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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 3655, THE VACCINE INJURY COMPENSATION MODERNIZATION
8 ACT OF 2021;

9 H.R. 5141, THE MAXIMIZING OUTCOMES THROUGH BETTER
10 INVESTMENTS IN LIFESAVING EQUIPMENT FOR (MOBILE) HEALTH CARE
11 ACT;

12 H.R. 8163, THE IMPROVING TRAUMA SYSTEMS AND EMERGENCY CARE
13 ACT;

14 H.R. 6737, THE FLINT REGISTRY REAUTHORIZATION ACT;

15 H.R. 6965, THE VISIT AMERICA ACT;

16 H.R. 5441, THE PAST ACT OF 2021;

17 H. RES. 1355, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND
18 DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
19 TRANSMIT, RESPECTIVELY, CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF
20 REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO IVERMECTIN;

21 H. RES. 1244, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT AND
22 DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES TO
23 TRANSMIT, RESPECTIVELY, CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF
24 REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO ANY COVID-19 VACCINE;

25 H. RES. 1258, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
26 AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTATION TO THE
27 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO THE CALCULATION OF

28 CERTAIN EXPENDITURE LIMITATIONS APPLICABLE TO FEDERAL FUNDING
29 OF THE MEDICAID PROGRAM IN PUERTO RICO;

30 H. RES. 1263, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
31 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
32 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO COVID-19 FUNDING;

33 H. RES. 1267, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
34 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
35 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO THE OVERSIGHT OF THE
36 WUHAN INSTITUTE OF VIROLOGY LABORATORY BY THE DIRECTOR OF THE
37 NATIONAL INSTITUTES OF HEALTH;

38 H. RES. 1268, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
39 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
40 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO ACTIONS TAKEN BY THE
41 SECRETARY OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES RELATED TO THE
42 COVID-19 PANDEMIC RESPONSE;

43 H. RES. 1274, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
44 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
45 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS BY OR
46 AMONG ANY OF THE DEPARTMENT OF HEALTH AND HUMAN SERVICES, THE
47 OFFICE OF NATIONAL DRUG CONTROL POLICY, THE WHITE HOUSE, THE
48 DRUG ENFORCEMENT ADMINISTRATION, AND THE DEPARTMENT OF
49 JUSTICE RELATED TO THE EXECUTIVE BRANCH'S RECOMMENDATIONS FOR
50 A LONG-TERM, CONSENSUS APPROACH TO REDUCE THE SUPPLY AND
51 AVAILABILITY OF ILLICITLY MANUFACTURED FENTANYL-RELATED
52 SUBSTANCES IN THE UNITED STATES;

53 H. RES. 1275, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
54 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
55 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS BY
56 STAFF OF THE WHITE HOUSE REGARDING THE IMPLICATIONS OF
57 REVOKING THE PUBLIC HEALTH ORDERS COMMONLY REFERRED TO AS
58 TITLE 42;

59 H. RES. 1284, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF HEALTH
60 AND HUMAN SERVICES TO PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTATION TO THE
61 HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO THE NEGOTIATION OF
62 PRICES FOR PRESCRIPTION DRUGS UNDER THE MEDICARE PRESCRIPTION
63 DRUG PROGRAM;

64 H. RES. 1287, OF INQUIRY DIRECTING THE PRESIDENT TO
65 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS IN THE PRESIDENT'S POSSESSION TO
66 THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES RELATING TO THE RECALL OF INFANT
67 FORMULA MANUFACTURED BY ABBOTT LABORATORIES AND POTENTIAL
68 IMPACTS ON THE INFANT FORMULA SUPPLY CHAIN;

69 H. RES. 1265, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
70 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
71 RELATING TO PLANS TO EXPLOIT THE ENERGY CRISIS TO PURSUE A
72 RADICAL CLIMATE AGENDA;

73 H. RES. 1272, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
74 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
75 RELATING TO PLANS TO DECLARE A CLIMATE EMERGENCY IN ORDER TO
76 INVOKE EMERGENCY AUTHORITIES TO IMPOSE REGULATIONS ON
77 INDUSTRIAL ACTIVITY, OR THE SUPPLY AND DELIVERY OF ENERGY OR

78 ELECTRIC POWER, IN THE UNITED STATES;

79 H. RES. 1260, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT, AND
80 DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, TO TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE
81 OF REPRESENTATIVES CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO PLANS TO
82 DRAW DOWN AND SELL PETROLEUM PRODUCTS FROM THE STRATEGIC
83 PETROLEUM RESERVE AND PLANS TO REFILL THE STRATEGIC PETROLEUM
84 RESERVE;

85 H. RES. 1326, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT, AND
86 DIRECTING THE SECRETARY OF ENERGY, TO TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE
87 OF REPRESENTATIVES CERTAIN INFORMATION RELATING TO PLANS TO
88 PROTECT BASELOAD BULK POWER SYSTEM GENERATION AND
89 TRANSMISSION TO MAINTAIN BULK POWER SYSTEM RELIABILITY;

90 H. RES. 1264, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
91 TRANSMIT TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CERTAIN DOCUMENTS
92 RELATING TO MISINFORMATION AND THE PRESERVATION OF FREE
93 SPEECH;

94 H. RES. 1271, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TRANSMIT
95 TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES CERTAIN DOCUMENTS RELATING TO
96 ACTIVITIES OF THE NATIONAL TELECOMMUNICATIONS AND INFORMATION
97 ADMINISTRATION RELATING TO BROADBAND SERVICE;

98 H. RES. 1237, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
99 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES
100 RELATING TO ONLINE CENSORSHIP OF POLITICAL SPEECH; AND

101 H. RES. 1261, OF INQUIRY REQUESTING THE PRESIDENT TO
102 PROVIDE CERTAIN DOCUMENTS TO THE HOUSE OF REPRESENTATIVES

103 RELATING TO COMMUNICATIONS AND DIRECTIVES WITH THE FEDERAL
104 TRADE COMMISSION
105 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 21, 2022
106 House of Representatives,
107 Committee on Energy and Commerce,
108 Washington, D.C.

109

110

111

112 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:19 a.m. in
113 the John D. Dingell Room, Room 2123, Rayburn House Office
114 Building, Hon. Frank Pallone [chairman of the committee]
115 presiding.

116

117 Present: Representatives Pallone, Rush, Eshoo, DeGette,
118 Doyle, Schakowsky, Butterfield, Matsui, Castor, Sarbanes,
119 McNerney, Welch, Tonko, Clarke, Schrader, Cardenas, Ruiz,
120 Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kuster, Kelly, Barragan, McEachin,
121 Blunt Rochester, Soto, O'Halleran, Rice, Craig, Schrier,
122 Trahan, Fletcher; Rodgers, Upton, Burgess, Scalise, Latta,
123 Guthrie, McKinley, Griffith, Bilirakis, Johnson, Long,
124 Bucshon, Mullin, Hudson, Walberg, Carter, Duncan, Palmer,
125 Dunn, Curtis, Lesko, Pence, Crenshaw, Joyce, and Armstrong.

126

127 Staff Present: Lydia Abma, Policy Analyst; Hannah
128 Anton, Staff Assistant; Jacquelyn Bolen, Health Counsel;
129 Jesseca Boyer, Professional Staff Member; Timia Crisp,
130 Professional Staff Member; Katherine Durkin, Policy
131 Coordinator; Lisa Goldman, Chief Counsel, Consumer Protection
132 and Commerce; Waverly Gordon, Deputy Staff Director and
133 General Counsel; Jessica Grandberry, Staff Assistant; Daniel
134 Greene, Professional Staff Member; Tiffany Guarascio, Staff
135 Director; Anthony Gutierrez, Professional Staff Member; Perry
136 Hamilton, Clerk; Stephen Holland, Senior Health Counsel; Ed
137 Kacsmarsk, Policy Analyst; Zach Kahan, Deputy Director
138 Outreach and Member Service; Rick Kessler, Senior Advisor and
139 Staff Director, Energy and Environment; Saha Khaterzai,
140 Professional Staff Member; Mackenzie Kuhl, Digital Assistant;
141 Una Lee, Chief Health Counsel; Jerry Leverich, Chief Counsel,
142 Communications and Technology; Will McAuliffe, Counsel;
143 Aisling McDonough, Policy Coordinator; Dan Miller,
144 Professional Staff Member; David Miller, Counsel; Meghan
145 Mullon, Senior Policy Analyst; Juan Negrete, Professional
146 Staff Member; Tyler O'Connor, Energy Counsel; Joe Orlando,
147 Policy Analyst; Lino Pena-Martinez, Policy Analyst; Kaitlyn
148 Peel, Digital Director; Greg Pugh, Staff Assistant; Caroline
149 Rinker, Press Assistant; Chloe Rodriguez, Clerk; Kylea
150 Rogers, Policy Analyst; Harry Samuels, Oversight Counsel;
151 Andrew Souvall, Director of Communications, Outreach, and

152 Member Services; Johanna Thomas, Counsel; Rick Van Buren,
153 Senior Health Counsel; Michele Viterise, Counsel; Tuley
154 Wright, Senior Energy and Environment Policy Advisor; C.J.
155 Young, Deputy Communications Director; Alec Aramanda,
156 Minority Professional Staff Member, Health; Kate Arey,
157 Minority Content Manager and Digital Assistant; Michael
158 Cameron, Minority Policy Analyst, CPC, Energy, Environment;
159 Jerry Couri, Minority Deputy Chief Counsel for Environment;
160 Seth Gold, Minority Professional Staff Member, Health; Grace
161 Graham, Minority Chief Counsel, Health; Nate Hodson, Minority
162 Staff Director; Noah Jackson, Minority Staff Assistant; Emily
163 King, Minority Member Services Director; Tim Kurth, Minority
164 Chief Counsel, CPC; Brandon Mooney, Minority Deputy Chief
165 Counsel for Energy; Kate O'Connor, Minority Chief Counsel,
166 C&T; Clare Paoletta, Minority Policy Analyst, Health; Carla
167 Rafael, Minority Staff Assistant; Brannon Rains, Minority
168 Professional Staff Member, CPC; Kristen Shatynski, Minority
169 Professional Staff Member, Health; Olivia Shields, Minority
170 Communications Director; Peter Spencer, Minority Senior
171 Professional Staff Member, Energy; Lacey Strahm, Fellow, CPC;
172 Michael Taggart, Minority Policy Director; and Evan Viau,
173 Minority Professional Staff Member, C&T.

174

175 *The Chairman. The committee will come to order, and we
176 are meeting today to consider 24 bills.

177 Due to the COVID public health emergency, members can
178 participate in today's markup either in person or remotely,
179 via online video conferencing.

180 For members participating remotely, your microphones
181 will be set on mute for the purpose of eliminating
182 inadvertent background noise. Members participating remotely
183 will need to unmute your microphone each time you wish to
184 speak. Please note that, once you unmute your microphone,
185 anything that is said in Webex will be heard over the
186 loudspeakers, in the committee room, and subject to being
187 heard by the livestream and C-SPAN.

188 Additionally, I ask that members participating remotely
189 use the raise hand feature of the software platform when you
190 wish to be recognized.

191 During recorded votes you will need to unmute yourself
192 to respond to the clerk once your name is called. And in
193 responding to the clerk I ask that, instead of just saying
194 aye or nay, that you respond with a phrase like, "Pallone
195 from New Jersey votes aye.'" This will provide additional
196 time for the voting member to be identified and made visible
197 on the platform.

198 Now, since members are participating from different
199 locations at today's markup, all recognition of members will

200 be in the order of full committee seniority. During this
201 markup amendments will be sent to members electronically.
202 Amendments and motions should be sent to Chloe Rodriguez and
203 Perry Hamilton, and documents for the record to Caroline Wood
204 in the email addresses we have provided to staff.

205 So we will start. I am going to recognize myself for
206 three minutes for an opening, and then we will go to Mrs.
207 Rodgers.

208 Today the full committee continues its important work by
209 marking up legislation to enhance health care, bolster our
210 travel and tourism industry, and protect animals from inhuman
211 practices.

212 This markup comes after a very productive congressional
213 session in which we have made health care and prescription
214 drugs more affordable, strengthened our economy, aggressively
215 tackled the climate crisis, and protected consumers.

216 Last month the House passed the President -- and
217 President Biden signed into law the Inflation Reduction Act
218 that will lower costs for the American people. The new law
219 finally empowers Medicare to negotiate the cost of
220 prescription drugs to lower prices for seniors. It extends
221 enhanced Affordable Care Act marketplace premium subsidies
222 that are delivering average annual savings of \$2,400 to a
223 family of 4. It is also the single largest investment in
224 climate action in American history that will create new

225 clean-energy jobs and lower energy costs for American
226 families.

227 There have also been other major achievements, including
228 some that have garnered strong bipartisan support. And today
229 that committee's work continues. So we are going to begin by
230 considering four health bills.

231 The first bill would provide updates and improvements to
232 the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program to help clear an
233 existing backlog of claims, and improve the program's
234 capacity to ensure claims are paid in a timely manner going
235 forward.

236 We will then consider two bills that will improve health
237 care in rural and under-served areas by allowing grants to
238 community health centers to be used to establish mobile
239 health units, and by reauthorizing grants to improve
240 emergency medical services and trauma care readiness and
241 coordination.

242 And then we will go to the Flint Registry
243 Reauthorization Act, which reauthorizes the Lead Exposure
244 Registry. It is important we continue this program to allow
245 health professionals to collect robust data, monitor lead
246 exposure, and improve care coordination for people exposed to
247 lead.

248 And then we will go to two consumer protection and
249 commerce bills. The Visit America Act supports travel and

250 tourism in the U.S. for the development of a 10-year travel
251 and tourism strategy. The PAST Act would strengthen
252 protections against soring: the inhumane practice of
253 applying an irritating or blistering agent to a limb of a
254 horse to accentuate the horse's gait.

255 And finally, we will consider 18 Republican resolutions
256 of inquiry. I have to express my disappointment to see the
257 Republicans using these resolutions for what I consider
258 political reasons. There is simply no other way to explain
259 it, considering the sheer number of resolutions that they
260 have introduced. In some instances, it also doesn't appear
261 the information Republicans are now requesting through these
262 resolutions had ever been asked for before they were
263 introduced.

264 And resolutions of inquiry can be important tools for
265 oversight, I recognize that. But I believe that committee
266 Republicans' efforts today are abuse of the process. It is
267 unfortunate, but it will not prevent us from continuing our
268 work to put people over politics.

269 So with that I would now recognize the ranking member,
270 Mrs. Rodgers, for an opening statement.

271 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we will
272 be considering 18 resolutions of inquiry, ROIs, that have
273 been -- that are led by members of the Energy and Commerce
274 Committee, as well as other House Republicans. This is an

275 unprecedented number of ROIs, and it is due to the
276 unprecedented lack of accountability, transparency, and
277 respect from this Administration. They are Article Two
278 within our Constitution.

279 Our role and responsibility is under Article One, as the
280 elected representatives of the people. And part of that is
281 the important oversight and investigation responsibilities of
282 this committee. We are the elected representatives of the
283 people, and it is our constitutional responsibility to hold
284 the administration accountable, and to seek answers on behalf
285 of those that we serve.

286 The documents that we need include documents on how
287 President Biden's reckless, radical agenda has led to record-
288 high inflation, skyrocketing energy and food prices,
289 electricity blackouts, and empty store shelves, how an open
290 border agenda and government-enforced COVID-19 restrictions
291 increased overdoses and the deaths of despair from fentanyl
292 poisoning, and how socialist price controls will lead to
293 fewer cures and increased reliance on Chinese medical supply
294 chains.

295 From day one, the Administration, the Biden
296 Administration, has ignored even the most basic requests from
297 Energy and Commerce Republicans and our offer to conduct
298 oversight on many executive agencies under the committee's
299 jurisdiction. It is unacceptable, especially given the

300 trillions of dollars that has been spent the last two years
301 causing our cost of living to increase hundreds of dollars,
302 thousands of dollars, gas prices, buying groceries,
303 inflation.

304 It shouldn't be a partisan issue for this committee to
305 assert ourselves. ROI, the resolutions of inquiry, is one of
306 the methods used by the House to obtain information and facts
307 from the executive branch. It has been in the House rules
308 since 1820, but the Democrats suspended the rule in 2022, and
309 they just turned it on in July. We have not held the basic
310 oversight hearings about the Administration's pandemic
311 response, out-of-control spending, the fentanyl crisis
312 killing record number of people -- it is heartbreaking -- the
313 war on American energy that is increasing prices, shutting
314 down jobs, and threatening people's ability to keep lights
315 on.

316 We are the duly elected representatives of the people.
317 This is the greatest experiment in self-governance the world
318 has ever known. And I ask today that we join together in
319 reporting these resolutions of inquiry favorably, send a
320 message to the Administration, to the bureaucracy, the
321 agencies, that skirting their responsibility won't stop the
322 hardworking people of this country, like parents who can't
323 afford baby formula, the pipeline worker out of a job, the
324 mom who can't afford her groceries, the parent who has lost

325 their child to fentanyl poisoning will get answers. I hope
326 we can come together on behalf of them.

327 I yield back.

328 *The Chairman. Thank you. So any other members who
329 seek recognition for an opening statement?

330 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Chair?

331 *The Chairman. If you are a subcommittee chair or
332 ranker, you have three minutes, and other members have one.
333 So does anyone on the -- start with -- Mr. Rush is recognized
334 for three minutes.

335 *Mr. Rush. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
336 [inaudible] to everybody. I want to start by recognizing the
337 excellent work that Chairs Eshoo and Schakowsky have done in
338 putting together a number of excellent bipartisan bills from
339 the Health and Consumer Protection Subcommittees [inaudible]
340 I support.

341 Also, I want to especially thank Chair Eshoo for
342 [inaudible] a bill that will reauthorize the Flint water
343 registry that has helped so many residents of Flint, Michigan
344 that were hurt by the horrendous lead poisoning crisis that
345 plagued that city.

346 My hometown of Chicago has the most lead pipes in the
347 country. And those of us who live there know better than
348 anyone the harms that lead poisoning water can inflict upon a
349 community. I look forward to supporting that bill in today's

350 markup.

351 Unfortunately, Mr. Chairman, these bills represent only
352 six of the measures that we are [inaudible] today. We also
353 have before us 18 resolutions of inquiry. These resolutions
354 are, for the most part, not genuine in exercising the House's
355 oversight power, but instead are partisan, political
356 [inaudible] of the worst type, by my friends on the other
357 side of the aisle. They cover topics [inaudible] as the
358 ivermectin [inaudible] COVID care to [inaudible] so-called
359 "radical climate agenda."

360 Frankly, Mr. Chairman, I am very disappointed.
361 [Inaudible] on this committee. And as chair of the Energy
362 Subcommittee, I have thoroughly enjoyed working with my
363 Republican colleagues on serious [inaudible] and bipartisan
364 ideas. Unfortunately, [inaudible] the resolutions they have
365 brought before us today are not serious, are not thoughtful,
366 and certainly not -- are not bipartisan. We must, therefore,
367 treat these resolutions with the seriousness and respect that
368 they are due, and that is to vote against them.

369 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

370 *The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Rush. On the Republican
371 side, Mr. Latta is next. The gentleman from Ohio is
372 recognized for three minutes.

373 *Mr. Latta. Well, thanks, Mr. Chairman. Thank you very
374 much for yielding and holding today's hearing.

375 At a time when our country is battling crippling
376 inflation, a labor shortage, and historic crime rates, the
377 Biden Administration continues to ignore the realities of the
378 state of our Union.

379 This committee has a duty to conduct oversight of the
380 Biden Administration. In the communications and technology
381 space we oversee the Federal Communications Commission and
382 the National Telecommunications and Information
383 Administration, NTIA. Yet at a time when the Biden
384 Administration has given unprecedented amounts of funding and
385 authority to both of these agencies, this committee is slack
386 on its duty.

387 Assistant Secretary Ellen Davidson of NTIA and
388 Chairwoman Rosenworcel of the FCC have appeared before this
389 committee once in two years. This is reckless. It is a
390 dereliction of our duty by this committee to seek answers
391 about how taxpayer money is getting spent or policies are
392 being implemented.

393 Instead, my Democratic colleagues chose to spend their
394 time pursuing media outlets, including with Big Tech, to
395 censor conservative viewpoints. Earlier this year Democrats
396 on this committee sent letters to major cable and streaming
397 providers, pressuring them into dropping Fox News, Newsmax,
398 and OneAmerica under the guise of misinformation. Not only
399 does this get uncomfortably close to violating the First

400 Amendment, but because of our lack of oversight we have no
401 insight into the other actions taken by this Administration
402 in an attempt to regulate free speech or the -- a free press.
403 This is fundamentally un-American.

404 Today we will consider two resolutions of inquiry
405 sponsored by Mr. Carter and Mr. Bishop to finally get
406 information about the Biden Administration's attempt to
407 silence conservative voices.

408 You will also hear from my colleagues about this
409 Administration's reckless tax and spending spree. In fact,
410 millions of taxpayer dollars have already been the subject of
411 repeated waste, fraud, and abuse. Congress provided over \$42
412 billion to NTIA for broadband deployment, and I am pleased
413 that we are considering Mr. Hudson's resolution of inquiry
414 today to get information about how the Biden Administration
415 plans to administer this money.

416 Government watchdogs have already raised concerns over
417 the overlapping and duplicative broadband funding programs,
418 and we must ensure that precious taxpayer dollars do not
419 continue to leave Americans on the wrong side of the digital
420 divide. That is why the bills we are voting on today are so
421 important.

422 I look forward to today's discussion, Mr. Chairman, and
423 I yield back the balance of my time.

424 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Next we go to

425 Ms. Eshoo for three minutes.

426 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

427 Our committee is marking up four bipartisan health bills
428 today, two bipartisan consumer protection bills, and 18
429 Republican resolutions of inquiry.

430 I support the bipartisan package of health legislation
431 that we are going to mark up. The four bills squarely
432 address persistent problems that keep Americans from getting
433 the quality care they deserve.

434 Unfortunately, most of the day will be spent on
435 resolutions of inquiry that appear to be more about delaying
436 and obstructing the work of this committee and the House than
437 about conducting proper oversight. I urge colleagues to move
438 through these resolutions quickly, so we can return to the
439 productive bipartisan work that historically drives this
440 committee.

441 So with that, Mr. Chairman, thank you and I yield back.

442 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Next I was
443 going to recognize Mr. Guthrie, but I see Mr. Upton is up
444 here.

445 *Mr. Upton. Go on and --

446 *The Chairman. All right.

447 *Mr. Guthrie. Okay.

448 *The Chairman. I recognize Mr. Guthrie for three
449 minutes.

450 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I appreciate the
451 recognition.

452 And the theme of today's hearing is pretty clear:
453 America is not working. We have record high inflation,
454 despite the President trying to spin that inflation has
455 relatively leveled off and is basically even. We have a
456 historic number of illegal border crossings that is fueled --
457 that has fueled an unprecedented rise in drug overdoses from
458 synthetic opioids such as fentanyl. We have record high gas
459 prices, a baby formula shortage that has left prices high and
460 parents without formula to feed their babies and, most
461 recently, an avoidable monkeypox outbreak.

462 Also, we have the mislabeled Inflation Reduction Act
463 that will establish price controls, and Medicare Part D that
464 will lead to fewer cures, higher launch prices, and drug
465 shortages. We need to instead address the root causes of
466 high drug prices.

467 We are here today in part to get information about how
468 the Administration plans to implement the policies
469 established by this partisan law since, thus far, HHS has
470 been unwilling to provide information. American seniors need
471 transparency to help avoid, to the extent possible under this
472 law, waiting for critical, lifesaving drugs.

473 The questions posed in the resolutions of inquiry
474 deserve answers, issues such as the role of HHS Secretary --

475 what he played and continues to play in the pandemic
476 response. We need answers by HHS -- why HHS keeps falling
477 short of its responsibilities, and that starts with the
478 leadership.

479 We need to discuss President Biden's budget request for
480 more pandemic funding, despite saying the pandemic is over
481 and the Democrats -- and the -- then the fact that the
482 Democrats' first COVID-19 legislation is fueling record
483 inflation.

484 We need answers on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic.

485 We need answers on how this Administration plans to
486 address the very real threats posed by illicit drug
487 trafficking and its toll on American lives, and how the Biden
488 Administration possibly came to the conclusion that lowering
489 penalties for fentanyl-related substances would help.

490 We need answers on the ongoing infant formula crisis,
491 and FDA's plan to ensure this does not happen again.

492 I am hoping that Americans get some of the answers they
493 deserve with these resolutions of inquiry.

494 Thank you for the time, and I yield back.

495 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Next we go to
496 Mr. Doyle, who is recognized for the three minutes.

497 *Mr. Doyle. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I look forward to
498 marking up the six bills that are before us, and don't look
499 forward to anything after that. I yield back.

500 [Laughter.]

501 *The Chairman. Thank you for expressing your opinion.

502 Next we go to Mr. -- oh, Mr. Upton does -- who is next?

503 *Mrs. Rodgers. Morgan.

504 *The Chairman. Mr. Morgan is recognized. I mean, Mr.

505 Griffith is recognized.

506 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am

507 a little disappointed, both in the lack of enthusiasm to

508 discuss the resolutions of inquiry, but also in the total

509 lack of understanding of the frustration on -- at least on

510 this side of the aisle.

511 The resolution of inquiry that I have is one that is

512 following up on eight multi-page letters that Ranking Member

513 Cathy McMorris Rodgers and Mr. Guthrie and I have sent over

514 the last couple of years trying to get information out of the

515 NIH as to their oversight, and what they were doing in

516 relationship with EcoHealth Alliance and with the Wuhan

517 Institute of Virology.

518 Mistakes were made. Some things may have been done

519 correctly. We have an obligation. It is our job to

520 investigate and get all the data that we can get to find out

521 what went wrong with a -- that started off and had a pandemic

522 that has killed millions worldwide. And to say that these

523 resolutions of inquiry are merely for political purposes -- I

524 just want the answers. And these are the same questions we

525 have asked this committee to investigate, and haven't had a
526 full hearing on such.

527 And I will tell you that I feel very passionately about
528 my resolution of inquiry. No matter what you may think about
529 how long it will take, I want us to continue to investigate
530 this. It only asks for four issues that I will get into
531 later. But we need the information if we are going to do our
532 job as the United States Congress and the Energy and Commerce
533 Committee of that Congress. And that is what these
534 resolutions of inquiry are about.

535 And I yield back.

536 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Next we go to --
537 Ms. Schakowsky is recognized.

538 *Ms. Schakowsky. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Two of the
539 bills that we will be considering today come out of the
540 Energy and Commerce Committee: the Visit America Act and the
541 PAST Act.

542 And so the Visit America Act, introduced by
543 Representatives Titus, Case, and the late Tom -- the late Don
544 Young, will boost our travel and tourism industry.

545 I thought I would also mention that I heard this morning
546 from someone that the late Queen Elizabeth II actually was
547 aware of the legislation that we will also be considering,
548 which has to do with horse soring. That is, the practice of
549 actually, in many ways, torturing horses in order for them to

550 lift their feet enough in horse shows in order to achieve
551 what is called the big lick, raise their feet high. As you
552 know, the late queen was a great, great horse advocate, and
553 apparently weighed in at some point on this legislation.

554 It is time to end this inhumane practice of using
555 caustic chemicals, even rocks and things that will hurt the
556 animals in order to get them to lift their feet higher. And
557 so I am looking -- very much looking forward to passing this
558 legislation in a bipartisan way today.

559 I also want to thank all the advocates who have worked
560 diligently for years to make -- to allow groups and advocates
561 to be able to participate and fight for this legislation.

562 And with that, I yield back.

563 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Now we go to
564 Mr. Bilirakis.

565 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
566 appreciate it.

567 Good morning, everyone. Oversight is a crucial part of
568 our responsibilities in representing the American people. We
569 serve as a check and balance to the other branches of
570 government, working to uncover information and holding them
571 accountable when necessary.

572 Unfortunately, the majority seems to have little to no
573 interest in oversight and the current state of our country:
574 record high inflation, empty shelves. And many state

575 agencies are all a direct result of President Biden's
576 progressive administration.

577 However, Republicans on this committee stand ready to
578 fill this oversight void. Our resolutions of inquiry are the
579 first step to holding the Biden Administration accountable
580 for their actions. These resolutions will help us obtain the
581 facts from the executive branch on critical issues such as
582 energy, the energy crisis, the border crisis, the infant
583 formula crisis, and why every American is paying more for
584 everyday goods with inflation through the roof.

585 These resolutions will also help us better understand
586 how we can alleviate some of the hardships businesses across
587 the country have faced, like organized retail crime. The
588 committee has worked on a bipartisan manner through the
589 Informed Consumers Act. This is the kind of thing the
590 Administration should be focused on. And I want to commend
591 the Chairman Schakowsky for that work, as well. Let's get
592 that passed through the House, and get it to the President's
593 desk as soon as possible.

594 Instead, this Administration seems more focused on
595 regulating mainstream and small businesses than on actual
596 solutions, unfortunately.

597 We are seeking answers and documentation about very
598 concerning actions taken by Chairwoman Lina Khan of the
599 Federal Trade Commission. My resolution, H.R. 1261, demands

600 answers on Chair Khan's progressive actions to turn the FTC
601 back 40 years to the 1980s, when it was recognized as a
602 national nanny state. It is clear these recent actions are
603 an attempt to reshape our economy.

604 We need answers about the multiple process files,
605 including closed door meetings, shutting out minority staff
606 and commissioners, the gag rules placed on staff, zombie
607 votes -- come on, give me a break -- and other highly unusual
608 decisions. This is chartered to be an independent agency,
609 and yet they appear to be doing the Administration's bidding
610 at every turn. We need to learn the facts and conduct this
611 long-overdue oversight.

612 I am looking forward to finally discussing these issues
613 at today's markup, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank
614 you.

615 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman from Florida.

616 Does anyone else on the Democratic side want to make an
617 opening statement?

618 No? Anyone on the Republican side who wants to make an
619 opening statement?

620 All right. Well, that will conclude opening statements.
621 Pursuant to committee rules, members' written opening
622 statements shall be made part of the record, and please
623 submit written opening statements electronically to the email
624 address we have provided.

625 Now, before we move on to the bills, though, I did want
626 to comment that I am very jealous of Mr. Dunn's patriotic
627 vest over there. I don't know if he hears me, but I would
628 like to know where I could get one like that.

629 Okay, all right. Let's go to the first bill. Let's
630 begin bill considerations. The chair calls up H.R. 3655.
631 The Vaccine Injury Compensation Modernization Act of 2021 is
632 forwarded by the Subcommittee on Health, and the clerk will
633 report the bill.

634 *The Clerk. Committee print of H.R. 3655, to amend the
635 public health --

636 *The Chairman. And Madam Clerk, without objection, the
637 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill
638 is now considered as read.

639 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and
640 open for amendment at any point.

641 [The bill follows:]

642

643 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

644

645 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
646 recognition to speak on H.R. 3655?

647 No one wants to speak?

648 Mr. Upton, you are recognized.

649 *Mr. Upton. I am sorry, I thought your side might
650 start. May I strike the last word in support of the bill,
651 please?

652 *The Chairman. What did you say?

653 *Mr. Upton. Could I strike the last word?

654 *The Chairman. Oh, yes. Mr. Upton strikes the last
655 word. The gentleman is recognized for five minutes.

656 *Mr. Upton. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. This is
657 legislation that I am glad we are finally getting to at the
658 end of the year, and hopefully we will get to the President's
659 desk. It has been bipartisan from the start.

660 The Vaccine Injury Compensation Modernization Act is on
661 the list, first on the list, this morning. It provides
662 updates that the Vaccine Injury Compensation Program, which
663 hasn't been substantially updated since the early 1980s --
664 its creation by providing much-needed modernization to
665 address case backlogs and an evolving, let's face it, vaccine
666 market in so many different ways.

667 The bill takes the important step of adding special
668 masters to a system that has been under pressure for years.
669 Currently, there is a cap of eight special masters. This

670 bill sets a floor of at least 10.

671 Additionally, the bill requires the chief special master
672 to report on the number of pending cases in hearings, and
673 makes a recommendation about whether more special masters, in
674 fact, are necessary.

675 We know that vaccines are safe and effective, and they
676 have prevented hundreds of thousands of Americans' deaths,
677 maybe millions, since their advent. For the very, very small
678 number of folks who have adverse effects from them, however,
679 we want to make sure that they are protected. This bill, I
680 think, makes a huge step in doing that. It is bipartisan,
681 and I would like to think that we can get it done pretty
682 quickly.

683 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back. Thank you.

684 *The Chairman. Thanks, Mr. Upton. Does anybody else
685 want to speak on this bill?

686 Is that Mrs. Lesko? Yes. Mrs. Lesko is recognized for
687 five minutes.

688 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support this
689 bill, but I also want to talk about another Representative
690 Doggett bill that I cosponsored and support, which I believe
691 would add the adverse vaccine reactions to COVID vaccines to
692 this issue.

693 And I have to tell you, there are some adverse reactions
694 to the COVID vaccines. I myself have gotten vaccinated, so I

695 am not a vaccine denier, but there are constituents and
696 others that I have met with that have had severe reactions to
697 the COVID vaccination. One man, who is a constituent, was
698 paralyzed from his neck down, and was in the hospital for
699 many months. He is still dealing with it. I just met in my
700 office with two parents whose children had heart problems
701 immediately after taking the vaccine, and they died.

702 So I think this issue is important. I think we need to
703 add adverse reactions to the COVID vaccine to this issue, as
704 well. Thank you.

705 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Does anyone
706 else want to speak on H.R. 3655 on either side?

707 All right. Then we will go to -- I assume there are --
708 are there any amendments?

709 No? Okay. A voice vote? Okay. If there is no further
710 debate, we will -- oh, I am sorry.

711 Okay, so the question now occurs on favorably reporting
712 H.R. 3655 -- has it been amended? Has it been amended?

713 *Voice. Yes.

714 *The Chairman. It -- okay. So the question now occurs
715 on reporting H.R. 3655, as amended, to the House.

716 All those in favor of reporting H.R. 3655, as amended,
717 to the House will signify by saying aye.

718 All those opposed will say no.

719 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. And as a

720 result, H.R. 3655, as amended, is reported to the full House.

721 Now, the next bill we have, the chair calls up H.R.

722 5141, the Maximizing Outcomes through Better Investments in

723 Lifesaving Equipment for Health Care Act, or the MOBILE

724 Health Care Act, as forwarded by the Subcommittee on Health,

725 and the clerk will report the bill.

726 *The Clerk. Committee print to H.R. 5141, a bill to

727 amend the Public Health Service Act to expand the allowable

728 use criteria for new access points --

729 *The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the

730 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill

731 is now considered as read.

732 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and

733 open for amendment at any point.

734 [The bill follows:]

735

736 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

737

738 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
739 recognition to speak on H.R. 5141?

740 Mr. -- Dr. Ruiz is recognized for five minutes.

741 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
742 the last word. Thank you for including this important piece
743 of legislation in today's markup.

744 And thank you to Congresswoman Susie Lee for introducing
745 this bill, and for my Republican colleagues, Congressman
746 Hudson and Congresswoman Herrera Beutler, for joining us to
747 help expand access to community health centers in our harder-
748 to-reach communities.

749 Our bipartisan bill, the MOBILE Health Care Act, will
750 expand the use of community health center new access point
751 for things like mobile health units. As you all know, I grew
752 up in a rural farm worker community and later served that
753 community as a physician. I have seen firsthand how critical
754 it is for people to have access to health care in their
755 communities without barriers, and how the distance to a
756 health center can be the difference between whether or not
757 someone seeks treatment.

758 While community health centers serve rural communities
759 like the one I grew up in, this bill will allow them to
760 extend their reach even further into these under-served areas
761 to provide care to people who may not have transportation to
762 a health center, or may not be able to take much time off

763 work for a long drive to see a doctor.

764 No one should have to forgo seeing a doctor because of
765 how much money they make or whether they live (sic). So I
766 urge you all to support this bill, and I look forward to
767 passing it on the House floor, and seeing it signed by
768 President Biden.

769 Thank you, and I yield back.

770 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone -- yes,
771 Mr. Hudson is recognized for five minutes.

772 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
773 the last word.

774 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

775 *Mr. Hudson. H.R. 5141, the MOBILE Health Care Act, is
776 a bill I am proud to lead, along with Representative Susie
777 Lee, Raul Ruiz, and Jaime Herrera Beutler. I am pleased this
778 bill was reported favorably from our Health Subcommittee by a
779 unanimous vote of 29 to 0 last week, and I hope we can have
780 similar support here today.

781 The MOBILE Health Care Act would allow community health
782 centers the flexibility to use already existing new access
783 points, or NAP grants, to establish mobile health clinics. I
784 have heard from my local community health centers how these
785 mobile units have already allowed for increased access to
786 much-needed services, and how helpful this increased
787 flexibility would be to continue, increase, and expand access

788 to care, particularly in our more rural areas.

789 For these reasons, I greatly appreciate the support and
790 partnership we have received from many of our local health
791 centers on this bill, including the North Carolina Community
792 Health Center Association, Cabarrus Rowan County Health
793 Centers, Incorporated, and Community Free Clinic in Concord.

794 I also appreciate and enjoyed my fellow Health
795 Subcommittee members' supportive comments and anecdotes on
796 how these mobile units would impact care in their own
797 communities. And I would encourage other members of this
798 committee to talk to your own local and state health centers
799 about the potential positive effects this bill will bring.

800 For North Carolina's 43 community health centers and the
801 nearly 75,000 patients they serve across 400 clinical
802 locations, this bill will help them expand their current
803 services to meet patients' current and future needs.

804 I am proud of the strong bipartisan work we have put
805 into this MOBILE Health Care Act, and again thank
806 Representatives Lee, Ruiz, and Herrera Beutler for their
807 dedicated leadership and partnership.

808 I also applaud the Senate for passing this bill earlier
809 this month.

810 I urge my colleagues to consider this bill favorably,
811 and I will yield back.

812 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Does anyone else

813 want to talk about this bill?

814 No? A voice vote?

815 *Voice. I think it is recorded.

816 *The Chairman. Roll call? All right. And we will move
817 to a roll call vote, as there are no amendments. A recorded
818 vote is ordered.

819 Those in favor of reporting H.R. 5141, as amended, to
820 the House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the
821 clerk shall call the roll.

822 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

823 [No response.]

824 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

825 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

826 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

827 Ms. DeGette?

828 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

829 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

830 Mr. Doyle?

831 *Mr. Doyle. Yes.

832 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

833 Ms. Schakowsky?

834 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

835 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

836 Mr. Butterfield?

837 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

838 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
839 Ms. Matsui?
840 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]
841 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
842 Ms. Castor?
843 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
844 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
845 Mr. Sarbanes?
846 [No response.]
847 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney?
848 *Mr. McNerney. [Inaudible.]
849 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
850 Mr. Welch?
851 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.
852 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
853 Mr. Tonko?
854 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
855 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
856 Ms. Clarke?
857 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
858 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
859 Mr. Schrader?
860 *Mr. Schrader. Aye.
861 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.
862 Mr. Cardenas?

863 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.
864 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
865 Mr. Ruiz?
866 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
867 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
868 Mrs. Dingell?
869 [No response.]
870 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
871 [No response.]
872 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
873 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
874 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
875 Ms. Kuster?
876 *Ms. Kuster. [Inaudible.]
877 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
878 Ms. Kelly?
879 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
880 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
881 Ms. Barragan?
882 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
883 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
884 Mr. McEachin?
885 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin of Virginia votes aye.
886 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
887 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

888 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
889 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
890 Mr. Soto?
891 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
892 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
893 Mr. O'Halleran?
894 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
895 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
896 Miss Rice?
897 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
898 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
899 Ms. Craig?
900 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
901 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
902 Ms. Schrier?
903 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
904 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
905 Mrs. Trahan?
906 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
907 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
908 Mrs. Fletcher?
909 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.
910 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
911 Mrs. Rodgers?
912 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]

913 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.
914 Mr. Upton?
915 *Mr. Upton. Votes aye.
916 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.
917 Mr. Burgess?
918 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.
919 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.
920 Mr. Scalise?
921 [No response.]
922 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
923 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
924 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
925 Mr. Guthrie?
926 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
927 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
928 Mr. McKinley?
929 *Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.
930 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.
931 Mr. Kinzinger?
932 [No response.]
933 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
934 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
935 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
936 Mr. Bilirakis?
937 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

938 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
939 Mr. Johnson?
940 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.
941 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.
942 Mr. Long?
943 *Mr. Long. Aye.
944 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.
945 Mr. Bucshon?
946 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
947 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.
948 Mr. Mullin?
949 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
950 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
951 Mr. Hudson?
952 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
953 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
954 Mr. Walberg?
955 *Mr. Walberg. Aye.
956 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.
957 Mr. Carter?
958 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes aye.
959 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.
960 Mr. Duncan?
961 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.
962 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

963 Mr. Palmer?

964 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.

965 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

966 Mr. Dunn?

967 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn from Florida, aye.

968 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

969 Mr. Curtis?

970 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

971 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.

972 Mrs. Lesko?

973 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

974 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.

975 Mr. Pence?

976 [No response.]

977 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?

978 [No response.]

979 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

980 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

981 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

982 Mr. Armstrong?

983 [No response.]

984 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone?

985 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

986 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

987 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman?

988 *The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Rush is not recorded.

989 *Mr. Rush. How am I recorded?

990 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.

991 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

992 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

993 *The Chairman. Mr. Pence?

994 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.

995 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

996 *The Chairman. Anyone else who hasn't been recorded and
997 wants to be?

998 I guess that is it, Madam Clerk. We will report the
999 tally.

1000 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
1001 51 and the nays were 0.

1002 *The Chairman. Thank you. So the vote is 51 ayes to 0
1003 noes. And therefore, H.R. --

1004 *Mrs. Dingell. Is it too late to vote aye?

1005 *The Chairman. Who is that?

1006 *Mrs. Dingell. It is Debbie Dingell. You didn't hear
1007 me. It is Debbie Dingell, aye.

1008 *The Chairman. I am sorry. You can vote. Go ahead.

1009 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

1010 *The Chairman. Okay. Anyone else that we missed?

1011 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

1012 *The Chairman. All right, Madam Clerk, you want to

1013 report the tally again?

1014 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
1015 52 and the nays were 0.

1016 *The Chairman. So the vote is 52 ayes to 0 nays. And
1017 as a result, H.R. 5141, as amended, is reported to the full
1018 House.

1019 So the next bill, the chair calls up H.R. 8163, the
1020 Improving Trauma Systems and Emergency Care Act, as forwarded
1021 by the Subcommittee on Health, and the clerk will report the
1022 title of the bill.

1023 *The Clerk. Committee print of H.R. 8163, to amend the
1024 Public Health Service Act --

1025 *The Chairman. And without objection, Madam Clerk, the
1026 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill
1027 is now considered as read.

1028 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and
1029 open for amendment at any point.

1030 [The bill follows:]

1031

1032 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1033

1034 *The Chairman. Is there any member who seeks
1035 recognition to speak on H.R. 8163?

1036 No one?

1037 *Mr. O'Halleran. Mr. Chairman?

1038 *The Chairman. Who is that? Oh, Mr. O'Halleran is
1039 recognized for five minutes.

1040 *Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
1041 amendment at the desk that -- which I will speak on when that
1042 time comes up.

1043 But the -- this bill basically reauthorizes grants
1044 through fiscal year 2027 to support the improvement of
1045 emergency medical services and trauma care.

1046 And I yield.

1047 *The Chairman. All right, the gentleman yields back.
1048 So unless anyone else wants to speak, we will go to Mr.
1049 O'Halleran's -- I now recognize Mr. O'Halleran to offer an
1050 amendment in the nature of a substitute.

1051 *Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1052 *The Chairman. And the clerk -- let me just -- let's
1053 have the clerk report the amendment.

1054 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1055 H.R. 8163, offered by Mr. O'Halleran of Arizona.

1056 Strike all --

1057 *The Chairman. And without objection, the reading of
1058 the O'Halleran amendment will be dispensed with.

1059 [The amendment of Mr. O'Halleran follows:]

1060

1061 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1062

1063 *The Chairman. And the gentleman from Arizona is
1064 recognized for five minutes.

1065 *Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
1066 amendment in the nature of a substitute makes small changes
1067 to the underlying bill in order to reach bipartisan
1068 consensus, and I would like to thank my colleagues for their
1069 support for this important bill.

1070 Mr. Chairman, as we have heard at our hearings,
1071 traumatic injury is the leading cause of death for people
1072 under age 44, and the fourth leading cause of death for all
1073 age groups in the United States, claiming more than 270,000
1074 lives annually. And the problem is growing. Seniors, who
1075 are more susceptible to injury, have seen a 56 percent
1076 increase in trauma-related deaths in the last decade.

1077 Rural communities, which make up approximately 20
1078 percent of the entire United States population, and represent
1079 the majority of residents in my district, are particularly
1080 impacted by trauma. Evidence shows that rural residents are
1081 at both risk of injury incidents, and often experience
1082 disparities in the response to their injuries, including
1083 documented barriers to trauma center access for the majority
1084 of rural residents. These factors contribute to an increase
1085 in trauma-related mortality in rural populations.

1086 When accounting for medical expenditures and lost
1087 productivity, the annual burden of trauma care is estimated

1088 at a staggering \$670 billion throughout the United States.

1089 Fortunately, trauma centers like Flagstaff Medical
1090 Center can play a key role in reducing these numbers and
1091 eliminating these disparities. Care at a Level I trauma
1092 center reduces by 25 percent the risk of death for injured
1093 patients, compared to treatment received at non-trauma
1094 centers. This is because trauma centers are uniquely
1095 qualified to provide comprehensive, high-level acute care for
1096 patients with the most extreme injuries.

1097 This important legislation reauthorizes grants to
1098 improve access to trauma care, and to support readiness and
1099 coordination for trauma services. With these grants,
1100 eligible entities can obtain the support they need to improve
1101 emergency medical services and trauma care, develop
1102 innovative uses of technology, train and educate staff,
1103 improve transportation of seriously injured patients,
1104 increase access to care, elevate protocols for the purposes
1105 of improving outcomes, and dissemination of best practices,
1106 and, as is very important in my district, increased
1107 communication and coordination with the applicable state and
1108 tribal trauma systems.

1109 The bill also requires the Office of the Assistant
1110 Secretary for Preparedness and Response to develop guidance
1111 and support for states and criteria of states to coordinate
1112 and improve emergency medical services and trauma care during

1113 declared emergencies.

1114 Trauma can happen to anyone, any time, and anywhere.

1115 This bill will strengthen our trauma centers and help them
1116 maintain a 24-hour state of readiness and response.

1117 For all the reasons I have mentioned earlier, this bill
1118 is especially important for our ability to support the rural
1119 emergency departments and communities they serve. I am
1120 pleased to continue working in a bipartisan manner and reach
1121 an agreement on this important bill, and I thank my
1122 colleagues for their support of this amendment and the
1123 underlying bill, and I yield.

1124 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Are there any
1125 other members who seek recognition to speak on the O'Halleran
1126 amendment?

1127 Mrs. Lesko from Arizona is recognized for five minutes.

1128 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
1129 the last word.

1130 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

1131 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you. Although I agree with the
1132 intent of this bill, as my colleague from Arizona, Mr.
1133 O'Halleran, said, I have to object to this bill, and will be
1134 voting no. And the reason is because the Biden
1135 Administration has really shown authoritarian-type government
1136 control mandates during the COVID emergency, where government
1137 workers, other workers, they try to push private employers to

1138 mandate COVID vaccines.

1139 And I am just concerned, giving more authority, and if
1140 you direct the HHS to develop guidance for states to
1141 coordinate and improve emergency medical services, it sounds
1142 really good, and that part of it is good, as the trauma
1143 centers. But with this Administration, I am very much
1144 concerned that they will change that into considering it a
1145 law, and giving them more authority to have mandates on our
1146 citizens. And therefore, I will be voting no.

1147 I yield back.

1148 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Anyone else on
1149 this bill on either side of the -- well, this amendment, I
1150 should say, on either side of the aisle?

1151 All right, then we will go to the amendment. Recorded?
1152 Voice?

1153 *Mrs. Rodgers. Roll call.

1154 *The Chairman. Roll call, okay.

1155 *Voice. Voice on the AINS, though, right?

1156 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, we want roll call, sorry.

1157 *The Chairman. Voice?

1158 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, roll call.

1159 *The Chairman. Voice on the AINS, roll call on final?
1160 Okay.

1161 Okay, all right. So if there is no other discussion on
1162 the O'Halleran AINS, we will proceed to a vote on the

1163 amendment in the nature of a substitute. This will be a
1164 voice vote.

1165 All those in favor of the amendment in the nature of a
1166 substitute to H.R. 8163 will signify by saying aye.

1167 All those opposed will say no.

1168 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. And
1169 therefore, the amendment in the nature of a substitute to
1170 H.R. 8163 is agreed to.

1171 And now we are going to have a recorded vote on
1172 reporting the bill, as amended, to the full House. A
1173 recorded vote is ordered.

1174 Those in favor of reporting H.R. -- I am sorry, H.R.
1175 8163, as amended, to the House will say aye; those opposed
1176 will say no; and the clerk shall call the roll.

1177 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

1178 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

1179 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

1180 Ms. Eshoo?

1181 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

1182 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

1183 Ms. DeGette?

1184 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

1185 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

1186 Mr. Doyle?

1187 *Mr. Doyle. Yes.

1188 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
1189 Ms. Schakowsky?
1190 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1191 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1192 Mr. Butterfield?
1193 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.
1194 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
1195 Ms. Matsui?
1196 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1197 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1198 Ms. Castor?
1199 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1200 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1201 Mr. Sarbanes?
1202 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
1203 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
1204 Mr. McNerney?
1205 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
1206 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
1207 Mr. Welch?
1208 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.
1209 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
1210 Mr. Tonko?
1211 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
1212 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

1213 Ms. Clarke?

1214 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.

1215 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

1216 Mr. Schrader?

1217 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

1218 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

1219 Mr. Cardenas?

1220 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.

1221 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

1222 Mr. Ruiz?

1223 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1224 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1225 Mr. Peters?

1226 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

1227 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

1228 Mrs. Dingell?

1229 *Mrs. Dingell. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

1230 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

1231 Mr. Veasey?

1232 [No response.]

1233 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?

1234 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

1235 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

1236 Ms. Kelly?

1237 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

1238 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
1239 Ms. Barragan?
1240 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
1241 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1242 Mr. McEachin?
1243 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
1244 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
1245 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
1246 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
1247 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
1248 Mr. Soto?
1249 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
1250 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1251 Mr. O'Halleran?
1252 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
1253 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
1254 Miss Rice?
1255 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
1256 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
1257 Ms. Craig?
1258 *Ms. Craig. Craig votes aye.
1259 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig, could you repeat your vote?
1260 *Ms. Craig. Sure. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
1261 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
1262 Ms. Schrier?

1263 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

1264 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

1265 Mrs. Trahan?

1266 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

1267 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

1268 Mrs. Fletcher?

1269 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

1270 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

1271 Mrs. Rodgers?

1272 *Mrs. Rodgers. Rodgers votes aye.

1273 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.

1274 Mr. Upton?

1275 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.

1276 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.

1277 Mr. Burgess?

1278 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.

1279 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.

1280 Mr. Scalise?

1281 [No response.]

1282 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1283 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]

1284 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1285 Mr. Guthrie?

1286 *Mr. Guthrie. [Inaudible.]

1287 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.

1288 Mr. McKinley?

1289 *Mr. McKinley. McKinley votes aye.

1290 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.

1291 Mr. Kinzinger?

1292 [No response.]

1293 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

1294 *Voice. [Inaudible.]

1295 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes present?

1296 *Voice. Absent.

1297 Mr. Bilirakis?

1298 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

1299 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

1300 Mr. Johnson?

1301 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes aye.

1302 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.

1303 Mr. Long?

1304 *Mr. Long. Aye.

1305 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.

1306 Mr. Bucshon?

1307 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

1308 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.

1309 Mr. Mullin?

1310 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

1311 [Pause.]

1312 *Mr. Mullin. Hello. Aye.

1313 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1314 Mr. Hudson?
1315 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
1316 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
1317 Mr. Walberg?
1318 *Mr. Walberg. [Inaudible.]
1319 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.
1320 Mr. Carter?
1321 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes aye.
1322 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.
1323 Mr. Duncan?
1324 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
1325 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.
1326 Mr. Palmer?
1327 *Mr. Palmer. Aye.
1328 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
1329 Mr. Dunn?
1330 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
1331 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
1332 Mr. Curtis?
1333 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
1334 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.
1335 Mrs. Lesko?
1336 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
1337 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

1338 Mr. Pence?
1339 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
1340 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.
1341 Mr. Crenshaw?
1342 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
1343 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
1344 Mr. Joyce?
1345 *Mr. Joyce. [Inaudible.]
1346 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1347 Mr. Armstrong?
1348 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.
1349 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.
1350 Chairman Pallone?
1351 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
1352 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
1353 *The Chairman. Is there any member who is not recorded
1354 and wants to be?
1355 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman?
1356 *The Chairman. Who is -- oh, Mr. Griffith.
1357 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes aye.
1358 *The Chairman. Any other member --
1359 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1360 *The Chairman. -- who is not recorded and wants to be
1361 recorded?
1362 *Voice. Mr. Veasey.

1363 *The Chairman. Mr. Veasey is on the screen. Can you
1364 hear him?

1365 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded as being
1366 voted?

1367 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

1368 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I would like to be recorded
1369 as voting no.

1370 *Voice. No, vote aye.

1371 *Mr. Veasey. Sorry, Mr. Chairman. I would like to be
1372 recorded as voting aye.

1373 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

1374 [Laughter.]

1375 *The Chairman. All right. Anyone else?

1376 All right. If no one else wants to vote or change their
1377 vote, the clerk will report the tally.

1378 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 55 and the nays
1379 were 1.

1380 *The Chairman. All right, the vote is 54 ayes to 1 no.
1381 And therefore, H.R. 8163, as amended, is reported -- Madam
1382 Clerk, was that 55 yeas and 1 no?

1383 *The Clerk. Yes, sir, 55 yeas and 1 no.

1384 *The Chairman. All right. So the vote is 55 ayes to 1
1385 no, and H.R. 163 (sic), as amended, is reported to the full
1386 House.

1387 Next we go to 6737. The chair calls up H.R. 6737, the

1388 Flint Registry Reauthorization Act, as forwarded by the
1389 Subcommittee on Health. And the clerk will report the bill.

1390 *The Clerk. Committee print to H.R. 6737, a bill to
1391 amend the Water Infrastructure Improvements --

1392 *The Chairman. And Madam Clerk, without objection, the
1393 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill
1394 is now considered as read.

1395 And without objection, the bill is considered as read
1396 and open for amendment at any point.

1397 [The bill follows:]

1398

1399 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1400

1401 *The Chairman. Is there any member seeking recognition
1402 to speak on H.R. 6737?

1403 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman?

1404 *The Chairman. Ms. DeGette is recognized.

1405 *Ms. DeGette. I move to strike the last word.

1406 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman from Colorado is
1407 recognized for five minutes.

1408 *Ms. DeGette. I thank the chairman. I support this
1409 important legislation to restore safe drinking water to
1410 Flint, Michigan.

1411 But I want to talk today in my time about another bill
1412 that was scheduled for markup in this subcommittee, a health
1413 care bill, a fifth bipartisan health care bill that has 100
1414 cosponsors in the House, a bill that is critical for research
1415 and for finding cures for disease. And that bill is Cures
1416 2.0, which is sponsored by me and Congressman Upton.

1417 Unfortunately, because of the threats of poison pill
1418 amendments threatened by the minority, the majority staff
1419 made the determination to pull the bill from the Health
1420 Subcommittee markup. And sadly, it was not included in that
1421 markup or in the scheduled markup today.

1422 Now, I want to be clear about something. We should
1423 never let partisan politics stand in the way of finding cures
1424 for diseases, period. Most people on this committee know
1425 21st Century Cures was a bipartisan achievement of this

1426 committee, which jump-started a wildly successful
1427 restructuring of the NIH and the FDA, and led to the
1428 development of disease -- of research and cures for many
1429 diseases. And that bill passed this committee 53 to 0.

1430 Now, after that bill passed this committee in 2016 and
1431 was signed into law, Fred and I immediately got to work
1432 seeing where we needed to make additional improvements that
1433 we were not able to make in that bill. And so, on July 10th,
1434 2019, which was the 4-year anniversary of 21st Century Cures,
1435 Fred and I announced that we were going to work on Cures 2.0
1436 to help update the process.

1437 On April 27, 2020 -- and that -- by the way, that was
1438 over three years ago -- on April 27, 2020, Fred and I
1439 released the Cures 2.0 concept paper, and began working with
1440 various stakeholders and our colleagues on both sides of the
1441 aisle to see what bills could be included.

1442 Now, we spent an enormous amount of time working on
1443 this. We had hearings -- or not hearings, I am sorry -- we
1444 had stakeholder meetings. We had listening sessions like we
1445 did with the first bill. And to date, over 55 organizations
1446 have expressed their support of Cures 2.0. And we have had
1447 over 350 comments from the community about Cures 2.0.

1448 In trying to work on this bill we were hampered by the
1449 pandemic, but we kept moving forward. And Cures 2.0 was
1450 finally included in the Energy and Commerce Committee Health

1451 Subcommittee legislative hearing on March 17, 2022.

1452 Working with Chair Eshoo, Mr. Upton and I worked to make
1453 sure that ARPA-H, the new research institution, and Cures 2.0
1454 would move in tandem, because they both give hope to patients
1455 across America.

1456 Now, I just want to -- I know I don't have much time,
1457 and I don't want to take a lot of time, but this is
1458 important.

1459 Cures 2.0 has five different sections: public health,
1460 patients and caregivers, FDA, CMS, and research. It also
1461 includes legislation which we worked with a number of other
1462 members on, including Representatives Doyle and Ferguson,
1463 Representatives Blunt Rochester and Burgess, Representative
1464 Carter, Representatives DelBene and Bilirakis, and
1465 Representatives Sewell and Peters.

1466 Over the last year, a number of sections of Cures 2.0
1467 have been taken out and put into other bills -- frankly,
1468 without the consent of me and Mr. Upton -- in the drug
1469 authorization -- drug user authorization bills and in other
1470 bills. But none of those bills have actually made it to the
1471 floor in the other body, in the Senate. All of this is still
1472 hanging out there. And the result of this is we haven't made
1473 any further progress to moving the ball forward on Cures 2.0.

1474 And so, Mr. Chairman, I just want to express my
1475 disappointment that partisan obstruction has stopped this

1476 from coming up today. And I also would like to ask you and
1477 Ms. McMorris Rodgers to work with us to see how we can pass
1478 these important things before the end of the year.

1479 And I want to say one last thing. Fred Upton -- this is
1480 probably Fred's last full committee markup. He is retiring.

1481 And Fred, I want to tell you, even though you are going
1482 to be leaving us, I will never, ever stop in my quest to find
1483 cures for the millions of people who suffer from diseases. I
1484 want to thank you, and I know all of this committee wants to
1485 thank you.

1486 And I yield back the balance of my time.

1487 [Applause.]

1488 *The Chairman. Does anyone else on the Republican side
1489 want to address --

1490 *Mr. Upton. Mr. Chairman? If I could just strike the
1491 last --

1492 *The Chairman. Mr. Upton is recognized for five
1493 minutes.

1494 *Mr. Upton. I won't take five minutes.

1495 Thanks for the very nice words about me, but it really
1496 is about us. This committee, all of us, worked hard when I
1497 was chair to pass 21st Century Cures, not only here in the
1498 committee 53 to nothing, but also on the floor when it passed
1499 392 to 26. And we worked very hard with our Senate
1500 colleagues, particularly Lamar Alexander and Leader McConnell

1501 and others, Patty Murray, to ensure that it passed with a
1502 solid vote there, 92 to 8. And we beat back a filibuster, as
1503 well.

1504 And that legislation, we know, actually saw the approval
1505 of particularly the Pfizer vaccine, but Moderna, as well,
1506 months ahead of what it otherwise would have been. It
1507 allowed those companies to, in fact, produce the vaccine.
1508 They were confident it would be approved, but it allowed them
1509 to produce that vaccine prior to the actual approval so that,
1510 when it was approved in December of 2020, they literally
1511 could ship it out within 24 hours, saving literally hundreds
1512 of thousands of Americans who were able to take advantage of
1513 that vaccine, of which most, if not all of us here, have
1514 received -- and I intend to get my booster, my next booster,
1515 in the next couple of days.

1516 But the work is not done. That work that Diana and I
1517 led with all of you here took a couple of years to get done.
1518 And Diana and I have worked again hard for three years on a
1519 2.0 proposal. I -- we were glad that the ARPA-H money was
1520 approved. We are still waiting for the Senate. There are
1521 pieces of this legislation that we identified, and some is in
1522 UFAs. We are working with the Senate to see if some more
1523 might be able to get done. But at the end of the day, it is
1524 not 100 percent complete.

1525 It is -- we want it always to be bipartisan. And I

1526 would just urge all of you, particularly in my absence next
1527 year, that for those pieces that we didn't get done, and for
1528 other pieces that, in fact, can make a difference for any of
1529 these diseases, whether it be cancer, lupus, or diabetes --
1530 and many of us here are on that caucus that, Diana, you lead,
1531 you co-chair -- there is work still to be done. And we want
1532 to see that it gets done.

1533 So me, from watching from the private sector next year,
1534 I will do anything I can to help. But we got to work
1535 together because that is the only way we are going to find
1536 the cure for these diseases that we care about.

1537 So with that --

1538 *The Chairman. Would the gentleman yield to me?

1539 *Mr. Upton. I would be glad to yield.

1540 *The Chairman. I just want to, first of all, commend
1541 you and, obviously, Ms. DeGette for all your work that you
1542 have done on 21st Century Cures, and Cures 2.0, on ARPA-H.

1543 Look, we are not giving up. And I want to assure you
1544 that, you know, we are working with the Senate on ARPA-H.
1545 There is -- there may very well be an opportunity to move
1546 some or all of 2.0, if not this session, then certainly next
1547 session. And I don't want you in any way to think that we
1548 are not going to continue to work and try to come to a
1549 bipartisan consensus on this.

1550 As you know, generally, I feel that, unless we have a

1551 consensus and can do a bill with either everyone on both
1552 sides of the aisle in support or at least, you know, 80, 90
1553 percent of both sides on board, then it doesn't send a signal
1554 to the full House or to the Senate that this is something
1555 that has to be done.

1556 So we do think we need to achieve a consensus, and we
1557 are going to continue to do that. And I just -- I think both
1558 of you should continue that effort.

1559 So I yield back. Thank you.

1560 *Ms. Eshoo. Mr. Chairman?

1561 *The Chairman. So --

1562 *Ms. Eshoo. Mr. Chairman?

1563 *The Chairman. Yes, the gentlewoman --

1564 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Chairman?

1565 *The Chairman. -- is recognized.

1566 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you --

1567 *The Chairman. I guess it was -- Fred was next. So
1568 yes, we will go to --

1569 *Mrs. Rodgers. Oh, Fred. Okay, yes.

1570 *Mr. Upton. I yielded to you, and I yield back now my
1571 time.

1572 *The Chairman. All right. So Fred has yielded back,
1573 and we will go to -- Ms. Eshoo is recognized for five
1574 minutes.

1575 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike

1576 the last word.

1577 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

1578 *Ms. Eshoo. Mr. Chairman and members -- first of all to
1579 Fred.

1580 Fred, your presence, your work is going to remain right
1581 here with this committee. You have built a legacy of
1582 legislation that really has -- you know, when those words are
1583 written in legislation, they have walked into people's lives
1584 and improved them. And at the end of the day, that is why we
1585 all came here, to get important, good things done to improve
1586 people's lives.

1587 At the beginning of this Congress and to launch Cures
1588 2.0 and ARPA-H, there wasn't any daylight between Fred Upton,
1589 Diana Degette and myself. We pledged to work with each other
1590 to advance both pieces of legislation, understanding how
1591 transformational the legislation was and still is.

1592 It is sad to me that 2.0 has been scuttled by
1593 partisanship. Who is hurt by this? It is not about putting
1594 a dent in a political party. It is hurting the American
1595 people. I think everyone here, in their heart of hearts,
1596 understands this very well.

1597 But Fred and Diane, you have my lasting pledge on this,
1598 that, hopefully, before the end of this Congress, that we get
1599 this back on track. We need to get this back on track.

1600 I mean, you have over some -- what, over 100, or how

1601 many?

1602 *Ms. DeGette. A hundred.

1603 *Ms. Eshoo. Over 100 bipartisan cosponsors. Come on.
1604 Why this came under the hammer of, you know, a Republican
1605 scuttle, it is just not right. And you all know it. You all
1606 know it.

1607 So I don't want to concentrate on the negative. It is
1608 sad. But I think that we need to get this back on track. I
1609 am cheered by what you are saying, Mr. Chairman, that you
1610 have a commitment to take it up, and I think that we need to
1611 show our adulthood, political adulthood, and move this effort
1612 forward for the betterment of the American people. We all
1613 have had constituents come to us with these diseases, begging
1614 us to do something about it. We still have time to do that.

1615 You have my commitment, my full commitment, to see it
1616 through. And, Mr. Chairman, we are going to take you up on
1617 this, to get it done. So with that, I yield back.

1618 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman has yielded back.
1619 Anyone on the Republican -- the ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers,
1620 is recognized for five minutes.

1621 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to join
1622 in applauding the leadership of the former chairman, Chairman
1623 Emeritus Fred Upton of the committee, for his tremendous
1624 leadership on 21st Century Cures and beyond. He has been a
1625 good friend and a source of inspiration to me and Diana

1626 DeGette, everyone who has been involved in 21st Century
1627 Cures, in ARPA-H, Cures 2.0.

1628 We are inspired every day by the breakthroughs, the new
1629 therapies that are being discovered, that are improving
1630 people's lives. And we must keep it going. And I want
1631 everyone on this committee to know that I am committed to
1632 ensuring that America continues to lead in breakthroughs and
1633 therapies, curing diseases that are going to improve people's
1634 lives. And that will remain my -- one of my biggest goals.

1635 As far as the bill before us today, H.R. 6737, the Flint
1636 Registry, I don't want to go into a lengthy debate; we had
1637 one in the subcommittee last week. But I want to quickly
1638 summarize why I plan to vote no on the Flint Registry
1639 Reauthorization Act.

1640 We have not had a hearing in this Congress to assess the
1641 harms created by a multi-governmental fiasco and dangerous
1642 tragedy that occurred in Flint. Nor have we had a hearing on
1643 the status of the registry, which, according to its own
1644 report, has already been successfully established. H.R. 6737
1645 will authorize another \$50 million for another 10 years for
1646 "a city exposed to lead contamination in the local drinking
1647 water system.''

1648 Based on the title and text, that applies only to Flint,
1649 Michigan, when there are other localities all across this
1650 country that need our attention, too. Republicans tried at

1651 the subcommittee to offer to the folks in Jackson, Newark --
1652 or Jackson, Mississippi, Newark, Clarksburg, and the option
1653 of establishing registries to combat contaminated water. But
1654 our efforts to date have been rebuffed by the majority.

1655 Moreover, H.R. 6737 renews funding for a law whose sole
1656 purpose is to "establish a registry" that has already been
1657 established.

1658 And it isn't clear the money has been spent just to
1659 establish a registry to collect information. The Flint
1660 Registry touts, for example, spending money on unrelated
1661 costs like shipping 60,000 masks during COVID-19.

1662 Importantly, I am not aware of a single non-Federal
1663 dollar voluntarily committed to fund this registry by any
1664 state, city, or private party, as subcommittee Republicans
1665 unsuccessfully offered amendments to have the cost share
1666 applied.

1667 As the elected representatives of the people, we should
1668 be focusing on results. We need to hold the agencies
1669 accountable at the local, state, and Federal level. Who
1670 dropped the ball? And unfortunately, sadly, now children and
1671 others suffer lead in the water.

1672 We need oversight. We need facts. Then we can properly
1673 debate and work on a solution we could all support. Until
1674 then, I oppose this bill in its current form, and I yield
1675 back the remaining time.

1676 *The Chairman. I thank the ranking member. The
1677 gentlewoman from Michigan, Mrs. Dingell, is recognized for
1678 five minutes.

1679 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1680 strike the last word and speak in support of H.R. 637 (sic),
1681 the Flint Registry Reauthorization Act, but also my friend
1682 Fred Upton.

1683 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
1684 minutes.

1685 *Mrs. Dingell. So I can't listen to what everybody said
1686 and not say what a great member Fred is.

1687 And by the way, Fred supports this bill.

1688 He has been my best friend since I walked in the door.
1689 And okay, I am not going to cry, because then he will start,
1690 and then this committee will get off.

1691 But he has done so much good for so many people. We can
1692 disagree agreeably, and this committee will, just like the
1693 picture of John Dingell is over there -- are they, like,
1694 opposite? There is a reason. They are two good men.

1695 All right, now I am going to move to talk about why this
1696 matters, and why we need to approve it. Since 2016, the
1697 Flint Registry has made a real difference for those living
1698 with the lasting effects of lead exposure from the man-made
1699 crisis in Flint, Michigan. I have met these children. I
1700 know these children. I have seen their illness, and the

1701 sickness, and what has happened.

1702 This registry was originally created as part of our
1703 nation's response to the Flint water crisis and funded for
1704 four years. But it expired in 2021. While it continues to
1705 receive funding through the annual appropriation process,
1706 authorizing this resource for another decade is critical in
1707 addressing the continuing health needs of the Flint
1708 community.

1709 We all know that there isn't a safe level of exposure to
1710 lead, period. There is no safe level. Exposure can lead to
1711 lifelong severe consequences on one's health, and these
1712 effects are especially serious for children, and can lead to
1713 slow growth and development, learning and behavioral
1714 problems, and damage to the brain, among a host of other
1715 harms. I have gone with mothers to the hospitals. I have
1716 called doctors and gotten help for these mothers that are in
1717 tears because they are desperate, because their children are
1718 so sick.

1719 And that is why I have worked alongside the Michigan
1720 delegation and my other bipartisan colleagues in Congress to
1721 address the Flint water crisis through the establishment of
1722 the Flint Registry. It has been a powerful tool in helping
1723 residents minimize the impact of lead-contaminated drinking
1724 water on their health.

1725 To date, the registry has enrolled over 20,000 people,

1726 proactively identified health and development challenges, and
1727 completed over 30,000 referrals to critical lead exposure,
1728 mitigating services like health care, nutrition, early
1729 education, lead elimination, and more.

1730 As originally intended, the Flint Registry is improving
1731 public health. The reauthorization act which we are
1732 considering here today would ensure this critical service
1733 continues to help the Flint community by authorizing \$5
1734 million in annual funding for the next decade to address
1735 their ongoing needs.

1736 It has been a resource to other lead-impacted
1737 communities like Benton Harbor, Michigan, and Newark, New
1738 Jersey. The lessons learned from Flint continue to inform
1739 and support other communities, with both lead and safe
1740 drinking water issues of which, I might say, there are far
1741 too many.

1742 Helping those who have suffered from preventable lead
1743 exposure should never be a partisan issue. Every member of
1744 the Michigan delegation, Republican and Democrat, was an
1745 original cosponsor of this bill. This strong bipartisan bill
1746 reflects the exact kind of meaningful policies this committee
1747 is known for advancing.

1748 The Flint water crisis is a stain on this country
1749 forever. It should never have happened, and the people of
1750 Flint will be living with its impacts for the rest of their

1751 lives. We have an obligation to follow through on our
1752 promise to help the people of Flint recover long-term, and
1753 this funding is part of that promise.

1754 Importantly, authorizing the Flint registry for an
1755 additional 10 years will enable this program to support kids
1756 who were newborns during this crisis, the most vulnerable
1757 population to lead poisoning, through their 18th birthday.

1758 I want to thank Chairman Pallone for advancing this
1759 bipartisan bill, and I want to thank all of my colleagues on
1760 this committee for their commitment to protecting this
1761 important public health program for Flint.

1762 As a member of the Michigan delegation, I urge all of my
1763 colleagues to support this bipartisan and incredibly
1764 important legislation so we can get it reauthorized without
1765 delay.

1766 I have seen the difference. I know what is happening.
1767 I visit Flint regularly. There is a baby that I held that I
1768 helped a mother get to a child that is still experiencing
1769 health problems. I feel a moral commitment to those parents
1770 of Flint. Those kids need our help.

1771 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

1772 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Next we are
1773 going to go to -- Mr. McKinley is recognized for five
1774 minutes.

1775 *Mr. McKinley. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1776 This bill does reauthorize the funding for the Flint
1777 Registry, which monitors the impacts of high-level -- high
1778 contacts with level and its health of its residents (sic).

1779 Certainly, Flint deserves to have their public health
1780 disaster addressed. There is no question about that. But
1781 what about the other communities like Clarksburg, West
1782 Virginia; Jackson, Mississippi; Dakota County, Minnesota; and
1783 Spokane; Pierce County; and King County in Washington State?
1784 In Clarksburg alone it was reported that hundreds of families
1785 had undrinkable water piped into their homes. Children were
1786 sickened by lead-tainted water. Schools were closed due to
1787 undrinkable water, and the extreme under-staffing and lack of
1788 access to labs make that testing of water so slow hundreds,
1789 if not thousands, of families are still at risk, even today.

1790 These structural problems are being addressed in the
1791 infrastructure bill, yes. But this bill focuses on the long-
1792 term impact of lead poisoning on individuals.

1793 When the original authorization for this Flint Registry
1794 was passed in 2016, we unsuccessfully tried to include these
1795 other communities, a registry in these other communities. We
1796 were told, however, that the situation was so dire in Flint
1797 that the funding needed to be focused only on Flint.

1798 I emphasize a reason a registry is so important is it
1799 monitors -- it continues to monitor and -- for individuals
1800 their access to other services. For example, the Flint

1801 Registry calls for the registry of eligible residents
1802 conducting baseline health and developmental assessments, and
1803 more importantly, it refers registrants to available
1804 clinical, preventive, and lead elimination services. And
1805 lastly, it tracks and evaluates health changes due to the
1806 lead exposure.

1807 So now that the Flint Registry is up and running, what
1808 possible reason can there be to deny these other communities
1809 access to the same diagnostic and referral programs? Why
1810 can't these programs -- these communities establish a
1811 registry, as well? Why should Congress discriminate against
1812 these other communities? The individuals in these towns
1813 receive none of these personalized referral services.

1814 Yes, we can learn something from the Flint Registry.
1815 But an important function of the registry is that it provides
1816 a focused attention for individuals who suffer long-term
1817 health care effects of lead poisoning. Residents of these
1818 other communities should have access to these benefits, as
1819 well.

1820 In the Health Subcommittee, Congressman Carter tried to
1821 add these communities to the bill, but it was rejected on a
1822 partisan manner. It has all been discredited here by other
1823 speakers earlier today. Health care should not be a partisan
1824 matter, but it was rejected in the subcommittee. Why? They
1825 are saying that adding these other communities could impact

1826 the Flint Registry. But it is already up and running.

1827 The bottom line: to block other communities from having
1828 a registry, and for being able to identify referred services
1829 for individuals and those -- in those communities.

1830 Being excluded from this reauthorization seems
1831 shortsighted and selfish, Mr. Chairman. Until these other
1832 communities are included, I urge a no vote, and I yield back.

1833 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Is there anyone
1834 who wants to speak on this?

1835 Mr. Duncan is recognized for five minutes.

1836 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I won't take the
1837 whole five. I agree with Mr. McKinley.

1838 It may come as a surprise to many on this committee, but
1839 I am a fiscal conservative, and \$70 million seems like a lot
1840 of money to have gone to one community for a registry when,
1841 as Mr. McKinley said, we now know of other communities like
1842 Jackson, Mississippi that are being left out.

1843 Since I have been in Congress I lost my father to
1844 Alzheimer's. About six years ago I lost my mom to pancreatic
1845 cancer. My brother-in-law has lung cancer, had a lung
1846 removed. My father-in-law and an additional brother-in-law
1847 both died of cancer.

1848 As a fiscal conservative, when I looked at the -- first
1849 looked at the 21st Century Cures Act, I had a knee-jerk
1850 reaction. But as I studied it, I understood the investment

1851 that we were making in Congress to lower the three big things
1852 -- cancer, Alzheimer's, and diabetes -- that were going to
1853 drive health care costs way under the future. It was the
1854 right investment to make. And I want to applaud former
1855 Chairman Upton for his work on that. It will always be
1856 remembered by me. He convinced me to support it, and I am
1857 glad I did.

1858 It is great to see the results of that. When we make
1859 great strides on Alzheimer's research, it hits home. I bet
1860 no one in this committee has not been affected by cancer in
1861 some way. Diabetes is prevalent throughout many demographic
1862 communities, and so I was proud to support that, and I am
1863 proud of you, Fred, and I thank you for that in honor of my
1864 father and mother and others in my family.

1865 I yield back.

1866 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Did you want to
1867 take -- you would have to take his time.

1868 *Mr. Upton. Strike the last word? No, he can --

1869 *The Chairman. You want somebody else to be recognized?

1870 *Mr. Upton. Yes, I --

1871 *Mr. Duncan. Yes, I will yield.

1872 *Mr. Upton. Yes, I appreciate those words, and I don't
1873 need to strike the last word because I won't use, hopefully,
1874 the three minutes.

1875 I just want to say that people know that I am from

1876 Michigan, hear a lot about it. We had Jim Harbaugh on the
1877 side room a few months ago.

1878 But I will confess I had never been to Flint until the
1879 crisis came. I was then the chairman of this committee and,
1880 frankly, I thought it was more of a state issue than a
1881 Federal one. And I met quite a bit with Dan Kildee, the
1882 congressman from there. All of us did, Tim Walberg and
1883 others of the Michigan delegation. And I said I wanted to go
1884 to Flint, and I didn't want to do a PR stunt or anything like
1885 that, I just wanted to kick the tires and see exactly what
1886 was impacting that community. And I spent a very worthwhile
1887 day.

1888 And I learned later that EPA had known about this for
1889 some time. And that is when this committee passed
1890 legislation, lickety split, literally within 24 hours, that
1891 requires the EPA, when they can -- when they learn about a
1892 community, whether it be a Flint, a Benton Harbor, a Jackson
1893 -- you name the community -- that has a lead problem, that
1894 they have got to respond within 24 hours to the governor, and
1895 to the local community, and figure out a game plan to remedy
1896 the situation.

1897 And we passed that on a voice vote on the House floor,
1898 and President Obama signed it into law. And to his credit,
1899 when he learned that the EPA administrator in Chicago had
1900 known about this for six or nine months, he fired her the

1901 next day. She was gone.

1902 I support what my good friend McKinley said about other
1903 communities. This is devastating. This still is devastating
1904 for Flint. I have got -- one of the reasons why we included
1905 money -- I shouldn't say "we," but one of the reasons why
1906 the bipartisan infrastructure bill included money to remove
1907 Flint -- remove lead was specifically because of Flint,
1908 because we knew other communities around the country had the
1909 same issues, and it shouldn't be just one that gets fixed, it
1910 ought to be all of them, and that is why we have a start on
1911 the infrastructure bill, and a continued effort in the
1912 Appropriations Committee.

1913 But I would just like to say I am -- as was indicated,
1914 the entire Michigan delegation supports this bill. But in
1915 addition, I would support other communities establishing a
1916 registry and legislation, as well, so that we can learn,
1917 hopefully learn from what happened in Flint, address that,
1918 and make sure that, in fact, there is some way that we can
1919 move forward.

1920 But again, I appreciate your good words, all the words
1921 of my fellow members on this committee to move forward.

1922 With that I yield back.

1923 *Mr. Duncan. I yield back.

1924 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman.

1925 Now, we are still on the Flint Registry bill. Does

1926 anyone else want to speak on that?

1927 All right, and I don't think we have any amendments,
1928 right?

1929 You want a roll call? Okay. All right, so we will go
1930 to a roll call, a recorded vote on the bill. A recorded vote
1931 is ordered.

1932 Those in favor of reporting H.R. 6737, as amended, to
1933 the House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the
1934 clerk shall call the roll.

1935 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

1936 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

1937 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

1938 Ms. Eshoo?

1939 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

1940 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

1941 Ms. DeGette?

1942 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

1943 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

1944 Mr. Doyle?

1945 *Mr. Doyle. Yes.

1946 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

1947 Ms. Schakowsky?

1948 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

1949 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

1950 Mr. Butterfield?

1951 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

1952 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

1953 Ms. Matsui?

1954 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1955 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

1956 Ms. Castor?

1957 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1958 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

1959 Mr. Sarbanes?

1960 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

1961 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

1962 Mr. McNerney?

1963 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

1964 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

1965 Mr. Welch?

1966 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

1967 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

1968 Mr. Tonko?

1969 [No response.]

1970 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?

1971 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.

1972 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

1973 Mr. Schrader?

1974 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

1975 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

1976 Mr. Cardenas?

1977 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.

1978 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

1979 Mr. Ruiz?

1980 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

1981 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1982 Mr. Peters?

1983 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

1984 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

1985 Mrs. Dingell?

1986 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

1987 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

1988 Mr. Veasey?

1989 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

1990 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

1991 Ms. Kuster?

1992 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

1993 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

1994 Ms. Kelly?

1995 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

1996 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

1997 Ms. Barragan?

1998 [No response.]

1999 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin?

2000 [No response.]

2001 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin?

2002 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

2003 [Pause.]

2004 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin, can you please repeat your
2005 vote?

2006 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye. McEachin votes aye.
2007 McEachin votes aye.

2008 Can you hear me?

2009 *The Clerk. Can you please repeat your vote one more
2010 time?

2011 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

2012 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.

2013 *Mr. McEachin. Aye.

2014 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?

2015 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

2016 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
2017 Mr. Soto?

2018 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.

2019 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2020 Mr. O'Halleran?

2021 *Mr. O'Halleran. Aye.

2022 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.

2023 Miss Rice?

2024 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]

2025 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

2026 Ms. Craig?

2027 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.

2028 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.

2029 Ms. Schrier?

2030 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

2031 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

2032 Mrs. Trahan?

2033 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

2034 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

2035 Mrs. Fletcher?

2036 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2037 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

2038 Mrs. Rodgers?

2039 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]

2040 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

2041 Mr. Upton?

2042 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.

2043 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.

2044 Mr. Burgess?

2045 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

2046 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.

2047 Mr. Scalise?

2048 [No response.]

2049 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2050 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]

2051 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
2052 Mr. Guthrie?
2053 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
2054 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2055 Mr. McKinley?
2056 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
2057 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
2058 Mr. Kinzinger?
2059 [No response.]
2060 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
2061 *Mr. Griffith. No.
2062 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
2063 Mr. Bilirakis?
2064 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
2065 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
2066 Mr. Johnson?
2067 *Mr. Johnson. No.
2068 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
2069 Mr. Long?
2070 *Mr. Long. No.
2071 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
2072 Mr. Bucshon?
2073 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]
2074 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
2075 Mr. Mullin?

2076 *Mr. Mullin. No.

2077 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

2078 Mr. Hudson?

2079 [No response.]

2080 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?

2081 *Mr. Walberg. [Inaudible.]

2082 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.

2083 Mr. Carter?

2084 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes aye.

2085 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

2086 Mr. Duncan?

2087 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]

2088 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

2089 Mr. Duncan?

2090 *Mr. Duncan. No.

2091 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

2092 Mr. Palmer?

2093 [No response.]

2094 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

2095 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes nay.

2096 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn, can you please repeat your vote?

2097 *Mr. Dunn. No.

2098 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

2099 Mr. Curtis?

2100 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

2101 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
2102 Mrs. Lesko?
2103 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
2104 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
2105 Mr. Pence?
2106 *Mr. Pence. No.
2107 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
2108 Mr. Crenshaw?
2109 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.
2110 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
2111 Mr. Joyce?
2112 *Mr. Joyce. [Inaudible.]
2113 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
2114 Mr. Armstrong?
2115 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]
2116 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
2117 Chairman Pallone?
2118 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
2119 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
2120 *The Chairman. I think we have Mr. Tonko.
2121 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
2122 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2123 *The Chairman. Anyone else who wishes to be recorded?
2124 *Mr. Palmer. How is Palmer recorded?
2125 *Voice. No.

2126 *The Chairman. Wait, that was Mr. Carter? How is he
2127 recorded?

2128 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is recorded as no.

2129 *Mr. Palmer. How is Palmer recorded?

2130 *The Chairman. And I think I heard Ms. Barragan.

2131 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

2132 *The Chairman. Ms. Barragan --

2133 *Ms. Barragan. Ms. Barragan votes yes.

2134 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2135 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

2136 *Mr. Palmer. How is Palmer recorded? How is Palmer
2137 recorded?

2138 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

2139 *Mr. Palmer. I vote no.

2140 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

2141 *The Chairman. Anyone else who wants to be recorded and
2142 hasn't been?

2143 *Mr. Hudson. How is Richard Hudson recorded, Mr.
2144 Chairman?

2145 *The Chairman. Mr. Hudson?

2146 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson is not recorded.

2147 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

2148 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

2149 *The Chairman. Any other member who wishes to be
2150 recorded?

2151 All right. Hearing none, the clerk will report the
2152 tally.

2153 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
2154 34 and the nays were 22.

2155 *The Chairman. All right, so the vote is 34 ayes to 22
2156 noes. And therefore, H.R. 6737, as amended, is reported to
2157 the full House.

2158 And now we will go to H.R. 6965. The chair calls up
2159 H.R. 6965, the Visit America Act, and the clerk will report
2160 the title of that bill.

2161 *The Clerk. H.R. 6965, to promote travel and tourism in
2162 the United States, and for other --

2163 *The Chairman. And Madam Clerk, without objection, the
2164 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill
2165 is now considered as read.

2166 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and
2167 open for amendment at any point.

2168 [The bill follows:]

2169

2170 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2171

2172 *The Chairman. Is there any member seeking recognition
2173 to speak on H.R. 6965?

2174 On either side? Mr. Soto? Oh, you have an amendment.

2175 Does anyone wish to speak on the bill?

2176 If not, we will go to the amendment. Okay. Now I
2177 recognize Mr. Soto to offer an amendment in the nature of a
2178 substitute, and the clerk will report the Soto AINS.

2179 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2180 H.R. 6965, offered by Mr. Soto of Florida --

2181 *The Chairman. And Madam Clerk, the reading of the AINS
2182 will be dispensed with.

2183 [The amendment of Mr. Soto follows:]

2184

2185 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2186

2187 *The Chairman. And Mr. Soto is recognized for five
2188 minutes.

2189 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Mr. Chair. The travel and
2190 tourism industry was one of the hardest hit industries during
2191 the height of the pandemic, and we have seen an uptick over
2192 time in particularly domestic travel in central Florida and
2193 areas across the nation. But we are still a long way from
2194 recovery.

2195 Overseas visitation is still down by 35 percent from
2196 pre-pandemic levels. And even though, as domestic travel
2197 finally levels out, which it is doing pretty well right now,
2198 overseas travel is going to become more and more important as
2199 we look at places like Florida, where 7.1 percent of our
2200 workforce is employed in the tourism industry. These jobs
2201 have been coming back, but slowly.

2202 And so, as folks want to come to Disney, Universal,
2203 SeaWorld, Legoland, Gatorland, Old Town, or the 825 miles of
2204 beach we have in great districts like Castor's, Bilirakis's,
2205 and Dunn's districts, we need your help.

2206 We passed the Restoring Brand USA Act, which provides
2207 critical funding to promote the United States for
2208 international travelers. But the next step is to pass the
2209 Visit America Act before this committee today to ensure that
2210 the travel and tourism industry is well on its way back to
2211 full recovery by dedicating an assistant secretary at

2212 Commerce to focus on these critical issues.

2213 The bill will also prevent negative impacts from future
2214 pandemics and other world events like natural disasters.

2215 My amendment in the nature of a substitute makes
2216 technical and conforming amendments to this good bipartisan
2217 bill by Representative Titus, the late Representative Don
2218 Young, and others, and I urge my colleagues to support it,
2219 and I yield back.

2220 *The Chairman. I thought the gentleman was going to
2221 tell us about every theme park in Florida, but are you
2222 yielding back?

2223 *Mr. Soto. I yield back.

2224 *The Chairman. Thank you. Does anyone else want to
2225 speak on this bill?

2226 All right. And do we have -- his is an amendment or
2227 not?

2228 You have an amendment. Okay, so we have to do the
2229 amendment first. Sorry. All right, so we are going to have
2230 a voice vote on the Soto amendment, and then we will have a
2231 recorded vote on final passage. So let's go to the voice
2232 vote on the AINS first.

2233 If there is no further discussion, we will proceed to a
2234 vote on the amendment in the nature of a substitute by the
2235 gentleman from Florida.

2236 All those in favor of the amendment in the nature of a

2237 substitute to H.R. 6965 will signify by saying aye.

2238 All those opposed will say no.

2239 In the opinion of the chair, the ayes have it. And the
2240 amendment in the nature of a substitute to H.R. 6965 by Mr.
2241 Soto is agreed to.

2242 And now we will go to final -- I mean final passage. A
2243 recorded vote is ordered.

2244 Those in favor of reporting H.R. 6965, as amended, to
2245 the full House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and
2246 the clerk shall call the roll.

2247 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

2248 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

2249 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

2250 Ms. Eshoo?

2251 *Ms. Eshoo. Aye.

2252 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

2253 Ms. DeGette?

2254 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

2255 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

2256 Mr. Doyle?

2257 *Mr. Doyle. Yes.

2258 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

2259 Ms. Schakowsky?

2260 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

2261 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

2262 Mr. Butterfield?

2263 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

2264 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

2265 Ms. Matsui?

2266 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

2267 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

2268 Ms. Castor?

2269 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

2270 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2271 Mr. Sarbanes?

2272 *Mr. Sarbanes. Votes aye.

2273 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

2274 Mr. McNerney?

2275 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

2276 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

2277 Mr. Welch?

2278 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

2279 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

2280 Mr. Tonko?

2281 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

2282 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

2283 Ms. Clarke?

2284 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.

2285 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

2286 Mr. Schrader?

2287 [No response.]

2288 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?

2289 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.

2290 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

2291 Mr. Ruiz?

2292 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye. Ruiz votes aye.

2293 [Pause.]

2294 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

2295 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

2296 Mr. Peters?

2297 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

2298 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

2299 Mrs. Dingell?

2300 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

2301 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

2302 Mr. Veasey?

2303 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

2304 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

2305 Ms. Kuster?

2306 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

2307 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

2308 Ms. Kelly?

2309 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

2310 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

2311 Ms. Barragan?

2312 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
2313 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
2314 Mr. McEachin?
2315 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
2316 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
2317 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
2318 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
2319 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
2320 Mr. Soto?
2321 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
2322 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
2323 Mr. O'Halleran?
2324 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
2325 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
2326 Miss Rice?
2327 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
2328 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
2329 Ms. Craig?
2330 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
2331 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
2332 Ms. Schrier?
2333 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
2334 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2335 Mrs. Trahan?
2336 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

2337 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2338 Mrs. Fletcher?
2339 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2340 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2341 Mrs. Rodgers?
2342 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
2343 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.
2344 Mr. Upton?
2345 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes aye.
2346 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.
2347 Mr. Burgess?
2348 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
2349 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.
2350 Mr. Scalise?
2351 [No response.]
2352 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
2353 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
2354 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
2355 Mr. Guthrie?
2356 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
2357 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
2358 Mr. McKinley?
2359 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
2360 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.
2361 Mr. Kinzinger?

2362 [No response.]

2363 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

2364 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2365 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

2366 Mr. Bilirakis?

2367 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

2368 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

2369 Mr. Johnson?

2370 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.

2371 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.

2372 Mr. Long?

2373 [No response.]

2374 *Mr. Mullin. Did you say Mullin?

2375 *The Clerk. Yes, Mr. Long.

2376 *Mr. Long. Aye.

2377 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.

2378 Mr. Bucshon?

2379 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.

2380 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.

2381 Mr. Mullin?

2382 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

2383 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

2384 Mr. Hudson?

2385 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes aye.

2386 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

2387 Mr. Walberg?

2388 *Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes aye.

2389 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.

2390 Mr. Carter?

2391 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes aye.

2392 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

2393 Mr. Duncan?

2394 *Mr. Duncan. Aye.

2395 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

2396 Mr. Palmer?

2397 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

2398 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

2399 Mr. Dunn?

2400 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes aye.

2401 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

2402 Mr. Curtis?

2403 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

2404 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.

2405 Mrs. Lesko?

2406 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.

2407 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.

2408 Mr. Pence?

2409 *Mr. Pence. Aye.

2410 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.

2411 Mr. Crenshaw?

2412 [No response.]

2413 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw, could you repeat your vote?

2414 [No response.]

2415 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

2416 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

2417 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

2418 Mr. Armstrong?

2419 *Mr. Armstrong. Yes.

2420 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.

2421 Chairman Pallone?

2422 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

2423 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

2424 *The Chairman. Did we hear from -- oh, Mr. Schrader?

2425 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader is not recorded.

2426 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

2427 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

2428 *The Chairman. Did you get Crenshaw?

2429 *The Clerk. No.

2430 *The Chairman. Did you see him on the screen?

2431 *The Clerk. I could see him. I couldn't hear him.

2432 *The Chairman. Does he want to try again?

2433 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye. That should work

2434 this time.

2435 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

2436 *The Chairman. Anyone else who hasn't been recorded

2437 that wants to be?

2438 Okay, I think that is it, if the clerk will then report
2439 the tally.

2440 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 56 and the nays
2441 were 0.

2442 *The Chairman. Okay, so the vote is 56 ayes to 0 noes,
2443 and, therefore, H.R. 6965, as amended, is reported to the
2444 full House.

2445 Oh, okay. I just wanted to say before we go to the next
2446 bill, which is also about horses -- but unfortunately, today
2447 we are not marking up another horse bill, the SAFE Act, which
2448 is legislation that will end the cruel and barbaric practice
2449 of slaughtering horses for human consumption.

2450 We have been working on this bill for some time, but
2451 there are some objections that haven't yet been addressed.
2452 So in the spirit of working to advance this bill, I would ask
2453 our ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers, for her commitment to have
2454 our staffs hold joint meetings where the stakeholders on both
2455 sides of this issue can sit in a room together with the goal
2456 of finding a meaningful path forward.

2457 So with that question, I would yield to the ranking
2458 member.

2459 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We are
2460 committed to helping organize and participate in meetings
2461 with stakeholders from both sides of this issue at the table,

2462 and certainly continue working with you and your staff on
2463 this. I appreciate your commitment to advancing a bipartisan
2464 compromise on the SAFE Act that addresses the concerns of the
2465 stakeholders.

2466 *The Chairman. And I want to thank the ranking member
2467 for her commitment to work together on this legislation. But
2468 it will not be considered today.

2469 So now the chair calls up H.R. 5441, the Preventing All
2470 Soring Tactics Act, or the PAST Act, as forwarded by the
2471 Subcommittee on Consumer Protection and Commerce, and the
2472 clerk will report that bill.

2473 *The Clerk. Committee print to H.R. 5441, a bill to
2474 amend the Horse Protection Act to designate additional
2475 unlawful acts under the --

2476 *The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the
2477 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill
2478 is now considered as read.

2479 And without objection, the bill is considered as read
2480 and open for amendment at any point.

2481 [The bill follows:]

2482

2483 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2484

2485 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
2486 recognition to speak on H.R. 5441?

2487 Mr. Schrader is recognized for five minutes.

2488 *Mr. Schrader. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate
2489 the committee considering this bill, and the leadership that
2490 Representative Cohen and Schakowsky have exhibited for trying
2491 to prevent this heinous activity from occurring in the horse
2492 industry.

2493 As an equine veterinarian for well over 30 years, and a
2494 person that has had to treat some of these horses that have
2495 been abused like this, it is high time that we finally pass
2496 the horse soring act like this. It has been a blemish in the
2497 equine industry that this has occurred.

2498 We -- Representative Yoho and I -- worked on a similar
2499 piece of legislation last session, got very close, over 290
2500 cosponsors. Ms. Schakowsky and Representative Cohen got well
2501 over 200 cosponsors of this bill. It is a very bipartisan
2502 issue. No one wants to see our four-footed friends abused in
2503 this way, and I hope we get through some of the misaligned
2504 industry objections. There is a deal to be had. I know that
2505 personally, and I hope that, as we get through this session,
2506 that we can bring this to full closure.

2507 And I yield back, Mr. Chairman. Thank you.

2508 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else want
2509 to speak on this bill?

2510 Dr. Burgess?

2511 *Mr. Burgess. Mr. Chairman, I wonder if I might ask a
2512 question of counsel.

2513 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

2514 *Mr. Burgess. So first, let me just state at the outset
2515 I am a horse owner. I have lived with horses literally my
2516 entire life. No one wants to see horses mistreated.

2517 There are -- I know there exist in my state pretty
2518 strong state statutes against animal cruelty that would
2519 prohibit this type of activity. I guess my question to
2520 counsel is we have got pretty significant fines and prison
2521 time associated now with this behavior. Where is the
2522 enforcement of this going to occur?

2523 *Counsel. The PAST Act will amend the USDA's authority
2524 to assess civil penalties and criminal penalties under the
2525 Horse Protection Act, increasing imprisonment and fines for
2526 criminal penalties, and increasing the fines for civil
2527 penalties.

2528 *Mr. Burgess. So in the past, when we have considered
2529 this legislation -- and it was pretty -- it was -- the
2530 committee was divided on this issue because of interests of
2531 members who are no longer on the committee. However, in my
2532 evaluation of this legislation previously, discussions with
2533 my farrier back home, discussions with horse trainers back
2534 home, it was always the same question back to me: well, who

2535 is going to enforce this?

2536 And generally, it is the county sheriff who is going to
2537 enforce an animal cruelty violation at a horse show, at a
2538 horse fair, at a facility. Are we going to be relying on the
2539 U.S. Department of Agriculture to police all of those
2540 activities?

2541 *Counsel. The Horse Protection Act section 1829 states
2542 that no provision of this chapter shall be construed as
2543 indicating an intent on the part of the Congress to occupy
2544 the field in which such provision operates to the exclusion
2545 of the law of any state on the same subject matter.

2546 *Mr. Burgess. What does that mean?

2547 *Counsel. This, the Horse Protection Act and the PAST
2548 Act, is not generally preemptive of state laws, with some
2549 limited exceptions in the underlying Horse Protection Act.

2550 *Mr. Burgess. Well, again, my worry with this is -- and
2551 there are available articles that you can see online, where
2552 the USDA has actually fallen short in enforcing this
2553 activity. I have got great confidence in my local officials,
2554 I have got great confidence in my state officials. I will
2555 just tell you I do not have that confidence in not just the
2556 Department of Agriculture, but there are times where Federal
2557 agencies have fallen short. We have all seen it recently.
2558 So to turn this activity -- take it away from states, take it
2559 away from local jurisdictions, and turn it over to the USDA,

2560 I am worried about that.

2561 Let me just say, because Chairman Pallone brought it up,
2562 in the past I have been a cosponsor and a supporter of
2563 prohibitions against horse slaughter. I do think that is
2564 inhumane. American horses are part of our heritage in the
2565 West, and are -- in many ways our horses are companion
2566 animals. And horse slaughter is a reprehensible business,
2567 and I look forward to the committee working on that and
2568 further providing prohibitions.

2569 But I am worried that, by taking this and federalizing
2570 this issue, which historically has been a state issue, we are
2571 actually not going to be providing the protection for the
2572 animals that are -- that need to be protected. And in fact,
2573 again, there are significant reports where USDA has fallen
2574 short in this regard. And I am concerned about just simply
2575 turning the power over to them, and absolving our state and
2576 local authorities from enforcing their statutes that exist at
2577 the state and local level.

2578 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am -- I will yield back.

2579 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Does anyone else
2580 want to speak on this horse soring bill?

2581 I don't think we have any amendments, either. So we
2582 will go to a recorded vote on the final passage. A recorded
2583 vote is ordered.

2584 Those in favor of reporting H.R. 5441, as amended, to

2585 the House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the
2586 clerk shall call the roll.

2587 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

2588 [No response.]

2589 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

2590 *Ms. Eshoo. [Inaudible.]

2591 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

2592 Ms. DeGette?

2593 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

2594 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

2595 Mr. Doyle?

2596 [No response.]

2597 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

2598 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

2599 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

2600 Mr. Butterfield?

2601 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

2602 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

2603 Ms. Matsui?

2604 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

2605 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

2606 Ms. Castor?

2607 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

2608 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

2609 Mr. Sarbanes?

2610 [No response.]

2611 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney?

2612 *Mr. McNerney. [Inaudible.]

2613 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

2614 Mr. Welch?

2615 [No response.]

2616 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

2617 *Mr. Tonko. [Inaudible.]

2618 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

2619 Ms. Clarke?

2620 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]

2621 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

2622 Mr. Schrader?

2623 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

2624 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

2625 Mr. Cardenas?

2626 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.

2627 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

2628 Mr. Ruiz?

2629 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

2630 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

2631 Mr. Peters?

2632 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

2633 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

2634 Mrs. Dingell?

2635 [No response.]

2636 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?

2637 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

2638 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

2639 Ms. Kuster?

2640 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

2641 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

2642 Ms. Kelly?

2643 *Ms. Kelly. [Inaudible.]

2644 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

2645 Ms. Barragan?

2646 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

2647 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2648 Mr. McEachin?

2649 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

2650 [Pause.]

2651 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

2652 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.

2653 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

2654 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

2655 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

2656 Mr. Soto?

2657 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.

2658 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2659 Mr. O'Halleran?

2660 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
2661 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
2662 Miss Rice?
2663 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
2664 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
2665 Ms. Craig?
2666 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
2667 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
2668 Ms. Schrier?
2669 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
2670 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
2671 Mrs. Trahan?
2672 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
2673 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
2674 Mrs. Fletcher?
2675 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
2676 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
2677 Mrs. Rodgers?
2678 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
2679 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.
2680 Mr. Upton?
2681 *Mr. Upton. Aye.
2682 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.
2683 Mr. Burgess?
2684 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

2685 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
2686 Mr. Scalise?
2687 [No response.]
2688 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
2689 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
2690 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
2691 Mr. Guthrie?
2692 *Mr. Guthrie. [Inaudible.]
2693 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
2694 Mr. McKinley?
2695 *Mr. McKinley. Aye.
2696 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes aye.
2697 Mr. Kinzinger?
2698 [No response.]
2699 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
2700 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
2701 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
2702 Mr. Bilirakis?
2703 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
2704 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
2705 Mr. Johnson?
2706 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.
2707 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.
2708 Mr. Long?
2709 *Mr. Long. Aye.

2710 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.
2711 Mr. Bucshon?
2712 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]
2713 *Voice. Sorry, I got to vote.
2714 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.
2715 Mr. Mullin?
2716 *Mr. Mullin. No.
2717 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
2718 Mr. Hudson?
2719 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
2720 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes --
2721 *Mr. Hudson. Yes. Sorry, Hudson votes yes.
2722 *Voice. No.
2723 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
2724 Mr. Walberg?
2725 [No response.]
2726 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter?
2727 *Voice. Yes.
2728 *Mr. Carter. Aye.
2729 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.
2730 Mr. Duncan?
2731 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
2732 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.
2733 Mr. Palmer?
2734 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.

2735 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
2736 Mr. Dunn?
2737 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
2738 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
2739 Mr. Curtis?
2740 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
2741 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.
2742 Mrs. Lesko?
2743 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
2744 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
2745 Mr. Pence?
2746 *Mr. Pence. [Inaudible.]
2747 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
2748 Mr. Crenshaw?
2749 [No response.]
2750 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
2751 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes yes.
2752 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
2753 Mr. Armstrong?
2754 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]
2755 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
2756 Chairman Pallone?
2757 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
2758 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
2759 *The Chairman. Now, I saw Crenshaw --

2760 *Mr. Sarbanes. How am I recorded? Congressman
2761 Sarbanes.
2762 *The Chairman. Who is that?
2763 *Voice. Sarbanes.
2764 *The Chairman. Mr. Sarbanes?
2765 *Mr. Sarbanes. Yes, how am I recorded?
2766 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes is not recorded.
2767 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
2768 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
2769 *Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch, am I recorded?
2770 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch is not recorded.
2771 *Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes aye.
2772 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
2773 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.
2774 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2775 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?
2776 *Mr. Rush. How am I recorded?
2777 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.
2778 *Mr. Rush. Aye.
2779 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
2780 *The Chairman. Mr. Doyle?
2781 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle is not recorded.
2782 *Mr. Doyle. I vote aye.
2783 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
2784 *The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw you can see on the screen.

2785 *Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

2786 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

2787 *The Chairman. Anyone else who is not recorded and
2788 wants to be?

2789 Mr. -- who? Walberg, is Mr. Walberg recorded?

2790 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg is not recorded.

2791 *The Chairman. I don't see him, though. All right.
2792 Then the clerk will report the tally.

2793 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
2794 46 and the nays were 9.

2795 *The Chairman. Okay, so the vote is 46 ayes to 9 noes.
2796 And as a result, H.R. 5441, as amended, is reported to the
2797 full House.

2798 Now, that is the -- we have finished the regular bills,
2799 and so we are going to go now to the resolutions of inquiry.

2800 I do want to mention that we expect a set of votes at
2801 1:30. Of course, we will recess for that, but then come back
2802 quickly, hopefully, and then we may have a second set of
2803 votes later. But, you know, we are going to just go through
2804 until we have to recess for these various votes.

2805 So next the chair calls up H.Res. 1355, and the clerk
2806 will report the bill.

2807 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1355, of inquiry requesting the
2808 President --

2809 *The Chairman. And without objection, Madam Clerk, the

2810 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill
2811 is now considered as read.

2812 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and
2813 open for amendment at any point.

2814 [The bill follows:]

2815

2816 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2817

2818 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
2819 recognition to speak on H.Res. 1355?

2820 Mr. Griffith is recognized.

2821 [Pause.]

2822 *The Chairman. Mr. Griffith? Is it Mr. Dunn instead?
2823 What do you want to do?

2824 *Voice. Just go for a roll call vote.

2825 *The Chairman. Just a roll call? Okay, so we are going
2826 to go to a roll call vote.

2827 *Mrs. Rodgers. Oh, Morgan is ready?

2828 Are you ready?

2829 *The Chairman. Mr. Griffith, do you want to speak? You
2830 don't have to, believe me.

2831 [Laughter.]

2832 *Mrs. Rodgers. It is fine.

2833 *The Chairman. I would be perfectly happy if you don't.

2834 *Mr. Griffith. It is a good resolution. I yield back.

2835 [Laughter.]

2836 *The Chairman. All right, all right. Well, apparently,
2837 I am speaking on it. So -- Mr. Dunn wants to speak on it?
2838 Mr. Dunn is recognized.

2839 *Mr. Dunn. I do, Mr. Chairman, thank you very much for
2840 your patience. I move to strike the last word.

2841 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
2842 minutes.

2843 *Mr. Dunn. So thank you, Mr. Chairman. This resolution
2844 is of paramount importance to this committee's work
2845 overseeing public health agencies and preparing our nation to
2846 overcome future pandemics.

2847 For the Administration to stonewall this committee's
2848 investigation into the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic,
2849 which has claimed over a million American lives and over 15
2850 million worldwide, is simply unconscionable.

2851 It has become clear that the internal programs failed at
2852 the NIH. They should have been screening for this type of
2853 research that we now know was performed at the Wuhan
2854 Institute of Virology. The potential Pandemic Pathogen Care
2855 and Oversight Program, also called P3CO, reviewed only 3
2856 projects in 5 years, and apparently never reviewed this
2857 particular grant. Evidence suggests that the EcoHealth
2858 Alliance grant to conduct research at the Wuhan Institute of
2859 Virology should not have been funded, due to the agency's
2860 stated moratorium on gain of function research at that time.

2861 It is highly possible that EcoHealth Alliance was
2862 intentionally misleading in their grant application, and flew
2863 under the radar at NIH scrutiny (sic). If that is the case,
2864 Congress needs to understand how this occurred, and how we
2865 can strengthen the review, the proposals that could be
2866 disastrous implications (sic). And NIH's decision to
2867 terminate that grant just last month, nearly three years

2868 after the beginning of the pandemic, signals that the grant
2869 should never have been funded.

2870 Individuals who knowingly endanger the entire planet
2871 need to be held accountable. Just this summer, Peter Daszak
2872 of EcoHealth Alliance again published research, this time on
2873 the MERS: Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome virus, another
2874 coronavirus. And this research was done in Russia. I am not
2875 suggesting that NIH funded it, I am saying that it is
2876 important to pay attention to these types of research,
2877 especially when being done in adversary nations, when we are
2878 considering our national security.

2879 Everyone who serves on this committee should feel a
2880 responsibility to hold public health agencies to account when
2881 it comes to determining the origins of COVID-19. This should
2882 be a team effort between the executive branch and Congress.
2883 But instead, President Biden is hiding the ball from
2884 Congress.

2885 I encourage everyone to support this resolution, and I
2886 yield back.

2887 *Mr. Burgess. Would the gentleman yield for just a
2888 moment?

2889 *Mr. Dunn. I yield to Dr. Burgess.

2890 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you. And, you know, those of us
2891 who were on this committee during the pandemic, and when we
2892 had a whistleblower hearing, Rick Bright from BARDA was

2893 brought in. Repeatedly, repeatedly, we asked for information
2894 about therapeutics that were in the very early days being
2895 tried, and we could never get the information from the
2896 Administration. So I really appreciate Representative Gosar
2897 asking for this information.

2898 Yes, it would be useful to know, with as many people who
2899 were afflicted with the novel coronavirus, and as many people
2900 who were prescribed ivermectin, we should have a large cohort
2901 study available to us so we would just know this information.
2902 When I am asked questions today about is ivermectin useful or
2903 not useful in treating or preventing a bad infection with the
2904 novel coronavirus, I can't answer the question because I
2905 don't know. And yet I sit on the main committee that should
2906 have the jurisdiction over this issue, and we had the head of
2907 BARDA here in a committee hearing, and I still don't know.

2908 We have significant computing power at the national
2909 labs. We have significant computing power with artificial
2910 intelligence. It should be able to sift through that
2911 voluminous data and at least give us an inkling. Was this a
2912 worthwhile treatment, or was it excluded appropriately or
2913 inappropriately?

2914 So I am thankful for Mr. Gosar for bringing the
2915 resolution of inquiry. I am grateful to our ranking member
2916 for finally getting these resolutions of inquiry heard.

2917 The Democratic leadership in this Congress has abused

2918 the tolling days to prevent these ROIs from getting their
2919 proper vetting.

2920 And I thank Dr. Dunn for yielding to me, and I will
2921 yield back to Dr. Dunn.

2922 *Mr. Dunn. I yield back.

2923 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. I yield -- well,
2924 I move to strike the last word and speak in opposition to the
2925 resolution, and recognize myself for five minutes.

2926 This resolution concerns the drug ivermectin, which is a
2927 decades-old medication approved for certain human and
2928 veterinary indications, and is primarily used for deworming
2929 horses, cows, and other animals. Over the last few years,
2930 during the COVID-19 pandemic, some talking heads have hawked
2931 misinformation, in my opinion, online and on right-wing cable
2932 TV, suggesting that the drug could be used to treat or
2933 prevent COVID-19.

2934 Now, every recognized medical and veterinary society, as
2935 well as FDA, CDC, and NIH have strongly reminded the public
2936 and health professionals that ivermectin is not approved or
2937 recommended for use in preventing or treating COVID-19 in
2938 humans or animals.

2939 NIH has also explained that the small handful of studies
2940 that have claimed to show a benefit for the use of ivermectin
2941 for COVID-19 have incomplete information and serious
2942 methodological limitations, and this includes small sample

2943 sizes and outcome measures that were unclear. Where large,
2944 reputable studies have been conducted on ivermectin,
2945 researchers have found that the drug is not effective and --
2946 against COVID-19.

2947 Additionally, as doctors and FDA will tell you, taking a
2948 large dose of ivermectin that is intended for animals, as
2949 some have advised, is dangerous, and has resulted in serious
2950 harm during the pandemic, including hospitalization.

2951 Ivermectin overdose can cause severe gastrointestinal
2952 symptoms, low blood pressure, seizures, coma, and even death.

2953 People should never use medications and doses intended
2954 for animals on themselves or other people. Animal ivermectin
2955 products are very different from those approved for humans.

2956 Now, despite the scientific proof that ivermectin is not
2957 effective for COVID-19 and the serious risk that it poses,
2958 some continue to say or talk about its supposed benefits, and
2959 I think put people at risk. This resolution of inquiry, in
2960 my opinion, will confuse the American people with dangerous
2961 information. And quite frankly, I am disappointed that we
2962 are having to entertain what I consider a very fringe theory
2963 today about this medication.

2964 I think we should be working instead to ensure people
2965 have access to COVID-19 vaccines, which are the best tool to
2966 prevent severe illness and death caused by COVID-19. So I
2967 encourage my colleagues to join me in opposing this

2968 resolution, and I yield to -- such time to -- as he may use
2969 to Mr. Schrader.

2970 *Mr. Schrader. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I think you
2971 have stated it pretty well. This resolution is just
2972 completely unnecessary.

2973 As an equine veterinarian that has used ivermectin for
2974 30-plus years, or almost that time period, it has been a
2975 lifesaver for a lot of horses when used appropriately. And
2976 even in the equine world, you have got to make sure it is
2977 dosed appropriate, for goodness' sakes. And to use a drug
2978 that is not approved for, or in a formulation that is not
2979 approved for human use is extremely dangerous.

2980 This drug is very hepatotoxic. This will destroy your
2981 liver. This will kill you if you go out and try and buy it
2982 on the open market and use it on yourself to theoretically
2983 treat COVID-19. With the vaccine, it is completely
2984 ridiculous to even go down that route. Why not use a
2985 vaccination to stimulate your own body to respond to it,
2986 instead of taking a toxic drug that is completely unnecessary
2987 and extremely dangerous for you?

2988 It has been crystal clear. The FDA, CDC, any health
2989 authority has been crystal clear with the American public.
2990 This is an incorrect approach to treating 19. It is
2991 dangerous. Don't use it. The vaccinations have been
2992 approved. They have been wildly successful, enabling us to

2993 get rid of the masks, actually meet in person like we are
2994 doing here today. Let's do the smart thing, not the
2995 ridiculous thing, not based off of some crazy website. Let's
2996 just protect yourselves.

2997 The other piece I will say, as a veterinarian, I am
2998 worried. If people start buying all the ivermectin, you
2999 couldn't use it to treat your horses. You know, your -- it
3000 was -- or dogs or cats, for that matter. And that is bad for
3001 the animals. So if you care about your four-footed friends,
3002 if you don't care about yourself, let's at least try and
3003 protect this, the access to that medication for the right
3004 indications for the right species, and that is not the human.

3005 And I yield back, Mr. Chair.

3006 *The Chairman. And I yield back. Does anyone else want
3007 to speak on this resolution of inquiry?

3008 Yes, the gentleman is recognized.

3009 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. You know, the
3010 effectiveness of the vaccine being touted has been proven
3011 that it hasn't been as effective as we were told, but still
3012 is the right thing.

3013 But the Administration, and specifically NIH, CDC
3014 telling doctors that they couldn't treat patients however
3015 they saw fit is micromanagement by non-doctors in many cases,
3016 by bureaucrats. We train doctors all across the country.
3017 They go to med school. They learn different treatments and

3018 learn all the interaction of drugs. And what we saw during
3019 this pandemic was hospitals, doctors groups, and the
3020 government tell our health care epitome that -- the top
3021 people in our health care system, the doctors themselves,
3022 that they couldn't use the gifts that we gave them, the
3023 education that we gave them, their gray matter, their
3024 understanding, that doctor-patient relationship to do
3025 whatever it took to help patients.

3026 We almost forced patients into a one-size-fits-all
3027 mindset in that, if you don't go to an event, if you don't
3028 take this certain regimen the government helped create, the
3029 therapeutic, that they couldn't treat that patient the way
3030 they thought was in the best interest of that patient. So
3031 government got once again in the middle of the doctor-patient
3032 relationship, which is wrong.

3033 The doctor should have the ability to treat that patient
3034 how they want to. But instead, because of all the money that
3035 was involved in COVID-19, the hospitals that were receiving
3036 that Medicare money or Medicaid money told their doctors that
3037 they couldn't treat those patients how the doctor felt best,
3038 and I just felt that that was wrong.

3039 Whether -- you know, not pointing at ivermectin, not
3040 pointing at hydroxychloroquine, not pointing at anything,
3041 just pointing out that doctor-patient relationship, and
3042 pointing out that that doctor, who we have trained, we don't

3043 tell doctors how to treat anything else in that doctor-
3044 patient relationship, but all of a sudden we did in COVID-19,
3045 because government knew best. That is just the wrong
3046 approach.

3047 I hope we don't make that mistake going forward, because
3048 I really believe that the doctors have the ability and,
3049 ultimately, the responsibility for treating those patients,
3050 and with that I yield back.

3051 *Mr. Burgess. Will the gentleman yield for just a
3052 moment?

3053 *Mr. Duncan. Sure.

3054 *Mr. Burgess. And I so appreciate the gentleman's
3055 comments. They are right -- the doctor's abilities and
3056 capabilities.

3057 But this resolution of inquiry is merely a request for
3058 information. We would like the Administration to provide us,
3059 the committee of jurisdiction, with whatever information they
3060 have collected. It is not a question of does ivermectin
3061 work, not work. Just show us your work. Show us the
3062 information. Show us the data.

3063 Public health institutions in this country right now are
3064 suffering because they lack credibility because of much of
3065 their behavior during the time of the pandemic. Let's us
3066 take those first steps towards restoring that credibility,
3067 and one of those steps would be to get the data from the

3068 Administration, and then we can have the hearing on the data.
3069 We don't have to accept it, we don't have to like it, we
3070 don't have to ignore it, but we should be able to look at it.

3071 So I thank the gentleman for yielding.

3072 *Mr. Duncan. You are absolutely right, and I appreciate
3073 you making that point.

3074 If a doctor treated someone, the AMA or his hospital
3075 board or who he works for, maybe even the government, is
3076 going to step in and say, "How did you come to that
3077 conclusion of using'' -- and I will use ivermectin because
3078 that is what was brought up here. "What brought you the
3079 conclusion that that was going to work?'' And the doctor is
3080 going to have to prove that, or he is going to get dinged on
3081 -- either by the AMA on his license, or on his malpractice
3082 insurance or something, maybe even his employment.

3083 All we are doing is asking the government to provide us
3084 the same information. How did you come to the conclusion
3085 that that didn't work or this did work? I think there is a
3086 lot of data that has got to come forward as we investigate
3087 the origins of COVID-19, and also the ultimate government
3088 response to COVID-19, because, at the end of the day, there
3089 was a hell of a lot of taxpayer dollars invested in this
3090 effort to keep Americans safe, or treat Americans with
3091 therapeutics or, ultimately, vaccines. So we are just
3092 asking, give us the data.

3093 I yield back.

3094 *The Chairman. Does anyone else want to speak on this
3095 resolution?

3096 And we are going to go to a recorded vote? A recorded
3097 vote is ordered.

3098 Those in favor of adversely -- let me stress now, this
3099 vote will be in favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1355 to
3100 the House. So if you vote aye, you are saying that you are
3101 adversely reporting it, okay? And if you vote no, you are --
3102 well, that is -- I guess that is obvious. So the clerk shall
3103 call the roll.

3104 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

3105 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes no.

3106 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes no.

3107 *The Chairman. Wait a minute.

3108 [Laughter.]

3109 *The Chairman. Let me -- let me -- all right, let me
3110 explain this again. The choice with these resolutions of
3111 inquiry are either voting -- either recommending it
3112 adversely, meaning you don't like it, or recommending it
3113 without recommendation, or recommending it favorably, which
3114 means you do like it.

3115 So the --

3116 *Mr. Rush. Chairman, Rush votes [inaudible.]

3117 *The Chairman. What did Mr. Rush say?

3118 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

3119 *The Chairman. All right. So Rush votes aye.

3120 But I want everybody to understand that when voting aye
3121 you are saying that you are adversely reporting it, meaning
3122 you don't like it. Okay?

3123 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

3124 Ms. Eshoo?

3125 [No response.]

3126 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?

3127 [No response.]

3128 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?

3129 *Mr. Doyle. Yes.

3130 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

3131 Ms. Schakowsky?

3132 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3133 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3134 Mr. Butterfield?

3135 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

3136 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

3137 Ms. Matsui?

3138 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

3139 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

3140 Ms. Castor?

3141 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3142 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

3143 Mr. Sarbanes?

3144 *Mr. Sarbanes. Aye.

3145 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

3146 Mr. McNerney?

3147 *Mr. McNerney. [Inaudible.]

3148 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

3149 Mr. Welch?

3150 *Mr. Welch. Aye.

3151 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

3152 Mr. Tonko?

3153 [No response.]

3154 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?

3155 [No response.]

3156 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader?

3157 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

3158 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

3159 Mr. Cardenas?

3160 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California votes aye.

3161 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

3162 Mr. Ruiz?

3163 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

3164 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

3165 Mr. Peters?

3166 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

3167 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

3168 Mrs. Dingell?
3169 [No response.]
3170 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey?
3171 [No response.]
3172 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?
3173 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
3174 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
3175 Ms. Kelly?
3176 *Ms. Kelly. [Inaudible.]
3177 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3178 Ms. Barragan?
3179 *Ms. Barragan. [Inaudible.]
3180 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3181 Mr. McEachin?
3182 [No response.]
3183 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
3184 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. [Inaudible.]
3185 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
3186 Mr. Soto?
3187 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
3188 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3189 Mr. O'Halleran?
3190 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
3191 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
3192 Miss Rice?

3193 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
3194 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
3195 Ms. Craig?
3196 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
3197 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
3198 Ms. Schrier?
3199 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
3200 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier --
3201 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
3202 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.
3203 Mrs. Trahan?
3204 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
3205 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3206 Mrs. Fletcher?
3207 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3208 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3209 Mrs. Rodgers?
3210 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
3211 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes nay.
3212 Mr. Upton?
3213 *Mr. Upton. Aye.
3214 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes aye.
3215 Mr. Burgess?
3216 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
3217 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.

3218 Mr. Scalise?
3219 [No response.]
3220 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
3221 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
3222 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3223 Mr. Guthrie?
3224 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
3225 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
3226 Mr. McKinley?
3227 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
3228 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
3229 Mr. Kinzinger?
3230 [No response.]
3231 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
3232 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3233 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3234 Mr. Bilirakis?
3235 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
3236 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3237 Mr. Johnson?
3238 *Mr. Johnson. [Inaudible.]
3239 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
3240 *Voice. I am a no?
3241 *The Clerk. Mr. Long?
3242 *Mr. Long. [Inaudible.]

3243 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
3244 Mr. Bucshon?
3245 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3246 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
3247 Mr. Mullin?
3248 *Mr. Mullin. No.
3249 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
3250 Mr. Hudson?
3251 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
3252 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3253 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
3254 [No response.]
3255 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter?
3256 [No response.]
3257 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?
3258 *Mr. Duncan. Mr. Duncan of South Carolina votes no.
3259 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
3260 Mr. Palmer?
3261 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
3262 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3263 Mr. Dunn?
3264 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
3265 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3266 Mr. Curtis?
3267 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

3268 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
3269 Mrs. Lesko?
3270 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
3271 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
3272 Mr. Pence?
3273 *Mr. Pence. [Inaudible.]
3274 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
3275 Mr. Crenshaw?
3276 [No response.]
3277 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
3278 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce from Pennsylvania votes no.
3279 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
3280 Mr. Armstrong?
3281 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]
3282 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
3283 Chairman Pallone?
3284 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
3285 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
3286 *Ms. Clarke. Mr. Chairman?
3287 *Mr. McEachin. Mr. Chairman? This is --
3288 *The Chairman. Yes, Ms. Clarke?
3289 *Mr. McEachin. Aye.
3290 *Ms. Clarke. How am I recorded?
3291 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke is not recorded.
3292 *Ms. Clarke. Ms. Clarke of New York votes aye.

3293 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

3294 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?

3295 *The Chairman. Mr. Tonko?

3296 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.

3297 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

3298 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

3299 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman?

3300 *The Chairman. Mr. -- oh, Mr. Veasey? Mr. Veasey? Is

3301 he recorded?

3302 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

3303 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I vote aye.

3304 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3305 *The Chairman. Ms. Eshoo?

3306 *Mr. McEachin. Mr. Chairman, this --

3307 *Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

3308 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo is not recorded.

3309 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

3310 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

3311 *The Chairman. Ms. DeGette?

3312 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette is not --

3313 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

3314 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3315 *The Chairman. Mr. McEachin, are you seeking to be

3316 recorded?

3317 *Mr. McEachin. Yes, sir. I would like to vote aye.

3318 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.

3319 *The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw is on the screen.

3320 *Mr. Crenshaw. How am I recorded?

3321 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

3322 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

3323 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

3324 *The Chairman. Anyone else? Is Mr. Carter -- did you
3325 get him?

3326 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is not recorded.

3327 *The Chairman. All right. If anyone else -- if not, we
3328 will -- the clerk will report the tally.

3329 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 32 and the nays
3330 were 21.

3331 *The Chairman. The nays are 21? So the vote is 32 ayes
3332 to 21 noes. And therefore, H.Res. 1355 is reported adversely
3333 to the House.

3334 And so now we will go to the next resolution of inquiry,
3335 which is H.Res. 1244. The chair calls up H.Res. 1244, and
3336 the clerk will report the bill.

3337 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1244, a resolution of inquiry
3338 requesting the President and directing --

3339 *The Chairman. And without objection, Madam Clerk, the
3340 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill
3341 is now considered as read.

3342 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and

3343 open for amendment at any point.

3344 [The bill follows:]

3345

3346 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3347

3348 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
3349 recognition to speak on H.Res. 1244?

3350 No? No one wants to speak?

3351 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman?

3352 *The Chairman. Yes?

3353 *Ms. Matsui. I move to strike the last word, if no one
3354 on the other side wants to speak.

3355 *The Chairman. That is fine.

3356 *Ms. Matsui. Okay, thank you.

3357 *The Chairman. Ms. Matsui is recognized.

3358 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
3359 word.

3360 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
3361 minutes.

3362 *Ms. Matsui. I speak today in opposition to this
3363 resolution of inquiry, as it is an overt attempt to deflect
3364 from the accomplishments of the Biden Administration to
3365 combat the COVID-19 pandemic.

3366 Over the past 19 months the Biden Administration has
3367 worked around the clock to make sure that Americans have
3368 access to lifesaving tools like vaccines, treatments, tests,
3369 and masks. And thanks to the resources provided by Congress
3370 and the President's focus on getting Americans vaccinated,
3371 today daily COVID-19 deaths are down nearly 90 percent.
3372 Vaccines continue to save lives, protect the economy, and

3373 accelerate the path out of the pandemic.

3374 As the virus continues to change, the Biden
3375 Administration knows it is critical that Americans stay
3376 protected against the dominant variant. To that end, the
3377 Food and Drug Administration recently authorized and the
3378 Centers for Disease Control and Prevention recommended a new
3379 Omicron-specific COVID-19 booster vaccine. This advancement
3380 makes the U.S. the first nation in the world with updated
3381 vaccines ready to take on the potential increase in
3382 infections in the upcoming fall and winter months.

3383 But success relies on everyone doing their part and
3384 taking common-sense actions to protect themselves and their
3385 communities. That is why the Administration secured over 170
3386 million doses of the updated vaccine, and made those doses
3387 free, widely available, and easy to access for all Americans.
3388 But rather than prioritizing efforts to sustain the progress
3389 we have made and save more lives, my Republican colleagues
3390 are insistent on downplaying just how important the
3391 Administration's leadership has been to public health.

3392 I remind this committee where we were as a nation less
3393 than two years ago. COVID-19 continued to decimate American
3394 life. And while the development of multiple, highly
3395 effective vaccines less than a year after the virus was first
3396 discovered was a scientific victory, the Trump
3397 Administration's failure to plan for the distribution and

3398 administration had limited the vaccine's impact. That made
3399 the Biden Administration's help to foster vital relationships
3400 between Federal agencies, private businesses, and trusted
3401 community partners to advance safe and effective vaccination
3402 in the midst of a pandemic even more vital. As a result,
3403 more than 612 million COVID-19 vaccine doses have been
3404 administered over the past two years.

3405 This partisan resolution only distracts the important
3406 next steps Congress should take to ensure the nation
3407 continues to effectively manage COVID-19. We should be
3408 focused on preparing our communities, schools, and businesses
3409 with the tools they need to keep moving forward safely and
3410 working together to pass funding to get vaccines and boosters
3411 to those who need them the most.

3412 The Department of Health and Human Services has been
3413 transparent in providing public information to both Congress
3414 and the American people on the safety and efficacy of the
3415 COVID-19 vaccines, as well as the vaccine development process
3416 and timeline. That transparency makes clear that the
3417 undefined and unlimited scope, along with the lack of
3418 question within the language of this resolution inquiry,
3419 indicates little serious intent of the request. Rather, this
3420 resolution is purely a political ploy, neither to promote
3421 anti-vaccine doubt and conspiracies (sic). And that is why I
3422 encourage my colleagues to reject this resolution.

3423 Thank you, and I yield back.

3424 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Does anyone
3425 else want to speak?

3426 Dr. Burgess is recognized for five minutes.

3427 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I would just
3428 say at the outset that I have been vaccinated and boosted.
3429 In fact, I received my first vaccination prior to President
3430 Biden being inaugurated. So those vaccines that were
3431 available to the Trump Administration, I availed myself of
3432 those. I am grateful the Trump Administration worked so hard
3433 on Operation Warp Speed and got the vaccine developed.

3434 But as I said previously on the previous resolution of
3435 inquiry, currently our public health institutions have
3436 suffered a hit to their credibility. And we, as a committee,
3437 we should be working to restore that credibility.

3438 So there is nothing in the language of this resolution
3439 of inquiry that casts any aspersions or doubt. It just says
3440 that we want any correspondence, recorded communication that
3441 refers or relates to the COVID-19 vaccine to the extent that
3442 it is in possession of the Administration. So it is merely a
3443 request for information, and our committee should be the one
3444 to receive that information.

3445 Look, I have been trying for over a year. We hear news
3446 reports that there are excess mortality figures. There are
3447 mortality figures reported in this country that are in excess

3448 of what they should be, even considering coronavirus, even
3449 considering the fentanyl crisis, that mortality rates are
3450 increased. I would like to know, and I think the committee
3451 should like to know what is going on here. And yet when I
3452 ask the CDC those questions, I get no answer or non-answers.

3453 Well, we need to stop that in this committee. We are --
3454 in many cases, we are the court of last appeal for the people
3455 in this country. So Dr. Gosar has put forward a resolution
3456 saying, look, Administration, just show us your work, show us
3457 your data, show us what you got. And then the committee can
3458 decide the hearings, the witnesses, and make the decisions.

3459 This resolution is just merely a request for
3460 information. And I, for one, think this committee should be
3461 seeking that. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will yield back.

3462 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else?
3463 Otherwise, we are going to go to a recorded vote on the
3464 resolution of the inquiry.

3465 And a recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor of,
3466 again, adversely reporting H.Res. 1244 to the House will say
3467 aye; those opposed will say no. Again, if you don't like the
3468 resolution, you should vote aye. If you like the resolution,
3469 you should vote no.

3470 The clerk shall call the roll.

3471 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

3472 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes no.

3473 *The Chairman. Again, if you don't like the resolution,
3474 you should vote aye. If you don't -- if you like the
3475 resolution, you should vote no.

3476 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

3477 *The Chairman. Thank you.

3478 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

3479 Ms. Eshoo?

3480 [No response.]

3481 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?

3482 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

3483 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3484 Mr. Doyle?

3485 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

3486 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

3487 Ms. Schakowsky?

3488 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

3489 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3490 Mr. Butterfield?

3491 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

3492 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

3493 Ms. Matsui?

3494 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

3495 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

3496 Ms. Castor?

3497 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

3498 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3499 Mr. Sarbanes?
3500 *Mr. Sarbanes. [Inaudible.]
3501 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
3502 Mr. McNerney?
3503 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
3504 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
3505 Mr. Welch?
3506 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
3507 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
3508 Mr. Tonko?
3509 *Mr. Tonko. [Inaudible.]
3510 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3511 Ms. Clarke?
3512 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
3513 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3514 Mr. Schrader?
3515 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]
3516 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.
3517 Mr. Cardenas?
3518 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California, I vote aye.
3519 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
3520 Mr. Ruiz?
3521 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
3522 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

3523 Mr. Peters?

3524 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

3525 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

3526 Mrs. Dingell?

3527 *Mrs. Dingell. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

3528 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

3529 Mr. Veasey?

3530 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

3531 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

3532 Ms. Kuster?

3533 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

3534 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

3535 Ms. Kelly?

3536 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

3537 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

3538 Ms. Barragan?

3539 *Ms. Barragan. [Inaudible.]

3540 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

3541 Mr. McEachin?

3542 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

3543 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.

3544 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

3545 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

3546 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

3547 Mr. Soto?

3548 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
3549 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3550 Mr. O'Halleran?
3551 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
3552 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
3553 Miss Rice?
3554 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
3555 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
3556 Ms. Craig?
3557 *Ms. Craig. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
3558 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
3559 Ms. Schrier?
3560 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
3561 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3562 Mrs. Trahan?
3563 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
3564 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3565 Mrs. Fletcher?
3566 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3567 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3568 Mrs. Rodgers?
3569 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
3570 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
3571 Mr. Upton?
3572 *Mr. Upton. No.

3573 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
3574 Mr. Burgess?
3575 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
3576 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
3577 Mr. Scalise?
3578 [No response.]
3579 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
3580 *Mr. Latta. No.
3581 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3582 Mr. Guthrie?
3583 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
3584 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
3585 Mr. McKinley?
3586 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
3587 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
3588 Mr. Kinzinger?
3589 [No response.]
3590 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
3591 *Mr. Griffith. [Inaudible.]
3592 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3593 Mr. Bilirakis?
3594 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
3595 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3596 Mr. Johnson?
3597 *Mr. Johnson. No.

3598 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
3599 Mr. Long?
3600 *Mr. Long. No.
3601 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
3602 Mr. Bucshon?
3603 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3604 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
3605 Mr. Mullin?
3606 *Mr. Mullin. No.
3607 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
3608 Mr. Hudson?
3609 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
3610 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3611 Mr. Walberg?
3612 [No response.]
3613 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter?
3614 [No response.]
3615 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?
3616 *Mr. Duncan. No.
3617 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
3618 Mr. Palmer?
3619 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
3620 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
3621 Mr. Dunn?
3622 *Mr. Dunn. No.

3623 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
3624 Mr. Curtis?
3625 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
3626 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
3627 Mrs. Lesko?
3628 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
3629 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
3630 Mr. Pence?
3631 *Mr. Pence. No.
3632 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
3633 Mr. Crenshaw?
3634 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
3635 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
3636 Mr. Joyce?
3637 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
3638 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
3639 Mr. Armstrong?
3640 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]
3641 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
3642 Chairman Pallone?
3643 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
3644 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
3645 *The Chairman. Anyone who wants to be recorded that
3646 hasn't been?
3647 Ms. Eshoo?

3648 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

3649 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

3650 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

3651 That is it? All right. The clerk will report the
3652 tally.

3653 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
3654 32 and the nays were 22.

3655 *The Chairman. So the vote is -- there is somebody else
3656 now? All right. The vote is 32 ayes to 22 noes. H.Res.
3657 1244, as reported -- is reported adversely to the full House.

3658 And I guess we should say that all members shall have
3659 two additional days in which to file supplemental,
3660 additional, minority, and dissenting views, and the chair
3661 intends to file the report for H.Res. 1244 with the House on
3662 Monday.

3663 [Pause.]

3664 *Ms. Kelly. [Presiding] The chair calls up H.Res. 1258.
3665 The clerk will report the bill.

3666 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1258, of inquiry directing --

3667 *Voice. Walberg votes no.

3668 *The Clerk. -- the Secretary of Health and Human
3669 Services to provide certain documentation --

3670 *Ms. Kelly. Without objection, the first reading of the
3671 bill will be dispensed with. The bill is now considered as
3672 read.

3673 Without objection, the bill is considered as read and
3674 open for any amendment at any point.

3675 [The bill follows:]

3676

3677 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3678

3679 *Voice. I guess you have to wait to --

3680 *Ms. Kelly. Are there any members seeking recognition
3681 to speak on H.Res. 1258?

3682 *Voice. Mr. Pence?

3683 *Mr. Dunn. Madam Chair?

3684 *Voice. Mr. Pence votes no.

3685 Mr. Crenshaw?

3686 *Voice. That is Mr. Walberg.

3687 *Ms. Kelly. Yes, Mr. Walberg?

3688 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Dunn from Florida.

3689 *Ms. Kelly. Sorry. Sorry, Dr. Dunn.

3690 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you. Thank you, Madam Chair. I
3691 introduced this resolution because I have serious concerns
3692 about the Biden Administration's repeated efforts to skirt
3693 the legislative process and the law to pursue policy
3694 objectives.

3695 Today Puerto Rico is reeling from the destruction left
3696 behind by Hurricane Fiona, and my thoughts and prayers are
3697 with the millions of individuals impacted on the island. My
3698 district is no stranger to disaster, so I know Puerto Rico
3699 will need our assistance in the coming days and weeks. And
3700 this is, in fact, why we have a union of states and
3701 territories.

3702 And, as in the aftermath of Hurricane Maria in 2017,
3703 this committee was equipped to provide the funding and policy

3704 needs for Puerto Rico, and I hope we can all agree that it
3705 should be Congress, not the Administration, deciding to
3706 appropriate those funds. That brings us to my resolution.

3707 Each of us in this room knows that the GAO found the
3708 Biden Administration's unilateral decision to permanently
3709 boost the Puerto Rico's Federal Medicaid budget to be
3710 illegal. I would like to ask for unanimous consent to enter
3711 the GAO and CRS reports that analyzed this policy into the
3712 record.

3713 *Ms. Kelly. [Inaudible.]

3714 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you.

3715 [The information follows:]

3716

3717 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3718

3719 *Mr. Dunn. This resolution of inquiry simply asks the
3720 Biden Administration to produce documents related to that
3721 decision. To oppose this resolution would be to set a bad
3722 precedent wherein the executive department can bend the law
3723 to their wishes with no accounting and no oversight.

3724 It is our job in Congress to hold the executive branch
3725 accountable in order to be better stewards of taxpayer
3726 dollars and represent the wishes of our constituents. We
3727 absolutely should be having a conversation in this committee
3728 regarding the needs of Puerto Rico when it comes to Medicaid
3729 funding.

3730 And to be clear, supporting this resolution does not
3731 suggest that Puerto Rico is undeserving of support. As we
3732 all know, this committee worked hard in a bipartisan manner
3733 to authorize funding and FMAP increases for Puerto Rico.
3734 Let's continue that conversation.

3735 In the meantime, I ask my colleagues to support my
3736 resolution of inquiry, and will yield to any members of our
3737 conference -- yes, Dr. Burgess, I yield to you the remaining
3738 time.

3739 *Mr. Burgess. Well, Dr. Dunn, thank you for yielding.
3740 I am going to reluctantly oppose. I -- and largely because
3741 of the condition the island is under right now. It doesn't
3742 mean that your concerns are not well placed. And indeed,
3743 this committee has a track record of having worked on both

3744 Medicare and Medicaid issues in Puerto Rico, and I believe
3745 that has worked -- that should continue.

3746 But oh, my gosh, right now just doesn't seem like the
3747 time to be asking them for additional information. And I
3748 realize your request is the Department of Health and Human
3749 Services, but it is really an all-hands-on-deck moment for
3750 Puerto Rico.

3751 Chairman Pallone will remember former Chairman Walden
3752 took us down there on a CODEL after the two hurricanes from
3753 several years ago. Their infrastructure, which was already
3754 not great, was then completely devastated by two hurricanes.
3755 And we had, I think it was, more of an Energy Subcommittee
3756 hearing that we -- field hearing that we had.

3757 But Puerto Rico needs a lot of attention. It needs a
3758 lot of help. I do think that our committee's work on the
3759 Medicare and Medicaid issue is important, and must continue.
3760 The timing of this, though, right now makes me uncomfortable.
3761 So reluctantly, I am going to be opposing the gentleman's
3762 resolution.

3763 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you. I yield back.

3764 *Ms. Kelly. [Inaudible.]

3765 *Mr. Soto. Thank you so much, Madam Chair, and I
3766 appreciate all of the speakers here in committee today
3767 recognizing that Hurricane Fiona just literally rammed
3768 through Puerto Rico and the Virgin Islands, and is headed to

3769 our brothers and sisters across the Caribbean. And thank
3770 you, Dr. Dunn, for recognizing that in your remarks. I
3771 certainly agree with Dr. Burgess that now is not the time to
3772 be really pushing on this issue.

3773 We know there is a statutory formula. We know that
3774 prior to and beyond this moment we will see HHS and GAO have
3775 disagreements from time to time; that is what the courts are
3776 for. Our time is better spent making sure that Puerto Rico
3777 gets every dollar it can for the Medicare and Medicaid
3778 programs during this time of need.

3779 We see FEMA has gotten better at this, right? They have
3780 staged different centers geographically throughout the
3781 island. That was based upon the bipartisan oversight efforts
3782 of this Congress.

3783 In addition, I want to recognize Mr. Bilirakis, who has
3784 been my co-lead on these issues related to getting Medicare
3785 equality.

3786 Obviously, we all want to come to a solution to this,
3787 and the House has been pretty good on it. It is the Senate
3788 that has really kind of pushed us back on it.

3789 And so, when we look at what we are dealing with in the
3790 wake of Hurricane Maria, and now with Fiona, we want to make
3791 sure we can continue to make -- keep this issue bipartisan,
3792 and focus on all the health care funding we can so that we
3793 don't see further tragedies in the past (sic).

3794 So I appreciate the debate by Dr. Dunn, and certainly
3795 oppose for the same reasons that Dr. Burgess has, which is
3796 now is not the time. Now is the time to come together to
3797 make sure we can help Americans on both Puerto Rico and in
3798 the Virgin Islands after this very trying hurricane.

3799 And I yield back.

3800 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
3801 members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1258?

3802 Seeing no members, a recorded vote is ordered. Those in
3803 favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1258 to the House will
3804 say aye; those opposed will say no; the clerk shall call the
3805 roll.

3806 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

3807 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

3808 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

3809 Ms. Eshoo?

3810 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

3811 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

3812 Ms. DeGette?

3813 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

3814 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

3815 Mr. Doyle?

3816 [No response.]

3817 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

3818 [No response.]

3819 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield?
3820 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.
3821 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
3822 Ms. Matsui?
3823 [No response.]
3824 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?
3825 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3826 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3827 Mr. Sarbanes?
3828 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
3829 *Voice. I am sorry that -- and if you --
3830 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
3831 Mr. McNerney?
3832 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
3833 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
3834 Mr. Welch?
3835 *Mr. Welch. Welch votes aye.
3836 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
3837 Mr. Tonko?
3838 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
3839 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3840 Ms. Clarke?
3841 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
3842 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3843 Mr. Schrader?

3844 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.
3845 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.
3846 Mr. Cardenas?
3847 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California, I vote aye.
3848 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
3849 Mr. Ruiz?
3850 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
3851 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3852 Mr. Peters?
3853 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
3854 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3855 Mrs. Dingell?
3856 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]
3857 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3858 Mr. Veasey?
3859 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
3860 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3861 Ms. Kuster?
3862 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
3863 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
3864 Ms. Kelly?
3865 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
3866 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
3867 Ms. Barragan?
3868 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

3869 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3870 Mr. McEachin?
3871 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
3872 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
3873 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
3874 [No response.]
3875 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
3876 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3877 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3878 Mr. O'Halleran?
3879 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
3880 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
3881 Miss Rice?
3882 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
3883 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
3884 Ms. Craig?
3885 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
3886 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
3887 Ms. Schrier?
3888 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
3889 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3890 Mrs. Trahan?
3891 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
3892 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3893 Mrs. Fletcher?

3894 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
3895 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
3896 Mrs. Rodgers?
3897 *Mrs. Rodgers. Rodgers votes no.
3898 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
3899 Mr. Upton?
3900 [No response.]
3901 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
3902 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes aye.
3903 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes aye.
3904 Mr. Scalise?
3905 [No response.]
3906 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
3907 [No response.]
3908 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
3909 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
3910 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
3911 Mr. Guthrie?
3912 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
3913 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
3914 Mr. McKinley?
3915 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
3916 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
3917 Mr. Kinzinger?
3918 [No response.]

3919 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
3920 *Mr. Griffith. No.
3921 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
3922 Mr. Bilirakis?
3923 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
3924 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
3925 Mr. Johnson?
3926 *Mr. Johnson. No.
3927 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
3928 Mr. Long?
3929 *Mr. Long. No.
3930 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
3931 Mr. Bucshon?
3932 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
3933 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
3934 Mr. Mullin?
3935 *Mr. Mullin. No.
3936 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
3937 Mr. Hudson?
3938 *Mr. Hudson. No. Hudson votes no.
3939 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
3940 Mr. Walberg?
3941 [No response.]
3942 *Voice. How is everybody?
3943 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter?

3944 [No response.]

3945 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?

3946 *Mr. Duncan. No.

3947 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

3948 Mr. Palmer?

3949 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

3950 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

3951 Mr. Dunn?

3952 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn, no.

3953 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

3954 Mr. Curtis?

3955 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

3956 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

3957 Mrs. Lesko?

3958 *Mrs. Lesko. No.

3959 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

3960 Mr. Pence?

3961 *Mr. Pence. No.

3962 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

3963 Mr. Crenshaw?

3964 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

3965 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

3966 Mr. Joyce?

3967 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

3968 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

3969 Mr. Armstrong?

3970 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

3971 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

3972 Chairman Pallone?

3973 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

3974 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

3975 *Mr. Doyle. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

3976 *Ms. Kelly. Mr. Doyle?

3977 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle is not recorded.

3978 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

3979 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

3980 *Ms. Kelly. Ms. Schakowsky?

3981 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes yes.

3982 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

3983 *Mr. Walberg. Walberg?

3984 *Ms. Kelly. Mr. Walberg?

3985 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg is not recorded.

3986 *Mr. Walberg. Votes no.

3987 *The Clerk. Mr. --

3988 *Ms. Kelly. Ms. Blunt Rochester.

3989 *The Clerk. -- Walberg votes no.

3990 *Ms. Kelly. Ms. Blunt Rochester.

3991 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. How am I recorded?

3992 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester is not recorded.

3993 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

3994 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

3995 *Ms. Kelly. Does any member wish to change his or her
3996 vote?

3997 If not, the clerk will report the tally.

3998 *Voice. Actually, Mr. Upton. Mr. Upton.

3999 *Ms. Kelly. Mr. Upton?

4000 *Mr. Upton. I vote no.

4001 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.

4002 [Pause.]

4003 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas are 32 and the nays
4004 are 22.

4005 *Ms. Kelly. Thirty-two to twenty-two. The vote is 32
4006 ayes to 22 noes. H.Res. 1258 is reported adversely to the
4007 House.

4008 The chair calls up H.Res. 1263. The clerk will report
4009 the bill.

4010 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1263, a resolution of inquiry
4011 directing the President to provide certain documents in the
4012 President's possession --

4013 *Ms. Kelly. Without objection, the first reading of the
4014 bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now considered as
4015 read.

4016

4017

4018

4019 [The bill follows:]

4020

4021 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4022

4023 *Ms. Kelly. Are there any members seeking recognition
4024 to speak on H.Res. 1263?

4025 *Mr. Bucshon. Madam Chair?

4026 *Voice. Mr. Bucshon, Dr. Bucshon.

4027 *Ms. Kelly. Dr. Bucshon is recognized for five minutes.

4028 *Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, I appreciate that.

4029 I introduced this resolution seeking accountability and
4030 transparency for the hardworking Americans whose tax dollars
4031 have been obligated to pay for COVID-19 relief measures. My
4032 inquiries are simple. I wish to know how the Administration
4033 has spent the funds made available by the American Rescue
4034 Plan, and what data and analysis it is using to justify
4035 additional requests for COVID funding.

4036 According to the independent and non-partisan Committee
4037 for a Responsible Federal Budget, Congress has approved 11
4038 pieces of legislation that include some form of COVID relief
4039 funding. One bill alone, the American Rescue Plan, accounts
4040 for the bulk of this spending. The total price tag for the
4041 ARP was \$1.9 trillion. And despite being advertised as a
4042 COVID relief bill, reports are suggesting that only about
4043 nine percent of the American Rescue Plan funding is actually
4044 related to the virus.

4045 So where is the money going? It is certainly not
4046 helping my constituents, who are suffering under the
4047 inflation caused by this spending. The cost of living is

4048 skyrocketing for Hoosiers in my home state of Indiana and all
4049 Americans. Our economy is truly bearing the burden of the
4050 American Rescue Plan inflation-inducing spending. And yet
4051 the Biden Administration continues to ask for more COVID
4052 relief funding.

4053 What we need right now is an honest accounting of how
4054 COVID relief dollars are being spent or have been spent.

4055 *Voice. Here it goes.

4056 *Mr. Bucshon. How much remains from previous
4057 legislation, and why is more needed. This is important to
4058 our constituents, whose taxpayer dollars we are spending, as
4059 well as to all policy-makers who now need to decide whether
4060 additional spending is warranted.

4061 We must have transparency on COVID relief spending.
4062 This should be bipartisan. To that end, I urge all my
4063 colleagues to report H.Res. 1263 favorably to the House
4064 today.

4065 Thank you, and I yield back --

4066 *Mr. Guthrie. Will the gentleman yield? Would the
4067 gentleman --

4068 *Mr. Bucshon. I will yield.

4069 *Mr. Guthrie. Just -- thanks. I just want to add to
4070 what you said.

4071 As we know, when the -- when COVID previously struck
4072 under the previous Administration, we had four different

4073 bills. We all worked together in a bipartisan way to make
4074 sure we had COVID funding in emergency situations in the
4075 right place at the right time, and it resulted in, on January
4076 20th, 2021, almost a million people being vaccinated that
4077 day.

4078 And then we immediately went into the American Rescue
4079 Plan, that nine percent of the funding. You know, throughout
4080 this some of the money in the American Rescue Plan has been
4081 850 million from the Strategic National Stockpile that has
4082 been diverted, 2 billion towards the border has been
4083 diverted. And so we just need an accounting of these funds.

4084 And then I also point out that, since the President has
4085 talked about the emergency pandemic is over, then we really
4086 need to unwind the emergency spending if the emergency is
4087 over, and put it into the routine budget process, like all
4088 other diseases that we still have. I am not saying COVID has
4089 gone away, but it certainly needs to be in the category with
4090 everything else that we are dealing with, with the proper
4091 congressional oversight.

4092 I thank my friend from Indiana for yielding, and I will
4093 yield back.

4094 *Mr. Bucshon. Anyone else on my side?

4095 I yield back.

4096 *Mr. Bilirakis. Well, I -- anyway, I will take my five
4097 minutes. Thank you, thank you. Madam Chair?

4098 *Voice. I think Mrs. Dingell.

4099 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay.

4100 *Ms. Kelly. Go to -- Mrs. Dingell is recognized for
4101 five minutes.

4102 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I move to
4103 strike the last word and speak in opposition to 1263.

4104 H. Resolution 1263 is unwarranted, and nothing more than
4105 a fishing expedition to disrupt this committee's critical
4106 work. This resolution would require the Biden Administration
4107 to provide documents to Congress on information related to
4108 spending on -- at-home COVID-19 testing kits, funding from
4109 the American Rescue Plan that has not yet been spent, and the
4110 development of the COVID-19 supplemental funding request.

4111 This information this resolution is seeking has largely
4112 been made available to Congress and the American public,
4113 despite our Republican colleagues' attempt to suggest
4114 otherwise.

4115 This resolution requests information on spending for at-
4116 home COVID-19 tests, which were critical resources in
4117 mitigating the rapid proliferation of the dangerous COVID-19
4118 variants. Over the course of the last year the
4119 Administration acted several times to secure important at-
4120 home COVID-19 testing kits, and publicly announced these
4121 efforts. It first announced \$2 billion in September 2021,
4122 another billion dollars for at-home tests in October.

4123 Similarly, the Administration announced \$2 billion in January
4124 of this year for COVID-19 tests.

4125 Americans nationwide depended on consistent access to
4126 these tests to protect their families, loved ones, and
4127 communities. But after a year of success, the Administration
4128 announced the end of this program just last month, largely
4129 due to Republicans' obstruction of new funds to support it.
4130 And I don't know about my colleagues, but I have a lot of
4131 constituents very upset that they can't find tests or afford
4132 them at a time kids are back in school, and fall and winter
4133 flu season is approaching.

4134 Next our Republican colleagues' requests for information
4135 relating to the development of the Administration's
4136 supplemental funding request is unjustified, given the
4137 Administration has already made publicly available the
4138 specific needs and project costs for its request. The White
4139 House even sent a detailed funding request to Congress on
4140 March 2nd of this year.

4141 Without sustained funding to combat the pandemic, we
4142 risk losing progress on the strides we have made in COVID-19
4143 treatments, access to booster shots, and vaccines that
4144 protect against emerging variants. Yet Republicans have dug
4145 in their heels and refused to support these important needs.

4146 Regarding the American Rescue Plan's COVID-19 funding,
4147 the information this resolution seeks is already widely

4148 available to my colleagues across the aisle. An accounting
4149 of the COVID-19 funds obligated through this law were
4150 announced through a series of press releases and briefings to
4151 both the public and Congress.

4152 In addition, when funds from the American Rescue Plan
4153 were obligated, the Administration made a public
4154 announcement.

4155 On top of this, the Department of Health and Human
4156 Services also operates a public website accounting for the
4157 total amount of COVID-19 funds provided in every law passed
4158 by Congress, including detailed information on how it has
4159 been spent.

4160 While we may all be tired of the pandemic, the reality
4161 is the pandemic is not over. I always say COVID is done --
4162 we may be done with COVID, but COVID is not done with us.

4163 But we are -- our nation is in a very different place
4164 than we were after the outbreak of the pandemic, thanks to
4165 the funding and policies this committee advanced to mount an
4166 effective health response. But we can't backtrack on this
4167 progress, and additional funding is necessary to continue
4168 putting up this fight.

4169 We have new COVID-19 cases and deaths every day. Nearly
4170 3,000 Americans are still dying from COVID each week, and
4171 Republicans' refusals to provide sustained resources that
4172 will prevent these deaths is a challenge we got to work

4173 through together. Protecting the health of Americans
4174 shouldn't be a partisan issue. The pandemic continues to
4175 take a devastating economic and health toll on every
4176 community across the nation, which is why the Democrats' top
4177 priority has been bringing vital relief to the American
4178 people.

4179 Through the American Rescue Plan we gave American
4180 families immediate financial relief through the economic
4181 payments for the expansion of the Child Tax Credit, which
4182 reduced poverty by 30 percent.

4183 None of this would not -- there are a lot more things --
4184 I am running out of time, but none of this would have been
4185 possible without the American Rescue Plan, and this committee
4186 should remain focused on advancing other initiatives to help
4187 the American people, not have political issues like this.

4188 Please, it is disappointing we are -- do this. And I --
4189 it -- I don't believe that this resolution is necessary.

4190 Thank you, Madam Chair, and I yield back.

4191 *Ms. Kelly. The gentlewoman yields back. Congressman
4192 Bilirakis is recognized --

4193 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you.

4194 *Ms. Kelly. -- for five minutes.

4195 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Madam Chair.

4196 I want to thank Dr. Bucshon for his resolution, which
4197 seeks much-needed transparency on the methodologies and

4198 models used to justify the Administration's COVID-19
4199 supplemental budget request.

4200 We are in the midst of an inflation crisis we haven't
4201 seen in almost -- actually, 50-plus years. August's 8.3
4202 percent inflation rate remains significantly high, and the
4203 economy is reeling. What has the Biden Administration done
4204 to account for this? More spending. That is their answer,
4205 more spending.

4206 The so-called -- the American Rescue Plan pumped
4207 trillions of dollars into additional government spending out
4208 the door. And that was before we have even exhausted all the
4209 money put out by the CARES Act the year prior, and the money
4210 that had just gone out from the December 2020 omnibus.

4211 Whether it was the \$2 billion that was sent to
4212 non-existent county governments or the \$780 million that went
4213 to convicted prisoners, more money had flowed through than
4214 most even knew about. Again, and yet this Administration
4215 continues to ask for more, seemingly without analyzing what
4216 was already obligated or expended in COVID relief funds.

4217 In fact, the Administration diverted \$2 billion of
4218 public health money to help house immigrants along the
4219 southern border, including \$850 million that Congress had
4220 originally put towards the Strategic National Stockpile, and
4221 another \$850 million to help expand testing and other
4222 critical COVID-19 response efforts. Despite this re-

4223 diverting of funds, this White House then turned around and
4224 suggested we provide additional billions of dollars in COVID
4225 relief money.

4226 It is no wonder we have massive labor shortages and
4227 inflation riding -- rising at record rates. We are just
4228 pouring fuel on the fire, and it has to stop.

4229 We are well past to -- time to learn more about the
4230 President's justification and accounting of funds that were
4231 available and not yet expended, and what projections they
4232 were using for their COVID budget request. So I urge my
4233 colleagues to vote for this ROI by Dr. Bucshon.

4234 And again, I yield back the balance of my time, unless
4235 someone else wants my time on our side.

4236 No? Okay. Thank you very much, I yield back.

4237 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
4238 members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1263?

4239 *Mr. Duncan. Congressman Duncan is recognized for five
4240 minutes.

4241 *Mrs. Dingell. Are we going to vote?

4242 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Madam Chair, and I want to
4243 thank the gentleman for putting this inquiry in place.

4244 You know, the elephant in the room is that after the
4245 pandemic was announced in 2020, flu deaths suddenly
4246 disappeared. It is almost statistically impossible for the
4247 flu to go away, and everything become COVID.

4248 But the question I have -- and the reason I think this
4249 inquiry is so important -- is was there some sort of
4250 incentive given to hospitals to code everything as a COVID
4251 death?

4252 *Mrs. Dingell. Oh, God, give me a break.

4253 *Mr. Duncan. Or every patient that came in sick with
4254 some sort of upper respiratory infection to suddenly be coded
4255 COVID-19?

4256 Money, economic incentives, can get people to do a lot
4257 of things. So I am curious whether the hospitals -- whether
4258 the Administration directed the hospitals to code everything
4259 COVID-19.

4260 And then was there other financial incentives to
4261 possibly tweak the numbers? If everything is a COVID death,
4262 then the numbers are higher.

4263 These are questions the American people have. These
4264 aren't questions that just members on this side of the aisle
4265 have. Republicans, Democrats, everyone.

4266 During the COVID-19 pandemic we shut too many elderly
4267 Americans up and kept them from being able to see their loved
4268 ones. And that was hard on many senior adults, and resulted
4269 in many fatalities just from loneliness.

4270 I think there are so many questions as to this
4271 Administration's continuing response to COVID-19. Even the
4272 fact that the President said on 60 Minutes that the pandemic

4273 is over, and then suddenly the White House backs that up and
4274 says, no, it is not. I think that directly relates to
4275 funding, because they need to come back to Congress and ask
4276 you guys in a CR to continue the COVID-19 funding at
4277 unprecedented levels, if you take it holistically. The
4278 President said it was over, and they backed it up. They
4279 backed that statement up and said, no, it is not.

4280 I don't know if we know if COVID-19 is over or not. But
4281 I do think that the American people and their elected
4282 representatives here in the United States Congress deserve
4283 answers, and we have the right to see the documents and to
4284 get a clear picture and understanding on how the funding
4285 sources were directed, whether there were incentives put in
4286 place, whether the numbers were skewed, especially when it
4287 comes to funding at a time when we are \$30 trillion in debt,
4288 31.

4289 American people deserve that. We deserve it. We are
4290 asking for it. And I hope we expect it, as elected officials
4291 representing 770,000 people.

4292 And with that I will be glad to yield --

4293 *Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentleman yield?

4294 *Mr. Duncan. Yes, sir. I will yield to Mr. Bucshon.

4295 *Mr. Bucshon. Yes, I just want to say on the data
4296 situation -- and this isn't necessarily particularly directed
4297 at the Administration, but it is -- but the reality is we did

4298 put in place, Congress did, a financial incentive on COVID-19
4299 diagnoses at hospitals because they were overwhelmed. And
4300 then that has continued.

4301 And there is -- and so there was a financial incentive
4302 to use coding, hospital coding, to obtain more payment. That
4303 is not my opinion. There is solid data out of New York
4304 State, in fact, that shows that, in many cases, hospital
4305 deaths that were recorded by COVID -- in fact, these were
4306 people that died with COVID, not of COVID, but because of the
4307 coding situation were recorded as a COVID death.

4308 And so I do think in medicine it is critical to have
4309 actual solid data that is factual and correct. And the
4310 information out of New York shows us that the number of COVID
4311 deaths being reported around the country are over-inflated
4312 because people are dying with COVID of heart attacks and
4313 other things.

4314 *Mr. Duncan. But not of COVID. I will reclaim my time.

4315 *Mr. Bucshon. But not of COVID.

4316 *Mr. Duncan. I appreciate -- bringing that point up.

4317 At the same time, CMS goes into assisted living
4318 facilities, and if they don't have there is dotted properly
4319 and their Ts crossed, they withhold Medicare funding from the
4320 assisted living facilities. It is amazing, how CMS treats
4321 one source of funding and tries to find a way not to pay the
4322 assisted living facilities. But yet, on the other hand, all

4323 this money is available; if you code something a certain way
4324 you get it. That is asinine, folks. And we need to see the
4325 documents so we can make better decisions.

4326 With that I yield back.

4327 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
4328 other members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1263?

4329 *Voice. Mr. Palmer, Gary Palmer.

4330 *Ms. Kelly. I recognize Mr. Palmer for five minutes.

4331 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the chairman. I move to strike
4332 the last word and speak in support of Mr. Bucshon's
4333 resolution of inquiry.

4334 And I want to start off -- the issue was raised by one
4335 of our colleagues noting that people can't afford their home
4336 COVID test, and I appreciate that. But I would like to point
4337 out that, because of the Biden Administration and the
4338 Democrat majority's policies, they also can't afford gas for
4339 their cars, they can't afford groceries for their families,
4340 they can't afford school supplies for their kids, and they
4341 can't afford their utility bills that they are going to be
4342 faced with this winter to heat their homes adequately.

4343 It should also be noted in regard to the number of
4344 deaths that was -- that have been mentioned, that there -- we
4345 are averaging over 2,000 drug overdose deaths per day. I
4346 would commend to my Democratic colleagues, if you want to
4347 spend some money, spend it on securing the border and

4348 stopping the flow of fentanyl and other deadly drugs into
4349 this country.

4350 I also want to point out that there is an oversight
4351 issue in regard to the COVID funding that has not been
4352 addressed. Left-wing and right-wing media have all noted
4353 that we are facing perhaps the greatest financial fraud in
4354 the history of the United States, somewhere in the range of
4355 \$80 billion of PPP loan money has been stolen. Somewhere in
4356 the range of 160 billion -- and I think it may be more than
4357 that -- in unemployment assistance has been stolen. And we
4358 are just getting started on this.

4359 And I want to know where this committee is in its
4360 oversight function to look into the fraud that is taking
4361 place, because this Administration has failed in one of its
4362 most fundamental responsibilities, and that is the oversight
4363 of U.S. resources and taxpayer dollars. So I think that it
4364 is an issue here when you talk about wanting more money.

4365 Republicans offered a bill a while back to allow states
4366 to use 25 percent of the COVID funding that they were holding
4367 to improve their unemployment administration, to eliminate
4368 fraud, to eliminate mistakes. And my colleagues wouldn't
4369 take that up.

4370 So, you know, I don't know how many of you understand
4371 fundamental economics, but money supply drives inflation.
4372 And you keep dumping more money into it, and you make life

4373 harder for American families across the board.

4374 And I yield back.

4375 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
4376 other members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1263?

4377 Seeing none, a recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor
4378 of adversely reporting H.Res. 1263 to the House will say aye;
4379 those opposed will say no; the clerk shall call the roll.

4380 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

4381 [No response.]

4382 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

4383 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes yes.

4384 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

4385 Ms. DeGette?

4386 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

4387 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

4388 Mr. Doyle?

4389 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

4390 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

4391 Ms. Schakowsky?

4392 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

4393 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

4394 Mr. Butterfield?

4395 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

4396 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

4397 Ms. Matsui?

4398 *Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.
4399 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4400 Ms. Castor?
4401 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4402 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4403 Mr. Sarbanes?
4404 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
4405 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
4406 Mr. McNerney?
4407 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
4408 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
4409 Mr. Welch?
4410 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
4411 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
4412 Mr. Tonko?
4413 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
4414 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4415 Ms. Clarke?
4416 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
4417 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4418 Mr. Schrader?
4419 [No response.]
4420 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
4421 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, I
4422 will be voting aye.

4423 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
4424 Mr. Ruiz?
4425 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
4426 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4427 Mr. Peters?
4428 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
4429 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4430 Mrs. Dingell?
4431 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.
4432 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4433 Mr. Veasey?
4434 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
4435 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4436 Ms. Kuster?
4437 [No response.]
4438 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
4439 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
4440 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4441 Ms. Barragan?
4442 *Ms. Barragan. [Inaudible.]
4443 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4444 Mr. McEachin?
4445 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
4446 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
4447 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

4448 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
4449 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
4450 Mr. Soto?
4451 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
4452 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4453 Mr. O'Halleran?
4454 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
4455 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
4456 Miss Rice?
4457 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
4458 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
4459 Ms. Craig?
4460 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
4461 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
4462 Ms. Schrier?
4463 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
4464 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4465 Mrs. Trahan?
4466 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
4467 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4468 Mrs. Fletcher?
4469 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4470 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
4471 Mrs. Rodgers?
4472 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]

4473 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
4474 Mr. Upton?
4475 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.
4476 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
4477 Mr. Burgess?
4478 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
4479 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
4480 Mr. Scalise?
4481 [No response.]
4482 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
4483 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes no.
4484 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
4485 Mr. Guthrie?
4486 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
4487 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
4488 Mr. McKinley?
4489 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
4490 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
4491 Mr. Kinzinger?
4492 [No response.]
4493 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
4494 *Mr. Griffith. No.
4495 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
4496 Mr. Bilirakis?
4497 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]

4498 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
4499 Mr. Johnson?
4500 *Mr. Johnson. No.
4501 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
4502 Mr. Long?
4503 *Mr. Long. No.
4504 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
4505 Mr. Bucshon?
4506 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
4507 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
4508 Mr. Mullin?
4509 *Mr. Mullin. No.
4510 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
4511 Mr. Hudson?
4512 *Mr. Hudson. No.
4513 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
4514 Mr. Walberg?
4515 *Mr. Walberg. No.
4516 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
4517 Mr. Carter?
4518 *Mr. Carter. Carter votes no.
4519 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
4520 Mr. Duncan?
4521 *Mr. Duncan. No.
4522 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

4523 Mr. Palmer?

4524 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

4525 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

4526 Mr. Dunn?

4527 *Mr. Dunn. No.

4528 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

4529 Mr. Curtis?

4530 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.

4531 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

4532 Mrs. Lesko?

4533 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

4534 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

4535 Mr. Pence?

4536 *Mr. Pence. No.

4537 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

4538 Mr. Crenshaw?

4539 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

4540 *Voice. Is that a bill that I --

4541 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

4542 Mr. Joyce?

4543 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

4544 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

4545 Mr. Armstrong?

4546 *Voice. What happened?

4547 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]

4548 *Voice. What happens --

4549 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

4550 Chairman Pallone?

4551 *The Chairman. [Inaudible.]

4552 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

4553 *Ms. Kelly. Madam Clerk, who is not recorded?

4554 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.

4555 *Ms. Kelly. Mr. Rush?

4556 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

4557 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

4558 Mr. Schrader is not recorded; Ms. Kuster is not

4559 recorded; Mr. Scalise is not recorded; and Mr. Kinzinger is

4560 not recorded.

4561 [Pause.]

4562 *Ms. Kelly. Does any member wish to change his or her

4563 vote?

4564 If not, the clerk will report the tally.

4565 *The Clerk. On that vote, Madam Chairwoman, the yeas

4566 were 30 and the nays were 24.

4567 *Ms. Kelly. The vote is 30 ayes and 24 noes.

4568 [Pause.]

4569 *Ms. Kelly. H.Res. 1263 is reported adversely to the

4570 House.

4571 *Mr. Griffith. Madam Chair?

4572 [Pause.]

4573 *Voice. Mr. Griffith has a question.

4574 *The Chairman. [Presiding] Let me just announce what we
4575 intend to do. We are going to move to debate on the next
4576 resolution of inquiry, but we won't have a vote because of
4577 the votes on the House floor. So if you don't want to
4578 participate in the debate, you don't have to stay because we
4579 will have the vote when we come back.

4580 Yes, Mr. Griffith is recognized.

4581 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, I make a substitute motion
4582 to report H.Res. 1267 without a recommendation.

4583 *The Chairman. But haven't we already -- can you do
4584 that?

4585 *Mr. Griffith. A motion was reported; I am making a
4586 substitute motion.

4587 *Voice. There is no such --

4588 *The Chairman. I have never heard of that one.

4589 *Mr. Griffith. Welcome to parliamentary procedure, Mr.
4590 Chairman.

4591 [Laughter.]

4592 *The Chairman. So you are saying, even though we
4593 already voted on the bill, you --

4594 *Mr. Griffith. No, no, no, we haven't voted on this.
4595 This has just been called up as a motion to report adversely.
4596 I am making a substitute motion to report this resolution --

4597 *The Chairman. Oh, you are talking about the next one?

4598 *Mr. Griffith. The one we are on right now, yes, sir.

4599 *The Chairman. Oh, I got to call it up first.

4600 *Mr. Griffith. She called it up before you took the
4601 chair back. Thus I made my motion.

4602 *The Chairman. I don't think so. No, she didn't.

4603 *Voice. You voted, and she called --

4604 *Mr. Griffith. We voted on the previous one, then she
4605 called up H.Res. 1267.

4606 *The Chairman. I don't think so. But let me do it.

4607 *Mr. Griffith. All right. All right.

4608 *The Chairman. All right, the chair calls up H.Res.
4609 1267, and the clerk will report the bill.

4610 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1267, of inquiry directing the
4611 President to provide certain documents --

4612 *The Chairman. And without objection, the first reading
4613 of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now
4614 considered as read.

4615 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and
4616 open for amendment at any point.

4617 [The bill follows:]

4618

4619 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

4620

4621 *The Chairman. Now, what do you want to do?

4622 [Laughter.]

4623 *Mr. Griffith. Well, in this -- at this point I would
4624 move that we report H.Res. 1267 without a recommendation.

4625 *The Chairman. Yes, but we have to have the debate
4626 first. We haven't even done anything yet.

4627 *Mr. Griffith. You don't have to have the debate first.
4628 The motion --

4629 *The Chairman. But that is not fair for the people that
4630 want to have a debate.

4631 *Mr. Griffith. Well, no, everybody can have a debate.
4632 I haven't called for the votes yet. I have just made the
4633 motion.

4634 *The Chairman. All right. Let me check on this one.

4635 *Voice. I don't think there is a such thing --

4636 *Mr. Griffith. You all want to check on that while we
4637 all go vote?

4638 *Voice. There is not a such thing as a substitute
4639 motion.

4640 *The Chairman. I don't know anything about a substitute
4641 motion. You can have -- you can do an AINS if you want, an
4642 amendment in the --

4643 *Mr. Griffith. I am perfectly fine with the language.
4644 The question is the motion which is before the committee.

4645 So far we have taken all these up on a motion to

4646 adversely report. I am requesting that we take this up on a
4647 motion to report without a recommendation from the --

4648 *The Chairman. Oh. Well, why don't we do this? Let us
4649 have this debate, and then let me think about this while we
4650 go over to vote.

4651 *Mr. Griffith. All right.

4652 *The Chairman. And then we will respond to you when we
4653 come back.

4654 *Mr. Griffith. I appreciate that.

4655 *The Chairman. All right. Do we have time to have
4656 debate?

4657 *Voice. Yes, we sure do. We have 350 people that
4658 haven't voted yet on the floor. Let's start --

4659 *The Chairman. All right, I don't -- I am a little
4660 concerned, though, that we are too far into this. And I
4661 think we should recess, all right?

4662 The committee is in recess.

4663 [Recess.]

4664 *The Chairman. The committee will reconvene, and I am
4665 going to start with -- is it Griffith that --

4666 *Voice. Mr. Griffith.

4667 *The Chairman. I am going to start with a response to
4668 Mr. Griffith on his motion.

4669 So we checked with the parliamentarian, and they sent us
4670 back this response, referencing House Practice Section 28 on

4671 Adverse or Unfavorable Reports, and it says, "Motions to
4672 report favorably, unfavorably, or with no recommendation have
4673 no priority over each other in committee, and are not in
4674 order as amendments to each other.''

4675 So that means that, once we finish the debate and I move
4676 to report the bill adversely, which is what we have been
4677 doing, then you can't change it.

4678 *Mr. Griffith. Well, Mr. Chairman?

4679 *The Chairman. Yes.

4680 *Mr. Griffith. If that is the ruling of the
4681 parliamentarian, I have already made a motion prior to
4682 debate, which is appropriate. The bill was called up and I
4683 have made the motion. So by that reasoning, then, you can't
4684 make the motion to switch it back to being adverse because
4685 yours would be the substitute motion, as the way we stand on
4686 the floor right now.

4687 *Voice. No --

4688 *The Chairman. Right, but we are --

4689 *Mr. Griffith. I understand that the chair normally
4690 makes the motion, but I preempted that.

4691 *Voice. No, no, no. His motion -- no, no, no. His
4692 motion is not right.

4693 *The Chairman. Yes, but you -- we have to have the
4694 debate first.

4695 *Voice. His motion is not --

4696 *Mr. Griffith. Why?

4697 *The Chairman. Because otherwise --

4698 *Mr. Griffith. I mean, most -- in most deliberative
4699 bodies, you have a motion before you before you can debate
4700 it. You don't -- I mean, I know we have not been doing that
4701 in this committee today, but --

4702 *The Chairman. All right.

4703 *Mr. Griffith. -- typically, you have a motion in front
4704 of you before you begin the debate --

4705 *Voice. Chairman, the gentleman is out of order.

4706 *The Chairman. All right, look, look --

4707 *Voice. The motion --

4708 *The Chairman. I -- look, please, everybody just relax.
4709 We are going to have the debate, and then I am going to
4710 move that we -- after the debate, most likely -- I don't have
4711 to prejudge it, let's have the debate first. I would then
4712 move to report the bill adversely.

4713 What I am saying is you can't then change it by
4714 substituting it, and it is out of order for you to move the
4715 motion before we have the debate. We have to have the debate
4716 first. That is all I am saying.

4717 All right. Now let's have the debate. We already
4718 called up H.Res. 1267.

4719 *Voice. [Inaudible.]

4720 *The Chairman. Yes, but I don't want to have us

4721 starting to end -- motions to end the debate. You guys are
4722 doing these things, you should have debate.

4723 So anyway, the chair has already called up H.Res. 1267.
4724 I think you have already reported it -- or not? No? You
4725 have.

4726 So the question now is if anyone would like to seek
4727 recognition to speak on the resolution.

4728 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman?

4729 *The Chairman. Yes, the gentleman is recognized --

4730 *Mr. Griffith. Speaking --

4731 *The Chairman. -- to strike the last --

4732 *Mr. Griffith. Speaking to the resolution.

4733 *The Chairman. Thank you.

4734 *Mr. Griffith. Speaking to the resolution, I think this
4735 is a resolution that we ought to approach in a bipartisan
4736 fashion.

4737 This resolution of inquiry requests that the President
4738 of the United States furnish all documents or communication
4739 in the possession of the Director of the National Institutes
4740 of Health that refer or relate to the oversight of the Wuhan
4741 Institute of Virology Laboratory.

4742 Since March 18, 2021, the Republican leadership of the
4743 House Energy and Commerce Committee -- Representatives Cathy
4744 McMorris Rodgers, Guthrie, and I -- have sent eight oversight
4745 letters to the NIH related to information about the grant to

4746 EcoHealth Alliance and its sub-grantee, the Wuhan Institute
4747 of Virology, on the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic. The
4748 grant to EcoHealth involved collection analysis and live
4749 animal research related to bat coronavirus that could
4750 threaten human health.

4751 Understanding the origins of the COVID-19 pandemic are
4752 essential. It is essential to protecting public health in
4753 the future. If we can get better insights into the -- into
4754 these questions, this can help spur needed reforms that would
4755 not otherwise occur, and that will reduce the likelihood of a
4756 pandemic or a major outbreak in the future.

4757 In addition, it is this committee's responsibility to
4758 oversee the NIH pandemic preparedness and strategy and
4759 investments to learn what worked and what did not.

4760 It was our hope that the NIH would engage with us to --
4761 working together to get answers on COVID origins and about
4762 the EcoHealth Alliance Wuhan lab collaboration. To date, the
4763 NIH has provided very limited responses to only two of these
4764 letters. Frankly, even much of what they have responded to
4765 have only provided us with redacted documents already sent to
4766 Freedom of Information Act requesters. So we are not getting
4767 any more information than people who have actually filed a
4768 FOIA request.

4769 The Biden Administration's apparent disdainful attitude
4770 towards congressional requests that are not from a committee

4771 chair flouts historic executive branch practice to
4772 accommodate such requests. It is also contrary to the spirit
4773 and language of the Freedom of Information Act.

4774 The statute is not only a forceful declaration of the
4775 rights of citizens to executive information, but there is a
4776 strong implication that Members of Congress who are not
4777 committee chairs have right to information. The Freedom of
4778 Information Act includes a provision that states, "This
4779 section shall not be authority to withhold information from
4780 Congress.'"'

4781 The U.S. Court of Appeals for the D.C. Circuit has noted
4782 in a FOIA case that the right of a congressman to executive
4783 branch information is presumably greater than that of the
4784 average citizen -- Soucie versus David 1971 case. If anybody
4785 wants the cite I will give it to them.

4786 The resolution specifically asks for information -- this
4787 resolution specifically asks for information on only four
4788 items: the names of the staff involved in reviewing research
4789 conducted at Wuhan Institute of Virology Laboratory who
4790 determined the research conducted at such laboratory was not
4791 gain of function research; the details on the scope of such
4792 review, and the process for how such review is conducted,
4793 including all documents related to such review; the review of
4794 the Biosafety Training Practices and Procedures of the Wuhan
4795 Institute of Virology Laboratory; and information related to

4796 the standard operating procedures of the Wuhan Institute of
4797 Virology Laboratory for working with novel coronaviruses.

4798 Now, folks, the bottom line is we can't do our jobs if
4799 we don't get the information that we need to figure out what
4800 went wrong. And when this -- when the coronavirus pandemic
4801 first started, and it looked like it might be the lab, that
4802 was one of the two theories out there that was predominant --
4803 although there was some disinformation related to the lab
4804 possibility, in my opinion. But notwithstanding that, I said
4805 to any number of people that I talked to that sometimes
4806 mistakes happen, and sometimes things happen, and our job is
4807 to make sure that it doesn't happen again, and then we put
4808 safeguards in.

4809 I remember when I first came to this committee, and the
4810 investigation had started in the Bush Administration, and
4811 then it went through into the Obama Administration. We were
4812 looking at CDC labs and, shockingly -- and some of you have
4813 been around awhile will remember this -- they found that in
4814 the back of a freezer at one of the CDC labs they had live
4815 smallpox vaccine. It wasn't labeled. It was just sitting
4816 back there. And if somebody had taken it out and said, "Huh,
4817 let's let this thaw out and figure out what we got," we
4818 would have had a disaster. And that was part of a process
4819 that CDC and this committee worked on to make sure that we
4820 would do better so we wouldn't have the possibility that one

4821 of our labs would accidentally leak smallpox.

4822 So without even trying to make a judgment on who did
4823 what, or what was being done right or wrong, it is about
4824 getting the information so that we, as a deliberative body,
4825 can do our jobs, find out what the facts are, try to make
4826 sure we don't make the same mistakes in the future. And if
4827 something was working right, make sure that we continue to do
4828 that.

4829 And so I would ask that we approve this for going to the
4830 floor, and that we look into these important matters. I
4831 think it is imperative. I think it is part of this
4832 committee's duty.

4833 And I appreciate the chairman's patience with me, and I
4834 yield back.

4835 *The Chairman. Thank you.

4836 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Chairman?

4837 *The Chairman. Yes. Ms. DeGette is recognized for five
4838 minutes.

4839 *Ms. DeGette. I thank the chairman. It is a little bit
4840 -- with all due respect to my friend, the ranking member, it
4841 is a little difficult for me to respond to this word salad
4842 that I just heard. But let me try.

4843 The Oversight and Investigations Committee for many
4844 years, for many years and many congresses, has had oversight
4845 over our labs in the U.S. And we have had a lot of concerns

4846 over the U.S. about lab safety -- or over this -- over the
4847 lab safety in the U.S., but also laboratories abroad. And
4848 the ranking member references some of the deficiencies that
4849 we found down at the CDC some years ago.

4850 But if the gentleman had been on the subcommittee visit
4851 that we took to the CDC in July of this year to follow up on
4852 our ongoing research, what we found is, with the help of
4853 Congress, those labs were completely rebuilt, and they now
4854 have the kind of security and safety that we need. So I was
4855 pleased, as a Member of Congress, to see that actually our
4856 oversight investigations worked, and this was able to happen.

4857 Now, I would like to point out that the allegations that
4858 the minority makes are around a laboratory in Wuhan, China,
4859 not a laboratory in the U.S. or the CDC. And so, what I keep
4860 seeing from these allegations is an attempt to conflate our
4861 labs at the CDC and in Wuhan, China. And in fact, there is
4862 no doubt in my mind that the narrow focus of this resolution
4863 on activities related to the Wuhan Institute of Virology and
4864 Biosafety are actually intended to draw unfounded connections
4865 between NIH oversight and the COVID-19 origins.

4866 So let me be perfectly clear. As I have said over and
4867 over again, NIH has repeatedly confirmed there is no
4868 connection between NIH-funded research and the origin of the
4869 COVID-19 virus. In fact, my friend and colleague keeps
4870 talking about the gain of function research, which is a

4871 narrow program at the NIH that has nothing to do with the
4872 COVID-19 virus. And so, really, this is just confusion.

4873 Now, in addition, all of the scientific consensus, not
4874 just at the NIH or the CDC, but with international agencies
4875 which have reviewed this situation in China, have said that
4876 their consensus supports the intelligence agencies' finding
4877 from last year that COVID-19's origin was far more likely to
4878 have resulted from zoonotic events than lax lab practices.

4879 And even further, recent peer-reviewed studies indicate
4880 that the Hunan wet market was likely the epicenter of the
4881 epidemic. And it is not just one study that found this. It
4882 was many.

4883 But -- so sadly, despite this overwhelming information,
4884 the minority persists. And this resolution of inquiry is the
4885 latest political stunt in the minority's COVID-19 origin
4886 witch hunt that perpetuates conspiracy theories and injects
4887 science into -- or politics into science. And frankly, even
4888 of -- our nation's leading public servants, including Dr.
4889 Fauci, have had death threats over this. And I think all of
4890 us in this committee would condemn that.

4891 There have been a dozen letters and keynote speeches by
4892 the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee's ranking member
4893 echoing all of these false claims. And there have been
4894 briefings, viral samples as a distraction from the Biden
4895 Administration's efforts to combat the COVID-19 pandemic and

4896 to address the needs of the American people.

4897 Now, in addition to providing witnesses for COVID-19-
4898 related committee hearings and member briefings, the
4899 Department of HHS has responded in good faith through
4900 multiple letters, productions of hundreds of pages of
4901 documents, at least five bipartisan committee staff
4902 briefings, several in-camera productions, and, furthermore,
4903 we had a classified review.

4904 So I will commit, as the chair of the Oversight and
4905 Investigation Subcommittee, to continuing to investigate lab
4906 practices, because that is important. But what is not
4907 important is if we divert our attention away from safety at
4908 our labs and fighting pandemics around the world to this kind
4909 of partisan witch hunt.

4910 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4911 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Anyone on the
4912 Republican side?

4913 Dr. Burgess?

4914 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I do want to
4915 speak in support of Congressman Griffith's resolution of
4916 inquiry.

4917 I can recall being promised this type of hearing during
4918 an O&I hearing probably 8 or 10 months ago. And all we are
4919 asking for is the information that the Administration has in
4920 their possession of -- relating to the oversight of the Wuhan

4921 Institute of Virology.

4922 I find this personally frustrating, Mr. Chairman. You
4923 know I have written letters to you. I have engaged Secretary
4924 Becerra, both in this committee room and in the Budget
4925 Committee on this issue. It has been treated very
4926 dismissively, but, you know, look, the President told us on
4927 60 Minutes the other night the pandemic is over. So now is
4928 the time. Now is the time to examine exactly what happened
4929 to us and why.

4930 And I agree with Ranking Member Griffith that the
4931 National Institute of Health needs to be absolutely
4932 transparent about all of the details relating to the origins
4933 of the coronavirus. It is beyond critical that we understand
4934 exactly what went wrong because we are going to be expected
4935 to take actions that prevent it from happening in the future.
4936 And if you don't ask the basic questions of what went wrong
4937 in the first place, you will never be able to prevent it from
4938 happening again.

4939 One would think that this COVID origins investigation
4940 would be of absolute interest to every member of this
4941 committee, regardless of political party. It should be a
4942 bipartisan effort.

4943 For crying out loud, you have Jon Stewart, who talks
4944 about, if you have a virus appear in a town, and you look up
4945 and here is the sign that says "Wuhan Institute of

4946 Virology,"' wouldn't you start there? Wouldn't you start
4947 there to ask what happened here? So if it is intuitively
4948 obvious to a casual observer like Jon Stewart, I would say it
4949 ought to be of the highest interest to this committee. Even
4950 previous administrations have made efforts to provide access
4951 to information when requested by congressional committees.

4952 There is no reason, no good reason, not for national
4953 security, not for any other reason, that the Administration
4954 should be operating in this non-transparent manner. I
4955 recognize that majority Democrats have continuously
4956 demonstrated that this topic is of simply no interest to
4957 them, but I submit it should be of the highest interest to
4958 every member of this committee because we, as the committee
4959 that has oversight and the jurisdiction of public health, we
4960 are going to be looked to to prevent the next episode from
4961 occurring.

4962 And while 100 years went by between the Spanish flu and
4963 the novel coronavirus, we don't know what that -- it is not
4964 guaranteed that it is going to be a century. It might be
4965 three months, it might be three years. We don't know. So we
4966 should do everything we can to find out what went wrong in
4967 this instance.

4968 Now, this pandemic has demonstrated how serious
4969 biological threats are, and how serious they can be. It has
4970 affected everyone. It has affected every member on this

4971 committee. It has affected all of our family members. We
4972 all should be equally concerned about the origins of this
4973 virus, and really devote all of our energy to ensuring that
4974 it does not happen again.

4975 Congress and the American people deserve complete
4976 transparency when it comes to the origins of this virus. I
4977 hope and I pray that this committee, going forward, will
4978 continue to have these discussions, and have the courage to
4979 follow the facts wherever they go, and then to disclose to
4980 the people. After all, that is what our obligation is.

4981 I thank the chairman --

4982 *Mr. Griffith. Will the gentleman yield? Will the
4983 gentleman yield?

4984 *Mr. Burgess. I hear voices.

4985 *Voice. Mr. Griffith.

4986 *Mr. Burgess. Oh, yes. Yes, was it Mr. -- yes, let me
4987 yield to Mr. Griffith.

4988 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much. Let me just say
4989 that it -- I feel a little bit like Billy Long from the Show
4990 Me State. If everything that we think might have happened
4991 and -- we are trying to get the information on is false, then
4992 show us. Give us the documents. Show me. I have got no
4993 problem with that.

4994 It is an open question as to where the virus came from.
4995 That is what who says? World Health Organization. It is

4996 still an open question. The classified briefing was not with
4997 NIH, and that is who we are trying to get these documents
4998 from.

4999 And in the end, we have to take a careful and good look
5000 at a foreign lab that was contracted with by EcoHealth
5001 Alliance, a third-party provider to the NIH. It is American
5002 taxpayer dollars that we are responsible for doing oversight
5003 on, and it goes through EcoHealth Alliance to Wuhan. We have
5004 to decide whether we should be using labs in another country,
5005 particularly a country that doesn't have the safety standards
5006 that we have in the United States at our labs.

5007 I yield back.

5008 *Mr. Burgess. And I yield back.

5009 *The Chairman. Thank you. Does anybody on the
5010 Democratic side want to speak on this?

5011 Anybody else want to speak on this?

5012 Yes, Mr. Dunn.

5013 *Mr. Dunn. Mr. Chair?

5014 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
5015 minutes.

5016 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I would
5017 like to associate myself with the remarks of Dr. Burgess.

5018 You know, this is a disease that has killed 15 million
5019 people so far, still taking 2 million -- I mean, 2000 -- a
5020 day. And this is truly the pandemic that we worried about my

5021 entire medical career. This is what we have. This is awful.
5022 And we need to be taking this very, very seriously because
5023 there could be another one right around the corner.

5024 In fact, I would suggest to you that, if indeed it is a
5025 lab leak, that we still have the labs pursuing the same
5026 research on other coronaviruses now that could also end up in
5027 the exact same way. So we -- this is not over, and we need
5028 to have the background on that.

5029 I have reminded you earlier today, and I refer to my
5030 earlier remarks, that the EcoHealth Alliance under the
5031 direction of Peter Daszak is now doing the same preliminary
5032 research on MERS, Middle Eastern Respiratory Syndrome, a
5033 coronavirus again. And they are pursuing this research in
5034 Moscow. This doesn't strike you as a threat?

5035 Honestly, I think we need to know more.

5036 I will yield back to any Republican.

5037 *Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentleman yield?

5038 *Mr. Dunn. Yes.

5039 *Mr. Bucshon. Yes. I will be brief.

5040 *Mr. Dunn. I think -- I thought I yielded to Buddy.

5041 *Mr. Carter. That is all right, go ahead.

5042 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, Larry. No, I am sorry, Larry --

5043 *Mr. Bucshon. Yes, yes.

5044 *Mr. Dunn. Go ahead.

5045 *Mr. Bucshon. I will be brief. I mean, my friends on

5046 the other side want to talk about politics. And that is
5047 okay, because what this is about is trying to prove Donald
5048 Trump wrong or right. Or Dr. Fauci right or wrong. The
5049 focus is in the wrong place. The focus should be on the
5050 facts, and we shouldn't be relying on the Chinese Communist
5051 Party or the World Health Organization to tell us what is
5052 right or wrong. We need to find out ourselves, because that
5053 is our job.

5054 And U.S. taxpayer dollars to a third party have gone to
5055 this laboratory to fund research that we have no idea what
5056 they are doing. The Communist Party will not tell you. And
5057 I am just disappointed that we continue to fight against
5058 trying to find the facts to try to prove Donald Trump wrong
5059 after all of this time.

5060 I yield back.

5061 *Mr. Dunn. I yield the remaining time to Mr. Carter of
5062 Georgia.

5063 *Mr. Carter. I thank the gentleman for yielding.

5064 Mr. Chairman, for over two-and-a-half years now
5065 Republicans on this committee have called to investigate the
5066 mounting evidence showing that COVID-19 originated from the
5067 Wuhan Institute of Virology. We need to answer the question
5068 of where COVID-19 originated from.

5069 We are never going to be prepared in the future. We are
5070 never going to learn from the mistakes that were made. We

5071 are never going to learn from the experiences that we have
5072 had until we identify where this originated from. That is
5073 fundamental to informing our decisions moving forward.

5074 This generation of school-age kids has been impacted,
5075 their education has been impacted. We have had a mental
5076 health crisis among our kids due to lockdowns. And most
5077 importantly, Americans have died because of this pandemic.
5078 Yet the origins of the COVID-19 remain shrouded in mystery.
5079 Congress has the responsibility.

5080 And let me remind you, we do have the responsibility to
5081 investigate the origins of the virus and the extent of
5082 China's deception. We know China has lied. We know that.
5083 We know they have covered up important information about
5084 COVID-19 since the very beginning. The available evidence
5085 suggests COVID-19 may have leaked out of the Wuhan Institute
5086 of Virology after it was developed through gain of function
5087 research. Despite the overwhelming amount of evidence,
5088 Democrats have created diversion after diversion to cover
5089 this up.

5090 Understanding the origins of COVID-19 is essential for
5091 accountability and preparedness of any future pandemic.

5092 *Voice. If I have time.

5093 *Mr. Carter. The American people deserve the truth, and
5094 they are demanding accountability. And Republicans on this
5095 committee will insist on getting these answers. The

5096 Democrats' refusal to follow the science, to listen to the
5097 experts, and investigate the origins of COVID-19 is a
5098 dereliction of their duty.

5099 The American people have been devastated by this
5100 pandemic, and they deserve answers. We need this information
5101 without any more delays.

5102 Thank you, Mr. --

5103 *Mr. Dunn. Well, yielding back, I am going to reclaim
5104 my time. I just want to point out that, you know, earlier --
5105 I am not speaking off the top of my head. Early in my career
5106 I was a doctor in the Army, worked at the Biological Warfare
5107 Headquarters in the lab. I am in my wheelhouse here. I know
5108 what a lab leak looks like.

5109 I yield back.

5110 *The Chairman. Does anybody else want to speak?

5111 Mr. Palmer? Mr. Palmer is recognized for five minutes.

5112 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I will not need
5113 five minutes.

5114 I just do not understand why, after millions of our
5115 friends and neighbors and family members have died from
5116 COVID, and people are still dying, and I hear from my
5117 Democratic colleagues their concern for the people who are
5118 still infected with COVID, I cannot understand why there is
5119 so little interest on your side of the aisle to get to the
5120 real source of this.

5121 You can't solve a problem until you properly define it.
5122 And I think it is critical, listening to these doctors, and
5123 particularly Dr. Dunn, who has actually worked in a
5124 biological warfare lab, I don't know what you need to compel
5125 you to support getting to the absolute bottom, rock bottom
5126 truth of where this virus originated.

5127 I yield back.

5128 *The Chairman. Okay. Anybody else? Otherwise, we will
5129 go to the -- to a vote.

5130 You want a recorded vote? Okay. A recorded vote is
5131 ordered.

5132 Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1267 to the
5133 House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk
5134 shall call the roll.

5135 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

5136 [No response.]

5137 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

5138 [No response.]

5139 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?

5140 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

5141 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

5142 Mr. Doyle?

5143 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

5144 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

5145 Ms. Schakowsky?

5146 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

5147 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

5148 Mr. Butterfield?

5149 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

5150 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

5151 Ms. Matsui?

5152 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

5153 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

5154 Ms. Castor?

5155 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

5156 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

5157 Mr. Sarbanes?

5158 [No response.]

5159 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney?

5160 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

5161 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

5162 Mr. Welch?

5163 [No response.]

5164 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

5165 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

5166 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

5167 Ms. Clarke?

5168 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke from New York votes aye.

5169 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

5170 Mr. Schrader?

5171 [No response.]

5172 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?

5173 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California, I am voting

5174 aye.

5175 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

5176 Mr. Ruiz?

5177 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

5178 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

5179 Mr. Peters?

5180 *Mr. Peters. Votes aye.

5181 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

5182 Mrs. Dingell?

5183 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

5184 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

5185 Mr. Veasey?

5186 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

5187 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

5188 Ms. Kuster?

5189 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

5190 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

5191 Ms. Kelly?

5192 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

5193 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

5194 Ms. Barragan?

5195 *Ms. Barragan. [Inaudible.]

5196 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
5197 Mr. McEachin?
5198 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
5199 *Voice. In town --
5200 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
5201 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
5202 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
5203 *Voice. We need to figure out when we can do --
5204 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
5205 *Voice. Before votes --
5206 *The Chairman. Mr. Ruiz, do you have your --
5207 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, I mean --
5208 *The Chairman. -- Internet --
5209 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, definitely. I definitely --
5210 *The Chairman. Well --
5211 *Mr. Ruiz. I don't know if they are going to -- if they
5212 want to have dinner.
5213 *The Chairman. Mr. Ruiz? Raul, you can't -- you got to
5214 turn the thing off.
5215 All right. All right, let's continue.
5216 [Laughter.]
5217 *The Chairman. The clerk will continue with the roll
5218 call.
5219 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?
5220 *Mr. Soto. [Inaudible.]

5221 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
5222 Mr. O'Halleran?
5223 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
5224 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
5225 Miss Rice?
5226 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]
5227 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
5228 Ms. Craig?
5229 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
5230 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
5231 Ms. Schrier?
5232 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
5233 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
5234 Mrs. Trahan?
5235 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
5236 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
5237 Mrs. Fletcher?
5238 [No response.]
5239 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers?
5240 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
5241 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
5242 Mr. Upton?
5243 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.
5244 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
5245 Mr. Burgess?

5246 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
5247 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
5248 Mr. Scalise?
5249 [No response.]
5250 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
5251 [No response.]
5252 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie?
5253 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
5254 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
5255 Mr. McKinley?
5256 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
5257 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
5258 Mr. Kinzinger?
5259 [No response.]
5260 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
5261 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes no.
5262 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
5263 Mr. Bilirakis?
5264 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
5265 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
5266 Mr. Johnson?
5267 [No response.]
5268 *The Clerk. Mr. Long?
5269 [No response.]
5270 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?

5271 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

5272 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

5273 Mr. Mullin?

5274 *Mr. Mullin. No.

5275 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

5276 Mr. Hudson?

5277 *Mr. Hudson. No.

5278 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

5279 Mr. Walberg?

5280 *Mr. Walberg. No.

5281 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

5282 Mr. Carter?

5283 [No response.]

5284 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?

5285 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]

5286 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

5287 Mr. Palmer?

5288 *Mr. Palmer. No.

5289 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

5290 Mr. Dunn?

5291 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.

5292 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

5293 Mr. Curtis?

5294 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

5295 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

5296 Mrs. Lesko?

5297 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

5298 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

5299 Mr. Pence?

5300 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.

5301 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

5302 Mr. Crenshaw?

5303 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]

5304 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

5305 Mr. Joyce?

5306 *Mr. Joyce. [Inaudible.]

5307 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

5308 Mr. Armstrong?

5309 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

5310 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

5311 Chairman Pallone?

5312 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

5313 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

5314 *Mr. Sarbanes. How is --

5315 *The Chairman. Mr. Latta?

5316 *Mr. Sarbanes. -- Sarbanes recorded?

5317 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

5318 *Mr. Latta. No.

5319 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5320 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes?

5321 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman?

5322 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is not recorded.

5323 *The Chairman. You are not recorded.

5324 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.

5325 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

5326 *The Chairman. Mr. Sarbanes?

5327 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes is not recorded.

5328 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes --

5329 *Mr. Welch. Welch?

5330 *Mr. Sarbanes. -- votes yes.

5331 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Rush --

5332 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

5333 *Mrs. Fletcher. Mr. Chairman, this is Mrs. Fletcher --

5334 *The Chairman. Ms. Eshoo is --

5335 *Mrs. Fletcher. -- of Texas. How am I recorded?

5336 *The Chairman. Mrs. Fletcher?

5337 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher is not recorded.

5338 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.

5339 *Mr. Rush. [Inaudible.]

5340 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

5341 *Mr. Rush. How am I recorded?

5342 *The Chairman. Ms. Eshoo, is Ms. Eshoo recorded?

5343 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo is not recorded.

5344 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

5345 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

5346 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

5347 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

5348 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

5349 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

5350 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

5351 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

5352 *The Chairman. Mr. Johnson?

5353 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson is not recorded.

5354 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson, no.

5355 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

5356 *The Chairman. Is there any --

5357 *Mr. Welch. Welch.

5358 *The Chairman. Mr. Welch?

5359 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch --

5360 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

5361 *The Clerk. -- is not recorded.

5362 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

5363 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

5364 *The Chairman. Anyone else who wants to vote?

5365 Okay, the clerk will report the tally.

5366 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 32 and the nays

5367 were 23.

5368 *The Chairman. Twenty-three, okay. The vote on the

5369 1287 -- I mean, sorry, 1267 -- is 32 ayes to 23 noes, and

5370 therefore H.Res. 1267 is reported adversely to the House.

5371 We now go to H.Res. 1268. The chair calls up H.Res.
5372 1268, and the clerk will report the bill.

5373 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1268, a resolution of inquiry
5374 directing the President to provide certain documents in the
5375 President's possession to the House of Representatives
5376 relating to actions taken by the Secretary of Health and
5377 Human Services --

5378 *The Chairman. Without objection, the first reading of
5379 the bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now considered
5380 as read.

5381 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and
5382 open for amendment at any point.

5383 [The bill follows:]

5384

5385 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5386

5387 *The Chairman. Is any member seeking recognition to
5388 speak on H.Res. --

5389 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chair, for the
5390 recognition.

5391 This resolution of inquiry, as said in the title,
5392 directs the President to provide certain documents relating
5393 to the actions taken by the Secretary of Health and Human
5394 Services, or lack of action, related to the COVID-19 pandemic
5395 response.

5396 And this resolution -- I know some said earlier that we
5397 are putting forward these resolutions of inquiry without ever
5398 trying to seek to find the information before, and that is
5399 not true. I know in this case, from a January 31st letter in
5400 2022, the Republican leader, Catherine McMorris Rodgers,
5401 Morgan -- Leader Griffith, and myself sent a letter to
5402 Secretary Becerra in response to concerns that he had largely
5403 been missing in action during the COVID-19 response.

5404 And I heard some colleagues say earlier about the
5405 competence of the Biden Administration and the COVID-19
5406 response. We have to remember, as contrary to very early put
5407 out and I think covered in the news that essentially the
5408 Administration was starting from scratch, remember on
5409 Inauguration Day almost a million people were vaccinated.

5410 When you look at what kind of brought attention to this
5411 -- to me in the last holiday period, I remember the Trump

5412 Administration, like June and the summer of 2020, being raked
5413 over the coals by not having enough tests in place. And I
5414 remember my daughter coming home for the holidays, and trying
5415 to test her to see if we could take her to see my father, and
5416 there wasn't a test to be found in our area and across the
5417 country, and it just showed that it was this lack of focus
5418 for us to move forward.

5419 If you look at the baby formula -- we are focused on
5420 COVID -- the baby formula issue, they asked the President
5421 could that have been averted, and he said, "If I could have
5422 read minds.'" Well, that was, I think, in April. Maybe it
5423 might have been early May, but late April. We know that the
5424 plant was shut down in February. There was a whistleblower
5425 the September before that. So it just seems there is -- this
5426 is important, because there just seems to be a lack of
5427 leadership, or lack of connection between HHS and the White
5428 House, and that certainly is in our area of oversight.

5429 It is not just us on this side of the aisle talking
5430 about it. NBC news reported last December about Secretary
5431 Becerra's low profile as HHS Secretary, and noted that, since
5432 he was sworn in, he had yet to appear at a White House or
5433 COVID-19 media briefing. Oddly, when the public online HHS
5434 employee directory was queried, there were no matching
5435 records for Secretary Becerra's name, and a White House
5436 visitor log indicates that Secretary Becerra has not visited

5437 the White House since he was confirmed as HHS Secretary as of
5438 the beginning of this year.

5439 On January 27, 2022, GAO added HHS leadership of public
5440 health emergencies to the GAO high risk list. For over a
5441 decade GAO has found issues with how HHS leadership prepares
5442 for and responds to emergencies, including COVID-19 and other
5443 infectious diseases and extreme weather events such as
5444 hurricanes. Under these circumstances it is even more
5445 critically important to determine the Secretary's role and
5446 performance during this response.

5447 The issues about the Secretary's performance during
5448 emergencies seems to be recurring. We talked about the baby
5449 formula, and HHS continues to fail in its basic
5450 responsibilities. On August 12, 2022 Politico reported an
5451 article, "Becerra in Hot Seat Again Over Monkeypox
5452 Response."

5453 On April 27th, Secretary Becerra sent a one-and-a-half-
5454 page response, making a general defense of the Department's
5455 performance, but without addressing any of the specific
5456 information. This resistance of basic information in
5457 response to congressional requests should not be accepted by
5458 any of us on either side of the aisle.

5459 The information sought on the ROI includes very
5460 specific, targeted, and ascertainable items, including the
5461 number of in-person visits, meetings with the Secretary

5462 related to the pandemic response, the number of times the
5463 Secretary met with the President on pandemic response, the
5464 number of classified briefings related to the pandemic, and
5465 origins of the pandemic the Secretary has taken, and the
5466 number of -- so the requests were reasonable, and will
5467 provide needed transparency to address legitimate concerns
5468 about the status of the Secretary's involvement in the COVID-
5469 19 response.

5470 I urge a bipartisan support to favorably report this ROI
5471 so this committee can fulfill its constitutional oversight
5472 responsibilities, and help inform the American people about
5473 critical details in the Secretary's role during this
5474 response.

5475 And I finish and -- if anybody wants my time I will
5476 yield back to you, Mr. Chair.

5477 *The Chairman. Thank you. And Ms. Eshoo --

5478 *Mr. Cardenas. Mr. Chair, this is Congressman Cardenas.
5479 I move to strike the last word.

5480 *The Chairman. Did you want to speak?

5481 Mr. Cardenas, we have Ms. Eshoo first, and then we will
5482 get to you.

5483 *Mr. Cardenas. Okay, thank you.

5484 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek
5485 recognition to strike the last word to speak on the
5486 resolution.

5487 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
5488 minutes.

5489 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you. This resolution asks for
5490 documents or communications in the President's possession
5491 related to the HHS Secretary's response to COVID-19,
5492 including meetings, work trips, physical location for
5493 workdays. It also asks for the expenses incurred during the
5494 Secretary's travel.

5495 Well, I think that this resolution fits with the others.
5496 All it does is take up really valuable time, where we should
5497 be doing the important work of the committee.

5498 I respect the maker of the resolution, but I think that
5499 this is -- I have to say it kind of smacks of bad faith,
5500 because it is -- it smacks of a personal attack against the
5501 Secretary.

5502 If you go through a simple perusal of HHS's press
5503 releases, they would answer many of the questions in the
5504 inquiry by accounting for the Secretary's work trips and
5505 actions taken to respond to COVID-19.

5506 And I think the resolution is misguided, and maybe a few
5507 years late, because what I recall was Mr. Trump's HHS
5508 Secretary, Tom Price, who inappropriately billed taxpayers
5509 nearly \$350,000 for private jets. He had a flagrant
5510 financial abuse -- because of his flagrant financial abuses,
5511 it really caused him to step down and out of the job. And it

5512 was relative to all these travel -- so -- the travel policies
5513 and training policies for political appointees certainly had
5514 to be refreshed.

5515 So honestly, I don't think this is worth debating, and I
5516 yield back.

5517 *Mr. Cardenas. Would the gentlewoman yield the balance
5518 of her time? This is Cardenas.

5519 *Ms. Eshoo. I would be glad to, be glad to.

5520 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you. Thank you, Ms. Eshoo.

5521 I agree with Ms. Eshoo. We could be using a better use
5522 of our time. It is very disappointing that my colleagues on
5523 the other side of the aisle are using these resolutions of
5524 inquiry to score political points and to question the
5525 integrity of our former colleague, Javier Becerra. It is
5526 just inconsistent with how we all know him, and the work that
5527 he has always consistently done for his entire career.

5528 And simply put, this ROI is an abuse of legislative
5529 power by the House Republicans. During Democrats' time when
5530 we were in the minority for many years, only two ROIs were
5531 filed that pertained to public health issues. Meanwhile, in
5532 the last month alone, 18 have been filed, ROIs, with an
5533 estimated -- with 10 of them being on public health.

5534 This measure would require Secretary Becerra to provide
5535 information on how many in-person meetings he has attended at
5536 the White House to address COVID. This type -- again, this

5537 is a waste of time and resources.

5538 Social distancing and slowing the spread of COVID by
5539 working from home was actually the recommendation of Federal
5540 public health agencies that the Secretary is responsible for
5541 overseeing. Since the start of the pandemic, HHS has taken
5542 action to slow the spread of COVID, including efforts like
5543 creating a national [inaudible] initiative, establishing the
5544 largest free vaccination program in our nation's history, and
5545 collaborating with Congress to secure swift and effective
5546 pandemic response resources.

5547 This ROI is not a productive use of our time on any
5548 legislative calendar, and it is a blatant distraction from
5549 the ongoing pressing issues happening in our nation,
5550 including COVID-19 pandemic. Rather than wasting our time on
5551 this ROI, attempts to undermine Secretary Becerra's tireless
5552 efforts and leadership during this pandemic, let's instead
5553 focus on finding new ways to improve the lives of the
5554 American people.

5555 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the time to
5556 Ms. Eshoo.

5557 *Ms. Eshoo. I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

5558 *The Chairman. Thank you. Anyone else? Dr. Burgess?

5559 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I want to
5560 thank Ranking Member Guthrie for bringing this important
5561 issue to the committee, thank him for his resolution of

5562 inquiry.

5563 And I would just say to my colleagues on the other side
5564 of the dais, if you hadn't cut us off from resolutions of
5565 inquiry for so long, you might not have to be having to deal
5566 with so many today. But these are important questions which
5567 we are obligated to ask on behalf of the American people.

5568 Now, this particular resolution of inquiry is important
5569 because, let me just tell you, I have an office in the
5570 Rayburn building. It is on the west side of the building.
5571 Right across the street is the Hubert Humphrey building,
5572 where the Department of Health and Human Services is housed.
5573 I have got to tell you, since March of 2020 this building has
5574 been empty. In fact, I have wondered if maybe the General
5575 Services Administration should not look into selling it off
5576 for condos, or perhaps people who are unhoused in the city
5577 could be put up there. But it ought to be put to some use.
5578 But it is certainly not being used as intended right now.

5579 The same could be said for a lot of other executive
5580 agencies in Washington. And surely, in the next Congress, we
5581 are going to need to focus on people getting back to work at
5582 their agencies because the American people depend upon that.

5583 Look, this resolution of inquiry requests information
5584 from the executive branch on the number of meetings the
5585 Secretary has taken on the coronavirus pandemic, the number
5586 of times the Secretary has visited the Centers for Disease

5587 Control and Prevention, the times he has visited the Food and
5588 Drug Administration, the National Institute of Health, and,
5589 most importantly, the number of days the Secretary has
5590 actually come and worked in Washington, D.C. I don't think
5591 that is unreasonable.

5592 We are not asking for information about how the
5593 Secretary traveled between California and here. We are
5594 simply asking for did the Secretary show up for work.
5595 Americans really do deserve to have people at work and on the
5596 watch at the agencies. And this resolution of inquiry allows
5597 for some much-needed oversight on the use of this taxpayer
5598 expense for the activities of the Department of Health and
5599 Human Services during a once-in-a-century pandemic.

5600 And I thank the Chairman for the recognition, and I will
5601 yield back my time.

5602 *The Chairman. Thank you. Is there anyone else on
5603 either side on this resolution?

5604 All right. Roll call?

5605 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, sir.

5606 *The Chairman. All right. We will go to a roll call.
5607 A recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor of adversely
5608 reporting H.Res. 268 (sic) to the House will say aye; those
5609 opposed will say no; the clerk shall call the roll.

5610 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

5611 [No response.]

5612 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

5613 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

5614 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

5615 Ms. DeGette?

5616 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

5617 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

5618 Mr. Doyle?

5619 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes aye.

5620 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

5621 Ms. Schakowsky?

5622 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

5623 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

5624 Mr. Butterfield?

5625 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

5626 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

5627 Ms. Matsui?

5628 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

5629 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

5630 Ms. Castor?

5631 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

5632 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

5633 Mr. Sarbanes?

5634 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

5635 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

5636 Mr. McNerney?

5637 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

5638 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

5639 Mr. Welch?

5640 *Mr. Welch. Aye.

5641 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

5642 Mr. Tonko?

5643 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

5644 *Voice. We can't --

5645 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

5646 *Mr. Sarbanes. So --

5647 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?

5648 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]

5649 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

5650 Mr. Schrader?

5651 *Mr. Sarbanes. So anything that is -- anything in 31 is

5652 not --

5653 *Ms. DeGette. Mr. Sarbanes --

5654 *The Chairman. Mr. Sarbanes, you have your --

5655 *Mr. Sarbanes. What is Pete, again? He is two, right?

5656 *The Chairman. You have got to turn the Internet off,

5657 or whatever you are doing.

5658 *Voice. He is off.

5659 *The Chairman. All right. Would the clerk continue?

5660 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?

5661 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California, I am voting

5662 aye.

5663 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

5664 Mr. Ruiz?

5665 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

5666 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

5667 Mr. Peters?

5668 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

5669 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

5670 Mrs. Dingell?

5671 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

5672 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

5673 Mr. Veasey?

5674 [No response.]

5675 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?

5676 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

5677 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

5678 Ms. Kelly?

5679 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

5680 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

5681 Ms. Barragan?

5682 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

5683 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

5684 Mr. McEachin?

5685 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.

5686 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.

5687 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

5688 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

5689 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

5690 Mr. Soto?

5691 [No response.]

5692 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran?

5693 [No response.]

5694 *The Clerk. Miss Rice?

5695 *Miss Rice. [Inaudible.]

5696 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

5697 Ms. Craig?

5698 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.

5699 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.

5700 Ms. Schrier?

5701 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

5702 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

5703 Mrs. Trahan?

5704 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

5705 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

5706 Mrs. Fletcher?

5707 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

5708 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

5709 Mrs. Rodgers?

5710 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]

5711 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

5712 Mr. Upton?

5713 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.

5714 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.

5715 Mr. Burgess?

5716 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]

5717 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.

5718 Mr. Scalise?

5719 [No response.]

5720 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

5721 *Mr. Latta. No.

5722 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

5723 Mr. Guthrie?

5724 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

5725 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

5726 Mr. McKinley?

5727 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]

5728 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.

5729 Mr. Kinzinger?

5730 [No response.]

5731 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

5732 *Mr. Griffith. No.

5733 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

5734 Mr. Bilirakis?

5735 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]

5736 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

5737 Mr. Johnson?
5738 *Mr. Johnson. No.
5739 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
5740 Mr. Long?
5741 [No response.]
5742 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?
5743 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
5744 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
5745 Mr. Mullin?
5746 [No response.]
5747 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
5748 *Mr. Hudson. No.
5749 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
5750 Mr. Walberg?
5751 *Mr. Walberg. No.
5752 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
5753 Mr. Carter?
5754 *Mr. Mullin. Darn it.
5755 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]
5756 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
5757 Mr. Duncan?
5758 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]
5759 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
5760 Mr. Palmer?
5761 *Mr. Palmer. Mr. Palmer votes no.

5762 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
5763 Mr. Dunn?
5764 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
5765 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
5766 Mr. Curtis?
5767 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
5768 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
5769 Mrs. Lesko?
5770 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
5771 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
5772 Mr. Pence?
5773 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.
5774 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
5775 Mr. Crenshaw?
5776 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
5777 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
5778 Mr. Joyce?
5779 *Mr. Joyce. [Inaudible.]
5780 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
5781 Mr. Armstrong?
5782 *Mr. Armstrong. No.
5783 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
5784 Chairman Pallone?
5785 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
5786 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

5787 *Mr. Mullin. Chairman, how am I recorded? This is
5788 MarkWayne.

5789 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin is not recorded.

5790 *Mr. Mullin. I vote no.

5791 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

5792 *The Chairman. Mr. Soto?

5793 *Mr. Veasey. How am I recorded?

5794 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.

5795 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

5796 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

5797 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

5798 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

5799 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

5800 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman?

5801 *The Chairman. Yes. Mr. Veasey?

5802 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

5803 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

5804 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

5805 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

5806 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

5807 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

5808 *The Chairman. Any other member who wishes to be
5809 recorded and isn't?

5810 All right, the clerk will report the tally.

5811 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were

5812 31 and the nays were 23.

5813 *The Chairman. Okay, the vote is 31 ayes and 23 noes,
5814 and therefore, H.Res. 1268 is reported adversely to the
5815 House.

5816 And the next bill is -- or resolution of inquiry -- the
5817 chair calls up H.Res. 1274, and the clerk will report the
5818 bill.

5819 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1274, of inquiry directing the
5820 President to provide certain documents in the President's
5821 possession --

5822 *The Chairman. And without objection, Madam Clerk, the
5823 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill
5824 is now considered as read.

5825 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and
5826 open for amendment at any point.

5827 [The bill follows:]

5828

5829 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

5830

5831 *The Chairman. Does Mr. Latta seek recognition?

5832 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
5833 move to strike the last word.

5834 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
5835 minutes.

5836 *Mr. Latta. I thank the chairman for recognizing me.

5837 Long before the rise of COVID-19, our country was deep
5838 in the midst of a deadly health crisis that plagued our
5839 communities: the widespread distribution and use of illicit
5840 fentanyl.

5841 These drugs continue to flood across the border and into
5842 our streets, shattering families and destroying American
5843 communities. Our villages and towns are struggling under the
5844 weight of this emergency, and not enough is being done to
5845 halt the flow of these drugs. That is why I introduce H.Res.
5846 1274, which will request documentation related to the Biden
5847 Administration's failure to combat this unprecedented crisis,
5848 and how it plans to take action.

5849 Last year, on my visit to the southern border, we heard
5850 how cartels are funneling fentanyl and fentanyl-related
5851 substance into our country using disgusting tactics like
5852 disguising these drugs as candy. If you look at the
5853 statistics, fentanyl trafficking across our border has
5854 increased by 132 percent. It is now leading -- the leading
5855 cause of death for adults ages 18 to 45. In 2021 alone, over

5856 15,000 pounds of fentanyl-related substances were seized,
5857 which is enough to supply a lethal dose to every U.S.
5858 citizen.

5859 What these statistics fail to account for is the amount
5860 of fentanyl that was not interdicted at the border.
5861 Heartbreakingly, the United States had a record 107,000 drug
5862 overdoses last year, 71,000 of which are due to fentanyl. In
5863 Ohio we suffered our worst, absolute worst year on record,
5864 with 5,585 overdose deaths. This included 14-year-old
5865 Alexander, 17-year-old Zachary, 20-year-old Haley, and 16-
5866 year-old Daniel. Our children are the faces of this crisis,
5867 and they deserve justice. Their families deserve justice.

5868 The Biden Administration's failure to secure the border
5869 and liberal prosecutors' failure to crack down on crime
5870 across the nation have fed this crisis. For over two years
5871 Congress has kicked the can down the road and extended the
5872 temporary scheduling of fentanyl. We are currently under
5873 another temporary scheduling regime that will expire at the
5874 end of the year. Our families and our communities deserve a
5875 permanent solution.

5876 To that end, I have introduced, along with my colleague
5877 from Virginia, Mr. Griffith, the Halt Fentanyl Act, which
5878 would permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances as
5879 schedule I, and enable researchers to continue to study
5880 schedule I substances for the purposes of identifying

5881 potential medical benefits.

5882 I urge my colleagues to support this legislation, as
5883 well of H.Res. 1274, so we can finally coordinate together on
5884 saving lives and fighting back against this addiction.

5885 I thank the chairman, and I yield back the balance of my
5886 time.

5887 *The Chairman. Thank you, and I am going to yield
5888 myself five minutes to strike the last word.

5889 My intention is to report this resolution with no
5890 recommendation, and that is because I believe this is a
5891 complex, multi-faceted problem that we must continue to work
5892 on together in a bipartisan manner.

5893 The committee has a long history of addressing substance
5894 use disorders and overdoses in a strong bipartisan manner.
5895 In recent years we have led the charge with monumental pieces
5896 of legislation such as CARA, 21st Century Cures, and the
5897 SUPPORT Act. We have expanded access to counseling for
5898 mental health and substance use disorders via telehealth in
5899 the Medicare program, expanded access to treatment options
5900 including medication-assisted treatment, and expanded the
5901 behavioral health workforce.

5902 And as -- we continued our bipartisan work this year
5903 with H.R. 7666, the Restoring Hope for Mental Health and
5904 Well-Being Act, which passed out of committee and then
5905 overwhelmingly passed the House by a vote of 402 to 20. So I

5906 am proud of the bipartisan work we have done here in the
5907 House, and I will continue to work with Ranking Member
5908 Rodgers to ensure this bill becomes law this Congress,
5909 bringing relief to all of our communities, in my opinion.

5910 Now we are losing over 100,000 people per year. This
5911 issue requires us to continue our bipartisan policy-making
5912 and oversight, and should not devolve into a politicized
5913 debate.

5914 This committee has and will continue to exercise its
5915 oversight of the Administration's response to the illicit
5916 financial crisis. In the past two years the Biden
5917 Administration has released their national drug control
5918 strategy, the HHS Overdose Prevention Strategy, and a new
5919 US-Mexico bilateral framework for security and public health.
5920 The Biden Administration has also expanded the High Density
5921 Drug Trafficking Area Program and reformed regulations to
5922 provide greater access to health care for those experiencing
5923 an opioid or other substance use disorder.

5924 On the supply side, the Biden Administration has
5925 significantly increased the total number of fentanyl seizures
5926 coming into the country, and that is a sign that law
5927 enforcement is being effective.

5928 In December we held a health subcommittee hearing to
5929 examine the Biden Administration's interagency proposal to
5930 address illicit fentanyl-related substances, the topic of

5931 this resolution. The interagency proposal calls for
5932 permanent class-wide scheduling of FRS, expands and expedites
5933 research for all schedule I substances, creates an off-ramp
5934 to ensure that harmless or medically beneficial substances
5935 are not improperly classified. It makes important reforms to
5936 mandatory minimum sentencing standards involving FRS.

5937 I just think it is critical that we -- what we do to
5938 ensure fentanyl is not used to further divide our communities
5939 and exacerbate inequities in our criminal justice system. I
5940 believe the Biden Administration's proposal strikes the
5941 appropriate balance.

5942 Now, I understand there is a lot of frustration because
5943 the fentanyl crisis continues, but I think the answer is a
5944 bipartisan path which this committee will continue. And so
5945 for these reasons I said we are going to -- I will move to --
5946 after the debate, of course -- to report this resolution with
5947 no recommendation, which I think I want you understand is a
5948 little different than what we have done so far, where we have
5949 reported the others adversely.

5950 And with that, I yield back. I recognize the ranking
5951 member for five minutes.

5952 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
5953 strike the last word.

5954 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

5955 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I heard what

5956 you had to say. I still plan to vote no to move this
5957 resolution with no recommendation, because there is no reason
5958 that we cannot favorably report this resolution.

5959 Fentanyl is like a weapon of mass destruction. It is
5960 killing record numbers of Americans. Making sure that these
5961 deadly poisons are permanently made illegal requires urgent
5962 action because lives are on the line. An unthinkable amount
5963 of fentanyl and its analogues are coming across the border,
5964 enough to kill every American seven times over.

5965 According to the CDC's National Center for Health
5966 Statistics, there were over 100,000 drug overdose deaths in the
5967 United States. That is over 2,000 every day. In my home
5968 state of Washington, the overdose death rate increased by
5969 more than the national average, nearly 36 percent, all
5970 because of fentanyl and its many analogues.

5971 In this fiscal year the U.S. Customs and Border
5972 Protection has seized 12,000 pounds of fentanyl at the
5973 border. Across the nation, the DEA has seized a record
5974 number, over -- well, it is nearly a million -- or 10
5975 million, nearly 10 million fake prescription pills containing
5976 lethal amounts of fentanyl. More counterfeit pills have been
5977 seized so far in 2021 than the previous 2 years combined,
5978 with 2 out of every 5 pills containing a potentially lethal
5979 dose of fentanyl. This is not your typical street drug.
5980 This is weapons-grade poison that is killing our children.

5981 I want to remind you of the story of a young woman in my
5982 district named Kayla. She and a friend split what they
5983 thought was Percocet. That one pill, which was laced with
5984 fentanyl, immediately killed them both. They had no chance.

5985 Republicans have been trying to permanently place
5986 fentanyl-related substances in schedule I for years now. We
5987 are hearing from an army of parents every day, parents who
5988 deserve justice because they have lost a child and they don't
5989 want anyone else to experience their pain.

5990 The Biden Administration agrees that we should
5991 permanently schedule fentanyl-related substances in schedule
5992 I. Unfortunately, the Administration is also trying to treat
5993 these deadly poisons differently from fentanyl and other
5994 currently scheduled fentanyl analogues because they are
5995 proposing to exempt the entire class from trafficking
5996 mandatory minimums. This would prevent our law enforcement
5997 from finding and putting away drug traffickers who are
5998 bringing these chemical weapons across the border and into
5999 our communities. For the parents that we are fighting for,
6000 it would mean the criminals who killed their kids could keep
6001 trafficking these lethal substances with lower repercussions.

6002 Why would the Administration want to treat such a deadly
6003 substance differently? We need to better understand the
6004 reasoning behind the Administration's misguided
6005 recommendations and a weak-on-crime agenda. These substances

6006 are simply too deadly for us to be weak on traffickers and
6007 those who are selling to our children in our communities.

6008 In addition to traffickers, the Department of Justice
6009 has been falling short on their job of going after technology
6010 companies that facilitate the sale of these deadly poisons.
6011 I have met with parents in my office, each of which have lost
6012 a child to fentanyl poisoning. Each had a similar story:
6013 their kids were looking for something to help them with
6014 anxiety, depression. They turned to social media to find
6015 someone who could deliver the supposed help. But instead,
6016 just after one pill, thousands of parents are finding their
6017 children poisoned and dead.

6018 And hospitals are seeing it in our cities, young men and
6019 women on fentanyl and meth being brought into emergency
6020 rooms, where all equipment must be removed so those
6021 individuals don't hurt themselves or others, where additional
6022 staff must be hired to monitor that person in crisis. Come
6023 to Spokane. Nurses, doctors scared to go to work. We need
6024 to intervene and help people in despair get treatment.

6025 Were these parents, health care providers, and
6026 struggling Americans taken into account when the
6027 Administration recommended reducing penalties for trafficking
6028 fentanyl-related substances, while also pursuing this open-
6029 border agenda?

6030 How could technology companies handle a flood of drug

6031 traffickers selling substances without a mandatory minimum,
6032 if this proposal were to pass?

6033 I urge adoption of this important resolution of inquiry
6034 so that we can get answers to these questions. I yield back.

6035 *The Chairman. I thank the ranking member. Does anyone
6036 on the Democratic side or -- oh, Mr. Tonko is recognized --

6037 *Mr. Tonko. Yes.

6038 *The Chairman. -- for five minutes.

6039 *Mr. Tonko. Mr. Chair, I move to strike the last word.

6040 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

6041 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I address H.Res.
6042 1274, the resolution of inquiry sponsored by Mr. Latta
6043 related to fentanyl.

6044 I strongly disagree with the politicization of the
6045 overdose crisis, and I am disappointed that we are dealing
6046 with political resolutions of inquiry, instead of taking
6047 effective bipartisan action, as we have done throughout this
6048 and many other congresses.

6049 That said, I can agree that this committee should and
6050 does exercise its oversight of the Biden Administration's
6051 response to the fentanyl and overdose crisis. As I said,
6052 this is an issue that requires bipartisan solutions. It is
6053 our job to discuss the merits and pitfalls of all the policy
6054 proposals on the table.

6055 As the Chair mentioned, we have worked together to pass

6056 CARA, the SUPPORT Act, and, most recently, our bipartisan
6057 mental health package. These policies have provided billions
6058 of dollars to support the American people and combat the
6059 overdose crisis.

6060 The overdose crisis is an intractable issue that does
6061 not care for Democratic or Republican administrations. With
6062 the exception of 2018, drug overdose deaths have risen every
6063 year since at least 1999. This is not a simple issue that
6064 can be boiled down to one action by one president or one
6065 political party. It takes all of us.

6066 I am proud of the bipartisan work we have done together
6067 on the Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act, the Medicaid
6068 Reentry Act, and the Substance Abuse Prevention Treatment and
6069 Recovery Services Block Grant Act.

6070 As you know, we are closer than ever before to signing
6071 the Bipartisan Mainstreaming Addiction Treatment Act into
6072 law. The MAT Act would eliminate the outdated requirement
6073 that practitioners apply for a separate waiver, the X waiver,
6074 through the DEA to prescribe buprenorphine for the treatment
6075 of substance use disorder. There is simply no rationale for
6076 the existence of this waiver during this time of crisis, when
6077 access to safe, at-home treatment solutions can mean life or
6078 death for millions of Americans. This is a thoroughly
6079 bipartisan bill that will save countless lives, with strong
6080 backing from the scientific and the medical communities.

6081 I am also proud of the bipartisan work we have done
6082 together on the Medicaid Reentry Act, which focuses on
6083 improving mental health and substance care for justice-
6084 involved individuals by allowing states to restart Medicaid
6085 benefits for our incarcerated individuals 30 days prior to
6086 release to ensure smoother transition back into the
6087 community. This will help to better ensure those
6088 transitioning will have immediate access to critical
6089 services, including mental health support, addiction
6090 treatment, and COVID testing.

6091 I hope we can continue to work together this Congress to
6092 get it over the finish line and save lives. I, too, support
6093 continuing oversight of the Administration's response to the
6094 opioid emergency, and I do hope that we can find a bipartisan
6095 solution.

6096 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

6097 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else on
6098 this resolution?

6099 If not -- Mr. Guthrie?

6100 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you.

6101 *The Chairman. Oh, Mr. --

6102 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
6103 strike the last word.

6104 *The Chairman. Mr. Bilirakis is recognized for five
6105 minutes.

6106 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. I would like to thank my
6107 good friend, Mr. Latta, and, of course, our ranking member,
6108 Cathy McMorris Rodgers, for working on this issue, this very
6109 serious issue.

6110 [Slide]

6111 *Mr. Bilirakis. We need a war on fentanyl. It is as
6112 simple as that. Look at these beautiful faces, these
6113 beautiful faces. They were all victims to fentanyl. It is
6114 happening all over, all over the country, in all communities,
6115 unfortunately.

6116 So, again, thank you for offering the resolution, Mr.
6117 Latta, which asks for accountability from the Biden
6118 Administration when it comes to combating the unprecedented
6119 fentanyl crisis that our nation is currently facing.

6120 Sadly, we continue to see an increase in overdose
6121 deaths, with the CDC estimating that over 107,000 Americans
6122 died of a drug overdose during the past year. Florida, in
6123 particular, saw alarming numbers, with over 7,000 overdose
6124 deaths, the vast majority of which involved fentanyl.

6125 This is a far reaching problem with far reaching
6126 consequences, stretching as far as north of Alaska, which saw
6127 a 71 -- Alaska saw 71 percent increase in overdose deaths.
6128 No state is safe from this crisis, Mr. Chairman. All states
6129 have essentially become border states as we work to address
6130 the amounts of illicit fentanyl and fentanyl compounds that

6131 are flooding in from China and India into Mexico and then
6132 across the southern border.

6133 Currently, fentanyl overdose is the leading cause of
6134 death in the nation for individuals ages 18 to 45. Florida
6135 is tracking to surpass our already alarming 59 percent in
6136 overdose deaths due to fentanyl in 2020. It is very clear to
6137 me that it is tied to this Administration's open border
6138 policies.

6139 Now we know that the issues of substance abuse -- again,
6140 substance use disorder -- and mental health are closely
6141 linked, and have been very -- and I have been very proud that
6142 I have worked in a bipartisan fashion with this committee and
6143 -- to actually make a big difference in mental health and
6144 substance use disorders. So -- but it is not enough.

6145 You know, we have got to attack this issue. Whatever it
6146 takes, Mr. Chairman, whatever it takes. But it is not
6147 enough. And we need to see the Biden Administration do more.
6148 I appreciate that they finally identified the severity of the
6149 impact the global illicit drug trafficking is having on the
6150 United States. That said, utilizing executive action to
6151 identify this problem in December of 2021 is not enough and
6152 falls extremely short, in my opinion. Recognizing that we
6153 need to address this crisis is simply step one.

6154 And I am proud -- I am actually afraid to see it, that
6155 it appears in the Biden Administration -- well, they are just

6156 not doing enough. And identifying this as a problem grants
6157 President Biden unique authorities to address this national
6158 emergency. And it is an emergency, it really is. It allows
6159 him to pursue both comprehensive and creative solutions.

6160 I would like to enter into the record a letter sent to
6161 President Biden on September 14th, led by the attorney
6162 general of Florida, Ashley Moody, and the attorney general of
6163 Connecticut, William Tong. They were joined by their
6164 colleagues from 16 other states and territories in requesting
6165 that fentanyl be classified as a weapon of mass destruction.
6166 That is what it is, it is a weapon of mass destruction.

6167 Recognizing the role of international bad actors in the
6168 trafficking and distribution of illicit fentanyl, it is time
6169 to take immediate action and swiftly utilize all levels of
6170 power to address the threat this drug poses on our nation.

6171 Now, if President Biden cannot or will not take action
6172 to address this problem, Congress certainly should in a
6173 bipartisan fashion. I know Republicans on this committee are
6174 at the table prepared to pass the Halt All Lethal Trafficking
6175 of Fentanyl Act as soon as possible. We need to make the
6176 emergency class-wide scheduling of fentanyl-related
6177 substances permanent.

6178 I am sad that the overdose epidemic continues to get
6179 worse across our nation. And as we move forward we must
6180 embrace a collaborative approach. We must work together to

6181 continue to address this epidemic, and we must learn more
6182 about the Administration's plans, or lack thereof, to reduce
6183 the supply of fentanyl substances in our country. Every
6184 community in the United States is affected by this highly
6185 potent drug, which is being trafficked into our country, and
6186 there is no time to waste. Kids are dying, as the ranking
6187 member said. The time is now to act swiftly to protect the
6188 American people from the threat that it poses.

6189 I urge my colleagues to move this resolution of inquiry
6190 forward, and I yield back the balance of my time. Thank you,
6191 Mr. Chairman.

6192 *The Chairman. Thank you. Are there members that seek
6193 recognition?

6194 Mr. Guthrie?

6195 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
6196 strike the last word. I just want to use about a minute, and
6197 I will yield to whoever likes it.

6198 Dr. Gupta came to my district at the request -- or at
6199 the invitation of Leader McConnell, and we had a whole group
6200 of law enforcement officers with him. And Dr. Gupta is a
6201 wonderful man. If you guys have a chance to be with him, he
6202 really wants to do the right thing. But they were absolutely
6203 frustrated to the point where a couple of them -- I said
6204 afterwards, "You all, you probably need to behave a little
6205 different when you are around him.'" He was a guest in our

6206 place, but they were so frustrated because of the lack of
6207 putting fentanyl as a schedule I at full level.

6208 Because I was at the border, and the Border Patrol says
6209 we got -- it is easiest to bring across the border because
6210 you can put it in a water bottle and bring it across. So it
6211 is the easiest to sneak across the border. It is the most
6212 lethal. And then, if you don't put it on schedule I with the
6213 same penalties as all the others, it is going to be -- the
6214 incentive is to bring it over. So you have the easiest to
6215 smuggle, the most lethal, and the less penalty. You are
6216 going to get more of it.

6217 And I think -- and I agree with my good friend, Mr.
6218 Tonko; we have worked on a lot of things together, and I
6219 always enjoy doing that -- that we do need to be working on
6220 this in a bipartisan way. We shouldn't be an ROI. We should
6221 be trying to solve this problem. But, you know, taking this
6222 off schedule I is just not -- or not fully scheduling it in a
6223 way that all the others are is just not proper, in my
6224 opinion.

6225 And I will yield to my friend from South Carolina.

6226 *Mr. Duncan. Thanks. Just real quickly, we had the
6227 picture of the faces of fentanyl. Let me tell you about some
6228 faces of fentanyl that I have been exposed to and talked
6229 with, and that is the first responders.

6230 You have got them in your district. These are law

6231 enforcement. These are firefighters. These are EMS workers.
6232 And when they come in contact with a victim or a criminal,
6233 just in a normal process of doing their job, oft times they
6234 are being exposed to fentanyl residue in the pockets or on
6235 the clothes of the person they are apprehending or treating.
6236 And once they get that person processed, and the ambulance --
6237 or in the police car, get behind the wheel, they start to
6238 feel that they are about to black out. And many have from
6239 overdose of fentanyl from that exposure.

6240 So now they are having to carry Narcan as part of their
6241 normal repertoire. Along with their body armor and
6242 everything else, they are carrying -- EMS workers, with all
6243 their bags, they have got to carry that Narcan in order to
6244 hit themselves with them so that they don't die from a
6245 fentanyl overdose, never having taken a drug, just from doing
6246 their job to try to keep us safe. And law enforcement -- or
6247 protect us, and firefighting, or EMS.

6248 So this is a real issue, and I know you are going to
6249 hear about it back in your district from your first
6250 responders.

6251 And I will yield back to Mr. Guthrie.

6252 [Pause.]

6253 *The Chairman. Mr. Guthrie, are you finished?

6254 *Mr. Guthrie. [Inaudible.]

6255 *The Chairman. Yes.

6256 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chairman, I wish to strike the last
6257 word.

6258 *The Chairman. You are using --

6259 *Mr. Joyce. I thank you for yielding, Mr. Guthrie.

6260 In the past two years, we have seen over 100,000
6261 Americans lose their lives to drug overdoses, making this the
6262 leading cause of death for Americans between the ages of 18
6263 and 45. It is an incredibly sad reality. And right now the
6264 Biden Administration has shown no ability to effectively
6265 mitigate the fentanyl crisis that has exploded under their
6266 watch.

6267 Fentanyl and its analogues can be deadly, even in
6268 incredibly small quantities, as we have heard today. And in
6269 the past year, more than 10,000 pounds have been seized at
6270 our southern border, enough to kill every man, woman, and
6271 child in America.

6272 As we continue to confront this crisis, this has made
6273 every state a border state. And we need to look closely at
6274 the failed border policies that have allowed such large
6275 quantities of drugs to enter our country.

6276 As we have heard, hospitals, first responders, and local
6277 law enforcement are limited in their ability to address this
6278 crisis. We need to take the concrete actions that are
6279 necessary to secure our border and decimate the flow of
6280 illegal substances both from China and Central America into

6281 our communities. This fentanyl crisis is a border crisis, a
6282 deadly crisis that we can wait no longer. We must act.

6283 I urge my colleagues to move this resolution of inquiry
6284 forward, and I yield the remaining time back.

6285 *Mr. Guthrie. I yield back.

6286 *The Chairman. All right. Who else would like to speak
6287 on this?

6288 *Mr. Welch. Megan, can you check and give me the best
6289 intel on when the next vote is?

6290 [Laughter.]

6291 *The Chairman. My understanding is it is imminent. But
6292 you are talking about on the floor, right?

6293 *Voice. No, no, that was Mr. Welch.

6294 *The Chairman. Oh, Mr. Welch.

6295 *Voice. No, Mr. Dunn.

6296 [Laughter.]

6297 *The Chairman. Oh, he is not -- he is talking to
6298 himself?

6299 [Laughter.]

6300 *The Chairman. All right. Go ahead. Mr. Dunn is
6301 recognized for five minutes.

6302 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
6303 last word.

6304 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

6305 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you. I -- it is absurd that we have

6306 not already permanently scheduled fentanyl analogues.
6307 Instead, we have to demand documentation from the executive
6308 branch about how they arrived at this conclusion that
6309 permanent scheduling needs to be paired with sentencing
6310 reform.

6311 The proposal outlined by the Administration actually
6312 incentivizes the distribution of certain fentanyl analogues
6313 over others, and also does nothing to deter the criminals
6314 from -- and trafficking organizations which have become
6315 highly sophisticated and brazen in their activities.

6316 China has, as noted earlier, permanently scheduled
6317 fentanyl-related substances over three years ago, and yet the
6318 synthetic fentanyl that originates in China continues to kill
6319 thousands, hundreds of thousands, of Americans.

6320 We can quickly make our communities safe today by
6321 permanently scheduling fentanyl analogues, and Congress
6322 should be able to review the documents related to the Biden
6323 Administration's decision about consideration of this
6324 important issue. And that is what this resolution seeks to
6325 do.

6326 I urge everybody to support it, and I yield back.

6327 *The Chairman. Thank you. Does anyone else --

6328 *Mr. Dunn. I yield to -- the remainder of my time to
6329 Mr. Armstrong of North Dakota.

6330 *The Chairman. Okay, Mr. Armstrong.

6331 *Mr. Armstrong. I appreciate all the bipartisan work
6332 that we have done on this committee, and actually throughout
6333 all of Congress on addiction, smart criminal justice,
6334 treatment, services, all of those things. I really do. As
6335 somebody who practiced criminal defense and was a public
6336 defender for a decade, I think more than most I recognize how
6337 important some of those things are.

6338 But let's be clear. There was a 200 percent jump in
6339 fentanyl seizures at the border in July. But overall drug
6340 seizures are down by 15 percent. Meth, oxy, cocaine, heroin
6341 are all on pace to fall well short of the seizures we had in
6342 2021.

6343 I don't think -- I think we can assume that the cartels
6344 didn't get out of the drug business. Border encounters with
6345 illegal migrants have over doubled since 2019. And the
6346 fentanyl seizures that occur, and the large ones, the vast
6347 majority of it, is happening at ports of entry. The problem
6348 is most of the drugs aren't coming across the border at ports
6349 of entry.

6350 When you have this crisis going on and you are diverting
6351 interdiction resources in order to deal with migrant capacity
6352 and dealing with these things, there are open lanes that the
6353 cartels use to run this stuff into our country. And it gets
6354 to Fargo, North Dakota, and Bismarck, North Dakota, and Gary,
6355 Indiana, and everywhere else.

6356 So to say that we are seizing more fentanyl at ports of
6357 entry as a success, when this Administration has essentially
6358 overturned every single meaningful border security order of
6359 the previous Administration -- and we are watching what
6360 happens in real time -- is not true.

6361 We should do more to get every community in this country
6362 the services they need to deal with addiction. We should do
6363 more to deal with this because everybody, particularly under
6364 the age of 25, that goes to prison for a drug-related crime
6365 is going to get out. We should do all of those things, but
6366 we should stop the flow of fentanyl across the southern
6367 border. And we should be honest about what is going on down
6368 there, why it is going on, and the fact that it is not a
6369 complicated solution.

6370 It is a simple solution. It just takes a tremendous
6371 amount of political will to do it. And we should do it
6372 because people in my hometown are dying. People in your
6373 hometowns are dying, and there is a reason they are dying.
6374 And it is because fentanyl is coming across the southern
6375 border at rates that we have never seen before. And that is
6376 the truth.

6377 And with that, I yield back.

6378 *Mr. Dunn. I yield the remainder of the time to Mrs.
6379 Lesko of Arizona.

6380 Did you want that?

6381 I stand corrected. I yield back.

6382 *The Chairman. Mrs. Lesko, do you want your own time?

6383 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

6384 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

6385 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you. I move to strike the last
6386 word.

6387 *The Chairman. You are recognized for five minutes.

6388 *Mrs. Lesko. Folks, how many Americans have to die
6389 before President Biden will secure our border? Seriously.
6390 How many Americans have to die from fentanyl overdose for
6391 President Biden to secure our border?

6392 And Kamala Harris just recently said on national media
6393 when asked, "Is the border secure," she said, yes, the
6394 border is secure. Folks, that I am telling you, it is not
6395 secure. Does anybody actually believe that the border is
6396 secure?

6397 And if you do, I ask you to come to the border with me,
6398 come to the Arizona border with me. I just led a
6399 congressional delegation, and we went down to Nogales,
6400 Arizona, and we went to the DeConcini and Mariposa Ports of
6401 entry, and we talked to the Customs and Border Patrol
6402 officers. Each and every one of them that I spoke to said
6403 this is the worst border crisis in their entire careers. And
6404 some of them have worked for the Customs and Border Patrol
6405 for almost 30 years. The worst it has ever been.

6406 On September 17th alone, this year, CBP officers at the
6407 Nogales Port of entry stopped 5 loads totaling approximately
6408 400,000 fentanyl pills, of which 30,000 were rainbow colored,
6409 and 152 pounds of meth.

6410 September 14th, the officers at the Nogales Port of
6411 entry stopped a vehicle containing approximately 276,000
6412 fentanyl pills in a spare tire. Approximately a 146,000 of
6413 the pills were multi-colored. And I can go on and on.

6414 But it is what we don't catch at the ports of entry and
6415 what we are not catching at the border that scares me. And
6416 that is why fentanyl is the number one cause of death for
6417 Americans between 18 and 45, all of those fentanyl pills that
6418 aren't being caught at the border.

6419 And so when President Biden, on day one of his
6420 presidency, says we are going to stop construction of the
6421 fence, and I go down there, and you see the openings in the
6422 fence, and you hear the Customs and Border Patrol officers
6423 saying that this fentanyl is being carried on the people, it
6424 is being carried in the illegal immigrants crossing the
6425 border and smuggling, and how these smugglers that are being
6426 recruited by the cartels are not even being prosecuted, there
6427 is something wrong, folks.

6428 We need to secure the border for the sake of our
6429 Americans that are dying each and every day. And for that I
6430 yield back (sic).

6431 *The Chairman. We are going to recognize Mr. -- how
6432 many more speakers are there?

6433 You, Carter, and Crenshaw? All right. What I was going
6434 to propose is that we have you speak, and then we vote on
6435 this, and then we will continue because probably about -- 40
6436 minutes, there is only one vote -- and members can just go
6437 back and forth, rather than, you know, take a recess, if that
6438 is okay.

6439 No, no, no. Let them speak. We will vote on this --
6440 no?

6441 Yes, that is what we are going to do. In other words,
6442 we are not going to keep going. I mean, we are going to keep
6443 going. We are not going to take a recess. But I want to
6444 hear from Crenshaw, Carter. We will take a recorded vote,
6445 and then we will go to the next one. But whoever wants to
6446 leave -- but you shouldn't leave until we vote on the first
6447 one. All right? Everybody understand?

6448 All right. Mr. Crenshaw is recognized for five minutes.

6449 *Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

6450 Look, we are witnessing the purposeful poisoning of
6451 Americans with fentanyl at the hands of the Mexican drug
6452 cartels. I call it poisoning, because that is exactly what
6453 it is: 70,000 Americans, many of them young Americans, died
6454 last year of fentanyl overdose because the deadly substance
6455 smuggled into our country and laced into typical street

6456 drugs, whether it is cocaine, heroin, or pills -- make no
6457 mistake about it, this is a war, and our enemy is the cartel,
6458 plain and simple.

6459 But no one wants to talk about it. The Administration
6460 won't talk about it. Every day more than 150 people die from
6461 overdoses related to synthetic opioids like fentanyl. And it
6462 is coming from one source: the Mexican drug cartels.
6463 According to Mexico's defense ministers, fentanyl seizures
6464 rose nearly 500 percent last year to almost 3 million pounds.
6465 Border Patrol seized 1,800 pounds of fentanyl just in the
6466 month of July, and Border Patrol agents who guard the vast
6467 border areas between ports of entry seized about 340 pounds.

6468 We have all seen the reports of rainbow fentanyl that is
6469 being seized at the border, and is specifically designed to
6470 target our kids. Earlier this month 47,000 rainbow fentanyl
6471 pills were seized at the U.S.-Mexico border. And while these
6472 numbers are shocking, they pale in comparison to the amount
6473 of fentanyl that is slipping across our border undetected
6474 because border agents are too overwhelmed with thousands of
6475 migrants crossing into our country every day.

6476 This is clearly deliberate. The strain on our Border
6477 Patrol is purposefully made worse by the cartels, who recruit
6478 groups of illegal immigrants, charge them a fee, and send
6479 them across our border to divert resources so that they can
6480 then move fentanyl across a different location into our

6481 country and into the hands of drug dealers who sell this
6482 poison to kids. And they can do this because we have an
6483 Administration that refuses to do the most basic things to
6484 secure our border, whether it is re-implementing the Remain
6485 in Mexico policy, or stopping the abuses of our asylum laws,
6486 or actually deporting people who are coming into our country
6487 illegally.

6488 We are doing nothing to secure our border, and everyone
6489 knows it, including the cartels who have been encouraging
6490 migrants to overwhelm our border since Biden took office,
6491 promising them that they will be welcomed with open arms if
6492 they just walk across the Rio Grande.

6493 Every American should know the names of the head of the
6494 cartels who are killing tens of thousands of Americans every
6495 year. Their faces should be plastered across social media
6496 and our TVs and our newspapers like wanted mass murderers,
6497 because that is exactly what they are. It is a common enemy,
6498 and we must confront it with a warlike posture.

6499 Unfortunately, this Administration is not interested.
6500 We have seen no plan from them to secure our border, enforce
6501 basic immigration laws, or deal with the cartels that are
6502 killing Americans with fentanyl. Response from our
6503 government has not been commensurate with the problem at
6504 hand, which is why I am supporting Representative Latta's
6505 resolution of inquiry to get some basic answers from the

6506 White House on what they plan to do to address that. And I
6507 don't see why that is controversial at all.

6508 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

6509 *The Chairman. Thank you.

6510 Mr. Carter?

6511 *Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
6512 the last word.

6513 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

6514 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, the failure of the Biden
6515 Administration to control the southern border has resulted in
6516 record levels of deadly synthetic drugs like fentanyl to come
6517 into our country and to pour directly into American
6518 communities.

6519 Now, make sure we understand we are not just talking
6520 about border communities. Every country, every town, every
6521 county, every city in this country is infested by this. It
6522 is seeping into our communities. No, it is not just along
6523 the border. It is all throughout our country. Every town is
6524 a border town now.

6525 So far this fiscal year, over 10,000 pounds of fentanyl
6526 has been seized at the southern border.

6527 *Voice. You will have to excuse me. I am kind of
6528 watching --

6529 *The Chairman. Who has their -- who?

6530 *Voice. We are voting on the floor. So if I --

6531 *The Chairman. Mr. Curtis, can you turn off the
6532 conversation?

6533 All right, Mr. Carter, you can continue.

6534 *Mr. Carter. Again, Mr. Chairman, so far this fiscal
6535 year over 10,000 pounds --

6536 *Voice. Yes, we are all --

6537 *Voice. We are trying to be as efficient with you all's
6538 time --

6539 *Voice. Well, I appreciate that.

6540 *The Chairman. Mr. Curtis, we can hear your
6541 conversation.

6542 *Voice. I think he is off.

6543 *The Chairman. Okay. Go ahead, Mr. Carter.

6544 *Mr. Carter. Okay. For the third time, so far this
6545 year, over 10,000 pounds of fentanyl has been seized at the
6546 southern border, with even more slipping through into
6547 communities across this country. The surge of drug seizures
6548 at our border is closely connected to the surge of drug
6549 overdose deaths in the United States. And we call them drug
6550 overdose deaths; it is actually, as Representative Crenshaw
6551 just referred to it as, it is drug poisoning. It is fentanyl
6552 poisoning. That is exactly what it was.

6553 I was at a town hall meeting just last week when the
6554 mother, God bless her, of a child who had died as a result of
6555 taking one tablet -- she -- I made the mistake of calling it

6556 fentanyl addiction. She said, "No, it wasn't addiction, it
6557 was poisoning. My child was poisoned. That is what it
6558 was.'" And I thank her for correcting me. I was wrong. She
6559 was right.

6560 In fact, every seven-and-a-half minutes someone in the
6561 United States dies from fentanyl poisoning. Every seven-and-
6562 a-half minutes. How long have we been here today? We
6563 started at what, 10:30? And how many people have died as a
6564 result of fentanyl poisoning since we have been in session
6565 here?

6566 Fortunately, we have got an opportunity here for us to
6567 work together to help to stem the flow of deadly fentanyl and
6568 its analogues into our country. This is an issue that
6569 impacts every one of us. It is not just Republicans. It is
6570 not just Democrats. It is not independents. It is everyone,
6571 all of us. You think that fentanyl gives a dang whether you
6572 are a Democrat or Republican? No, it doesn't. I can tell
6573 you, I am a pharmacist. I know this. I have studied it.

6574 In my home state of Georgia, fentanyl overdose deaths in
6575 teens are up 800 percent, 800 percent. Overdoses like this
6576 are happening every day all over the country. Even the CDC
6577 reports that fentanyl is now the leading cause of death, the
6578 leading cause of death in the U.S. for adults age 18 through
6579 45. How can anyone seriously argue that a drug 50 times more
6580 potent than heroin, and which almost always proves fatal when

6581 ingested, should ever be legal?

6582 These products are manufactured illegally, and are
6583 largely brought into the U.S. through the southern border.
6584 Just this fiscal year, U.S. border agents have seized enough
6585 fentanyl to kill every American, every single one of us,
6586 eight times over. To save lives, we must secure the border
6587 and halt fentanyl. I have visited the border several times
6588 to see the crisis firsthand, and I have witnessed it. With a
6589 record number, a high number of illegal immigrants, smugglers
6590 and cartels are using this as an opportunity to traffic more
6591 fentanyl substances.

6592 Unfortunately, President Biden and his Administration
6593 have elected to leave our border wide open, wide open,
6594 inviting drug traffickers to bring fentanyl substances into
6595 the country and distribute it on our streets. This should
6596 not be a partisan issue.

6597 Again, that fentanyl doesn't care one bit whether you
6598 are a Democrat or Republican or independent. It doesn't care
6599 about the color of your skin. It doesn't care about your
6600 gender. It doesn't care about anything.

6601 This is an issue that is not going away. It is only
6602 getting worse. If the President and the Vice President would
6603 visit the border, they would be able to talk to the agents
6604 firsthand and see for themselves how serious the issue is.
6605 Our communities are at risk. Our youth are at risk. Our

6606 children are at risk. People we love, they are at risk.
6607 Despite an overdose crisis that is killing more than 100,000
6608 people a year, President Biden and his Administration have
6609 failed to secure the southern border.

6610 Make no mistake about it, this is where it is coming
6611 from. It is coming from across the border. President Biden
6612 has ignored this public health crisis for too long. We need
6613 to secure our border and protect all Americans: Republicans,
6614 Democrats, independent, doesn't matter. All Americans.

6615 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

6616 *The Chairman. Thank you.

6617 So we are going to go to a recorded vote. Those in
6618 favor of reporting H.Res. 1274 to the House without
6619 recommendation will say aye; and those opposed will say no;
6620 and the clerk shall call the roll.

6621 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

6622 [No response.]

6623 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

6624 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

6625 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

6626 Ms. DeGette?

6627 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

6628 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

6629 Mr. Doyle?

6630 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

6631 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
6632 Ms. Schakowsky?
6633 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.
6634 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
6635 Mr. Butterfield?
6636 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.
6637 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
6638 Ms. Matsui?
6639 *Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.
6640 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
6641 Ms. Castor?
6642 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
6643 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
6644 Mr. Sarbanes?
6645 [No response.]
6646 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney?
6647 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
6648 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
6649 Mr. Welch?
6650 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.
6651 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
6652 Mr. Tonko?
6653 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
6654 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
6655 Ms. Clarke?

6656 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
6657 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
6658 Mr. Schrader?
6659 [No response.]
6660 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
6661 [No response.]
6662 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
6663 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
6664 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
6665 Mr. Peters?
6666 [No response.]
6667 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
6668 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.
6669 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
6670 Mr. Veasey?
6671 [No response.]
6672 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?
6673 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
6674 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
6675 Ms. Kelly?
6676 [No response.]
6677 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly?
6678 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
6679 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
6680 Ms. Barragan?

6681 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
6682 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
6683 Mr. McEachin?
6684 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
6685 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
6686 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
6687 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
6688 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
6689 Mr. Soto?
6690 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
6691 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
6692 Mr. O'Halleran?
6693 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
6694 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
6695 Miss Rice?
6696 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
6697 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
6698 Ms. Craig?
6699 *Ms. Craig. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
6700 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
6701 Ms. Schrier?
6702 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
6703 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
6704 Mrs. Trahan?
6705 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

6706 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
6707 Mrs. Fletcher?
6708 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
6709 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
6710 Mrs. Rodgers?
6711 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
6712 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
6713 Mr. Upton?
6714 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.
6715 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
6716 Mr. Burgess?
6717 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
6718 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
6719 Mr. Scalise?
6720 [No response.]
6721 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
6722 *Mr. Latta. No.
6723 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
6724 Mr. Guthrie?
6725 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
6726 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
6727 Mr. McKinley?
6728 *Mr. McKinley. [Inaudible.]
6729 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley votes no.
6730 Mr. Kinzinger?

6731 [No response.]

6732 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

6733 *Mr. Griffith. No.

6734 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

6735 Mr. Bilirakis?

6736 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

6737 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

6738 Mr. Johnson?

6739 *Mr. Johnson. No.

6740 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

6741 Mr. Long?

6742 [No response.]

6743 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?

6744 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

6745 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

6746 Mr. Mullin?

6747 *Mr. Mullin. No.

6748 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

6749 Mr. Hudson?

6750 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.

6751 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.

6752 Mr. Walberg?

6753 *Mr. Walberg. No.

6754 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

6755 Mr. Carter?

6756 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.
6757 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
6758 Mr. Duncan?
6759 *Mr. Duncan. No.
6760 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
6761 Mr. Palmer?
6762 [No response.]
6763 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
6764 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
6765 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
6766 Mr. Curtis?
6767 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.
6768 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
6769 Mrs. Lesko?
6770 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
6771 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
6772 Mr. Pence?
6773 *Mr. Pence. No.
6774 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
6775 Mr. Crenshaw?
6776 [No response.]
6777 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
6778 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
6779 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
6780 Mr. Armstrong?

6781 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

6782 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

6783 Chairman Pallone?

6784 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

6785 *The Clerk. Chairman --

6786 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman --

6787 *The Clerk. -- Pallone votes aye.

6788 *The Chairman. Is there anyone who hasn't voted who

6789 wants to be recorded?

6790 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman?

6791 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

6792 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

6793 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

6794 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

6795 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

6796 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

6797 *The Chairman. Mr. Cardenas?

6798 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.

6799 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas --

6800 *Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Chairman?

6801 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.

6802 *The Chairman. Mr. Crenshaw, I think.

6803 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes no.

6804 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

6805 *Mr. Sarbanes. Is Sarbanes recorded?

6806 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes is not recorded.
6807 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
6808 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
6809 *The Chairman. Mr. Peters?
6810 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
6811 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
6812 *The Chairman. Mr. Veasey?
6813 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, am I recorded?
6814 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.
6815 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I vote aye.
6816 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
6817 *Mr. Cardenas. Is Cardenas recorded?
6818 *The Chairman. Who is that? Mr. Cardenas, is --
6819 *Mr. Cardenas. Is Cardenas recorded?
6820 *The Chairman. Is he recorded?
6821 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas voted aye.
6822 *The Chairman. You are recorded.
6823 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you.
6824 *The Chairman. Anyone else?
6825 The clerk will report the tally.
6826 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 32 and the nays
6827 were 22.
6828 *The Chairman. So the vote is 32 ayes to 22 noes.
6829 H.Res. 1274 is reported to the House without recommendation.
6830 So what we are going to do now is if -- you know, we are

6831 going to call up the next bill. But make sure you go vote,
6832 and then we are going to continue the debate until everybody
6833 comes back.

6834 [Pause.]

6835 *Ms. Kelly. [Presiding] The chair calls up H.Res. 1275.
6836 The clerk will report the bill.

6837 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1275, a resolution of inquiry
6838 directing the President to provide certain documents --

6839 *Ms. Kelly. Without objection, the first reading of the
6840 bill will be dispensed with. The bill is now considered as
6841 read.

6842 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and
6843 open for amendment at any point.

6844 [The bill follows:]

6845

6846 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

6847

6848 *Ms. Kelly. Are there any members seeking recognition
6849 to speak on H.Res. 1275?

6850 The chair recognizes Mrs. Lesko.

6851 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Madam Chair. I introduced this
6852 resolution of inquiry to request documentation related to the
6853 Administration's decision to revoke title 42, and the
6854 implications of them doing so.

6855 I led this up with a letter -- it was dated July 16,
6856 2021 -- to the Administration, to President Biden, asking for
6857 information. And part of it says, "Your Administration
6858 considers COVID-19 to be a continuing public health crisis so
6859 serious as to require people to go door to door to encourage
6860 Americans to get vaccinated. If COVID-19 remains such a
6861 serious public health threat, and has been used as
6862 justification for restrictions on the liberties of American
6863 people by mandating they are getting vaccines, then why do
6864 you not want to turn away illegal immigrants at the border
6865 because of the threat of the passage of COVID-19?"

6866 "It really is a disservice to the American people for, I
6867 believe, the Biden Administration to advocate for COVID-19
6868 restrictions, and criticize the lifting of COVID-19
6869 restrictions across the country, while revoking Immigrations
6870 Official Public Health Authority under title 42 to slow the
6871 spread of COVID-19. Your Administration's priority should be
6872 protecting the American people. But instead, it appears that

6873 your Administration is committed to putting America last.''

6874 I have said it before. I visited the border just
6875 recently. I brought down Congress members there.

6876 [Slide]

6877 *Mrs. Lesko. The border is not secure, Madam Vice
6878 President Kamala Harris, as you recently said. The border is
6879 wide open. In fact, when illegal immigrants were dropped off
6880 by your house here in the Washington, D.C. area, one of them
6881 was interviewed, and was asked, you know, "The Vice President
6882 just said the border was secure. Is the border secure?''

6883 And they said, "No, it is wide open. We just walked
6884 across it, and we are here now.''

6885 Everyone knows that the border is wide open. I don't
6886 know how anyone with a straight face can say that the border
6887 is secure. In August of this year it was the eighteenth
6888 straight month with more than 150,000 encounters at our
6889 southern border. For the first time in history, migrant
6890 encounters at the southwest border have surpassed two million
6891 in a single fiscal year, with one month remaining.

6892 CBP has 203,597 migrant encounters along the southwest
6893 border in August of 2022. Since President Biden has been in
6894 office when on day one he stopped construction of the border
6895 fence -- and there is wide openings in the border fence --
6896 there has been nearly 3.6 migrant encounters at the southwest
6897 border, in addition to over 900,000 known got-aways who

6898 evaded U.S. Border Patrol.

6899 You know, if it is true, what the Biden Administration
6900 is telling us, they said in fiscal year 2021 -- DHS claims
6901 they expelled just over 1 million migrants using title 42.
6902 Ending title 42 will have disastrous consequences on our
6903 border. Yet the Biden Administration continues to take away
6904 that one last tool of any sanity at the border. Every single
6905 Border Patrol officer will tell us, "Do not get rid of title
6906 42," yet that is exactly what our Administration is doing.

6907 That is why I am asking President Biden and the
6908 Administration to give us answers and documentation on what
6909 they are doing to protect the American people, and why they
6910 are rejecting turning away illegal immigrants at the border
6911 for fear that they will spread COVID.

6912 And with that, I yield back.

6913 *Ms. Kelly. The gentlelady yields back. Are there any
6914 other members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1275?

6915 The chair recognizes Mr. Walberg.

6916 Mr. Walberg?

6917 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Madam --

6918 *Ms. Kelly. You have five minutes.

6919 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Madam Chair. Strike the last
6920 word.

6921 In an interview last Sunday, Vice President Harris again
6922 -- again -- claimed that the border is secure. Well, I

6923 don't know what border she was referring to, but it certainly
6924 couldn't be ours. I have been there. I have viewed the
6925 border. I have seen what is taking place there. I have seen
6926 the frustration of our citizens, of our border patrol. And I
6927 have even seen the frustration of immigrants that have put
6928 their life on the line.

6929 Since the beginning of the Biden Administration, 3.5
6930 million illegal immigrants have been apprehended at our
6931 southern border. In the month of August alone, there were
6932 over 200,000 encounters, with 8,000 people crossing every
6933 single day, not counting the got-aways. And those are just
6934 the ones that are caught. This is negligence by the Biden
6935 Administration, plain and simple.

6936 Even before our friends in Texas and Florida were giving
6937 migrants the option -- and we have seen that that is true --
6938 to bus to other states, the impact of this Administration's
6939 lack of action was felt in every town in America, a country
6940 that says we are based on law. Not only will the crisis at
6941 the border cost American taxpayers over \$20 billion a year,
6942 but it has also allowed tens of thousands of pounds of
6943 dangerous fentanyl to cross over and devastate our
6944 communities.

6945 Before January 20th, 2021 we were actually seeing a
6946 reduction in the impact of these killer drugs. Despite this,
6947 the White House attempted to revoke title 42 in May, one of

6948 the only means of keeping the ever increasing wave of
6949 immigrants from staying in the country illegally, an
6950 important tool to protect our public health. We still had
6951 mask mandates for some of our school children, but the White
6952 House believed that the threat of COVID was low enough to
6953 allow thousands of people to come into the country without
6954 restrictions.

6955 The resolution before us requests important information
6956 on how this decision was made, and the implications it had
6957 for our communities. Maybe if we have access to these
6958 documents, we can share them with the Vice President's office
6959 and prove just how open our southern border truly is, since
6960 she won't go and see herself what is taking place. This
6961 might bring reality to her understanding, and also to that of
6962 President Biden.

6963 With that, Madam Chairman, I yield back.

6964 *Mr. Cardenas. Madam Chairwoman, this is Congressman
6965 Cardenas. I seek to strike the last word.

6966 *Mr. Ruiz. [Presiding] The gentleman yields back.
6967 Representative Cardenas is recognized for five minutes.

6968 *Mr. Cardenas. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It seems clear
6969 to me that my Republican colleagues are taking an opportunity
6970 to amplify anti-immigrant rhetoric with this resolution. It
6971 is like I am watching Fox News right here in committee.

6972 Title 42 was an excuse to keep people out of our

6973 country. Right now we have protocols, vaccines, and testing
6974 to contain this virus.

6975 Let me be clear. Going to the border to seek asylum is
6976 legal, and refugees fleeing violence and persecution should
6977 have the right to due process, and certainly want to go to a
6978 country that has open and fair arms to welcome them through a
6979 legal process. We are talking about women, children, and
6980 families and individuals from the LGBTQI+ community who are
6981 fleeing for their lives. But time and time again, we are
6982 seeing Republicans fight to keep it a tool to deter illegal
6983 immigration.

6984 We all know that title 42 has been weaponized by the
6985 former Trump Administration and Republicans to tell a false
6986 narrative that immigrants are bad and pose a danger. But the
6987 U.S. has been a bedrock around the world, where we can accept
6988 people who become a positive part of our country. In fact,
6989 the only way we maintain the number one economy in the world
6990 is because we have accepted good, hardworking immigrants to
6991 be part of our great country and to contribute to our
6992 economy. And despite what some of my colleagues might say,
6993 immigrants are a positive contribution to our economy, not a
6994 negative. They add, not draw away from our economy that
6995 benefits every single American.

6996 It is interesting to me that when it comes to
6997 immigrants, suddenly my Republican colleagues have all kinds

6998 of concerns about more stringent public health measures. My
6999 colleagues across the aisle have consistently opposed common-
7000 sense public health solutions to slow the spread of COVID-19.
7001 Yet they continue to argue that COVID-19 public health
7002 emergency requires that asylum seekers be returned, be turned
7003 away.

7004 Title 42 has put individuals in danger, and is not
7005 consistent with the values and responsibilities that we
7006 pretend to be as a country. And what makes this resolution
7007 even worse is that it also tries to tie in title 42 with the
7008 volume of fentanyl coming into the country, which is simply
7009 not true. Not only is drug trafficking completely outside
7010 the scope and purpose of title 42, which seems to confirm my
7011 assertion that this resolution is purely an anti-immigrant
7012 political ploy, it is also entirely disingenuous to point the
7013 finger at immigrants for our opioid crisis.

7014 Why don't we talk about the U.S. born-and-bred Sackler
7015 family? They played an outsized role in the opioid epidemic,
7016 doing far more to advance the fentanyl crisis than any number
7017 of immigrants or others involved in this crisis.

7018 Seeking asylum in the U.S., again, is a legal process,
7019 and we should respect that. I reject the resolution
7020 wholeheartedly, and I urge my colleagues to do the same.

7021 This great country, the United States, has always opened
7022 its arms to those who seek a better life, seeking refuge and

7023 fleeing for their lives. And I will continue to ensure that
7024 America lives up to our promise and welcomes good,
7025 hardworking people into our country like we have for
7026 generations past. We should continue to be the country that
7027 we say we are, which is a country where the American dream is
7028 there for every person who is willing to work hard for it.

7029 Again, we are speaking mostly of people who come here
7030 seeking asylum, and come here to, hopefully, hopefully apply
7031 themselves to a legal process that we have adhered to for
7032 many generations in this country.

7033 With that, thank you, Mr. Chairman --

7034 *Mr. Walberg. Would the gentleman yield?

7035 *Mr. Cardenas. Who is asking?

7036 *Mr. Walberg. Would the gentleman yield? Walberg.

7037 *Mr. Cardenas. Okay. I will yield to you, but I will
7038 reclaim my time if I feel the need to.

7039 *Mr. Walberg. I understand. I appreciate that. I just
7040 wanted to make sure it was very clear.

7041 I agree with you about legal immigrants. We need legal
7042 immigrants. I am a product of legal immigration. We want
7043 that. But what we are talking about is the illegal ones, the
7044 ones that are got-aways, the ones that are endangering
7045 communities, the ones that are bringing across illegals. So
7046 please don't lump us all into people that don't want
7047 immigrants. We just want a legal border.

7048 And with that, I yield back and thank you for yielding.

7049 *Mr. Cardenas. Yes, you are welcome, and thank you for
7050 that clarity coming from you as a voice on this committee,
7051 and I appreciate that opportunity.

7052 And I am going to say with my last 20 seconds I am proud
7053 to say that I am the son of a father who came here and worked
7054 hard every single day to bear 11 American-born citizens with
7055 my mother, who was an American citizen. But my father came
7056 here supposedly the wrong way, but he never broke any laws.
7057 And he was a good man. And he contributed to this country.
7058 And his next generation and the next and the next will
7059 continue to do so.

7060 Sorry to go over my time, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

7061 *Mr. Ruiz. Thank you.

7062 Mr. Joyce, the gentleman is recognized from Pennsylvania
7063 for five minutes.

7064 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
7065 word.

7066 This month we surpassed over two million illegal border
7067 crossings in the past fiscal year, a record since Customs and
7068 Border Patrol began catching this data and keeping this data,
7069 these important pieces of information. This surge in
7070 migration has been caused in part by border policies that
7071 have failed to put safety, security, and the well-being of
7072 Americans first.

7073 The decision to end title 42 remain-in-Mexico policy has
7074 overwhelmed the resources for handling the influx of migrants
7075 who arrive at our border. Given this continued surge, it is
7076 critical that the Biden Administration share with Congress
7077 the data and the reasoning behind their decision to end title
7078 42.

7079 Data shows that over 600,000 pounds of drugs have been
7080 seized in the past year, more than enough to kill every man,
7081 woman, and child in the United States. The open border
7082 policies that have been enacted, laid out are an invitation
7083 to those who wish to harm Americans. And we in Congress have
7084 an obligation to question the Biden Administration in this
7085 decision-making process.

7086 And with this, I urge all of my colleagues to adopt the
7087 resolution of inquiry, and I yield back.

7088 *Mr. Ruiz. The gentleman yields back. I recognize
7089 myself for five minutes.

7090 Using the pandemic as an excuse to keep implementing the
7091 Trump title 42 policy that has prevented millions of asylum
7092 seekers from their American legal right to asylum must end.
7093 COVID cases and transmission rates are down. Tests with
7094 quarantine protocols exist, and vaccines are readily
7095 available.

7096 Title 42 is a public health emergency policy, and not a
7097 border management policy. It must end. Whether fleeing from

7098 your life -- from Putin's army in Ukraine, or drug cartels
7099 and gangs in Central America, all refugees and asylum seekers
7100 must have their American legal right to due process to seek
7101 asylum upheld. They must have their rights upheld without
7102 fear of being expelled back to the exact dangers from which
7103 they fled.

7104 Congress must work to create a professional, humane
7105 immigration system, strengthen our legal pathways for
7106 immigrants, refugees, and asylum seekers, and fully revoke
7107 title 42.

7108 We must work to end xenophobic policies from the prior
7109 Administration based on fear and hate that do not reflect our
7110 American values.

7111 With that, I yield back the balance of my time.

7112 [Pause.]

7113 *Mr. Ruiz. At this point I yield -- I recognize Mr.
7114 O'Halleran from Arizona for five minutes.

7115 *Mr. O'Halleran. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
7116 strike the last word.

7117 The Secretary of Homeland Security has been failing the
7118 border states like Arizona for some time. I have been to the
7119 border several times, most recently in May of this year. We
7120 need a -- more routine and substantive updates from the
7121 Administration and the Secretary, and to work with Congress
7122 and with border states to fully address the issues at the

7123 border.

7124 Title 42 is an issue that needs to be resolved and needs
7125 to be addressed, and I think it would go further to be able
7126 to do that if we had more information.

7127 What I heard there from the Border Patrol and others was
7128 an overwhelming lack of communication, lack of coordination,
7129 and overall confusion among different Federal agencies. I
7130 have been engaged with NGOs in Arizona to ensure that those
7131 treated at federally -- Federal facilities are treated
7132 humanely, and their claims are heard as quickly as possible.
7133 We need a process down there, and a court system is going to
7134 work for the processing and the completion of cases.

7135 I have sent several letters to the Secretary throughout
7136 the last year, and to date we have not received any response
7137 on any of these issues. The Secretary owes the Congress and
7138 the public a response on what is going on at the southern
7139 border, both from the humane -- humanity situation and from
7140 the security of our border. This must be more detailed and
7141 more intensive than the short, 20-page memo that was released
7142 in April 2022.

7143 The situation at the border is complex, and requires
7144 more attention than the Secretary has provided so far. We
7145 need for DHS to detail how many additional Border Patrol
7146 agents are needed to be hired, how will they retain --
7147 retrain -- train and retrain their existing workforce, and

7148 how will they coordinate with NGOs and the court systems and
7149 others at the southern border to ensure that there is the
7150 capacity to deal with the increase in migrants.

7151 We are dealing with human beings, people that are going
7152 through trauma and stress, and we must be able to do that in
7153 an appropriate way that is commensurate with the great nation
7154 that we live in.

7155 I once again ask my colleagues -- thank my colleagues
7156 for introducing -- or, I am sorry, for addressing immigration
7157 issues.

7158 But in the end, we have to stop this political
7159 discussion and get to reality. We have to get a
7160 comprehensive policy dealt with that is meaningful to both
7161 sides. Done before -- it has been done before and needs to
7162 be done again, because the bill from 2013, at minimum, should
7163 be the framework for moving forward. Otherwise, we are going
7164 to continue to be here, and yet not be able to resolve this
7165 issue, whether it is title 42 or any of the other many issues
7166 dealing with that -- this issue for some time. And that is
7167 not in the best interest of our country, the best interest of
7168 the people involved, nor is it in the best interest of our
7169 ability to be seen in the world as the great country that we
7170 are.

7171 And I yield.

7172 *The Chairman. [Presiding] I thank the gentleman. Does

7173 anyone else want to speak on this resolution?

7174 All right, we will move to a recorded vote, but, you
7175 know, we will keep it open until everybody gets back that --
7176 you know, make sure everybody has voted.

7177 So a recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor of
7178 reporting H.Res. 1275 to the House without recommendation
7179 will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk shall
7180 call the roll.

7181 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

7182 [No response.]

7183 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

7184 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

7185 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

7186 Ms. DeGette?

7187 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

7188 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

7189 Mr. Doyle?

7190 [No response.]

7191 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

7192 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.

7193 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

7194 Mr. Butterfield?

7195 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

7196 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

7197 Ms. Matsui?

7198 [No response.]

7199 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor?

7200 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

7201 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

7202 Mr. Sarbanes?

7203 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

7204 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

7205 Mr. McNerney?

7206 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

7207 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

7208 Mr. Welch?

7209 [No response.]

7210 *Voice. Tell them you mean business.

7211 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?

7212 *Mr. Tonko. [Inaudible.]

7213 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

7214 Ms. Clarke?

7215 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]

7216 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

7217 Mr. Schrader?

7218 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

7219 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

7220 Mr. Cardenas?

7221 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, representing California, I

7222 will be voting aye.

7223 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
7224 Mr. Ruiz?
7225 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
7226 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7227 Mr. Peters?
7228 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
7229 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7230 Mrs. Dingell?
7231 *Mrs. Dingell. Votes aye.
7232 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7233 Mr. Veasey?
7234 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
7235 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7236 Ms. Kuster?
7237 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
7238 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
7239 Ms. Kelly?
7240 [No response.]
7241 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
7242 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
7243 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7244 Mr. McEachin?
7245 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
7246 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
7247 Ms. Blunt Rochester?

7248 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
7249 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
7250 Mr. Soto?
7251 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
7252 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7253 Mr. O'Halleran?
7254 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
7255 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
7256 Miss Rice?
7257 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
7258 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
7259 Ms. Craig?
7260 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
7261 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
7262 Ms. Schrier?
7263 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
7264 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7265 Mrs. Trahan?
7266 [No response.]
7267 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher?
7268 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.
7269 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7270 Mrs. Rodgers?
7271 [No response.]
7272 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton?

7273 *Mr. Upton. Upton votes no.
7274 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
7275 Mr. Burgess?
7276 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
7277 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
7278 Mr. Scalise?
7279 [No response.]
7280 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
7281 *Mr. Latta. No.
7282 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
7283 Mr. Guthrie?
7284 [No response.]
7285 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley?
7286 [No response.]
7287 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
7288 [No response.]
7289 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
7290 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, can you confirm what vote
7291 we are voting on at this point? Having just returned from
7292 voting on the floor, I want to be certain I --
7293 *The Chairman. This is H.Res. 1275, which deals with
7294 title 42, and the vote is in favor of reporting H.Res. 1275
7295 to the House without recommendation.
7296 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you. I vote no. Griffith votes
7297 no.

7298 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
7299 Mr. Bilirakis?
7300 [No response.]
7301 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
7302 [No response.]
7303 *The Clerk. Mr. Long?
7304 *Mr. Long. No.
7305 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
7306 Mr. Bucshon?
7307 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
7308 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
7309 Mr. Mullin?
7310 *Mr. Mullin. No.
7311 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
7312 Mr. Hudson?
7313 [No response.]
7314 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
7315 *Mr. Walberg. No.
7316 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
7317 Mr. Carter?
7318 *Mr. Carter. Carter of Georgia votes no.
7319 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
7320 Mr. Duncan?
7321 *Mr. Duncan. No.
7322 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

7323 Mr. Palmer?
7324 *Mr. Palmer. No.
7325 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
7326 Mr. Dunn?
7327 *Mr. Dunn. No.
7328 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
7329 Mr. Curtis?
7330 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
7331 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
7332 Mrs. Lesko?
7333 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
7334 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
7335 Mr. Pence?
7336 *Mr. Pence. No.
7337 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
7338 Mr. Crenshaw?
7339 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
7340 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
7341 Mr. Joyce?
7342 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
7343 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
7344 Mr. Armstrong?
7345 *Mr. Armstrong. No.
7346 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
7347 Chairman Pallone?

7348 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
7349 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
7350 *The Chairman. I was going to suggest you just go
7351 through a roll call --
7352 *Mr. Welch. How is Mr. Welch recorded?
7353 *The Chairman. Mr. Welch?
7354 *Voice. Vote aye.
7355 *Mr. Welch. Vote aye.
7356 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch is not recorded.
7357 *Mr. Welch. I vote -- Welch votes aye.
7358 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch --
7359 *Mr. Doyle. How is Mr. Doyle --
7360 *The Clerk. -- votes aye.
7361 *Mr. Doyle. -- recorded?
7362 *Mr. Johnson. [Inaudible.]
7363 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson is not recorded.
7364 *Mr. Johnson. Johnson votes no.
7365 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
7366 *Ms. Kelly. How is Kelly recorded?
7367 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly is not recorded.
7368 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes yes.
7369 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7370 *Mr. Doyle. How is Mr. Doyle recorded?
7371 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui is not recorded.
7372 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

7373 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

7374 Mr. Doyle is not recorded.

7375 *Mr. Doyle. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

7376 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

7377 *Mr. Scalise. Scalise?

7378 *The Clerk. Mr. Scalise is not recorded.

7379 *Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes no.

7380 *The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes no.

7381 *The Chairman. I was going to suggest maybe just go
7382 through the roll call again of those who haven't been
7383 recorded because, you know, we had the vote on the floor.

7384 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded. Mrs. Trahan --

7385 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

7386 *The Clerk. -- is not recorded. Mrs. Rodgers is not
7387 recorded. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded. Mr. McKinley is not
7388 recorded. Mr. Kinzinger is not recorded, and Mr. Hudson is
7389 not recorded.

7390 *The Chairman. Do we expect -- I don't -- I mean, some
7391 of them are probably coming back.

7392 Well, I don't want to -- yes, let's wait. What?

7393 *The Clerk. And Mr. Bilirakis is not recorded.

7394 *The Chairman. All right. We will just wait a couple
7395 of minutes, because a couple of them are coming back.

7396 *Mr. Curtis. Mr. Chairman?

7397 *The Chairman. Yes?

7398 *Mr. Curtis. A point of personal privilege while we are
7399 waiting. I would like to proclaim my innocence on the
7400 unmuted --

7401 [Laughter.]

7402 *Mr. Curtis. I am calling for an audit.

7403 [Laughter.]

7404 *The Chairman. We didn't hear anything bad.

7405 *Mr. Curtis. It wasn't me.

7406 *The Chairman. Oh, it wasn't you?

7407 *Mr. Curtis. It wasn't me.

7408 *The Chairman. Oh, I am sorry.

7409 *Mr. Curtis. I just got to get that on the record.

7410 *The Chairman. I think what I will do in the future is
7411 just say that everyone should mute themselves --

7412 *Mr. Curtis. Yes.

7413 *The Chairman. -- rather than mention names.

7414 *Mr. Curtis. Well, if I by chance contributed at all, I
7415 am sorry to everybody. But I am pretty sure it wasn't me,
7416 Mr. Chairman.

7417 *The Chairman. All right, I am sorry.

7418 The ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers.

7419 *Mrs. Trahan. How is Trahan --

7420 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers is not recorded.

7421 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

7422 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

7423 *Mrs. Trahan. How is Trahan --

7424 *The Chairman. Do we --

7425 *Mrs. Trahan. -- recorded?

7426 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan is not recorded.

7427 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

7428 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

7429 *The Chairman. Do we expect anyone else?

7430 All right, we will wait, because I said that we would

7431 keep it open. Here he is.

7432 *Mr. Bilirakis. How am I recorded?

7433 *The Chairman. You are not recorded.

7434 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]

7435 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

7436 *The Chairman. All right. Is there anybody else, or do

7437 you think we are done?

7438 I said that we would wait, you know, so I want to make

7439 sure that somebody is not coming back who wants to vote.

7440 What is that?

7441 Oh, the vote is not closed on the floor.

7442 *Voice. It is closed.

7443 *The Chairman. Oh, it is closed. Okay, well, let's

7444 just wait 1 minute or 30 seconds here. We will see.

7445 [Pause.]

7446 *The Chairman. All right. If you think we are okay --

7447 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, I think --

7448 *The Chairman. Oh, Guthrie?
7449 *Voice. Almost here.
7450 *The Chairman. All right. Mr. Guthrie is almost here.
7451 We will wait for him, and that is it.
7452 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Chairman? Mr. Chairman?
7453 *The Chairman. Oh, Mr. Rush. Is Mr. Rush recorded?
7454 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.
7455 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush, you are not recorded.
7456 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.
7457 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
7458 [Pause.]
7459 *The Chairman. We are just waiting for Guthrie.
7460 [Pause.]
7461 *The Chairman. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded?
7462 *The Clerk. That is correct. Mr. Guthrie is not
7463 recorded.
7464 *Mr. Guthrie. I apologize. [Inaudible.]
7465 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
7466 *The Chairman. All right. The clerk will report the
7467 tally.
7468 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
7469 32 and the nays were 23.
7470 *The Chairman. Okay, the vote is -- aye is 20 -- I am
7471 sorry, the vote is 32 ayes to 23 noes, and H.Res. 1275 is
7472 reported to the full House without recommendation.

7473 Now we go to -- the chair calls up H.Res. 1284, and the
7474 clerk will report the bill.

7475 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1284, of inquiry directing the
7476 Secretary of Health and Human Services --

7477 *The Chairman. And without objection, the first reading
7478 of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now
7479 considered as read.

7480 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
7481 and open for amendment at any point.

7482 Any members seeking recognition to speak on this?

7483 You are speaking?

7484 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, I am.

7485 *The Chairman. The ranking member, Mrs. Rodgers, is
7486 recognized for five minutes.

7487 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
7488 strike the last word.

7489 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

7490 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. This
7491 resolution seeks to ensure much-needed transparency for the
7492 recently-passed socialist drug price controls for
7493 prescription drugs.

7494 Democrats just gave the Health and Human Services
7495 Secretary Becerra sweeping new authority and \$3 billion to
7496 implement this scheme that is going to lead to fewer cures,
7497 more expensive drugs when they launch, make America more

7498 reliant on China's drug development and manufacturing supply
7499 chains.

7500 Nearly a month ago, I asked Secretary Becerra in a
7501 letter to be forthright on how he plans to execute this. He
7502 has missed his deadline to be transparent on how these price
7503 controls will limit their access to innovative medicines, and
7504 he has ignored repeatedly our oversight on how the
7505 Administration's preference for QALYs, or quality adjusted
7506 life years, would discriminate against people with chronic
7507 diseases, disabilities, and pre-existing conditions.

7508 There are millions of people battling cancer and rare
7509 diseases. They have an incredible amount of hope in
7510 America's leadership for lifesaving cures and treatments.
7511 This committee has heard from them ourselves, many patient
7512 advocates who are waiting for cures and treatments for ALS,
7513 Alzheimer's, SMA, Huntington's --

7514 *Voice. Allegedly --

7515 *Mrs. Rodgers. -- and other diseases.

7516 My resolution of inquiry today will require the Biden
7517 Administration to provide documents and be accountable to
7518 them. These Americans deserve complete transparency. The
7519 Biden Administration owes them answers on the socialist price
7520 controls, and what it means for their hope for the future.

7521 This committee came together last year to stop these
7522 very socialist price controls with a bipartisan vote. I hope

7523 today we can come together again and ensure proper oversight.

7524 One fewer cure is one too many. We should all be on the
7525 side of making sure America leads the world in lifesaving
7526 innovation and breakthrough research.

7527 Thank you, I yield back.

7528 *The Chairman. Thank you. Ms. Craig seeks to be
7529 recognized.

7530 *Ms. Craig. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
7531 the last word.

7532 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
7533 minutes.

7534 *Ms. Craig. Mr. Chairman, this resolution of inquiry is
7535 a gross misuse of congressional rules to demand ideologically
7536 motivated information at the behest of pharma -- I heard some
7537 pharma talking points from the ranking member -- and only
7538 continues the years-long effort to stymie attempts to lower
7539 drug prices for the American people.

7540 With the recent passage of the Inflation Reduction Act,
7541 we made good on our promise to lower drug costs and deliver
7542 cost savings for the American people.

7543 You know, I worked for 22 years in the private sector
7544 before I came to Congress. The company I worked for was a
7545 health care company. We had to compete for the business of
7546 the Veterans Administration. Since when did competition
7547 equal anything other than what is right in our nation for

7548 health care?

7549 For the first time, Medicare will be able to negotiate
7550 its drug prices, and drug manufacturers will no longer be
7551 able to keep hiking prices egregiously faster than inflation,
7552 just because they can.

7553 Additionally, for the first time, seniors with Medicare
7554 Part D will have their drug costs capped at \$2,000 a year,
7555 and insulin co-pays will be capped at \$35 a month for our
7556 nation's seniors.

7557 Despite the overwhelming public support for these
7558 policies, many of my colleagues on the other side of the
7559 aisle oppose these ideas, and they have obstructed any
7560 meaningful attempts to lower drug costs. We delivered on the
7561 promise to lower cost for the American people. Republicans
7562 filed the resolution we are considering today only to
7563 distract from the monumental achievement, and once again
7564 demonstrate that the pharmaceutical industry takes precedent
7565 (sic) over hardworking Americans who deserve lower drug
7566 costs.

7567 On the resolution itself, it would direct HHS to provide
7568 White House communications related to the implementation of
7569 the Medicare price negotiation program. It is clear that
7570 this resolution was haphazardly put together for the sole
7571 purpose of scoring political points.

7572 If you want to score political points with the American

7573 people, let's work together to lower drug costs in our
7574 country.

7575 If our colleagues were truly interested in learning
7576 more, then they could have requested the information through
7577 the typical channels, including through briefing requests and
7578 letters.

7579 Now, I know you have sent a letter. The public request
7580 from the minority was made to Secretary Becerra on August
7581 29th asking a series of questions that, of course, they can't
7582 yet answer, and the minority knows that. A briefing was
7583 requested for this week, and yet Republicans instead are
7584 moving forward with a resolution demanding information.

7585 Look, this isn't a true oversight exercise, and it is a
7586 political one. For that reason I will be voting to
7587 unfavorably report this resolution.

7588 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

7589 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Anyone else?
7590 Mr. Bilirakis is recognized for five minutes.

7591 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate
7592 it, and I move to strike the last word.

7593 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

7594 *Mr. Bilirakis. I would like to thank Ranking Member
7595 Mrs. Rodgers for offering the ROI, which asks for
7596 accountability and transparency with regards to the
7597 Administration's drug price control schemes.

7598 As a proud advocate for individuals suffering with rare
7599 diseases and neurological diseases such as ALS, Alzheimer's,
7600 and Parkinson's, I am committed to seeing cures come to
7601 market. It has affected my family, but also my constituents,
7602 Mr. Chairman. If this partisan price control system had been
7603 in place over the course of the last decade, only 6 of the
7604 110 currently approved therapies would have made it to
7605 patients.

7606 So while we hear this President talk about lofty goals
7607 such as Cancer Moonshot -- and that is admirable -- the
7608 reality is his actions are moving in the exact opposite
7609 direction: less innovation and less treatments in the
7610 market. This is simply unacceptable, as far as I am
7611 concerned.

7612 We all want to see lower drug prices. And we had a
7613 bipartisan bill to do that. And we can all agree that
7614 American people deserve access to affordable, quality health
7615 care. We recognize that drug prices are too high. And I
7616 know my Republican colleagues were prepared to work together
7617 on a common-sense, bipartisan bill that has been out there
7618 for quite a while, that would have lowered the cost of
7619 medications without sacrificing innovation.

7620 Sadly, the majority rejected bipartisanship, and instead
7621 opted to pursue a government price control scheme with the
7622 Inflation Reduction Act, a poorly named law that will do

7623 nothing to reduce inflation, and instead reduces innovation,
7624 putting potential much-needed breakthroughs in jeopardy.

7625 Experts at the University of Chicago estimate this
7626 Administration's price fixing schemes will kill up to 342
7627 cures. It is also anticipated that prescription drugs will
7628 have higher launch prices, only increasing the cost of that
7629 pharmacy -- at the pharmacy counter and raising premiums,
7630 pushing away new cures that are able to come to market out
7631 of, again, reach for all but the wealthiest Americans. So in
7632 other words, they won't have access to these cures.

7633 And I know there is a Parkinson's medication now. No,
7634 excuse me, it is an Alzheimer's medication now that was
7635 approved by the FDA. These policies disproportionately
7636 impact new treatments for rare diseases, leaving patients
7637 with little or no options.

7638 Mr. Chairman, we held a health hearing this Congress on
7639 advancing treatments and cures for neurodegenerative
7640 diseases. We heard from patients and advocates of those who
7641 suffer from these brutal diseases. Many of them pleaded with
7642 FDA to give access to potential treatments for ALS. One of
7643 the witnesses testified -- and I quote -- "Biotechs and
7644 pharmaceutical companies have launched nearly 100 ALS therapy
7645 programs, and these programs are producing therapies that are
7646 actually slowing or stopping ALS in people right now.'"
7647 Incredible, incredible innovation. That is what America is

7648 all about.

7649 Government bureaucracy should not unnecessarily get in
7650 the way of patients' access to treatments and cures. Yet the
7651 Biden White House is hell bent on going in the exact opposite
7652 direction: more bureaucratic-led decisions. This will
7653 squeeze out small startups and biotechs seeking to advance
7654 these types of therapies, and will make it even more
7655 difficult for patients to have access to care.

7656 Many of those businesses advocated against this policy
7657 because they recognize that it will defund research and
7658 development and stifle innovation. These things are uniquely
7659 American. Discovery, research, development, and innovation
7660 are the American way.

7661 I thank the ranking member for offering this very
7662 important resolution of inquiry and oversight tool. We need
7663 to know more about the implications of imposing penalties on
7664 drug manufacturers based on compliance with HHS price
7665 negotiations under Medicare. We must work in a transparent
7666 fashion to ensure all Americans can afford their prescription
7667 medications while maintaining the integrity of pharmaceutical
7668 and biomedical research advancements.

7669 We need answers from this White House about whether they
7670 knew about the implications and the potential loss of R&D of
7671 imposing a 95 percent excise tax on developers. Oh, boy,
7672 that is counter-productive. And whatever they consulted with

7673 anyone about the implications of even higher drug launch
7674 prices as a result of their flawed inflation penalties in
7675 Medicare Part D (sic). Seniors in Medicare Part D is the
7676 best program, it is under budget, and it works so very well,
7677 and we can improve upon it.

7678 Seniors and patients -- I know I don't have any -- much
7679 time. You know what I will do? I will yield back, Mr.
7680 Chairman. Thank you very much for the extra time.

7681 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else want
7682 to speak on this?

7683 Okay, we will vote. A recorded vote?

7684 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes.

7685 *The Chairman. A recorded vote is ordered. Those in
7686 favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1284 to the House will
7687 say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk shall call
7688 the roll.

7689 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

7690 [No response.]

7691 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?

7692 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

7693 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

7694 Ms. DeGette?

7695 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

7696 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

7697 Mr. Doyle?

7698 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.
7699 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes yes.
7700 Ms. Schakowsky?
7701 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.
7702 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
7703 Mr. Butterfield?
7704 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.
7705 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
7706 Ms. Matsui?
7707 *Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.
7708 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
7709 Ms. Castor?
7710 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
7711 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
7712 Mr. Sarbanes?
7713 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
7714 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
7715 Mr. McNerney?
7716 [No response.]
7717 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch?
7718 [No response.]
7719 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
7720 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
7721 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
7722 Ms. Clarke?

7723 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
7724 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
7725 Mr. Schrader?
7726 [No response.]
7727 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
7728 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.
7729 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
7730 Mr. Ruiz?
7731 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
7732 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
7733 Mr. Peters?
7734 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
7735 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
7736 Mrs. Dingell?
7737 *Voice. And it basically argued --
7738 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]
7739 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
7740 Mr. Veasey?
7741 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
7742 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
7743 Ms. Kuster?
7744 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
7745 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
7746 Ms. Kelly?
7747 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

7748 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
7749 Ms. Barragan?
7750 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
7751 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
7752 Mr. McEachin?
7753 [No response.]
7754 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin?
7755 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
7756 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
7757 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
7758 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
7759 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
7760 Mr. Soto?
7761 *Mr. Soto. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7762 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
7763 Mr. O'Halleran?
7764 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
7765 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
7766 Miss Rice?
7767 [No response.]
7768 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig?
7769 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
7770 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
7771 Ms. Schrier?
7772 *Voice. Republicans --

7773 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
7774 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
7775 Mrs. Trahan?
7776 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
7777 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
7778 Mrs. Fletcher?
7779 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
7780 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
7781 Mrs. Rodgers?
7782 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
7783 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
7784 Mr. Upton?
7785 *Mr. Upton. [Inaudible.]
7786 *The Clerk. Mr. Upton votes no.
7787 Mr. Burgess?
7788 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
7789 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
7790 Mr. Scalise?
7791 [No response.]
7792 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
7793 *Mr. Latta. No.
7794 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
7795 Mr. Guthrie?
7796 [No response.]
7797 *The Clerk. Mr. McKinley?

7798 [No response.]

7799 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?

7800 [No response.]

7801 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

7802 *Mr. Griffith. No.

7803 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

7804 Mr. Bilirakis?

7805 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

7806 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

7807 Mr. Johnson?

7808 *Mr. Johnson. No.

7809 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

7810 Mr. Long?

7811 *Mr. Long. No.

7812 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.

7813 Mr. Bucshon?

7814 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

7815 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

7816 Mr. Mullin?

7817 [No response.]

7818 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin?

7819 *Mr. Mullin. No.

7820 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.

7821 *Mr. Mullin. No.

7822 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

7823 [No response.]

7824 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?

7825 *Mr. Walberg. No.

7826 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

7827 Mr. Carter?

7828 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.

7829 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

7830 Mr. Duncan?

7831 *Mr. Duncan. Duncan, no.

7832 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

7833 Mr. Palmer?

7834 *Mr. Palmer. No.

7835 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

7836 Mr. Dunn?

7837 *Mr. Dunn. No.

7838 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

7839 Mr. Curtis?

7840 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

7841 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

7842 Mrs. Lesko?

7843 *Mrs. Lesko. No.

7844 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

7845 Mr. Pence?

7846 *Mr. Pence. No.

7847 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

7848 Mr. Crenshaw?

7849 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

7850 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

7851 Mr. Joyce?

7852 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

7853 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

7854 Mr. Armstrong?

7855 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

7856 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

7857 Chairman Pallone?

7858 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

7859 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

7860 *Mr. Welch. This is Mr. Welch. How am I recorded?

7861 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

7862 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader is not recorded.

7863 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

7864 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

7865 *Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch?

7866 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch is not recorded.

7867 *Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch votes aye.

7868 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

7869 *Mr. Guthrie. Guthrie?

7870 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Rush?

7871 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie is not recorded.

7872 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

7873 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

7874 *Mr. Rush. Mr. Rush?

7875 *The Chairman. Mr. Rush?

7876 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush is not recorded.

7877 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

7878 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

7879 *The Chairman. Anyone else who is not recorded and

7880 wants to be?

7881 All right. The clerk will report the tally.

7882 *Miss Rice. Mr. Chair, how am I recorded?

7883 *The Chairman. Who?

7884 *Voice. Miss Rice.

7885 *The Chairman. Oh, Miss Rice.

7886 *The Clerk. Miss Rice is not recorded.

7887 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.

7888 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

7889 *The Chairman. All right. The clerk will report the

7890 tally.

7891 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas are 31 and the nays

7892 were 22.

7893 *The Chairman. Twenty-two, okay. The vote is 31 ayes

7894 to 22 noes. House Resolution 1284 is reported adversely to

7895 the House.

7896 We will go to the next one. The chair calls up H.R.

7897 1287, and the clerk will report the bill.

7898 *The Clerk. H. Res. 1287, a resolution of inquiry
7899 directing the President to provide certain documents in the
7900 President's possession to the House of Representatives
7901 relating to the recall of infant formula manufactured by
7902 Abbott Laboratories, and potential impacts on the infant
7903 formula supply chain.

7904 Resolved that not later than 14 days after the adoption
7905 of this resolution, the President is directed to furnish to
7906 the House of Representatives copies of any document or
7907 record, audio recording, memorandum, call log,
7908 correspondence --

7909 *The Chairman. Without objection, the first reading of
7910 the bill would be dispensed with, and the bill is now
7911 considered as read.

7912 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
7913 and open for amendment at any point.

7914 [The bill follows:]

7915

7916 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

7917

7918 *The Chairman. Are any members seeking recognition to
7919 speak on H.Res. 1287?

7920 *Mr. Walberg. Mr. Chairman.

7921 *The Chairman. Yes?

7922 *Mr. Walberg. Chairman --

7923 *The Chairman. Mr. Walberg is recognized for five
7924 minutes.

7925 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

7926 To say the infant formula shortage has been challenging
7927 for families would be an understatement. The breakdown of
7928 America's baby formula production and distribution has
7929 terrified parents across the country and in my district as
7930 they drive from store to store, only to find low to zero
7931 inventory and purchasing restrictions. This fear is only
7932 compounded by the historic cost of living increases and high
7933 gas prices caused by the Biden Administration.

7934 Parents should not have to drive hours paying record
7935 high gas prices, visiting multiple stores to find formula to
7936 feed their child for just a few more days. Even today,
7937 months into the crisis, and it is still not under control.
7938 The average out-of-stock rates in stores and online last
7939 month was 61 percent.

7940 In May, the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee
7941 held a hearing on the crisis. During that hearing Chairman
7942 Pallone stated that we stand ready to exercise our oversight

7943 and legislative authority. And I agree. That is what we are
7944 doing today.

7945 The Biden Administration says it did not anticipate the
7946 formula shortage, but it should have. Shortage rates began
7947 to rise in 2021. The FDA got the first complaint of a sick
7948 infant in September 2021, and began its months-long
7949 re-inspection of the Sturgis facility in January 2022.

7950 When Abbott, who makes 40 percent of the nation's
7951 formula, acknowledging their responsibility and addressing
7952 the problems closed its facility and issued a recall in
7953 February, the Biden Administration should have acted with
7954 urgency to increase supply. However, the Administration did
7955 not issue a plan until May 10.

7956 The resolution requests the Biden Administration provide
7957 documents which will bring more transparency to Congress and
7958 the American people about the Administration's actions
7959 leading up to and during this crisis.

7960 I hope my colleagues all agree on the importance of our
7961 oversight responsibilities, and will report this favorably to
7962 the full House.

7963 Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

7964 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman, and I yield
7965 myself such -- five minutes to strike the last word and speak
7966 on this resolution.

7967 The resolution, as the gentleman from Michigan says,

7968 seeks certain documents and information relating to the
7969 Administration's response to the infant formula recall and
7970 shortage this past spring.

7971 The formula shortage presented serious health challenges
7972 for many American families. The committee has taken this
7973 issue seriously, and pursued answers and solutions in a
7974 bipartisan manner since the shortage began. In May the
7975 Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee held a hearing and
7976 heard from FDA and major infant formula manufacturers as we
7977 examined the causes of the shortage. At the hearing FDA
7978 Commissioner Califf referred to memos sent to the White House
7979 describing the formula shortage issues. After the hearing I
7980 requested copies of these memos, and despite receiving
7981 follow-up responses from FDA on other questions, the memos
7982 have yet to be provided to the committee.

7983 I am encouraged that the Administration took critical
7984 steps to improve families' access to formula, and continues
7985 to focus on improving access. The Biden Administration has
7986 cut red tape to increase imports and help WIC participants
7987 crack down on price gouging, invoked the Defense Production
7988 Act, worked with retailers and manufacturers to boost supply,
7989 and launched multiple Operation Fly formula distributions.

7990 While the overall supply of infant formula has improved,
7991 partly thanks to these actions, supply remains far from
7992 reliable.

7993 It is a crucial function of this committee to conduct
7994 oversight and ensure that robust food safety and supply
7995 operations do not contribute to shortages of vital food
7996 products in the future. The committee has already made
7997 repeated bipartisan efforts to obtain some of the documents
7998 requested by this resolution of inquiry that they have not
7999 been provided, which is why I encourage my colleagues to join
8000 me in supporting a favorable recommendation on this
8001 resolution.

8002 And with that, I yield back the balance of my time.

8003 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8004 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
8005 minutes.

8006 [Slide]

8007 *Mrs. Rodgers. Oh, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
8008 strike the last word.

8009 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

8010 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I appreciate
8011 you -- your support of moving this resolution favorably. I
8012 hope that we can do so quickly.

8013 It has been nearly a year since FDA first discovered
8014 warning signs that could lead to infant formula recalls, and
8015 American people are still struggling to find safe and
8016 affordable infant formula to feed their babies.

8017 Imagine being that parent, driving hours with record-

8018 high gas prices and barely able to afford other groceries,
8019 only to find empty shelves and no baby formula. I have heard
8020 and met with moms in my district who are desperate. One of
8021 my constituents, a mom named Emily, reported that she was
8022 unable to find the specialty formula for her baby, and she
8023 needed it for her son's health condition. She was eventually
8024 forced to take a chance and, with an alternative formula, not
8025 knowing if her son would have a reaction or be okay.

8026 We all agree this is unacceptable, and we need to find
8027 the answers and the response to this public health crisis to
8028 make sure that we have safe and reliable supply of formula.

8029 The FDA, after discovering the warning signs of
8030 potential product recalls in 2021, waited for more than 6
8031 months before establishing a task force on the formula
8032 supply, at which time the formula crisis -- had already
8033 reached crisis, the shortage. And when an affected
8034 manufacturing plant, Abbott Nutrition, shut down in February
8035 of this year, again FDA waited weeks before American families
8036 and the media demanded them to act.

8037 My colleagues and I are demanding that we take action.
8038 We had the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee on May
8039 25th, and we questioned agency officials on what they knew
8040 when they -- when -- regarding the looming threat of a
8041 nationwide shortage, and why they failed to respond
8042 immediately and effectively.

8043 Now, I know that Dr. Califf has provided some answers.
8044 He provided some then, and he committed to providing more
8045 documents to us. But unfortunately, we have yet to receive
8046 the complete and appropriate follow-up. Just two days ago,
8047 now more than two months late, we received responses to some,
8048 but not all of the information requested from this hearing.
8049 Yesterday FDA released a report with vague recommendations
8050 and an unclear timeline for action.

8051 Given FDA's incomplete response to our questions
8052 submitted for the record, and the unfulfilled commitment to
8053 provide documents regarding the infant formula shortage, the
8054 resolution of inquiry before us today is necessary. H.R.
8055 1287, led by Mr. Walberg, requests documents that will
8056 provide parents answers that they deserve about how the White
8057 House first became aware of the supply chain crisis.

8058 There should be complete transparency on how the
8059 Administration didn't lead in what was a matter of life and
8060 death for many babies.

8061 The White House swiftly produced -- produces the
8062 requested documents so that we can better learn where
8063 regulatory barriers contributed to the formula shortage, and
8064 how we can make improvements moving forward. These documents
8065 will help inform solutions that parents need and deserve, so
8066 this crisis never happens again.

8067 For example, I joined with Representatives Stefanik,

8068 Bice, and Hinson to lead the Babies Need Formula Now Act,
8069 which would require accountability and transparency to
8070 support infant formula supply chain and innovation.

8071 Republican Leader Guthrie's More Options for Infants and
8072 Parents Act of 2022 will require immediate action from FDA
8073 now to address the present formula crisis.

8074 I hope that we can take action on these bills, and not
8075 just throw more money at an administration that hasn't been
8076 transparent with us.

8077 Parents need certainty, so that they can feed their
8078 children. We are struggling with record-high gas prices,
8079 historic inflation, the threat of an economic recession from
8080 the spending and the agenda of this Administration. American
8081 families deserve better, and I urge support of Mr. Walberg's
8082 resolution of inquiry.

8083 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. Does anyone
8084 else want to speak on this?

8085 All right. We will move to a recorded vote. A recorded
8086 vote is ordered. Those in favor of reporting H.R. 1287
8087 favorably to the House will say aye; those opposed will say
8088 no; and the clerk shall call the roll.

8089 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

8090 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

8091 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

8092 Ms. Eshoo?

8093 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.
8094 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.
8095 Ms. DeGette?
8096 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.
8097 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
8098 Mr. Doyle?
8099 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.
8100 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
8101 Ms. Schakowsky?
8102 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.
8103 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
8104 Mr. Butterfield?
8105 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.
8106 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
8107 Ms. Matsui?
8108 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]
8109 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
8110 Ms. Castor?
8111 [No response.]
8112 *Voice. Andy Biggs's district.
8113 *Voice. And in my district.
8114 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes?
8115 *Voice. That is why I am on the --
8116 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
8117 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

8118 Mr. McNerney?

8119 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

8120 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

8121 Mr. Welch?

8122 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

8123 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

8124 Mr. Tonko?

8125 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

8126 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

8127 Ms. Clarke?

8128 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]

8129 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

8130 Mr. Schrader?

8131 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

8132 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

8133 Mr. Cardenas?

8134 [No response.]

8135 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

8136 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

8137 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

8138 Mr. Peters?

8139 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.

8140 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

8141 Mrs. Dingell?

8142 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]

8143 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
8144 Mr. Veasey?
8145 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
8146 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
8147 Ms. Kuster?
8148 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
8149 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
8150 Ms. Kelly?
8151 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
8152 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
8153 Ms. Barragan?
8154 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
8155 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
8156 Mr. McEachin?
8157 *Mr. McEachin. McEachin votes aye.
8158 *The Clerk. Mr. McEachin votes aye.
8159 Ms. Blunt Rochester?
8160 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
8161 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
8162 Mr. Soto?
8163 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye. Soto votes aye.
8164 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
8165 Mr. O'Halleran?
8166 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
8167 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.

8168 Miss Rice?
8169 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
8170 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
8171 Ms. Craig?
8172 *Ms. Craig. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
8173 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
8174 Ms. Schrier?
8175 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
8176 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
8177 Mrs. Trahan?
8178 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
8179 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
8180 Mrs. Fletcher?
8181 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
8182 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
8183 Mrs. Rodgers?
8184 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
8185 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes aye.
8186 Mr. Upton?
8187 [No response.]
8188 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
8189 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
8190 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
8191 Mr. Scalise?
8192 [No response.]

8193 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
8194 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
8195 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
8196 Mr. Guthrie?
8197 *Mr. Guthrie. Aye.
8198 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes aye.
8199 Mr. McKinley?
8200 [No response.]
8201 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
8202 [No response.]
8203 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
8204 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
8205 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
8206 Mr. Bilirakis?
8207 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
8208 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
8209 Mr. Johnson?
8210 *Mr. Johnson. Aye.
8211 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes aye.
8212 Mr. Long?
8213 *Mr. Long. Aye. Long votes aye.
8214 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes aye.
8215 Mr. Bucshon?
8216 *Mr. Bucshon. Aye.
8217 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes aye.

8218 Mr. Mullin?

8219 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

8220 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

8221 Mr. Hudson?

8222 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson --

8223 *Mr. Hudson. No.

8224 *The Clerk. Oh, excuse me. Mr. Hudson votes no.

8225 Mr. Walberg?

8226 *Mr. Walberg. Walberg gratefully votes aye.

8227 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes aye.

8228 Mr. Carter?

8229 [No response.]

8230 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan?

8231 *Mr. Duncan. [Inaudible.]

8232 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes aye.

8233 Mr. Palmer?

8234 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

8235 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

8236 Mr. Dunn?

8237 [No response.]

8238 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

8239 *Mr. Dunn. [Inaudible.]

8240 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

8241 Mr. Curtis?

8242 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

8243 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes aye.
8244 Mrs. Lesko?
8245 *Mrs. Lesko. Aye.
8246 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes aye.
8247 Mr. Pence?
8248 *Mr. Pence. Aye.
8249 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.
8250 Mr. Crenshaw?
8251 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
8252 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
8253 Mr. Joyce?
8254 [No response.]
8255 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong?
8256 *Mr. Armstrong. Yea.
8257 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes aye.
8258 Chairman Pallone?
8259 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
8260 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
8261 *The Chairman. Dr. Burgess, did -- where did he go?
8262 *Mr. Burgess. Yes, Burgess here. How am I recorded?
8263 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess is recorded as no.
8264 *Mr. Burgess. I will change that to aye.
8265 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess is aye.
8266 *Mr. Cardenas. How is Cardenas recorded?
8267 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas is not recorded.

8268 *Mr. Cardenas. I vote -- Cardenas votes aye.

8269 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

8270 *Mr. Joyce. John Joyce here. How am I recorded,
8271 please?

8272 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter is not recorded.

8273 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes aye.

8274 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes aye.

8275 *Mr. Joyce. John Joyce here. How am I recorded,
8276 please?

8277 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

8278 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

8279 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

8280 *The Chairman. Mr. Hudson?

8281 *Mr. Hudson. Mr. Chairman, I intended to be recorded as
8282 an aye, please. This is Hudson.

8283 *The Clerk. Hudson, Mr. Hudson, votes aye.

8284 *Mr. Hudson. Thank you.

8285 *The Chairman. Mr. McNerney, are you recorded? You
8286 are?

8287 Anyone else who isn't that wants to be recorded?

8288 All right, the clerk will report the tally.

8289 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone, Ms. Castor is not recorded.

8290 *The Chairman. Who is not recorded?

8291 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor.

8292 *The Chairman. Oh, she is here.

8293 Ms. Castor?

8294 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

8295 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

8296 *The Chairman. Is there anyone else who hasn't been
8297 recorded and wants to be?

8298 All right. The clerk will report the tally.

8299 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
8300 54 and the nays were 0.

8301 *The Chairman. The vote is 54 ayes to 0 noes. H.Res.
8302 1287 is reported favorably to the House.

8303 What does this mean, without recommendation?

8304 *Voice. No, it is like --

8305 *The Chairman. Okay, H.Res. 1287 is reported favorably
8306 to the House.

8307 All right. The next one we have is -- the chair calls
8308 up H.Res. 1265. The clerk will report the bill.

8309 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1265, of inquiry requesting the
8310 President to provide certain documents to the --

8311 *The Chairman. Without objection, the first reading of
8312 the bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now considered
8313 as read.

8314 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
8315 and open for amendment at any point.

8316

8317

8318 [The bill follows:]

8319

8320 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

8321

8322 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
8323 recognition to speak on H.Res. 1265?

8324 Mr. Tonko? Oh, Mr. Duncan.

8325 Do you want to start?

8326 *Mr. Duncan. Yes.

8327 *The Chairman. Mr. Duncan.

8328 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
8329 the last word.

8330 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
8331 minutes.

8332 *Mr. Duncan. I am speaking in support of House
8333 Resolution 1265, which I offered to provide transparency of
8334 the Biden Administration's exploitation of the current energy
8335 crisis to further pursue their radical climate agenda.

8336 This committee's job is to conduct oversight over all
8337 matters that fall under its jurisdiction. The affordable,
8338 reliable delivery of energy is part of this. And since we
8339 are facing the worst energy crisis since 1973, requesting
8340 documents related to this crisis is definitely warranted.

8341 Rahm Emanuel said, "Never let a crisis go to waste."
8342 But this energy crisis was created by the Joe Biden
8343 Administration. President Biden has called this energy
8344 crisis and record-high retail prices part of an incredible
8345 transition away from oil and gas. Secretary Granholm's
8346 solution for Americans who can't afford to fill up their tank

8347 is just go buy an electric car for \$50,000.

8348 Affordable, reliable energy is the foundation to
8349 everything in our lives. And keep in mind there is no
8350 national security without energy security.

8351 Instead of prioritizing energy security of Americans,
8352 President Biden, with the help of congressional Democrats, is
8353 just finishing a two-year attempt to wipe out America's
8354 energy sector, delivering a campaign promise revealed in a
8355 debate to do just that. He has been doing this through
8356 regulations and actions that raise prices, all in the name of
8357 combating global climate change, regardless of the plain
8358 facts that this will harm people, undermine energy security,
8359 stifle our economy, and boost our adversaries.

8360 Yet when Americans see how these policy actions cause
8361 harm, when they see crisis in Europe, when they see policies
8362 intensify inflation, and an energy crisis at home, the
8363 Administration talks and talks to obscure the truth of their
8364 plans. This resolution cuts through all that rhetoric. It
8365 exercises congressional responsibility to spotlight what the
8366 Administration is really up to, to provide the documents that
8367 will show the public the facts, the actual plans and
8368 strategies.

8369 Congress should have all the documents related to a
8370 strategy or plan to issue executive actions, Federal
8371 policies, and regulations that in any way could be used to

8372 drive energy prices higher.

8373 As mentioned earlier, President Biden's commitment to
8374 put the American oil and gas industry out of business at the
8375 consumer's expense started way back on his campaign trail,
8376 when he was asked in a presidential debate if there would be
8377 any place for fossil fuels in his administration, and he
8378 responded, "No, we would make sure it is eliminated.'" His
8379 Administration has made good on that promise, delivering a
8380 whole government approach to phase out the industry.

8381 President Biden immediately revoked the permit for the
8382 Keystone XL pipeline, halted all new oil and gas lease sales
8383 on Federal lands, and just last week the Department of the
8384 Interior caved to environmental groups challenging the
8385 environmental review on a lease sale held in 2019 and 2020,
8386 effectively halting that development.

8387 His war against oil and gas is multi-pronged. He has
8388 weaponized FERC to slow-walk infrastructure permitting and
8389 turn the SEC into a climate change enforcer. His relentless
8390 attack from all angles appears to be a clear and coordinated
8391 effort to manufacture an energy crisis. We are in an energy
8392 crisis manufactured by the Biden Administration.

8393 Instead of a policy taking ownership with the buck stops
8394 here, as past presidents have, Biden has one of deflection
8395 and pass the buck.

8396 My resolution requests all documents related to this

8397 plan to blame President Vladimir Putin for record-high energy
8398 prices. Despite President Biden's deflection, this is not
8399 the Putin price hike. Gas prices were already up by 55
8400 percent from the day Biden took office, and even before
8401 Russia invaded Ukraine. So no deflection. No pass the buck.
8402 Take blame for it.

8403 Finally, my resolution requests all documents related to
8404 the Administration's plan to ban crude oil exports. To be
8405 clear, Republican Leader Rodgers, myself, and others have
8406 opposed sending our emergency reserves to a foreign
8407 adversary. We have offered amendments and bills to prohibit
8408 the sale of our [inaudible] to China. This is different than
8409 banning oil exports across the board, which would destroy
8410 American jobs, lead to even higher energy prices. The Biden
8411 Administration has advocated for a total ban, which would
8412 raise prices at the pump and give Putin even more global
8413 influence.

8414 After Congress lifted the ban on oil exports, America
8415 became energy dominant, energy dominant. Oil production
8416 surged to 13 million barrels per day. Gasoline prices
8417 remained below 250. America became a net energy exporter for
8418 the first time in 2019. We were able to push back against
8419 OPEC and Russia.

8420 It is simple. Democrats are playing politics with this
8421 country's energy crisis. Democrats want higher gas prices so

8422 they can push their magical agenda of wind, solar, and EVs
8423 for all. Meanwhile, American families are choosing between
8424 filling their tank and feeding their families. They are hurt
8425 by the energy prices caused by this Administration.

8426 There are documents out there that show this was a
8427 coordinated effort. It is well past time to examine the
8428 energy crisis and the role of this Administration, lift the
8429 curtain on the work, and get behind the deceptive talks, and
8430 serve the American people. So I urge this committee to
8431 report this resolution of inquiry favorably, so we can find
8432 out the truth behind the Administration's energy crisis.

8433 And with that I yield back.

8434 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman and recognize Mr.
8435 Tonko for five minutes.

8436 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
8437 last word.

8438 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

8439 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. Time and time again,
8440 we hear our Republican colleagues claim that meaningful
8441 climate action is "radical.'" But their commitment to the
8442 fossil-centric policies of the past is far more radical, in
8443 my view.

8444 The truth is that renewables are now often the cheapest
8445 source of power in the U.S. And as we expand these cost
8446 effective renewables, invest in energy efficiency, and

8447 increase electrification, we can reduce Americans' dependence
8448 on expensive and priced volatile fossil fuels, and revitalize
8449 communities across our country.

8450 Addressing the climate crisis presents a tremendous
8451 opportunity to create new, good-paying jobs that cannot be
8452 shipped overseas, grow U.S. manufacturing, and ensure that
8453 our workers lead the world's \$27 trillion clean economy. We
8454 should seize this opportunity, not stifle it.

8455 Americans are tired of price gouging at the pump,
8456 especially as big oil CEOs rake in record profits for
8457 themselves and their shareholders. Americans are tired of
8458 lining the pockets of global adversaries who want to do us
8459 harm. That is why House Democrats have focused on enacting
8460 solutions to the climate crisis that break our dependence on
8461 fossil fuels and protect consumers from price spikes.

8462 Notably, the Inflation Reduction Act is the single
8463 largest investment in climate action that makes unparalleled
8464 investments in clean energy and environmental justice, while
8465 creating clean jobs and cutting costs for American families.
8466 This law will slash our nation's climate pollution by some 40
8467 percent by 2030, and puts us on track to respond to this
8468 crisis and provide a clean future for all Americans.

8469 In addition to a long-term extension of clean energy tax
8470 credits, which I think is an incredibly business-friendly
8471 approach and hardly a radical idea, let's just look at a few

8472 of the investments included by this committee in the
8473 Inflation Reduction Act.

8474 There is \$9 billion to assist low-income Americans
8475 retrofit their homes and purchase new electric appliances.
8476 Not only will this reduce emissions, but it will also save
8477 people money on their energy bills.

8478 There is \$5.8 billion to support America's cement,
8479 steel, and other energy-intensive manufacturers decarbonize
8480 their industrial processes. Not only will this ensure that
8481 the construction materials needed to repair and upgrade our
8482 roads, our bridges, our water systems, and broadband networks
8483 funded by the Bipartisan Infrastructure Law are done as clean
8484 as possible, but these industries will also become more
8485 efficient and effective at competing globally.

8486 As a reminder, House Republicans opposed this historic
8487 law. They are still stuck in the fossil-fueled past, while
8488 we work to make sure that American workers and American
8489 manufacturers lead the world into the clean energy economy of
8490 the future.

8491 So I urge my colleagues to join me in adversely
8492 reporting this resolution. And with that, I yield back, Mr.
8493 Chair.

8494 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else on
8495 the Republican side?

8496 Ranking Member Mrs. Rodgers is recognized.

8497 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
8498 strike the last word.

8499 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized for five
8500 minutes.

8501 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. We must hold
8502 this Administration accountable. We must hold them
8503 accountable for their role in the energy crisis that is
8504 confronting hardworking Americans every day.

8505 The Energy Information Administration reports household
8506 electricity bills are up 20 percent since January 2020;
8507 industrial rates are up 40 percent; commercial up 26 percent,
8508 adding to the cost of goods and services. Large regions of
8509 the country are burdened by a lack of access to energy and
8510 power, and the risk of California-style blackouts. Just last
8511 weekend, Washington State sent 17,000 megawatts of hydropower
8512 to California to keep your lights on. You are welcome. We
8513 -- as some are continuing to call for tearing out the dams.

8514 We see the growing cost and the rush-to-green impacts
8515 even long before the war in Ukraine. It started on day one,
8516 when President Biden took office. We saw the executive
8517 orders to shut down the supply of energy resources, to
8518 rescind pro-energy rules and regulations, expand costly
8519 bureaucratic interventions.

8520 We saw the administrator, EPA administrator, talking
8521 about a strategy to target fossil fuel generation with

8522 regulations that increase blackout risk far beyond
8523 California.

8524 We saw, as Europeans rationed their energy and increased
8525 their reliance on Russia, the Secretary of Energy proclaimed,
8526 "Renewable energy is the greatest peace plan the world will
8527 ever know."

8528 We saw the White House policy proposals last year to
8529 transform our energy economy and end fossil fuel generation.
8530 Just yesterday in The New York Times, Gina McCarthy, the
8531 departing climate czar and architect of this strategy, said,
8532 "We have come a long way. The task of completely reshaping
8533 our economy is daunting." It is daunting, and the misery
8534 index continues to go up.

8535 I yield back.

8536 *The Chairman. Thank you. Ms. Castor is recognized for
8537 five minutes.

8538 *Ms. Castor. I move to strike the last word.

8539 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

8540 *Ms. Castor. Thank you.

8541 Well, colleagues, here is the truth. President Biden
8542 and Democrats passed the Inflation Reduction Act to lower
8543 costs on families, including energy costs.

8544 Clean energy is cheaper energy. Energy efficiency
8545 grants, tax credits for more efficient appliances, and
8546 American-made electric vehicles also will help our neighbors

8547 save money. It is urgent that we move to clean energy as
8548 quickly as possible for a number of reasons.

8549 The American people and folks across the globe are still
8550 grappling with Putin's unprovoked invasion of Ukraine six
8551 months ago, just when the world was dealing with the economic
8552 tangle caused from the COVID-19 pandemic. Putin's invasion
8553 caused price hikes everywhere, and it highlighted the urgent
8554 need to break our reliance on volatile fossil fuels. No
8555 person and no country should be at the mercy of a petro-
8556 dictator like Putin.

8557 Second, we also should not be at the mercy of a handful
8558 of big oil companies who refused to consider aiding consumers
8559 at a time of crisis. Instead, the big oil companies
8560 bolstered their shareholders during a time of crisis. And I
8561 want to thank Chair DeGette and the Oversight and
8562 Investigations Committee for investigating price gouging.

8563 But probably the most important reason to move swiftly
8564 to lower cost of clean energy is the growing impacts of the
8565 climate crisis, costing Americans billions and billions, even
8566 costing lives -- these staggering floods and heat waves and
8567 other climate-fueled disasters, many that we have never
8568 experienced before.

8569 But the good news is that the Inflation Reduction Act
8570 empowers us to tackle all of these serious problems --
8571 lowering costs, breaking America's addiction to fossil fuels

8572 that drives inflation. Unfortunately, every Republican voted
8573 against the Inflation Reduction Act and our efforts to lower
8574 cost. Yes, on prescription drugs and on insulin and on
8575 health insurance premiums, but also on lower energy costs for
8576 the American people.

8577 Investing in renewables and energy efficiency doesn't
8578 just lower costs, but it also boosts our energy security, as
8579 we produce more and more of our energy here in America by
8580 tapping the abundant and affordable resources of solar power
8581 and wind power. Plus, all this reduces pollution, cleans the
8582 air, improves our health, which also saves money.

8583 Clean energy also is creating good-paying jobs with
8584 prevailing wages to make sure workers can sustain their
8585 families. And the sooner we can ramp up, the better for our
8586 pocketbooks, and for the air we breathe, and for
8587 entrepreneurs all across this great country.

8588 Again, that is why we passed the Inflation Reduction
8589 Act, the largest investment in clean energy in history to
8590 lower costs for American families: it will put money back
8591 into the pockets of Americans as we give them rebates and
8592 credits to buy more efficient appliances, clean water
8593 heaters, and cooling systems, and other clean technologies.

8594 It has been just over a month since President Biden
8595 signed the IRA into law. In that time we have seen American
8596 companies announce huge investments all across the country to

8597 expand manufacturing of clean technologies, electric
8598 vehicles, batteries, and much more. These investments create
8599 family-sustaining jobs, and help secure our supply chains and
8600 speed up deployment of clean energy all across the United
8601 States, and will build on the tax incentives that are going
8602 to help lower energy bills for households all across America.

8603 [Continued immediately on following page.]

8604

8605 AFTER 6:00 p.m.

8606 *Ms. Castor. [Continuing] So I am proud to say we are
8607 delivering for communities that have already -- that -- we
8608 are also delivering for communities that often bear the brunt
8609 of fossil fuels and pollutions. By prioritizing frontline
8610 communities, we will ensure that the clean energy economy
8611 works for every American in every community.

8612 We have a lot of hard work ahead, but it is great to see
8613 the people win one over the special interests in politics for
8614 a change. For all these reasons, I urge the committee to
8615 report this resolution unfavorably. Thank you.

8616 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

8617 *Ms. Castor. And yield back.

8618 *The Chairman. Mr. Curtis is recognized for five
8619 minutes.

8620 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

8621 You know, if my constituents back home today were
8622 listening to this, they would identify themselves as the
8623 special interest groups that you are referring to. These are
8624 men and women who are patriotic. These are men and women who
8625 work hard. These are men and women who, for decades and
8626 decades and decades, have sacrificed their health and their
8627 safety so that we could enjoy the prosperity that we have
8628 today. And when they hear the conversation that we are
8629 having today, they feel demonized, and not just the fossil

8630 fuels that you demonize, but the very people who have been
8631 responsible for keeping us warm, and keeping us safe, and
8632 keeping us energy independent in this country.

8633 You know, the United States -- what has not been
8634 mentioned today is the United States, over the last decade or
8635 more, has reduced more greenhouse gas emissions than any of
8636 our other countries who feel so smug about their efforts to
8637 reduce greenhouse gas emissions. This reduction has come on
8638 the back of fossil fuel, natural gas. We know U.S. natural
8639 gas is substantially cleaner than that in many other places
8640 in the country.

8641 And so, when my constituents back home hear us demonize
8642 fossil fuels and then fly around the country and literally
8643 beg other countries like Venezuela and Iran and Russia to
8644 produce more fossil fuels, they feel that that is very
8645 hypocritical and, of course, push back on this movement.

8646 It is time for Republicans and Democrats to work
8647 together on this issue. But part of that is an
8648 acknowledgment of the important role that fossil fuels can
8649 have in the green future. And I am absolutely convinced that
8650 we can have energy independence, we can have a strong
8651 economy, we can have low and affordable prices, and we can
8652 reduce emissions at the same time. And I hope everybody
8653 here, my Democratic colleagues, will join me in that effort,
8654 and be careful with the demonization of those people who have

8655 meant so much to this country and this country's prosperity.

8656 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield my time.

8657 *Mr. Bucshon. Would the gentleman yield?

8658 *Mr. Curtis. Yes, I yield to --

8659 *Mr. Bucshon. You can go to the gentleman first.

8660 *Mr. Curtis. Mr. Armstrong, sure.

8661 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you. I would just like to point
8662 out everything is cheaper if you give it a Federal subsidy, a
8663 Federal grant, or a Federal tax credit. Not just green
8664 energy. And with that, I yield back.

8665 *Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentleman yield?

8666 Yes, I would just like to say this. All the speeches
8667 given by my colleagues on the other side of the aisle on this
8668 issue sound really great. It sounds like prosperity is on
8669 its way, except for the fact that everything that they talk
8670 about can't be accomplished in the short run, and we don't
8671 know if it can be accomplished in the long run, but certainly
8672 not in the short run, because we have information that all of
8673 us know, regardless of the -- of political party.

8674 For example, we don't produce any -- we know, no lithium
8675 batteries in the United States. There is no lithium in the
8676 United States currently. And the people that are promoting
8677 clean energy are blocking mining of lithium across the United
8678 States. So I don't know where you go from there.

8679 We don't have any rare earth metals in the United

8680 States. The buildout to build out charging stations for
8681 electrical vehicles, we have had testimony that it might take
8682 25 or 30 years, not 2 or 3 years, but 25 or 30 years to build
8683 it out. Well, what of my constituents, like Mr. Curtis's
8684 constituents in rural Indiana, going to do in the meantime?
8685 They are going to buy an electric car if they don't have any
8686 place to charge it? They can't afford the car, first of all.

8687 So, I mean, all of this talk about where we are going is
8688 great. And I support all-of-the-above energy approach. But
8689 all this what I will call hyperbole about where we are going
8690 on green energy, but -- from my colleagues just literally
8691 cannot be accomplished in the near future. And if we try to
8692 do it -- and I am not saying we shouldn't, but we should do
8693 it in an economically factual way that protects the American
8694 people.

8695 And here is the thing. We already have a template for
8696 what happens when you don't do that. It is called Germany.
8697 And that is not my opinion. I have had meetings with the
8698 German ambassador to the United States, and the last meeting
8699 I had they said, "Well, why are you'" -- I said, "Why are you
8700 going back to natural gas and coal?'"

8701 And they said, "Because the wind doesn't always blow and
8702 the sun doesn't always shine, and our people can't -- we just
8703 can't afford to continue on.'" And it has nothing to do with
8704 anything else, other than getting too far out ahead of

8705 yourself.

8706 So I am all in on trying to improve our environment,
8707 trying to decrease emissions. But I want to do it in a way
8708 that doesn't make it unaffordable and unreliable for my
8709 constituents.

8710 And I yield back to Mr. Curtis.

8711 *The Chairman. Mr. Curtis? His time has expired.

8712 *Mr. Curtis. Yes, I yield, thank you.

8713 *The Chairman. Anyone else on this resolution?

8714 *Voice. Mr. Scalise.

8715 *The Chairman. Oh, Mr. Scalise is recognized for five
8716 minutes.

8717 *Mr. Scalise. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I rise in
8718 strong support of my friend Mr. Duncan's legislation to at
8719 least get some information on just how damaging these rules,
8720 regulations, attacks on American energy by the Biden
8721 Administration are coming from. Where -- you know, who was
8722 in the room that decided a lot of this stuff? Did they know
8723 some of the things that may actually happen negatively to
8724 families, to our nation's economy -- to the benefit, by the
8725 way, of foreign countries who have higher carbon emissions?
8726 You know, did they benefit -- weigh the benefits to carbon
8727 emissions globally?

8728 When you see a country that Joe Biden inherited that was
8729 actually reducing carbon emissions, that was energy

8730 independent -- you know, just two years ago we were around \$2
8731 a gallon for gasoline, and we could produce everything on our
8732 own. And by the way -- and I know a lot of people in this
8733 town love beating up on America -- but there is no country in
8734 the world that produces energy cleaner than America.

8735 So if energy is going to be produced, you would think
8736 you would want to produce it in the country that does it the
8737 cleanest. Except that is not what they did. They started
8738 day one. And look at the record, the facts. Joe Biden, day
8739 one and every day since, has unleashed an attack on American
8740 energy from his agencies, from the executive branch through
8741 executive orders, killing Keystone Pipeline, blocking permits
8742 for drilling, for leasing, for pipelines not just in
8743 Keystone, all across the country. You can see the barrage,
8744 and it wasn't just one agency. I will read a few of them.

8745 The Department of Energy went after American energy.
8746 Well, geez, if you have got a United States Department with a
8747 Cabinet Secretary who is spending all their time attacking
8748 American energy, it might beg the question, why do you even
8749 have that Department? Maybe China is funding it. That might
8750 make more sense, because it benefits China to shut down
8751 American manufacturing. It benefits Russia to shut down
8752 American energy, because Russia was providing a lot of our
8753 energy.

8754 And by the way, that money that we were sending in

8755 Europe, \$700 million a day prior to the Ukraine invasion,
8756 that is what helped fund Putin's war, America and Europe,
8757 because President Biden shut down American energy through the
8758 Department of Energy, the Federal Energy Regulatory
8759 Committee, the Securities and Exchange Commission -- we have
8760 seen ESG policies that have crushed American energy producers
8761 -- the Department of Agriculture, the Council on
8762 Environmental Quality, the Department of State, Environmental
8763 Protection Agency, Department of Justice, Department of the
8764 Interior.

8765 Again, you would think these are agencies trying to help
8766 America be stronger, strengthen our national security. And
8767 it is not like they are just against oil and gas. It is just
8768 that they are against American oil and gas.

8769 So you have seen this whole barrage of agencies, this
8770 whole barrage of rules and regulations going after American
8771 energy. But then President Biden gets on Air Force One,
8772 flies 5,700 miles to Saudi Arabia to beg them to produce more
8773 oil. So it is not that he is against oil, he is just against
8774 American oil. Again, the cleanest in the world.

8775 Has anyone asked -- I am curious, my friends on the
8776 other side -- maybe Mr. Duncan, in this report, we can ask
8777 the Administration what was the carbon footprint of President
8778 Biden's trip to Saudi Arabia, over 11,000 miles round trip,
8779 to fly over there to beg them to produce oil that we can make

8780 cleaner? I am curious. The crickets. I haven't heard a
8781 word about carbon emissions when it comes to that, yet you
8782 would actually reduce carbon emissions by making more of the
8783 oil and gas here. Pick your country: Russia, Venezuela,
8784 Saudi Arabia. Go down the list of tyrants and dictators that
8785 this President has begged for oil, while he shut it down
8786 here. It makes no sense. It is crushing jobs. It is
8787 dramatically increasing inflation.

8788 It is not just what we pay at the pump. Electricity,
8789 when people -- if we have a cold winter, people are going to
8790 be trying to heat their homes. Where are they going to get
8791 it from? They are probably going to have to go to Russia to
8792 get their oil in the Northeast because New York, for example,
8793 will block pipelines so you can't even get Pennsylvania oil
8794 over into New York or the New England states. So they have
8795 got to get it -- it doesn't just fall out of the sky. They
8796 are going to have to get it by tanker from Russia.

8797 You know, you watch California, a great example of some
8798 of the worst policies in the world that start there. So they
8799 come up with a great idea. They are going to ban oil and gas
8800 cars. No fossil fuel cars, except one problem. They forgot
8801 to mention their grid can't even handle the cars they have
8802 today, if you have 5 to 10 percent of the cars using
8803 electricity today. The governor then went and urged right
8804 after he said you can't drive a gas run car, he said, "Oh, by

8805 the way, you can't plug your electric vehicle in either,
8806 because the grid can't handle it, because it is all reliant
8807 on energy that is not reliable.''

8808 And so I don't know if they think you can get in your --
8809 get on a unicorn and get to work, I don't know what they
8810 expect. You don't plug your electric car into a tree.

8811 Let's be honest about the consequences of these actions.
8812 We have got great ideas, great bills that would solve these
8813 problems. I know this committee won't bring any of these up.
8814 Maybe we will be able to do something about that in the next
8815 few months. But in the meantime, let's at least pass this
8816 resolution and get some answers for those families who are
8817 getting kicked in the gut every day by these dramatically
8818 higher costs. They shouldn't be high like this. We could do
8819 it better. We could do it here in America, where we do it
8820 cleaner and better than anywhere else in the world.

8821 I hope we pass this, and not only here, but on the
8822 floor.

8823 I yield back the balance of my time.

8824 *The Chairman. Does anyone else want to address this
8825 resolution?

8826 Mr. Latta is recognized for five minutes.

8827 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
8828 seek to strike the last word.

8829 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

8830 *Mr. Latta. I thank the Chairman.

8831 [Slide]

8832 *Mr. Latta. I want to voice my support for the
8833 resolution offered by the gentleman from South Carolina, Mr.
8834 Duncan, that will seek to obtain documents and information
8835 from the Biden Administration regarding the rush-to-green-
8836 energy agenda, and their effort to shift the blame from their
8837 own policies, which have resulted in historically high energy
8838 prices and pain at the pump for millions and millions of
8839 Americans.

8840 When President Biden took office on January 20th, 2021,
8841 the average price for gasoline was \$2.38. This summer gas
8842 reached historic levels, averaging well above \$5 per gallon.
8843 Instead of working to increase oil and gas production to help
8844 lower the cost of the pump and invest in more refining
8845 capacity, the Biden Administration pursued the opposite
8846 course.

8847 We all saw this coming when President Biden made the
8848 promise during the campaign that we weren't going to take
8849 advantage of the vast resources we have in this country. He
8850 said -- and quote -- "No more drilling on Federal lands.
8851 More no more drilling, including offshore. No ability for
8852 the oil industry to continue to drill, period. Ends.''

8853 Instead of admitting his mistake, and working with
8854 Republicans to address this energy crisis in a thoughtful

8855 way, the President chose to double down. He has used every
8856 arm of the executive branch to implement policies that
8857 subsidize green energy, over-regulate and increase costs
8858 associated with baseload power sources like natural gas,
8859 scare away investments in the fossil fuel industry, and
8860 increased taxes on the American people to pay for it all.

8861 When we do get to hear from the Administration officials
8862 in Congress, which has been rare, we are led to believe that
8863 the pain to American families and businesses caused by high
8864 energy prices, especially at the pump, has been part of their
8865 plan all along. After driving up prices -- up with their
8866 anti-American energy policies, the Biden Administration
8867 officials like the U.S. Secretary of Energy, Secretary
8868 Granholm, and Secretary of Transportation Pete Buttigieg,
8869 have used the resulting gas prices -- hikes to extol the
8870 virtues of owning an electric vehicle.

8871 We need to know for sure if this has been a calculated
8872 effort by the Administration to deliberately sabotage
8873 American energy security and make way for their radical
8874 climate agenda. That is why I support the gentleman from
8875 South Carolina's efforts to obtain this documentation.

8876 Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of --

8877 *Mr. Johnson. Would the gentleman yield?

8878 *Mr. Latta. I yield.

8879 *Mr. Johnson. I thank the gentleman for yielding. I

8880 want to support Mr. Duncan's resolution, also, and I
8881 associate myself with the comments made by the minority whip.

8882 You know, it is pretty clear, and I think the case has
8883 been made that the President's war on oil is just on American
8884 oil and American energy. It is not on foreign energy.

8885 And here is a fact that seems to be getting overlooked.
8886 And I heard one of my colleagues on the other side of the
8887 aisle a few minutes ago refer to the fossil fuel past. I got
8888 news for you. Fossil fuels are still providing over 90
8889 percent of the world's energy. They need to get it from the
8890 United States. And there is a statistic out there from the
8891 American Exploration and Production Council that says, if we
8892 could simply export four times more natural gas than we are
8893 exporting today, it would have a -- more impact on reducing
8894 carbon emissions than if we electrified every vehicle in
8895 America, put a solar panel on every home in America, and
8896 built 54,000 industrial strength wind farms, all combined.

8897 So if reducing carbon, which we agree with, if reducing
8898 carbon is the answer to the climate change question, then why
8899 don't we pursue American energy policies that will actually
8900 do that? And that is exporting American natural gas to our
8901 friends and allies around the country, instead of shutting
8902 down American energy here at home.

8903 And I will yield back.

8904 *The Chairman. Who is -- who had the time? Mr. Latta

8905 yields back, I guess.

8906 Anyone else on the -- Mr. Walberg?

8907 *Mr. Walberg. Mr. Chairman. I move to strike the last
8908 word.

8909 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
8910 minutes.

8911 *Mr. Walberg. During the 2008 financial crash, Rahm
8912 Emanuel famously said, "Never let a good crisis go to
8913 waste.'" When it comes to our nation's energy crisis,
8914 President Biden and the Democrats have obviously taken the
8915 advice to heart.

8916 While families in Michigan are anxiously calculating how
8917 they will afford to heat their homes this winter, the Biden
8918 Administration and Democratic lawmakers have used the steep
8919 rise in prices to push their green energy agenda. Rather
8920 than support policies that would increase reliability and
8921 lower costs for households in the here and now, the
8922 Administration is barreling ahead without regard for consumer
8923 choice, affordability, or even our nation's current
8924 capabilities.

8925 The ultimate example of this is when California
8926 residents faced restrictions on energy usage only one week
8927 after Gavin -- Governor Gavin Newsom announced a plan to end
8928 the sale of new gasoline-powered cars by 2035. Californians
8929 were charging their EVs with gas generators. You just can't

8930 make this stuff up.

8931 Despite the Administration's efforts to blame the
8932 current energy affordability crisis on the war in Ukraine, we
8933 know there are many more factors at work here. No one issue
8934 is the cause of higher prices, but rather it is the result of
8935 the sustained and often quiet war on traditional energy that
8936 began at the start of this Administration.

8937 During his campaign President Biden promised voters that
8938 he would -- and I quote -- "end fossil fuel.'" This is a
8939 promise that has been consistently echoed by Energy Secretary
8940 Granholm and many others in his Administration since the very
8941 first day. Through its regulations and tenor, the
8942 Administration has made an inhospitable environment for any
8943 sort of investment in traditional energy resources.

8944 Despite how desperately people need relief, already more
8945 than 20 million families are behind on their utility bills,
8946 and prices are expected to rise by over 17 percent this
8947 winter. Though gas prices hit over \$5 a gallon across the
8948 country this summer, President Biden didn't cut red tape to
8949 allow for more domestic pipelines or streamlined drilling
8950 permits. Instead, he targeted traditional energy producers
8951 with unsubstantiated accusations of price gouging, and
8952 solicited help from OPEC. At the same time, my Democratic
8953 friends in Congress were passing massive spending bills that
8954 used taxpayer dollars to support electric vehicle purchases

8955 and solar panel buildouts.

8956 I am a proud member of the Conservative Climate Caucus.
8957 I believe we have a responsibility to be good stewards of our
8958 environment. But there are ways to do so without imposing
8959 mandates that hurt our economy and quality of life. If these
8960 proposals were more reliable and affordable with domestic
8961 supply chains, rather than having to rely on China, this
8962 would be a no-brainer. But we are not there yet.

8963 People shouldn't have to pay more for electricity
8964 because Democratic lawmakers have the misguided desire to ban
8965 clean natural gas. This country has resources at its
8966 disposal to increase supply and bring down energy prices.
8967 The resolution we are discussing today simply asks for more
8968 information on why we aren't using them.

8969 Until we have a full picture of the Biden
8970 Administration's energy strategy, we have to assume that the
8971 pain is the point.

8972 Thank you, and I --

8973 *Mr. Duncan. Will the gentleman yield?

8974 *Mr. Walberg. I will yield.

8975 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you. You know, listening to the
8976 other side of the aisle talk, they had knowledge and admit
8977 that energy prices are higher. It is not just transportation
8978 fuels. Electricity costs are higher, too. We know what
8979 happened in California.

8980 But these prices weren't high before the Biden
8981 Administration took office. So direct cause and effect. All
8982 we are asking is let's take a look at the documents that led
8983 to the decisions that the Biden Administration made that
8984 affected transportation fuels and, ultimately, are affecting
8985 electricity prices for Americans.

8986 I wish we could go and get the documents from the State
8987 of California that led them to the decisions that caused
8988 their power grid to fail.

8989 We know what works to provide baseload power. That is
8990 what provides your electricity for your manufacturers and
8991 your homes. And we know what works for transportation fuels
8992 to move the goods and services and the people around the
8993 country. But Americans are having to make financial
8994 decisions right now on whether to travel and take their kids
8995 to ball games and other places or feed them, because gasoline
8996 prices are so high. And that is a direct result of the Biden
8997 Administration.

8998 We want to see how these decisions were made, how these
8999 decisions are made, because the American people know they are
9000 bad decisions, and they expect us to correct the wrong.

9001 With that I yield back.

9002 *Mr. Walberg. I yield back.

9003 *The Chairman. Anyone else want to speak on this
9004 resolution?

9005 Mr. Carter is recognized for five minutes.

9006 *Mr. Carter. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
9007 the last word.

9008 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

9009 [Slide]

9010 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from
9011 South Carolina for the resolution of inquiry.

9012 This past weekend we saw the President celebrate the
9013 slight decrease in energy. What an insult to the American
9014 people.

9015 Natural gas prices have more than doubled this year.
9016 The Energy Information Administration anticipates the
9017 residential price of electricity will be up 7.5 percent from
9018 2021. The U.S. Consumer Price Index for electricity in
9019 August climbed 15.8 percent over the same month a year ago,
9020 the biggest such 12-month increase since 1981. Some people
9021 in this room weren't even born in 1981.

9022 Mr. President, we are still in an energy crisis. Winter
9023 is coming, and energy bills are only expected to increase.
9024 The rush-to-green policies of this Administration are a
9025 failure and costing them --

9026 *Voice. Well, I --

9027 *Mr. Carter. Well, what?

9028 [Laughter.]

9029 *Voice. This is my table.

9030 [Pause.]

9031 *The Chairman. Could I ask that members mute themselves
9032 if they are participating virtually?

9033 Mr. Carter, would you continue?

9034 *Mr. Carter. Gladly, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. Where
9035 was I?

9036 *Voice. My kitchen.

9037 [Laughter.]

9038 *Mr. Carter. Artificially restricting our energy output
9039 is damaging the American economy, and threatening our global
9040 security. Do we really think that Putin would have invaded
9041 Ukraine if he didn't have the leverage of supplying Europe
9042 with natural gas? It is basic math, really.

9043 Europe produces 230 billion cubic meters of natural gas
9044 a year, but uses 560 billion cubic meters. Russia now
9045 produces over 700 billion cubic meters of gas a year, but
9046 only uses around 400 billion. You can see the mismatch and
9047 the opportunity that Russia seized. We saw what happened
9048 with Europe's premature bet that green energy would save
9049 them.

9050 I had the opportunity to travel with the Conservative --
9051 what?

9052 *Mr. Walberg. Climate Caucus.

9053 *Mr. Carter. Climate Caucus. That is what it was. I
9054 had the opportunity to go to Europe with them, and we saw

9055 what is going on in Europe. We did. We saw that they are
9056 allowing their policies to get ahead of their innovation, and
9057 what problems it is causing in Europe. That is what is
9058 causing the problems over there now.

9059 Now we face similar problems here, but refuse to learn
9060 the lessons that Europe has experienced. We are increasing
9061 taxes on producers, and making it more expensive to produce
9062 the most reliable energy in our country. This is an energy
9063 crisis of our own making. It is an energy crisis of this
9064 Administration's making.

9065 Policies have consequences. I hope we can come to see
9066 this.

9067 Thank you, and I yield back. I will yield to the
9068 gentleman from Alabama.

9069 *Mr. Palmer. You know, I sat here and listened to
9070 comments from my colleagues across the aisle, and I
9071 appreciate their commitment to their climate agenda. It is,
9072 I guess, in some respects, commendable.

9073 But I have also wondered what is the objection to
9074 transparency. I mean, Mr. Chairman, why is it that, if this
9075 is such a great plan, such a great idea, if it is -- if we
9076 are dealing with a climate crisis, what is the problem with
9077 some transparency here? Because all that we are asking for
9078 is the documents that validate the policies that some of my
9079 colleagues claim are absolutely essential to the future of

9080 the country. I don't understand that.

9081 I also don't understand why people don't understand
9082 basic engineering. We are not going to get to a fully
9083 renewable grid any time soon. And in the mad rush to try to
9084 get there, as we are going to learn -- we have already
9085 learned firsthand in Europe. And I know this frustrates you
9086 to hear these statistics, but they are averaging about 28,000
9087 excess winter deaths per year. And it is largely because
9088 people can no longer afford to adequately heat their homes in
9089 the wintertime. And this is not from the right. This is a
9090 scandal on the left. That is where we are heading here;
9091 people can't afford it.

9092 We are hurting our food supply. Yes, gas prices have
9093 come down a dollar or so per gallon in a lot of places, but
9094 it is still higher than it was before this Administration
9095 came into power. But diesel prices haven't come down. And I
9096 want to tell you, diesel is the fuel of the farm. It is the
9097 fuel of transporting food products from the farm to the
9098 market. And people are having to pay for this. You are
9099 hurting people.

9100 So all we are asking for is some transparency. I don't
9101 think that is too much to ask for. So I would urge my
9102 colleagues to support this request that has been submitted by
9103 Mr. Duncan, and I yield back.

9104 *The Chairman. Anyone else want to address this?

9105 *Voice. Mrs. Lesko.

9106 *The Chairman. Oh, Mrs. Lesko is recognized for five
9107 minutes.

9108 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
9109 the last word.

9110 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

9111 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

9112 A friend of mine from across the aisle said -- and I am
9113 paraphrasing -- that Republicans are clinging on to our old
9114 fossil fuel ideas. Well, you know, we are for all-of-the-
9115 above energy, including renewable energy, solar, wind,
9116 nuclear, natural gas. But we want the electricity on.
9117 Unlike what is happening in Europe and in California, we
9118 actually do not want blackouts.

9119 I mean, I actually want lights and air conditioning, and
9120 that is why I think it is responsible to pursue solar and
9121 wind, as we are in Arizona. But we can't just do such a
9122 rush, like some of my Democrat colleagues are proposing we
9123 do.

9124 You know, with the sky-high energy prices that we are
9125 all familiar with, you would think that the Biden
9126 Administration would take action to lower energy prices for
9127 all of us by unleashing American energy independence as we
9128 were under the prior Administration. Instead of correcting
9129 the mistakes, the Biden Administration has continued to push

9130 for this rush for just solar and wind, and it is not
9131 realistic.

9132 The Administration seems to be emulating the model that
9133 California has adopted --

9134 *Voice. Looking at --

9135 *Mrs. Lesko. -- and that is shutting down power
9136 generation stations that use proven energy sources in favor
9137 of just green sources.

9138 As you may recall --

9139 *Voice. Put some things that help --

9140 *The Chairman. Mrs. Lesko --

9141 *Voice. You were helping --

9142 *The Chairman. Who?

9143 *Voice. Now, before you get here.

9144 *The Chairman. I think it is Mr. Hudson, but I --

9145 *Voice. -- checks for the NRCC.

9146 *The Chairman. All right, could you mute yourself?
9147 Thank you.

9148 *Voice. Yes, but they are sucking all the money out.

9149 *The Chairman. Could -- Mr. Hudson, you have to mute
9150 yourself because we can hear your conversation.

9151 [Laughter.]

9152 *The Chairman. Mrs. Lesko, will you continue?

9153 *Mrs. Lesko. Sure. As everyone will recall, Governor
9154 Gavin Newsom from California signed an executive order

9155 recently prohibiting new passenger vehicles from being
9156 manufactured that use gasoline. But then I thought it was
9157 very ironic -- and sadly, comical -- when just days later the
9158 same California governor said, "Oh, please do not use too
9159 much electricity. In fact, during prime time don't charge
9160 those same electric vehicles that we are going to mandate
9161 that you have.'"

9162 I mean, that is the problem, folks. Everybody is for
9163 solar, wind, conservation, renewable energy. The problem is
9164 that Republican -- well, the problem is you can't rush to it.
9165 And that is why I am for all-of-the-above energy solutions.

9166 And certainly the one thing that President Biden could
9167 do right now to help lower gasoline prices is unleash
9168 American energy. This is what was happening under the Trump
9169 Administration. We were energy independent. But instead,
9170 President Biden goes to Venezuela, he goes to OPEC, and he
9171 begs them to produce more oil. This is insanity, folks.

9172 Let's help Americans and put America first. And with
9173 that, I yield back.

9174 *The Chairman. Thank you. Does anyone else want to
9175 speak on this House resolution?

9176 Okay, we will move to a recorded vote. A recorded vote
9177 is ordered. Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res.
9178 1265 to the House will say aye; those opposed will say no;
9179 and the clerk shall call the roll.

9180 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?
9181 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.
9182 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
9183 Ms. Eshoo?
9184 [No response.]
9185 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette?
9186 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.
9187 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
9188 Mr. Doyle?
9189 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.
9190 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
9191 Ms. Schakowsky?
9192 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.
9193 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
9194 Mr. Butterfield?
9195 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.
9196 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
9197 Ms. Matsui?
9198 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]
9199 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
9200 Ms. Castor?
9201 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
9202 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
9203 Mr. Sarbanes?
9204 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

9205 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
9206 Mr. McNerney?
9207 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
9208 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
9209 Mr. Welch?
9210 [No response.]
9211 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko?
9212 [No response.]
9213 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke?
9214 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
9215 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
9216 Mr. Schrader?
9217 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.
9218 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.
9219 Mr. Cardenas?
9220 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.
9221 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
9222 Mr. Ruiz?
9223 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
9224 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
9225 Mr. Peters?
9226 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
9227 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
9228 Mrs. Dingell?
9229 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

9230 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
9231 Mr. Veasey?
9232 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
9233 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
9234 Ms. Kuster?
9235 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
9236 *Voice. Do you see her?
9237 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye. Sorry, I am trying to
9238 get the video on.
9239 There we go. Kuster votes aye.
9240 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
9241 Ms. Kelly?
9242 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
9243 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
9244 Ms. Barragan?
9245 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
9246 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
9247 Mr. McEachin?
9248 [No response.]
9249 *Voice. But I am not in this picture.
9250 *Voice. No, you are not in the picture. You are fine.
9251 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
9252 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
9253 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
9254 Mr. Soto?

9255 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
9256 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
9257 Mr. O'Halleran?
9258 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
9259 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
9260 Miss Rice?
9261 *Miss Rice. Rice votes yea.
9262 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
9263 Ms. Craig?
9264 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
9265 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
9266 Ms. Schrier?
9267 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
9268 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
9269 Mrs. Trahan?
9270 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
9271 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
9272 Mrs. Fletcher?
9273 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
9274 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
9275 Mrs. Rodgers?
9276 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
9277 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
9278 Mr. Upton?
9279 [No response.]

9280 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
9281 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
9282 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
9283 Mr. Scalise?
9284 *Mr. Scalise. Scalise votes no.
9285 *The Clerk. Mr. Scalise votes no.
9286 Mr. Latta?
9287 *Mr. Latta. No.
9288 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
9289 Mr. Guthrie?
9290 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
9291 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
9292 Mr. McKinley?
9293 [No response.]
9294 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
9295 [No response.]
9296 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
9297 [No response.]
9298 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis?
9299 [No response.]
9300 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson?
9301 *Mr. Johnson. No.
9302 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
9303 Mr. Long?
9304 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.

9305 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
9306 Mr. Bucshon?
9307 *Mr. Bucshon. No.
9308 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
9309 Mr. Mullin?
9310 *Mr. Mullin. No.
9311 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
9312 Mr. Hudson?
9313 *Mr. Hudson. Hudson votes no.
9314 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes no.
9315 Mr. Walberg?
9316 *Mr. Walberg. Walberg votes no.
9317 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
9318 Mr. Carter?
9319 *Mr. Carter. Carter of Georgia votes no.
9320 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
9321 Mr. Duncan?
9322 *Mr. Duncan. No.
9323 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
9324 Mr. Palmer?
9325 *Mr. Palmer. No.
9326 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
9327 Mr. Dunn?
9328 *Mr. Dunn. No.
9329 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

9330 Mr. Curtis?

9331 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

9332 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

9333 Mrs. Lesko?

9334 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

9335 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

9336 Mr. Pence?

9337 *Mr. Pence. No.

9338 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

9339 Mr. Crenshaw?

9340 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]

9341 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

9342 Mr. Joyce?

9343 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

9344 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

9345 Mr. Armstrong?

9346 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

9347 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

9348 Chairman Pallone?

9349 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

9350 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

9351 *Mr. Welch. It is Mr. Welch. How am I recorded? Mr.

9352 Welch.

9353 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch is not recorded.

9354 *Mr. Welch. Aye.

9355 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

9356 *The Chairman. Anyone else who wants to vote and is not
9357 recorded?

9358 Ms. Eshoo?

9359 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo is not recorded.

9360 *Ms. Eshoo. [Inaudible.]

9361 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

9362 *The Chairman. Mr. Tonko?

9363 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko is not recorded.

9364 *Mr. Tonko. [Inaudible.]

9365 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

9366 *The Chairman. Mr. Griffith?

9367 *Mr. Griffith. Griffith votes no.

9368 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

9369 *The Chairman. Anyone else who is not recorded?
9370 Is Mr. Bilirakis coming back?

9371 [Pause.]

9372 *The Chairman. No? Okay. The clerk will report the
9373 tally.

9374 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 31 and the nays
9375 were 22.

9376 *The Chairman. Twenty-two, okay. So the vote is 31
9377 ayes to 22 noes. H.Res. 1265 is reported adversely to the
9378 House.

9379 [Pause.]

9380 *Ms. Kelly. [Presiding] The chair calls up H.Res. 1272.
9381 The clerk will report the bill.

9382 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1272, a resolution of inquiry
9383 requesting the President to provide certain documents --

9384 *Ms. Kelly. Without objection, the first reading of the
9385 bill will be dispensed with. The bill is now considered as
9386 read.

9387 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and
9388 open for amendment at any point.

9389 [The bill follows:]

9390

9391 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

9392

9393 *Ms. Kelly. Are there any members seeking recognition
9394 to speak on H.Res. 1272?

9395 *Mr. Johnson. Madam Chairman?

9396 *Ms. Kelly. For what purpose does the member seek
9397 recognition?

9398 *Mr. Johnson. Madam Chairman, I move to strike the last
9399 word.

9400 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman is recognized for five
9401 minutes.

9402 *Mr. Johnson. Madam Chairman, several colleagues have
9403 reiterated the quote from former Chief of Staff Rahm Emanuel
9404 when he said you never want to let a serious crisis go to
9405 waste. They didn't go on to say what else he said, though.
9406 He said, "What I mean by that is that it is an opportunity to
9407 do things that you would not have been able to do before."

9408 So let's fast forward a little bit. Joe Biden, newly
9409 elected President, says, and I quote, "Just like we needed to
9410 be a unified nation to respond to COVID-19, we need a unified
9411 national response to climate change.'" Well, of course they
9412 do, because the majority needs a crisis upon which to build
9413 the foundation of the Green New Deal and the President's
9414 rush-to-green agenda.

9415 But this sort of rhetoric would come as a shock to
9416 Americans still reeling from the involuntary and compulsory
9417 COVID restrictions, lockdowns, and mandates that were forced

9418 upon them by local petty liberal tyrants who seem gleeful
9419 about the emergency control that they could exercise. So is
9420 President Biden saying he wants to do the same thing for
9421 climate change?

9422 Now, to be clear, I am not debating the validity of
9423 climate change, and Republicans are not climate deniers. I
9424 certainly am not. It is just that I believe we don't have to
9425 throw out the baby with the bath water. We don't have to
9426 destroy the reliability and resilience of our national energy
9427 grid, and make every American pay significantly more for
9428 groceries and gasoline, more for the electricity to power
9429 businesses and our homes in order to address it.

9430 The point is that Republican solutions differ vastly
9431 from what the Democrats are proposing. Today fossil fuels
9432 still provide over 90 percent of the world's energy, and
9433 America's natural gas is the cleanest on the planet.
9434 Republicans want to unleash even more exports of that cleaner
9435 American liquefied natural gas, causing carbon emissions to
9436 plunge wherever we send it. We want to unleash the next
9437 generation of carbon-free nuclear power. We want to preserve
9438 and expand American hydropower, and foster innovation and
9439 adaptation at the scale needed to blunt the impact of harmful
9440 global climate change.

9441 But what is the solution from this Administration?

9442 Well, over the summer it was reported that the President,

9443 under pressure from radical environmentalists, was
9444 considering a climate emergency declaration to sidestep
9445 Congress and unlock vast executive powers to curtail oil and
9446 gas production, meddle with electricity generation, and fund
9447 green pet projects.

9448 And it turns out -- and I have got the letter right here
9449 in my folder signed by nine Democrat members of this
9450 committee -- that they agree. They signed this letter on
9451 July 20th, urging the President to declare a climate
9452 emergency by saying, "Climate change is not only a crisis,
9453 but also an unprecedented opportunity.'" The majority is not
9454 really hiding the ball very well here. I mean, the game is
9455 up, the jig is up. And this should give every American
9456 pause, because it is -- if it is anything like the COVID-19
9457 emergency, it is not going to be voluntary.

9458 Some leaders across the nation are already getting in on
9459 the action. For example, instead of working to build more
9460 reliable, affordable power generation in his state, the
9461 governor of California signed a law banning new internal
9462 combustion vehicle sales. In the next week he tells everyone
9463 they need to avoid charging their electric car. Why?
9464 Because they don't have the energy to power them.

9465 In Colorado, tens of thousands of people were remotely
9466 locked out of adjusting their thermostats in the middle of a
9467 heat wave.

9468 And finally, we have seen years of some liberal states
9469 and localities in the United States banning natural gas
9470 hookups to homes and businesses, denying choice to consumers
9471 about how they heat their homes and cook their food.

9472 Mr. Chairman, these aren't actions to save energy.
9473 These are actions to mandate where we go, what we do, and how
9474 we live. It is not about carbon. It is about control. It
9475 is about controlling the lives of the American people. And
9476 it is a dangerous road to go down.

9477 Let's look at Europe. Switzerland and Spain are
9478 currently threatening to jail citizens who keep their homes
9479 too cool in the summer or too warm this upcoming winter. And
9480 the European Commission President, Ursula von der Leyen,
9481 announced just last week a plan for, and I quote, a mandatory
9482 target to, quote, "flatten the curve'" to reduce electricity
9483 consumption. Flatten the curve? Huh, sounds very familiar.

9484 Mr. Chairman, I don't believe Americans will do this
9485 again. President Biden should think twice about emulating
9486 liberal governors and European technocrats. So my ROI is
9487 simple. It requests that the Administration provide Congress
9488 all the documents related to this national climate emergency
9489 plan; the authorities the President thinks he has, should he
9490 carry it out; and also the comments that he sought from
9491 Federal agencies who would ultimately implement such a
9492 strategy.

9493 My ROI should also serve as a warning that, from here on
9494 out, any such actions will be met with rigorous oversight
9495 from us on the Republican side of this committee.

9496 So let's do the right thing, Mr. Chairman. I urge my
9497 colleagues to back this measure. And with that, I yield
9498 back.

9499 *Mr. Guthrie. [Inaudible.]

9500 *Mr. Johnson. I -- sure, I will yield.

9501 *Mr. Guthrie. Thank you, Mr. -- thank you for yielding.

9502 I just want to point out that he is absolutely right.
9503 We have an example. We can sit here and say this is going to
9504 be great, and it is going to be perfect, and everything is
9505 going to work well. But we have an example, as he said, in
9506 Germany. We have -- he said Switzerland and others. We know
9507 England is trying to come up with price caps on electricity
9508 this winter because of the decisions they have made.

9509 So this is real, it affects real lives. And, as Germany
9510 has decided they can't go through with this -- we are talking
9511 about reliability -- they have started buying coal again.
9512 And so I had phone calls this summer -- so this is real --
9513 from people worried that, in August, which we got through
9514 without it because it was so hot in June; in August we got
9515 through without it -- that there were Kentucky power
9516 suppliers who were afraid they weren't going to be able to
9517 supply power because of the coal that was being exported to

9518 Germany, because of the decisions they had made. And here we
9519 are, we have doubled down and we are doing the same policies.

9520 A big reason the previous prime minister of England left
9521 -- I know he had a lot of other things, other baggage, but a
9522 lot of it was his climate change agenda, and what it was
9523 doing to the British people. And I know there is a lot of
9524 television coming out of England last week, and God bless the
9525 family there they lost in the country and the world that lost
9526 such a great citizen, but the prime minister during that time
9527 opened up fracking again in England because of the decisions
9528 they had made before.

9529 And we are going down a path. We know where it leads.
9530 It leads to an unreliable system. So I appreciate my friend
9531 for filing this ROI, and I am going to plan to support it.

9532 Thank you, and I will yield back to my friend.

9533 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. The chair
9534 recognizes Congresswoman Lisa Blunt Rochester.

9535 *Mr. Johnson. I yield back.

9536 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Madam Chair. I move
9537 to strike the last word.

9538 I want to start off by just clarifying something, and
9539 making sure we have our facts straight. The President has
9540 not -- I repeat, has not -- declared a national climate
9541 emergency.

9542 Now, personally, I believe he should. I am a cosponsor

9543 of the National Climate Emergency Act, and have signed
9544 letters urging the President to unlock broad emergency powers
9545 to fully and urgently combat the climate crisis. But to
9546 date, nothing has been declared. And as I see it, we must
9547 consider meaningful climate action.

9548 Ignoring the climate crisis won't make it go away.
9549 Climate-fueled disasters left over \$152 billion in damages
9550 across the United States last year, and could cost up to 2
9551 trillion a year if we fail to act. Look no further than the
9552 effects of Hurricane Fiona, a category one storm on Puerto
9553 Rico. The National Hurricane Center says some areas may
9554 receive more than 30 inches of rain from the storm. This is
9555 catastrophic. Fiona's massive rainfall fits a pattern of
9556 climate change causing hurricanes to produce extreme
9557 precipitation, as the warmer atmosphere holds more moisture.
9558 That sounds like an emergency to me.

9559 House Democrats have focused on enacting historic laws
9560 that will lower costs, create good-paying jobs, and put money
9561 back in people's pockets as we invest in cleaner, cheaper
9562 energy. Unfortunately, many of my Republican colleagues
9563 still question the harms caused by climate change and any
9564 attempts to address it. I heard, you know, my colleague say
9565 he believes in climate change, that we have a crisis. It is
9566 one thing to believe it; it is another thing to do something
9567 about it.

9568 I am proud that we have acted with the largest
9569 investment with the Inflation Reduction Act to deal with this
9570 biggest challenge that we face. But we are not done.

9571 This resolution, though, is without merit, and I urge my
9572 colleagues to adversely report this resolution. And I
9573 yield --

9574 *Ms. Barragan. Will the gentleman yield, or the -- oh,
9575 would the gentlewoman yield?

9576 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. I yield to my colleague, Nanette
9577 Barragan.

9578 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you. I just want to agree, and
9579 would just speak on this issue.

9580 This is definitely a time where we are seeing droughts,
9581 we are seeing wildfires, we are seeing hurricanes. It is
9582 happening across the country. It is happening in red states
9583 and blue states. And climate change should not be about a
9584 Democratic issue or a Republican issue. This is about our
9585 climate. This is about our planet. And this is about making
9586 sure we are getting ahead of this.

9587 We hear from military officers about the national
9588 security risks it poses. We hear from experts in science
9589 about what it means for this climate heating up, and we are
9590 seeing it happening firsthand.

9591 I strongly agree, and believe that we should treat the
9592 climate crisis like the emergency that it is. At least 100

9593 million Americans face excessive heat this summer, with
9594 temperatures breaking records from coast to coast.
9595 Persistent drought has led to record lows of water in
9596 California and other western states. This is California's
9597 worst drought on record. It is threatening critical
9598 industries like agriculture and access to clean water. And
9599 climate-fueled storms and wildfires continue to leave costly
9600 damages year after year.

9601 And who is paying for it? We are paying for it. FEMA
9602 then has to go out and spend money, and Congress has to
9603 allocate. We spend more money if we do nothing, and we put
9604 our risk of our climate and our future at risk.

9605 As was mentioned, Hurricane Fiona knocked out power for
9606 all of Puerto Rico. It has now straightened to a category
9607 four storm in the Caribbean. Without rapid intervention,
9608 these emergencies will only get worse, and as the planet
9609 warms.

9610 And then we put money into things like infrastructure,
9611 and then we are shocked when we see the videos of the
9612 infrastructure not holding up. It is -- we got to invest in
9613 -- it more resilient. But why do that? Let's try to do all
9614 we can now to prevent it.

9615 I am happy the Democrats have been working on this
9616 issue, have been leading on this issue, have made bold
9617 investments in climate, in the Inflation Reduction Act. And

9618 frankly, that is the first step. But we have got to do more
9619 to make sure that we are expanding access to cleaner, cheaper
9620 energy, and cost-saving, clean technologies. These
9621 investments reduce our dependance on fossil fuels that drive
9622 climate change, while creating jobs and cutting costs for
9623 consumers.

9624 Lastly, I am proud that California is leading the way in
9625 clean energy and on climate, and we are going to continue to
9626 do so. And we did a good job in making sure that even --
9627 that during the last heat wave, the California grid held up.

9628 And we have got to continue to invest in things like new
9629 battery storage to make sure that we continue to do that, and
9630 see the utilities make the adjustments that they need.

9631 Thank you, and I yield back.

9632 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you, Madam Chair. I yield
9633 back.

9634 *Ms. Kelly. The gentlewoman yields back. Are there any
9635 members seeking recognition?

9636 The chair recognizes Mr. Carter.

9637 You have five minutes.

9638 *Mr. Carter. Thank you, Madam Chair. I move to strike
9639 the last word.

9640 Madam Chair, the gentleman -- the -- excuse me, the
9641 gentlelady from Delaware -- I am afraid that we just -- we
9642 don't agree.

9643 We do believe in climate change, and it is important
9644 that we understand that. The urgency of the situation, I
9645 think, is where we disagree the most, and it is important,
9646 though. That is why I thank the gentleman from Ohio for this
9647 resolution of inquiry.

9648 I think it is important because this Administration has
9649 not been shy of pushing the boundaries of its power to take
9650 over our economy and dictate policy as it sees fit. From
9651 COVID to student loans, we have seen executive orders and
9652 rule-makings to bypass Congress.

9653 And you know, I hope that is something we address, both
9654 as Republicans and as Democrats, and that is the separation
9655 of powers. Because I am telling you, over the years -- and
9656 it hasn't just happened this past session, it has been going
9657 on for years, and it has happened with Republican Presidents,
9658 with Democratic Presidents -- we have deferred too much power
9659 to the executive branch, and we need to take it back -- we,
9660 being Democrats; we, being Republicans; we, being Congress --
9661 we need to take it back. This country is being ruled by
9662 executive orders. All of a sudden, we have created a
9663 monarchy. And that is not the way our country is supposed to
9664 run. And we need to -- we, Republicans and Democrats -- need
9665 to be united in changing that, and bringing it back to the
9666 way that it was supposed to be.

9667 This -- we have witnessed a serious abuse of executive

9668 power. I don't understand how the narrowest of majorities in
9669 Congress gives my colleagues across the aisle any sense of a
9670 mandate to act so dramatically.

9671 We also need to look at the facts. The U.S. remains a
9672 climate leader. We are a climate leader. In the last decade
9673 the United States of America has decreased our carbon
9674 emissions more than the next 12 countries combined, while
9675 growing our economy. We have done that. We never get credit
9676 for that, but we have done that.

9677 The real emergency is our energy crisis and the lack of
9678 energy security. I don't think there is any disagreement
9679 between Republicans and Democrats. Energy security is
9680 national security. I think we all believe that. We are
9681 failing to produce necessary energy for our country, let
9682 alone to help our allies who are struggling. And that is
9683 important for us to keep in mind, as well. This has resulted
9684 in a dramatic price increase that we all face.

9685 If your true concern is emissions, then you would know
9686 that, no matter what we do to reduce U.S. emissions, the true
9687 threat is abroad. Climate change is a global problem. We
9688 all recognize that. Everybody knows that. We could decrease
9689 our carbon emissions to zero. We could go to net carbon
9690 emissions, net negative carbon emissions. And unless the
9691 rest of the world does their part, we are not going to
9692 achieve what we are looking to achieve.

9693 Ninety percent of future emissions growth will come from
9694 abroad, largely driven by the development and growth of
9695 countries in Latin America, Africa, and Asia. That is all
9696 there is to it.

9697 China and Russia have weaponized energy. We know that.
9698 We see what is going on in Ukraine right now. We see what
9699 China -- how -- excuse me, how Russia is holding Europe
9700 hostage. Russia is nothing more than a gas station
9701 masquerading as a country. That is all they are.

9702 The real emergency is that we are failing to address
9703 this. We have got to make sure that we are not letting China
9704 and Russia weaponize energy, that we are punishing the -- and
9705 what we are doing is we are punishing the American sector for
9706 being the cleanest and the most reliable. That makes no
9707 sense whatsoever. Talk about shooting yourself in the foot,
9708 we are shooting ourselves in the foot here.

9709 *Voice. Nice to meet you.

9710 *Mr. Carter. I will yield to my colleague from Alabama.

9711 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the gentleman. I just -- I keep
9712 hearing people talk about the science says this and the
9713 science says that, and I just wonder what science they are
9714 talking about. Because the last --

9715 *Voice. Today --

9716 *Mr. Palmer. May I suspend? Someone has got their --
9717 Madam Chairman? Somebody has --

9718 [Pause.]

9719 *Mr. Palmer. I asked to suspend.

9720 *Ms. Kelly. Representative Palmer?

9721 *Mr. Palmer. Okay. Thank you, Madam Chairman.

9722 What I want to point out is the last Intergovernmental
9723 Panel on Climate Change report. This is what it says about
9724 hurricane activity. This is their report: "There is still
9725 no consensus on the relative magnitude of human and natural
9726 influences on path changes in Atlantic hurricane activity,
9727 and particularly on which factor has dominated the observed
9728 increase. And it remains uncertain whether past changes in
9729 Atlantic tropical cyclone activity are outside the range of
9730 natural variability."

9731 I will translate that for you. There is no evidence
9732 that human activity has resulted in an increase in hurricane
9733 activity, except for another report from the National
9734 Oceanographic and Atmospheric Administration that says U.S.
9735 and European efforts to clean their air has resulted in an
9736 increase in hurricane activity. That is from NOAA. And it
9737 is because we have done such a remarkable job of cleaning our
9738 air.

9739 So the science is not settled. I yield back.

9740 *Mr. Carter. And I yield.

9741 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
9742 other members seeking recognition to speak?

9743 The chair recognizes Representative Soto for five
9744 minutes.

9745 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am a little
9746 heartened by this conversation. We have some folks who have
9747 proclaimed to not be climate change deniers, and I think that
9748 is a start, right, for most of us to accept the predominant
9749 scientific opinion that human-caused climate change is a
9750 major threat to the nation and the world, much like Russia's
9751 a major threat through Ukraine, and it is something that we
9752 have worked on.

9753 And I have heard that we need to take it back here in
9754 the Congress to have more legislative action. I agree with
9755 that statement, too.

9756 When we are talking about how a lot of the issues are
9757 abroad, I agree with that, too. And I think, as we go
9758 through this, you know, this is about solutions, right, and
9759 about legislative action. And that is why we passed the
9760 Inflation Reduction Act, the biggest investment in combating
9761 climate change in our nation's history.

9762 And then, when we think about the problems abroad, that
9763 is where American excellence comes in, because what nation
9764 resolves the energy issues for the 21st century will be the
9765 dominant power for the 21st century.

9766 And when I think about now in this committee, I also
9767 think about future generations from now. And when they are

9768 going to read about us seeing wildfires all across the United
9769 States, particularly out west, floods in the southeast,
9770 droughts out west, hurricanes getting increasingly
9771 intensified in places like Florida, rising seas that affect
9772 us, as well, they are going to wonder whether we actually did
9773 something about it, or whether we just put our heads in the
9774 sand and acted like nothing was happening. Certainly, we
9775 chose in this Congress to act, to actually step up to the
9776 challenge for solar and wind, for nuclear and, yes, for --
9777 carbon capture was included in the Inflation Reduction Act,
9778 as well, for natural gas.

9779 One of the challenges for some folks on this committee
9780 is going to be, if you are -- your main industry is oil
9781 economy, is an energy economy, how are you going to also help
9782 with your constituents in that transition? That is something
9783 we all should be thinking about, as well as how we make this
9784 more stable, and how we work on everything from the minerals
9785 we are going to have to mine to help out with a lot of this,
9786 whether it be batteries or solar panels, how to refine wind,
9787 how to improve nuclear. And even carbon capture is a
9788 possibility, right? That is why we included it in there.

9789 And so I am glad most of the committee believes that
9790 climate change is real, since the science predominantly
9791 proves that. And now it is about the solutions. We passed a
9792 big bill, but there is going to be a lot of oversight over

9793 the next few years that this committee is going to be tasked
9794 with. So -- as well as transitioning our economy where we
9795 can.

9796 And so that, I believe, is the challenge at hand, not
9797 some fight over some non-existent climate emergency that --
9798 act and -- or that hasn't come. The President doesn't need
9799 to do that. We passed the Inflation Reduction Act. We have
9800 now acted, and I hope all of you will be ready for the
9801 challenge as we conduct oversight going forward, because our
9802 kids, our grandkids, future generations are probably going to
9803 judge us by this, almost more than any other issue.

9804 Thanks, and I yield back.

9805 *Ms. Kelly. The chair recognizes Mr. Duncan for five
9806 minutes.

9807 *Mr. Duncan. Thank you, Madam Chair. I am glad he used
9808 the word "oversight," because that is exactly what our ROI
9809 is doing, is asking for oversight of the Administration to
9810 understand -- and the American people to understand -- the
9811 policies that were put forth.

9812 You know, Ronald Reagan had a great quote. And this is
9813 him quoting, not me, but he said, "It is not that the
9814 Democrats are ignorant. It is that so much they think is
9815 untrue."

9816 You all have got this utopian vision of wind and solar.
9817 There is not a single person on this side that doesn't like

9818 wind and solar, but we also know what works to meet the
9819 transportation needs and the baseload power needs of
9820 Americans.

9821 You talk and you use fear tactics like talking about the
9822 wildfires and hurricanes. Hurricanes have been hitting this
9823 country and the Caribbean and other parts of the globe
9824 forever. They are not more intense. We just have more
9825 ability to monitor the size and wind of those hurricanes, due
9826 to technology. Man has gotten better in that.

9827 We are getting better in the energy sector, as well.
9828 The clean energy sector, as well.

9829 Wildfires. Wildfires have hit this country for a long
9830 time. In fact, the Teddy Roosevelt Administration --

9831 *Voice. Your five minutes are over -- went over the
9832 five-minute [inaudible].

9833 *Voice. That is Mr. Veasey.

9834 *Mr. Duncan. Here is the thing: why does it just
9835 happen when Republicans are talking?

9836 [Laughter.]

9837 *Voice. Why is it always Republicans that are doing it?

9838 [Pause.]

9839 *Mr. Duncan. All right. We have had our fun.

9840 During the Teddy Roosevelt Administration the United
9841 States Forest Service was created. Why? [Inaudible]
9842 recognized that a Forest Service was needed to combat

9843 wildfires. In fact, the year that U.S. Forest Service was
9844 created with the intent purpose of combating wildfires, one
9845 of the largest fires in the history of this country happened
9846 in the Bitterroot between Montana and Idaho. Towns that
9847 existed then were burned; 2 million acres burned in 24 hours.
9848 This was at the very beginning of the Industrial Revolution.

9849 You all say the science is settled on climate change.
9850 Well, you don't want to look at true science, because the
9851 Earth has been a heck of a lot warmer than it is today, and
9852 that was prior to the Industrial Revolution. Before man was
9853 burning fossil fuels the Earth was a lot warmer. So if we
9854 are going to talk about science, let's talk about complete
9855 science. Let's look at it holistically.

9856 I go back to what I said earlier: there is not a single
9857 person on this side that doesn't like wind and solar, and
9858 alternative fuels, and renewables. They ought to be part of
9859 the matrix. But you are killing an industry that works for
9860 transportation fuels.

9861 Mr. Palmer from Alabama hit on it earlier, a point that
9862 needs to be stressed over and over: there is going to be a
9863 global famine. It is going to be because of this energy
9864 crisis created by the Biden Administration. And you ask,
9865 "How so?'"

9866 The rising price of diesel fuel, the input costs for
9867 farmers, and planning and then harvesting and transporting

9868 that food to the market. The fertilizer that is created
9869 through natural gas is much higher today. It is probably
9870 almost double what it was. So come spring, when they plant
9871 the food, the input costs are going to be higher. So the
9872 prices at the grocery shelves for your constituents is going
9873 to be much higher because of these energy prices.

9874 And then, if we lose the ability to grow -- or we just
9875 choose not to, due to the input costs -- to grow the food
9876 that we export, David Beasley with the World Food Program has
9877 already said there is going to be a global famine in places
9878 like Ethiopia. America steps up at that point with our
9879 surplus food to provide that for the famine. If we don't
9880 have that because of the input costs due to the Biden
9881 Administration's energy policies, that is on you all.

9882 And I will yield to the gentleman from Utah.

9883 *Mr. Curtis. Thank you for yielding. I am going to
9884 make a bold statement, but I believe it is true, and that is
9885 that I believe I have had more conversations with Republicans
9886 and Democrats here in Congress on this climate than anyone
9887 else in climate -- in Congress.

9888 And I believe, despite this conversation we are having
9889 today, we are far closer as Republicans and Democrats than it
9890 appears. And if I had a whole five minutes, I could list
9891 five things, five minutes' worth of things that we agree on
9892 on this subject.

9893 And I will just tell you, if I were to paraphrase, I
9894 think, what you are hearing from our side over here today,
9895 there is two points that I don't want to be misunderstood,
9896 and one is that there is a lesson to be learned by Europe,
9897 and a feeling by Republicans that we are headed down that
9898 exact same path. And let's learn the lesson from Europe, and
9899 not make the same mistakes that were made over there.

9900 And the second point is that there is a role for fossil
9901 fuels in reducing greenhouse gas emissions. And rather than
9902 demonizing the fossil fuel industry, let's embrace them and
9903 use them. They employ some of the brightest scientists and
9904 engineers in the world. They have the capital to move things
9905 forward like carbon sequestration, and direct air capture,
9906 and new technologies, and fusion and many things.

9907 So I am out of time, but I would just like to highlight
9908 the fact that, despite the tone of this conversation, I
9909 actually think there is quite a bit we agree on, and I look
9910 forward to working with my colleagues on both sides, and I
9911 yield my time.

9912 *Ms. Kelly. Are there any members seeking -- the chair
9913 recognizes Mr. Palmer.

9914 You have five minutes.

9915 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the chair. I agree with Mr.
9916 Curtis, and I agree with some of what my colleagues have
9917 said. Mr. Soto's tone was excellent, and the gentlelady from

9918 Delaware, as well.

9919 I think, though, when you start this stuff about climate
9920 deniers, that is a wrong approach. The climate has always
9921 changed. And what I would recommend -- and I mean this
9922 sincerely, because I have worked for two international
9923 engineering companies, I worked in environmental systems, I
9924 have studied this extensively -- the record of climate change
9925 is in the geologic record.

9926 And it surprises people, when you start looking at the
9927 geologic record, these are not the worst droughts that this
9928 country has experienced, particularly in the American
9929 southwest. They had droughts that lasted 50 to 100 years.
9930 That is why you had the dispersion of indigenous peoples in
9931 the southwest; they didn't have the technology or the
9932 engineering capability to adapt.

9933 That is where -- we are talking in some respects about
9934 the same things, but we are talking past each other, and not
9935 coming up with solutions, and I will give you another example
9936 of this.

9937 I raised this question in a hearing about whether or not
9938 the Sahara has always been a desert. Most people think it
9939 has always been a desert. It has only been a desert about
9940 4,000 or 5,000 years. That is a blink in the geologic epoch.
9941 I mean, a blink.

9942 So when sides start -- and by the way, archeologists are

9943 now excavating the settlements of Nubians and Egyptians. At
9944 one time the Sahara had streams, and grasslands, and
9945 woodlands. They -- like I said, settlements that are being
9946 excavated now.

9947 So the question is, what caused the Sahara to become a
9948 desert? It took about a 10,000 or 12,000-year period,
9949 because scientists believe that the Earth changed its tilt on
9950 its axis. It changed the wind patterns. And over that
9951 10,000 or 12,000-year period, the Sahara became a desert.
9952 That -- I just proved to you that the climate is changing.

9953 There is issues about a potential ice shelf in
9954 Antarctica breaking off and raising sea levels. An ice shelf
9955 is different from an iceberg. An iceberg is in the water
9956 and, as we know from physics that a solid displaces its
9957 volume in liquid, so it doesn't raise sea levels. An ice
9958 sheet is different. If it melts and runs into a water table,
9959 it will raise it. So will an ice shelf.

9960 So this ice shelf broke off about 125,000 years ago. So
9961 the question should -- is asked, what caused it to fall off
9962 125,000 years ago? Was it climate change, or was it physics?
9963 Because over time, the weight at the extended end of the
9964 shelf might be more than the base could sustain, and it falls
9965 off. That is a higher probability.

9966 So I just want people to understand. And I know I am
9967 nerding out on you, and it is past 6:00. It is past 7:00.

9968 But look at this from a different perspective, and let's
9969 try to find ways to adapt and mitigate while we are also
9970 moving toward cleaner fuel.

9971 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Will the gentleman yield?

9972 *Mr. Palmer. I would be happy to yield to the
9973 gentlelady.

9974 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Thank you so much, Mr. Palmer. I
9975 think you are correct. As Mr. Soto said, there are a lot of
9976 areas where we agree.

9977 And I think one of the things that Mr. Carter said is
9978 that where we differ is a sense of urgency. And as you even
9979 talked about the evolution of this planet, what has, I think,
9980 caused such alarm, and particularly for young people, is that
9981 it seems that things are happening faster, and that we are
9982 contributing more to it.

9983 And so I think what you are saying is we need to hear
9984 what the impacts are for -- including jobs, because, you
9985 know, I was secretary of labor. So to me, jobs are very,
9986 very important, people being able to live and sustain
9987 themselves in communities that have lived a certain way for
9988 many, many years. And I think that is what Darren was also
9989 saying, is that we need to be sensitive to that, too.

9990 Again, as he said, what gives hope -- because when I
9991 started on this committee, everybody did not agree that
9992 something was happening. And that does give us hope. But

9993 for me, and for my children and my children's children, there
9994 is a sense of urgency.

9995 And also, some of you also know my faith. I believe
9996 that we have to be good stewards of this beautiful planet.
9997 So that also is what touches me.

9998 So again, I am grateful for this conversation. I still
9999 don't think that it merits the resolution, but I am grateful
10000 for the conversation. And I thank you, all three of you, for
10001 your comments.

10002 *Mr. Palmer. Reclaiming my time, Madam Chairman, if I
10003 may -- and again, I thank you for the dialogue, this -- I
10004 think this is progress.

10005 But there are other stats that I will share with you at
10006 a later time, when we are not quite as tired of talk. But I
10007 do appreciate the opportunity to speak on this, and to share
10008 a different perspective about an issue that we agree on.

10009 I yield back.

10010 *Ms. Kelly. The gentleman yields back. Are there any
10011 other members seeking recognition to speak on H.Res. 1272?

10012 Seeing none, a recorded vote is ordered. Those in favor
10013 of adversely reporting H.Res. 1272 to the House will say aye;
10014 those opposed will say no; the clerk shall call the roll.

10015 [Pause.]

10016 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

10017 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

10018 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
10019 Ms. Eshoo?
10020 *Ms. Eshoo. [Inaudible.]
10021 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.
10022 Ms. DeGette?
10023 [No response.]
10024 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle?
10025 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.
10026 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.
10027 Ms. Schakowsky?
10028 [No response.]
10029 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield?
10030 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.
10031 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
10032 Ms. Matsui?
10033 *Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.
10034 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
10035 Ms. Castor?
10036 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
10037 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
10038 Mr. Sarbanes?
10039 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
10040 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
10041 Mr. McNerney?
10042 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

10043 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
10044 Mr. Welch?
10045 *Mr. Welch. Welch votes aye.
10046 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
10047 Mr. Tonko?
10048 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
10049 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
10050 Ms. Clarke?
10051 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
10052 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
10053 Mr. Schrader?
10054 [No response.]
10055 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
10056 [No response.]
10057 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
10058 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
10059 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
10060 Mr. Peters?
10061 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
10062 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
10063 Mrs. Dingell?
10064 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]
10065 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell -- I am sorry, Mrs. Dingell,
10066 can you please repeat your vote?
10067 *Mrs. Dingell. Votes aye.

10068 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
10069 Mr. Veasey?
10070 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
10071 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
10072 Ms. Kuster?
10073 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
10074 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
10075 Ms. Kelly?
10076 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
10077 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
10078 Ms. Barragan?
10079 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
10080 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
10081 Mr. McEachin?
10082 [No response.]
10083 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
10084 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
10085 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
10086 Mr. Soto?
10087 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
10088 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
10089 Mr. O'Halleran?
10090 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
10091 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
10092 Miss Rice?

10093 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.

10094 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

10095 Ms. Craig?

10096 *Ms. Craig. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.

10097 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.

10098 Ms. Schrier?

10099 [Pause.]

10100 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes --

10101 [Pause.]

10102 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier, can you please repeat your

10103 vote?

10104 [Pause.]

10105 *Voice. Try that again.

10106 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

10107 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

10108 Mrs. Trahan?

10109 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you. Sorry about that.

10110 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

10111 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

10112 Mrs. Fletcher?

10113 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

10114 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

10115 Mrs. Rodgers?

10116 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]

10117 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

10118 Mr. Upton?
10119 [No response.]
10120 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
10121 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
10122 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
10123 Mr. Scalise?
10124 [No response.]
10125 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
10126 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
10127 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
10128 Mr. Guthrie?
10129 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
10130 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
10131 Mr. McKinley?
10132 [No response.]
10133 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
10134 [No response.]
10135 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
10136 *Mr. Griffith. No.
10137 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
10138 Mr. Bilirakis?
10139 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]
10140 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
10141 Mr. Johnson?
10142 *Mr. Johnson. No.

10143 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
10144 Mr. Long?
10145 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.
10146 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
10147 Mr. Bucshon?
10148 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]
10149 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
10150 Mr. Mullin?
10151 *Mr. Mullin. No.
10152 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
10153 Mr. Hudson?
10154 [No response.]
10155 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
10156 *Mr. Walberg. No.
10157 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
10158 Mr. Carter?
10159 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]
10160 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
10161 Mr. Duncan?
10162 *Mr. Duncan. No.
10163 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
10164 Mr. Palmer?
10165 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
10166 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
10167 Mr. Dunn?

10168 *Mr. Dunn. No.

10169 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

10170 Mr. Curtis?

10171 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

10172 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

10173 Mrs. Lesko?

10174 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

10175 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

10176 Mr. Pence?

10177 *Mr. Pence. [Inaudible.]

10178 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

10179 Mr. Crenshaw?

10180 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]

10181 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

10182 Mr. Joyce?

10183 *Mr. Joyce. Mr. Joyce votes no.

10184 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

10185 Mr. Armstrong?

10186 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

10187 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

10188 Chairman Pallone?

10189 *The Chairman. [Inaudible.]

10190 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

10191 *Ms. Kelly. Madam Clerk, who is not recorded?

10192 *Ms. DeGette. Madam Chair?

10193 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette is not recorded.

10194 *Ms. DeGette. This is -- DeGette votes aye.

10195 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

10196 Ms. Schakowsky is not recorded.

10197 *Ms. Schakowsky. Votes aye.

10198 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

10199 Mr. Schrader is not recorded.

10200 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

10201 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

10202 Mr. Cardenas is not recorded.

10203 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas, I vote aye.

10204 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

10205 Mr. McEachin is not recorded. Mr. Upton is not

10206 recorded. Mr. Scalise is not recorded, and Mr. McKinley is

10207 not recorded -- and Mr. Hudson.

10208 *Ms. Kelly. Does any member wish to change his or her

10209 vote?

10210 If not, the clerk will report the tally.

10211 [Pause.]

10212 *The Clerk. On that vote, Madam Chairwoman, the yeas

10213 were 31 and the nays were 21.

10214 *Ms. Kelly. The vote is 31 yeas, 21 nays. H.Res. 1272

10215 is reported adversely to the House.

10216 [Pause.]

10217 *The Chairman. [Presiding] The chair calls up H.Res.

10218 1260, and the clerk will report the bill.

10219 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1260, of inquiry requesting the
10220 President --

10221 *The Chairman. And without objection, the first reading
10222 of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill is now
10223 considered as read.

10224 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
10225 and open for amendment at any point.

10226 [The bill follows:]

10227

10228 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

10229

10230 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
10231 recognition to speak on H.Res. 1260?

10232 *Mr. Armstrong. Mr. Chair?

10233 *The Chairman. Mr. Armstrong is recognized for five
10234 minutes.

10235 *Mr. Armstrong. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I urge to
10236 strike the last word.

10237 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

10238 *Mr. Armstrong. I urge support of my resolution
10239 requesting documents and information regarding actions by the
10240 Administration to draw down the Strategic Petroleum Reserves,
10241 including two entities influenced by the Chinese Communist
10242 Party, and how the President plans to refill the Reserve.

10243 The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was designated in 1975,
10244 and it was designated to reduce the impact of severe supply
10245 interruptions, like the embargo of 1973. The SPR was
10246 supposed to be for emergencies only: war, natural disasters,
10247 other catastrophes that disrupt the supply chain. It is not
10248 meant to bail out an Administration that has time and again
10249 attacked domestic energy producers.

10250 This Administration's actions simply amount to
10251 mismanagement of the Strategic Petroleum Reserve for purely
10252 political reasons. Here are the facts: the SPR is being
10253 drained at \$1 million per day, conveniently ending near the
10254 mid-term elections; it is also at its lowest level since

10255 1984; the President is begging OPEC countries to increase
10256 production; China is ramping up its reserves, which are now
10257 amongst the largest in the world. And the irony and the best
10258 part of this is they are using our release of our reserves to
10259 do it.

10260 As a result of this Administration's reckless energy
10261 policy, families across the country are being forced into
10262 energy poverty, with one in six falling behind on their
10263 utility bills. In New Jersey, millions of customers will see
10264 energy bills spike by 25 percent as winter approaches.
10265 Ratepayers in New Hampshire saw the price of electricity
10266 double this summer. And the Biden Administration's decision
10267 to release oil from the SPR is like putting a Band-Aid on a
10268 massive, self-inflicted wound.

10269 This committee is failing its obligation to hold the
10270 Biden Administration accountable, and to allow for a robust
10271 domestic energy sector. This is a dereliction of duty that
10272 is forcing the United States to turn to Saudi Arabia instead
10273 of places like the Bakken, the Three Forks, and U.S.
10274 production.

10275 Simply put, the President's energy policies have failed.
10276 They are costly to consumers, destructive to domestic energy
10277 producers, and job-killing for American workers. Instead of
10278 doubling down on failure after failure, we have to focus on
10279 long-term solutions that support domestic energy production.

10280 And I think at this time it is pretty -- it is important
10281 to recognize that in March of 2020 Senator Schumer blocked
10282 and Democrats cheered the defeat of a proposal by DoE and
10283 President Trump to fill the Strategic Oil Reserve as part of
10284 the original COVID relief package. They asked for \$3
10285 billion. Since January, the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is
10286 down 210 million barrels since January 21. At \$27 a barrel,
10287 when the President asked for it -- or when President Trump
10288 asked for it -- it would have cost \$5.6 billion. At \$85 a
10289 barrel, which we are at right now, to refill it, it would be
10290 \$17.85 billion.

10291 President Biden has made indications that he is going to
10292 refill the Strategic Reserve. It is going to be pretty
10293 costly to taxpayers, and it is not going to be a bailout too
10294 Big Oil.

10295 With that, I yield back.

10296 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Mrs. Fletcher is
10297 recognized for five minutes.

10298 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

10299 With all due respect to my colleague, Mr. Armstrong, who
10300 I like and have worked with on these and other issues, this
10301 request for information on plans to sell petroleum products
10302 and refill the Strategic Petroleum Reserve is misguided, and
10303 it is unnecessary and duplicative of information that has
10304 already been provided.

10305 Just as an initial matter, the request fails to
10306 acknowledge that the Biden Administration has continuously
10307 been proactive and transparent about its intent and
10308 successful efforts to lower the price of gasoline through
10309 releases from the SPR.

10310 And as a reminder, as Mr. Armstrong noted, the SPR was
10311 created after the 1973 oil crisis for the explicit purpose of
10312 establishing a reserve capable of reducing the impact of
10313 severe energy supply interruptions. It is a critical foreign
10314 policy and energy security tool, and it has been for more
10315 than 40 years.

10316 And this resolution questioning the plans relating to
10317 the SPR rings particularly hollow in this committee. Earlier
10318 today we heard from Ms. DeGette and Mr. Upton about the 21st
10319 Century Cures Act, a bill that passed this committee 53 to 0,
10320 and we celebrated its passage. I would remind my colleagues
10321 that it was at the request of House Republicans on this
10322 committee, who were demanding a pay-for to pass the Cures
10323 bill, that then-Chairman Upton ordered the sale of 80 million
10324 barrels of oil from the SPR to get the bill to the floor. A
10325 worthy cause, but not done for energy purposes.

10326 In fact, the SPR has been used as a pay-for nine times
10327 since 2015. At least the sales that are the subject of this
10328 request were made to address a spike in gas prices that I
10329 thought members on both sides of the aisle were concerned

10330 about.

10331 As we have discussed on this committee, the Russian
10332 share of global crude production at the beginning of this
10333 year was nearly 10 percent of total global production. I
10334 just don't see how any of my friends on this Energy and
10335 Commerce Committee on the other side of the aisle could not
10336 in good faith acknowledge that this is a major energy supply
10337 interruption, especially when every single one voted to ban
10338 Russian crude imports when we passed the Suspending Energy
10339 Imports from Russia Act into law.

10340 Mr. Duncan just said that this, in fact, is the biggest
10341 energy crisis since 1973 in his remarks a few minutes ago.
10342 And now the House Republicans are blaming President Biden for
10343 taking decisive action to bring down prices for American
10344 consumers and weaken the -- weaken Russia's ability to fund
10345 its unprovoked and brutal war of aggression against a
10346 sovereign nation, Ukraine. The SPR was created for this
10347 precise purpose, for this moment we are living in, and it has
10348 worked.

10349 Gas prices have been decreasing for 14 consecutive
10350 weeks, and the national average for a gallon of gas has
10351 decreased by \$1.34 since peaking in mid-June. And by the
10352 way, these sales, like every sale of crude oil in the United
10353 States, are sold on the open market to whoever wants to
10354 purchase them.

10355 And this is another important point to remember, because
10356 it is a direct result of the work of this committee. This
10357 committee, under the Republicans, lifted the 40-year ban on
10358 crude oil exports. And, as I think everyone here knows by
10359 now, I agree with that policy. I wasn't here, but if I had
10360 been I would have supported my Republican colleagues in that
10361 effort to acknowledge the global free market for the
10362 commodity, and the importance of ensuring America's energy
10363 security and leadership.

10364 But it is disingenuous for those on the other side who
10365 were here then, and those who support free trade in oil to
10366 sit here today and complain that the system that they worked
10367 to create and which was enacted during the Obama
10368 Administration worked as it was intended to. The oil from
10369 the SPR was put on the global market, which brought prices
10370 down at home, and the oil made its way to China once it was
10371 put on the market.

10372 And I would remind my colleagues that this was not an
10373 unintended or unforeseen consequence. The then-Republican
10374 majority on this committee explicitly rejected a proposal by
10375 a member of this committee, a Texas Democrat, Mr. Green, to
10376 license the export of crude oil in a way similar to the way
10377 we license LNG exports, which would require the DoE to
10378 approve those sales.

10379 The fact is that, faced with the stress of the pandemic,

10380 the supply shortages caused by the Russian invasion of
10381 Ukraine, the Biden Administration took deliberate steps to
10382 help Americans, and has successfully lowered the price of
10383 gasoline through these SPR releases. Energy analysts the
10384 world over have acknowledged how American releases from the
10385 SPR are filling a crucial supply gap, which has created a cap
10386 on prices and led to the decrease at the pump that we have
10387 seen here at home.

10388 And that is why I am so disappointed in this misguided
10389 resolution. We should come together in a bipartisan way to
10390 support these efforts to bring relief to Americans and to
10391 respond to Russian aggression with meaningful action. And
10392 with that, I yield back.

10393 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman.

10394 Ranking Member?

10395 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Madam Chairman (sic).

10396 The Strategic Petroleum Reserve was never intended to be
10397 used for political purposes. The -- my colleague just
10398 mentioned the work of this committee. This committee did, in
10399 a bipartisan way, pass \$2 billion in funds to modernize the
10400 SPR facilities along the Gulf Coast -- Gulf Coast. We
10401 should continue to work on ensuring that we have this
10402 reserve, and it should be a bipartisan issue.

10403 But the fact that the Administration right now is -- has
10404 made a decision to draw down the reserve, a million barrels

10405 per day until the election -- isn't that convenient?

10406 When President Joe Biden was elected to office, the
10407 price of gas in America averaged under \$2.40 a gallon, \$2.40
10408 a gallon. That was long before Putin invaded Ukraine. And
10409 since day one we have seen the price of gas -- where is my
10410 poster -- go up, up, up, up, up. We have all seen -- we have
10411 -- we are living it every day when we go fill our cars with
10412 gas. The price of gas is going up.

10413 And this -- I strongly support this resolution, because
10414 it would stop the Biden Administration from using America's
10415 Strategic Petroleum Reserve for political purposes, in the
10416 meantime allowing OPEC, Russia, China to gain geopolitical
10417 leverage on us.

10418 In June the Energy and Commerce Committee Republicans
10419 wrote the Department of Energy Secretary Granholm. We wanted
10420 to know why President Biden was selling off the strategic
10421 stockpile of energy, while begging OPEC and Russia to pump
10422 more oil. You remember that? President Biden made a trip, a
10423 special trip, to go ask OPEC to pump more oil. Why is the
10424 Department of Energy draining the Strategic Reserve so
10425 quickly? It just happens to be \$1 million a day until the
10426 end of October. And why do they plan the sales right now?
10427 Why is DoE selling oil to China?

10428 The -- so now we have Strategic Petroleum Reserve oil
10429 being used to help China build its reserves. China now has

10430 amassed the largest stockpile of oil in the world. That is
10431 why this resolution is so important, because under this
10432 Administration the Department of Energy is acting like they
10433 are not accountable to Congress. The Department has failed
10434 to answer even the most basic oversight questions, and this
10435 committee hasn't even had a hearing.

10436 Mr. Armstrong's resolution of inquiry is vital to
10437 uncovering the abuse of our nation's Strategic Petroleum
10438 Reserve, and I urge support of this resolution.

10439 I yield back.

10440 *Mr. Burgess. Will the gentlelady yield?

10441 *Mrs. Rodgers. I would be happy to yield to Dr.
10442 Burgess.

10443 *Mr. Burgess. And thank you for yielding.

10444 Thank you for your comments, Mr. Armstrong. This is
10445 such an important resolution of inquiry that you are
10446 offering.

10447 In June and July of 2020, in this committee, we had a
10448 bill. Senator Cornyn had it over on the Senate side, and the
10449 idea was to purchase oil at a time when crude oil prices were
10450 extremely low, like \$30 a barrel low, or lower. So it was a
10451 perfect time to top off our nation's emergency supply. And
10452 it was denied. It was denied by Democrats in this committee,
10453 who didn't want anything to do with the purchase of oil, and
10454 anything that would help the cash flow in the energy

10455 industry. They shunned it. They rejected it out of hand.
10456 And it really would have gone a long way, if you are looking
10457 at a time when you are in trouble, and need that surplus, and
10458 need that reserve.

10459 It would have been great to have had that Strategic
10460 Petroleum Reserve topped up, but instead we have now gone the
10461 other way. And in order for a political party to survive a
10462 mid-term election, the price of gas has become a political
10463 issue. And to reduce it, it has been manipulated by selling
10464 off the Strategic Petroleum Reserve.

10465 Now, look, we had a lot of talk in the last segment
10466 about hurricanes. You know, we have been lucky this
10467 hurricane season. There hasn't been that bad Atlantic storm.
10468 But if there had been, we have got nothing in the bank that
10469 would help us get through that crisis. If all of our
10470 offshore rigs and refineries along the coast got shut in from
10471 a bad Atlantic hurricane, we have got nowhere to go. This
10472 Administration has sold us down the river.

10473 It is wrong, we need to do better, and I yield back.

10474 *Mrs. Rodgers. I yield back.

10475 *The Chairman. Thank you.

10476 Anyone else on this resolution of inquiry?

10477 All right, we go to a vote. A recorded vote is ordered.
10478 Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1260 to the
10479 House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk

10480 shall call the roll.

10481 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

10482 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

10483 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

10484 Ms. Eshoo?

10485 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

10486 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

10487 Ms. DeGette?

10488 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

10489 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

10490 Mr. Doyle?

10491 *Mr. Doyle. Doyle votes yes.

10492 *The Clerk. Mr. Doyle votes aye.

10493 Ms. Schakowsky?

10494 [No response.]

10495 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield?

10496 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

10497 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

10498 Ms. Matsui?

10499 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

10500 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

10501 Ms. Castor?

10502 [No response.]

10503 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes?

10504 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

10505 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
10506 Mr. McNerney?
10507 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
10508 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
10509 Mr. Welch?
10510 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
10511 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
10512 Mr. Tonko?
10513 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
10514 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
10515 Ms. Clarke?
10516 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke of New York votes aye.
10517 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
10518 Mr. Schrader?
10519 [No response.]
10520 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
10521 [No response.]
10522 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?
10523 [No response.]
10524 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters?
10525 *Voice. I will be right back.
10526 *Mr. Peters. [Inaudible.]
10527 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
10528 Mrs. Dingell?
10529 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

10530 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
10531 Mr. Veasey?
10532 [No response.]
10533 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?
10534 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
10535 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
10536 Ms. Kelly?
10537 [No response.]
10538 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
10539 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
10540 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
10541 Mr. McEachin?
10542 [No response.]
10543 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
10544 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
10545 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
10546 Mr. Soto?
10547 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
10548 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
10549 Mr. O'Halleran?
10550 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]
10551 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
10552 Miss Rice?
10553 [No response.]
10554 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig?

10555 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig of Minnesota votes aye.
10556 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
10557 Ms. Schrier?
10558 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
10559 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
10560 Mrs. Trahan?
10561 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
10562 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
10563 Mrs. Fletcher?
10564 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
10565 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
10566 Mrs. Rodgers?
10567 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
10568 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
10569 Mr. Upton?
10570 [No response.]
10571 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
10572 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
10573 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
10574 Mr. Scalise?
10575 [No response.]
10576 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
10577 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
10578 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
10579 Mr. Guthrie?

10580 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

10581 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

10582 Mr. McKinley?

10583 [No response.]

10584 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?

10585 [No response.]

10586 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

10587 *Mr. Griffith. No.

10588 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

10589 Mr. Bilirakis?

10590 *Mr. Bilirakis. [Inaudible.]

10591 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

10592 Mr. Johnson?

10593 *Mr. Johnson. No.

10594 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

10595 Mr. Long?

10596 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.

10597 *Voice. Voting --

10598 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.

10599 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.

10600 Mr. Bucshon?

10601 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

10602 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

10603 Mr. Mullin?

10604 *Mr. Mullin. No.

10605 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes no.
10606 Mr. Hudson?
10607 [No response.]
10608 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
10609 [No response.]
10610 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter?
10611 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]
10612 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
10613 Mr. Duncan?
10614 *Mr. Duncan. No.
10615 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.
10616 Mr. Palmer?
10617 *Mr. Palmer. No.
10618 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
10619 Mr. Dunn?
10620 *Mr. Dunn. No.
10621 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
10622 Mr. Curtis?
10623 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]
10624 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
10625 Mrs. Lesko?
10626 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]
10627 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
10628 Mr. Pence?
10629 *Mr. Pence. No.

10630 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
10631 Mr. Crenshaw?
10632 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
10633 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
10634 Mr. Joyce?
10635 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce from Pennsylvania votes no.
10636 *Voice. Is he on screen?
10637 *Voice. It is crazy.
10638 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
10639 Mr. Armstrong?
10640 *Voice. Don't --
10641 *Mr. Armstrong. [Inaudible.]
10642 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
10643 Chairman Pallone?
10644 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes yes.
10645 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
10646 *The Chairman. Ms. Ruiz?
10647 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz is not recorded.
10648 *Mr. Ruiz. [Inaudible.]
10649 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
10650 *The Chairman. Ms. Castor?
10651 *Mr. Cardenas. How is Cardenas recorded?
10652 *Ms. Castor. Castor votes aye.
10653 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
10654 *The Chairman. Mr. Cardenas?

10655 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas --

10656 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas --

10657 *Mr. Cardenas. -- votes aye.

10658 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

10659 *The Chairman. Ms. Schakowsky?

10660 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.

10661 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

10662 *Mr. Veasey. Chairman, how am I recorded?

10663 *The Chairman. Mr. Long that is? Who is it?

10664 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

10665 *The Chairman. Oh, Veasey.

10666 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I would like to vote aye.

10667 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

10668 *Miss Rice. Chairman, how is --

10669 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

10670 *Ms. Kelly. Chairman, I am not recorded.

10671 *Miss Rice. -- Rice recorded?

10672 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader first.

10673 *Mr. Schrader. Votes aye.

10674 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

10675 *The Chairman. Ms. Kelly?

10676 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

10677 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

10678 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

10679 *Miss Rice. How is Rice recorded?

10680 *The Clerk. Miss Rice is not recorded.

10681 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.

10682 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

10683 *The Chairman. Any other member who wants to be
10684 recorded?

10685 The clerk will report the tally.

10686 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 31 and the nays
10687 were 20.

10688 *The Chairman. Okay, the vote is 31 ayes to 20 noes,
10689 and therefore, H.Res. 1260 is reported adversely to the
10690 House.

10691 The chair calls up H.Res. 1326, and the clerk will
10692 report the bill.

10693 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1326, a resolution of inquiry --

10694 *The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the
10695 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with, and the
10696 bill is now considered as read.

10697 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
10698 and opened for amendment at any point.

10699 [The bill follows:]

10700

10701 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

10702

10703 *Mr. Pence. Mr. Chairman?

10704 *The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Pence.

10705 *Mr. Pence. I move to strike the last word.

10706 *The Chairman. Mr. Pence is recognized for five
10707 minutes.

10708 *Mr. Pence. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. My resolution is
10709 a simple request for information to understand how this
10710 Administration plans to address the ongoing energy crisis
10711 facing our country in terms of reliability going forward.

10712 As the lead agency responsible for maintaining a
10713 coherent national energy strategy, DoE should be front and
10714 center in any administration actions that impact grid
10715 reliability. But as we have seen since day one of the Biden
10716 Administration, the President's goal of driving out fossil
10717 fuels in favor of wind and solar outweighs the need to keep
10718 the lights on.

10719 Earlier this year, when EPA put out burdensome rules
10720 against baseload power plants, agency officials assured us
10721 that there would be no impact on reliability. Yet in
10722 response to these efforts, the grid operators we have
10723 entrusted to protect reliability told these agencies to slow
10724 down, or else risk the potential for blackouts and brownouts.
10725 These concerns fell on deaf ears.

10726 Then, in May of this year, the North American Electric
10727 Reliability Council started sounding the alarm that up to

10728 half the nation could experience blackouts. In southwest
10729 Indiana, utilities had to turn back on two coal plants this
10730 summer just to meet capacity demand, something that hasn't
10731 been a problem for decades. And yet this committee held no
10732 hearings on the subject, and provided zero opportunities for
10733 members to hear directly from the Administration.

10734 Recently, Secretary Granholm pointed to California,
10735 believe it or not, as the poster child of a clean energy
10736 future. But I can tell you Hoosiers in my district in
10737 southern Indiana don't want to hear about higher gas prices,
10738 regular blackouts, or fuel shortages as an energy future.

10739 Instead, it would be wise for this Administration to
10740 look towards Europe as an example of what happens when the
10741 government forces an energy transition on its people.
10742 France, Germany, Norway are furloughing thousands of
10743 employees as they ration electricity and shut down industrial
10744 facilities to save power. Natural gas prices are hitting
10745 record highs, even though they have caps in the UK, where
10746 energy costs are up 80 percent, forcing families to choose
10747 now and in the future between cooking and heating their
10748 homes.

10749 European nations are even turning to burning wood and
10750 trash for energy, instead of coal, and they are buying wood -
10751 - lumber from the United States. If we do not bring logic
10752 and reason back into the discussion of our future energy

10753 outlook, this could become a shared reality for Americans.

10754 Mr. Chairman, my resolution is a simple way to hold this
10755 Administration accountable and answer for a misguided
10756 approach to a national energy strategy. I urge support on my
10757 resolution, and I yield back the balance of my time.

10758 *The Chairman. Thank you, Mr. Pence.

10759 Mr. McNerney is recognized for five minutes.

10760 *Mr. McNerney. Well, I thank the chair. I thank the
10761 gentleman from Indiana for his comments. Permit me to
10762 disagree.

10763 Members of this committee may agree that climate is
10764 changing, but we strongly disagree -- we may agree with the
10765 climate is changing, but we strongly disagree on the urgency
10766 of action. And I can tell you, history will be very clear
10767 who prevented us from doing what was needed.

10768 But this resolution, H.Res. 1326, is an attempt to score
10769 political points by a party that opposed every single effort
10770 to strengthen the bulk power system. H.Res. 1326 also
10771 completely ignores the increasing lack of reliability of
10772 thermal power plants, which are becoming a reliability risk
10773 to the bulk power system.

10774 Last year the Oversight and Investigation Subcommittee
10775 heard staggering testimony about the failure of natural gas
10776 power plants and pipelines during the storm Uri, and we also
10777 learned about Texas's mismanagement of the electric grid.

10778 Then, this year, the same NERC summer reliability
10779 assessment that the Republicans referenced in this resolution
10780 stated that thermal plants can become unreliable in extreme
10781 drought because they rely on water for cooling that is often
10782 not available.

10783 I authored a bill that passed the House this summer that
10784 would require -- that would have addressed this exact issue
10785 by requiring the Federal Government to study the reliability
10786 risks posed by drought conditions on coal and power plants.
10787 Every single Republican in the House voted against that bill.

10788 Unfortunately, the risks I identified in that
10789 legislation became real this summer. Outages at coal plants
10790 and gas plants in Texas almost put the Texas grid at risk --
10791 again, because they were unable to run at anything close to
10792 their maximum output during extreme heat. And two weeks ago,
10793 in California, multiple thermal plants failed to perform
10794 because they lacked sufficient water to cool their engines.
10795 And California was only saved from rolling blackouts due to
10796 solar power energy storage, and because people responded to
10797 the call to reduce power usage.

10798 And in fact, as recently as last week, multiple power
10799 companies were warning of grid outages if the railroads
10800 locked out their workers, because coal power plants obtain
10801 their coal by rail. Only President Biden's interventions
10802 saved this country from coal-induced blackouts.

10803 In this age of climate-related extreme weather, thermal
10804 power plants have lost their reliability benefits. They have
10805 difficulty in the winter, they have difficulty in the summer,
10806 and they rely on supply chains that can be disrupted at a
10807 moment's notice. But instead of focusing on the significant
10808 reliability issues posed by thermal power plants, and how we
10809 can address them, the Republicans on this committee are
10810 fighting against rules that prevent companies from dumping
10811 coal ash into our drinking water. Really?

10812 I urge everyone to vote against this resolution of
10813 inquiry. I yield back.

10814 *The Chairman. Thank you. Someone on the Republican
10815 side?

10816 Dr. Burgess.

10817 *Mr. Burgess. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I move to strike
10818 the last word.

10819 *The Chairman. The gentleman --

10820 *Mr. Burgess. And I thank my friend from Indiana for
10821 offering this resolution of inquiry. I think it is timely.
10822 I think it is well placed.

10823 And look, mindful of the comments of my friend from
10824 California, he should welcome this resolution of inquiry.
10825 The President should share with us all of the information
10826 that the Administration has. And if there is a good news
10827 story to tell on the rail negotiations -- we don't know,

10828 because none of us were included -- share that information
10829 with us. The committee, this committee, would be, I think,
10830 grateful to receive that.

10831 But look, since day one of the start of the Biden
10832 Administration, what a deeply destructive approach they have
10833 taken to energy, baseload power, and, in fact, just
10834 criminalizing traditional sources of energy in this country.
10835 This harmful energy agenda has been pursued at great peril to
10836 the nation.

10837 Did we have problems in Texas a year-and-a-half ago?
10838 Yes. Do you have problems in California every afternoon?
10839 Yes. So, look, let's not point fingers at our states.

10840 Our state's problems with energy are largely because of
10841 the rapid growth of the State of Texas. The energy
10842 requirements are increasing literally every day, with new
10843 residents moving to our state. Last congressional
10844 redistricting, which was only a couple of years ago, Texas
10845 picked up two new congressional districts. And if the census
10846 was honest, we would have probably had three. That is 770
10847 constituents in each congressional district, as Mr. Duncan
10848 earlier pointed out. That is our challenge in Texas, how to
10849 meet the demands that that additional population is creating.

10850 And will wind and solar be part of that equation? Of
10851 course they will. But wind and solar will not always be
10852 reliable when you need that baseload power. So that is where

10853 Mr. Pence's resolution of inquiry provides, really, so much
10854 important information that this committee could use to make
10855 the decisions about what kind of energy do we have in the
10856 future, what type of energy are we willing to purchase.

10857 Look, I have a lot of doubts that offshore wind can
10858 create the amount of baseload power requirement to fuel the
10859 energy requirements of all of those new residents moving to
10860 the State of Texas. Maybe it can in California, but I am not
10861 sure that it could in the State of Texas.

10862 The over-reliance of renewables has had a significant
10863 effect on our electrical grid, and I think some of the
10864 changes that are occurring at the state level in Texas, where
10865 there is a requirement that people who bid to sell power into
10866 the grid must be able to demonstrate that they can deliver
10867 that amount of power that they are bidding plus 10 percent
10868 extra, I think that is a reasonable approach. And you know
10869 what? One of the most straightforward ways of doing that is
10870 to include thermal sources of energy, traditional sources of
10871 energy.

10872 So I would just simply ask that the Administration share
10873 with us -- what is the information they have? What is the
10874 information that they are sitting on that they are not
10875 sharing with us? This committee is the committee that does -
10876 - we have the responsibility for authorizing energy
10877 legislation. Let us -- show us your work. Let us see your

10878 cards. Let's see what is at stake. But the White House has
10879 shut us out at every turn, and that is just not right.

10880 So, Mr. Pence, thank you for bringing this resolution to
10881 the committee, and I am happy to yield back.

10882 *The Chairman. Thank you.

10883 Mr. Peters?

10884 *Mr. Peters. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is so
10885 interesting to hear this conversation. I guess we really are
10886 in silly season, where -- because if you want information
10887 about baseload power, we have been doing a lot of work on
10888 that right here in this building for the last two years.

10889 I believe that Mr. Curtis is -- no, go ahead, you can go
10890 -- is sincere about his interest in this. But so far we
10891 really, as a legislative matter, we have not gotten any help
10892 from Republicans on baseload power. There is bipartisan
10893 support in theory for a reliable electric grid. But
10894 unfortunately, Republicans have voted against almost every
10895 single effort to strengthen the electric grid in this
10896 Congress.

10897 Last year, when Republicans had the chance to support
10898 almost \$20 billion in upgrades to the electric grid and
10899 support more baseload nuclear power, most Republicans voted
10900 against the bipartisan infrastructure bill, against it.

10901 When Republicans had the chance to support a program in
10902 the American COMPETES Act to address the shortage of critical

10903 electric grid equipment, Republicans voted against it and
10904 demanded that the program be stripped out.

10905 In July, when the Democrats put a bill on the floor that
10906 included multiple provisions to ensure that the bulk power
10907 system could operate in extreme weather, Republicans voted
10908 against it.

10909 And most recently, Democrats passed the Inflation
10910 Reduction Act, which includes record investments in clean
10911 baseload technologies like hydrogen and nuclear power. Not a
10912 single Republican supported the bill.

10913 Now, I am as eager as anyone in here to work across the
10914 aisle to strengthen the electric grid. And one of the more
10915 key ways we can do this is building more high-voltage
10916 interstate transmission. And I invite my Republican
10917 colleagues to join me in supporting new transmission
10918 projects, and I will work with you to get them built. But
10919 don't tell me that you need to know what is going on for
10920 President Biden.

10921 We have worked for this -- on this very issue for the
10922 last Congress, and you just haven't been our partners on it.
10923 We have done this by ourselves. You know, the Republicans
10924 have opposed the grid investments necessary to strengthen the
10925 bulk power system. And today we are debating this
10926 meaningless resolution of inquiry, even -- rather than
10927 actually focusing on how we can solve the problem as

10928 legislators. And that is what we have been doing for two
10929 years.

10930 So let's come together to actually solve the problems
10931 plaguing the American people. I know it is -- I know what
10932 month it is, I know it is an election year. I get it. But,
10933 you know, kind of give this member a break. We have been
10934 working on this, and we need your help. So you can ask for
10935 all the information from the President you can, but we have
10936 had plenty to work on right here.

10937 And I would just urge that this -- a yes vote on this,
10938 and yield back.

10939 *Mr. Latta. Mr. Chairman?

10940 *The Chairman. Yes, Mr. Latta.

10941 *Mr. Latta. I move to strike the last word.

10942 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
10943 minutes.

10944 *Mr. Latta. Well, I thank the chairman. I want to
10945 thank my friend, the gentleman from Indiana, for offering a
10946 resolution seeking to obtain documents and information from
10947 the Biden Administration regarding any plans or efforts to
10948 protect the baseload bulk power system generation and
10949 transmission to maintain bulk power system reliability.

10950 Earlier this year, the North American Electric
10951 Reliability Corporation, or NERC, issued its annual summer
10952 reliability report that forecasts its predictions for how the

10953 bulk power system would perform in its ability to provide
10954 reliable power to customers. I can't speak for other members
10955 of this committee, but I know my phone started ringing off
10956 the hook with calls from manufacturers concerned about their
10957 ability to maintain their operations.

10958 With a district home to 86,000 manufacturing jobs, I
10959 fully understand how important it is for these businesses to
10960 have access to reliable baseload power that will fuel their
10961 production lines and industrial equipment. It simply is not
10962 feasible for them to remain economically competitive if they
10963 become too reliant on intermittent sources of energy, forcing
10964 their operations shut down when the wind is blowing or the
10965 sun is not shining.

10966 Unfortunately, that is what will happen if the Biden
10967 Administration continues to pursue policies that will shut
10968 down baseload power generation. Not only will it become more
10969 expensive to generate power as a result of taxes imposed by
10970 the Democrats' so-called Inflation Reduction Act, but the
10971 regulatory actions taken by the Biden Administration in the
10972 Clean Air Act to target specific industries will be felt by
10973 ratepayers across the country.

10974 We do need answers from the Administration about how
10975 they are addressing concerns with grid reliability. That is
10976 why I support the gentleman's effort, and encourage my
10977 colleagues to do the same. We need an all-of-the-above

10978 energy strategy.

10979 Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my time.

10980 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. Anyone else on
10981 this resolution?

10982 Yes, Mr. Palmer, you are recognized for five minutes.

10983 *Mr. Palmer. The time is showing 3:05.

10984 *The Chairman. Okay.

10985 *Mr. Palmer. I thank the chairman, and I move to strike
10986 the last word.

10987 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

10988 *Mr. Palmer. Last summer -- actually, 2021, the North
10989 American Electric Reliability Corporation published a report
10990 about what is the greatest risk to our grid. And I
10991 immediately thought that it is probably cyber attack. It
10992 turns out that that is the second biggest threat to the grid.
10993 The biggest threat to the grid is changing the resource mix.
10994 In other words, trying to make too rapid a conversion to
10995 renewables.

10996 They came out with another report from this past summer
10997 warning of possible blackouts. Not in California, where they
10998 are kind of used to that, but in the Midwest. And I will
10999 read you some quotes here. This is from the FERC
11000 commissioner, Mark Christie, from May of this year. He said,
11001 "Utility regulators know this reliability crisis is coming.
11002 It is the state policy-makers and legislators that are

11003 driving a lot of this.'" I want to emphasize that. It is
11004 policy that is driving a lot of this.

11005 He says, "You need to really start paying attention to
11006 the resources in each state, what you are building and what
11007 you are forcing to retire, and start listening to experts
11008 like NERC,'" the North America Electric Reliability
11009 Corporation. He goes on to say, "We are headed -- heading
11010 for a reliability crisis.'"

11011 The Wall Street Journal said the nation's power grid is
11012 becoming increasingly unreliable. And they later added, "We
11013 have been warning for years that climate policies would make
11014 the grid more vulnerable to vacillations in supply and
11015 demand,'" and here we are. Some of the mainstream press are
11016 belatedly catching on that blackouts are coming, but they
11017 still don't grasp the real problem. The forced transition to
11018 green energy is distorting energy markets and destabilizing
11019 the grid.

11020 And they added that the rapid expansion of renewable
11021 power is also increasing the cost of maintaining a reliable
11022 electricity grid, which will raise costs for U.S.
11023 manufacturers, rendering them less globally competitive.
11024 And, I would add, as you raise prices, you increase
11025 inflation.

11026 And I -- listen, you have the majority, and you are
11027 moving your legislation. But don't tell us that you are

11028 offering a clean bill that addresses the power grid. It
11029 doesn't. You are adding other things that are very
11030 inflationary and very harmful to the economy, very harmful to
11031 the American public.

11032 I hear you talk about 11 million new jobs were added,
11033 but at the same time the median household income has gone
11034 down. It is because prices have gone up. You are driving
11035 down income while increasing inflation.

11036 So these are some of the issues that I think we have got
11037 to deal with. And in that regard I would like to enter into
11038 the record both the reports from the North America Electric
11039 Reliability Corporation, because I think it would be
11040 important for members of the committee to have access to
11041 this, to understand where we are heading with this.

11042 And to my friends across the aisle, I worked, as I have
11043 said many times, for two international engineering companies,
11044 one of which was in environmental systems. I have a pretty
11045 good grasp of what it takes to generate power. I have a
11046 pretty good grasp of what it takes to reduce the
11047 environmental impact of that.

11048 And frankly, while we support all of the above, we are
11049 really not focused on reducing CO2 emissions. If we were, we
11050 would go to next generation nuclear, where we can recycle
11051 spent fuel rods which retain 90 percent of their energy
11052 capacity. They have a life cycle of 100 years, whereas a

11053 wind farm has a life cycle of maybe 30. Each turbine loses
11054 capacity after about 10 years. And you can locate a nuclear
11055 facility on about 640 acres. That is one square mile.
11056 Whereas, to generate the same amount of power it takes 77,000
11057 acres for a wind farm, and you cannot recycle the blades.

11058 So a lot -- with all due respect, sir, and to my
11059 colleagues, a lot of what you are doing, from an engineering
11060 perspective, is frankly not going to happen. And it is going
11061 to have a devastating impact in many ways you haven't thought
11062 about, particularly in mining for the materials that you are
11063 going to need to build out a renewable grid will have a
11064 catastrophic impact on the environment.

11065 And with that, I yield back.

11066 *The Chairman. I thank the gentleman. We don't have
11067 those documents. So if you give those to us, and then we
11068 will take a look, and then we can enter them into the record
11069 before the markup ends.

11070 Mr. Dunn wants to be recognized.

11071 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you very much, Mr. Chair. I move to
11072 strike the last word.

11073 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
11074 minutes.

11075 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you.

11076 President Biden's attack on the oil and gas sector has
11077 been relentless since the first day he took office. The

11078 average American family is being forced to make lifestyle
11079 choices due to the price of energy today. But instead of
11080 unleashing the full American energy portfolio, the Biden
11081 Administration continues to push policies that would force
11082 our country to rely on unreliable sources of energy. This is
11083 directly correlated with increasing our dependence on our
11084 adversaries, such as China and Russia.

11085 The Energy Information Administration shows about 10
11086 percent of power generation comes from renewables. In
11087 addition, unreliable power sources such as our current output
11088 from renewables directly threatens the sustainability of our
11089 nation's power grid, as you have heard already said here
11090 today. It also increases the threat of outages, blackouts.
11091 Just this month, California, the state leading the push for
11092 green energy integration, was forced to rely on natural gas
11093 to save their grid and continue powering homes.

11094 Anti-energy policies hurt our allies, and they also put
11095 Americans at risk. The United States has the energy
11096 resources to ensure energy security for both our allies and
11097 to provide power for American families, and it is time to
11098 unleash it.

11099 With that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

11100 *The Chairman. Thank you. Anyone else on this
11101 resolution?

11102 Mrs. Lesko is recognized for five minutes.

11103 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
11104 the last word.

11105 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

11106 *Mrs. Lesko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I support Mr.
11107 Pence's resolution, and I want to talk about something a
11108 little bit different, but related, that we haven't discussed
11109 yet tonight, and that is copper.

11110 Copper is an integral part of the grid infrastructure
11111 because of its reliability, efficiency, and performance.
11112 Copper is used at every step of the grid infrastructure, from
11113 power generation to transmission to distribution and to the
11114 consumption of power. The U.S. Electric Transmission Network
11115 consists of more than 600,000 circuit miles of lines.

11116 My state of Arizona has a huge abundance of copper just
11117 waiting to be mined. In fact, Arizona currently produces
11118 about 65 percent of America's entire production of copper.
11119 Encouraging more mining in my state would only increase the
11120 number of high-paying jobs, and cut down on any supply chain
11121 delays that arise from relying on foreign-sourced copper.
11122 Yet the Biden Administration refuses to permit the necessary
11123 copper mines to strengthen our electric grid.

11124 For example, the Biden Administration revoked the final
11125 environmental impact statement for the Resolution Copper Mine
11126 in Superior, Arizona, which happens to be in Congressman
11127 O'Halleran's district. And he did it just six weeks after it

11128 was approved by the Trump Administration. The mine has the
11129 potential to meet up to 25 percent of our domestic copper
11130 demand. Not only would the mine meet domestic demand for a
11131 more resilient power grid, studies have shown that the mine
11132 would create over 1,500 high-paying jobs.

11133 And I don't think -- I remember when Secretary of the
11134 Energy was here, and she talked about how she supports
11135 mining, she supports mining of critical minerals. But, I am
11136 sorry, I am skeptical, because why would then the Biden
11137 Administration stop the permitting of a mine that is already
11138 about to take place, that there was an investment of \$2.3
11139 billion in the State of Arizona? It makes no sense.

11140 And with that, I yield back.

11141 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

11142 Mr. Carter is recognized for five minutes.

11143 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the last
11144 word.

11145 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized.

11146 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I thank the gentleman from
11147 Indiana for this resolution of inquiry.

11148 I would like to start with a single word: baseload,
11149 baseload. For some reason this concept seems to elude many.
11150 We need to provide a minimum amount of electricity to our
11151 grid to keep our nation running. Yet the year is 2022, and I
11152 never thought I would see the day that the United States

11153 would be able to provide enough power for itself.

11154 The North American Electric Reliability Corporation
11155 recently warned that two-thirds of the U.S. could experience
11156 blackouts this summer, two-thirds. Americans across the
11157 country were warned they would need to stop using their
11158 washers, their dryers, dishwashers, and other appliances
11159 because our grid is being pushed to the limit. And the
11160 reason is because we have failed to maintain baseload power
11161 in the name of intermittent renewables.

11162 Nearly every policy this Congress has forced through and
11163 the President has advocated for adds to the demands on our
11164 grid, while not providing the necessary baseload power to
11165 keep our lights on. We cannot outpace innovation.

11166 I have nothing against using renewable energy as a part
11167 of our portfolio. Georgia is a state with growing solar
11168 resources, but it is a part of a robust energy portfolio that
11169 provides the reliable power that makes it one of the best
11170 states to do business in, and one of the most competitive.
11171 Our country should embrace a similar all-of-the-above-type
11172 strategy.

11173 I am excited about the potential future of batteries,
11174 hydrogen, and other innovations, but we are not there yet.
11175 This Administration's rush to green is not keeping pace with
11176 the realities of our energy needs. As I said earlier in our
11177 meeting here, we cannot afford to let our policies get ahead

11178 of our innovation.

11179 Now it has the audacity to sit by and openly allow
11180 American families and businesses to be hurt as they blindly
11181 pursue their Green New Deal policies, and that is truly
11182 disturbing.

11183 We are losing our competitive edge and, worse, our
11184 ability to provide the basic necessities to our citizens.

11185 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will yield back.

11186 *The Chairman. Thank you.

11187 So Mr. Palmer gave us two documents from the North
11188 American Electric Reliability Corporation: a 2022 summer
11189 reliability assessment and a 2021 ERO reliability risk
11190 priorities report.

11191 Without objection, they will be entered into the record.

11192 [The information follows:]

11193

11194 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

11195

11196 *The Chairman. Does anyone else want to speak on this
11197 resolution?

11198 All right, we will go to a vote. A recorded vote is
11199 ordered. Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1326
11200 to the House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the
11201 clerk shall call the roll.

11202 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

11203 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

11204 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

11205 Ms. Eshoo?

11206 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

11207 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

11208 Ms. DeGette?

11209 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

11210 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

11211 Mr. Doyle?

11212 [No response.]

11213 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

11214 *Ms. Schakowsky. Votes yes.

11215 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

11216 Mr. Butterfield?

11217 *Mr. Butterfield. Butterfield votes aye.

11218 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

11219 Ms. Matsui?

11220 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

11221 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
11222 Ms. Castor?
11223 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
11224 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
11225 Mr. Sarbanes?
11226 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
11227 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
11228 Mr. McNerney?
11229 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
11230 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
11231 Mr. Welch?
11232 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
11233 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
11234 Mr. Tonko?
11235 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
11236 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
11237 Ms. Clarke?
11238 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
11239 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
11240 Mr. Schrader?
11241 [No response.]
11242 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
11243 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas from California, I am voting
11244 aye.
11245 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

11246 Mr. Ruiz?
11247 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
11248 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
11249 Mr. Peters?
11250 [No response.]
11251 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?
11252 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]
11253 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
11254 Mr. Veasey?
11255 [No response.]
11256 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster?
11257 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
11258 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
11259 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
11260 Ms. Kuster?
11261 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
11262 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
11263 Ms. Kelly?
11264 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
11265 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
11266 Ms. Barragan?
11267 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
11268 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
11269 Mr. McEachin?
11270 [No response.]

11271 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
11272 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
11273 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
11274 Mr. Soto?
11275 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
11276 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
11277 Mr. O'Halleran?
11278 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
11279 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
11280 Miss Rice?
11281 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
11282 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
11283 Ms. Craig?
11284 *Ms. Craig. Ms. Craig votes aye.
11285 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
11286 Ms. Schrier?
11287 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
11288 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
11289 Mrs. Trahan?
11290 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
11291 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
11292 Mrs. Fletcher?
11293 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
11294 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
11295 Mrs. Rodgers?

11296 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
11297 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
11298 Mr. Upton?
11299 [No response.]
11300 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
11301 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
11302 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
11303 Mr. Scalise?
11304 [No response.]
11305 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
11306 *Mr. Latta. No.
11307 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
11308 Mr. Guthrie?
11309 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
11310 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
11311 Mr. McKinley?
11312 [No response.]
11313 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
11314 [No response.]
11315 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
11316 *Mr. Griffith. No.
11317 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
11318 Mr. Bilirakis?
11319 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
11320 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

11321 Mr. Johnson?

11322 *Mr. Johnson. No.

11323 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

11324 Mr. Long?

11325 [No response.]

11326 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?

11327 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

11328 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

11329 Mr. Mullin?

11330 [No response.]

11331 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

11332 [No response.]

11333 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?

11334 *Mr. Walberg. No.

11335 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

11336 Mr. Carter?

11337 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.

11338 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

11339 Mr. Duncan?

11340 *Mr. Duncan. No.

11341 *The Clerk. Mr. Duncan votes no.

11342 Mr. Palmer?

11343 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

11344 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

11345 Mr. Dunn?

11346 *Mr. Dunn. No.

11347 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

11348 Mr. Curtis?

11349 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.

11350 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

11351 Mrs. Lesko?

11352 *Mrs. Lesko. No.

11353 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

11354 Mr. Pence?

11355 *Mr. Pence. No.

11356 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

11357 Mr. Crenshaw?

11358 [No response.]

11359 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?

11360 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

11361 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

11362 Mr. Armstrong?

11363 *Mr. Armstrong. No.

11364 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

11365 Chairman Pallone?

11366 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

11367 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

11368 *Mr. Welch. This is Congressman Welch. How am I

11369 recorded?

11370 *The Chairman. Mr. Welch, Madam Clerk?

11371 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes --

11372 *Mr. Welch. Votes aye.

11373 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

11374 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.

11375 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.

11376 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

11377 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader is not recorded.

11378 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

11379 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

11380 *The Chairman. Any other member?

11381 *Mr. Crenshaw. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

11382 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw is not recorded.

11383 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]

11384 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

11385 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, how am I recorded?

11386 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey is not recorded.

11387 *The Chairman. Mr. Veasey?

11388 *Mr. Veasey. Mr. Chairman, I vote aye.

11389 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

11390 *The Chairman. Anyone else who is not recorded and

11391 seeks to be?

11392 Okay, the clerk will report the tally.

11393 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were

11394 30, and the nays were 20.

11395 *The Chairman. The vote is 30 ayes to 20 noes and,

11396 therefore, H.R. 1326 is reported adversely to the House.

11397 The chair now calls up H.Res. 1264, and the clerk will
11398 report the bill.

11399 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1264, of inquiry requesting the
11400 President to transmit --

11401 *The Chairman. And without objection, the first reading
11402 of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill is now
11403 considered as read.

11404 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
11405 and open for amendment at any point.

11406 [The bill follows:]

11407

11408 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

11409

11410 *The Chairman. Any member seeking recognition to speak
11411 on H.Res. 1264?

11412 Mr. Carter.

11413 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I would like to strike the
11414 last word.

11415 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
11416 minutes.

11417 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, in February of 2021 members
11418 of this committee sent letters to a dozen multi-channel video
11419 programing distributors and virtual multi-channel video
11420 programing distributors with the clear intent of persuading
11421 cable television companies to eliminate conservative news
11422 channels from their programing lineups. It is not a far leap
11423 to conclude that the Administration was complicit in this
11424 assault on the First Amendment.

11425 My request today is simple. My ROI seeks certain
11426 documentation related to the changes to the Federal
11427 Communications Commission, FCC, processes regarding any
11428 attempts to regulate programing decisions by the MVPDs,
11429 broadcasters, or streamers, in order to prevent
11430 misinformation, or attempts to reinstate the Fairness
11431 Doctrine.

11432 The beauty of America is that we are a land of free
11433 speech. Whether the television content is liberal,
11434 conservative, or non-partisan in nature, it is important to

11435 provide the American people with a range of options, and
11436 allow them to decide what they will enjoy.

11437 The Democrat majority may ultimately defeat my
11438 resolution today. However, make no mistake, this will be the
11439 first of many oversight inquiries into the extent to which
11440 Democrats in Congress and the White House colluded with Big
11441 Tech and media companies to silence conservative voices.
11442 Republicans will not stand idly by while Democrats utilize
11443 private companies to circumvent the First Amendment at their
11444 request.

11445 Democrats engaged in this type of behavior, causing a
11446 ripple effect in the industry against conservative news
11447 stations and continuing their censorship campaign. Refer,
11448 Mr. Chairman -- I will yield at this point.

11449 *Mr. Walberg. Would the gentleman yield?

11450 *Mr. Carter. Yes, I will yield to the gentleman from
11451 Michigan.

11452 *Mr. Walberg. I thank the gentleman, and I want to
11453 reiterate that I heard the same thing in February of last
11454 year. Members of this committee sent letters to a dozen
11455 multi-channel video providers and streaming services, urging
11456 them to deplatform major news channels under the guise of
11457 rooting out misinformation, surely, because they were
11458 conservative.

11459 I don't want to get in the middle of legitimate business

11460 decisions, but picking and choosing which channels get to
11461 reach people's TVs based on their political leaning is
11462 unacceptable, and threatens the free flow of information we
11463 value in this country. People have the right to choose which
11464 programs they tune into and form their own opinions of the
11465 information presented to them.

11466 The FCC has no business doing the Democrats' bidding to
11467 censor political viewpoints they disagree with. The
11468 resolution that my friend and colleague puts forward requests
11469 important information to ensure that this is not happening.

11470 Thank you, I yield.

11471 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman --

11472 *Mr. Johnson. Will the gentleman yield?

11473 *Mr. Carter. I will yield to the gentleman from Ohio.

11474 *Mr. Johnson. Mr. Chairman, I support the gentleman's
11475 ROI, which will request from the President and his
11476 Administration documents relating to misinformation and the
11477 preservation of free speech. Of particular interest, this
11478 ROI requests documentation pertaining to action taken by the
11479 Administration related to the regulation of Big Tech.

11480 As stated in July 2021 by his former White House press
11481 secretary, Jen Psaki, the Biden Administration has been
11482 working with Facebook to censor misinformation. As we know,
11483 Big Tech has for years abused their protections under section
11484 230 to moderate, label, and remove conservative content and

11485 even user accounts that express opinions contrary to their
11486 agenda. I have said as much directly to Mark Zuckerberg and
11487 Jack Dorsey.

11488 Furthermore, as exposed by a lawsuit by Missouri
11489 Attorney General Eric Schmidt earlier this year that demanded
11490 similar information from the Administration, he has "already
11491 received a number of documents that clearly prove that the
11492 Federal Government has an incestuous relationship with social
11493 media companies, and clearly coordinate to censor freedom of
11494 speech.'" These statements point to a serious abuse of power
11495 by the President and his Administration.

11496 It is absolutely critical that Congress performance its
11497 oversight responsibility in order to protect United States
11498 citizens from Washington bureaucrats who wish to silence
11499 those who disagree with their radical agenda. The erosion of
11500 free speech must not continue, and under my watch I will keep
11501 working to stop it.

11502 I urge my colleagues to support this measure,
11503 recommending that -- this resolution to the full House of
11504 Representatives, and I yield back to the gentleman from
11505 Georgia.

11506 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman, I yield.

11507 *The Chairman. Thank you. Ms. Clarke from New York is
11508 recognized for five minutes.

11509 *Ms. Clarke. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

11510 The resolution requests documents from the President
11511 detailing interactions between the White House and the
11512 Federal Communications Commission related to, among other
11513 things, regulation of Big Tech, regulating programing
11514 decisions for video providers related to misinformation, the
11515 Fairness Doctrine, and the First Amendment.

11516 In my opinion, this part is, in measure, is not intended
11517 to seek information or understanding of a real problem, but
11518 to attack the Biden Administration and obstruct its work
11519 based on wholly imagined threats. This is particularly
11520 disappointing, given the host of actual, meaningful efforts
11521 that we have made in this committee during this Congress.

11522 While on the face -- on its face it is not entirely
11523 clear what this resolution is getting at, it hints at
11524 concerns that the Biden Administration and the FCC, under the
11525 leadership of Chairwoman Rosenworcel, are not fully committed
11526 to protecting and preserving the First Amendment. This could
11527 not be further from the truth, and my Republican colleagues
11528 know it.

11529 For instance, Chairwoman Rosenworcel was asked directly
11530 during her confirmation process whether she thinks the FCC
11531 should be a part of any effort to remove cable channels from
11532 MVPD line-ups, or revoke broadcast licenses based on the
11533 viewpoints expressed in the programing. She responded,
11534 unequivocally, no.

11535 She was asked if she thinks the government has the
11536 authority to censor opinions, to which she also responded no.
11537 She explicitly committed to ensuring the FCC does not factor
11538 political content or viewpoints when issuing licenses, making
11539 regulatory decisions, or approving mergers and acquisitions.

11540 Her confirmation received bipartisan support on the
11541 Senate floor, and there has been no credible suggestion that
11542 she has been anything but faithful to her previous statements
11543 and commitments.

11544 The agency also projects nothing less. For instance,
11545 the FCC's website states that the First Amendment and the
11546 Communications Act expressly prohibit the agency from banning
11547 or restricting speech. And it states definitively that the
11548 agency has not regulated online content.

11549 And when it comes to the Fairness Doctrine, the
11550 chairwoman has been clear for more than a decade that she
11551 does not support agency action to reinstate it.

11552 But of course, my Republican colleagues know all of
11553 this. They said so themselves in a letter to the chairwoman
11554 last year. In that letter, signed by the ranking member and
11555 numerous others on the committee, our colleagues recognized
11556 that the chairwoman expressed opposition to the reinstatement
11557 of the Fairness Doctrine in 2011 and 2017. They included
11558 quotes from her public statements to include our belief that
11559 governments that threaten to chill speech can discipline

11560 private-sector actors without changes in the law ever
11561 becoming necessary. They received a response to that letter
11562 from the chairwoman once again affirming her support for the
11563 First Amendment, and leaving no question as to where she
11564 stood with respect to a number of issues raised in this
11565 resolution.

11566 And while our colleagues on the other side of the aisle
11567 can only muster innuendo when it comes to accusing the
11568 current Administration and FCC of a lack of respect for the
11569 First Amendment, they remained silent not too long ago, as
11570 the Trump Administration overtly threatened free speech and
11571 the freedom of the press, and made explicit and public
11572 attempts to wield the FCC as a weapon against viewpoints with
11573 which President Trump did not agree.

11574 It was President Trump who said repeatedly that he
11575 considered the press and certain cable channels the enemies
11576 of the people.

11577 It was President Trump who called the FCC to revoke
11578 broadcast licenses based on viewpoints and news coverage.

11579 It was President Trump, through an executive order and
11580 petition from the NTIA, attempted to pressure the FCC into
11581 launching a rulemaking to allow it to regulate online speech
11582 and social media platforms.

11583 It was President Trump's campaign that wrote letters
11584 threatening the licenses of broadcasters that aired an

11585 advertisement that was critical of President Trump.

11586 Where were the questions from my Republican colleagues
11587 during what was arguably the most direct and brazen assault
11588 on the First Amendment in our history?

11589 Given their current and apparently rediscovered interest
11590 in freedom of speech and the press, they should take comfort
11591 in knowing that Chairwoman Rosenworcel consistently objected
11592 to the attempts of the previous Administration to curtail our
11593 First Amendment rights.

11594 This resolution is completely unnecessary, and,
11595 unfortunately, having to sit here and consider it is a waste
11596 of what precious little time we have left in this Congress,
11597 which I would much rather devote to solving some of the real
11598 -- so -- as opposed to some of the real -- as opposed to
11599 imagined issues that the American people are facing each and
11600 every day.

11601 So I urge my colleagues to report this resolution
11602 adversely, and I yield back the balance of my time, Mr.
11603 Chairman.

11604 *The Chairman. I thank the gentlewoman. The ranking
11605 member is recognized for five minutes.

11606 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I move to
11607 strike the last word.

11608 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

11609 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you.

11610 Thank you, Mr. Carter, for introducing this resolution
11611 of inquiry. If it is unnecessary, then the FCC will have no
11612 problem turning over the documents.

11613 We have two bills today seeking information from the
11614 Administration on their censorship activities. Our country
11615 was founded on the battle of ideas and the principle of open
11616 speech and debate. Our founding fathers enshrined the First
11617 Amendment to protect against government officials abusing
11618 their positions of power and public trust, to protect against
11619 the government trying to silence the voices of those with
11620 whom they disagree. Yet one of the first hearings of the
11621 Communications and Technology Subcommittee held this Congress
11622 under the Democrats' one-party rule was devised to pressure
11623 mass media companies to shut down conservative viewpoints.
11624 The Wall Street Journal called them the censorship party.

11625 Rather than focusing on rebuilding our economy or
11626 lowering grocery prices, the priority was more overreach and
11627 more government control. Senior Democrats on this committee
11628 sent 12 threatening letters to major video programing
11629 distributors to pressure them into dropping Fox News,
11630 Newsmax, OneAmerica News.

11631 Without objection, I would like to have these letters
11632 entered into the record, Mr. Chairman.

11633 These letters claimed that conservative networks spread
11634 disinformation, and asked these distributors whether they

11635 planned to continue carrying conservative networks. These
11636 attempts to get woke corporations to do for them what they
11637 cannot do themselves is downright frightening, and the
11638 Supreme Court has held that similar behaviors are
11639 unconstitutional. This should concern every American.

11640 Sadly, this is not the only mission right now to silence
11641 conservative voices. Senior Biden Administration officials
11642 have used the White House podium to urge Big Tech to shut
11643 down speech simply for not conforming to their agenda. To
11644 that end, the surgeon general has issued advisories on
11645 "health misinformation," and urged Big Tech to "do more."
11646 And the Department of Homeland Security even tried
11647 establishing a "disinformation governance board" to monitor
11648 and silence Americans online.

11649 And now we must wonder whether or not the Federal
11650 Communications Commission is going to use its regulatory
11651 powers to shut down conservative news networks and silence
11652 viewpoints and outlets holding the Administration
11653 accountable.

11654 We should not have to ask elected officials whether they
11655 adhere to the Constitution or use their power in violation of
11656 the First Amendment, but it is incumbent upon us to ensure
11657 that the administrative state is reined in from pursuing
11658 these dangerous policies.

11659 I am pleased to support these resolutions asking for

11660 more information about whether the FCC has considered using
11661 its power to silence conservatives.

11662 I yield back.

11663 *The Chairman. Thank you. So the -- Mrs. Rodgers has
11664 submitted --

11665 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, without objection, I would like to
11666 have those letters entered into the --

11667 *The Chairman. All right. Without objection, so
11668 ordered.

11669 [The information follows:]

11670

11671 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

11672

11673 *The Chairman. Ms. Eshoo is recognized for five
11674 minutes.

11675 *Ms. Eshoo. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I seek
11676 recognition to strike the last word and speak on the
11677 resolution.

11678 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

11679 *Ms. Eshoo. My colleagues, let me put it very bluntly.
11680 Misinformation is killing Americans and damaging our
11681 democracy. Let that sink in for a couple of seconds.

11682 Lies about the 2020 election led to a deadly
11683 insurrection on January 6th. Misinformation on COVID-19 led
11684 to tens of thousands of Americans to unnecessary
11685 hospitalizations and, yes, some deaths.

11686 In February of 2021 Mr. McNerney and I sent a letter to
11687 companies that host media outlets infamous for trafficking in
11688 misinformation, a letter Mr. Carter mischaracterized. These
11689 companies have a duty to protect our democracy.

11690 I think every American company has a responsibility to
11691 America. This is a system that I hold sacred. And I think,
11692 at the end of the day, you do, as well. But it is currently
11693 under threat. We asked them questions about their own
11694 standards, and how they moderate content on their platforms.
11695 Whoa, that is so -- oh, my God. How dare, how dare a Member
11696 of Congress even raise the issue?

11697 As Members of Congress, we have a duty to protect our

11698 democracy and ensure the free society that we live in isn't
11699 underlined -- undermined by lies and disinformation. So
11700 wherever the inquiry goes, I think it is appropriate to
11701 ferret that out.

11702 I don't find lies and misinformation and disinformation
11703 to be Republican or Democrat, conservative or liberal. If
11704 these companies are spewing that to the American people, you
11705 want to stand next to it? Do you really want to stand next
11706 to it?

11707 This is like a cancer in our country. So I don't make
11708 any apology. You have used the words "scrutiny'" and
11709 "accountability'" since 10:15 this morning. And you are
11710 taking me on for scrutiny and accountability. So, you know,
11711 friends, I think that we need to get really serious about
11712 what is ailing our country, our precious democracy that
11713 generations of young people gave their lives for. And now,
11714 in the second decade of the 21st century, lies,
11715 disinformation, deadly insurrections. We are supposed to
11716 stand aside and say this is a new normal? Hell, no. Hell,
11717 no.

11718 This is something that we should all take on. And if we
11719 don't, then some of us will. And I will make no apology
11720 about it.

11721 I yield back.

11722 [Applause.]

11723 *The Chairman. Thank you, Ms. Eshoo.

11724 Mr. Bucshon?

11725 *Mr. Bucshon. I move to strike the last word.

11726 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
11727 minutes.

11728 *Mr. Bucshon. I want to agree with Ms. Eshoo that, you
11729 know, we all have a responsibility. The problem is here is
11730 that academia, the media, and a bunch of other of our
11731 institutions, including the social media platforms, are all
11732 run by liberals, for the most part. And that is true. I
11733 mean, we just know that is true.

11734 And so the question is, you know, the First Amendment is
11735 -- do we have do we have decorum here or not?

11736 So listen, I agree. We all have -- the question is not
11737 whether or not disinformation is out there. Of course it is.
11738 The problem is that, in my view, my colleagues on the
11739 Democrat side only want to eliminate what they feel is
11740 disinformation, and anything that we feel is disinformation
11741 they don't. So there is just an inherent bias. And so that
11742 is the issue. That is the big issue here.

11743 I mean, and the other thing is the First Amendment was
11744 put in place to protect speech that you don't like more than
11745 speech that you do. And so, I mean, I think there is just --
11746 I mean, that is the challenge that we have here. The
11747 challenge we have here is it is one-sided, you know.

11748 We want to talk about January 6, but we won't -- we
11749 don't want to talk about destroying our Federal court in the
11750 previous summer in Portland. And we want to talk about how
11751 we -- when we look at the media, the news media, there is
11752 literally buildings burning in the background, and the news
11753 media stands there and say mostly peaceful protests are
11754 happening. And where were the Democrats? Did they step up
11755 and say there is a threat to America's democracy when Federal
11756 courthouses were being burned down? Nobody said a darn
11757 thing.

11758 So I mean, look, I don't disagree that we need to have -
11759 - you know, we need to have this conversation. But the
11760 reality is we need information about whether or not the
11761 Federal Government is trying to influence private companies,
11762 or whether they are trying to use the FCC to restrict free
11763 speech only from part of the American people, but not the
11764 ones that the current Administration agrees with.

11765 So I just think it is absurd that -- or -- that we have
11766 to have a -- this discussion to get information. Because if
11767 nothing is wrong, then there is no reason not to provide it.
11768 If nobody -- if the White House isn't sending over letters or
11769 calling the FCC saying, "Hey, you need to really look at
11770 these conservative channels,'" then just show us the
11771 information, because -- but if they are, then that is a
11772 problem.

11773 Again, I just want to reiterate, the problem is here is
11774 the definition of what constitutes disinformation. One
11775 person's disinformation is another person's truth. And so I
11776 just take offense by the fact that, you know, because we
11777 asked for information about what is happening in America, you
11778 know, that all of a sudden we are not supposed to ask the
11779 question. We are supposed to just sit back and listen to the
11780 liberal news media, the liberal academia, liberal Hollywood,
11781 and everyone else just continue to pound on conservatives,
11782 and we are just supposed to sit back and take it. And now we
11783 are supposed to sit back and take it when the Federal
11784 Government is going to be -- is going to do it.

11785 I mean, it is ridiculous, so I support this resolution,
11786 and I yield back.

11787 *The Chairman. I am going to yield -- I am going to
11788 strike the last word, and I yield to myself for five minutes.

11789 You know, from the beginning of this debate -- and I
11790 don't know, I guess I am just prolonging it tonight, since we
11791 have been here almost 12 hours, but the problem -- I didn't
11792 raise this, but I have to raise it. I could have raised it
11793 on all these, but I think on this one it is particularly
11794 true.

11795 This whole idea of resolutions of inquiry, it is
11796 supposed to get to facts. And I have had a problem from the
11797 beginning, because I don't really know how any of these

11798 things could be answered factually.

11799 I mean, Mr. Bucshon said one person's misinformation is
11800 another person's truth. Then he talked about liberal versus
11801 conservative. That is not what these resolutions are
11802 supposed to be for. If you are asking for information, it
11803 has to be of a factual nature. How is the FCC or the
11804 President or anybody supposed to determine what is
11805 misinformation, what is truth, what is liberal, what is
11806 conservative?

11807 This one ends by saying, "any discussion or preservation
11808 of the First Amendment to the Constitution.'" How is that
11809 factual? How could a -- how could any agency actually answer
11810 this?

11811 I mean, that -- you know, I know you don't want to hear
11812 this, but I have got to be honest. I think that -- I don't
11813 see how -- if -- you know, one of the reasons that I would
11814 say that we should report this adversely is because I don't
11815 think there is any way that anybody can answer this. These
11816 are supposed to be factual. And you say misinformation,
11817 truth, liberal, conservative -- how in the -- possibly could
11818 anyone decide? And the very fact of deciding what to give
11819 you, I think, would be political.

11820 So anyway, I will leave it at that. But --

11821 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mr. Bilirakis.

11822 *The Chairman. Mr. Bilirakis is recognized.

11823 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
11824 move to strike the last word.

11825 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
11826 minutes.

11827 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, thank you. I commend Mr.
11828 Carter for his resolution, which seeks more transparency and
11829 -- surrounding the potential collusion between the Biden
11830 Administration and Big Tech. And, you know, we have a duty,
11831 we have an oversight duty to get these answers.

11832 I have heard from countless constituents who believe
11833 that they were censored or blocked for expressing their
11834 political views online platforms -- on online platforms that
11835 claimed to be open discussion forum and bastions of freedom
11836 of speech. I hear it all the time in my district.

11837 Of course, we certainly know that the domineering social
11838 media companies have long stopped equal treatment on their
11839 platforms. And Dr. Bucshon said it right, shunning large
11840 portions of their potential users and flagging them for their
11841 views. Through the use of the algorithms, these companies
11842 have automatically flagged certain posts based on their
11843 content, and simultaneously restricted other posts based on
11844 what they think users want to see. There is not any doubt
11845 that this is happening.

11846 Even I have faced the wrath of Big Tech's slanted
11847 policies when I was flagged for factually -- this was for

11848 factually true but Biden-negative post about the jobs lost
11849 due to his decision to shutter the Keystone Pipeline. Now,
11850 those are facts. Those are facts. And it is these types of
11851 repeated bad policy decisions by this Administration that
11852 allowed us to get to our current economic recession and
11853 inflation bust. And Big Tech has been complicit in trying to
11854 cover it up.

11855 So if that is the case, then, if this is not true, then
11856 give us the facts. Have they tried to cover it up or haven't
11857 they? It is pretty simple.

11858 But the question remains: how deep does this go? We
11859 haven't been able to have legitimate and transparent
11860 oversight of this Administration and its decision-making.
11861 That is why we have the ROI, and that is why it is so very
11862 important.

11863 The FCC, much like the FTC, is chartered to be an
11864 independent agency. And yet there are significant questions
11865 about coordination with the Administration and with Big Tech
11866 regarding content moderation. The American people deserve to
11867 know whether regulatory decisions are being made based on
11868 political motivations, rather than good policy. They should
11869 also know if the government is working on protecting them or
11870 if the Administration is just working with Big Tech to
11871 protect themselves. If there is nothing to hide, then this
11872 should be an easy vote.

11873 So, in any case, I will yield back the balance of my
11874 time, unless somebody needs --

11875 *Mr. Bucshon. Will the gentleman yield?

11876 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, please, yield -- I yield.

11877 *Mr. Bucshon. Just a point that I want to make here is
11878 that, when Mr. Bilirakis is describing how he was censored,
11879 that is because -- he was likely censored because the media,
11880 the company, considered what he put on his social media
11881 disinformation, and blocked it.

11882 So, you know, I mean, my friends on the other side want
11883 to laugh when I say -- when I made that statement. But the
11884 reality is that is true. Why do The New York Post's
11885 information all get blocked from social media? You know why?
11886 Because we were all told that it was disinformation. Now we
11887 know that wasn't true. Right? We know that wasn't true.
11888 They were blocked for political reasons.

11889 So I think Mr. Bilirakis being blocked has proved my
11890 point here.

11891 I yield back.

11892 *Mrs. Rodgers. Would the gentleman -- okay, go ahead.

11893 *The Chairman. Mr. -- oh, is there anybody on the
11894 Democratic --

11895 *Mrs. Rodgers. Would the gentleman yield? Gus, would
11896 you yield?

11897 Thank you. Thank you. Thank you. I just wanted to

11898 add, we know that the White House has pressured social media
11899 companies regarding what they put on their platforms. This
11900 resolution is simply asking what the -- what correspondence,
11901 what communications has taken place between the White House
11902 and the FCC. I think these are very fair questions to ask.

11903 In the resolution itself, it states we are asking for
11904 the communication, coordination between the personnel of the
11905 executive, the President, and the personnel of the FCC with
11906 respect to the regulation of programing decisions by multi-
11907 channel video programing distributors relating to
11908 misinformation, regulation of programing decisions by
11909 broadcast stations relating to misinformation.

11910 You read this down, I think it is very appropriate that
11911 this committee be asking for this -- these documents, for us
11912 to understand what the communication has been, and how the
11913 White House may be approaching the issue of misinformation.

11914 I yield back.

11915 *Mr. Bilirakis. I yield back.

11916 *The Chairman. Does anyone else seek to speak on this?

11917 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman.

11918 *The Chairman. Mr. Griffith?

11919 *Mr. Griffith. I don't know that I need to, but I feel
11920 compelled to by the discussion that we have had here this
11921 evening.

11922 In the 1760s, Parliament faced these issues and England

11923 faced these issues. It was a little bit different media, of
11924 course, but we had a character, and this is a caricature of
11925 the character that I keep on the wall in my office.

11926 [Slide]

11927 *Mr. Griffith. This is John Wilkes. Let me introduce
11928 you to him. John Wilkes did not like George III.

11929 John Wilkes set up a printing press. They weren't as
11930 large as they had been in the past, so it was easy to hide
11931 them. And he started printing a publication known as the
11932 North Britain. And in the North Britain 45, he wrote things
11933 that George III considered disinformation and seditious. And
11934 he sent -- George III sent out forces to do what is known as
11935 a general warrant, and search house to house in East London.

11936 The citizens rose up, and they went out at night, and
11937 did what was called an illumination. You put a candle in
11938 your window or you -- they broke your windows. Eventually,
11939 they discovered the printing press. He was charged. He left
11940 for France for a couple of years. He comes back because it
11941 was determined that, as a member of Parliament at the time,
11942 he was allowed free speech.

11943 That is the bedrock of where we go with our First
11944 Amendment freedom of speech. Because, as you might have
11945 noticed the date, 1760s, he was in touch with radicals in
11946 North America known as the Sons of Liberty. And so, from the
11947 Wilkesite Rebellion of the 1760s, we got more assurance on

11948 our First Amendment, and a prohibition in our Constitution
11949 against general warrants, that you had to have a specific
11950 reason to go into houses.

11951 Now, the reason I raise this today, I don't care whether
11952 you are a conservative or liberal, I don't care what your
11953 political party persuasion is. But if we are to maintain our
11954 republic based on freedom, and particularly the freedom of
11955 speech, we need to remember the roots of that and, as we
11956 address these complicated issues related to the internet,
11957 recognize that whether it is George III, a president of
11958 either party, or people who control such a large portion of
11959 the social media market that they, in essence, become the
11960 purveyors of information, that whether I like what they say
11961 or don't like what they say, we must have freedom of speech.

11962 This resolution is just making sure that we are not
11963 eroding that birthright that has come down. I think it is
11964 granted by God. But for those who may not believe that, it
11965 certainly has been a part of our culture dating back to the
11966 Wilkesite Rebellion of the 1760s.

11967 And with that, I yield back.

11968 [Applause.]

11969 *The Chairman. Okay. Do we have anybody else who wants
11970 to speak?

11971 All right, we are going to have a vote. All right.

11972 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thomas Jefferson? Is that --

11973 [Laughter.]

11974 *The Chairman. A recorded vote is ordered. Those in
11975 favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1264 to the House will
11976 say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk shall call
11977 the roll.

11978 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

11979 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

11980 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
11981 Ms. Eshoo?

11982 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

11983 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.
11984 Ms. DeGette?

11985 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

11986 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
11987 Mr. Doyle?

11988 [No response.]

11989 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

11990 *Ms. Schakowsky. Votes aye.

11991 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
11992 Mr. Butterfield?

11993 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

11994 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
11995 Ms. Matsui?

11996 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

11997 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

11998 Ms. Castor?

11999 [No response.]

12000 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes?

12001 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

12002 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

12003 Mr. McNerney?

12004 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

12005 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

12006 Mr. Welch?

12007 *Mr. Welch. Mr. Welch --

12008 *The Clerk. Mr. --

12009 *Mr. Welch. -- votes aye.

12010 [Pause.]

12011 *Mr. Welch. Aye. Mr. Welch votes aye.

12012 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch, I am sorry, I can't see you.

12013 *Mr. Welch. I am on the video, I thought.

12014 *The Chairman. We can't see you on the video, Peter.

12015 *Mr. Welch. Oh, I am sorry, yes. Mr. Welch votes aye.

12016 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

12017 Mr. Tonko?

12018 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

12019 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

12020 Ms. Clarke?

12021 *Ms. Clarke. Clarke from New York votes aye.

12022 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

12023 Mr. Schrader?

12024 [No response.]

12025 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?

12026 [No response.]

12027 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz?

12028 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

12029 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

12030 Mr. Peters?

12031 [No response.]

12032 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell?

12033 *Mrs. Dingell. Dingell votes aye.

12034 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

12035 Mr. Veasey?

12036 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

12037 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12038 Ms. Kuster?

12039 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

12040 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

12041 Ms. Kelly?

12042 [No response.]

12043 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

12044 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

12045 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

12046 Mr. McEachin?

12047 [No response.]

12048 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?

12049 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

12050 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

12051 Mr. Soto?

12052 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.

12053 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

12054 Mr. O'Halleran?

12055 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.

12056 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.

12057 Miss Rice?

12058 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.

12059 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

12060 Ms. Craig?

12061 *Ms. Craig. Craig votes aye.

12062 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.

12063 Ms. Schrier?

12064 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

12065 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

12066 Mrs. Trahan?

12067 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

12068 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

12069 Mrs. Fletcher?

12070 *Mrs. Fletcher. [Inaudible.]

12071 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher, can you repeat your vote?

12072 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.

12073 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
12074 Mrs. Rodgers?
12075 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
12076 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
12077 Mr. Upton?
12078 [No response.]
12079 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
12080 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
12081 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
12082 Mr. Scalise?
12083 [No response.]
12084 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
12085 *Mr. Latta. No.
12086 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
12087 Mr. Guthrie?
12088 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
12089 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
12090 Mr. McKinley?
12091 [No response.]
12092 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
12093 [No response.]
12094 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
12095 *Mr. Griffith. No.
12096 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
12097 Mr. Bilirakis?

12098 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

12099 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

12100 Mr. Johnson?

12101 *Mr. Johnson. No.

12102 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

12103 Mr. Long?

12104 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.

12105 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.

12106 Mr. Bucshon?

12107 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]

12108 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

12109 Mr. Mullin?

12110 [No response.]

12111 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

12112 [No response.]

12113 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?

12114 *Mr. Walberg. [Inaudible.]

12115 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

12116 Mr. Carter?

12117 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]

12118 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

12119 Mr. Duncan?

12120 [No response.]

12121 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

12122 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]

12123 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
12124 Mr. Dunn?
12125 *Mr. Dunn. No.
12126 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
12127 Mr. Curtis?
12128 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.
12129 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
12130 Mrs. Lesko?
12131 *Mrs. Lesko. No.
12132 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
12133 Mr. Pence?
12134 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes aye.
12135 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes aye.
12136 Mr. Crenshaw?
12137 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
12138 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
12139 Mr. Joyce?
12140 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
12141 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
12142 Mr. Armstrong?
12143 *Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes no.
12144 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
12145 Chairman Pallone?
12146 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
12147 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

12148 *The Chairman. Anyone -- oh, yes, Ms. Castor?

12149 *Mr. Cardenas. How is Cardenas recorded?

12150 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]

12151 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

12152 *Mr. Peters. How is Peters recorded?

12153 *Ms. Kelly. [Inaudible.]

12154 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

12155 *Mr. Pence. Mr. Chairman, how is Pence recorded?

12156 *The Chairman. Mr. Pence?

12157 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence voted aye.

12158 *Mr. Peters. How is Peters recorded?

12159 *The Chairman. Mr. Schrader?

12160 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.

12161 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

12162 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

12163 *Mr. Peters. How is --

12164 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

12165 *Mr. Peters. -- Peters recorded? Peters votes aye.

12166 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

12167 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.

12168 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

12169 *The Chairman. Does anyone else want to be recorded who

12170 hasn't been?

12171 All right. The clerk will report the tally.

12172 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas are

12173 30, and the nays are 19.

12174 *The Chairman. The vote is 30 ayes to 19 noes. H.Res.

12175 1264 is reported adversely to the House.

12176 The chair calls up H.Res. 1271, and the clerk will

12177 report the bill.

12178 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1271, a resolution of inquiry

12179 requesting --

12180 *The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the

12181 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill

12182 is now considered as read.

12183 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,

12184 and open for amendment at any point.

12185 [The bill follows:]

12186

12187 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

12188

12189 *The Chairman. Are there any members seeking
12190 recognition to speak on H.Res. 1271?

12191 Whose is this?

12192 Mr. Hudson, it is his resolution. I don't know if he is
12193 -- he may not be available. No one else?

12194 Mr. Latta.

12195 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
12196 strike the last word.

12197 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
12198 minutes.

12199 *Mr. Latta. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to thank
12200 Mr. Hudson for introducing this resolution of inquiry to
12201 obtain information from the NTIA on its stewardship of the
12202 unprecedented \$42 billion in funding for rural broadband
12203 deployment.

12204 As Republican leader of the Subcommittee on
12205 Communications and Technology, I have long been an advocate
12206 of rural broadband funding, but we must ensure that it is
12207 going to truly unserved areas through consistent
12208 accountability and oversight.

12209 Biden Administration officials from the FCC and NTIA
12210 have only appeared before this committee once during this
12211 entire Congress, and NTIA officials have not appeared before
12212 the committee since they released rules for their BEAD grant
12213 program. That is why this resolution of inquiry is

12214 necessary.

12215 We have a responsibility to the American taxpayer to use
12216 all the tools at our disposal to safeguard Federal funds and
12217 ensure accountability in the executive branch. That is why I
12218 strongly support Mr. Hudson's efforts to obtain relevant
12219 documents.

12220 I yield back the balance of my time.

12221 *Ms. Matsui. Mr. Chairman?

12222 *The Chairman. Yes, Ms. Matsui is recognized for five
12223 minutes.

12224 *Ms. Matsui. I move to strike the last word.

12225 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

12226 *Ms. Matsui. The COVID-19 pandemic was a painful
12227 reminder of the importance of high-speed, affordable
12228 broadband to all communities. In Sacramento and the rest of
12229 the country this was especially true for historically
12230 under-served and unserved communities, who far too long have
12231 been overlooked in the buildout of high-quality, high-speed
12232 broadband networks.

12233 I am proud that, over the last two years, Congress has
12234 risen to the occasion, in many cases on a bipartisan basis,
12235 to ensure all students, seniors, and workers have the tools
12236 they need to succeed. That funding has helped people in all
12237 of our districts, and soon the biggest program based on size
12238 and scope is set to deliver affordable, high-speed broadband

12239 service everywhere in this country, a goal that members on
12240 both sides of this committee have talked about for years.

12241 Overseeing these crucial broadband programs is no small
12242 task, but Congress has firmly placed its confidence in the
12243 NTIA, the President's principal adviser on telecommunications
12244 issues, with responsibility for developing important
12245 broadband policy and experience, delivering Federal
12246 assistance to state and local governments.

12247 Under the leadership of Administrator Alan Davidson,
12248 NTIA has already delivered more than \$700 million to connect
12249 almost 70 tribal communities across the country, and over \$10
12250 million to anchor institutions such as historically Black
12251 colleges and universities, Hispanic-serving institutions, and
12252 other minority-serving institutions.

12253 NTIA also has begun to release preliminary funding from
12254 the \$42 billion Broadband Equity Access and Deployment
12255 Program to help the states plan for future broadband
12256 deployment and digital equity programs. And while Louisiana
12257 was the first recipient of these planning grants a few weeks
12258 ago, receiving an award of nearly \$3 million, it certainly
12259 will not be the last. These grants will provide something
12260 every person in this country needs: opportunity, opportunity
12261 for students to do homework, for patients to get top notch
12262 telehealth services, no matter where they live, and for
12263 anyone to find a higher paying job or complete online

12264 training to improve their career.

12265 I would remind my colleagues that Administrator Davidson
12266 appeared before the Subcommittee on Communications and
12267 Technology earlier this year, and provided the subcommittee
12268 with a wealth of information about the Biden Administration's
12269 plans to connect America to affordable, high-speed broadband
12270 internet service, as did FCC Chairwoman Rosenworcel and the
12271 rest of the FCC commissioners, which gave all of us an
12272 opportunity to ask about issues of importance to and our
12273 constituents (sic).

12274 This resolution of inquiry will not help connect more
12275 Americans or bring new connections to our districts faster.
12276 It is partisan in nature, and counterproductive in effect.
12277 Oversight is important, no matter which party is in power.
12278 But Congress has its most power when we work together,
12279 consistent with the committee's tradition of bipartisan
12280 oversight, to ensure members have the information they need
12281 to support our common goal.

12282 And, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

12283 *The Chairman. Thank you. Anyone on the Republican
12284 side?

12285 *Mrs. Rodgers. Are you ready to go?

12286 *Voice. No.

12287 *The Chairman. Mr. Walberg is recognized for five
12288 minutes.

12289 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like to
12290 strike the last word.

12291 Every week I am contacted by constituents in Michigan
12292 who do not have access to reliable broadband connection. One
12293 such constituent, Mark Kramer from Jackson, Michigan, has
12294 worked tirelessly for over a year to get service to his
12295 neighborhood. Despite there being internet just two blocks
12296 away, he and his community can't get access to it without
12297 paying upwards of \$15,000. It is for people like Mark that
12298 we need to ensure that the extensive Federal broadband money
12299 is well spent and well coordinated.

12300 There are over 100 Federal programs administered by 15
12301 agencies that could be used to expand access to broadband.
12302 This resolution would help us better understand the
12303 coordination between these agencies and the White House. But
12304 we also need to improve that coordination, and create a
12305 comprehensive strategy to align these efforts going forward.

12306 That is why I introduced the Plan for Broadband Act,
12307 along with my colleague, Mr. Welch, and our friends on the
12308 other side of the Capitol, Senators Wicker and Lujan. The
12309 legislation calls on the Executive Office of the President to
12310 work with NTIA and other relevant agencies to create a
12311 comprehensive strategy for our nation's broadband deployment,
12312 one that avoids duplication and waste, and ensures that rural
12313 districts like mine get connected.

12314 Without a set strategy, there are questions about who is
12315 really in charge here. NTIA is supposed to be leading on
12316 this issue, and yet President Biden hasn't supported that
12317 fact. The resolution of inquiry requests more information
12318 about exactly who is in charge, and how the Biden
12319 Administration plans to get internet service to those who are
12320 truly unserved.

12321 The NTIA and the FCC have only come before this
12322 committee once this Congress, as has been mentioned. It is
12323 our duty to conduct proper oversight over these funds.
12324 Already we are seeing some discrepancies between what we have
12325 been told and how the Administration is actually implementing
12326 the programs. NTIA already seems to be backtracking on tech
12327 neutrality, and the importance of reaching the truly unserved
12328 communities first.

12329 A reliable connection is no longer a luxury, it is a
12330 necessity. We need answers to these questions and more if we
12331 are going to get rural America and all else connected.

12332 Thank you, and I yield back.

12333 *The Chairman. It is your time? No?

12334 Mr. Walberg, thank you.

12335 On the Democratic side is there anybody?

12336 Anybody on either side?

12337 The ranking member is recognized for five minutes.

12338 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to

12339 strike the last word.

12340 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

12341 *Mrs. Rodgers. Under the Biden Administration Congress
12342 has provided hundreds of billions of dollars that can be used
12343 for broadband deployment. The Infrastructure Investment and
12344 Jobs Act passed the Senate, and contained many provisions
12345 within the Energy and Commerce Committee's jurisdiction. Yet
12346 this committee did not have the opportunity to weigh in on
12347 that bill, despite billions of taxpayer dollars being at
12348 stake.

12349 We have seen how the President's other massive spending
12350 packages didn't go through this committee, either. And we
12351 see the impact on driving up inflation and making it harder
12352 for people, adding to the pain that families are feeling when
12353 they go to the grocery store or fill up at the gas tanks.

12354 We need to make sure that the money is allocated and
12355 going towards helping Americans, strengthening the economy,
12356 closing the digital divide. That is why we have introduced
12357 this resolution. By not considering the infrastructure bill
12358 before this committee, we weren't able to insert appropriate
12359 safeguards to tighten the interagency coordination or guard
12360 against waste, fraud, and abuse.

12361 It also missed the opportunity to pass meaningful
12362 permitting reforms to make sure that this funding can be
12363 stretched as far as possible. Permitting is the number one

12364 barrier to deployment.

12365 Further, the bill also did not include a requirement for
12366 the funds to be awarded in a technology neutral manner. We
12367 are already seeing how the Administration uses this power to
12368 pick winners and losers, and award funding to their political
12369 allies. This ends up disproportionately helping Americans
12370 who have already had access to broadband services, while
12371 keeping millions of unserved Americans in many of our
12372 districts on the wrong side of the digital divide.

12373 Despite the unprecedented funding going to the National
12374 Telecommunications and Information Administration and the
12375 FCC, the Federal Communications Commission, for broadband, we
12376 have only had these agencies before the committee once in the
12377 last two years. It was mentioned that Administrator Davidson
12378 was before this committee, but it was before NTIA released
12379 rules for the 42 billion broadband program. This is
12380 unacceptable. The assistant secretary of NTIA and the
12381 chairwoman of the FCC should be before this committee
12382 quarterly to answer questions about the steps that they are
12383 taking to close the digital divide.

12384 We must also understand how they plan to coordinate the
12385 billions of new dollars across so many government agencies.
12386 And who is actually leading the charge on this coordination?

12387 This resolution of inquiry by Mr. Hudson should be
12388 bipartisan. It is common sense to ask for this information

12389 about how the NTIA is making decisions to spend taxpayer
12390 dollars and ensure that Americans get access to broadband.
12391 It is our duty, as this committee, the committee of
12392 jurisdiction, to conduct oversight on these programs and hear
12393 from these agencies.

12394 I urge my colleagues to support the resolution, and
12395 yield back.

12396 *The Chairman. Are there any other speakers?

12397 All right, then we will go to a vote. A recorded vote
12398 is ordered. Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res.
12399 1271 to the House will say aye; those opposed will say no;
12400 and the clerk shall call the roll.

12401 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

12402 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

12403 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

12404 Ms. Eshoo?

12405 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.

12406 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

12407 Ms. DeGette?

12408 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

12409 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

12410 Mr. Doyle?

12411 [No response.]

12412 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

12413 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.

12414 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
12415 Mr. Butterfield?
12416 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.
12417 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
12418 Ms. Matsui?
12419 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]
12420 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
12421 Ms. Castor?
12422 *Ms. Castor. [Inaudible.]
12423 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
12424 Mr. Sarbanes?
12425 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
12426 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
12427 Mr. McNerney?
12428 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
12429 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
12430 Mr. Welch?
12431 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
12432 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
12433 Mr. Tonko?
12434 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
12435 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
12436 Ms. Clarke?
12437 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
12438 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

12439 Mr. Schrader?
12440 [No response.]
12441 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
12442 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.
12443 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
12444 Mr. Ruiz?
12445 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
12446 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
12447 Mr. Peters?
12448 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
12449 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
12450 Mrs. Dingell?
12451 *Mrs. Dingell. [Inaudible.]
12452 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
12453 Mr. Veasey?
12454 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
12455 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
12456 Ms. Kuster?
12457 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
12458 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
12459 Ms. Kelly?
12460 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
12461 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
12462 Ms. Barragan?
12463 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

12464 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
12465 Mr. McEachin?
12466 [No response.]
12467 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
12468 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
12469 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
12470 Mr. Soto?
12471 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
12472 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
12473 Mr. O'Halleran?
12474 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.
12475 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
12476 Miss Rice?
12477 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
12478 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
12479 Ms. Craig?
12480 *Ms. Craig. Craig votes aye.
12481 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
12482 Ms. Schrier?
12483 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
12484 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
12485 Mrs. Trahan?
12486 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
12487 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
12488 Mrs. Fletcher?

12489 *Mrs. Fletcher. Fletcher votes aye.
12490 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
12491 Mrs. Rodgers?
12492 *Mrs. Rodgers. [Inaudible.]
12493 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
12494 Mr. Upton?
12495 [No response.]
12496 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
12497 *Mr. Burgess. [Inaudible.]
12498 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
12499 Mr. Scalise?
12500 [No response.]
12501 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
12502 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
12503 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
12504 Mr. Guthrie?
12505 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
12506 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
12507 Mr. McKinley?
12508 [No response.]
12509 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
12510 [No response.]
12511 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
12512 *Mr. Griffith. No.
12513 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

12514 Mr. Bilirakis?
12515 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
12516 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
12517 Mr. Johnson?
12518 *Mr. Johnson. No.
12519 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
12520 Mr. Long?
12521 *Mr. Long. Long votes no.
12522 *The Clerk. Mr. Long votes no.
12523 Mr. Bucshon?
12524 *Mr. Bucshon. [Inaudible.]
12525 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.
12526 Mr. Mullin?
12527 [No response.]
12528 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
12529 [No response.]
12530 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
12531 *Mr. Walberg. No.
12532 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
12533 Mr. Carter?
12534 *Mr. Carter. [Inaudible.]
12535 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
12536 Mr. Duncan?
12537 [No response.]
12538 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

12539 *Mr. Palmer. [Inaudible.]
12540 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
12541 Mr. Dunn?
12542 *Mr. Dunn. No.
12543 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
12544 Mr. Curtis?
12545 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.
12546 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
12547 Mrs. Lesko?
12548 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]
12549 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
12550 Mr. Pence?
12551 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.
12552 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
12553 Mr. Crenshaw?
12554 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.
12555 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
12556 Mr. Joyce?
12557 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
12558 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
12559 Mr. Armstrong?
12560 *Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes no.
12561 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
12562 Chairman Pallone?
12563 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.

12564 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

12565 *The Chairman. Anyone -- oh, Mr. Schrader?

12566 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

12567 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

12568 *The Chairman. Anyone else who wants to be recorded?

12569 Everyone is recorded? All right. The clerk will report

12570 the tally.

12571 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were

12572 30 and the nays were 19.

12573 *The Chairman. The vote is 30 ayes to 19 noes. H.Res.

12574 1271 is reported adversely to the House.

12575 The chair calls up H.Res. 1237. The clerk will report

12576 the bill.

12577 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1237, of inquiry requesting the

12578 President --

12579 *The Chairman. Madam Clerk, without objection, the

12580 first reading of the bill will be dispensed with. The bill

12581 is now considered as read.

12582 Without objection, the bill is considered as read, and

12583 open for amendment at any point.

12584 [The bill follows:]

12585

12586 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

12587

12588 *The Chairman. Is there a member seeking recognition to
12589 speak on H.Res. 1237?

12590 *Mr. Walberg. Mr. Chairman?

12591 *The Chairman. Mr. Walberg is recognized for five
12592 minutes.

12593 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. The resolution
12594 before us today merely requests more information about the
12595 coordination between Big Tech and the Biden Administration
12596 that both parties have already admitted exists.

12597 Big Tech companies have consistently argued that
12598 politics play no role in their content and moderation
12599 decisions. We brought them before this committee a number of
12600 times --

12601 *Mr. Carter. Mr. Chairman?

12602 *The Chairman. Can we have order, please? The members
12603 shouldn't be talking during the debate.

12604 Excuse me, Mr. Tonko.

12605 [Pause.]

12606 *Mr. Walberg. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Big Tech
12607 companies have consistently argued that politics play no role
12608 in their content and moderation decisions. We brought them
12609 before this committee a number of times, where they have
12610 denied the existence of any anti-conservative bias on their
12611 platforms. Okay. We know that is not true, and so do the
12612 American people.

12613 A study by Pew Research Center found that 77 percent of
12614 the public believes that social media sites censor political
12615 views. Every member of this committee has a constituent or
12616 family member that has been unfairly labeled, reported, or
12617 removed on social media sites. The frequency of these
12618 actions can no longer be considered accidents.

12619 In an interview last month, Meta CEO Mark Zuckerberg
12620 said that, before the 2020 election, the FBI contacted
12621 Facebook warning that they should be on high alert about a
12622 potential dump of "Russian election misinformation.'" This
12623 warning led to the company algorithmically censoring the
12624 Hunter-Biden laptop story. On Twitter, any mention of the
12625 story wasn't just downgraded, it was entirely removed.
12626 Zuckerberg admitted that their actions deprived a "meaningful
12627 number of people access to the story.'"

12628 To spell it out, at the direction of the Federal
12629 Government a factual story from a major U.S. publication
12630 which had implications on the election was essentially
12631 removed from the public discourse.

12632 More recently, a Federal lawsuit revealed months of
12633 apparent coordination between Biden Administration officials
12634 and social media platforms on what to censor on the -- under
12635 the umbrella of COVID-19 misinformation. In 2021, former
12636 White House Press Secretary Jen Psaki admitted that they were
12637 working directly with the platforms to identify "problematic

12638 posts'' to be taken down. The result of these actions was an
12639 all-out assault on any viewpoints or groups that didn't align
12640 with the message of the Biden Administration at the time.

12641 Intentionally suppressing diverse opinions based on the
12642 prevailing narrative is just dangerous. This is even further
12643 proven by how often the narrative changed during the
12644 pandemic, whether it was about the origins of COVID-19, or
12645 the repercussions of keeping kids out of school, so forth and
12646 so on.

12647 Some argue that the First Amendment doesn't apply to
12648 speech on social media platforms because they are private
12649 companies, not the government. But what does it mean when
12650 those private companies begin acting on behalf of the
12651 government?

12652 We owe it to the American people to fully understand the
12653 extent of the relationship between Big Tech and the Biden
12654 Administration. This level of coordination between the
12655 platforms and our Federal Government should be concerning to
12656 every single person on this committee, regardless of party.
12657 Social media is the new public square, and who sits in the
12658 White House should not determine what can and cannot be said
12659 in the public square.

12660 And so I encourage my colleagues to favorably report the
12661 resolution, and I yield back.

12662 *The Chairman. Ms. Kelly is recognized for five

12663 minutes.

12664 *Ms. Kelly. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

12665 The spread of misinformation and disinformation on
12666 social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, and Instagram
12667 has chilling effects on Americans' trust in government
12668 agencies, our electoral process, and our democratic system.
12669 As members of the Energy and Commerce Committee, we have a
12670 responsibility to oversee these platforms, and I am deeply
12671 concerned about the amount of misinformation and
12672 disinformation that is spread on social media platforms.

12673 Before I listen to anyone saying that Democrats are
12674 colluding with Big Tech to curtail free speech, I want to be
12675 clear that I fully support the First Amendment, as do all of
12676 my Democratic colleagues. That is what makes the issue of
12677 social media accountability so frustratingly difficult.
12678 Preserving the right to open and free expression, while at
12679 the same time making progress to stop the insidious problems
12680 on the platforms that we have seen over and over again, like
12681 blatant civil rights violations, disinformation internally
12682 spread by foreign actors to weaken and divide us during
12683 elections; abusive behavior that spills over into the real
12684 world; real-world deaths that have been prevented without the
12685 rampant spread of disinformation on these platforms (sic).

12686 Since coming into office, President Biden and this
12687 Congress have fought to ensure misinformation and

12688 disinformation of all kinds ceases to find a home on social
12689 media platforms. Early on, as the COVID pandemic was raging,
12690 this Administration fought to curb both election and medical
12691 misinformation and disinformation.

12692 In its attempt to curb health misinformation and
12693 disinformation, the Administration published a public
12694 advisory on steps everyone, including the Administration, can
12695 take to confront health misinformation and disinformation.
12696 Those steps included recommendations for individuals to
12697 better identify and avoid sharing health misinformation for
12698 journalists, editors, and others to recognize, correct, and
12699 avoid amplifying misinformation, and for Federal, state, and
12700 local governments to engage with private non-profits and
12701 research partners to explore the impact of health
12702 misinformation, while identifying best practices to prevent
12703 and address it. These are all important steps to build back
12704 Americans' trust in public health officials after years of
12705 attacks by the previous Administration.

12706 After reading this resolution, it is clear my Republican
12707 colleagues are not interested in working together to fight
12708 misinformation and disinformation, but would rather obstruct
12709 and delay the work of this committee and the Biden
12710 Administration to hold these platforms responsible for the
12711 harm they cause to individuals and the public, harm that
12712 (sic) have monetized and continue to grow rich from.

12713 This resolution is extremely broad, and does nothing to
12714 hold platforms accountable for the harm they are profiting
12715 off of. It portrays those who are trying to fight
12716 misinformation as having nefarious or duplicitous reasons by
12717 taking quotes out of context. Instead of working with the
12718 members and staff on this committee to address these concerns
12719 in a bipartisan manner, Republicans once again resort to
12720 partisan politics to stoke distrust and fear.

12721 Misinformation and disinformation are a crisis in
12722 America, and must be met responsibly by those of us entrusted
12723 by the people to enact meaningful change to confront hard
12724 problems like misinformation and disinformation in light of
12725 our First Amendment rights of free speech and expression. It
12726 is our responsibility, as public officials and leaders, to
12727 make sure the public is getting accurate information,
12728 especially on life-or-death matters such as our health.
12729 Simply put, disinformation costs American lives.

12730 I welcome working with my colleagues on the other side
12731 of the aisle to hold social media platforms accountable. But
12732 this overly broad and partisan resolution is an insincere
12733 attempt to score political points. I oppose this resolution,
12734 and urge my colleagues to do the same.

12735 I yield back.

12736 *The Chairman. Do we have any other speakers on this
12737 resolution?

12738 No?

12739 *Mrs. Rodgers. Did I already speak? No. Yes.

12740 *The Chairman. No, you could speak.

12741 *Mrs. Rodgers. Yes, wait. Okay.

12742 *The Chairman. I recognize the ranking member for five
12743 minutes.

12744 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I just want to
12745 say there is bipartisan agreement on this committee that we
12746 need to hold the Big Tech companies accountable, and we need
12747 to protect free speech. And I would welcome the opportunity
12748 to work together, as the elected representatives of the
12749 people, to pass legislation.

12750 My concern is when the Administration or the government
12751 officials within the Administration start deciding what is
12752 misinformation, disinformation on their own, and making those
12753 decisions, and then forcing that on to the social media
12754 companies. That is not free speech, and that is not the role
12755 of the government.

12756 I yield back, and urge adoption of this resolution.

12757 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

12758 All right, we will go to a recorded vote. A recorded
12759 vote is ordered. Those in favor of adversely reporting
12760 H.Res. 1237 to the House will say aye; and those opposed will
12761 say no; and the clerk shall call the roll.

12762 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

12763 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.
12764 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.
12765 Ms. Eshoo?
12766 [No response.]
12767 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo?
12768 *Ms. Eshoo. Eshoo votes aye.
12769 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.
12770 Ms. DeGette?
12771 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.
12772 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
12773 Mr. Doyle?
12774 [No response.]
12775 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?
12776 *Ms. Schakowsky. Schakowsky votes aye.
12777 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
12778 Mr. Butterfield?
12779 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.
12780 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.
12781 Ms. Matsui?
12782 *Ms. Matsui. Matsui votes aye.
12783 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
12784 Ms. Castor?
12785 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
12786 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
12787 Mr. Sarbanes?

12788 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.
12789 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.
12790 Mr. McNerney?
12791 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.
12792 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.
12793 Mr. Welch?
12794 *Mr. Welch. Aye.
12795 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.
12796 Mr. Tonko?
12797 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.
12798 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
12799 Ms. Clarke?
12800 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]
12801 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
12802 Mr. Schrader?
12803 [No response.]
12804 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas?
12805 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.
12806 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.
12807 Mr. Ruiz?
12808 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.
12809 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
12810 Mr. Peters?
12811 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
12812 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

12813 Mrs. Dingell?

12814 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

12815 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

12816 Mr. Veasey?

12817 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.

12818 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

12819 Ms. Kuster?

12820 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.

12821 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.

12822 Ms. Kelly?

12823 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.

12824 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.

12825 Ms. Barragan?

12826 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.

12827 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

12828 Mr. McEachin?

12829 [No response.]

12830 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?

12831 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

12832 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.

12833 Mr. Soto?

12834 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.

12835 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

12836 Mr. O'Halleran?

12837 *Mr. O'Halleran. O'Halleran votes aye.

12838 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.
12839 Miss Rice?
12840 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.
12841 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.
12842 Ms. Craig?
12843 *Ms. Craig. Craig votes aye.
12844 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.
12845 Ms. Schrier?
12846 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.
12847 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
12848 Mrs. Trahan?
12849 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.
12850 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
12851 Mrs. Fletcher?
12852 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
12853 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
12854 Mrs. Rodgers?
12855 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
12856 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.
12857 Mr. Upton?
12858 [No response.]
12859 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?
12860 *Mr. Burgess. Burgess votes no.
12861 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
12862 Mr. Scalise?

12863 [No response.]

12864 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

12865 *Mr. Latta. No.

12866 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.

12867 Mr. Guthrie?

12868 *Mr. Guthrie. No.

12869 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.

12870 Mr. McKinley?

12871 [No response.]

12872 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?

12873 [No response.]

12874 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

12875 *Mr. Griffith. No.

12876 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.

12877 Mr. Bilirakis?

12878 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.

12879 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.

12880 Mr. Johnson?

12881 *Mr. Johnson. No.

12882 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.

12883 Mr. Long?

12884 [No response.]

12885 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?

12886 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

12887 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

12888 Mr. Mullin?
12889 [No response.]
12890 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
12891 [No response.]
12892 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?
12893 *Mr. Walberg. No.
12894 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.
12895 Mr. Carter?
12896 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.
12897 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.
12898 Mr. Duncan?
12899 [No response.]
12900 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
12901 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.
12902 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.
12903 Mr. Dunn?
12904 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.
12905 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.
12906 Mr. Curtis?
12907 [Pause.]
12908 *Mr. Curtis. Curtis votes no.
12909 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.
12910 Mrs. Lesko?
12911 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]
12912 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.

12913 Mr. Pence?

12914 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.

12915 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.

12916 Mr. Crenshaw?

12917 *Mr. Crenshaw. No.

12918 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.

12919 Mr. Joyce?

12920 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.

12921 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.

12922 Mr. Armstrong?

12923 *Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes no.

12924 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.

12925 Chairman Pallone?

12926 *The Chairman. [Inaudible.]

12927 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.

12928 *The Chairman. Has anyone not voted who wants to be

12929 recorded?

12930 Okay -- oh, Mr. Schrader, you -- Mr. Schrader?

12931 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader is not recorded.

12932 *Mr. Schrader. Schrader votes aye.

12933 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

12934 *The Chairman. Anyone else?

12935 All right, the clerk will report the tally.

12936 *The Clerk. On that vote the yeas were 30 and the nays

12937 were 18.

12938 *The Chairman. Thirty and eighteen?

12939 *The Clerk. Yes, sir.

12940 *The Chairman. Okay, the vote is 30 ayes to 18 noes.

12941 H.Res. 1237 is reported adversely to the House.

12942 All members shall have two additional days in which to
12943 file a supplemental, additional, minority, and dissenting
12944 views. The Chair intends to file a report for H.Res. 1237
12945 with the House on Monday.

12946 I believe this is the last one. Okay.

12947 [Applause.]

12948 *The Chairman. Are we going to applaud that? All
12949 right.

12950 The chair calls up H.Res. 1261, and the clerk will
12951 report the bill.

12952 *The Clerk. H.Res. 1261, a resolution of inquiry
12953 requesting the President to provide certain --

12954 *The Chairman. And Madam Clerk, without objection, the
12955 first reading of the bill would be dispensed with. The bill
12956 is now considered as read.

12957 And without objection, the bill is considered as read,
12958 and open for amendment at any point.

12959 [The bill follows:]

12960

12961 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

12962

12963 *The Chairman. Is there a member seeking recognition to
12964 speak --

12965 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes.

12966 *The Chairman. -- on H.Res. 1261?

12967 Mr. Bilirakis --

12968 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you --

12969 *The Chairman. -- is recognized for five minutes.

12970 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you very much. I move to strike
12971 the last word. I am bringing it home, Mr. Chairman.

12972 For years, the FTC has been tasked with the critical
12973 role of protecting consumers and competition by preventing
12974 anti-competitive, deceptive, and unfair business practices.
12975 And under both Republican and Democratic administrations and
12976 leadership, commissioners on both sides of the FTC have
12977 understood and accepted this responsibility to perform these
12978 duties without -- and I am quoting -- "without unduly
12979 burdening legitimate'' -- I want to emphasize the word
12980 legitimate -- "business activity.''

12981 Sadly, President Biden's hand-picked FTC chair decided
12982 to end this bipartisan consensus, like she has in many other
12983 areas. But I am going to focus just on this. And again, we
12984 want to know why. We want to know why. And if someone is
12985 directing her to do this in the Administration, who?

12986 So last November, Chairwoman Lina Khan released the
12987 FTC's draft strategic plan for 2022 through 2026.

12988 At a time of a record inflation, it is wrong to take for
12989 granted businesses that are just trying to get back on their
12990 feet, especially after the COVID-19 pandemic. The vast
12991 majority of small businesses in our nation are doing the
12992 right things and trying their best by struggling with the
12993 costs of everyday input items just to stay afloat. And this
12994 Administration's regulate-first mindset has made things so
12995 much worse.

12996 Previously, the bipartisan support for the inclusion of
12997 the phrase -- and I quote again -- "without unduly burdening
12998 legitimate business activity'" in FTC mission statements has
12999 signaled to businesses in every one of our districts that the
13000 agency's rules and regulations will be tailored and targeted
13001 to bad actors, fraudsters, and illegal conduct. And that has
13002 been the norm all these years. Why does she want to change
13003 this?

13004 I mean, we need to know. We need to get to the bottom
13005 of this, and that the rules of the road will preserve the
13006 core functions that provide Americans with everyday products
13007 and services.

13008 In an article published by Kelley, Drye, and Warren,
13009 they signaled, "The former inclusion of the phrase alluded to
13010 the FTC's recognition that legitimate business activity
13011 benefits consumers and competition, and has consistently made
13012 a public commitment to preserve it.'"

13013 Mr. Chairman, I ask for unanimous consent for this
13014 article to be entered into the record, and I will get you the
13015 article. If that --

13016 *The Chairman. I mean, I have to look at it first.

13017 *Mr. Bilirakis. Okay. Of course, of course.

13018 We made our views known to Chair Khan, Mr. Chairman, and
13019 remained hopeful this change would be given more thought in
13020 light of the severe damage our economy is already suffering.

13021 Unfortunately, our input and oversight role was
13022 completely ignored, and the chair moved ahead in August with
13023 a partisan vote to adopt this component of the progressive
13024 agenda. And I -- you know, this is alarming. I know
13025 Democrats on the other side are pro-small business, as well,
13026 and this is very alarming. So I take this very seriously.

13027 So why did Chairman Khan remove it from the mission
13028 statement? Republicans on this committee asked this very
13029 same question to Chair Khan. Her response, and I quote, "The
13030 agency is currently considering the comments received on the
13031 draft strategic plan, including some comments that raise the
13032 question about the elimination of 'without unduly burdening
13033 legitimate business activity' in the draft mission
13034 statement."

13035 This drastic and tragic policy change occurs on the back
13036 of the Biden Administration's watch over one of our nation's
13037 worst economic recessions, where our constituents are paying

13038 more for every single aspect of their life, from gas to
13039 produce, to meats, electricity. Even Chairman Khan couldn't
13040 tell us why it is now suddenly necessary to scare legitimate
13041 businesses into -- they are having a hard time, as it is --
13042 scare legitimate businesses into thinking they are doing
13043 something wrong. And yet this Administration and this agency
13044 seem to have gone rogue by signaling to small businesses that
13045 they are coming for them.

13046 I don't know why the Biden Administration would send a
13047 message like this to businesses that are already struggling
13048 to stay afloat, as I said, during the economic turmoil that
13049 this Administration helped create, but I surely will not
13050 stand idly by, watching good businesses in my district being
13051 targeted for doing nothing but working to provide goods and
13052 services to my constituents and our community.

13053 And of course, I know you will be concerned, all of our
13054 members here. If you share this same sentiment, please, I
13055 urge you to vote in favor of advancing my resolution to the
13056 House floor, and I will yield back the balance of my time.
13057 Thank you -- unless somebody else wants it, 34 seconds, I
13058 guess.

13059 Thank you.

13060 *The Chairman. All right. If anybody wants it, they
13061 can do another one.

13062 Mr. Bilirakis gave us a Washington Post article from

13063 July 13th of this year entitled, "Sinking FTC Workplace
13064 Rankings Threaten Chair Lina Khan's Agenda.'" That is it,
13065 right?

13066 Without objection, we will enter that into the record.

13067 [The information follows:]

13068

13069 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

13070

13071 *The Chairman. I am going to strike the last word and
13072 yield myself five minutes.

13073 The -- I know that it is late, and I probably shouldn't,
13074 you know, get into this again, but I do want to say that I am
13075 very concerned about this one and, I guess, most of the
13076 resolutions tonight, although I think this is another example
13077 that I could discuss.

13078 The way these resolutions of inquiries are supposed to
13079 be done is to get information, factual, other types of
13080 information from the Administration. That is how I interpret
13081 it. And the problem I see here, Mr. Bilirakis, is that -- I
13082 mean, there are several problems, but the one I want to
13083 highlight is that basically you are asking the Administration
13084 or the FTC, you know, to justify their policy, or to, you
13085 know, justify their message. And I am just concerned, in my
13086 opinion, that this type of request goes way beyond what these
13087 resolutions are supposed to be. Now, you may argue with me
13088 and say, you know, we can say whatever we want in these
13089 resolutions, and I guess you can, but I really don't think
13090 that that is what they were meant for.

13091 You know, when I -- when we -- when I supported and we
13092 all voted for the one that dealt with the baby formula, it
13093 was a request for a specific document that the Administration
13094 had not given us. To me, that is totally justified. But to
13095 say, you know, you don't like the FCC's policy, you want them

13096 to explain their policy, you want them to, you know,
13097 essentially justify why they do things, in my opinion -- and
13098 you don't have to agree with me -- that is way beyond what
13099 these resolutions are supposed to be. And if we go down that
13100 road and did this every day, I don't know how we would ever
13101 accomplish anything here.

13102 The other thing that bothers me is that you say the --
13103 you are suggesting that somehow the FCC has become partisan.
13104 Well, I mean, they have two Republicans. The Democrats, I
13105 guess, are in the majority. It is not like there is not
13106 Republican views being voiced there. I mean, they have to
13107 act bipartisan. They can have a vote, and the Republicans
13108 can vote one way or Democrats can vote the other. But it is
13109 a bipartisan -- the FCC is a bipartisan commission.

13110 So again, my problem is that this resolution of inquiry
13111 takes away from the bipartisan tradition. I don't think it
13112 is even bipartisan, or does it protect consumers. And let me
13113 explain why.

13114 On July 20th we worked in a bipartisan way to send the
13115 historic American Data Privacy and Protection Act to the full
13116 House by a 53 to 2 vote. Our bipartisan, bicameral privacy
13117 legislation finally holds, in my opinion, Big Tech
13118 accountable, puts consumers back in control of their data,
13119 and protects their privacy. The legislation is as close as
13120 any Federal consumer privacy bill has ever come to becoming

13121 law, and I am proud of the work that was done on both sides.
13122 I am grateful to Ranking Member Rodgers, to you, Mr.
13123 Bilirakis, to Chair Schakowsky, and am overall committed to
13124 continuing to build support for final legislation that can be
13125 brought to the House floor and become law.

13126 But it is critical that we get this privacy bill across
13127 the finish line. And I don't see how we can work to protect
13128 American data privacy without enforcement by the Federal
13129 Trade Commission. And the FTC needs the resources to carry
13130 out the essential mandate included in our legislation,
13131 including a new privacy bureau.

13132 So just six days after that bipartisan vote, 53 to 2
13133 advancing the bill to the House floor, Mr. Bilirakis
13134 introduced this resolution of inquiry, which I believe would
13135 undermine the FTC's authority and leadership. The resolution
13136 discredits and would likely -- ties the hands of the FTC at
13137 the very moment we seek to empower it to protect consumers'
13138 data. It incorrectly depicts the FTC as this overzealous
13139 partisan agency. It implies there is something nefarious
13140 about routine FTC procedures or adherence to its own rules of
13141 practice, and nothing could be further from the truth.

13142 Worse, I don't think we should be using the talking
13143 points Big Tech uses in their desperate effort to avoid
13144 accountability. I am not suggesting you are, you know,
13145 shilling for Big Tech here, but it is -- it just sounds like

13146 the same kind of thing that Big Tech uses to try to avoid
13147 accountability. And I just think it is disappointing to see
13148 the Republican echoing -- a Republican echoing Big Tech's
13149 themes with this resolution.

13150 I think there are ways to conduct important, legitimate
13151 oversight of the FTC. In fact, that is an essential part of
13152 this committee's responsibilities. But I am afraid this
13153 resolution would hamstring the FTC without any benefit to the
13154 American people and to protect consumers, empower the FTC,
13155 and move the American Data Privacy and Protection Act
13156 forward.

13157 I would ask my colleagues on both sides of the aisle to
13158 vote against the resolution, and I yield back.

13159 The ranking member is recognized for five minutes.

13160 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
13161 strike the last word.

13162 *The Chairman. The gentlewoman is recognized.

13163 *Mrs. Rodgers. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I
13164 appreciated your comments there.

13165 The resolution is simply asking for documentation
13166 between the White House and the FTC as to the role that the
13167 White House may be playing in directing some of the
13168 activities at the FTC.

13169 You know, this committee -- you mentioned the
13170 committee's work on privacy, and I -- and this committee

13171 passed a very strong privacy bill with a vote of 53 to 2 out
13172 of this committee in July. It was years' worth of work, and
13173 we can be proud of that work.

13174 I was quite dismayed to get a call from the chair of the
13175 FTC the first week of August having her announce rulemaking.
13176 You just mentioned she needs more -- that the FTC needs more
13177 funding, and I know that the Democrats and the majority of
13178 proposed nearly tripling the FTC's budget, along with some
13179 pretty broad rulemaking authority, as well as first offense
13180 civil penalty authority. But I -- she is moving ahead
13181 without us. She has found the funding, so it made me even
13182 wonder if she needs the funding.

13183 But there is a lot of concerns about the direction of
13184 the FCC. It is a five-member commission, yet it has been
13185 turned into a single head agency with proxy voting, and with
13186 Republicans not being involved in the debate, or the
13187 discussion, or input into decisions that are being made at
13188 the FTC right now, and I hope that this committee will do
13189 oversight and ask some important questions. Because at a
13190 time when you see the -- you know, just hundreds of
13191 regulations coming out of the Administration that is
13192 crippling American innovators, the FTC is one of those
13193 agencies that is concerning our businesses, especially our
13194 small businesses.

13195 Earlier last year, the Supreme Court unanimously found

13196 that the FTC has exceeded their authority in seeking monetary
13197 penalties from businesses. That was at the beginning of last
13198 year. And in its opinion, the Supreme Court highlighted
13199 Professor Howard Beales, the former director of the FTC
13200 Bureau on Consumer Protection, who said, "Unbounded by
13201 meaningful standards, in the 1970s the Commission embarked on
13202 a vast enterprise to transform entire industries. Over a 15-
13203 month period, the Commission issued a rule a month, usually
13204 without clear theory of why there was a law violation, with
13205 only a tenuous connection between the perceived problem and
13206 recommended remedy, and with, at best, a shaky imperial
13207 foundation.'" That was his quote.

13208 And in response to this overbearing, innovative-killing
13209 FTC -- this is back in the 1970s -- Congress passed the FTC
13210 Improvement Act of 1980 to rein in the FTC, to prevent abuses
13211 of power, and restrict its rulemaking authority. History may
13212 not repeat itself, but it rhymes. The current FTC leadership
13213 is rhyming with what we experienced in the past.

13214 For instance, under this new leadership, the FTC has
13215 issued hundreds of warning letters en masse to companies
13216 across the country as a shortcut to establish a fine for a
13217 potential first offense. I already mentioned the -- and this
13218 majority has empowered them. And this would -- and I
13219 mentioned the rulemaking, the nearly tripling of the FTC that
13220 has been proposed, you know, this -- without any direction or

13221 guardrails.

13222 I am very concerned about this. And the Energy and
13223 Commerce Committee has had one FCC hearing this Congress.
13224 That is not surely enough to provide sufficient oversight.
13225 Or, at the very least, the FTC's Bureau of Economics should
13226 come before this committee to explain just how harmful the
13227 unrestrained actions of the FTC has been for businesses and
13228 the economy.

13229 Subcommittee Leader Bilirakis mentioned that the FTC, in
13230 a partisan vote, removed from their mission statement
13231 "without unduly burdening legitimate business activity."
13232 Why did they do that? Why did they do that? It seems like
13233 that is a question we should be asking, this committee should
13234 be asking. This is not the time to be making it more
13235 difficult for our small businesses, straining our economy
13236 further with these attacks on honest businesses, which the
13237 FTC treats as presumed guilty.

13238 We need some answers. And that is why this resolution
13239 is before the committee. I yield back.

13240 *The Chairman. Is anyone else -- on the Democratic
13241 side?

13242 *Mr. Bucshon. Mr. Chairman?

13243 *The Chairman. Oh, you just want to vote.

13244 Dr. Bucshon?

13245 *Mr. Bucshon. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to

13246 strike the last word.

13247 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
13248 minutes.

13249 *Mr. Bucshon. Representative Bilirakis's ROI is pretty
13250 straightforward. It requests information on the FTC's
13251 decision to remove the phrase "without unduly burdening
13252 legitimate business activity'" from its mission statement.

13253 I believe that the agency in charge of addressing
13254 fraudulent activity and scams, which only have worsened
13255 during the COVID-19 pandemic, should ensure its efforts do
13256 not harm those who are trying to operate the right way.

13257 The Biden Administration has repeatedly minimized the
13258 scale and impact of historic price increases on businesses
13259 and families, making this decision from Chair Khan even more
13260 alarming.

13261 Anticipating this type of -- this kind of anti-free
13262 market push from the agency, I introduced H.R. 2676, the RECS
13263 Act, R-E-C-S Act. This bill would require the FTC to conduct
13264 an economic analysis before submitting any recommendations
13265 for legislative action, including proposals to alter their
13266 regulatory or enforcement authorities. These analyses would
13267 have to show that the FTC has identified a problem it
13268 determines should be addressed, including their rationale for
13269 determining that private markets or public institutions could
13270 not address this issue, and that the benefits of the

13271 recommended legislation outweigh its costs.

13272 In a hearing last year in July I questioned then-
13273 Commissioner Chopra whether or not he would support
13274 performing a cost benefit analysis. He responded with, and I
13275 quote, "I have been a strong advocate of -- for more
13276 analytical rigor. I am very concerned that the quality of
13277 rigor that is used to make decisions across the government is
13278 far too low.'" Given the removal of the phrase "without
13279 unduly burdening legitimate business activity" from the
13280 FTC's mission statement, I am sure that I ask -- if I asked
13281 the same question to certain commissioners today, it would
13282 fall on deaf ears.

13283 This ROI brings much-needed transparency to the Biden
13284 Administration's role in the FTC's hasty decision-making
13285 process under the new leadership of Chair Khan. Supporting
13286 legitimate business activity should not be a partisan issue,
13287 and I imagine that my colleagues across the aisle would
13288 agree. So let's pass this resolution of inquiry to get
13289 answers about why these changes were made.

13290 I urge my colleagues to support this ROI, and I yield
13291 back the balance of my time.

13292 *The Chairman. Does anyone else seek to speak on the
13293 resolution?

13294 Mr. Dunn, Dr. Dunn.

13295 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chair, I move to strike the

13296 last word.

13297 *The Chairman. The gentleman is recognized for five
13298 minutes.

13299 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is important
13300 that the Federal Trade Commission addresses proven cases of
13301 illegitimate practices, especially in light of our current
13302 inflationary economy.

13303 It is also important, however, to remember that the FTC
13304 is an independent agency from the executive branch. Yet the
13305 FTC has been weaponized by the Biden Administration to attack
13306 industries that they have politically labeled as bad actors.
13307 Although many of these are legitimate businesses, you know,
13308 Chairman Khan's recent actions blur that fine line, and now
13309 these businesses are being smeared as bad actors.

13310 A clear example of this Administration's policy is
13311 driving energy prices up, and when President Biden asked the
13312 FTC under Chairwoman Khan's leadership to investigate oil and
13313 gas companies instead for anti-consumer behavior. Following
13314 her marching orders, she did exactly that. But just like the
13315 last -- every time in the last 100 years, they didn't find
13316 any price gouging on the energy side.

13317 This does not stop there. Chair Khan continues to
13318 abandon precedent in favor of flexing the agency's muscle
13319 against businesses of all sizes across an array of sectors.
13320 Unfortunately, she shattered another one of the FTC's

13321 bipartisan traditions yesterday. She decided to
13322 mischaracterize the agency's enforcement record, and endorsed
13323 her personal opinion of a radical use of the FTC Act in her
13324 written testimony to the Senate Judiciary Committee instead
13325 of submitting consensus testimony representing the views of
13326 the full Commission.

13327 The FTC must return to putting the American consumer
13328 first, instead of using the agency as a political tool.
13329 Therefore, I urge my colleagues to support this resolution.

13330 And I yield the balance of my time to Ranking Member
13331 Bilirakis.

13332 *Mr. Bilirakis. I will be very brief. I just wanted to
13333 let you know -- read the article. Read that -- the
13334 Washington Post article that was admitted into the record,
13335 and see how she is operating the FTC, Commissioner Khan,
13336 Chairman Khan. It is not just proxy voting; they are zombie
13337 voting. So it is -- after a commissioner resigns, he
13338 actually submits this particular position, it counts.

13339 And, you know, they tell us that it is bipartisan. And,
13340 Mr. Chairman, I respect you deeply, you know that. But I
13341 understand that Republicans have been shut out completely,
13342 and the morale of the committee -- we need to know about the
13343 process, the morale of the particular employees, career
13344 employees, career employees, is very, very low. So we are
13345 talking about 22, number 22 in small agencies or mid-sized

13346 agencies, when prior to Chairman Khan it was number 3. We
13347 were so very proud of the FTC. So let's get back to the
13348 original mission of the FTC. Let's get these questions
13349 answered.

13350 So anyway, I urge you to go ahead and vote for this. I
13351 mean, what are we afraid of? When there is smoke, there is
13352 more than likely fire. Let's find out.

13353 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I will yield back the
13354 balance of my time.

13355 *The Chairman. Is there anyone else that wants to speak
13356 on this resolution?

13357 Ms. Schakowsky.

13358 *Ms. Schakowsky. This is going to be really brief. I
13359 want to really speak to the ranking member -- I feel like my
13360 partner -- on the Consumer Protection Subcommittee. We work
13361 so well together.

13362 And I guess I just want to end the evening by saying,
13363 you know, when there are examples of situations that you
13364 feel, Mr. Bilirakis, are inappropriate, I have to tell you I
13365 hadn't really heard them. And I would like to work with you,
13366 because we rely on enforcement.

13367 We want our bill to pass. Our comprehensive online
13368 consumer privacy legislation is so important to Americans.
13369 We want to make sure that, once we pass that legislation,
13370 that it be appropriately protected, and defended, and that we

13371 have real enforcement to make these things work.

13372 So I just want to say -- and I want to give one other
13373 example. You say that small businesses have been left out.
13374 Remember during the pandemic when we had that program, the
13375 PPP, we were helping businesses? The first round, many of
13376 us, I think on -- probably on both sides were concerned that
13377 most of that money went to big businesses, and the
13378 Administration went right to work and said that we have to
13379 make sure that access to small businesses, businesses in the
13380 communities, mom-and-pop stores were able to get the kind of
13381 assistance they needed during the pandemic.

13382 I think these are values that we hold together. But,
13383 you know, let's not pretend that we don't need the Federal
13384 Trade Commission to help us enforce the laws that actually
13385 protect consumers. And Gus, I really want to work together
13386 with you on those things. And with that, I yield back.

13387 *The Chairman. All right.

13388 *Mr. Bilirakis. I look forward to it. Thank you very
13389 much.

13390 *The Chairman. Anybody else? We are ending this on a
13391 good note, so I would discourage anybody from saying anything
13392 else.

13393 [Laughter.]

13394 *The Chairman. All right, a recorded vote is ordered.
13395 Those in favor of adversely reporting H.Res. 1261 to the

13396 House will say aye; those opposed will say no; and the clerk
13397 shall call the roll.

13398 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush?

13399 *Mr. Rush. Rush votes aye.

13400 *The Clerk. Mr. Rush votes aye.

13401 Ms. Eshoo?

13402 *Ms. Eshoo. Votes aye.

13403 *The Clerk. Ms. Eshoo votes aye.

13404 Ms. DeGette?

13405 *Ms. DeGette. DeGette votes aye.

13406 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

13407 Mr. Doyle?

13408 [No response.]

13409 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky?

13410 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

13411 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

13412 Mr. Butterfield?

13413 *Mr. Butterfield. Votes aye.

13414 *The Clerk. Mr. Butterfield votes aye.

13415 Ms. Matsui?

13416 *Ms. Matsui. [Inaudible.]

13417 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

13418 Ms. Castor?

13419 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

13420 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

13421 Mr. Sarbanes?

13422 *Mr. Sarbanes. Sarbanes votes aye.

13423 *The Clerk. Mr. Sarbanes votes aye.

13424 Mr. McNerney?

13425 *Mr. McNerney. Aye.

13426 *The Clerk. Mr. McNerney votes aye.

13427 Mr. Welch?

13428 *Mr. Welch. Aye.

13429 *The Clerk. Mr. Welch votes aye.

13430 Mr. Tonko?

13431 *Mr. Tonko. Tonko votes aye.

13432 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

13433 Ms. Clarke?

13434 *Ms. Clarke. [Inaudible.]

13435 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

13436 Mr. Schrader?

13437 *Mr. Schrader. [Inaudible.]

13438 *The Clerk. Mr. Schrader votes aye.

13439 Mr. Cardenas?

13440 *Mr. Cardenas. Cardenas votes aye.

13441 *The Clerk. Mr. Cardenas votes aye.

13442 Mr. Ruiz?

13443 *Mr. Ruiz. Ruiz votes aye.

13444 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

13445 Mr. Peters?

13446 *Mr. Peters. Peters votes aye.
13447 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
13448 Mrs. Dingell?
13449 *Mrs. Dingell. Votes aye.
13450 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
13451 Mr. Veasey?
13452 *Mr. Veasey. Veasey votes aye.
13453 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
13454 Ms. Kuster?
13455 *Ms. Kuster. Kuster votes aye.
13456 *The Clerk. Ms. Kuster votes aye.
13457 Ms. Kelly?
13458 *Ms. Kelly. Kelly votes aye.
13459 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
13460 Ms. Barragan?
13461 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan votes aye.
13462 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
13463 Mr. McEachin?
13464 [No response.]
13465 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester?
13466 *Ms. Blunt Rochester. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
13467 *The Clerk. Ms. Blunt Rochester votes aye.
13468 Mr. Soto?
13469 *Mr. Soto. Soto votes aye.
13470 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

13471 Mr. O'Halleran?

13472 *Mr. O'Halleran. [Inaudible.]

13473 *The Clerk. Mr. O'Halleran votes aye.

13474 Miss Rice?

13475 *Miss Rice. Rice votes aye.

13476 *The Clerk. Miss Rice votes aye.

13477 Ms. Craig?

13478 *Ms. Craig. Craig votes aye.

13479 *The Clerk. Ms. Craig votes aye.

13480 Ms. Schrier?

13481 *Ms. Schrier. Schrier votes aye.

13482 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

13483 Mrs. Trahan?

13484 *Mrs. Trahan. Trahan votes aye.

13485 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

13486 Mrs. Fletcher?

13487 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

13488 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

13489 Mrs. Rodgers?

13490 *Mrs. Rodgers. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

13491 *The Clerk. Mrs. Rodgers votes no.

13492 Mr. Upton?

13493 [No response.]

13494 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess?

13495 *Mr. Burgess. Votes no.

13496 *The Clerk. Mr. Burgess votes no.
13497 Mr. Scalise?
13498 [No response.]
13499 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
13500 *Mr. Latta. [Inaudible.]
13501 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes no.
13502 Mr. Guthrie?
13503 *Mr. Guthrie. No.
13504 *The Clerk. Mr. Guthrie votes no.
13505 Mr. McKinley?
13506 [No response.]
13507 *The Clerk. Mr. Kinzinger?
13508 [No response.]
13509 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?
13510 *Mr. Griffith. No.
13511 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes no.
13512 Mr. Bilirakis?
13513 *Mr. Bilirakis. No.
13514 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes no.
13515 Mr. Johnson?
13516 *Mr. Johnson. No.
13517 *The Clerk. Mr. Johnson votes no.
13518 Mr. Long?
13519 [No response.]
13520 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon?

13521 *Mr. Bucshon. No.

13522 *The Clerk. Mr. Bucshon votes no.

13523 Mr. Mullin?

13524 [No response.]

13525 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

13526 [No response.]

13527 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg?

13528 *Mr. Walberg. No.

13529 *The Clerk. Mr. Walberg votes no.

13530 Mr. Carter?

13531 *Mr. Carter. Carter from Georgia votes no.

13532 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter votes no.

13533 Mr. Duncan?

13534 [No response.]

13535 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

13536 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes no.

13537 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes no.

13538 Mr. Dunn?

13539 *Mr. Dunn. Dunn votes no.

13540 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes no.

13541 Mr. Curtis?

13542 *Mr. Curtis. [Inaudible.]

13543 *The Clerk. Mr. Curtis votes no.

13544 Mrs. Lesko?

13545 *Mrs. Lesko. [Inaudible.]

13546 *The Clerk. Mrs. Lesko votes no.
13547 Mr. Pence?
13548 *Mr. Pence. Pence votes no.
13549 *The Clerk. Mr. Pence votes no.
13550 Mr. Crenshaw?
13551 *Mr. Crenshaw. [Inaudible.]
13552 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes no.
13553 Mr. Joyce?
13554 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes no.
13555 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes no.
13556 Mr. Armstrong?
13557 *Mr. Armstrong. Armstrong votes no.
13558 *The Clerk. Mr. Armstrong votes no.
13559 Chairman Pallone?
13560 *The Chairman. Pallone from New Jersey votes aye.
13561 *The Clerk. Chairman Pallone votes aye.
13562 *The Chairman. Is there any member who wishes to vote
13563 who has not voted yet?
13564 Everyone has voted? All right. The clerk will report
13565 the tally.
13566 *The Clerk. On that vote, Mr. Chairman, the yeas were
13567 30, and the nays were 18.
13568 *The Chairman. The vote is 30 ayes to 18 noes, and
13569 H.Res. 1261 is reported adversely to the House.
13570 Without objection, the staff is authorized to make

13571 technical and conforming changes to the committee prints
13572 consistent with the actions taken by the committee today.

13573 As we complete this markup tonight, I wanted to thank
13574 Kaitlyn Peel, our digital director, for all of her work in
13575 running these virtual hearings since the beginning of the
13576 pandemic. And I am sure we will -- we all remember those
13577 first fully virtual hearings. Kaitlyn worked with the
13578 recording studio and the other committees to put the
13579 technology in place so that we could begin to hold hearings
13580 again virtually. And she was very patient, training all of
13581 us. She will be leaving committee at the beginning of
13582 October, and we wish her the best in her future endeavors.

13583 And then I would like to request --

13584 [Applause.]

13585 *The Chairman. Yes. Thank you, Kaitlyn.

13586 I request unanimous consent to enter the following
13587 documents into the record: a letter from the National Black
13588 Farmers Association on H.R. 3355; a letter from the American
13589 Society for the Prevention of Cruelty to Animals on H.R.
13590 5441; a letter from the American Horse Council to
13591 Representatives Pallone and McMorris Rodgers on H.R. 5441; a
13592 letter from the American Dental Association on H.R. 5141; a
13593 letter from American Society of Travel Advisors on H.R. 6965;
13594 a letter from the Animal Wellness Action, or from Animal
13595 Wellness Action on H.R. 5441; a letter from the Humane

13596 Society of the United States on H.R. 5441; a letter from the
13597 Animal Welfare Institute on H.R. 5441; a letter from Homes
13598 for Horses Coalition on H.R. 5441; and a letter from the
13599 State Attorney Generals to President Biden; a memo from the
13600 Congressional Research Service; a letter and legal opinion
13601 from the United States Government Accountability Office; a
13602 letter from Senator Wicker to Federal Trade Commission Chair
13603 Khan; a letter from Representatives McMorris Rodgers and
13604 Bilirakis to Federal Trade Commission Chair Khan; a later --
13605 a letter from the American Horse Council to Representative
13606 McMorris Rodgers on H.R. 5441; a letter from 7 organizations
13607 on H.R. 3355; an article from the Antitrust Law Journal
13608 entitled, "Striking the Proper Balance: Redress Under 13(b)
13609 of the FTC Act''; an article from the Antitrust Source
13610 entitled, "Section 13(b) of the FTC Act of the Supreme Court:
13611 The Middle Ground''; a report entitled, "2021 Office of
13612 Personnel Management Federal Employee Viewpoint: Survey
13613 Report by Agency.'' This one is out?

13614 A letter from 29 organizations on H.R. 3355; a
13615 presentation from the North American Electric Reliable --
13616 well, I think we put these two in already. Okay.

13617 Letters from Representatives Eshoo -- we did these two,
13618 right?

13619 And August 31, 2022 -- an August 31, 2022 -- this one --
13620 we did that one, too. Wasn't that Bilirakis? I thought so.

13621 All right, an August 31, 2022 article from Ad Law Access
13622 blog entitled, "The FTC's Mission Statement for 2022 through
13623 2026: Legitimate Business Activity Still Missing in
13624 Action.''

13625 And without objection, so ordered.

13626 [The information follows:]

13627

13628 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

13629

13630 *The Chairman. Boy, there is a lot of interest in all
13631 these bills. All right.

13632 So the committee -- I thank everyone. I know the hour
13633 is late -- what, literally, 12 hours almost, almost 12 hours.

13634 So the committee stands adjourned.

13635 [Whereupon, at 10:04 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]