Star Mothers strive to keep the memory of their sons and daughters alive by working to help veterans, those currently serving in the military, their families, and their communities. I am grateful for their efforts to come together to respect and honor our fallen service members, especially considering the immense hardship they have experienced themselves.

There are many instances in the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of service flags being adopted—that precede the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers organization—and I would like to highlight two in particular. In 1917 Ohio veteran and businessman Robert L. Queisser created the Blue Star Service Flag to honor his two sons serving in the First World War and other service members of the U.S. military. The CONGRESSIONAL RECORD of September 24, 1917 reflects the adoption of this service flag. This flag recognizes those who give so much for liberty and acknowledges that the dearest thing to a father and mother are their children.

Later, in 1918, President Woodrow Wilson approved a suggestion by the Women's Committee of the Council of National Defense that mothers who lost a child in World War I wear a gold star on a traditional black mourning armband. This led to creation of the Gold Star Service Flag, where a gold star was placed inside the flag's blue star, signifying a service member has died.

The Gold Star Service flag adoption was, of course, followed by the creation of the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc, an organization that offered its 65 original charter members the opportunity to find strength in fellowship. In 1928, twenty five mothers of American service members lost in World War I met in Washington, D.C. under the leadership of Grace Darling Seibold, the mother of U.S. Army First

Lieutenant George V. Seibold killed in action, to establish the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. The organization was officially incorporated on January 5, 1929.

That same year, Congress provided funding for these mothers and widows to travel to cemeteries in Europe to visit their loved ones. In 1930, a group of 231 Gold Star women sailed from Hoboken, New Jersey aboard the passenger liner SS America on the inaugural pilgrimage to the European graves of their sons and husbands who died in World War I. When this program ended three years later, nearly 6,700 Gold Star women had journeyed across the Atlantic to bid a final farewell to loved ones laid to rest in war cemeteries in France, Belgium, and Great Britain.

Congress later granted a federal charter to the American Gold Star Mothers, Inc. and designated the last Sunday in September as "Gold Star Mother's Day." Congress also authorized and requested President Franklin D. Roosevelt issue a proclamation in observance of this occasion. Each year on this day, we express the love, sorrow, and reverence of the people of the United States for American Gold Star Mothers.

We especially recognize our American Gold Star Mothers and their fallen soldiers in New York's 27th District. At the Buffalo & Erie County Naval & Military Park resides the U.S. Navy destroyer USS *The Sullivans* (DD-537). This National Historic Landmark has been a public memorial and museum ship since 1979, and is sponsored by Alleta Sullivan, a Gold Star Mother whose five sons were killed in action. George, Francis, Joseph, Madison, and Albert Sullivan—brothers from Waterloo, IA—died when their cruiser was sunk at the First Naval Battle of Guadalcanal in 1942.

I am glad the Gold Star Mothers recently had the opportunity to gather in Buffalo, New York for the 2021 Convention of the Department of New York of the American Gold Star Mothers. I remain incredibly grateful for and humbled by the Gold Star Mothers' commitment to honoring and reflecting on the legacies of their sons and daughters lost in service to our Nation; finding strength in the fellowship of each other; and helping veterans, current military servicemembers and their families, and our communities.

JAMES TORRES

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud James Torres for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

James Torres is a 12th grader at Vantage Point High School and received this award because his determination and hard work have allowed him to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by James Torres is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to James Torres for winning the Adams County

Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt he will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of his future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF TODD
GALE

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life of Todd Gale. Mr. Gale was an outstanding Mississippian and I join his loved ones in mourning his loss.

Todd was born in Columbus, Mississippi on October 9, 1968. He was educated at Heritage Academy before matriculating to Mississippi State University where he studied Landscape Architecture. After graduating, he joined the United States Forest Service in Ketchikan, Alaska.

Todd Gale married Stephanie McLain on July 16, 1994. With her support, Todd earned his Masters Degree in Economic Development from the University of Southern Mississippi. He soon became the General Manager of Columbus Light and Water. He served on the boards of the Tennessee Valley Public Power Association and American Public Power Association. Todd was a community servant and was active on the boards of Main Street Columbus, Columbus Lowndes Humane Society, Mississippi University for Women Advisory Board and St. Paul's Episcopal Church Vestry and Junior Warden.

Left to cherish Todd's memory are his wife, Stephanie; children, Stormy and Gunnar; and his godchildren. Todd was a beloved member of the Columbus community and a man dedicated to his family and faith. He will be deeply missed.

HONORING THE MEMORY OF MS.
SUSAN SHANK

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of Ms. Susan Ann Shank who passed away on January 17, 2021 at the age of 70. I send my condolences and prayers to her family and friends.

Susan was born and raised in Biloxi, Mississippi. Susan was the mother of Michael Wills and Angela Hoener. Susan faithfully served the City of Biloxi Police Department Communication Division from March 26, 1987, until retiring on November 26, 2013.

In Susan's twenty-six years of dedicated service, she achieved the position of Floor Supervisor and received many written commendations from citizens for her professional service. Mr. Andrew "FoFo" Gillich, Mayor of Biloxi, commemorated and commended the lifelong devotion of Susan by declaring January 17th as "Susan Ann Shank Day".

Susan will be remembered by her family and friends who knew her best for her devotion to the state of Mississippi, her faith, accomplishments, and devotion to others.

While we are saddened by her passing, we take comfort in her example of a life well lived and the legacy she leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of Ms. Susan Ann Shank, a loving wife, a dedicated civil servant, and a woman of God.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. LAUREN BOEBERT

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. BOEBERT. Madam Speaker, I was participating in a Natural Resources Committee Forum and asking my invited witness questions and missed the vote. Had I been present, I would have voted NAY on Roll Call No. 118, H.R. 1195.

HONORING THE LIFE OF JACOB
BURNS

HON. TROY BALDERSON

OF OHIO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. BALDERSON. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life of Jacob Edward Burns. Jacob, 35, passed away Saturday, April 3, 2021 as the result of an automobile accident. He was born August 26, 1985 in Zanesville to David and Bonnie Burns.

Jacob was a Philo graduate and retired as a Staff Sergeant from the United States Air Force on November 27, 2019. He had a strong relationship with his military brothers, while serving he was a Combat Arms Instructor and was known around the world for his knowledge. Jacob was a remarkable husband and father. I mourn with his family and I am thankful for his service.

FAITH WALKER

HON. ED PERLMUTTER

OF COLORADO

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PERLMUTTER. Madam Speaker, I rise today to recognize and applaud Faith Walker for receiving the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award.

Faith Walker is a 7th grader at Bennett Middle School and received this award because her determination and hard work have allowed her to overcome adversities.

The dedication demonstrated by Faith Walker is exemplary of the type of achievement that can be attained with hard work and perseverance. It is essential students at all levels strive to make the most of their education and develop a work ethic which will guide them for the rest of their lives.

I extend my deepest congratulations to Faith Walker for winning the Adams County Mayors and Commissioners Youth Award. I have no doubt she will exhibit the same dedication and character in all of her future accomplishments.

RECOGNIZING THE LIFE OF
WALTER GANN

HON. TRENT KELLY

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. KELLY of Mississippi. Madam Speaker, I rise today to celebrate the life and service of Corporal Walter Gann, an American hero and an outstanding representation of the state of Mississippi.

Walter Gann was born on January 31, 1922 to John and Mary Rogers Gann. He spent the first eighteen years of his life in Calhoun City, Mississippi. Only July 3, 1941 he joined the United States Army Air Forces in Jackson, Mississippi and was soon deployed to the Philippines. At eighteen years old Walter faced attack by the Japanese Imperial Army. After several months of battle with minimal food, supplies, and medical care, the American soldiers were forced to surrender; the Bataan Death March began on April 9, 1942. Corporal Gann, enduring shrapnel wounds and malnutrition, marched 65 miles in the blistering heat.

It is believed Corporal Gann arrived at Fukuoka POW Camp No. 1 on Kyushu Island where he faced barbaric treatment from Japanese guards. He was eventually transported to Japan; Gann and his fellow soldiers stood shoulder to shoulder on the Japanese hell ship. Men died by the dozens of suffocation, starvation, and dysentery. In Japan, Corporal Gann was a POW for three and a half years.

Corporal Gann was released upon American Victory and was immediately treated in a Washington hospital before returning home. His family rejoiced to see him alive and safe. He was called to testify in the war crime trials following WWII but could not attend because he was hospitalized. For the remainder of his life Corporal Gann bore the weight of all he had witnessed.

In 1949 Walter moved to Booneville, Mississippi and married Juanita Goddard. Together they raised four children. In August of 1963 his wife passed, and in November of that year his son was killed in a motorcycle accident. In 1970 he moved to Chattanooga, Tennessee until his death on October 14, 1980. He was laid to rest at Crossroads cemetery in Jumpertown, Mississippi with his wife and son.

In the course of his life Corporal Gann was awarded the Good Conduct Medal, a Purple Heart, the WWII Victory Medal, an A.P. Theater Medal with 1 Bronze Star, the American Defense Medal with 1 Bronze Star, and the Philippine Liberation Medal with 1 Bronze Star. He also received a letter from President Harry S. Truman thanking him for his service to the United States.

I am grateful for the service of Corporal Walter Gann and admire his commitment to faith, family, and country.

HONORING JAMES WHITE

HON. STEVEN M. PALAZZO

OF MISSISSIPPI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mr. PALAZZO. Madam Speaker, I rise today to honor the life and legacy of James White

who passed away on January 12, 2021 at the age of 74. I send my condolences and prayers to James's wife, Jeannie, as well as his family and friends.

Chief White started with the Gulfport Fire Department in 1965 and worked his way up to becoming the Fire Chief in 1984. Chief White was a great leader and helped guide the department into emergency medical service delivery in the early 80's, making them one of the first fire departments in the area to provide such a service.

He served the City of Gulfport with honor and distinction and was very well respected during his years of service with the Gulfport Fire Department. I know he will be greatly missed by many in our community.

Although we are saddened by his passing, we take comfort in his example of a life well lived and the legacy he leaves behind. On behalf of the 4th Congressional District of Mississippi, we honor the memory of James White, a loving husband, father, man of God, and dedicated civil servant.

PERSONAL EXPLANATION

HON. VICKY HARTZLER

OF MISSOURI

IN THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

Monday, April 19, 2021

Mrs. HARTZLER. Madam Speaker, on Thursday, April 15, 2021 I was unable to vote on Roll Call No. 114. Had I been present, I would have voted YEA,

SENATE COMMITTEE MEETINGS

Title IV of Senate Resolution 4, agreed to by the Senate of February 4, 1977, calls for establishment of a system for a computerized schedule of all meetings and hearings of Senate committees, subcommittees, joint committees, and committees of conference. This title requires all such committees to notify the Office of the Senate Daily Digest—designated by the Rules Committee—of the time, place and purpose of the meetings, when scheduled and any cancellations or changes in the meetings as they occur.

As an additional procedure along with the computerization of this information, the Office of the Senate Daily Digest will prepare this information for printing in the Extensions of Remarks section of the CONGRESSIONAL RECORD on Monday and Wednesday of each week.

Meetings scheduled for Tuesday, April 20, 2021 may be found in the Daily Digest of today's RECORD.

MEETINGS SCHEDULED

APRIL 21

Time to be announced

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

Business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, Cynthia Minette Marten, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Richard Kvaal, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Education, and other pending calendar business.

TBA

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce.

SR-253

Committee on Foreign Relations

Business meeting to consider S. 413, to establish the China Censorship Monitor and Action Group, S. 814, to promote security partnership with Ukraine, and an original bill entitled, "Strategic Competition Act of 2021".

SD-106

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Intellectual Property

To hold hearings to examine improving access and inclusivity in the patent system, focusing on unleashing America's economic engine.

SD-226

2 p.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Legislative Branch

To hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, and Senate Sergeant at Arms.

SD-192

Committee on Foreign Relations

Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine U.S. policy on Yemen.

SD-106

Select Committee on Intelligence

To receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters.

SVC-217

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities

To hold hearings to examine science and technology, technology maturation, and technology transition activities.

SR-222

Committee on Armed Services

Subcommittee on Personnel

To hold hearings to examine the current and future cyber workforce of the Department of Defense and the military services.

SR-232A

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation

Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation

To hold hearings to examine America's safe return to air travel.

SR-253

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights

To hold hearings to examine competition in app stores, focusing on antitrust.

SD-226

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration.

SR-301

APRIL 22

Time to be announced

Committee on Veterans' Affairs

Business meeting to consider the nomination of Richard A. Sauber, of the Dis-

trict of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs.

TBA

9:30 a.m.

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry

To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jewel Hairston Bronaugh, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture.

SR-301

Committee on Armed Services

To hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217.

SD-G50

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs

To hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on capitalizing on opportunities in the clean energy economy.

WEBEX

10 a.m.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges that exist for advancing and deploying carbon and carbon-dioxide utilization technologies in the United States.

SD-366

Committee on Finance

To hold hearings to examine U.S.-China Relations, focusing on improving U.S. competitiveness through trade.

SD-215

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions

To hold hearings to examine protecting U.S. biomedical research, focusing on efforts to prevent undue foreign influence.

SD-430

Committee on the Judiciary

Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism

To hold hearings to examine behavioral health and policing, focusing on interactions and solutions.

SD-226

10:15 a.m.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs

To hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service.

SD-342/VTC

APRIL 27

10 a.m.

Committee on Appropriations

Subcommittee on Defense

To hold closed hearings to examine the Missile Defense Agency, focusing on a program update.

SVC-217

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources

To hold hearings to examine energy development on federal lands, focusing on the current status of the Department of the Interior's onshore oil and gas leasing program.

SD-366

2:30 p.m.

Committee on Environment and Public Works
Subcommittee on Clean Air, Climate, and Nuclear Safety
To hold hearings to examine S. 283, to establish a National Climate Bank.
SD-406

Committee on Finance
Subcommittee on Fiscal Responsibility and Economic Growth
To hold hearings to examine creating opportunity through a fairer tax system.
SD-215

APRIL 29

10 a.m.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation
To hold hearings to examine the nomination of Eric S. Lander, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Science and Technology Policy.
SR-253

Daily Digest

Senate

Chamber Action

Routine Proceedings, pages S2001–S2042

Measures Introduced: Twenty-one bills and one resolution were introduced, as follows: S. 1200–1220, and S. Res. 164. **Pages S2011–12**

Measures Reported:

Special Report entitled “Legislative and Oversight Activities During the 116th Congress by the Senate Committee on Veterans’ Affairs”. (S. Rept. No. 117–16) **Page S2011**

Measures Considered:

COVID–19 Hate Crimes Act—Agreement: Senate resumed consideration of S. 937, to facilitate the expedited review of COVID–19 hate crimes, taking action on the following amendment proposed thereto: **Pages S2002–09**

Pending:

Schumer (for Hirono/Collins) Amendment No. 1445, of a perfecting nature. **Pages S2002–03**

A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing for further consideration of the bill at approximately 10 a.m., on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. **Page S2041**

Appointments:

United States Holocaust Memorial Council: The Chair, on behalf of the President pro tempore, pursuant to Public Law 96–388, as amended by Public Law 97–84, and Public Law 106–292, reappointed the following Senators to the United States Holocaust Memorial Council for the 117th Congress: Senators Rubio and Scott (SC). **Page S2041**

Monaco Nomination: By 94 yeas to 3 nays (Vote No. EX. 154), Senate agreed to the motion to close further debate on the nomination of Lisa O. Monaco, of the District of Columbia, to be Deputy Attorney General. **Page S2009**

Gupta Nomination—Cloture: Senate began consideration of the nomination of Vanita Gupta, of Virginia, to be Associate Attorney General, Department of Justice. **Page S2009**

A motion was entered to close further debate on the nomination, and, in accordance with the provi-

sions of Rule XXII of the Standing Rules of the Senate, a vote on cloture will occur on Wednesday, April 21, 2021. **Page S2009**

Prior to the consideration of this nomination, Senate took the following action:

Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Legislative Session. **Page S2009**

By 50 yeas to 49 nays (Vote No. 155), Senate agreed to the motion to proceed to Executive Session to consider the nomination. **Page S2009**

Estenoz Nomination Referral—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that the nomination of Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife, sent to the Senate by the President on Monday, April 19, 2021, be referred jointly to the Committee on Energy and Natural Resources and the Committee on Environment and Public Works. **Page S2041**

Gensler Nomination—Agreement: A unanimous-consent agreement was reached providing that at 12 noon, on Tuesday, April 20, 2021, Senate resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, and Senate vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination; and that if cloture is invoked on the nomination, all post-cloture time be considered expired at 2:15 p.m. **Page S2041**

Nominations Received: Senate received the following nominations:

Faisal Amin, of Maryland, to be Chief Financial Officer, Environmental Protection Agency.

Shannon Aneal Estenoz, of Florida, to be Assistant Secretary for Fish and Wildlife.

Tanya Marie Trujillo, of New Mexico, to be an Assistant Secretary of the Interior.

Larry Edward Andre, Jr., of Texas, to be Ambassador to the Federal Republic of Somalia.

Elizabeth Moore Aubin, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the People’s Democratic Republic of Algeria.

Steven C. Bondy, of New Jersey, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Bahrain.

Maria E. Brewer, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Kingdom of Lesotho.

Marc Evans Knapper, of California, to be Ambassador to the Socialist Republic of Vietnam.

Christopher John Lamora, of Rhode Island, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Cameroon.

Tulinabo S. Mushingi, of Virginia, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Angola, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Democratic Republic of Sao Tome and Principe.

Michael Raynor, of Maryland, to be Ambassador to the Republic of Senegal, and to serve concurrently and without additional compensation as Ambassador to the Republic of Guinea-Bissau.

Michele Jeanne Sison, of Maryland, to be an Assistant Secretary of State (International Organization Affairs).

Jon Eugene Meyer, of Ohio, to be General Counsel, Department of Homeland Security.

Rupa Ranga Puttagunta, of the District of Columbia, to be Associate Judge of the Superior Court of the District of Columbia for the term of fifteen years.

Robin C. Ashton, of Maryland, to be Inspector General, Central Intelligence Agency.

Deborah L. Boardman, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Tiffany P. Cunningham, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Federal Circuit.

Lydia Kay Griggsby, of Maryland, to be United States District Judge for the District of Maryland.

Ketanji Brown Jackson, of the District of Columbia, to be United States Circuit Judge for the District of Columbia Circuit.

Candace Jackson-Akiwumi, of Illinois, to be United States Circuit Judge for the Seventh Circuit.

Julien Xavier Neals, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Zahid N. Quraishi, of New Jersey, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Jersey.

Regina M. Rodriguez, of Colorado, to be United States District Judge for the District of Colorado.

Margaret Irene Strickland, of New Mexico, to be United States District Judge for the District of New Mexico.

Patricia L. Ross, of Ohio, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Congressional and Legislative Affairs).

Maryanne T. Donaghy, of Pennsylvania, to be an Assistant Secretary of Veterans Affairs (Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection).

Matthew T. Quinn, of Montana, to be Under Secretary of Veterans Affairs for Memorial Affairs.

1 Navy nomination in the rank of admiral.

Page S2042

Messages from the House: Pages S2010–11

Measures Referred: Page S2011

Measures Read the First Time: Page S2011

Additional Cosponsors: Pages S2012–13

Statements on Introduced Bills/Resolutions: Pages S2013–39

Additional Statements: Page S2010

Amendments Submitted: Pages S2039–41

Authorities for Committees to Meet: Page S2041

Record Votes: Two record votes were taken today. (Total–155) Page S2009

Adjournment: Senate convened at 3 p.m. and adjourned at 7:28 p.m., until 10 a.m. on Tuesday, April 20, 2021. (For Senate's program, see the remarks of the Majority Leader in today's Record on page S2042.)

Committee Meetings

(Committees not listed did not meet)

AFGHANISTAN

Committee on Foreign Relations: Committee received a closed briefing on the negotiation process and understanding the security situation in Afghanistan from Zalmay Khalilzad, Special Representative for Afghanistan Reconciliation, Department of State; David F. Helvey, Acting Assistant Secretary of Defense for Indo-Pacific Security Affairs; and an official briefer from the National Intelligence Office for South Asia, Office of the Director of National Intelligence.

House of Representatives

Chamber Action

Public Bills and Resolutions Introduced: 29 public bills, H.R. 2639–2667; and 4 resolutions, H. Con. Res. 29; and H. Res. 327–329, were introduced. **Pages H1953–54**

Additional Cosponsors: **Pages H1955–56**

Reports Filed: There were no reports filed today.

Speaker: Read a letter from the Speaker wherein she appointed Representative Dingell to act as Speaker pro tempore for today. **Page H1893**

Recess: The House recessed at 12:16 p.m. and reconvened at 2 p.m. **Page H1895**

Recess: The House recessed at 2:08 p.m. and reconvened at 2:30 p.m. **Page H1896**

Recess: The House recessed at 3:13 p.m. and reconvened at 3:27 p.m. **Page H1906**

Suspensions: The House agreed to suspend the rules and pass the following measures:

Trusted Traveler Reconsideration and Restoration Act of 2021: H.R. 473, to require a review of Department of Homeland Security trusted traveler programs; **Pages H1898–99**

Secure And Fair Enforcement Banking Act of 2021: H.R. 1996, amended, to create protections for financial institutions that provide financial services to cannabis-related legitimate businesses and service providers for such businesses, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 321 yeas to 101 nays, Roll No. 120; **Pages H1915–24, H1942–43**

Condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region: H. Res. 130, condemning the continued violation of rights and freedoms of the people of Hong Kong by the People's Republic of China and the Government of the Hong Kong Special Administrative Region, by a $\frac{2}{3}$ yea-and-nay vote of 418 yeas to 1 nay, Roll No. 121; **Pages H1927–30, H1943–44**

Southeast Asia Strategy Act: H.R. 1083, to require a strategy for engagement with Southeast Asia and the Association of Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN); and **Pages H1944–45**

Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Reauthorization Act of 2021: H.R. 241, to reauthorize the Tropical Forest and Coral Reef Conservation Act of 1998. **Pages H1945–47**

Suspensions—Proceedings Postponed: The House debated the following measures under suspension of the rules. Further proceedings were postponed.

Department of Homeland Security Morale, Recognition, Learning and Engagement Act of 2021: H.R. 490, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to improve morale within the Department of Homeland Security workforce by conferring new responsibilities to the Chief Human Capital Officer, establishing an employee engagement steering committee, requiring action plans, and authorizing an annual employee award program; **Pages H1896–98**

Quadrennial Homeland Security Review Technical Corrections Act of 2021: H.R. 370, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to make technical corrections to the requirement that the Secretary of Homeland Security submit quadrennial homeland security reviews; **Pages H1900–01**

Homeland Security Acquisition Professional Career Program Act: H.R. 367, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish an acquisition professional career program; **Pages H1901–02**

Department of Homeland Security Mentor-Protégé Program Act of 2021: H.R. 408, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish a mentor-protégé program; **Pages H1902–04**

CBRN Intelligence and Information Sharing Act of 2021: H.R. 397, amended, to amend the Homeland Security Act of 2002 to establish chemical, biological, radiological, and nuclear intelligence and information sharing functions of the Office of Intelligence and Analysis of the Department of Homeland Security and to require dissemination of information analyzed by the Department to entities with responsibilities relating to homeland security; **Pages H1904–05**

Transit Security Grant Program Flexibility Act: H.R. 396, to amend the Implementing Recommendations of the 9/11 Commission Act of 2007 to clarify certain allowable uses of funds for public transportation security assistance grants and establish periods of performance for such grants; **Pages H1905–06**

Improving FHA Support for Small-Dollar Mortgages Act of 2021: H.R. 1532, to require a review of the effects of FHA mortgage insurance policies, practices, and products on small-dollar mortgage lending; **Pages H1906–08**

Fair Debt Collection Practices for Servicemembers Act: H.R. 1491, to amend the Fair

Debt Collection Practices Act to provide enhanced protection against debt collector harassment of members of the Armed Forces; **Pages H1908–09**

Housing Financial Literacy Act of 2021: H.R. 1395, to require the Secretary of Housing and Urban Development to discount FHA single-family mortgage insurance premium payments for first-time homebuyers who complete a financial literacy housing counseling program; **Pages H1909–10**

National Senior Investor Initiative Act of 2021: H.R. 1565, to create an interdivisional taskforce at the Securities and Exchange Commission for senior investors; **Pages H1910–13**

Promoting Transparent Standards for Corporate Insiders Act: H.R. 1528, to require the Securities and Exchange Commission to carry out a study of Rule 10b5–1 trading plans; **Pages H1913–14**

Eliminate Barriers to Innovation Act of 2021: H.R. 1602, to direct the Commodity Futures Trading Commission and the Securities and Exchange Commission to jointly establish a digital asset working group; **Pages H1924–27**

Cyber Diplomacy Act of 2021: H.R. 1251, amended, to support United States international cyber diplomacy; **Pages H1930–34**

Supporting the People of Belarus and Their Democratic Aspirations and Condemning the Election Rigging and Subsequent Violent Crackdowns on Peaceful Protesters by the Illegitimate Lukashenka Regime: H. Res. 124, supporting the people of Belarus and their democratic aspirations and condemning the election rigging and subsequent violent crackdowns on peaceful protesters by the illegitimate Lukashenka regime; **Pages H1934–37**

Young African Leaders Initiative Act of 2021: H.R. 965, amended, to establish a comprehensive United States Government initiative to build the capacity of young leaders and entrepreneurs in Africa; and **Pages H1937–39**

Protection of Saudi Dissidents Act of 2021: H.R. 1392, amended, to protect Saudi dissidents in the United States. **Pages H1939–42**

Quorum Calls—Votes: Two yea-and-nay votes developed during the proceedings of today and appear on pages H1942–43 and H1943–44.

Adjournment: The House met at 12 p.m. and adjourned at 8:49 p.m.

Committee Meetings

No hearings were held.

Joint Meetings

No joint committee meetings were held.

COMMITTEE MEETINGS FOR TUESDAY, APRIL 20, 2021

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Senate

Committee on Appropriations: Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine Defense Health Program, 9:30 a.m., SD–192.

Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the American Jobs Plan, focusing on infrastructure, climate change, and investing in our nation's future, 10:30 a.m., SD–106.

Committee on Armed Services: to hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC–217, 9:30 a.m., SD–G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: to hold hearings to examine investing in rural communities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: to hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Trade Commission's authority to protect consumers, 10 a.m., SR–253.

Committee on Finance: to hold hearings to examine combatting inequality, focusing on the tax code and racial, ethnic, and gender disparities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: to hold hearings to examine COVID–19 recovery, focusing on supporting workers and modernizing the workforce through quality education, training, and employment opportunities, 10 a.m., SD–430.

Committee on the Judiciary: to hold hearings to examine voting rights, 10 a.m., SH–216.

House

Committee on Agriculture, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the Budget Views and Estimates Letter of the Committee on Agriculture for the agencies and programs under the jurisdiction of the Committee for Fiscal Year 2022, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Webex.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “Rural Broadband—Examining Internet Connectivity Needs and Opportunities in Rural America”, 10 a.m., 1300 Longworth and Webex.

Committee on Appropriations, Subcommittee on Agriculture, Rural Development, Food and Drug Administration, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on Food, Nutrition, and Consumer Services, Department of Agriculture, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on U.S. European Command, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of the Interior, 10 a.m., Webex.

Subcommittee on Labor, Health and Human Services, Education, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled “Building Capacity, Building Community: Increasing Investments in Community Colleges”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, Full Committee, hearing entitled “National Security Challenges and U.S. Military Activities in the Greater Middle East and Africa”, 11 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, Full Committee, business meeting to approve new subcommittee assignments, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Full Committee, hearing entitled “For-Profit College Conversions: Examining Ways to Improve Accountability and Prevent Fraud”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, Subcommittee on Energy, hearing entitled “Generating Equity: Deploying a Just and Clean Energy Future”, 10:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Financial Services, Full Committee, markup on Views and Estimates of the Committee on Financial Services on Matters to be Set Forth in the Concurrent Resolution on the Budget for Fiscal Year 2022 Budget; resolution to establish the Task Force on Artificial Intelligence in the Committee on Financial Services; resolution to establish the Task Force on Financial Technology in the Committee on Financial Services; H.R. 1087, the “Shareholder Political Transparency Act”; H.R. 1187, the “ESG Disclosure Simplification Act”; H.R. 1277, the “Improving Corporate Governance Through Diversity Act”; H.R. 2123, the “Diversity and Inclusion Data Accountability and Transparency Act”; H.R. 2516, the “Promoting Diversity and Inclusion in Banking Act”; H.R. 2543, the “Federal Reserve Racial and Economic Equity Act”; H.R. 2547, the “Comprehensive Debt Collection Improvement Act”; and H.R. 2553, the “Real Estate Valuation Fairness and Improvement Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2128 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, Subcommittee on Europe, Energy, the Environment, and Cyber, hearing entitled “Restoration of the Transatlantic Dialogue: The Global Fight Against Climate Change”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 20, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1843, the “COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act”; H.R. 2383, the “National Opposition to Hate, Assault, and Threats to Equality Act of 2021”; H.R. 2393, the “No Oil Producing and Exporting Cartels Act of 2021”; H.R. 704, the “Artistic Recognition for Talented Students Act”; and H.R. 2453, the “Driving for Opportunity Act of 2021”, 10 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, Subcommittee on Energy and Mineral Resources, hearing entitled “Building Back Better: Reducing Pollution and Creating Jobs Through Offshore Wind”, 2:30 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, Subcommittee on Government Operations, hearing entitled “Restoring Independence: Rebuilding the Federal Offices of Inspectors General”, 9:30 a.m., 2154 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Rules, Full Committee, hearing on H.R. 51, the “Washington, D.C. Admission Act”; H.R. 1333,

the “NO BAN Act”; and H.R. 1573, the “Access to Counsel Act of 2021”, 9:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Small Business, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Update on SBA’s Pandemic Response Programs”, 10 a.m., 2360 Rayburn and Zoom.

Select Committee On The Climate Crisis, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Making the Case for Climate Action: Creating New Jobs and Catalyzing Economic Growth”, 12 p.m., Zoom.

CONGRESSIONAL PROGRAM AHEAD

Week of April 20 through April 23, 2021

Senate Chamber

On *Tuesday*, Senate will continue consideration of S. 937, COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.

At 12 noon, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination, at 2:15 p.m.

During the balance of the week, Senate may consider any cleared legislative and executive business.

Senate Committees

(Committee meetings are open unless otherwise indicated)

Committee on Agriculture, Nutrition, and Forestry: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Jewel Hairston Bronaugh, of Virginia, to be Deputy Secretary of Agriculture, 9:30 a.m., SR-301.

Committee on Appropriations: April 20, Subcommittee on Defense, to hold hearings to examine Defense Health Program, 9:30 a.m., SD-192.

April 20, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the American Jobs Plan, focusing on infrastructure, climate change, and investing in our nation’s future, 10:30 a.m., SD-106.

April 21, Subcommittee on Legislative Branch, to hold hearings to examine proposed budget estimates and justification for fiscal year 2022 for the Capitol Police, Architect of the Capitol, and Senate Sergeant at Arms, 2 p.m., SD-192.

Committee on Armed Services: April 20, to hold hearings to examine United States Strategic Command and United States Space Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

April 21, Subcommittee on Emerging Threats and Capabilities, to hold hearings to examine science and technology, technology maturation, and technology transition activities, 2:30 p.m., SR-222.

April 21, Subcommittee on Personnel, to hold hearings to examine the current and future cyber workforce of the

Department of Defense and the military services, 2:30 p.m., SR-232A.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine United States Central Command and United States Africa Command in review of the Defense Authorization Request for fiscal year 2022 and the Future Years Defense Program; to be immediately followed by a closed session in SVC-217, 9:30 a.m., SD-G50.

Committee on Banking, Housing, and Urban Affairs: April 20, to hold hearings to examine investing in rural communities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine 21st century communities, focusing on capitalizing on opportunities in the clean energy economy, 9:30 a.m., WEBEX.

Committee on Commerce, Science, and Transportation: April 20, to hold hearings to examine strengthening the Federal Trade Commission's authority to protect consumers, 10 a.m., SR-253.

April 21, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Bill Nelson, of Florida, to be Administrator of the National Aeronautics and Space Administration, Lina M. Khan, of New York, to be a Federal Trade Commissioner, and Leslie B. Kiernan, of Maryland, to be General Counsel of the Department of Commerce, 10 a.m., SR-253.

April 21, Subcommittee on Aviation Safety, Operations, and Innovation, to hold hearings to examine America's safe return to air travel, 2:30 p.m., SR-253.

Committee on Energy and Natural Resources: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the opportunities and challenges that exist for advancing and deploying carbon and carbon-dioxide utilization technologies in the United States, 10 a.m., SD-366.

Committee on Finance: April 20, to hold hearings to examine combatting inequality, focusing on the tax code and racial, ethnic, and gender disparities, 10 a.m., WEBEX.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine U.S.-China Relations, focusing on improving U.S. competitiveness through trade, 10 a.m., SD-215.

Committee on Foreign Relations: April 21, business meeting to consider S. 413, to establish the China Censorship Monitor and Action Group, S. 814, to promote security partnership with Ukraine, and an original bill entitled, "Strategic Competition Act of 2021", 10 a.m., SD-106.

April 21, Subcommittee on Near East, South Asia, Central Asia, and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine U.S. policy on Yemen, 2 p.m., SD-106.

Committee on Health, Education, Labor, and Pensions: April 20, to hold hearings to examine COVID-19 recovery, focusing on supporting workers and modernizing the workforce through quality education, training, and employment opportunities, 10 a.m., SD-430.

April 21, Full Committee, business meeting to consider the nominations of Julie A. Su, of California, to be Deputy Secretary of Labor, Cynthia Minette Marten, of California, to be Deputy Secretary, and James Richard Kvaal, of Massachusetts, to be Under Secretary, both of the Department of Education, and other pending calendar business, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

April 22, Full Committee, to hold hearings to examine protecting U.S. biomedical research, focusing on efforts to prevent undue foreign influence, 10 a.m., SD-430.

Committee on Homeland Security and Governmental Affairs: April 22, to hold hearings to examine the nominations of Kiran Arjandas Ahuja, of Massachusetts, to be Director of the Office of Personnel Management, and Anton George Hajjar, of Maryland, Amber Faye McReynolds, of Colorado, and Ronald Stroman, of the District of Columbia, each to be a Governor of the United States Postal Service, 10:15 a.m., SD-342/VTC.

Committee on the Judiciary: April 20, to hold hearings to examine voting rights, 10 a.m., SH-216.

April 21, Subcommittee on Intellectual Property, to hold hearings to examine improving access and inclusivity in the patent system, focusing on unleashing America's economic engine, 10 a.m., SD-226.

April 21, Subcommittee on Competition Policy, Antitrust, and Consumer Rights, to hold hearings to examine competition in app stores, focusing on antitrust, 2:30 p.m., SD-226.

April 22, Subcommittee on Criminal Justice and Counterterrorism, to hold hearings to examine behavioral health and policing, focusing on interactions and solutions, 10 a.m., SD-226.

Committee on Small Business and Entrepreneurship: April 21, to hold hearings to examine the nomination of Dilawar Syed, of California, to be Deputy Administrator of the Small Business Administration, 2:30 p.m., SR-301.

Committee on Veterans' Affairs: April 22, business meeting to consider the nomination of Richard A. Sauber, of the District of Columbia, to be General Counsel, Department of Veterans Affairs, Time to be announced, Room to be announced.

Select Committee on Intelligence: April 21, to receive a closed briefing on certain intelligence matters, 2 p.m., SVC-217.

House Committees

Committee on Appropriations, April 21, Subcommittee on Commerce, Justice, Science, and Related Agencies, hearing entitled "Oversight of the Economic Development Administration's Role in Pandemic Response", 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on U.S. Africa Command, 10 a.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

April 21, Subcommittee on Interior, Environment, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Environmental Protection Agency, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on Defense, budget hearing on U.S. Central Command, 2 p.m., 2212 Rayburn. This hearing is closed.

April 21, Subcommittee on Transportation, and Housing and Urban Development, and Related Agencies, budget hearing on the Department of Housing and Urban Development, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Armed Services, April 21, Subcommittee on Strategic Forces, hearing entitled "FY22 Strategic Forces Posture Hearing", 4 p.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

April 22, Subcommittee on Tactical Air and Land Forces; and Subcommittee on Readiness, joint hearing entitled “Update on F-35 Program Accomplishments, Issues, and Risks”, 9:30 a.m., 2118 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Education and Labor, April 22, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Members Day Hearing: Committee on Education and Labor”, 10:15 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Energy and Commerce, April 21, Subcommittee on Communications and Technology, hearing entitled “Leading the Wireless Future: Securing American Network Technology” 11:30 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Foreign Affairs, April 21, Subcommittee on the Middle East, North Africa, and Global Counterterrorism, hearing entitled “The Crisis in Yemen: Part 2”, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Full Committee, markup on H.R. 1488, the “Global Electoral Exchange Act of 2021”; H.R. 1036, the “Bassam Barabandi Rewards for Justice Act”; H.R. 402, the “CROOK Act”; H.R. 2538, the “FENTANYL Results Act”; H. Res. 186, calling for the immediate release of Trevor Reed, a United States citizen who was unjustly found guilty and sentenced to nine years in a Russian prison; H.R. 2471, the “Haiti Development, Accountability, and Institutional Transparency Initiative Act”; H.R. 1228, the “Libya Stabilization Act”; H.R. 496, the “Ukraine Religious Freedom Support Act”; H.R. 826, the “Divided Families Reunification Act”; H. Res. 294, encouraging reunions of divided Korean-American families; H.R. 1155, the “Uyghur Forced Labor Prevention Act”; and H. Res. 317, condemning the ongoing genocide and crimes against humanity being committed against Uyghurs and members of other religious and ethnic minority groups by the People’s Republic of China, 2 p.m., 2172 Rayburn and Webex.

Committee on Homeland Security, April 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Department of Homeland Security’s Office of Inspector General”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on House Administration, April 21, Full Committee, continue hearing entitled “Oversight of the United States Capitol Police and Preparations for and Response to the Attack of January 6th”, 2 p.m., Webex.

Committee on the Judiciary, April 22, Subcommittee on the Constitution, Civil Rights, and Civil Liberties, hearing entitled “Oversight of the Voting Rights Act: The Evolving Landscape of Voting Discrimination”, 9 a.m., 2141 Rayburn.

Committee on Natural Resources, April 21, Subcommittee for Indigenous Peoples of the United States, hearing entitled “Infrastructure in Indigenous Communities: Priorities for American Jobs Plan”, 10 a.m., Webex.

April 21, Subcommittee on National Parks, Forests, and Public Lands, hearing on H.R. 820, the “New Phila-

delphia National Historical Park Act”; H.R. 920, the “Brown v. Board of Education National Historic Site Expansion Act”; H.R. 2497, the “Amache National Historic Site Act”; and H.R. 2626, the “Pullman National Historical Park Act”, 1 p.m., Webex.

Committee on Oversight and Reform, April 22, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “The Role of Fossil Fuel Subsidies in Preventing Action on the Climate Crisis”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Science, Space, and Technology, April 21, Subcommittee on Environment, hearing entitled “Working Towards Climate Equity: The Case for a Federal Climate Service”, 11 a.m., Zoom.

Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, April 21, Full Committee, markup on Fiscal Year 2022 Budget Views and Estimates of the Committee on Transportation and Infrastructure, 10:30 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

April 21, Subcommittee on Water Resources and Environment, hearing entitled “Sustainable Wastewater Infrastructure: Measures to Promote Resiliency and Climate Adaptation and Mitigation”, 11 a.m., 2167 Rayburn and Zoom.

Committee on Veterans’ Affairs, April 21, Subcommittee on Oversight and Investigations, hearing on H.R. 711, the “West Los Angeles VA Campus Improvement Act of 2021”; H.R. 1948, the “VA Employee Fairness Act of 2021”; H.R. 2082, the “VA Supply Chain Resiliency Act”; H.R. 2428, the “Strengthening Oversight for Veterans Act of 2021”; H.R. 2429, the “VA Police Improvement and Accountability Act”; legislation on Strengthening VA Whistleblower Protection Act of 2021; legislation on VA FOIA Reform Act of 2021; legislation on directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to make certain information publicly available on one internet website of the Department of Veterans Affairs; legislation on Improving VA Accountability to Prevent Sexual Harassment and Discrimination Act of 2021; legislation on VA Beneficiary Debt Collection Improvement Act; legislation on VA Equal Employment Counseling Modernization Act; legislation on Strengthening VA Background Checks Act; legislation on directing the Secretary of Veterans Affairs to submit to Congress a plan for expending Coronavirus pandemic funding made available to the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes; and legislation to amend title 38, United States Code, to make certain improvements to the Office of Accountability and Whistleblower Protection of the Department of Veterans Affairs, and for other purposes”, 10 a.m., Webex.

Committee on Ways and Means, April 21, Full Committee, hearing entitled “In Their Own Words: Paid Leave, Child Care, and an Economy that Failed Women”, 12 p.m., 1100 Longworth and Webex.

Next Meeting of the SENATE

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20

Senate Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Senate will continue consideration of S. 937, COVID-19 Hate Crimes Act.

At 12 noon, Senate will resume consideration of the nomination of the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, with a vote on the motion to invoke cloture thereon.

If cloture is invoked on the nomination of Gary Gensler, of Maryland, to be a Member of the Securities and Exchange Commission, Senate will vote on confirmation of the nomination, at 2:15 p.m.

(Senate will recess following the vote on the motion to invoke cloture on the nomination of Gary Gensler until 2:15 p.m. for their respective party conferences.)

Next Meeting of the HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

10 a.m., Tuesday, April 20

House Chamber

Program for Tuesday: Consideration of measures under suspension of the Rules.

Extensions of Remarks, as inserted in this issue

HOUSE

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Speier, Jackie, Calif., E414



Congressional Record

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