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6 MARKUP OF:

7 H.R. 2493, IMPROVING CARE IN RURAL AMERICA REAUTHORIZATION
8 ACT OF 2025;

9 H.R. 3419, TO AMEND THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT TO
10 REAUTHORIZE THE TELEHEALTH NETWORK AND TELEHEALTH RESOURCE
11 CENTERS GRANT PROGRAMS;

12 H.R. 2846, TO AMEND TITLE II OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE ACT
13 TO INCLUDE AS AN ADDITIONAL RIGHT OR PRIVILEGE OF
14 COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE PUBLIC HEALTH SERVICE (AND THEIR
15 BENEFICIARIES) CERTAIN LEAVE PROVIDED UNDER TITLE 10, UNITED
16 STATES CODE TO COMMISSIONED OFFICERS OF THE ARMY (OR THEIR
17 BENEFICIARIES);

18 H.R. 1262, GIVE KIDS A CHANCE ACT OF 2025;

19 H.R.1843, TO AMEND THE FEDERAL FOOD, DRUG, AND COSMETIC ACT
20 TO INCREASE TRANSPARENCY IN GENERIC DRUG APPLICATIONS;

21 H.R. 3302, HEALTHY START REAUTHORIZATION ACT OF 2025; AND

22 H.R. 979, AM RADIO FOR EVERY VEHICLE ACT OF 2025.

23 WEDNESDAY, SEPTEMBER 17, 2025

24 House of Representatives,

25 Committee on Energy and Commerce,

26 Washington, D.C.

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30 The committee met, pursuant to call, at 10:04 a.m. in
31 Room 2123, Rayburn House Office Building, Hon. Brett Guthrie
32 [chair of the committee] presiding.

33

34 Present: Representatives Guthrie, Latta, Griffith,
35 Bilirakis, Hudson, Carter of Georgia, Palmer, Dunn, Crenshaw,
36 Joyce, Weber, Allen, Balderson, Fulcher, Pfluger,
37 Harshbarger, Miller-Meeks, Cammack, Obernolte, James, Bentz,
38 Houchin, Fry, Lee, Langworthy, Kean, Rulli, Evans, Goldman,
39 Fedorchak; Pallone, DeGette, Schakowsky, Matsui, Castor,
40 Tonko, Clarke, Ruiz, Peters, Dingell, Veasey, Kelly,
41 Barragan, Soto, Schrier, Trahan, Fletcher, Ocasio-Cortez,
42 Auchincloss, Carter of Louisiana, Menendez, Mullin, Landsman,
43 and McClellan.

44

45 Staff Present: Ansley Boylan, Director of Operations;
46 Jessica Donlon, General Counsel; Eliot Fletcher, GAO
47 Detailee; Kristin Fritsch (Flukey), Professional Staff
48 Member; Matt Furlow, Counsel; Sydney Greene, Director of
49 Finance and Logistics; Jay Gulshen, Chief Counsel; Annabelle
50 Huffman, Clerk; Calvin Huggins, Clerk; Megan Jackson, Staff
51 Director; Noah Jackson, Clerk; Sophie Khanahmadi, Deputy
52 Staff Director; Alex Khlopin, Clerk; Brayden Lacefield,
53 Special Assistant; Giulia Leganski, Chief Counsel; Molly
54 Lolli (Brimmer), Counsel; Sarah Meier, Counsel and
55 Parliamentarian; Joel Miller, Chief Counsel; Jackson Rudden,
56 Clerk; Chris Sarley, Member Services/Stakeholder Director;
57 Emma Schultheis, Policy Analyst; James Stursberg,
58 Professional Staff Member; Timothy Trimble, Staff Assistant;
59 Matt VanHyfte, Communications Director; Jane Vickers, Press
60 Assistant; Lydia Abma, Minority Policy Analyst; Hannah Anton,
61 Minority Policy Analyst; Jennifer Black, Minority
62 Professional Staff Member; Keegan Cardman, Minority Staff
63 Assistant; Giancarlo Ceja, Minority Staff Assistant; Waverly
64 Gordon, Minority Deputy Staff Director and General Counsel;
65 Tiffany Guarascio, Minority Staff Director; Perry Hamilton,
66 Minority Member Services and Outreach Manager; Lisa Hone,
67 Minority Chief Counsel, CMT; Megan Kanne, Minority
68 Professional Staff Member; Una Lee, Minority Chief Counsel,
69 HE; Emma Roehrig, Minority Staff Assistant; Kylea Rogers,

70 Minority Policy Analyst; Andrew Souvall, Minority Director of
71 Communications, Outreach, and Member Services; Hannah Treger,
72 Minority Staff Assistant; and Shae Reinberg, Minority Intern.
73

74 *The Chair. The committee will come to order, and I
75 will recognize myself for an opening statement.

76 I want to thank everyone for being here today. I hope
77 you had a great work period back working at home in August,
78 and I am glad everybody's back.

79 And I first want to tell you we are going to consider
80 very important legislation that extends vital programs that
81 support our nation's public health.

82 Patients in rural areas often face unique challenges
83 with the healthcare system. This includes long travel times,
84 increased wait lists, and shortage of specialized care. H.R.
85 2493, led by my good friend, Mr. Carter of Georgia, would
86 authorize -- reauthorize the Rural Health Services Outreach
87 and Rural Health Network Development programs, which are
88 aimed at increasing access to care in these areas.

89 Additionally, patients across the country have
90 benefitted from increased access to telehealth services.
91 H.R. 3419 would reauthorize the Telehealth Network and
92 Resource Center programs.

93 We also will be considering H.R. 1262, the Give Kids a
94 Chance Act led by Representative McCaul, and H.R. 1843,
95 increasing transparency in generic drug applications, led by
96 Representative Dunn.

97 The Give Kids a Chance Act of 2025 builds on current
98 programs to accelerate research and drug development for rare

99 pediatric diseases, including cancer. One important part of
100 this legislation is the reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric
101 Disease Priority Review Voucher, or PRV. This program
102 provides a critical incentive for companies to develop
103 treatments and cures. Since 2012 the program has proven
104 successful, leading over 50 new treatment approvals for
105 nearly 40 different rare pediatric diseases, many of which
106 had no options prior. I am very pleased we are finally
107 providing certainty to this critical program and the patients
108 that it benefits.

109 In addition, we are considering H.R. 1843, which would
110 increase access to generic drugs by eliminating bureaucratic
111 hurdles and increased transparency during the drug approval
112 process. Both of these bills were considered last Congress
113 in a bipartisan fashion, and look forward to that continued
114 support today.

115 We also will be considering the AM Radio for Every
116 Vehicle Act of 2025, which requires automakers to include AM
117 radio broadcast radio as standard equipment in their
118 vehicles. AM broadcast radio is an important component for
119 vehicles, especially in rural areas. It is the most reliable
120 medium for emergency alerts. And I want to thank Chairman
121 Bilirakis and I want to thank Ranking Member Pallone for
122 their bipartisan efforts with this legislation, which is
123 cosponsored by 37 members of this committee and nearly 300 of

124 our colleagues in the full House.

125 I appreciate the hard work from members and staff on
126 both sides of the aisle for their work on all these
127 bipartisan bills.

128 I will yield back, and I now recognize the gentleman
129 from New Jersey, Representative Pallone, for five minutes for
130 an opening statement.

131 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Today we are
132 marking up seven bills. But before I discuss some of the
133 bills I want to express my disappointment about some health
134 bills that have been left off this markup.

135 At a time when we are facing nationwide shortages of
136 health providers, the Republican majority has decided not to
137 include bills that reauthorize critical health professional
138 development programs. This committee used to prioritize
139 health equity, but I am concerned that committee Republicans
140 are jeopardizing health workforce programs because they do
141 not want to promote diversity in the healthcare workforce.

142 Having a diverse health workforce is important. We need
143 a workforce that is reflective of the communities they serve.
144 Research shows a diverse and representative healthcare
145 workforce improves not only patients' perceptions of the care
146 they receive, but also their access to care and their actual
147 health outcomes.

148 And I am also disturbed that we are not moving the

149 Newborn Screening Reauthorization Act today. The Newborn
150 Screening Program is one of the largest and most successful
151 health promotion programs in the country, with more than
152 14,000 newborn lives saved or improved each year thanks to
153 early diagnosis and treatment of genetic conditions, and it
154 is imperative that we reauthorize this program.

155 While I am disappointed that we are not moving these
156 bills, I am committed to continuing to work on these programs
157 to see them reauthorized.

158 And I am pleased that we are marking up the Healthy
159 Start Reauthorization Act led by Representative Ocasio-
160 Cortez. This program targets communities with the highest
161 rates of infant mortality and women at risk of adverse health
162 outcomes to provide services to women before, during, and
163 after pregnancy. It has been extremely successful in
164 reducing infant mortality and lowering rates of pre-term
165 birth and maternal illness, and I am pleased to see it
166 included in our markup today.

167 We are also considering a bill that will expand access
168 to care for patients with rare diseases and complex medical
169 needs, and increase research and development into rare
170 pediatric diseases. It also improves regulatory certainty,
171 while also strengthening the medical product supply chain and
172 enhancing patient access to lower-cost medicines.
173 Specifically, the bill will allow for disclosure of certain

174 information related to drug formulations to generic drug
175 manufacturers to bring lower-cost medications to patients
176 more quickly.

177 These provisions all advance our goals of accelerating
178 the development and accessibility of novel, safe, effective,
179 and affordable treatments while improving outcomes for
180 patients.

181 And this legislation also gives the Health Resources and
182 Services Administration, HRSA, the authority it needs to
183 continue its work to modernize the Organ Transplant System.
184 This language will allow HRSA to collect registration fees
185 and distribute them among the multiple contractors that will
186 be supporting the Organ Procurement and Transplantation
187 Network. This system is lifesaving for many Americans, and I
188 am glad that we can continue to support these much-needed
189 reforms.

190 And finally, I am pleased that we will be considering
191 the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act, which I introduced with
192 Commerce, Manufacturing, and Trade Subcommittee Chairman
193 Bilirakis. We have been working on this issue bipartisan
194 together for several years, and I am pleased we will advance
195 -- this will advance it to preserve access to analog AM radio
196 in all passenger cars sold in the United States.

197 When Superstorm Sandy hit, my constituents of the Jersey
198 Shore experienced firsthand how vital it is to have easy and

199 free access to timely alerts. AM radio is uniquely resilient
200 and able to travel long distances, which allows public safety
201 officials to spread lifesaving information, even when cell
202 towers, cable, and Internet access is down. Families deserve
203 the peace of mind of knowing that they will have reliable
204 access to emergency alerts without having to pay additional
205 fees for lifesaving information.

206 And besides emergency situations, AM radio programing
207 provides news and community-oriented content in many
208 languages to diverse sets of listeners, including those in
209 rural and tribal communities who often do not have access to
210 other forms of media. So I want to thank Representative
211 Bilirakis. I know how hard he has been working on this and
212 working with me on this important bill.

213 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of
214 my time. Thank you.

215 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
216 reminds members that, pursuant to committee rules, all
217 members have -- members' opening statements will be made part
218 of the record.

219 Are there further opening statements?

220 Seeing none, are there further -- the gentlelady -- for
221 what purpose does the gentlelady from Colorado seek
222 recognition?

223 *Ms. DeGette. I have an opening statement, Mr.

224 Chairman.

225 *The Chair. You are recognized for three minutes.

226 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

227 Today we are marking up several good bipartisan bills.

228 But meanwhile, over in the Senate, one of our counterpart

229 committees is holding a hearing with former CDC director,

230 Susan Monarez, and former deputy CDC director, Debra Houry.

231 Speaking for everyone on my side of the aisle, we are

232 frustrated that this committee is not taking its oversight

233 duties seriously.

234 On September 4 every Democrat on the Health Subcommittee

235 sent you a letter requesting a hearing with RFK, Jr. and

236 former CDC director Monarez regarding her firing and the

237 politicization of science at the agency. I would ask

238 unanimous consent to put that in the record, Mr. Chairman.

239 *The Chair. Without objection, so ordered.

240 [The information follows:]

241

242 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

243

244 *Ms. DeGette. So I just want to ask you the same thing
245 I asked Chairman Griffith last week: Will you commit to
246 holding this kind of a hearing the week of October 6?

247 *The Chair. We have no commitments on scheduling --

248 *Ms. DeGette. Well, we really need to do it.

249 In addition, this Thursday and Friday the Advisory
250 Committee on Immunization Practices, which Secretary Kennedy
251 has stacked with anti-vaccine ideologues, is meeting to
252 consider vaccine recommendations. So again, Mr. Chairman,
253 will you commit to holding an oversight hearing with
254 Secretary Kennedy on the Advisory Committee on Immunization
255 Practices?

256 *The Chair. We will take that under advisement. We
257 don't have any --

258 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you. And by the -- and then, Mr.
259 Chairman, we asked for this committee to conduct oversight on
260 the Trump Administration's illegal gutting of our public
261 health agencies. In a hearing on April 1 you stated, "We
262 have to have the proper oversight to make sure the things
263 that Congress directs the Administration is in place.'" On
264 April 2, the next day, we sent you a letter commending that
265 and asking for some hearings.

266 Mr. Chairman, I would ask unanimous consent to put that
267 letter in the record.

268 *The Chair. Without objection.

269 [The information follows:]

270

271 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

272

273 *Ms. DeGette. So in response, Mr. Chairman, you had a
274 spokesman call our request for oversight "a partisan ploy."`
275 Let me be clear. Wanting to ensure that CDC, FDA, NIH, and
276 other public health agencies can serve the American people is
277 not a partisan ploy.

278 In the meantime, the Trump Administration is
279 eviscerating our cancer research. The New York Times
280 headline from Sunday this week said, "Trump is Shutting Down
281 the War on Cancer."`

282 Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter that article into
283 the record, as well. And conveniently, my staff has a copy
284 for every member of this committee.

285 *The Chair. Without objection, so ordered.

286 [The information follows:]

287

288 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

289

290 *Ms. DeGette. It discusses the firings at NIH, new
291 burdens on researchers, and the horde of political appointees
292 who are interfering with science. Former NIH Director Harold
293 Varmus is quoted saying, "We are great in science. Why would
294 we want to destroy one of our greatest assets?" Every
295 single member of this side of the committee agrees with that.

296 Simply put, the committee is not fulfilling its duties.
297 And today Democrats on this subcommittee are demanding that
298 the committee live up to its obligations and work for the
299 American people and their health care.

300 I yield back.

301 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Are there
302 further opening statements?

303 Seeing none on the Republican -- any on the Democrat
304 side?

305 Seeing none, the chair calls up H.R. 2493, and asks the
306 clerk to report.

307 *The Clerk. H.R. 2493, a bill to reauthorize certain
308 programs regarding rural health --

309 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
310 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
311 amendment at any point.

312 So ordered.

313 [The bill follows:]

314

315 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

316

317 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
318 bill?

319 The gentlelady from Washington, for what purpose do you
320 seek -- the gentlelady from Washington is recognized to speak
321 on the bill.

322 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am really
323 happy that the committee is considering the Improving Care in
324 Rural America Reauthorization Act that I co-lead with
325 Congressman Carter. This is really important for my
326 district's 10,000 square miles, 3 mountain passes, lots of
327 rural clinics, very few providers that a lot of my
328 constituents depend on for their care. And so I am really
329 happy that we are going to have some support for these rural
330 hospitals and clinics.

331 But I just have to point out, like I did last time, some
332 of the hypocrisy and sadness about this bill. I mean, first
333 of all, what these rural clinics and rural hospitals depend
334 on most is Medicaid because they see a disproportionate share
335 of Medicaid and Medicare requiring -- or using patients. And
336 they would much rather have not passed -- have not seen the
337 big, ugly bill pass, would have much preferred to still have
338 their patients have access to Medicaid than to see this.

339 I mean, this is a \$50 billion investment. It is a one-
340 time investment. This is not going to make up for the
341 dramatic cuts to Medicaid that will impact my constituents

342 and the people who rely on these health care programs and the
343 rural clinics and rural hospitals that will go under. I
344 mean, they may not go under immediately, but the first thing
345 to close is going to be labor and delivery. We know that,
346 that is the pattern.

347 And think about those three mountain passes in my
348 district. Think about the women in the winter who might not
349 be able to get over a mountain pass, and the implications
350 both for themselves and for their new babies when things go
351 wrong. I have told the story of Ila before in this
352 committee, and that having that rural hospital and labor and
353 delivery really saved her life.

354 I also just want to mention that now we have a rule for
355 how CMS is going to distribute these funds, and it sounds a
356 lot like the MAHA agenda: wearables, kind of insufficient
357 insurance policies. Basically, states that conform to the
358 agenda of this Administration will be more likely to get
359 those funds, which makes me concerned that, although we are
360 doing a partial right thing here, my state may see none of
361 that benefit unless we kiss the ring.

362 So I am going to vote for this bill today. It is the
363 right thing to do. It is my bill. It will help rural
364 hospitals. But I cannot do that without calling attention to
365 the hypocrisy of what has happened in this committee, and
366 that every single one of my colleagues here voted to make the

367 largest cut ever to Medicaid, and then is trying to make up
368 for that error, which they know is an error, by passing this
369 bill.

370 Thank you, I yield back.

371 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back.
372 The gentleman from Georgia is recognized for five minutes to
373 speak on the bill.

374 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
375 Chairman, I would like to express my support for the
376 bipartisan Improving Care in Rural America Reauthorization
377 Act that I have introduced with Senator Tim Scott. This
378 legislation would reauthorize critical Rural Health Care
379 Services Outreach Programs that increase access to healthcare
380 services in rural communities.

381 Rural residents often encounter barriers to accessing
382 health care, including distance and transportation issues.
383 These roadblocks result in unmet health care needs, leading
384 to a 43 percent higher mortality rate for rural Americans
385 compared to those living in cities and suburbs. The Rural
386 Health Care Services Outreach Program represents one of the
387 Federal Government's most successful rural health grant
388 initiatives. These programs promote innovative solutions
389 that help people in rural communities get the care they need,
390 such as increased access to preventative health services and
391 screenings, chronic care management, and other forms of care

392 that are needed in our rural areas across the United States.

393 In fact, several recipients in Georgia benefit from this
394 program, including the Southern Health Care Collaboration in
395 Baxley, Georgia. By reauthorizing Rural Health [sic]
396 Services Outreach Program, this bill will lead to increased
397 access to health care services for rural communities in 2020.

398 President Trump signed into law legislation
399 reauthorizing rural health outreach services programs under
400 the 2020 CARES Act through fiscal year 2025. The Improving
401 Care in Rural America and Reauthorization Act of 2025 will
402 extend these critical programs through 2030. Further bill
403 changes will ensure that local rural needs are prioritized in
404 grant awards.

405 I applaud Senator Scott for introducing this bill with
406 me, and I urge my colleagues to support it.

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

408 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
409 further discussion on the bill?

410 The gentleman from New -- the gentleman from Louisiana
411 is recognized for five minutes to speak on the bill.

412 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
413 move to strike the last word.

414 As a Member of Congress, the only Member of Congress to
415 sit on this committee representing the State of Louisiana, I
416 fully support bipartisan legislation like the Improving Care

417 in Rural American -- America Reauthorization Act of 2025
418 which extends key rural health programs in Health Resources
419 and Services Administration, HRSA, and helps rural and
420 underserved communities states like mine. In fact, 44 of
421 Louisiana's 64 parishes are designated as fully or partially
422 rural, and approximately 29.1 percent of Louisiana's
423 population currently live in rural areas.

424 Programs like the Rural Health Care Services Outreach
425 Program, Rural Health Network Development Program, and Small
426 Health Care Provider Quality Improvement are lifelines for
427 providers and patients in rural and underserved communities.
428 In fiscal year 2025 Louisiana was awarded 199 -- in funding
429 from the Small Health Care Provider Quality Improvement
430 Program which provides patient health outcomes and the
431 quality and delivery of rural health care services in primary
432 care settings.

433 This is about ensuring everyone has access to quality
434 health care. Patients living in rural areas and underserved
435 communities often travel long distances for health care in
436 urban areas. These communities often experience higher
437 provider shortages and facility closures. That is why I was
438 also proud to introduce the bipartisan legislation that would
439 increase community-based training opportunities for medical
440 students in rural and medically underserved communities.

441 Bipartisan legislation that strengthens our health

workforce and supports programs that serve rural and underserved communities is how we build a better health care system, ensure access to quality care for everyone, and fight health care disparities. This is something we all can agree on. Just last week the Health Subcommittee held a markup to advance Improving Care in Rural America Reauthorization Act and several other bills that would do exactly that, including Representative Schakowsky's bill, H.R. 4262, to reauthorize HRSA's title VII Healthcare Workforce Program, which is why I find it interesting that H.R. 4262 was not included in the full committee markup today.

HRSA's title VII health workforce programs would critically address health disparities and provider shortages -- crisis in rural communities like my Republican colleagues claim they care so much about. Let's prove that you really care. Unfortunately, they would rather get caught up on the word "diversity" than try to address these issues, which, to be clear, are not mutually exclusive.

Title VII programs help recruit, train, and retain a diverse health workforce to meet the unique needs of different populations, including those in rural and underserved communities. Increasing the number of providers in this country will improve access to health care for everyone and lead to better health outcomes for patients overall, especially those in rural and underserved

467 communities.

468 I encourage my Republican colleagues to put semantics
469 aside and not lose sight of the rural and underserved
470 communities that would benefit from these programs.

471 I yield back.

472 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
473 further discussion on the bill?

474 Seeing none, for what -- their amendment -- are there
475 any amendments?

476 The gentlelady from Florida, for what purpose do you
477 seek recognition?

478 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment at the desk. It is
479 Castor_031.

480 *The Chair. The clerk will report.

481 *The Clerk. Amendment to H.R. 2493 --

482 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
483 amendment is dispensed with.

484 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

485

486 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

487

488 *The Chair. And the gentlelady from Florida is
489 recognized for five minutes in support of her amendment.

490 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and good morning,
491 colleagues. My amendment would insert permanent extension of
492 the current ACA Affordable Care Act tax credits.

493 Colleagues, all across the country right now, families
494 and small business owners are really grappling with -- they
495 are bracing for higher health insurance premiums due to the
496 provisions of the big, ugly bill. This comes at a rotten
497 time because they are already having to pencil out how am I
498 going to pay my utility bill, groceries, housing. And it
499 does not have to be this way when it comes to their health
500 insurance. There is still time for the Congress to help the
501 families and small business owners we represent back home,
502 fix the broken health care system, and keep health insurance
503 affordable for so many of our neighbors who do not have
504 health insurance through their employer.

505 Colleagues, this would be the fiscally responsible and
506 ethically right thing to do to fix one of the major flaws in
507 the big, ugly bill, to reinstate the tax credits that make
508 coverage affordable. These tax credits are cost saving and
509 they are lifesaving.

510 And when it comes to rural communities, the Rural --
511 National Rural Health Association projects that rural
512 enrollees will see premiums nearly double, with an average

513 increase of \$133 a month, and rural areas are projected to
514 see a 30 percent drop in marketplace coverage and a 37
515 percent rise in the number of people without insurance.

516 And when so many people do not have insurance, that
517 affects everyone because where did they go for their health
518 care then? Often times they will wind up in the emergency
519 room, and that means that ERs back up so you will have longer
520 waiting times.

521 But then all of those costs migrate to health insurance
522 premiums for everyone else. That is not fair and that is not
523 right, and that is why over the past few weeks since the big,
524 ugly bill was passed, hospitals have been very outspoken.
525 Doctors, nurses, advocates have been here saying, wait, wait,
526 wait a minute. What you have done here is really going to
527 cause a lot of pain across the board. I hope everyone is
528 listening to them.

529 We really should take advantage of this opportunity to
530 fix this major inequity in the big, ugly bill that gave tax
531 breaks to the wealthy and the well-connected, but then took
532 away these advanced -- enhanced Premium Tax Credits that
533 helped make people -- give them the ability to have health
534 insurance.

535 And there are a lot of Floridians on this committee, and
536 this really hits home in the Sunshine State because we didn't
537 expand Medicaid, we have over 4.7 million Florida families

538 who rely on these tax credits. And I am beseeching you. The
539 time to act is now to get them reinstated. Nearly 4.1
540 million of those -- we have 4.7 million in the ACA, 4.1 used
541 the tax credits to pay for their premiums and keep their
542 coverage for their families.

543 Think about the cancer patient now that -- they are
544 going to have an interruption in service. Where do they go?
545 For that family that -- they are doing everything right, and
546 they are probably working part-time and taking care of the
547 kids, but they don't have an employer that offers health
548 insurance, and now you are not -- you are taking away the
549 pathway for them to do the responsible thing and keep their
550 family covered. It is not right. These tax credits have
551 helped Americans afford high-quality coverage since 2021, and
552 it is part of the important fix, making sure that this
553 insurance coverage is still available to them.

554 Every member in this room I know has heard from
555 neighbors and doctors and hospitals who are saying act now.
556 And I heard the Speaker yesterday say, oh, we are -- maybe we
557 will wait until December. We can't wait until December
558 because the insurance companies now are already planning
559 their open enrollment. Open enrollment starts over the next
560 couple of months. We have to act before the end of
561 September, before it is too late. Americans simply cannot
562 afford another -- this is essentially a tax increase that you

563 have given them, and they can't afford that right now with
564 everything else that is coming down upon them. The pain and
565 the harm and the risk to families is simply too high for us
566 not to act.

567 So I am beseeching you to approve this amendment, and
568 let's all get to work on helping our neighbors instead of the
569 powerful special interests that often have too much power
570 here in Washington, D.C.

571 I yield back my time.

572 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back, and the chair
573 recognizes himself for five minutes to speak on the
574 amendment.

575 I just want to clarify. It was stated that the working
576 families tax cut, the big beautiful -- removed these tax
577 credits. That is just not accurate. The Inflation Reduction
578 Act set the expiration date for these tax credits on the date
579 that it was. So I didn't vote for the Inflation Reduction
580 Act. I don't think anybody on our side voted for the
581 Inflation Reduction Act. But the expiration of these tax
582 cuts was set during the Inflation Reduction Act. The working
583 families' tax cuts did not make these expire. Anything we
584 did in that bill did not make these expire. So I just want
585 to be --

586 *Ms. DeGette. Will you yield?

587 *The Chair. Yes, I will.

588 *Ms. DeGette. Does that mean that you oppose extension
589 of those tax credits?

590 *The Chair. I didn't say I oppose the --

591 *Ms. DeGette. But you --

592 *The Chair. -- extension of the tax credits.

593 *Ms. DeGette. -- didn't vote for it the first time.

594 *The Chair. But I just wanted to say that, if you are
595 saying that you chose tax breaks and credits, the Inflation
596 Reduction Act is full of tax breaks and credits, particularly
597 to higher-income people who buy electric cars, invest in
598 other types of industries. And when you took -- when you all
599 voted to take money out of Medicare Part D and spend it in
600 other ways, you could have extended the tax credits further.

601 So it is just not accurate to say that the working
602 family tax cut removed these tax credits.

603 *Ms. DeGette. If the gentleman will further yield,
604 then, so you didn't answer my question. Do you support
605 extending these tax credits?

606 *Ms. DeGette. We are discussing, as you said, with the
607 Speaker to try to figure out what the next path is. But it
608 is not -- we -- I just want to correct the statement that the
609 working families tax cut did not remove the tax credits that
610 you are talking about. That was just -- that -- the date in
611 the -- do you deny that the date for this expiration was in
612 the Inflation Reduction Act? Is that not accurate, that the

613 Inflation Reduction Act set the expiration date for these tax
614 credits?

615 *Ms. DeGette. Oh you are correct. I am just asking if
616 you support extending --

617 *The Chair. Well, I am asking you back. Am I not
618 correct that --

619 *Ms. DeGette. No, you are correct.

620 *The Chair. Okay.

621 *Ms. DeGette. Absolutely. That is why we have to
622 extend it.

623 *The Chair. Hopefully, we will look for an opportunity
624 to do some work on this.

625 So I will yield to the gentleman from Florida, unless
626 you want your own time.

627 Okay, I will yield back and I will yield to the
628 gentleman from -- well, does anybody seek recognition to
629 speak on the -- the gentlelady from California is recognized
630 for five minutes.

631 *Ms. Matsui. Okay.

632 *The Chair. To speak on the amendment.

633 *Ms. Matsui. Yes. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike the
634 last word.

635 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

636 *Ms. Matsui. First of all, I would like to thank my
637 colleague, Representative Castor, for offering this amendment

638 because this is not business as usual.

639 We are staring down a complete health care catastrophe,
640 and Republicans are completely turning a blind eye. They cut
641 almost \$1 trillion from Medicaid, kicking over 15 million
642 Americans off their health insurance. Now they want to add
643 fuel to the fire. They are refusing to extend the Premium
644 Tax Credits that 20 million Americans rely on. Apparently,
645 they are comfortable letting working families and small
646 businesses pay thousands of dollars more in monthly premiums.

647 Now, let me be crystal clear. This isn't a December
648 problem; it is a right-now problem. My constituents are
649 getting their rate notices next month. I have over 27,000
650 constituents who rely upon these subsidies, and they are
651 going to see an average increase of \$121 a month. Now, that
652 might not mean anything to all of you, but it means a lot to
653 my families. That is over double what they are currently
654 paying, and that is just for a single person. The average
655 family of four would see health care premiums increased by
656 thousands of dollars a year. Families are going to be forced to
657 decide between keeping their health care coverage or paying
658 for school supplies, rent, or utilities, and that is simply
659 unacceptable.

660 And I yield back.

661 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
662 further discussion on the Republican side?

663 Seeing none, is there any on the Democrat -- Mr. Tonko,
664 do you still have your hand up? Did you -- I thought Mr.
665 Tonko -- okay.

666 Then Mr. -- the gentleman from Florida is recognized for
667 five minutes. Did you want -- okay, Mr. -- the gentleman
668 from Florida is recognized for five minutes to speak on the
669 amendment.

670 *Mr. Soto. Thank you, Chairman.

671 Extra, extra, read all about it, huge health care hike
672 is coming November 1 if Republicans don't join Democrats to
673 help with the Premium Tax Credit. We could see increases of
674 up to 75 percent.

675 I have the second-most Obamacare of any district in the
676 nation. All top 10 are in Florida. Republicans and
677 Democrats, if you are from Florida or Texas in particular,
678 these are the biggest exchanges in the nation -- and
679 California, too. We could see 100,000-plus of our
680 constituents lose health insurance or see increases of 1,500
681 to \$15,000. And now the older you are and the more money you
682 make, but are pre-Medicare, the more of a hit you are going
683 to get. And I can tell you back in central Florida, these
684 are folks who vote. No doubt about it. This is a ticking
685 time bomb.

686 So we have this budget vote coming up on September 30,
687 where we can either include it in time for the November 1

688 open enrollment or not. And I know this is what we are
689 asking for in this upcoming budget vote, that we come
690 together. We know that this would be even more of a health
691 care hit than some of the Medicaid cuts next year and the
692 following year. And so we are pleading for Democratic
693 districts, for Republican districts, for folks across
694 America, that we get this done, that we extend the Premium
695 Tax Credit, that we continue to keep Obamacare affordable for
696 millions and millions of Americans.

697 You know, when I was a small business owner -- so many
698 Floridians are small business owners -- I would pay for my
699 employees to get their health care on the Obamacare exchange.
700 A lot of Florida businesses are small to mid-sized
701 businesses. They don't have employer-based health care.
702 This is how 4.6 million Floridians get their health care.

703 Also, seniors who are not old enough for Medicare -- 60,
704 61, 63, 65 -- this has been very popular with that group, as
705 well, folks who aren't retired yet but want to be, and are
706 paying thousands of dollars a month prior to these Premium
707 Tax Credits. This made it affordable for them again.

708 So I am hoping that folks will come together -- this
709 affects districts across the aisle in Florida, Texas, and
710 other states -- so we avoid this huge health care hike on
711 November 1.

712 And with that I yield back.

713 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
714 further discussion?

715 The gentleman from New York is recognized for five
716 minutes to speak on the amendment.

717 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
718 last word.

719 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

720 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you.

721 I don't understand why everyone in this room isn't
722 demanding that we extend the ACA tax credits. The deadline
723 is approaching, and insurance companies are making decisions
724 about increasing premiums as we speak.

725 It is bad enough that Republicans' big, ugly bill will
726 take health care away from millions of currently insured
727 Americans in a cynical ploy to deliver tax cuts to the super
728 rich. That is cruel, and I just can't wrap my head around
729 taking away health care from your own constituents by
730 prioritizing tax cuts to billionaires and letting ACA tax
731 credits expire.

732 If Republicans follow through with plans to let these
733 tax credits expire, simply millions more will lose access to
734 their health care. On top of that, premiums will increase
735 for millions of more people who don't get the tax credit
736 because the costs of uncompensated care get passed on to
737 everyone remaining as increased premiums.

738 Americans deserve access to affordable health care. We
739 have made that very clear when we pushed forward the
740 Affordable Care Act. No one wants to see their premiums rise
741 by 20 percent, knowing that their Member of Congress could
742 easily stop this. I ask my Republican colleagues to reverse
743 course and support the extension of these ACA tax credits.
744 It is the right thing to do.

745 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

746 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is anyone
747 seeking recognition?

748 The gentlelady from Michigan is recognized for five
749 minutes.

750 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
751 the last word on Representative Castor's amendment.

752 As my other colleagues have said -- and I know, people,
753 why do we have to do it now? Because this is when bills are
754 moving, and the -- they expire at the end of the year. But
755 the marketplace, as has been said, opens on November 1, and
756 middle-class families are going to see large and painful tax
757 hikes as a result. Families who are already stretched thin,
758 who are talking to us about affordability and costs
759 everywhere, are simply not going to be able to afford it.

760 Allowing the subsidies to expire would exacerbate the
761 damaging effects of health care as a result of -- I am sorry,
762 I know you call it the Big, Beautiful Bill, but it is not to

763 me and the people that -- who have been telling me about what
764 is happening to their health care. As a result of its
765 enactment, health care costs are expected to go up for
766 everyone, not just those who will be impacted by the drastic
767 Medicaid cuts in the bill.

768 Here is a reality. In Michigan, Blue Cross Blue Shield
769 has already asked for an 18 percent increase. State by
770 state, the insurance companies are already asking for
771 increases around 20, 24, 26 percent, depending which state it
772 is. And if these tax credits aren't renewed, we are already
773 being told people's premiums are going to go up 75 percent on
774 top of what the insurance companies are already doing.
775 People are going to leave the marketplace due to higher
776 premiums, which were already stressed by increasing health
777 care costs. Too many people are simply going to forgo health
778 insurance, enrollees are going to be sicker on average, less
779 people are going to be covered, and everyone else's premiums
780 are going to go up.

781 You know, after we passed the big -- I will behave today
782 -- bill on the House floor, I got a call that my mother was
783 being rushed to the hospital by ambulance, and I raced home
784 and sat in that emergency room all weekend while she and many
785 others waited for a bed because they had to be admitted. And
786 all I could think about was the health care system is already
787 broken and we are only making it worse.

788 The Congressional Budget Office estimates that allowing
789 these credits to expire will kick over 4.2 million Americans
790 off their health insurance, in addition to 10 million who are
791 expected to lose it because of the bill that was passed
792 earlier this year. These changes could also lead insurers to
793 scale back on plans or pull out of the ACA market completely.
794 CVS Health's Aetna has already announced it is going to exit
795 the marketplace in 2026, which means all their enrollees have
796 to find new coverage, and many of them may not.

797 People who receive health insurance through their
798 employer could also see their out-of-pocket costs jump, as
799 insurers adjust to the changes in this policy. By allowing
800 these credits to expire, Republicans will harm the exact
801 people they say they want to help with the enactment of their
802 destructive bill. They are going to hurt middle-class
803 families.

804 This would also hit small businesses, as roughly 30
805 percent of the marketplace enrollees are self-employed. Not
806 only could it raise health care costs for small business
807 owners, it could have a wide-reaching effect in the economy
808 by slowing business creation and job growth.

809 These cuts are creating uncertainty that is going to
810 impact the entire industry and hurt everyone. That is why I
811 support Representative Castor's amendment to permanently
812 extend these tax credits. We must protect Americans' access

813 to affordable health care and avoid harmful economic
814 consequences.

815 Thank you, and I yield back.

816 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The
817 recognition -- Mr. Veasey from Texas is recognized for five
818 minutes to speak on the amendment.

819 *Mr. Veasey. I move to strike the last word.

820 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

821 *Mr. Veasey. Well, we sat here literally all day and
822 all night, saying that this was going to be a problem and
823 that this was a five-alarm fire that was being set. And
824 instead of helping put the five-alarm fire out, Republicans
825 were running around with matches.

826 And let me just remind everybody about how we got here,
827 because back in the summer Republicans slashed hundreds of
828 billions of dollars from Medicaid, literally, like I said, in
829 the dead of the night. And that was a gut punch to the
830 poorest and sickest Americans. Then just last week we came
831 together on a bipartisan basis to pass bills that would have
832 strengthened our strained health care workforce and protected
833 newborn screening programs that save babies lives. We made
834 real bipartisan progress. But when it came for today's
835 markup, those bills literally went up in smoke, and now
836 Republicans are trying to take a sledgehammer to the
837 Affordable Care Act by taking away a direct discount that

838 makes health care coverage more affordable, which, in this
839 economy, people want more affordable.

840 And let me explain what that means. The ACA's Premium
841 Tax Credits are what keep people's premiums down. They are
842 the difference between a \$200 monthly bill or a \$1,200-a-
843 month bill. They are the reason a waitress in Dallas can
844 afford to take her child to the doctor instead of choosing
845 between groceries and a checkup. That is why a self-employed
846 truck driver in Fort Worth doesn't have to choose between
847 insulin and rent. That is why a small business owner in
848 Arlington can cover herself and her employees without going
849 under.

850 And let's be real, if you are a self-employed business
851 owner facing a \$1,200 a month premium when you can enroll in
852 your -- when you can go to enroll in your plan online this
853 November, you might choose to just walk away from your
854 computer and go without it. Most probably would. I think I
855 probably would. That is the reality Texans will face if
856 these subsidies disappear.

857 And if Republicans get their way, your premiums are
858 going to skyrocket and millions of Americans will get priced
859 out of coverage. And in Texas, which is a state that already
860 has the highest uninsured rate in the nation -- we are almost
861 at four million people who rely on these subsidies -- the
862 bottom, literally, is going to fall out.

863 And so let's not pretend this is about budgets. This is
864 about politics, plain and simple, because people are
865 whispering in Republicans' ears and telling them, "Dismantle
866 the ACA, tear it down, strip it away.'" And my colleagues on
867 this committee are nodding along and happy to do their dirty
868 work, avoiding honest conversations, even if it means their
869 own constituents are going to lose health care, even if it
870 means their own constituents are going to lose health care.

871 This cruelty is compounded. First they cut Medicaid,
872 then they abandon newborn screening and critical workforce
873 programs, and now they want to rip away a health subsidy that
874 almost four million Texans rely on. Those subsidies away --
875 when you take those subsidies away and you don't just hurt
876 the 4 million Texans, you literally threaten the health care
877 of 24 million Americans, your neighbors, your co-workers,
878 your parents who get their work and their -- who get their
879 coverage from the marketplace.

880 And so let me be perfectly clear. If my colleagues
881 across the aisle know what is good for their constituents,
882 then they will vote to make these premium subsidies
883 permanent. It is not that hard.

884 I yield back.

885 *The Chair. Would the gentleman yield for a second? I
886 just want to -- would the gentleman yield?

887 *Mr. Veasey. I yield.

888 *The Chair. On the newborn screening, I know we had
889 some technical assistance back that we are all working on. I
890 want to work with you on that.

891 In the state legislature I authorized -- I was the major
892 sponsor for newborn hearing screening, and so that is
893 something we want to do, so we will work with you on that.

894 *Mr. Veasey. Thank you.

895 *The Chair. All right. And I want to say the
896 gentlelady from Massachusetts had her hand up the whole time,
897 so I am going to call on her, but this is a -- this bill
898 actually amends the Social Security Act, which -- the
899 amendment does, I am sorry, the amendment does, which is in
900 jurisdiction of Ways and Means. But I know the gentlelady
901 from Massachusetts had her hand up the whole time. And if a
902 couple of you want to speak, we want to kind of move on with
903 the bill, but it looks like the gentlelady from Texas -- I
904 will let you guys speak, but we need to move on to the bill.

905 So the gentlelady from Massachusetts is recognized.

906 *Mrs. Trahan. Thanks. I move to strike the last word
907 in support of Congresswoman Castor's amendment.

908 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

909 *Mrs. Trahan. Thank you. The enhanced ACA Premium Tax
910 Credits are set to expire at the end of the year, but I think
911 the point that has been made by so many of my colleagues is
912 that families are already making decisions for their 2026

913 coverage and seeing their premiums go up right now. And
914 let's not get wrapped around an axle on process. You know,
915 we reauthorize and we renew programs that work and help
916 American families every year. We do that on this committee.
917 If Congress fails to act, another 4.2 million Americans are
918 going to lose their health insurance, according to the CBO,
919 and premiums are going to nearly double. That will force
920 families to choose between keeping their coverage and paying
921 for the basics like housing, food, and utilities.

922 In Massachusetts over 200,000 people will see their
923 financial support reduced or eliminated if these tax credits
924 expire, and premiums rising by hundreds of dollars each month
925 and thousands each year, putting affordable coverage out of
926 reach. Insurers are already incorporating the expiration
927 into their 2026 rate setting, which means families will soon
928 lose or they will soon see those higher premiums baked into
929 their options unless Congress steps in.

930 A constituent of mine from Gardner, Massachusetts
931 recently wrote to me and he said, "My beautiful, happy nine-
932 year-old granddaughter was recently diagnosed with epilepsy,
933 and it is killing me to watch her struggle on a daily basis.
934 I am hoping you can help her and all the other children
935 affected by this awful disease and get the help that they
936 need to cover medical bills.'" Her family, like so many
937 others, depends on the enhanced ACA tax credits to keep their

938 coverage affordable. Letting those credits expire would make
939 it harder for families managing serious health conditions to
940 afford the care that they need.

941 And the enhanced tax credits are a lifeline for families
942 with low incomes and a critical protection for middle-class
943 families who would otherwise face crushing premium costs.
944 Letting them expire would reverse years of progress in making
945 health care affordable.

946 So, you know, our Republican colleagues just passed the
947 biggest health care cut in our country's history by slashing
948 Medicaid and doing nothing while millions of Americans face
949 devastating premium increases. You know, in this committee
950 especially, the inaction is -- it is an embarrassment. But
951 we have a chance to change that right now, to stop the
952 devastation to American families right here in this
953 committee. We should extend the enhanced ACA tax credits
954 right now to provide families with stability, lower costs,
955 and peace of mind, and I urge my colleagues to vote yes.

956 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. Again, this
957 isn't our jurisdiction.

958 The gentlelady from Texas -- oh, I am sorry.

959 *Mrs. Fletcher. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Thank you. I
960 appreciate the time to speak in support of Ms. Castor's
961 amendment. And I will try to be brief, but I do think it is
962 important.

963 I want to associate myself with the comments that many
964 of my colleagues have made, including my colleague, Mr.
965 Veasey from Texas, talking about how many Texans rely on
966 these Premium Tax Credits.

967 In my district -- there are 125,000 people that rely on
968 these tax credits in Texas. My number was 3.4 million, but I
969 think Mr. Veasey's is a little higher because more and more
970 people have been using them and need them and are about to
971 lose them.

972 And I met yesterday with a non-profit health care
973 provider in my district, talking about how dire the situation
974 is at home, how important it is that we deal with this at
975 this moment as people are about to get their coverage letters
976 explaining the increase in their premiums, explaining why --
977 they are about to find out how much the cost of having
978 insurance, if they can get it at all, is going to go up.

979 And so we have an opportunity and a moment where we
980 really need to address this crisis that is coming. And what
981 I heard -- and I have a couple of things I want to offer for
982 the record so that we can make sure we keep this, but from --
983 our hospitals estimate that the premiums for folks in my area
984 in Harris County and people across Texas, the premium
985 increase is estimated to be 115 percent, 115 percent of the
986 premiums. People paying \$1,000 a month now for their family
987 are going to pay more than \$2,000 a month. That is a huge

988 cost increase.

989 There is also an estimate that they can't afford it, and
990 so we are going to increase our uninsured rate in the state
991 with the worst uninsured rate in the country, the highest
992 uninsured rate in the country, that -- the uninsured rate
993 could go up by about 27 percent. This isn't partisan, this
994 isn't politicians. These are the hospitals giving us these
995 estimates.

996 And so, you know, what the hospitals explained to us --
997 and I would love to share the letter that they provided to me
998 and to the members of our delegation for the record -- is
999 that these credits really stabilize the entire health care
1000 system, and that is the piece. We need to connect the dots
1001 in this room where we have this expertise and where this is
1002 our jurisdiction to say that we understand that these are
1003 helping keep people getting preventative care, keeping them
1004 out of emergency rooms, that these credits are absolutely
1005 essential to making sure that we continue trying to make more
1006 affordable access to care available for more people, and that
1007 we are doing the wrong things right now. This Congress is
1008 moving things in the wrong direction, as many people have
1009 mentioned.

1010 You know, our hospital estimate that is in this letter
1011 is that a Texas couple in their early sixties are going to
1012 see their premiums go up by \$17,500 a year. We can do

1013 something about that right now, and we absolutely have to.

1014 And so the other thing I will just point out, another
1015 letter I would like to offer for the record -- and we will
1016 get these to you electronically, Mr. Chairman, if I can
1017 introduce it -- is that the Greater Houston Partnership,
1018 which represents the business community, supports extending
1019 the enhanced Premium Tax Credits, and that is our business
1020 community. That folks across our community understand the
1021 impact that the expiration of these credits is going to have
1022 on people across our community, it is going to hurt
1023 individual families, it is going to hurt businesses, it is
1024 going to hurt our hospital systems, it is going to hurt the
1025 people that we are here to represent. And so I think we have
1026 an opportunity here.

1027 The other and the last thing I want to say with the time
1028 I have left -- and again, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate you
1029 yielding to me for this -- is that we are already seeing our
1030 communities have to figure out how to make up the difference
1031 for this. And in Harris County, where I live, our county
1032 commissioners just approved a property tax hike to pay for
1033 what they expect to be a \$1 billion shortfall in Federal
1034 funding for health care. And so that is covered in our local
1035 paper, that they voted to increase the property taxes because
1036 we are expecting a billion dollars in Medicaid cuts to be
1037 implemented from the votes that this Congress took just a

1038 couple of months ago.

1039 So people are feeling it everywhere, and it is really
1040 important that we do what we can to mitigate this. This is
1041 good policy. This is widely supported. People want us to
1042 continue these credits. There is no reason not to extend
1043 them.

1044 I understand the concern about whether this falls in our
1045 committee's jurisdiction, but I think our committee should
1046 vote yes. I think that we should, and we should encourage
1047 the Ways and Means Committee and others across the Congress
1048 to make sure that we do this as soon as possible before
1049 people get those notices in their mailboxes in the next
1050 couple of weeks.

1051 So thank you, Mr. Chairman. I would like permission to
1052 introduce those three documents to the record.

1053 *The Chair. The ones that you offered up, if -- without
1054 objection, so ordered.

1055 [The information follows:]

1056

1057 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1058

1059 *Mrs. Fletcher. Great. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and
1060 with that I will yield back.

1061 *The Chair. All right. Remember, the word -- the
1062 gentlelady from California is recognized.

1063 *Ms. Barragan. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to
1064 strike the last word in support of this amendment.

1065 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

1066 *Ms. Barragan. It has been interesting to sit here and
1067 listen to my Republican colleagues say things: "We want to
1068 move on," or, "This is not in our jurisdiction." But the
1069 last time I checked, Energy and Commerce did everything on
1070 health care. And we hear members talk about health care
1071 issues all the time, all kinds of angles of them. But you
1072 know why they don't want to talk about it? Because
1073 Republicans are not for health care for the American people.
1074 They are okay, they are okay with people being kicked off of
1075 their health care. They are okay with your health care
1076 premiums going up.

1077 There is a spending bill under consideration right now,
1078 and Republicans don't want to talk about health care. They
1079 don't want to talk about anything in health care. Why?
1080 Because they just voted to kick millions of people off of
1081 their health care. Are they doing anything in this bill to
1082 undo that? No. Are they doing anything in this bill to
1083 foresee the concerns on Medicare that are coming? No. Are

1084 they doing anything to have prices go down on health care?

1085 No, they are not doing that either.

1086 [Chart]

1087 *Ms. Barragan. This chart right here just shows you and
1088 illustrates higher cost. If you are an American out there
1089 and you are experiencing higher cost -- and I don't know
1090 about you, but I get the calls -- isn't this the party that
1091 ran on lower cost? We are going to lower your cost. What
1092 has been happening? Everything is going up. Prices are
1093 going up, and your health care included. And they are doing
1094 nothing about it. On the contrary, everything they are doing
1095 is making prices go up, from tariffs to policies to this very
1096 policy here on health care.

1097 So let's look at the chart. Let's see how much the
1098 average monthly health insurance premium is expected to rise
1099 for a 60-year-old couple making \$80,000. Pennsylvania's 10th
1100 district. It is a Republican district. Premiums would rise
1101 by over 400 percent. That is more than \$2,000 a month. Who
1102 is in charge? Republicans are in charge. They don't want to
1103 talk about it. They want to move on.

1104 So when you think about who is fighting for your health
1105 care, it is House Democrats. At every step Republicans don't
1106 want to talk about it, they don't want to vote on it.

1107 Let's look at Colorado's 8th district. One of my
1108 colleagues in this committee represents Colorado's 8th

1109 district. Is he standing up, saying, hey, we got to save
1110 health care? Do we want to lower premiums? Well, in
1111 Colorado's 8th district premiums would rise by over 200
1112 percent, over \$1,000 a month.

1113 And in Michigan's 10th district premiums would increase
1114 by 145 percent. That is almost \$900 a month. As a direct
1115 result, nearly 4 million people will lose their coverage in
1116 2026 because they won't be able to afford the premiums.

1117 Look, we all know the health care system in America is
1118 broken. We hear it day in and day out. Why? Because we
1119 don't invest in the prevention. We invest when something has
1120 already gone wrong, and those costs go up. How do you save
1121 money? You invest in prevention. How do you do that? Make
1122 sure people have access to health care. It is not rocket
1123 science, yet we make it rocket science.

1124 And there is every excuse in the book why my colleagues
1125 across the aisle don't want to talk about health care because
1126 they are not doing anything about it. They are doing nothing
1127 to lower your costs on health care. People should not lose
1128 their coverage because of politics. Health care is not a
1129 Democrat issue, it is not a Republican issue. Everybody
1130 should have access to see a doctor.

1131 And so with that, Mr. Chairman, I really don't want to
1132 hear that this is not in our jurisdiction, because health
1133 care and the American people is in my jurisdiction. And the

1134 people I represent, that is in my jurisdiction. And for
1135 every Member of Congress that is elected, it should be in
1136 their jurisdiction that costs are going up and that we are
1137 going to do something to stop it.

1138 And there is a spending bill right now, and you see
1139 people's values and their priorities by seeing what they want
1140 to do and what they don't. And Republicans don't want to
1141 bring your costs down on health care, and they don't want to
1142 save your health care.

1143 And with that I yield back.

1144 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
1145 from Virginia is recognized for five minutes.

1146 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, I didn't really want to
1147 engage, because under the rules of the House it is really not
1148 something that is before us, and it is one of things -- it is
1149 why I think we should actually adhere to our germaneness
1150 rules right at the beginning, instead of -- we have had
1151 gotten into this practice of giving everybody the courtesy,
1152 but then we get into these rhetorical matches where people
1153 get excited and they say things maybe they ought not.

1154 And I would just advise everybody that, based on what we
1155 have been trying to do the last week as a result of rhetoric,
1156 let's all take a deep breath and try to tone down the
1157 rhetoric. That is for everybody.

1158 But that is why I didn't want to engage, because I find

1159 it interesting that some of the arguments my colleagues make
1160 -- and I know that they are sincere and they are passionate,
1161 but that doesn't mean they are right. And so,
1162 notwithstanding the fact that this is not germane, that it is
1163 not in our committee's jurisdiction, that it would not be
1164 proper and would not be recognized to go forward, and
1165 notwithstanding the fact that folks don't want to follow the
1166 rules -- I understand all that, they just want to get it
1167 done, forget the rules, forget the Rules of the House, forget
1168 all of this and move forward.

1169 But here is the problem that I am looking at.

1170 *Ms. DeGette. Well, Mr. --

1171 *Mr. Griffith. I am looking at --

1172 *Ms. DeGette. Will you yield?

1173 *Mr. Griffith. Not right this second.

1174 *Ms. DeGette. Okay.

1175 *Mr. Griffith. And the problem that I am looking at is
1176 that when we had the reconciliation bill -- and I know you
1177 all didn't like it, and that is fine, but there were
1178 meaningful reforms to the ACA exchanges as a part of that.
1179 And CBO scored those proposals in the Tax Cuts for Working
1180 Families bill addressing waste, fraud, and abuse in the ACA
1181 marketplace, and said in their scoring that it would deliver
1182 lower premiums to millions of America on the ACA exchanges.

1183 And then I would say to everybody, let's listen to what

1184 you are actually saying, and take a look at it because what I
1185 heard one of your members say -- and I didn't jump in because
1186 I wanted us just to tamp it down, and let's move forward with
1187 what we can agree on, and I think a lot of these bills we are
1188 doing today we can agree on -- is that if we get rid of the
1189 enhanced Premium Tax Credits, insurance will not be
1190 affordable. But understand, this was a program brought about
1191 by Democrats when they controlled all three branches, and
1192 they put a five-year limitation on it.

1193 So the cliff that we are coming up on is a cliff created
1194 by my colleagues on the other side, and it was supposed to be
1195 a limited program because it was supposed to address the fact
1196 that a lot of people were unemployed because of COVID and
1197 they needed Premium Tax Credit help on their health insurance
1198 premiums because we were going through an extraordinary
1199 period during COVID-19, Mr. Chairman. And so they created
1200 the program. I am not saying they shouldn't have left it at
1201 five years, but that is the length of time they set in the
1202 bill. We didn't set that length of time. Our colleagues on
1203 the other side said that length of time, and it was supposed
1204 to be an extra -- that is why it is called the Premium Tax
1205 Credit -- an extra tax credit on top of what was already in
1206 the so-called Affordable Care Act.

1207 I will wait for Mr. Weber to leave.

1208 [Laughter.]

1209 *Mr. Pallone. He is disgusted.

1210 [Laughter.]

1211 *Mr. Pallone. He is tired.

1212 *Mr. Griffith. And so it was supposed to be on top of
1213 that.

1214 So when my colleagues say -- and follow the logic here
1215 -- when my colleagues say that without the special program
1216 that was brought in just for COVID-19 the Affordable Care Act
1217 is not affordable, they are saying that Obamacare, the
1218 Affordable Care Act, is broken. I would submit it has been
1219 broken from day one, but it is certainly broken now. They
1220 would say that -- when you go on to say that we all know the
1221 health care system is broken, this program has been in place
1222 now for about a decade, Mr. Chairman, and clearly it has not
1223 functioned to the benefit of American families.

1224 *Ms. Castor. Would the gentleman --

1225 *Mr. Griffith. But just work with us, if you would,
1226 when we are trying to make some improvements.

1227 And I agree we shouldn't just pull the rug out on a lot
1228 of American families, and I am hopeful that we will come up
1229 with some kind of a compromise, but when you argue it is not
1230 affordable without something special you are arguing that the
1231 plan you adopted 10 years ago as a party, Obamacare, is a
1232 failure.

1233 And I will gladly yield --

1234 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

1235 *Mr. Griffith. -- my last 21 seconds --

1236 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

1237 *Mr. Griffith. Yes, I yield to the gentlelady.

1238 *Ms. DeGette. So I would point out, number one, Mr.

1239 Chairman -- you know this better than anybody -- is the

1240 majority failed to reserve a point of order against this.

1241 And now you are saying we couldn't -- shouldn't have argued

1242 it because of germaneness, and that is just not accurate,

1243 according to the rules.

1244 *Mr. Griffith. And reclaiming my time briefly, I will

1245 just say this --

1246 *The Chair. That is when we allowed the debate.

1247 *Mr. Griffith. There was an understanding, from what I

1248 am told, there was an understanding the amendment would be

1249 withdrawn, and that is why I did not raise the --

1250 *Ms. DeGette. I understand that, but then you shouldn't

1251 complain --

1252 *Mr. Griffith. I am just saying --

1253 *Ms. DeGette. -- these arguments.

1254 *Mr. Griffith. Well --

1255 *Ms. DeGette. You shouldn't complain.

1256 *Mr. Griffith. But then why are your folks complaining,

1257 I would submit, when they say that they don't want to hear us

1258 saying that it is out of order, when they knew from the very

1259 beginning -- or at least Ms. Castor knew from the very
1260 beginning -- it was out of order?

1261 *Mr. Pallone. Mr. Chairman --

1262 *Mr. Griffith. And that we were just being courteous to
1263 let you make your arguments.

1264 I yield back.

1265 *Ms. DeGette. Then don't blame us.

1266 *The Chair. The gentleman's time --

1267 *Voice. Courteous?

1268 *The Chair. The gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Pallone,
1269 is recognized for five minutes.

1270 *Mr. Pallone. Let me just say this. I appreciate the
1271 fact that the chairman has, you know -- willing to recognize
1272 the fact that even though this is not before the committee
1273 and not germane, that we should have a discussion about it.

1274 In all honesty, regardless of who is to blame for the
1275 end -- you know, the fact that this expires at the end of the
1276 year, the bottom line is that I believe -- and most Democrats
1277 and, I think, some Republicans believe -- that the -- that
1278 these tax credits that went to a little higher income
1279 actually helped a lot of people. And we know that now
1280 because of the fact that health care costs are going up so
1281 much that if they are not extended, a lot of people are going
1282 to lose health insurance. I don't think -- if anybody wants
1283 to argue with that, you can, but I don't think there is any

1284 question that many people will not be able to afford their
1285 insurance when these new rates go into effect and if these
1286 advanced tax credits don't exist.

1287 Now, I believe, just from my conversations with other
1288 Members on the floor or whatever, that there are a lot of
1289 Republicans who would like to see an extension of these tax
1290 credits, whether it is for a year or permanent, which is what
1291 I would like to see. So, you know, I would just hope, based
1292 on what the gentleman just said, that this becomes part of
1293 the debate in the context of the CR.

1294 The Democrats, both Schumer and our leadership in the
1295 House, have said that, you know, they don't want to support -
1296 - and I don't, either -- any kind of a continuing resolution
1297 or spending bill that does not address health care and the
1298 cuts in health care. And that could be the Medicaid cuts in
1299 the big, ugly bill or big, beautiful bill. But right now,
1300 the most immediate -- or other things, right? Research, all
1301 kinds of things that are going on that are creating a crisis
1302 with health care right now.

1303 But I do think that the biggest concern, because of the
1304 fact that these rates are already going out, are these
1305 extended tax credits. In my state of New Jersey, where we
1306 have our own exchange -- I think some of the states here use
1307 the Federal exchange, right? But in the case of New Jersey,
1308 we use -- we have our own exchange. And all the media has

1309 been out there all the time with charts very similar to what
1310 Ms. Barragan has said, telling them how much these rates are
1311 going to go up. The filings have already been made in New
1312 Jersey in August. The information is already out there.

1313 So my only hope is that, regardless of the germaneness,
1314 regardless of, you know, the debate today, that you -- that
1315 the Republicans on this committee, you know, make the case to
1316 their colleagues, to the leadership in the House that this is
1317 something that needs to be addressed because there is no
1318 doubt that it is going to negatively impact people and make
1319 it much more difficult for them to have health insurance.
1320 They are going to just lose it. So I am going to leave it at
1321 that.

1322 I understand that this is not germane, it is not before
1323 the committee, but obviously we are going to have to discuss
1324 this in the context of the spending bill because, otherwise,
1325 the government is going to shut down. And we feel very
1326 strongly, as Democrats, that this is a number-one priority
1327 that needs to be addressed in the next few days or the next
1328 few weeks because of what is happening out there. This is
1329 not ideological. This is not D versus R. This is the fact
1330 that people are going to lose their health insurance. But I
1331 will leave it at that.

1332 Mr. Chairman, thank you for the --

1333 *The Chair. I appreciate it. And with that, will the

1334 gentlelady withdraw her amendment?

1335 Oh, the gentleman from New Jersey, if you want to be
1336 recognized, as well. All right, the gentleman from New
1337 Jersey is recognized.

1338 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you, Chairman. And similar to my
1339 colleague from Virginia, I wasn't anticipating speaking on
1340 this amendment, but, one, I appreciate my colleague from
1341 Florida for introducing it. I appreciate and associate
1342 myself with the remarks from my Democratic colleagues,
1343 especially the Ranking Member Pallone, but I just do have to
1344 point out that if your point on health care in Energy and
1345 Commerce is a germaneness issue, then you are losing the
1346 argument on health care and failing to see the issue that so
1347 many Americans are facing.

1348 My colleague from Virginia commented that the ACA is a
1349 failure. Well, in reconciliation you also struck health care
1350 from 15 million people. So if you allow the ACA credits to
1351 expire, 15 million people are already losing health care
1352 because of your bill, you are not presenting any solutions to
1353 make health care more affordable.

1354 As I have said previously in this committee, you know,
1355 folks on this side of the aisle have town halls. We actually
1356 engage with our constituents. And no one is saying health
1357 care is too affordable or too accessible. So you may not
1358 like Democratic solutions, but we present solutions to our

1359 constituents, we present solutions to the American people.

1360 You treat health care not as a policy consideration, but
1361 as a budgetary issue. And health care needs to be thought
1362 of, as my colleague from California, Congresswoman Barragan,
1363 said, as how do we provide preventive care to all Americans,
1364 how do we create accessible, good-quality health care to the
1365 American people. The cost should be a secondary
1366 consideration. That is your primary consideration in every
1367 health care conversation that we have, which is why it
1368 intersects between this committee and Ways and Means.

1369 House Democrats will always work to create a more
1370 affordable, accessible health care system. But if you are
1371 going to criticize something, provide an alternative. And
1372 Republicans have failed to do that. And Americans across the
1373 country, especially in your districts, are feeling that pain
1374 today, and they are going to continue to feel that pain. And
1375 if you want to own 15 million people losing health care, and
1376 if you want to own letting these tax credits expire, do so on
1377 your own, because too many Americans will feel that pain, too
1378 many Americans will be in dire situations, and you will have
1379 to own that not just in 2026, but for years and years to
1380 come.

1381 And with that I yield back.

1382 *Ms. Barragan. Will the gentleman yield for a minute?

1383 *Mr. Menendez. Yes, I yield.

1384 *Ms. Barragan. I want to thank the gentleman for your
1385 remarks, and I want to just make sure for the record -- I did
1386 not say the ACA was broken, as was mischaracterized by my
1387 colleague. I said the health care system is broken because
1388 not everybody has access to health care.

1389 The ACA was to expand access to health care. It was
1390 fought against by every Republican. And if you remember,
1391 they tried to undo it in -- what -- 2017. So if you want to
1392 say -- you want to disagree that the health care system isn't
1393 broken, then we can have that conversation. But at least
1394 characterize what I am saying accurately. And with that
1395 said, to -- if we are going to start in this committee
1396 calling arguments stupid, that is not turning down the heat.
1397 So if we speak, maybe we want to exercise what we are
1398 actually encouraging happening.

1399 So I just want to thank the gentleman, and I yield back.

1400 *Mr. Menendez. Yes, and I will -- reclaiming my time,
1401 because there is one more thing I forgot to mention. You
1402 were talking about jurisdiction. Did you forget that we are
1403 in the legislative branch? You have allowed this President
1404 to impound appropriated money. You have allowed this
1405 President to refuse to spend appropriated money. You have
1406 allowed this President to withhold appropriated money that
1407 goes into all of our districts.

1408 So if you want to talk about jurisdiction, remember that

1409 we are in the legislative branch and we have a role to play,
1410 and Republicans have a role to play in standing up to this
1411 Administration and making sure the work that we do here is
1412 executed upon by this Administration or any future
1413 administration. That is the most important jurisdictional
1414 issue that we have in this moment. I wish you cared more
1415 about that than the germaneness of Ways and Means, E&C, which
1416 is what you seem to be fixated on today.

1417 I yield back.

1418 *The Chair. The gentleman from Alabama is recognized
1419 for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

1420 *Mr. Palmer. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

1421 I do think this is a conversation we need to have,
1422 because I think that we have got problems in the health care
1423 system, and a lot of them are the result of the Affordable
1424 Care Act. A lot of what is happening -- I wasn't in Congress
1425 at the time, I was running a think tank, but we anticipated
1426 the problems that we are having today with the massive
1427 increase in premiums. The ACA was clearly an effort to force
1428 people into a single-payer system, a government-run health
1429 care system, basically a hyper form of Medicaid. And that is
1430 why we are in the situation right now.

1431 But I want to go back to the numbers that my colleagues
1432 keep pitching out there. They keep quoting the Congressional
1433 Budget Office that claims -- and they have inflated the

1434 claims a little bit, I think, the amounts of people that they
1435 say will lose health insurance. I want to remind my
1436 colleagues that when we passed the Tax Cuts and Jobs Act, the
1437 Congressional Budget Office projected that we would -- that
1438 13 million Americans would lose their health insurance. In
1439 2017 there were 94.6 million people insured. By 2024 that is
1440 310 million. That is an increase in the number of insured by
1441 15.4 million. Those are real numbers, not made-up numbers.
1442 Instead of going down -- instead of 13 million people losing
1443 their health insurance, 15.4 million more got health
1444 insurance.

1445 On Medicaid the Congressional Budget Office said that 5
1446 million people would lose their health insurance -- lose
1447 their Medicaid. In 2017 there were 73.8 million people on
1448 Medicaid. By 2025, May of 2025 -- this is pretty recent
1449 numbers -- you are shaking your head down there, one of my
1450 colleagues. I mean, this is simple math. It went up 4.3
1451 million. There are 78.1 million people on Medicaid as of May
1452 of this year. I mean, it is the math.

1453 So you keep throwing out --

1454 *Voice. Will the gentleman yield?

1455 *Mr. Palmer. I will not. I mean, I have heard enough
1456 misinformation, misrepresentation about an issue that is of
1457 paramount importance to the country.

1458 And I think we are doing the right thing, Mr. Chairman,

1459 I think we are moving in the right direction. I think we are
1460 sincere about what we are trying to do for -- particularly in
1461 rural health care transformation, what we can do, and I think
1462 that we need to keep the discussion honest. And honesty
1463 starts with real math.

1464 I yield back.

1465 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
1466 further -- the gentlelady withdraws -- the gentlelady from
1467 Washington is recognized for five minutes.

1468 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chair.

1469 I really appreciate this conversation. I think it has
1470 shed a lot of light, just listening to what each side in this
1471 room is saying.

1472 You know, if it sounds like we are fired up, we are
1473 fired up because we are standing up for our constituents. I
1474 am having more town halls than ever. I know my colleagues
1475 are having town halls. People are worried about losing their
1476 insurance coverage. Small business owners are worried about
1477 losing the ability to provide insurance for their employees.

1478 And it doesn't just impact people who get their health
1479 insurance from the Affordable Care Act, either. I mean, just
1480 a quick connect-the-dots here, you take away the assistance
1481 so that people can afford to buy insurance -- it is predicted
1482 in Washington State 80,000 families are just going to drop
1483 insurance altogether. And who drops it? It is not the

1484 people who know they have pre-existing medical conditions.
1485 It is the healthy, young families who probably won't need
1486 much care. They roll the dice, they drop out. The risk pool
1487 gets higher. Insurance companies now know they are going to
1488 have to spend more on the people who are left. And it is not
1489 just those premiums that are going up, it is all of our
1490 premiums that are going up.

1491 And at the same time those 80,000 people in Washington
1492 are losing insurance, we are about to have Medicaid cuts, so
1493 people there lose insurance. Now our hospitals are providing
1494 free care. That is not sustainable, so somebody has got to
1495 pay for it. Who is that going to be? People paying their
1496 insurance premiums.

1497 I mean, this is really -- it is taking a hatchet not
1498 just to those people, but to the entire health care system
1499 that is already pretty darn broken in this country. So, you
1500 know, this is a solution. We are happy to talk about better
1501 solutions.

1502 But I think the fundamental point here is that we are
1503 sticking up for our constituents. That is why we are
1504 bringing this up. That is why we are fighting for them. And
1505 to hear things about germaneness and costs, just -- like, it
1506 doesn't speak to the people I am representing. They are
1507 worried about losing health insurance for their families and
1508 what they are going to do to make ends meet.

1509 Thank you. I will yield back.

1510 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The gentleman
1511 from Ohio is recognized.

1512 *Mr. Latta. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield
1513 to the chairman.

1514 *The Chair. Yes, it just gets back to if it is not
1515 about cost, then my question is -- and I don't know why,
1516 because I wasn't part of the debate -- why is there an
1517 expiration date? Why did it expire? Why was it set to
1518 expire in the Inflation Reduction Act?

1519 *Ms. DeGette. Would you like me to answer that, Mr.
1520 Chairman? I can do it --

1521 *The Chair. Yes.

1522 *Ms. DeGette. -- because I was here. And a lot of that
1523 is because we had hoped that, after the pandemic, health care
1524 costs might go down. But sadly, health care costs keep going
1525 up, and more and more people are relying on these subsidies
1526 to be able to pay for their insurance.

1527 And so if the Republicans, who now do control the House,
1528 the Senate, and the White House, if they now stop these
1529 subsidies, then all of the people -- you know, our insurance
1530 -- our uninsurance rate dropped dramatically because of these
1531 subsidies. So if suddenly we cut this off, then all of these
1532 tens of millions of people are not going to be able to afford
1533 their insurance anymore because health care costs, sadly,

1534 remain high. That is what this committee should be tackling.
1535 We should be tackling the high cost of medical care so that
1536 everybody could afford their insurance premiums.

1537 *The Chair. Yes, I will agree with you, it is --

1538 *Ms. DeGette. But that is why.

1539 *The Chair. Yes, reclaiming -- Bob wants to reclaim his
1540 time.

1541 You are right. That is what we need to fix, is that
1542 health care costs go up, you subsidize people to participate,
1543 which -- we need to figure out a way that people continue to
1544 participate.

1545 *Ms. DeGette. Right.

1546 *The Chair. But then it goes up again, which is why
1547 college tuition is -- the more we subsidize, the more that it
1548 goes up.

1549 So the gentleman from Ohio yields back. The gentlelady
1550 from Virginia is recognized for five minutes.

1551 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Speaker.

1552 You know, I ran for office because I wanted to solve
1553 problems and help people because my parents, who grew up
1554 during the Depression, saw the best of government and the
1555 worst of government. And the best of government looks at a
1556 problem and says how can we come together to fix it and help
1557 people who, through no fault of their own, need help?

1558 And part of the point of the Affordable Care Act -- and

1559 I wasn't here when it passed, but I was a state legislator, I
1560 have been a patient, I have been the child, parent, and
1561 spouse of patients. I have been on hospital boards. I was
1562 on a Medicaid provider board. And those experiences showed
1563 me circumstances change.

1564 And the Affordable Care Act was intended to ensure that
1565 more people got insurance because insurance is supposed to
1566 pool the risk so that people who need access to health care
1567 can afford it because all of us are one accident or illness
1568 away from economic devastation. That is the bottom line of
1569 what we should be focused on.

1570 And the reason that you put deadlines in place or
1571 expiration dates in place is so that you can come back and
1572 say, have the circumstances changed so that the solution
1573 needs to change? And rather than saying, well, you put the
1574 deadline in, maybe we should take this opportunity to look at
1575 what has changed in the past five years.

1576 The cost of everything, including health care, continue
1577 to go up, as the cost of child care goes up, as the cost of
1578 everything has gone up in the past five years. That is
1579 because technological advancements, which cost more money,
1580 have allowed better care, because the population that is
1581 living longer and has more chronic diseases and more complex
1582 health care needs costs more money. Some is because of
1583 administrative costs because the people who provide the care

1584 often were providing it at wages that didn't allow them to
1585 meet their own needs because drug costs have gone up.

1586 And yes, we need to come together and find a solution
1587 for the rising cost of health care. But in the meantime, we
1588 can't just let millions of Americans go uninsured because
1589 that is guaranteed to mean those uninsured, who will still
1590 get sick, they will come to the hospital when it is too late.
1591 They will come to the hospital when it is too expensive to
1592 treat them or more expensive to treat them. There will be
1593 more uncompensated care that will put even more of a strain
1594 on the health care system. And if we don't seriously look at
1595 that and address both the long-term issue and the short-cut
1596 need -- short-term needs, we are going to leave a lot of
1597 Americans behind.

1598 I spent August particularly talking to rural health care
1599 providers not just in my district, but all across Virginia.
1600 And the -- what keeps them up at night is the fact that
1601 whether it is because of the Medicaid cuts or whether it is
1602 because of the expiration of the enhanced tax credits, they
1603 are going to see more uninsured people coming into their
1604 doors.

1605 Whether it is the dental clinic in Abingdon where 80
1606 percent of their patients are Medicaid and the rest are
1607 uninsured and they have a waiting list of 2,800 people who
1608 before that clinic opened had to wait once a year for a

1609 dental clinic to come to get basic needs or dentures, or
1610 whether it is the academic research hospital that says I
1611 provide more uncompensated care while dealing with a
1612 workforce shortage, or it is the long-term care facility that
1613 can't compete in a rural area in Waverly that can't compete
1614 for workers with Amazon, it is a complex system and complex
1615 reasons why the costs are high.

1616 But while we fight over how to lower the costs, we
1617 cannot leave 17 million Americans to say if you get sick, if
1618 your child gets hurt, you are out of luck.

1619 I yield back.

1620 *The Chair. The gentlelady's time has -- or the
1621 gentlelady yields back -- I am sorry. Is there any further
1622 discussion?

1623 Seeing none, the gentlelady from Florida is recognized.

1624 *Ms. Castor. Yes, I am -- at this -- I am going to
1625 withdraw the amendment at this time, but I think you have
1626 heard our message today.

1627 *The Chair. Without objection, the amendment is
1628 withdrawn.

1629 Are there further amendments?

1630 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion --

1631 *Mr. Pallone. Roll call.

1632 *The Chair. You want a roll call.

1633 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 2493. A roll

1634 call has been requested, and the clerk will call the roll.
1635 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?
1636 *Mr. Latta. Aye.
1637 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.
1638 Mr. Griffith?
1639 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.
1640 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.
1641 Mr. Bilirakis?
1642 [No response.]
1643 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?
1644 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
1645 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
1646 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
1647 [No response.]
1648 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
1649 [No response.]
1650 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
1651 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
1652 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
1653 Mr. Crenshaw?
1654 [No response.]
1655 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce?
1656 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.
1657 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
1658 Mr. Weber?

1659 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
1660 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
1661 Mr. Allen?
1662 [No response.]
1663 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
1664 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1665 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1666 Mr. Fulcher?
1667 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1668 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1669 Mr. Pfluger?
1670 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
1671 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
1672 Mrs. Harshbarger?
1673 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1674 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1675 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1676 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
1677 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1678 Mrs. Cammack?
1679 [No response.]
1680 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
1681 [No response.]
1682 *The Clerk. Mr. James?
1683 [No response.]

1684 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
1685 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1686 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1687 Mrs. Houchin?
1688 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1689 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1690 Mr. Fry?
1691 [No response.]
1692 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
1693 [No response.]
1694 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
1695 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1696 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1697 Mr. Kean?
1698 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1699 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.
1700 Mr. Rulli?
1701 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
1702 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
1703 Mr. Evans?
1704 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
1705 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
1706 Mr. Goldman?
1707 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
1708 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.

1709 Mrs. Fedorchak?
1710 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
1711 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
1712 Mr. Pallone?
1713 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
1714 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
1715 Ms. DeGette?
1716 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
1717 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
1718 Ms. Schakowsky?
1719 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
1720 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
1721 Ms. Matsui?
1722 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
1723 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
1724 Ms. Castor?
1725 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
1726 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
1727 Mr. Tonko?
1728 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
1729 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
1730 Ms. Clarke?
1731 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
1732 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
1733 Mr. Ruiz?

1734 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
1735 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
1736 Mr. Peters?
1737 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
1738 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
1739 Mrs. Dingell?
1740 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
1741 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
1742 Mr. Veasey?
1743 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
1744 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
1745 Ms. Kelly?
1746 [No response.]
1747 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
1748 *Ms. Barragan. Yes.
1749 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
1750 Mr. Soto?
1751 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
1752 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
1753 Ms. Schrier?
1754 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
1755 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
1756 Mrs. Trahan?
1757 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
1758 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

1759 Mrs. Fletcher?
1760 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
1761 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.
1762 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
1763 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
1764 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
1765 Mr. Auchincloss?
1766 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
1767 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
1768 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
1769 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
1770 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
1771 Mr. Menendez?
1772 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
1773 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
1774 Mr. Mullin?
1775 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
1776 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
1777 Mr. Landsman?
1778 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
1779 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
1780 Ms. McClellan?
1781 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
1782 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
1783 Chairman Guthrie?

1784 *The Chair. Aye.

1785 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

1786 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. How is Carter recorded?

1787 *The Chair. Mr. Carter votes --

1788 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

1789 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

1790 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

1791 *The Chair. Mr. Fry, Ms. Lee.

1792 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee is not recorded.

1793 *Ms. Lee. Aye.

1794 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.

1795 *The Chair. Mr. Fry?

1796 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry is not recorded.

1797 *Mr. Fry. Aye.

1798 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry votes aye.

1799 *The Chair. Are the Cammacks recorded? Did the

1800 Cammacks vote?

1801 [Laughter.]

1802 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack is not recorded.

1803 *Mrs. Cammack. Cammack votes aye.

1804 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.

1805 *The Chair. Great. Let's give -- it is great to see

1806 your young daughter with you today, yes.

1807 [Applause.]

1808 *The Chair. Yes, we don't want to wake her up, sorry.

1809 Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw and -- Mr. Crenshaw?

1810 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

1811 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.

1812 *The Chair. Mr. Obernolte?

1813 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.

1814 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.

1815 *The Chair. Mr. Bilirakis? Oh, anybody on the other
1816 side?

1817 Seeing none, seeing no others here to answer the roll,
1818 the clerk will report.

1819 Who is that? I am sorry. Mr. Griffith is not recorded?

1820 Are you not recorded?

1821 Is Mr. Griffith recorded?

1822 *Mr. Griffith. I am here.

1823 *The Chair. Okay, Mr. Griffith is recorded. All right.
1824 The clerk will report.

1825 [Pause.]

1826 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
1827 49 yeas and 0 nays.

1828 *The Chair. The ayes have it and the bill is adopted.

1829 The chair calls up H.R. 3419, and asks the clerk to
1830 report.

1831 *The Chair. H.R. 3419, a bill to amend the public --

1832 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
1833 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for

1834 amendment at any point.

1835 So ordered.

1836 [The bill follows:]

1837

1838 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

1839

1840 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
1841 bill?

1842 The gentleman from California is recognized for five
1843 minutes on the bill.

1844 *Mr. Obernolte. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman. It is
1845 an honor to speak in support of H.R. 3419, led by my
1846 colleague and fellow Californian, Representative Valadao.

1847 This bipartisan bill would reauthorize the Telehealth
1848 Network and Telehealth Resource Centers Grant programs
1849 administered by the Health Resources and Services
1850 Administration. These programs were created to strengthen
1851 access to care in communities where patients face real
1852 challenges getting the services that they need.

1853 Rural and frontier areas often struggle with shortages
1854 of health care providers, limited access to specialists, and
1855 long travel distances to the nearest clinic or hospital.
1856 That is certainly true in my rural district. It is true in
1857 Congressman Valadao's district, as well, and I am sure in
1858 many other districts across the country.

1859 The grant programs we are reauthorizing today help close
1860 those gaps by equipping providers with the resources,
1861 training, and technical support they need to deliver care
1862 through telehealth. Tens of thousands of patients across the
1863 country have already benefitted from these initiatives:
1864 patients who no longer need to drive several hours for an

1865 appointment, families who can more easily manage ongoing
1866 health needs, and providers who are able to serve more people
1867 effectively because of the support these programs provide.
1868 Already, tens of thousands of patients across the country
1869 have benefitted. That means patients who no longer need to
1870 drive hours for an appointment, families who can more easily
1871 manage ongoing health needs, and providers who are able to
1872 serve more people effectively because of the support that
1873 these programs provide them.

1874 Reauthorizing these programs is a common-sense step to
1875 ensuring that progress continues. Expanding access to
1876 telehealth is not a partisan issue. It is a practical
1877 solution that gives patients more flexibility, helps address
1878 workforce shortages straining our health care system, and
1879 strengthens the tools that families need to connect with
1880 providers. Together, these efforts deliver measurable
1881 benefits and improve health outcomes across our country.

1882 I would like to thank Congressman Valadao for his
1883 leadership on this important bill, and I urge my colleagues
1884 to support it.

1885 I yield back.

1886 *Mr. Dunn. [Presiding.] The gentleman yields back. Is
1887 there any further discussion on the bill? Any further
1888 discussion on the bill?

1889 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adoption of H.R.

1890 3419, as amended.

1891 All those in favor, say aye.

1892 Those opposed, no.

1893 The ayes have it and the bill is agreed to.

1894 *Voice. No, we got to do roll --

1895 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, we have -- a roll call vote has been

1896 requested?

1897 *Voice. Yes, he just requested one.

1898 *Mr. Dunn. All right. The clerk will call the roll.

1899 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

1900 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

1901 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

1902 Mr. Griffith?

1903 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

1904 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

1905 Mr. Bilirakis?

1906 [No response.]

1907 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

1908 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

1909 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

1910 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

1911 [No response.]

1912 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?

1913 [No response.]

1914 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

1915 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
1916 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
1917 Mr. Crenshaw?
1918 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
1919 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
1920 Mr. Joyce?
1921 [No response.]
1922 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
1923 *Mr. Weber. Yes.
1924 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
1925 Mr. Allen?
1926 [No response.]
1927 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
1928 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
1929 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
1930 Mr. Fulcher?
1931 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
1932 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
1933 Mr. Pfluger?
1934 [No response.]
1935 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger?
1936 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
1937 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
1938 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
1939 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

1940 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
1941 Mrs. Cammack?
1942 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
1943 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
1944 Mr. Obernolte?
1945 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
1946 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
1947 Mr. James?
1948 [No response.]
1949 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
1950 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
1951 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
1952 Mrs. Houchin?
1953 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.
1954 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
1955 Mr. Fry?
1956 [No response.]
1957 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
1958 [No response.]
1959 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
1960 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
1961 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
1962 Mr. Kean?
1963 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
1964 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

1965 Mr. Rulli?

1966 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

1967 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

1968 Mr. Evans?

1969 [No response.]

1970 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman?

1971 [No response.]

1972 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak?

1973 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.

1974 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.

1975 Mr. Pallone?

1976 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.

1977 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.

1978 Ms. DeGette?

1979 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.

1980 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.

1981 Ms. Schakowsky?

1982 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.

1983 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

1984 Ms. Matsui?

1985 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.

1986 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.

1987 Ms. Castor?

1988 *Ms. Castor. Aye.

1989 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.

1990 Mr. Tonko?

1991 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.

1992 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.

1993 Ms. Clarke?

1994 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.

1995 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

1996 Mr. Ruiz?

1997 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

1998 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.

1999 Mr. Peters?

2000 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

2001 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.

2002 Mrs. Dingell?

2003 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.

2004 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.

2005 Mr. Veasey?

2006 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.

2007 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.

2008 Ms. Kelly?

2009 [No response.]

2010 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

2011 [No response.]

2012 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto?

2013 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2014 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2015 Ms. Schrier?

2016 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2017 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

2018 Mrs. Trahan?

2019 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2020 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

2021 Mrs. Fletcher?

2022 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2023 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

2024 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

2025 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

2026 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

2027 Mr. Auchincloss?

2028 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

2029 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

2030 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2031 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

2032 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

2033 Mr. Menendez?

2034 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2035 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2036 Mr. Mullin?

2037 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

2038 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

2039 Mr. Landsman?

2040 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

2041 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

2042 Ms. McClellan?

2043 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

2044 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

2045 Chairman Guthrie?

2046 *The Chair. Aye.

2047 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

2048 *Voice. Mr. Allen.

2049 *Ms. Barragan. Barragan?

2050 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan is not recorded.

2051 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

2052 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2053 *Mr. Dunn. How is Mr. Pfluger --

2054 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger is not recorded.

2055 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

2056 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

2057 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. What about Carter?

2058 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

2059 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

2060 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

2061 *Mr. Joyce. How is Joyce --

2062 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce is not recorded.

2063 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.

2064 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

2065 *Voice. Mr. Allen.
2066 *Mr. Allen. Allen?
2067 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.
2068 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.
2069 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
2070 *Voice. See if there is anybody else.
2071 *Mr. Evans. Mr. Evans?
2072 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans is not recorded.
2073 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
2074 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
2075 *Mr. Goldman. Goldman?
2076 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman is not recorded.
2077 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
2078 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
2079 *Mr. Dunn. Are all votes recorded?
2080 The clerk will report the ayes and nays.
2081 [Pause.]
2082 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 48
2083 yeas and 0 nays.
2084 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.
2085 We will turn our attention to H.R. 2846, and ask the
2086 clerk to report.
2087 *The Clerk. H.R. 2846, a bill to amend title II of the
2088 Public Health Service Act to include, as an additional right
2089 or privilege of commissioned officers of the Public Health

2090 Service and --

2091 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
2092 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2093 amendment at any point.

2094 That is so ordered.

2095 [The bill follows:]

2096

2097 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2098

2099 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
2100 bill?

2101 The chair recognizes Mr. Griffith from Virginia.

2102 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I
2103 rise in support of H.R. 2846, led by Representatives Houlihan
2104 and Bacon.

2105 The United States Public Health Service Commissioned
2106 Corps serve a wide range of health related specialties within
2107 over 20 Federal departments and agencies. Their mission is
2108 to protect and promote the health and safety of our nation by
2109 providing public health emergency response and disaster
2110 recovery support. These officers are one of the eight
2111 uniformed services, and this bill would align their
2112 authorized leave benefits with those of the other seven
2113 uniformed services.

2114 Now, as I said in the subcommittee when this came up, I
2115 checked into it because I went, wait a minute, can they be
2116 sent to combat zones, et cetera? And the answer is yes, they
2117 can be and they have been. Further, they also are sent into
2118 what I would call disease zones. So this public -- the
2119 United States Public Health Service Commission actually went
2120 into the areas with Ebola and provided health care there,
2121 which -- it helps us because it helps things from catching on
2122 and spreading and maybe moving around the globe.

2123 So I am very, very grateful for the important work of

2124 the U.S. Public Health Service Commissioned Corps. They keep
2125 our nation safe. And accordingly, I urge support of this
2126 bill.

2127 And with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

2128 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2129 further discussion on the bill? Any further discussion?

2130 Are there any amendments to the bill?

2131 Seeing none, the question now occurs on adopting bill
2132 H.R. 2846, as amended.

2133 All those in favor, say aye.

2134 Those opposed?

2135 *Voice. We need a roll call vote.

2136 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it, and the bill is agreed to.
2137 A roll call vote has been requested. The clerk will call the
2138 roll.

2139 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

2140 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

2141 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

2142 Mr. Griffith?

2143 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

2144 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

2145 Mr. Bilirakis?

2146 [No response.]

2147 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson?

2148 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

2149 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
2150 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
2151 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
2152 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
2153 Mr. Palmer?
2154 [No response.]
2155 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?
2156 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
2157 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
2158 Mr. Crenshaw?
2159 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
2160 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
2161 Mr. Joyce?
2162 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.
2163 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
2164 Mr. Weber?
2165 *Mr. Weber. Yes.
2166 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
2167 Mr. Allen?
2168 [No response.]
2169 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson?
2170 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
2171 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
2172 Mr. Fulcher?
2173 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

2174 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
2175 Mr. Pfluger?
2176 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
2177 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
2178 Mrs. Harshbarger?
2179 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
2180 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
2181 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
2182 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.
2183 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
2184 Mrs. Cammack?
2185 [No response.]
2186 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?
2187 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
2188 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
2189 Mr. James?
2190 [No response.]
2191 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
2192 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
2193 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
2194 Mr. Fry?
2195 [No response.]
2196 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
2197 [No response.]
2198 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?

2199 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
2200 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
2201 Mr. Kean?
2202 [No response.]
2203 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
2204 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
2205 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
2206 Mr. Evans?
2207 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
2208 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
2209 Mr. Goldman?
2210 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
2211 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
2212 Mrs. Fedorchak?
2213 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
2214 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
2215 Mr. Pallone?
2216 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
2217 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
2218 Ms. DeGette?
2219 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
2220 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
2221 Ms. Schakowsky?
2222 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
2223 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.

2224 Ms. Matsui?
2225 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
2226 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
2227 Ms. Castor?
2228 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
2229 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
2230 Mr. Tonko?
2231 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
2232 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
2233 Ms. Clarke?
2234 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
2235 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
2236 Mr. Ruiz?
2237 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
2238 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
2239 Mr. Peters?
2240 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
2241 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
2242 Mrs. Dingell?
2243 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
2244 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
2245 Mr. Veasey?
2246 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
2247 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
2248 Ms. Kelly?

2249 [No response.]

2250 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?

2251 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.

2252 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.

2253 Mr. Soto?

2254 *Mr. Soto. Aye.

2255 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.

2256 Ms. Schrier?

2257 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.

2258 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.

2259 Mrs. Trahan?

2260 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

2261 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.

2262 Mrs. Fletcher?

2263 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.

2264 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

2265 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

2266 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

2267 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

2268 Mr. Auchincloss?

2269 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

2270 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

2271 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

2272 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

2273 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

2274 Mr. Menendez?

2275 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

2276 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

2277 Mr. Mullin?

2278 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

2279 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

2280 Mr. Landsman?

2281 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

2282 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

2283 Ms. McClellan?

2284 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

2285 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

2286 Chairman Guthrie?

2287 [No response.]

2288 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie?

2289 *The Chair. Aye.

2290 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

2291 *Mr. Allen. How is Allen recorded?

2292 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen is not recorded.

2293 *Mr. Allen. Allen votes aye.

2294 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.

2295 *Mr. Dunn. Have all members voted?

2296 *The Clerk. Houchin is not recorded.

2297 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

2298 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.

2299 *Mr. Dunn. Anybody else?

2300 The clerk will report the ayes and the nays.

2301 [Pause.]

2302 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 46
2303 ayes and 0 nays.

2304 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it. The bill is adopted.

2305 Next we take up H.R. 1262. The clerk will report.

2306 *The Clerk. H.R. 1262, a bill to amend the Federal
2307 Food, Drug, and Cosmetic Act with respect to molecularly-
2308 targeted pediatric cancer investigations and --

2309 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
2310 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
2311 amendment at any point.

2312 So ordered.

2313 [The bill follows:]

2314

2315 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2316

2317 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
2318 bill?

2319 Ms. Matsui, you are recognized for five minutes.

2320 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
2321 the last word.

2322 I am glad we finally advancing this bipartisan package
2323 of rare disease priorities, and I thank Chairman Guthrie for
2324 adding it to the markup today. I know we are all excited
2325 about the progress and anxious to make up for lost time.

2326 As co-chair of the Rare Disease Caucus, I met with so
2327 many families who are relentless in the fight for their kids'
2328 health and futures. The worst possible words a parent can
2329 hear are that there is no options for their child's care.
2330 This bill is called the Give Kids a Chance Act because we
2331 know that when the policies in this bill become law, they
2332 will give kids a fighting chance.

2333 The legislation we are considering today will help bring
2334 therapies to market faster. It will prevent pharmaceutical
2335 companies from gaming the system. It will ensure patients
2336 can access the cutting-edge therapies that they need.

2337 But I have to say this bill should already be law. We
2338 passed it out of this committee last year, passed it on the
2339 House floor under suspension, and it was included in the
2340 bipartisan December package. But Elon Musk blew up that
2341 package with a few tweets. And the delay to this bill has

2342 already caused real harm. Companies have delayed FDA
2343 applications while they wait for the status of the PRV to be
2344 cleared up. That means patients who may benefit from these
2345 drugs are stuck in limbo with no end in sight.

2346 Meanwhile, other companies have continued to take
2347 advantage of another loophole addressed in this bill. My
2348 RARE Act, which is included in this package, prevents
2349 pharmaceutical companies from abusing their orphan drug
2350 status to keep other innovative drugs from coming to market.
2351 Yet, unfortunately, because of Congress's delay, another
2352 company has used this loophole to push a competing pediatric
2353 epilepsy drug off the market. We are talking about toddlers
2354 who are wracked with seizures and had a safe and effective
2355 therapy taken away from them.

2356 It is long past time we pass the RARE Act and the rest
2357 of this package. This bill provides long-awaited hope to the
2358 millions of Americans and their families struggling with a
2359 rare disease, 95 percent of whom do not have an FDA-approved
2360 therapy for their condition.

2361 So again, I am thrilled we are finally advancing this
2362 bill today and grateful to all of my colleagues who worked on
2363 this. I know we all feel the urgency. I hope we can move
2364 this bill quickly to the floor and give kids and their
2365 families some hope. Because for the rare disease community,
2366 every day counts.

2367 With that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back the balance of my
2368 time.

2369 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlewoman yields back. Is there any
2370 further discussion on the bill?

2371 Mr. Crenshaw, you are recognized for five minutes.

2372 *Mr. Crenshaw. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I think we
2373 all agree we have a problem with pediatric cancer treatment
2374 that must be addressed. And, you know, that problem is new
2375 drugs reach adults while kids wait years for lifesaving
2376 treatments. And drug companies don't really have the
2377 incentives to spend money on pediatric clinical trials
2378 because it is a smaller patient population. That is a huge
2379 problem, considering 15,000 children are diagnosed with
2380 cancer every year. So that is why I support H.R. 1262. It
2381 is bipartisan. It is called Give the Kids a Chance Act. It
2382 strengthens FDA's authority to require pediatric clinical
2383 trials for the same drugs that are already approved for
2384 adults, and that is common sense.

2385 Now, of course, we want kids to have the same chance as
2386 adults in their battle against cancer, and it also extends
2387 the Rare Pediatric Disease Voucher, which is a program that
2388 has brought 60 drugs to market that saves children's lives.
2389 This is personal for me. I watched my mom battle cancer, and
2390 I lost her to that battle. And as a father I think about
2391 what it would mean if my own child faced that diagnosis. And

2392 no parent should ever hear that there are no options for
2393 their child but there are options for others, and the science
2394 shows that there are.

2395 So this bill ensures kids are not left behind when it
2396 comes to medical innovation, and it gives families real hope.
2397 I urge support.

2398 And I yield back.

2399 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman from Texas yields back. Mrs.
2400 Dingell, you are recognized for five minutes.

2401 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I am proud to co-
2402 lead the Give Kids a Chance Act. This is very important
2403 bipartisan legislation, and I am co-leading it with
2404 Representatives Michael McCaul, Kim -- Dr. Schrier, and Gus
2405 Bilirakis.

2406 This bill will accelerate pediatric cancer treatment and
2407 expand access to lifesaving therapies for children battling
2408 rare diseases.

2409 Each year 16,000 children in the United States are
2410 diagnosed with cancer. In fact, children compromise [sic] as
2411 many as half of those living with rare diseases, yet
2412 treatment options for children remain extremely limited
2413 compared to those for adults. It is impossible to fully
2414 express the pain and devastation of family experiences when
2415 their child is diagnosed with cancer. Unfortunately, I have
2416 been there with too many parents who have lived through it

2417 and, quite frankly, have lost their child.

2418 We know children respond to cancer treatments
2419 differently, yet there is limited research on how these
2420 therapies impact them. These children and their families
2421 deserve better. We need this bill to offer more children a
2422 fighting chance. The Give Kids a Chance Act would
2423 reauthorize the Food and Drug Administration's Priority
2424 Review Voucher program, which allows pharmaceutical companies
2425 to expedite FDA review of more profitable drugs in return for
2426 developing treatments for rare pediatric diseases. Since
2427 2011 53 PRVs have been awarded for 35 different rare
2428 pediatric diseases.

2429 And additionally, thousands of successful drug
2430 combination therapies are now being studied and developed for
2431 adults, but not for children. The Give Kids a Chance Act
2432 also authorizes the FDA to direct companies to study a
2433 combination of cancer drugs and therapies in pediatric
2434 trials, as well.

2435 Together we can show these young children and their
2436 families they are not alone in the fight. Together here we
2437 are showing them we actually are supporting something in a
2438 strong bipartisan way. And I hope that we never let tweets
2439 stop children from getting help again.

2440 I want to thank the 284 cosponsors for their support,
2441 along with the chairman and ranking member who have gotten us

2442 here, for their assistance and support on this important
2443 bill. Let's pass it here, get it to the floor, and let's
2444 tell kids we really are going to give them hope and help.

2445 Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I yield back.

2446 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize the
2447 gentleman from Florida, Mr. Bilirakis.

2448 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. -- I
2449 appreciate it.

2450 I am proud to co-lead the Give Kids a Chance Act with my
2451 good friend, Representative McCaul, a bipartisan bill with
2452 284 cosponsors and counting.

2453 So I would like to permission to enter into the record
2454 Mr. McCaul's statement, please, Mr. Chairman.

2455 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, so ordered.

2456 [The information follows:]

2457

2458 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2459

2460 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, thank you.

2461 So September is Pediatric Cancer Awareness Month -- I
2462 think most of you know that -- a stark reminder that more
2463 than 1,500 kids die from cancer in America each year. The
2464 Give Kids a Chance Act is a comprehensive pediatric health
2465 care package aimed at accelerating the development of
2466 pediatric cancer treatments and expanding access to
2467 lifesaving therapies for children with all types of rare
2468 diseases.

2469 Among many critical provisions, the bill reauthorizes
2470 the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program at
2471 the FDA. Since its creation in 2012, the pediatric PRV
2472 program has resulted in the discovery and development of
2473 lifesaving therapies, leading to the approval of 53 new
2474 treatment options for 39 different rare pediatric diseases.
2475 The impact of this program is profound, profound for
2476 patients.

2477 I would like to take a moment to recognize the countless
2478 families in the rare disease community who have hope thanks
2479 to this provision in the bill.

2480 First, the Dion family. Maggie and her brother, Peter,
2481 both have limb girdle muscular dystrophy. The Dion family
2482 have become a tireless -- they become tireless advocates for
2483 the Give Kids a Chance Act and rare disease drug development,
2484 creating a foundation to help develop the first-ever human

2485 clinical trial for their children's disease. Every company
2486 that the Dion Foundation works with cites the PRV program for
2487 the reason that they invest in trials like Maggie and
2488 Peter's. It gives kids a chance, exactly like the title.

2489 Another example is a small company in my state of
2490 Florida that is working on a therapy of hypoplastic left
2491 heart syndrome, a congenital heart defect. This innovator
2492 credits the pediatric voucher program as a critical tool --
2493 needing to get their treatment through the clinical trial
2494 process. That means more children with congenital heart
2495 conditions will have hope for, again, new cures.

2496 Lastly, I want to recognize two Florida families in the
2497 audience today. Dorothea -- and that, by the way, is a Greek
2498 name, a beautiful Greek name, and it means gift from God. I
2499 was just with the Patriarch of Constantinople, who is our
2500 pope in the Greek Orthodox faith, and he gives his blessings,
2501 as well. So Dorothea Lance and Jennifer Garcia, but also --
2502 whose children are in clinical trials for a Prader-Willi
2503 Syndrome drug that is only made possible as a result of the
2504 incentives from the PRV program.

2505 So I want to thank everyone here for their support. We
2506 have been working on this for many years. We want to
2507 reauthorize this program. It is so vital, it gives parents a
2508 chance, it gives kids a chance. The families and the
2509 advocates in the audience for -- but watching as well on C-

2510 SPAN, thank you for all your support. And we are going to
2511 save lives with this particular bill.

2512 So with that, again, I want to thank the members of the
2513 committee, and I ask for a unanimous vote.

2514 I appreciate it very much and I yield back.

2515 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize
2516 the gentlelady from Florida, Ms. Castor.

2517 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
2518 amendment at the desk, Castor_32.

2519 *Mr. Griffith. Mr. Chairman, I reserve.

2520 *Ms. Castor. Or did you want to talk --

2521 *Voice. Yes, we are still talking on the underlying
2522 bill --

2523 *Ms. Castor. No, I will pause and let the other members
2524 speak to the bill first, yes.

2525 [Pause.]

2526 *Mr. Dunn. Okay, Dr. Ruiz, you are recognized.

2527 *Mr. Ruiz. Yes, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2528 Thank you, Representative Castor. I move to strike the
2529 last word.

2530 And as an emergency physician I have treated patients of
2531 all ages with various health conditions. I have seen
2532 firsthand that there is unmet need for patients struggling
2533 with rare diseases. We need to expand access to care for
2534 patients with rare diseases. We need to prioritize

2535 innovation so we can develop new and potentially lifesaving
2536 treatments. And above all, we must not leave behind our most
2537 vulnerable patients: kids. That is why I cosponsored the
2538 bipartisan bill, the Give Kids a Chance Act, introduced by
2539 Representatives McCaul, Bilirakis, Dingell, and Schrier.

2540 And among other important provisions, this bill
2541 reauthorizes a key Food and Drug Administration program that
2542 incentivizes drug development for pediatric rare diseases:
2543 the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review Voucher program.
2544 So biotech companies can either use or sell their vouchers,
2545 and the PRV program is frequently used as an indirect way to
2546 subsidize costly research and development without using
2547 taxpayer dollars.

2548 So this incentive can mean the difference between
2549 someone choosing to explore a new treatment for a rare
2550 disease or not. And our children depend on it. These
2551 vouchers are a critical tool in their quest for new
2552 treatments and new hope for children with rare diseases and
2553 their families. And Congress has a responsibility to protect
2554 our most vulnerable citizens, including children, and this
2555 bill helps to do just that.

2556 So I urge my colleagues to support it and move the bill
2557 in a bipartisan manner.

2558 Thank you, and I yield back.

2559 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. I now recognize

2560 the gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Kean for five minutes.

2561 *Mr. Kean. Thank you. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am
2562 pleased to support the Give Kids a Chance Act of 2025.

2563 This bipartisan legislation helps promote research into
2564 treatments and cures for pediatric patients, which too often
2565 does not receive the investment necessary. This is
2566 especially true for rare pediatric diseases that sometimes
2567 only affect a couple hundred patients across the entire
2568 country. So the reauthorization of the Rare Pediatric
2569 Disease Priority Review Voucher is particularly important to
2570 these patients.

2571 This program provides companies that develop FDA-
2572 approved treatments for rare pediatric diseases to obtain a
2573 Priority Review Voucher, which they can then use or sell to
2574 another company to speed up the FDA's review of other drug
2575 applications. These vouchers are incredibly valuable to our
2576 innovators and to companies developing rare pediatric disease
2577 treatments. They are incredibly important for New Jersey,
2578 too, which houses companies that have received rare pediatric
2579 disease designations. However, without the authorization of
2580 this program, these designations will expire next year,
2581 hindering innovation and research.

2582 Families and children with rare diseases across New
2583 Jersey and the nation deserve timely access to lifesaving
2584 treatments, and this bill provides incentives for this. I

2585 urge my colleagues to support this bill.

2586 And I yield back.

2587 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there anybody
2588 who wants to be recognized?

2589 I recognize Dr. Schrier for five minutes.

2590 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am a
2591 pediatrician, and so, of course, having treatment for kids
2592 with rare diseases is incredibly important to me, and I have
2593 taken care of many of them.

2594 I had a really interesting meeting last week, actually,
2595 with the family of one of my friends from residency. Her son
2596 Peter, such a smart kid, heading off to the Claremont
2597 Colleges, he came in lobbying because he also has limb girdle
2598 muscular dystrophy. There is currently no treatment. It is
2599 progressive, and has him currently in a wheelchair. He was
2600 actually part of a study being funded by NIH research dollars
2601 looking for a possible treatment or even cure. And I want to
2602 mention that, thanks to this Administration and Elon Musk and
2603 RFK, Jr., that funding was withdrawn.

2604 I also want to mention that the PRV program, if a
2605 treatment were found, would speed FDA review and approval.

2606 So, you know, I just wanted to put, like, a real
2607 person's face on this, and think about all the other kids out
2608 there. And I encourage my colleagues to vote for this, but
2609 also to conduct oversight on why that research funding was

2610 cut. Thank you.

2611 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize Mr.
2612 Joyce from -- Dr. Joyce from Pennsylvania for five minutes.

2613 *Mr. Joyce. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I wish to speak
2614 in support of the bill. Today I am pleased that we are
2615 considering H.R. 1262, the Give Kids a Chance Act, which will
2616 reauthorize the Rare Pediatric Disease Priority Review
2617 Voucher program.

2618 The ability of companies to sell or redeem a new drug or
2619 biologic for priority review is critical to a robust pipeline
2620 of treatments for pediatric patients. The vouchers from this
2621 program provide a strong incentive to develop drugs with rare
2622 pediatric disease designations. Since the program's
2623 inception, these vouchers have been awarded across 39
2624 pediatric diseases, only 3 of which had any FDA-approved
2625 treatments before the program. Reauthorization of this
2626 program is critical to support innovation in rare pediatric
2627 space and address an unmet need for children and their
2628 families who suffer from these serious conditions.

2629 Many of you are present with us here today, many
2630 watching us today. As a survivor of a rare pediatric cancer,
2631 the importance of this legislation is not lost on me.

2632 Innovation is a core pillar of American medicine, and
2633 our children and the families of these children deserve
2634 nothing but the best in terms of new, lifesaving treatments,

2635 and it is incumbent on us as legislators to ensure that the
2636 proper incentives are in place for this to be able to occur.

2637 I would also like to highlight the provision included in
2638 this bill that will improve oversight of the Organ
2639 Procurement Transplant Network and further strengthen the
2640 ongoing work of HRSA to ensure safety across the system.

2641 I urge all of my colleagues to support the bill, and I
2642 yield back the balance of my time.

2643 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. I recognize Mrs.
2644 -- the gentlelady from Massachusetts, Mrs. Trahan, for five
2645 minutes.

2646 *Mrs. Trahan. I move to strike the last word in support
2647 of the legislation. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

2648 I first want to echo the urgency and the emotion of Dr.
2649 Schrier in her remarks on this bill, as well as the plea for
2650 proper oversight of an HHS that has gone completely off the
2651 rails while we try to do our jobs instituting programs that
2652 will make it easier for people to access the treatments and
2653 the cures that they deserve.

2654 The Give Kids a Chance Act advances several important
2655 priorities for children's health. It restores one of the
2656 most effective incentives we have at the FDA, the Pediatric
2657 Priority Review Voucher program. This program is a proven
2658 tool to spur treatments for children living with rare and
2659 devastating diseases, and it does so at no additional cost to

2660 taxpayers.

2661 The results of this program speak for themselves. Since
2662 its creation, the PRV program has helped bring forward
2663 therapies that have reached more than 200,000 patients across
2664 nearly 50 different rare conditions. And more than 90
2665 percent of these vouchers supported drugs for diseases that
2666 previously had no approved treatment at all. For parents
2667 that means going from no options to a real chance for hope.

2668 We have seen this in the fight against spinal muscular
2669 atrophy, a genetic disease that once robbed infants of muscle
2670 function and often their lives before the age of two. Thanks
2671 to breakthroughs incentivized through this program we now
2672 have a gene therapy that allows children to not only survive,
2673 but to walk, to run, and thrive. Those are the kinds of
2674 transformations this program makes possible.

2675 And reauthorizing the PRV program is also about
2676 sustaining America's leadership in biotechnology. In
2677 Massachusetts, where research and development is the backbone
2678 of our economy, a recent report painted a pretty bleak
2679 picture. Companies are laying off workers and investors are
2680 retreating. For small, emerging rare disease firms, programs
2681 like the PRV can mean the difference between advancing a cure
2682 and shutting down a lab. At a time when our biotech
2683 ecosystem is struggling, we can't afford to pull away one of
2684 the few proven incentives that works.

2685 This program has bipartisan, bicameral support. The FDA
2686 supports it. It costs taxpayers nothing. And its impact is
2687 accelerating when -- more than half of all vouchers awarded
2688 in just the past four years. So the science is working, the
2689 program is working. Now Congress must do its job. Let's get
2690 the Give Kids a Chance Act across the finish line and give
2691 kids battling rare diseases the chance that they deserve.

2692 Thank you, I yield back.

2693 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize the
2694 gentlelady from Tennessee, Mrs. Harshbarger.

2695 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I want to
2696 speak in strong support of H.R. 1262, the Give Kids a Chance
2697 Act.

2698 This bipartisan pediatric rare disease package is a
2699 result of tremendous leadership and a lot of hard work by our
2700 colleagues, Representatives McCaul, Bilirakis, Trahan,
2701 Barragan, and members that are no longer serving with us like
2702 Representative Eshoo and Dr. Burgess, among many others.

2703 I also want to highlight and thank the committee for
2704 inclusion in this bipartisan bill provisions I have been
2705 leading with Representatives Juan Vargas and Randy Weber,
2706 Scott Peters, Andy Harris, and Mike Levin to move in the
2707 direction of friendshoring our health care supply chains.
2708 Protecting America's medical supplies is a bipartisan
2709 national security priority, and we seek to reduce reliance on

2710 medical products produced in non-allied nations like China
2711 that could weaponize such dependance. We should be looking
2712 to the Abraham Accords countries, robust biopharmaceutical
2713 industries to begin near-shoring and help diversify and
2714 protect our access to critical medical supply chains that
2715 don't rely on China.

2716 While we would love to be able to produce everything
2717 domestically, that just isn't possible at this time given
2718 capacity constraints. In the meantime, we should engage our
2719 allies in a friendshoring capacity. The bipartisan United
2720 States Abraham Accords cooperation and security provisions in
2721 section 9 of this bill will establish an FDA office in the
2722 Abraham Accords region, creating a staging ground for
2723 technical assistance and friendshoring collaboration between
2724 the U.S. and Abraham Accord countries for the development of
2725 and bringing to our markets lifesaving medications.

2726 We need to begin this process of fortifying our medical
2727 supply chains as soon as possible, and I look forward to
2728 enacting the Give Kids a Chance Act into law.

2729 So thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

2730 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize the
2731 gentleman from New Jersey, Mr. Menendez.

2732 *Mr. Menendez. Thank you. Chairman.

2733 As a father to two young children, I can only imagine
2734 what a family feels when their child is diagnosed with a

2735 serious or rare illness. I imagine that first there is shock
2736 and fear and the question of what can be done. And often
2737 there are too few options for that family and that child.

2738 But there is something that we can do. The Give Kids a
2739 Chance Act can bring lifesaving drugs to patients faster, and
2740 ensure that children who are facing life-threatening
2741 illnesses and their families have hope that the development
2742 of new treatments is happening as quickly as possible. It
2743 would give hope to parents in my district and across the
2744 country that are facing limited treatment options.

2745 I have heard from New Jerseyans like Christina, her
2746 husband, and their son, who can spend years searching for a
2747 diagnosis for their child, who often travel across the
2748 country searching for options for their child's rare
2749 condition. They follow academic and medical journals and
2750 hope that there is something that will provide them with
2751 relief. So for them, this isn't abstract policy; it is real.

2752 I support this bill because when we bring a treatment to
2753 market faster, it means we give families hope. Supporting
2754 children with life-threatening illnesses is simply a moral
2755 imperative, and I am glad we are taking action today. I am a
2756 proud sponsor of this bill, and will continue fighting for
2757 families in my district who deserve hope for a brighter
2758 future.

2759 Thank you, and I yield back.

2760 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. I recognize the
2761 gentleman from Georgia, Mr. Carter, for five minutes.

2762 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. Mr.
2763 Chairman, I rise in support of H.R. 1262, the Give Kids a
2764 Chance Act of 2025.

2765 This bill helps to support the research and development
2766 for drugs that will help kids with cancer and other rare
2767 diseases. There are few policies that should rally as much
2768 bipartisan support as this bill, and it has. Last Congress
2769 this bill passed unanimously through this committee and on
2770 the House floor. It has continued to garner bipartisan
2771 support and cosponsorships this Congress, reaching over 280
2772 cosponsors as of this morning, more than half of the House of
2773 Representatives, and is supported by hundreds of
2774 organizations.

2775 With that, Mr. Chairman, I would like to enter in the
2776 following letter of support into the record signed by nearly
2777 200 patient organizations.

2778 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection.

2779 [The information follows:]

2780

2781 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2782

2783 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there any
2784 further discussion on the bill, underlying bill?

2785 All right. I now open the floor for amendments. I have
2786 an amendment. The clerk will report the amendment at the
2787 desk.

2788 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2789 H.R. 1262, offered by Mr. Dunn. Strike all after the
2790 enacting clause and insert the following. Section 1, short
2791 title, table --

2792 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the reading of the
2793 amendment is dispensed with.

2794 [The amendment of Dr. Dunn follows:]

2795

2796 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2797

2798 *Mr. Dunn. And I recognize myself for five minutes.

2799 This amendment adds language to the bill to increase
2800 transparency in the generic drug applications. This common-
2801 sense legislation will allow companies working to bring
2802 lower-cost generics to market clarity from the FDA on whether
2803 or not their drug is qualitatively and quantitatively the
2804 same as the listed drug.

2805 What this means is that Americans can -- and their
2806 companies could face less hurdles when they are bringing a
2807 generic drug to market. In the United States generic drugs
2808 make up over 90 percent of filled prescriptions. These are
2809 really common medicines. Americans use them every day.
2810 Generic medicines are safe, effective, and often far cheaper
2811 than their branded counterparts. Increased access to these
2812 medications will save Americans money at the pharmacy and
2813 also promote their health and well-being.

2814 I want to thank Representative Kevin Mullin for his
2815 support of this language.

2816 I am also supportive of the underlying bill, the Give
2817 Kids a Chance Act. This bipartisan legislation will bring to
2818 market new cancer treatments for pediatric patients and save
2819 lives. Importantly, this bill also includes an extension of
2820 the Rare Pediatric Priority Review Voucher program. This
2821 highly successful program has incentivized new rare pediatric
2822 discoveries for many years, and is key in encouraging new

2823 research into treatments for this patient population.

2824 I urge all my colleagues to support the amendment and
2825 the underlying bill, the Give Kids a Chance Act, and I yield
2826 back. Is there further discussion on the ANS or the
2827 underlying bill?

2828 No?

2829 *Mr. Pallone. An amendment, though, to the ANS, right?

2830 *Voice. Right, it is to the ANS. Yes, so recognize
2831 this.

2832 *Mr. Dunn. Does somebody want to be recognized on the
2833 ANS?

2834 *Mr. Pallone. Do you have an amendment?

2835 *Mr. Dunn. Did you?

2836 Ms. Castor, you are recognized for five minutes.

2837 *Mr. Pallone. Did you --

2838 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I have an
2839 amendment at the desk. Is it procedurally appropriate? Did
2840 you adopt the ANS or --

2841 *Mr. Pallone. You have to amend it first.

2842 *Mr. Dunn. Do you have an amendment to the ANS?

2843 *Ms. Castor. I have an amendment to the ANS, yes.

2844 *Mr. Dunn. Does the clerk have the amendment at the
2845 desk?

2846 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, could the gentlelady please
2847 specify --

2848 *Ms. Castor. Castor_32.

2849 *Mr. Dunn. Read the --

2850 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
2851 H.R. 1262, offered by Ms. Castor of Florida. Page 29, after
2852 line 24, insert the following. Section 12, no modification
2853 to immunization schedules resulting in reduction to vaccine
2854 coverage. No modification may be made to the adult and child
2855 and adolescent immunization schedules --

2856 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the reading of the
2857 amendment is dispensed with.

2858 [The amendment of Ms. Castor follows:]

2859

2860 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

2861

2862 *Mr. Dunn. Do we have discussion on the amendment to
2863 the ANS?

2864 Ms. Castor.

2865 *Ms. Castor. Yes, thank you.

2866 *Mr. Dunn. You are recognized.

2867 *Ms. Castor. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I am
2868 in strong support of this bipartisan package that will
2869 benefit some of our most vulnerable neighbors, including
2870 children who are battling pediatric cancer and other rare
2871 diseases. This bill will help these heroic families who are
2872 desperately searching for hope and options, and it will help
2873 more parents avoid the unimaginable trauma of losing a child.

2874 One of our top priorities, rightfully in this committee,
2875 is supporting policies that help keep children healthy and
2876 well. That is why I am offering my amendment today to ensure
2877 that we can keep children's access to one of the most
2878 important and most cost-effective public health tools we
2879 have, and that is safe and effective immunizations at
2880 childhood.

2881 My amendment would prevent any arbitrary changes from
2882 being made by the Administration to the current vaccination
2883 schedules for children, teens, and adults that would result
2884 in people losing access to no-cost coverage.

2885 This is not business as usual in America right now.

2886 This is not normal. We have watched cancer research slashed

2887 by this Administration. We have seen an arbitrary halt to
2888 criminal trials. We watched Elon Musk arbitrarily fire
2889 thousands of public servants and public health experts. The
2890 GOP reducing access to high-quality, affordable health care
2891 coverage. I think Representative Veasey earlier called this
2892 a five-alarm fire. I want to pull the fire alarm, and I want
2893 everyone to join me in pulling the fire alarm because it --
2894 really.

2895 Another crazy development was just a couple of weeks ago
2896 when the HHS Secretary Kennedy fired the director of the CDC.
2897 I think his conspiracy-laden policies, his anti-science
2898 agenda are a clear and present danger to Americans.

2899 Now, the CDC director is -- the former director is over
2900 on the Senate side testifying this morning, but I have a copy
2901 of her testimony. She said that, "Secretary Kennedy directed
2902 me to commit in advance to approving every Advisory Committee
2903 on Immunization recommendation, regardless of the scientific
2904 evidence. I responded that I could not pre-approve
2905 recommendations without reviewing the evidence.'"

2906 Tomorrow the reconstituted immunization panel will meet.
2907 Its composition has already raised concerns from the medical
2908 community. Based on what I have observed during my tenure,
2909 there is a real risk that recommendations could be made
2910 restricting access to vaccines for children and others in
2911 need without rigorous scientific review.

2912 The stakes are not theoretical. We have already seen
2913 the largest measles outbreak in more than 30 years, which
2914 claimed the lives of 2 children. If vaccine protections are
2915 weakened, preventable diseases will return.

2916 This quackery now is spreading. I know that many of you
2917 were caught off guard, but none more so than us from Florida
2918 when Governor DeSantis and our surgeon general proposed just
2919 a couple of weeks ago that they were going to end the
2920 safeguards surrounding childhood vaccines so that you are not
2921 -- no longer required to get vaccinated for polio or hep B or
2922 diphtheria, or measles, mumps, rubella as you enter schools.
2923 The pediatricians say this is unwise, the doctors say this is
2924 unwise, that parents know, all of us who have been vaccinated
2925 in the past know this is crazy talk. It is dangerous.

2926 Are you going to come to your Disney World, Universal,
2927 or cruise vacation in Florida with your kids? This is an
2928 economic threat, as well.

2929 So, Mr. Chairman and colleagues across the aisle, all of
2930 us, this is a five-alarm fire. And I am beseeching you. I
2931 reached out to you after the CDC director was fired to say it
2932 is our job now to have hearings, to have oversight, to write
2933 letters, to make statements. It would be -- the least you
2934 could do today is at least make a statement of concern for
2935 what is happening in health care in America. It is our job
2936 now to be the adults in the room.

2937 We know that parents want to protect their kids, and we
2938 need to make sure that they know that the best way for them
2939 to do that is through safe and effective vaccinations. We
2940 can't let Secretary Kennedy upend vaccine coverage for the
2941 entire country based on quack science. You know, Dr. Monarez
2942 refused to rubber-stamp these misguided decisions, and I hope
2943 that you all can find the courage and the intestinal
2944 fortitude to stand up to this quackery and speak out now.
2945 And the least you could do is adopt this amendment to make
2946 sure kids stay healthy and well.

2947 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

2948 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Do we have
2949 discussion on the amendment?

2950 Yes, I recognize the gentleman from Florida, Mr.
2951 Bilirakis.

2952 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you.

2953 *Mr. Dunn. Five minutes.

2954 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, I appreciate
2955 it. I rise in opposition to this particular amendment.

2956 The Give Kids a Chance Act is a critical bill to enhance
2957 support for kids with cancer and other rare diseases. We
2958 have heard from both sides of the aisle how important this
2959 bill is, and what a priority it is to give our kids a chance.
2960 I don't want to risk this particular bill from getting on the
2961 floor of the House of Representatives, and I think we are a

2962 little off topic here.

2963 Now, you know, I respect the gentlelady from Florida.
2964 She is my good friend, a fellow Floridian, but also from the
2965 great area, the Tampa Bay area. But this is not a place for
2966 this particular amendment.

2967 So last Congress the bill passed unanimously, folks,
2968 through this committee and on the House floor. It has
2969 widespread bipartisan support, as you know, 280 cosponsors
2970 and counting, more than half of the House of Representatives.
2971 It is supported by hundreds of organizations. Let's give our
2972 kids a chance. It is vital that we pass this particular bill
2973 today.

2974 And I would love to have the gentlelady withdraw the
2975 amendment. I would be happy to work with her on her topic,
2976 but let's get this bill across the finish line to the House
2977 floor as soon as possible so that we can give our kids a real
2978 chance.

2979 Thank you, and I yield back.

2980 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Do we have
2981 further discussion on the amendment?

2982 Ms. Matsui, you are recognized for five minutes.

2983 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
2984 the last word.

2985 I also want the underlying bill to move forward. I have
2986 been working on it for a long time, and it is very

2987 bipartisan, and it passed in a bipartisan manner. But I do
2988 thank my colleague, Representative Castor, for offering this
2989 amendment.

2990 You know, we are here about -- to talk about protecting
2991 kids and giving them a chance. Meanwhile, RFK's band of
2992 vaccine skeptics is gearing up to rob many kids of their
2993 future. Tomorrow his sham advisory committee will meet to
2994 consider vaccines protecting kids against measles, mumps,
2995 rubella, hepatitis B, and COVID, and their actions have real
2996 consequences. If they revoke recommendations for those
2997 shots, parents of newborns are going to be frantically trying
2998 to figure out where they can get their children vaccinated
2999 and whether their insurance will pay.

3000 As kids head back to school this fall, I have already
3001 been getting calls from concerned parents who aren't sure if
3002 they will be able to protect their families against COVID and
3003 the flu. This isn't giving Americans choice; it is taking
3004 choice away.

3005 You know, my Republican colleagues might say this is not
3006 the time to debate vaccines, but the consequences of robbing
3007 Americans of their choice to get vaccinated, of abolishing --
3008 of demolishing the public trust in vaccines are especially
3009 harmful to kids with rare diseases.

3010 You know, remember the bubble boy? His immune system
3011 was so compromised that a minor infection for any of us would

3012 have been life-threatening for him. Now, thankfully, we have
3013 better treatment options now, but many people with rare
3014 diseases, especially immune diseases, are still highly
3015 susceptible to common infections. And for many of them,
3016 vaccines don't protect them as well as they protect you or
3017 me.

3018 So how would you feel as a parent if you had done
3019 everything right to protect your child, fought to get them
3020 the treatment for their rare diseases, taken time off of work
3021 to ensure they get the best care, and they get sick from a
3022 disease that should have been eliminated in this country, all
3023 because RFK wanted to impose his beliefs on the rest of the
3024 country?

3025 Vaccines save lives, and not just the life of the person
3026 receiving the vaccine. Republicans are using one hand to pat
3027 themselves on the back for protecting kids, while they use
3028 the other hand to hide their eyes while our public health
3029 falls apart.

3030 I support this amendment. I yield back the remainder of
3031 my time.

3032 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
3033 further discussion on the amendment to the amendment?

3034 Okay, on -- yes, Dr. Schrier, you are recognized for
3035 five minutes.

3036 *Ms. Schrier. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3037 I want to first just thank my friend, Representative
3038 Castor, for introducing this amendment to ensure kids and
3039 adults will still have access to vaccines, and insurance
3040 companies and public programs will still pay for them. You
3041 can imagine how important this is to me, a pediatrician. I
3042 will not get emotional about this one because I am not going
3043 to talk about specifically the patients I have taken care of
3044 with measles, meningitis, rotavirus, congenital rubella. I
3045 will just move on to some of the other information here.

3046 I just want to say that, thanks to HHS Secretary RFK,
3047 Jr., we have already seen how changing recommendations for
3048 the COVID-19 vaccine have caused confusion regarding
3049 insurance coverage and access for people who want to get
3050 vaccinated, in addition to putting pregnant women and
3051 children at unnecessary risk.

3052 Just this week, as Representative Castor mentioned, RFK,
3053 Jr. appointed new members to the previously highly-respected
3054 Advisory Committee on Immunization Practices just in time for
3055 tomorrow's meeting, where they are going to vote on new
3056 vaccination recommendations that could dramatically alter the
3057 entire childhood vaccination schedule. This new community is
3058 operating with members who have not been vetted for potential
3059 conflicts of interest, as is customary. Instead, they have
3060 been vetted for their support of baseless anti-vaccine
3061 rhetoric.

3062 This lack of oversight and accountability for this
3063 particular powerful group of individuals that make serious,
3064 life-altering, life-threatening decisions about our public
3065 health is dangerous. And I am, I think justifiably,
3066 concerned that they are going to restrict access to
3067 immunizations, continue to spew misinformation to sow public
3068 distrust, reduce vaccination rates, and then invite the
3069 spread of completely preventable diseases.

3070 So this extreme lack of transparency and scientific
3071 justification behind changes to vaccine recommendations that
3072 are supported by the greater medical community, it just has
3073 to stop. The American people deserve to know who is calling
3074 the shots, and they deserve to hold HHS and this
3075 Administration responsible to this really reckless approach
3076 to public health guidance.

3077 This body can act now. I have already asked multiple
3078 times for oversight. That is our responsibility here, and
3079 our responsibility not just in this committee but to our
3080 constituents. So Mr. Chairman, I once again ask that you
3081 summon RFK, Jr. to appear before this committee to answer for
3082 his recklessness when it comes to Americans' health, to
3083 explain the kneecapping when it comes to cutting-edge medical
3084 research, to be held accountable for his firing of the head
3085 of the CDC because she wouldn't rubber-stamp his dangerous
3086 agenda, and to answer for any changes that they make to

3087 pediatric vaccine recommendations that will affect our
3088 country's health.

3089 And I just want to double click on the fact that
3090 vaccinations were one of the greatest advances in medicine in
3091 the 20th century, and that they continue to save millions of
3092 lives every year.

3093 So I want to thank Representative Castor for introducing
3094 this amendment to make sure that all of us can get
3095 vaccinated, that those vaccines will be paid for, and I want
3096 to encourage all of my colleagues to support this amendment.

3097 Thank you, and I yield back.

3098 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is -- Mr. Tonko
3099 from New York, you are recognized for five minutes.

3100 *Mr. Tonko. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
3101 last word. I do so in applauding Representative Castor in
3102 offering this amendment.

3103 The effort to give kids a chance needs to be -- is a
3104 noble cause. And let's be bold in that attempt and be multi-
3105 faceted in addressing, from every perspective, how we can
3106 give kids that chance.

3107 There is a lot of misinformation going around about
3108 vaccines, and it is indeed scary. Now, I am a cosponsor of
3109 this Give Kids a Chance Act effort, and I support this
3110 amendment because what we do know about vaccines is that,
3111 before them, about 1 in 5 children, roughly 20 percent, did

3112 not live long enough to celebrate a fifth birthday. Over the
3113 past 50 years, childhood vaccines have saved some 154 million
3114 lives, with the measles vaccine having the largest impact.

3115 Now, several large-scale medical studies show that
3116 vaccines are not associated with autism. We must then follow
3117 the evidence which shows that vaccines save lives. Denying
3118 that truth harms children in two ways: by eroding public
3119 trust in vaccines and by diverting attention from the
3120 critical need to understand and support those with autism.

3121 So why are we firing our experts at CDC? Why are we
3122 dismantling trusted advisory groups with expertise? Why are
3123 we pushing a narrative that will mean more children will
3124 suffer the effects of vaccine-preventable diseases, or many,
3125 tragically, will die? Why are we not including that here as
3126 an effort to give kids that -- truly, that fighting chance?

3127 This is unacceptable, to just allow all of this to
3128 happen on our watch, so I urge my colleagues to support this
3129 amendment. I support Representative Castor in this effort.

3130 And with that, Mr. Chair, I yield back.

3131 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
3132 discussion on the amendment?

3133 Mrs. Dingell from Michigan is recognized for five
3134 minutes.

3135 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
3136 the last word.

3137 I first want to thank Representative Castor for offering
3138 this amendment, and I am strongly supporting it because it
3139 would prevent modifications to the adult, child, and
3140 adolescent immunization schedules according to scientific
3141 advisers.

3142 I want to thank all of my colleagues, and I am thankful
3143 that we can agree to bipartisan changes to improve the way we
3144 research and discover cancer drugs. But I would also hope in
3145 a similar way we can agree how important vaccines are.

3146 We have heard time and time again that President Trump
3147 is weakening our country's ability to stay healthy by making
3148 unnecessary changes to the Advisory Committee on Immunization
3149 Practices.

3150 This is just one story that I have heard from a
3151 constituent last week. I have a lot more. She is a lymphoma
3152 patient, and has had very challenging conversations with her
3153 oncologist regarding the COVID booster. She is scared. She
3154 doesn't know if she should get it. It would save her life,
3155 it could make her sicker. She wanted to be sure, with her
3156 condition, she would be safe in getting the vaccine. She
3157 explained how the HHS Secretary is playing games with her
3158 life and others with cancer who are at risk. She said she
3159 just wants clear answers backed in science, and science
3160 doesn't seem to matter anymore. And I guess I agree with her
3161 a little -- or a lot.

3162 Across the country, Americans are facing similar
3163 confusion to what my constituent faced as a result of this
3164 guidance, and this is leading to a serious lack of trust that
3165 is not threatening, but is reducing the overall uptake in
3166 vaccines.

3167 Let me be clear. Secretary Kennedy's revised COVID
3168 recommendations have restricted availability and
3169 accessibility in many areas of the country as providers and
3170 insurers lack clarity about what they can legally administer.

3171 And I am going to tell you -- I hope he doesn't get mad
3172 at me -- the former chair of this committee, Fred Upton,
3173 texted me two weeks ago. He went into a Virginia pharmacy
3174 for he and his wife to get the COVID vaccine. He is 72 years
3175 old. He is over -- that is public -- and he was denied his
3176 COVID vaccine, as was his wife. So let's not say if you are
3177 on -- you can get them. People of all kinds of background
3178 are being denied vaccines.

3179 Prior to the Secretary's overhaul of the program, ACIP
3180 was compromised of experts who met multiple times each year
3181 to make science-based recommendations on what vaccines would
3182 help keep Americans healthy. Any changes to the immunization
3183 schedule should follow the science, the facts, not a
3184 political agenda.

3185 And thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

3186 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. I recognize the

3187 gentleman from Massachusetts, Mr. Auchincloss, for five
3188 minutes for his comments on the amendment.

3189 Okay, my mistake. Does anybody else wish to be
3190 recognized on the -- discussion on the amendment?

3191 *Voice. Ms. McClellan from Virginia.

3192 *Mr. Dunn. Who? Yes, absolutely.

3193 *Voice. From Virginia, Ms. McClellan from --

3194 *Mr. Dunn. Ms. McClellan from Virginia, absolutely, go
3195 ahead.

3196 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. --

3197 *Mr. Dunn. Five minutes.

3198 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I want to speak
3199 in favor of this amendment because, you know, this bill may
3200 not be the right vehicle, but we do need to have this
3201 discussion because there are two really important
3202 consequences to any changes that the Advisory Committee on
3203 Immunization Practices make to the recommended immunization
3204 schedule.

3205 And we have already heard part of it is most providers
3206 provide no-cost coverage for these vaccines if they are on
3207 the schedule. And if they are not on the schedule and their
3208 cost isn't covered, many of them are unaffordable. And even
3209 people who want the vaccines will have a difficult time
3210 getting them especially, low-income individuals.

3211 But one of the things that I heard while talking to

3212 particularly hospitals and our health care providers that are
3213 already worried about a workforce shortage, and I asked an
3214 open question. I just asked, what are the things that are
3215 keeping you up at night? What are the things that you are
3216 worried about? And again, whether it was the academic
3217 hospital or the long-term care provider, they were worried
3218 about the long-term effects of reduced vaccine usage and the
3219 re-emergence of illnesses and diseases that could reach
3220 epidemic proportions that impact their workforce.

3221 And now they are worried about if my nurses start
3222 getting exposed to diseases that we thought were eradicated
3223 because people aren't getting the vaccines to prevent them,
3224 that is yet another hit to my workforce I have got to worry
3225 about.

3226 So, you know, I just wanted to bring both of those
3227 points to the committee's attention as to why I am supporting
3228 this amendment to a very important bill that I also support.

3229 And I yield back.

3230 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there
3231 further discussion on the Castor amendment to the nature of
3232 the -- to the ANS?

3233 If there is no further discussion, then the vote is
3234 called for that amendment.

3235 *Ms. Castor. I want to thank my colleagues who weighed
3236 in, but I will withdraw the amendment at this time.

3237 *Voice. Oh, you are withdrawing the amendment? Okay.

3238 *Mr. Dunn. Thank you.

3239 *Voice. She just withdrew the amendment.

3240 *Mr. Dunn. The amendment has been withdrawn.

3241 *Voice. So see if there is any other amendments.

3242 *Mr. Dunn. Any other amendments?

3243 Ms. DeGette, you are recognized for five minutes.

3244 *Ms. DeGette. First I have to have the amendment
3245 reported. I have an amendment at the desk, Mr. Chairman. It
3246 is DeGette_025.

3247 *Mr. Griffith. And Mr. Chairman, I would reserve any
3248 points of order.

3249 *Mr. Dunn. All right. Without objection.

3250 *Ms. DeGette. He needs to read the amendment.

3251 *Voice. Have him read the --

3252 *Mr. Dunn. The clerk will read the amendment.

3253 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
3254 H.R. 1262 -- amendment to the amendment in the nature of a
3255 substitute to H.R. 1262, offered by Ms. DeGette of Colorado.
3256 Page 1 --

3257 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the reading of the
3258 amendment is dispensed with.

3259 [The amendment of Ms. DeGette follows:]

3260

3261 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3262

3263 *Mr. Dunn. And the gentlelady is -- has five minutes to
3264 discuss her amendment.

3265 *Ms. DeGette. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

3266 I want to first of all say I support this bill very,
3267 very, very strongly. I think that it is really very
3268 important that we pass the bill. The Give Kids a Chance Act
3269 provides incentives to biotech companies to make cures for
3270 kids with rare diseases that would also be financially
3271 untenable. It requires pediatric studies of cancer drugs
3272 that have only been looked at in adults.

3273 It is kind of a scandal that this bill is not already in
3274 law, because last December is the very latest it should have
3275 been in the law. I would point out anecdotally, though, it
3276 is not going to do us any good to require pediatric cancer
3277 trials for new drugs when the Administration is drastically
3278 cutting research for pediatric cancer.

3279 And in this article that I put in the record -- and I
3280 helpfully provided every member of this committee with a copy
3281 of -- the very first thing they talk about in the article is
3282 a professor. She is a professor at the University of
3283 Massachusetts Chan Medical School, and she does research on
3284 an aggressive form of pediatric brain cancer, and her
3285 research got cut by the Trump Administration.

3286 The article went -- goes on to talk about the drastic
3287 cuts that we have had in cancer research. And it says that

3288 the -- and we all know this, I think -- the President's
3289 budget called for a 37 percent cut to the National Cancer
3290 Institute, reducing it to \$4.5 billion from \$7.2 billion.
3291 And as The New York Times says, "Adjusting for inflation, you
3292 have to go back more than 30 years to find a comparably sized
3293 Federal cancer research budget.'`

3294 I have been just struggling, struggling since they came
3295 up with these cuts to try to figure out why they would cut
3296 money for cancer research just when we are on the cusp of
3297 finding cures for cancer that impacts everybody, but in
3298 particular children.

3299 Anyway, that is not what this event -- the amendment
3300 does. What this amendment does is it also would -- and I
3301 appreciate the majority making some of the bills that were in
3302 that December package that was cut by DOGE and Elon Musk at -
3303 - with the stroke of a couple of tweets, but every bill that
3304 was dropped from the end-of-the-year package should have been
3305 put on the floor. All of those bills were vetted. All of us
3306 on both sides of the aisle have repeatedly said that we agree
3307 with them, and yet the majority decided not to do that.

3308 I have been begging Chairman Guthrie and Congressman
3309 Carter, when he was the chair of the House subcommittee, and
3310 now my friend, Morgan Griffith. I have been begging
3311 everybody, why can't we put all of these extenders back in?
3312 Why -- what are we waiting for, for the diabetes research,

3313 for type 1 type 2 research, for the maternal mortality, for
3314 all of those extenders that we all agreed to last fall.

3315 And so what is -- what this amendment does, it is the
3316 entirety of the health package that was dropped from the
3317 December CR. As I said, the maternal mortality review
3318 committees, which I co-lead with Mr. Carter, and the special
3319 diabetes programs, which I worked on with Mr. Bilirakis,
3320 Obernolte, and Ruiz. You know, I would think adopting it
3321 would be a no-brainer.

3322 And I really -- my normal way of operating, Mr.
3323 Chairman, as you know, is to be completely bipartisan and to
3324 work across the aisle, which I am begging you to do. I don't
3325 like the fact that this committee is failing on the health
3326 policies that impact all of the Americans. I want to have
3327 smooth, bipartisan markups like the one that we are supposed
3328 to be having today. But I just can't sit by while the health
3329 of our constituents is in jeopardy.

3330 You saw how Dr. Schrier feels. I think many of us feel
3331 the same way.

3332 I think we should have a bipartisan process, regular
3333 order, strong oversight, and the use of this committee that
3334 honors its history and potential. If we did that, we could
3335 achieve a lot for the American people.

3336 And I yield back.

3337 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any

3338 discussion on the amendment?

3339 I recognize Mr. Griffith from Virginia for five minutes.

3340 *Mr. Griffith. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I stand by my
3341 reservation. I don't know what the parliamentarians will
3342 determine. I think the amendment is so much larger than the
3343 underlying bill, and it covers so many different subjects
3344 that it ought to be not germane. But my view on germaneness
3345 does not always equate to what the parliamentarians' view on
3346 germaneness is, so it might be germane. So we will figure
3347 that out.

3348 But I do stand in opposition to the amendment.
3349 Republicans have consistently tried to find paths forward for
3350 these policies that we previously had worked on. And the
3351 gentlelady is correct, she generally tries to work in a
3352 bipartisan fashion, so I appreciate that, and we did have
3353 agreement on a lot of these last year.

3354 Now, some of it has already been taken care of. The
3355 HALT Fentanyl Act that Mr. Latta and I pushed for a number of
3356 years is now law and signed into law by the President. The
3357 Medicaid Home and Community-Based Services policy from the
3358 earlier agreement is now law, and not just a demonstration or
3359 a demo. The SUPPORT Act was passed by the House floor with
3360 substantial bipartisan support and is progressing through the
3361 Senate. Today we are moving ahead on the FDA portions of
3362 that past work. This week we will vote on a CR that

3363 continues the expiring public health Medicaid and Medicare
3364 provisions that were part of our December agreement as we
3365 continue to look for longer-term opportunities, because that
3366 is a short-term one. We are working to get all of these
3367 items done, and we are having some success.

3368 Alternatively, we know that, whether we on this
3369 committee like it or not, if you throw everything into the
3370 basket at one time, there are various people in Congress and
3371 out of Congress who find various pieces of it that they have
3372 some reason to oppose, and sometimes the weight of a bill can
3373 collapse the opportunities to get it passed.

3374 So I would ask that we reject the amendment.

3375 *Ms. DeGette. Well --

3376 *Mr. Griffith. We keep working together to take on the
3377 important issues that we do agree on, and a lot of these -- I
3378 can't disagree with the gentlelady. A lot of these are, in
3379 fact, items that those of us on this committee agree on, and
3380 we just have to find the best path forward to get it passed
3381 ultimately by the House and the Senate.

3382 *Ms. DeGette. Will the gentleman yield?

3383 *Mr. Griffith. I will yield, yes.

3384 *Ms. DeGette. So I will withdraw my amendment, but I
3385 want to point out that the continuing resolution that the
3386 Republicans have proposed does extend all of these things at
3387 flat funding, even when there was agreement, bipartisan

3388 agreement last fall, to do different things. But it also
3389 only extends it through November --

3390 *Mr. Griffith. The 21st.

3391 *Ms. DeGette. -- 21.

3392 *Mr. Griffith. Yes, ma'am.

3393 *Ms. DeGette. And the problem with that -- and I feel
3394 quite strongly -- if you are trying to do research, it is
3395 really virtually impossible to do research month to month.
3396 Like, now it is almost October. So you are going to say to
3397 all of these researchers, don't worry, your program is
3398 extended at a flat level for six weeks. That is why I think
3399 it is really, really important that we all get together
3400 seriously and figure out the extensions that we have all
3401 agreed on before.

3402 And you are nodding your head, so I assume you agree,
3403 Mr. Chairman.

3404 *Mr. Griffith. Well, I certainly hope that we can get
3405 together and work things out not just within the committee,
3406 but things that we think that we can actually get passed,
3407 because I think that a lot of these programs are things that
3408 both sides of the aisle agree on or should agree on. But
3409 sometimes if you take them in smaller bites, you have more
3410 success.

3411 *Ms. DeGette. As I told the chairman, if you put them
3412 up on the floor in a package, it would pass on suspension

3413 with Democratic votes. I will say it in public.

3414 And with that I will withdraw the amendment.

3415 *Mr. Griffith. I yield back.

3416 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. Is there further
3417 discussion on the amendment?

3418 Mr. Auchincloss of Massachusetts, you are --

3419 *Voice. She withdrew the amendment. I know, but he has
3420 his own amendment.

3421 *Mr. Auchincloss. It is all right. She withdrew.

3422 *Mr. Dunn. This is -- do you wish to speak on the -- on
3423 Ms. DeGette's amendment?

3424 *Mr. Auchincloss. Yes.

3425 *Ms. DeGette. You are recognized for five minutes.

3426 *Voice. All right, okay.

3427 *Mr. Auchincloss. All right.

3428 *Voice. She just withdrew it.

3429 *Mr. Auchincloss. As my colleague from Colorado just
3430 proposed, we must ensure that the overwhelmingly bipartisan
3431 policies included in the 2024 end-of-year package make it
3432 across the finish line. I heard from the gentleman from
3433 Virginia that some of them have made it piecemeal. But
3434 obviously, the portfolio of Pharmacy Benefit Manager reform
3435 bills did not. And this is slam dunk health care policy.

3436 These bills, one, take on corporate greed that is
3437 raising prices for Americans. The Pharmacy Benefit Managers,

3438 particularly the big three owned by the Fortune 20 health
3439 insurance corporations, are taking hundreds of billions of
3440 dollars out of the health insurance system each year, despite
3441 the fact that they research and develop no new medicines,
3442 that they dispense no medicines, that they prescribe no
3443 medicines. They are middlemen, and they have taken advantage
3444 of their position in an opaque supply chain to price gouge
3445 Americans.

3446 We were taking bold steps through oversight,
3447 accountability, and transparency to take on that corporate
3448 greed. We were supporting small businesses. The
3449 pharmacists, who are the cornerstones of their community, who
3450 are frontline medical providers, who are in many communities
3451 the most consistent medical providers to see patients are
3452 getting driven into bankruptcy, one or two every week in this
3453 country, through clawback fees and gag clauses and contracts
3454 imposed by these Pharmacy Benefit Managers that are making it
3455 impossible to run a small business that serves their
3456 patients. These bills were going to support those
3457 pharmacists.

3458 And then these bills were going to lower co-pays and
3459 premiums. Right now we have got health insurance going up
3460 10, 15 percent every single year, twice as fast as wages, at
3461 least. And this was important, substantive legislation to
3462 actually take a bite out of health care costs for American

3463 families. We were 12 hours away from passing this
3464 legislation, and then Elon Musk tweeted about it and the
3465 Speaker pulled the bill from the House floor. Elon Musk then
3466 tweeted, "What is a PBM," so not at all clear that he
3467 actually knew what he was talking about, but a billionaire
3468 donor to Donald Trump didn't like some legislation that we
3469 were going to vote on, and so Republicans flinched.

3470 And the gentleman from Virginia said we have to find our
3471 path to the floor. Well, that obstacle on that path has been
3472 removed now. Elon Musk is out of government. Maybe he is
3473 still tweeting, I don't know, but he is not in government
3474 anymore. So the obstacle for our Republican colleagues has
3475 been removed, now that Elon Musk can't impose his will on
3476 you. Let's get this to the floor and vote on it. As the
3477 gentlewoman from Colorado said, it will pass on suspension.
3478 Let's pass this legislation for Americans.

3479 I yield back.

3480 *Mr. Dunn. The gentleman yields back. The amendment --
3481 the DeGette amendment has been withdrawn. Do we have any
3482 further amendments to the underlying bill, any further
3483 amendments?

3484 *Mr. Pallone. There are no further amendments, sir.

3485 *Mr. Dunn. Then we are voting on the ANS at this point.
3486 And all those in favor, say aye.

3487 Opposed?

3488 The ayes have it. The ANS is adopted, and now we vote
3489 on final passage of the bill, and the roll call has been
3490 requested. The clerk will call the roll.

3491 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3492 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3493 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3494 Mr. Griffith?

3495 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

3496 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3497 Mr. Bilirakis?

3498 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

3499 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.

3500 Mr. Hudson?

3501 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.

3502 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.

3503 Mr. Carter of Georgia?

3504 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3505 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

3506 Mr. Palmer?

3507 [No response.]

3508 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn?

3509 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

3510 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

3511 Mr. Crenshaw?

3512 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.

3513 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
3514 Mr. Joyce?
3515 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.
3516 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
3517 Mr. Weber?
3518 *Mr. Weber. Yes, buddy.
3519 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3520 Mr. Allen?
3521 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
3522 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3523 Mr. Balderson?
3524 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
3525 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3526 Mr. Fulcher?
3527 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
3528 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
3529 Mr. Pfluger?
3530 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3531 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
3532 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3533 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3534 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
3535 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3536 [No response.]
3537 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack?

3538 [No response.]
3539 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte?
3540 *Mr. Oubernolte. Aye.
3541 *The Clerk. Mr. Oubernolte votes aye.
3542 Mr. James?
3543 *Mr. James. Aye.
3544 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.
3545 Mr. Bentz?
3546 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
3547 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
3548 Mrs. Houchin?
3549 [No response.]
3550 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3551 [No response.]
3552 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3553 [No response.]
3554 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean?
3555 [No response.]
3556 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
3557 [No response.]
3558 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans?
3559 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
3560 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
3561 Mr. Goldman?
3562 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.

3563 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3564 Mrs. Fedorchak?
3565 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
3566 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
3567 Mr. Pallone?
3568 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3569 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3570 Ms. DeGette?
3571 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3572 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3573 Ms. Schakowsky?
3574 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3575 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3576 Ms. Matsui?
3577 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3578 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3579 Ms. Castor?
3580 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3581 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3582 Mr. Tonko?
3583 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3584 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3585 Ms. Clarke?
3586 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3587 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.

3588 Mr. Ruiz?
3589 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
3590 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3591 Mr. Peters?
3592 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3593 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3594 Mrs. Dingell?
3595 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3596 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3597 Mr. Veasey?
3598 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3599 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3600 Ms. Kelly?
3601 [No response.]
3602 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
3603 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3604 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3605 Mr. Soto?
3606 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3607 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3608 Ms. Schrier?
3609 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3610 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3611 Mrs. Trahan?
3612 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.

3613 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3614 Mrs. Fletcher?
3615 [No response.]
3616 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?
3617 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.
3618 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.
3619 Mr. Auchincloss?
3620 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.
3621 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.
3622 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?
3623 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.
3624 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.
3625 Mr. Menendez?
3626 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.
3627 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.
3628 Mr. Mullin?
3629 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.
3630 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.
3631 Mr. Landsman?
3632 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.
3633 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.
3634 Ms. McClellan?
3635 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.
3636 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.
3637 Chairman Guthrie?

3638 [No response.]

3639 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie?

3640 *The Chair. Aye.

3641 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

3642 *Mr. Langworthy. How is Langworthy recorded?

3643 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy is not recorded.

3644 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.

3645 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.

3646 Mrs. Miller-Meeks is not recorded.

3647 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Aye.

3648 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

3649 Mr. Rulli is not recorded.

3650 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.

3651 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.

3652 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer?

3653 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer is not recorded.

3654 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.

3655 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.

3656 *Mr. Dunn. Anybody else? Is there anybody else who

3657 hasn't voted?

3658 All right, the clerk will report the ayes and the nays.

3659 [Pause.]

3660 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 47

3661 ayes and 0 noes.

3662 *Mr. Dunn. The ayes have it and the bill, as amended,

3663 is adopted.

3664 The chair will call up H.R. 3302, and ask the clerk to
3665 report.

3666 *The Clerk. H.R. 3302, a bill to amend the Public
3667 Health Service Act to reauthorize the Healthy Start
3668 initiative. Section 1, short title. This Act may be cited
3669 as the Healthy Start Reauthorization Act of --

3670 *Mr. Dunn. Without objection, the first reading of the
3671 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3672 amendment at any point.

3673 So ordered.

3674 [The bill follows:]

3675

3676 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3677

3678 *Mr. Dunn. Does anyone wish to be recognized on the
3679 bill?

3680 I recognize Ms. Ocasio-Cortez from New York for five
3681 minutes.

3682 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman,
3683 and I would, of course, like to join in the unanimous
3684 celebration and happiness in Representative Cammack and her
3685 recent birth and her beautiful baby girl.

3686 And, you know, I raise it because, as well, I would like
3687 to -- and before I move on, I would also like to thank
3688 Chairman Guthrie for bringing this reauthorization to the
3689 full committee markup, as well as Congresswoman Malliotakis
3690 for her partnership in this bill.

3691 Many of you have heard me discuss the Healthy Start
3692 program before. This is a bipartisan program that has
3693 existed and actually started under President George H.W. Bush
3694 in 1991 to reduce infant deaths across the country. Healthy
3695 Start is a beautiful and, again, bipartisan program that
3696 helps moms learn how to breastfeed, learn safe sleep
3697 practices, have access to some diapers and formula. And
3698 while the United States experiences some of the highest
3699 maternal mortality rates in the world, Healthy Start has been
3700 a bright spot in helping reduce those deaths.

3701 And this reauthorization is something that is really
3702 important not just to me, not just to Congresswoman

3703 Malliotakis, but it is so essential to families across the
3704 country. And I kind of want to take a moment to take a beat
3705 and a pause today, and appeal to all of us in this room.

3706 I understand that we are in an environment where
3707 reauthorizations can't be taken for granted, that in a
3708 Republican majority there is a strict and thorough assessment
3709 of what merits reauthorization and what doesn't. And in that
3710 sometimes there are meritorious people and communities that
3711 fall through the cracks. And often times working moms in
3712 this country and new moms in this country who are at risk and
3713 have -- who are at risk for pregnancies with complications
3714 fall through those cracks. These moms don't have lobbyists.
3715 They don't have industry. And this reauthorization, while on
3716 its face may seem small, can really change a lot of people's
3717 lives. I really don't want to see this fall through the
3718 cracks after 30 -- over 30 years of a successful bipartisan
3719 work on this.

3720 And to that end I sincerely want to extend my gratitude
3721 to Chairman Guthrie. When there was a moment that this
3722 reauthorization may have gotten lost in the weeds, he was
3723 willing to give it a fair hearing and a fair shot. And I am
3724 deeply, deeply grateful that it has made it to this markup,
3725 and I am deeply grateful for the bipartisan support for this
3726 reauthorization.

3727 And again, I don't think that we should take it for

3728 granted, and so I want to extend my gratitude for the
3729 Republican support for this reauthorization.

3730 And I would not be a congresswoman if I didn't have an
3731 additional ask, which is I would like to ask for some of my
3732 Republican colleagues and partners here to help us get this
3733 through the Senate. I am really, genuinely concerned.

3734 Healthy Start helps working moms in all 50 states.
3735 Every single one of us represents or knows families that
3736 benefit from it that would not know how to, you know, put
3737 their baby to sleep properly if it wasn't for the federally
3738 available resources to teach them these things. And so I ask
3739 that we not allow this to fall through the cracks. I ask us
3740 to continue the bipartisan support for this. And I also ask
3741 us to treat this as an opportunity to create a bright spot
3742 and hope for people, that we can still do good things in such
3743 a dark and challenging time.

3744 So we have testimony from mothers that have benefitted
3745 from this program that I would like to submit to the record,
3746 but one mom has said, "Healthy Start has taught me how to
3747 care for my baby, understand his needs, and keep him safe. I
3748 learned about safe sleep practices, developmental milestones,
3749 and how to advocate for my child's health. That guidance
3750 gave me something no material item could ever could, which is
3751 confidence.'" So I seek to submit these stories to the
3752 record, and I look forward to trying to get this to the

3753 President's desk.

3754 And I yield back. Thank you.

3755 *Mr. Dunn. The gentlelady yields back. Is there any
3756 further discussion on the bill? Any further discussion on
3757 the bill?

3758 No? Okay. Hearing none, the question now occurs on
3759 adopting H.R. 3302.

3760 All those in favor, say aye.

3761 Opposed?

3762 Is there a request for a roll call? No? No request for
3763 a roll call?

3764 Is anybody opposed?

3765 Okay, the ayes have it.

3766 *Voice. A roll call, roll call.

3767 *Voice. Mr. Chair?

3768 *Mr. Dunn. Oh, there is a roll call request. Sorry, we
3769 have a roll call request. The clerk will call the roll.

3770 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

3771 *Mr. Latta. Aye.

3772 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

3773 Mr. Griffith?

3774 *Mr. Griffith. Aye. Aye.

3775 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

3776 Mr. Bilirakis?

3777 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.

3778 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
3779 Mr. Hudson?
3780 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
3781 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
3782 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
3783 [No response.]
3784 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer?
3785 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
3786 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
3787 Mr. Dunn?
3788 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.
3789 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.
3790 Mr. Crenshaw?
3791 [No response.]
3792 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
3793 *Mr. Crenshaw. Crenshaw votes aye.
3794 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
3795 Mr. Joyce?
3796 *Mr. Joyce. Joyce votes aye.
3797 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.
3798 Mr. Weber?
3799 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
3800 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
3801 Mr. Allen?
3802 *Mr. Allen. Aye.

3803 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
3804 Mr. Balderson?
3805 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.
3806 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.
3807 Mr. Fulcher?
3808 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.
3809 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.
3810 Mr. Pfluger?
3811 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.
3812 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.
3813 Mrs. Harshbarger?
3814 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.
3815 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.
3816 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3817 [No response.]
3818 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks?
3819 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.
3820 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.
3821 Mrs. Cammack?
3822 *Mrs. Cammack. Aye.
3823 *The Clerk. Mrs. Cammack votes aye.
3824 Mr. Obernolte?
3825 *Mr. Obernolte. Aye.
3826 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes aye.
3827 Mr. James?

3828 [No response.]
3829 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?
3830 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.
3831 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.
3832 Mrs. Houchin?
3833 [No response.]
3834 *The Clerk. Mr. Fry?
3835 [No response.]
3836 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
3837 [No response.]
3838 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy?
3839 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
3840 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
3841 Mr. Kean?
3842 [No response.]
3843 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli?
3844 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
3845 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
3846 Mr. Evans?
3847 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
3848 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
3849 Mr. Goldman?
3850 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
3851 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
3852 Mrs. Fedorchak?

3853 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
3854 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
3855 Mr. Pallone?
3856 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
3857 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
3858 Ms. DeGette?
3859 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
3860 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
3861 Ms. Schakowsky?
3862 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
3863 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
3864 Ms. Matsui?
3865 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
3866 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
3867 Ms. Castor?
3868 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
3869 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
3870 Mr. Tonko?
3871 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
3872 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
3873 Ms. Clarke?
3874 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
3875 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
3876 Mr. Ruiz?
3877 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.

3878 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
3879 Mr. Peters?
3880 *Mr. Peters. Aye.
3881 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
3882 Mrs. Dingell?
3883 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
3884 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
3885 Mr. Veasey?
3886 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
3887 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
3888 Ms. Kelly?
3889 [No response.]
3890 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan?
3891 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
3892 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
3893 Mr. Soto?
3894 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
3895 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
3896 Ms. Schrier?
3897 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
3898 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
3899 Mrs. Trahan?
3900 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
3901 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
3902 Mrs. Fletcher?

3903 [No response.]

3904 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

3905 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

3906 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

3907 Mr. Auchincloss?

3908 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

3909 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

3910 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

3911 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

3912 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

3913 Mr. Menendez?

3914 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

3915 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

3916 Mr. Mullin?

3917 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

3918 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

3919 Mr. Landsman?

3920 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

3921 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

3922 Ms. McClellan?

3923 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

3924 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

3925 Chairman Guthrie?

3926 *The Chair. Aye.

3927 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

3928 *The Chair. [Presiding.] Is anyone seeking to enter the
3929 roll call?

3930 Mr. Carter.

3931 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia is not recorded.

3932 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.

3933 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.

3934 *Mr. James. Mr. Chairman, how is James recorded?

3935 *The Chair. Mr. James?

3936 *The Clerk. Mr. James is not recorded.

3937 *Mr. James. Aye.

3938 *The Clerk. Mr. James votes aye.

3939 *The Chair. Is there anyone on the Republican -- the
3940 Democrat side? Has everyone voted?

3941 *Mr. Kean. Mr. --

3942 *The Chair. How is Mr. Kean recorded? Mr. Kean.

3943 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean is not recorded.

3944 *Mr. Kean. Aye.

3945 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye.

3946 *The Chair. Is anyone else seeking the roll call?

3947 The clerk will report.

3948 [Pause.]

3949 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie, on that vote there were
3950 49 ayes and 0 noes.

3951 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

3952 The chair now calls up H.R. 979, and asks the clerk to

3953 report.

3954 *The Clerk. H.R. 979, a bill to require the Secretary
3955 of Transportation to issue --

3956 *The Chair. Without objection, the first reading of the
3957 bill is dispensed with, and the bill will be open for
3958 amendment at any point.

3959 So ordered.

3960 [The bill follows:]

3961

3962 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3963

3964 *The Chair. Does anyone seek to be recognized on the
3965 bill?

3966 Mr. Bilirakis? Mr. Bilirakis is recognized for five
3967 minutes --

3968 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3969 *The Chair. -- to speak on the bill.

3970 *Mr. Bilirakis. I am going to speak on the ANS.

3971 *The Chair. Oh, the --

3972 *Mr. Bilirakis. I will speak on the ANS, yes.

3973 *The Chair. So if no one is speaking on the bills, will
3974 the clerk report the ANS and then speak on the ANS?

3975 The gentleman has an amendment at the desk, the
3976 gentleman, Mr. Bilirakis, has amendment at the desk.

3977 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes.

3978 *The Chair. The ANS for H.R. -- it is 979. The clerk
3979 will report the amendment.

3980 Do you know the number of your amendment, Mr. --

3981 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes, I know it. It is 041.

3982 *The Clerk. Amendment in the nature of a substitute to
3983 H.R. 979 --

3984 *The Chair. Without objection, the reading of the
3985 amendment is dispensed with.

3986 [The amendment of Mr. Bilirakis follows:]

3987

3988 *****COMMITTEE INSERT*****

3989

3990 *The Chair. And the gentleman is recognized for five
3991 minutes --

3992 *Mr. Bilirakis. Thank you, Mr. Chairman.

3993 *The Chair. -- in support of his amendment.

3994 *Mr. Bilirakis. I appreciate it. Before I speak on the
3995 amendment, I wish to stress the importance of the underlying
3996 legislation, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025, led
3997 by myself and Ranking Member Pallone and supported by 300
3998 cosponsors.

3999 AM broadcast radio is critical. It is a critical public
4000 safety resource. The Federal Emergency Management Agency
4001 issues emergency alerts across many communications channels,
4002 as you know, but no channel is more impactful and far-
4003 reaching than AM broadcast radio, particularly in the rural
4004 areas. Coming from Florida, my constituents and I know quite
4005 well how crucial AM radio is for receiving emergency alerts
4006 during hurricane season. For consumers and rural communities
4007 to people stuck without electricity or Internet during a
4008 national disaster, AM radio is their lifeline to critical and
4009 lifesaving information.

4010 This bill makes sure that consumers don't lose that
4011 lifeline. It is really critical, Mr. Speaker -- Mr.
4012 Chairman. By requiring the Department of Transportation to
4013 issue a rule that requires automakers to include AM broadcast
4014 radio in their cars, we can protect Americans and ensure this

4015 critical service remains available.

4016 So this amendment represents a bipartisan agreement and
4017 a compromise across industry. It adjusts the sunset
4018 provision from 10 years to 8 years, shortens the timeline for
4019 automakers to comply with the rule, and requires the DoT to
4020 examine the potential impacts to automotive innovation and
4021 motor vehicle safety. With these changes we are future-
4022 proofing the legislation and making sure we have the
4023 bipartisan consensus product that will truly do what it is
4024 intended to do, keep drivers safe and connected to alert
4025 messages during emergencies.

4026 I want to thank Ranking Member Pallone for working with
4027 me on this, and I want to thank all the cosponsors -- I know
4028 we have quite a few on the committee -- for really advocating
4029 to get this on the floor of the House as soon as possible.
4030 But first things first, we pass it out of the committee
4031 today. So I urge a yes vote, of course, on the ANS and the
4032 underlying bill, and --

4033 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Would the gentleman yield?

4034 *Mr. Bilirakis. -- interest of time -- yes. Yes,
4035 absolutely, I will.

4036 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Mr. Bilirakis, as you know, I
4037 support this bill. I think it is a great effort. But can
4038 you share with or elaborate with us the distinction why would
4039 we move it from 10 to 8 years? What is the magic of

4040 reducing --

4041 *Mr. Bilirakis. Well, yes, it was negotiated between
4042 the parties, and it is a compromise.

4043 Now, the fact that they have to deliver -- the
4044 rulemaking has to deliver sooner will help matters. But
4045 again, I got to move this bill forward. You know, eight
4046 years is better than zero. Okay?

4047 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Well, again --

4048 *Mr. Bilirakis. So again, you know, you have got to
4049 compromise, you have got to negotiate. You have got to find
4050 common ground amongst, of course, the members of the
4051 legislature, the Congress, but also stakeholders. So to get
4052 this on the floor of the House as soon as possible and passed
4053 out of the House, we agreed to the eight years.

4054 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Will you yield one second
4055 more?

4056 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes.

4057 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. And I understand the
4058 compromise, I understand the necessity to compromise. What I
4059 don't understand is the argument for 8 versus 10. That is
4060 what I am trying to understand.

4061 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes. Well, again, you know, we can
4062 work through that. But again, I don't want to risk --

4063 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. No, I get that.

4064 *Mr. Bilirakis. -- losing the bill.

4065 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Is there an answer why it is
4066 10 versus -- 8 versus 10?

4067 *Mr. Bilirakis. Yes.

4068 *The Chair. Will the gentleman yield to me?

4069 *Mr. Bilirakis. Well, yes, yes.

4070 *The Chair. So the issue is that in the automotive --
4071 in all of technology, things are changing so quickly. And it
4072 just is updated. So we got the autonomous vehicles that are
4073 coming out, and we do have sort of some language in there
4074 about this.

4075 But -- and so the question just is, you know, some
4076 people didn't want any limit, that it is always AM radio.
4077 Some people wanted lower because they said -- they just
4078 wanted it lower because technology changes so quickly. And
4079 so this was an agreed-upon 8 instead of 10 because they
4080 wanted -- it was 10, and there was groups of people that
4081 wanted it lower who said, well, we will have a new, different
4082 -- a completely different car we could have in five years or
4083 six years. So it was just how long could we have it, given
4084 that things are changing so much? It was just kind of a
4085 split the difference between what people wanted, what both
4086 sides kind of wanted.

4087 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you.

4088 *Mr. Bilirakis. It is all about negotiation, folks.
4089 And again, public safety is the utmost important.

4090 So I will actually yield back, Mr. Chairman, thank you.

4091 *The Chair. The gentleman from New Jersey is recognized
4092 for -- the gentleman, Mr. Pallone from New Jersey, is
4093 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

4094 *Mr. Pallone. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased we
4095 are considering this bill, and I want to thank our
4096 Subcommittee Chair Bilirakis for introducing it with me as
4097 the chief Democrat.

4098 We have heard from countless public safety officials
4099 that AM radio is a critical lifeline in times of crisis,
4100 especially in rural areas or when cell signals and other
4101 forms of Internet connectivity stop working, something that
4102 regularly occurs during weather-related emergencies. So this
4103 bill, as you know, requires vehicle manufacturers to include
4104 AM radio in all passenger cars made or sold in the United
4105 States at no extra cost to consumers.

4106 Just last week we heard from a North Carolina public
4107 safety official and a Florida broadcaster who are on the
4108 front lines of disseminating information during natural
4109 disasters about the importance of AM radio access in
4110 vehicles. They emphasized the vast reach of AM radio and
4111 their continued reliance on AM radio as a communications tool
4112 during emergencies.

4113 And I don't care whether it is California, Texas, North
4114 Carolina, Florida, and including my home state of New Jersey,

4115 communities across the country face more hurricanes, floods,
4116 wildfires, and other emergency situations, and know that
4117 access to timely information saves lives. And unfortunately,
4118 these disasters, as I said, are only becoming more frequent.
4119 So we have to ensure people have access to information when
4120 they need it at no extra cost.

4121 So again, I want to thank Chairman Bilirakis and
4122 Chairman Guthrie for working with me on this bill. As Mr.
4123 Bilirakis mentioned, we have over 300 cosponsors, bipartisan.

4124 And, of course, I would prefer, as I know my colleague
4125 from Louisiana, I would prefer that this amendment not
4126 include an eight-year sunset provision. And I know many of
4127 you on both sides of the aisle feel the same way. But, look,
4128 AM radio is going to remain a critical element of our
4129 nation's emergency alert infrastructure for the foreseeable
4130 future. The real truth is there is currently no replacement
4131 as reliable or able to reach as many communities as AM radio.

4132 So I just -- I firmly believe that to protect the safety
4133 of the American people, we need to -- we will probably need
4134 to revisit this Act, Mr. Carter, before the sunset expires to
4135 ensure that Americans continue to benefit from easy and free
4136 access to AM radio. But my understanding is that this bill
4137 will not move to the floor unless it contains this eight-year
4138 sunset provision. So that is why we all agreed to it, and we
4139 want to make sure that we are protecting access to AM radio

4140 for all the reasons.

4141 So I support the amendment, and I encourage all members
4142 of the committee to support it, as well, and yield back the
4143 balance of my time.

4144 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking recognition for the
4145 purpose of discussion?

4146 Mr. Carter is recognized for five -- Mr. Carter of
4147 Georgia is recognized for five minutes.

4148 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I move to strike
4149 the last word.

4150 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4151 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Mr. Chairman, I am proud to
4152 support and cosponsor H.R. 979, AM Radio For Every Vehicle
4153 Act of 2025.

4154 AM radio includes over 4,000 stations, with an estimated
4155 47 million listeners. It is an important part of our
4156 emergency alert infrastructure, as the Federal Emergency
4157 Management Administration relies on AM for the National
4158 Public Warning System. When a national disaster strikes,
4159 cellular and wireless Internet communications are not always
4160 an option. AM radio reaches further than any other signal,
4161 and is more resilient during natural disasters such as
4162 hurricanes like we experience in my district. Plus, in many
4163 rural areas there is already a lack of reliable connectivity,
4164 not to mention many of our Georgia farmers are relying on AM

4165 radio for weather alerts and more.

4166 This is a big priority for me, and I would encourage all
4167 of my colleagues to support this bill. I look forward to
4168 passing this legislation out of this committee today, and I
4169 remain committed to preserving AM radio for all Americans.

4170 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, for holding this markup, and I
4171 urge all my colleagues in this committee to vote in support
4172 of H.R. 979, the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025.

4173 Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I yield back.

4174 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The gentlelady
4175 from California is recognized for five minutes.

4176 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you very much, Mr. Chairman. I move
4177 to strike the last word.

4178 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

4179 *Ms. Matsui. Thank you. More than 82 million
4180 Americans, including nearly one-third of all Californians,
4181 tune into AM radio each month. When the power goes out, when
4182 cell service stops working, when Internet connections go
4183 down, AM radio remains our most reliable emergency
4184 communications backbone.

4185 AM radio signals can travel much further than any other
4186 types of radio, reaching isolated communities with lifesaving
4187 information including severe weather warnings, evacuation
4188 routes, and emergency shelter locations. When catastrophe
4189 strikes, AM radio is a communications lifeline.

4190 Just this year, during the California wildfires and
4191 Texas floods, AM radio stations provided round-the-clock
4192 updates to support impacted families and first responders.
4193 That is why I am supporting the AM Radio for Every Vehicle
4194 Act today.

4195 But in protecting access to emergency communications, we
4196 can't lose sight of another pressing responsibility:
4197 advancing sustainability. Electric vehicles are central to
4198 that mission. They reduce emissions, cut down on traffic
4199 noise, and help us build a healthier planet. As co-chair of
4200 the Sustainable Energy and Environment Coalition, I am proud
4201 to lead efforts to expand EV infrastructure and encourage
4202 zero-emission vehicles.

4203 But unfortunately, we requiring an AM radio in every EV
4204 poses a sticky technological challenge. Electromagnetic
4205 interference from EV components can significantly compromise
4206 AM radio reception. This problem doesn't have a quick or
4207 easy fix. So while I am proudly supporting this bill today,
4208 our work is -- I recognize our work is far from complete. I
4209 am committed to finding solutions that balance these two
4210 essential priorities: emergency communications and
4211 sustainability.

4212 Unfortunately, I have to point out that the Trump
4213 Administration seems not to care about either of these
4214 priorities. He is destroying our public safety

4215 communications infrastructure, including gutting public media
4216 funding and Federal disaster response agencies like FEMA.
4217 For an AM radio to be of any use in an emergency, we need the
4218 broadcast networks to transmit emergency communications and
4219 first responders on the ground. I urge my colleagues to
4220 think about the big picture here. Let's not allow partisan
4221 politics to weaken the very systems that save lives during
4222 disasters.

4223 Thank you, and I yield back the balance of my time.

4224 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back and the chair
4225 will recognize Mr. Palmer for five minutes to speak on the
4226 amendment.

4227 *Mr. Palmer. I move to strike the last word.

4228 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4229 *Mr. Palmer. In reference to what the gentlelady from
4230 California said, there is over 82 million people listening to
4231 AM radio on a monthly basis. That is from the Nielsen
4232 ratings. Fifty-seven percent of those are news talk
4233 listeners, where they are getting their news -- and
4234 particularly in times of crisis. One of five listeners in a
4235 hundred and forty-one markets are AM radio listeners. In San
4236 Francisco, it is 2.5 million people on a monthly basis.

4237 One of the advantages of AM radio versus FM radio is
4238 they are not obstructed by geography and other structures,
4239 which accounts for being able to listen to AM radio in, you

4240 know, hundreds, if not 1,000 miles away from the station.
4241 Growing up I worked at night when I was in high school, and I
4242 would drive home, I would listen to Buffalo, New York,
4243 Philadelphia, Saint Louis, Des Moines, San Antonio.

4244 I think that everyone here on the committee should
4245 support this bill to maintain AM radio in automobiles. And
4246 with that, Mr. Chairman, I yield back.

4247 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back and the chair
4248 recognizes Ms. Castor for five minutes to speak on the
4249 amendment.

4250 *Ms. Castor. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I move to strike
4251 the last word. I am pleased to see the committee working in
4252 a bipartisan fashion to advance the AM Radio for All Act.

4253 AM radio is vital to our neighbors back home. We have -
4254 - everyone has kind of chimed in on understanding the
4255 importance at times of crisis, but I can really speak to --
4256 directly to this because we are approaching the one-year
4257 anniversary of Hurricane Helene and Milton. About well over
4258 a third of my neighbors in my district flooded out after
4259 Helene. They -- you had about one million family -- people
4260 lose power. After Helene, across 10 states, 6 million people
4261 lost power. What also happens is that your Internet goes
4262 down. You don't really think of that. People are constantly
4263 picking up their phones trying to get information, and you
4264 can't because the -- you don't have WiFi and you don't have

4265 power. You don't have a way to charge.

4266 What I did last year is I dug out my old Walkman that I
4267 had in the back of the closet. I keep it there for -- just
4268 for this reason with batteries, and I could get all of the
4269 updates that I needed. But for the people that have their
4270 vehicles already ready to go, for first responders, even that
4271 AM radio in the car is the lifeline. That is the way you get
4272 information. That is the way we determined which bridges
4273 were open that we could share, where you could get food
4274 distribution, where you could get clean water. What -- you
4275 know, they were -- at one point they were guarding gas
4276 stations with law enforcement, and people needed to know,
4277 eventually, how do I get fuel to get around?

4278 So this is clear, and it is consistent with what we
4279 heard from the witness testimony. We heard from Randall
4280 Wright last week from Florida how access to local
4281 broadcasters are lifesaving. We heard from Melody Spann-
4282 Cooper with the National Association of Broadcasters about
4283 how the broadcasters share that important information. Seven
4284 past FEMA directors also weighed in to say -- to remind
4285 Congress that we have spent -- we have invested millions of
4286 dollars creating and boosting the National Public Warning
4287 System to communicate with the public at times of crisis, and
4288 most of that goes out over AM radio in vehicles and those old
4289 Walkmans in the closet.

4290 So for all of these reasons, I support the bill and
4291 commend the committee for moving it forward. Thanks so much.

4292 *The Chair. The gentlelady yields back. The chair
4293 recognizes Mr. Weber from Texas for five minutes.

4294 *Mr. Weber. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am going to
4295 vote for this. I am not happy, but I am happy, I guess, in
4296 one sense. I am glad that all the weather experts have
4297 determined that after eight years we will have no more storms
4298 where we need AM radio. I yield back.

4299 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Well I should -
4300 - in eight years we will be able to assess whether we need
4301 more.

4302 So the gentlewoman, Mrs. Dingell, the gentlelady from
4303 Michigan, is recognized for five minutes to speak on the --

4304 *Mrs. Dingell. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike
4305 the last word.

4306 *The Chair. The gentlelady is recognized.

4307 *Mrs. Dingell. I want to begin by thanking Chair
4308 Guthrie, Ranking Member Pallone, Chair Bilirakis, and Ranking
4309 Member Schakowsky for their leadership and for working out a
4310 strong, bipartisan compromise on H.R. 979, the AM Radio for
4311 Every Vehicle Act. We should be working together to identify
4312 and tackle the real challenges we face, and craft legislative
4313 solutions that will actually make it across the finish line.
4314 I am very, very supportive of this ANS as written, and I am

4315 looking forward to its adoption and ultimately seeing this
4316 bill signed into law.

4317 Let me be clear. AM radio remains a vital tool for
4318 communities across the country. Constituents and
4319 stakeholders alike have underscored its importance,
4320 particularly for delivering life safety [sic] information
4321 during emergencies. Every consumer must have reliable access
4322 to these alerts.

4323 When this issue was raised in the last Congress, I
4324 personally engaged with the automakers and their CEOs about
4325 the critical role AM plays. And they told me directly that
4326 they would continue offering it in their vehicles and work in
4327 good faith with us on a path forward, and they kept their
4328 word. That is why we are here today. This is the product we
4329 are advancing today.

4330 I have spoken to the broadcasters who actually are the
4331 ones that first brought it to my attention. Automakers and
4332 other stakeholders -- and there is broad agreement that this
4333 compromise ANS is the best path forward to enactment.

4334 My goal has always been to put consumers in the driver's
4335 seat, ensuring that they have access to emergency information
4336 while also making sure Federal policy is rooted in common
4337 sense. This ANS represents the best of bipartisan, practical
4338 policy-making. It does include a sunset, recognizing that
4339 technology evolves and that Congress must regularly revisit

4340 and reassess mandates to ensure they make sense for the
4341 future, which my Republican colleagues tell us all the time.
4342 If AM radio continues to provide value decades from now, then
4343 Congress can and should act again. It strengthens compliance
4344 timelines to make sure automakers follow through. Consumers
4345 deserve reliable access to emergency alerts without delay.

4346 And it also requires a study submitted to Congress and
4347 made public on the potential impacts on safety and innovation
4348 from requiring AM radio in autonomous vehicles -- I know you
4349 guys can't wait for that discussion -- along with possible
4350 solutions manufacturers could adopt so that our decisions are
4351 guided by data and evidence. We could have gone down a path
4352 that might have blown up this whole process and risk losing
4353 the support needed to pass this bill and get it enacted into
4354 law, but instead we had tough conversations and found a
4355 compromise. And that is why I believe this is the version
4356 that can and will get enacted.

4357 As we think about the future of emergency
4358 communications, we must ensure we maintain broad and
4359 comprehensive coverage and reliability. Here is the reality:
4360 99 percent of the 286 million vehicles on the road today have
4361 AM radio, and 90 percent of those new vehicles still
4362 included. With the average age of vehicles on the road over
4363 12 years old, the vast majority of Americans will continue to
4364 have AM radio in their cars for decades to come. And this is

4365 a reminder of how vital AM radio remains to our
4366 communications network.

4367 This is about ensuring widespread access to lifesaving
4368 alerts, supporting a proven technology, and keeping consumers
4369 -- consumers -- in the driver's seat. This bill reflects a
4370 strong bipartisan compromise, it reflects the input of all
4371 stakeholders, and reflects our committee at its best, finding
4372 common ground and getting the job done. That is why I
4373 strongly support this ANS, I will be voting to advance it out
4374 of committee, and hope we bring it to the floor quickly.
4375 This is a strong bipartisan compromise, and I am going to
4376 quote a certain chairman of this committee from the -- who
4377 the room is named after: "Compromise is not a dirty word."`
4378 It is good to see this committee working together to get this
4379 right.

4380 Thank you, Mr. Chair, and I yield back.

4381 *The Chair. Thank you, and thank you for quoting the
4382 dear former chairman, your dear husband. So thank you.

4383 So the next person to speak, Mr. Obernolte, you are
4384 recognized for five minutes to speak on the amendment.

4385 *Mr. Obernolte. Well, thank you, Mr. Chairman.

4386 Unfortunately, I rise in reluctant opposition to H.R.
4387 979, and I recognize the good intentions of the bill's
4388 sponsor and my colleagues who have spoken in support of it.
4389 But my problem with this bill is that it forces American

4390 consumers to buy a product that they may or may not want, an
4391 AM radio. In the past that has not been a big deal because
4392 the incremental cost of including an AM radio on a
4393 conventional vehicle is very low. So it is not a big deal
4394 for auto manufacturers to just include it, and it doesn't add
4395 appreciably to the cost of the vehicle. But that is not true
4396 of next-generation vehicles like electric vehicles.

4397 AM radio is a very low-frequency signal. That is why it
4398 travels over long distances so well. But EVs include
4399 powerful electric motors that operate at high voltages and
4400 currents, and those voltages and currents create
4401 electromagnetic interference on the same frequencies that AM
4402 radio travels on. Mitigating that interference is going to
4403 be very costly. It is going to require the development and
4404 engineering of filters, the installation of those filters and
4405 the shielding on the electric motors to prevent them from
4406 interfering with the AM radio signal.

4407 And if that was a low number, I think that this bill
4408 could be supportable. But according to the Center for
4409 Automotive Research, it is estimated that just complying with
4410 this bill would cost about \$3.8 billion over the next several
4411 years -- billion, with a B -- and that money would have to be
4412 amortized and passed on to consumers in the form of higher
4413 prices on electric vehicles. And folks, we are not talking
4414 about a few dollars here. That is potentially hundreds of

4415 dollars of additional costs that we are forcing American
4416 consumers to pay.

4417 Now, it has been offered that the reason, the
4418 justification for doing this is that we want to be able to
4419 have people receive alerts in the case of emergencies. But
4420 already Americans have many different channels for getting
4421 those. And it has been mentioned, I think, by one of the
4422 former -- previous speakers that the FEMA alerts can be
4423 received on AM radios. Well, it is interesting, FEMA did
4424 their test alert last October, and it is estimated that only
4425 one percent of the people that received that alert did so on
4426 an AM radio.

4427 In fact, 95 percent of the people who received that
4428 alert did through -- that through their cell phones. Most
4429 cell phones now include a backup mode that allows reception
4430 from satellites, and I think with the advent of several
4431 different low Earth orbit satellite constellations, very
4432 shortly most cell phones will have that capability. So there
4433 is no reason to force Americans to make that decision.

4434 America was founded on the concept of freedom and
4435 liberty, and I think American consumers should have the
4436 liberty to decide for themselves whether or not they want to
4437 pay the incremental cost of including an AM radio in their
4438 vehicle. And that is why I will be voting no on the bill
4439 today.

4440 I yield back.

4441 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
4442 recognizes Mr. Soto for five minutes to speak on the
4443 amendment.

4444 *Mr. Soto. Thank you so much, Mr. Chairman.

4445 Every day central Floridians tune into AM and, yes, FM
4446 radio for music, sports, traffic, community announcements,
4447 politics, and weather -- especially weather. We get
4448 hurricanes, tornadoes, wildfires, even hail. Yes, even hail,
4449 ice raining from the sky in Florida, a lot of it exacerbated
4450 by climate change.

4451 Most of us have been there at one point or another. The
4452 power is out. Unfortunately, cell phone service is down or
4453 your battery died, and you climb into your car and you get
4454 critical information on emergencies.

4455 We also heard the innovative work being done by a local
4456 Gainesville radio station just in our last committee meeting,
4457 and so I think this is a critical compromise as we continue
4458 to push forward in innovation and automotives, as well as
4459 keep AM radio alive and well for our constituents who
4460 continue to want to have access to it.

4461 And with that, I yield back.

4462 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
4463 recognizes Mr. Kean from New Jersey for five minutes to speak
4464 on the amendment.

4465 *Mr. Kean. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I am pleased to
4466 support the AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025.

4467 AM radio is a fundamental technology in our
4468 communications infrastructure, and we need to continue to
4469 provide reliable access to emergency information during
4470 severe weather events and other emergency situations. From a
4471 New Jersey perspective, that includes 9/11, Superstorm Sandy,
4472 and many other emergencies that have impacted constituents
4473 across New Jersey and across this country.

4474 AM radio remains a lifeline for those who rely on it for
4475 news, talk shows, sports, and emergency communications. The
4476 AM Radio for Every Vehicle Act makes it clear that AM radio
4477 remains an important technology that must be included in all
4478 passenger motor vehicles.

4479 I urge this committee to support this important
4480 legislation, and I yield back.

4481 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back, and the chair
4482 recognizes Mr. Carter from Louisiana for five minutes to
4483 speak on the amendment.

4484 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Thank you, Mr. Chairman. I
4485 move to strike the last word.

4486 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4487 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. As the co-author and founder
4488 of the bipartisan Congressional Disaster Preparedness and
4489 Recovery Caucus, I am proud to cosponsor and support the AM

4490 Radio for Every Vehicle Act of 2025.

4491 This legislation is vital for public safety and saving
4492 lives. When disaster strikes, whether it is a hurricane in
4493 the Gulf Coast, wildfires out West, or tornadoes across the
4494 Midwest, AM radio is one of the most reliable, accessible,
4495 and resilient ways to get critical information to the public
4496 in real time. Unlike cell networks or Internet service,
4497 which can go down when the power grid fails or towers are
4498 damaged, AM radio is built to withstand these emergencies.
4499 It reaches people in their cars, trucks, and evacuation
4500 routes when other communication systems have already failed.

4501 In my district of south Louisiana, we know the
4502 devastation -- we know what devastation a hurricane brings.
4503 During storms like Katrina, Rita, Ida, and many others, AM
4504 radio stations were often the last lifeline, delivering
4505 evacuation orders, weather updates, and emergency
4506 instructions, while families had no other source of
4507 information.

4508 This bill ensures that, as auto manufacturers modernize,
4509 we do not leave behind this critical public safety tool.
4510 Removing AM radio from vehicles will put lives at risk,
4511 especially for those in rural communities and vulnerable
4512 populations that rely on it the most.

4513 At the end of the day, this is not about nostalgia. It
4514 is about preparedness and public safety. By guaranteeing

4515 that AM radio remains accessible in every vehicle, we are
4516 making a commitment to communities for resilience and help
4517 when they need it most.

4518 I urge my colleagues to join me in supporting this
4519 legislation that no family, no matter where they live or
4520 where they drive, will be left without access to lifesaving
4521 information during and after a disaster.

4522 I yield.

4523 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. The chair will
4524 now recognize Mr. Langworthy of New York for five minutes to
4525 speak on the amendment.

4526 *Mr. Langworthy. Thank you, Mr. Chairman, and I move to
4527 strike the last word.

4528 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4529 *Mr. Langworthy. To my constituents in New York's 23rd
4530 congressional district, AM radio is much more than
4531 entertainment. It is about survival. When storms rip
4532 through our region, whether it is lake effect blizzards off
4533 of Lake Erie or floods on the Allegheny, cell towers fail,
4534 power lines go down, and broadband is knocked out. But AM
4535 radio keeps broadcasting.

4536 In Winter Storm Elliot, a blizzard that hit over
4537 Christmas that I cite often in this committee -- and is one
4538 of the reasons I sought to serve on this committee -- AM
4539 radio and -- our primary AM radio station in the Buffalo

4540 region, WBEN, was the lifeline for the community. It wasn't
4541 the television stations, it wasn't, you know, the NPR
4542 affiliates, it was that AM radio station that literally saved
4543 lives. They were around the clock, live and local. And in
4544 this age of media consolidation and media failures from
4545 newspapers to television stations, AM radio keeps our content
4546 locally and hyper-locally focused, and it is absolutely
4547 essential to my district.

4548 Stripping AM radios from automobiles would be a death
4549 blow to the AM radio industry. This legislation makes sure
4550 that every new vehicle sold in America continues to have that
4551 trusty AM radio as standard equipment, and it is essential.
4552 That means when it is a farmer in the field, a trucker on the
4553 highway, or a family driving down a back road, they will
4554 still have access to the emergency information that they need
4555 in real time.

4556 But AM radio's value goes far beyond emergencies. It
4557 serves as the community's public square, a place where local
4558 voices are heard on local topics. Small town broadcasters
4559 stay connected with their neighbors and diverse perspectives
4560 are shared.

4561 I might add, I object to the eight-year sunset on this
4562 bill. I think this needs to be something that goes on and
4563 should be made permanent. But be that as it may, other
4564 speakers have cited that, as well, but we must pass this

4565 legislation and make it law.

4566 By passing H.R. 979 we safeguard both public safety and
4567 free expression, guaranteeing that no community, no matter
4568 how rural or remote, is left behind. I urge my colleagues to
4569 join us and support this bipartisan, common-sense bill.

4570 And thank you, and I yield back, Mr. Chairman.

4571 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4572 further discussion on the amendment?

4573 The gentleman from Texas seeks recognition.

4574 *Mr. Veasey. Yes, just very brief --

4575 *The Chair. To speak on the amendment.

4576 *Mr. Veasey. Just very brief comments, Mr. Chairman.
4577 Unlike the other Texans that are on the committee, in Dallas-
4578 Fort Worth, you know, we have to worry about tornadoes coming
4579 through. And any time we have that sort of inclement
4580 weather, particularly if it is bad thunderstorms or a
4581 tornado, the first source of news choice is definitely AM
4582 radio.

4583 And so I like this bill. I like the compromise that has
4584 been worked on. I do want to tip my hat to the gentleman
4585 from California, Mr. Obernolte, because the way that he laid
4586 out his argument against it, I thought, was very eloquent,
4587 and I think that there was a lot of sense that he made, and
4588 he was very consistent in his orthodoxy on why he didn't
4589 support it. But I still think this is a good bill, and so I

4590 want to be for it, and will sign out with my favorite --

4591 *Mr. Weber. Will the gentleman yield?

4592 *Mr. Veasey. I will yield, yes.

4593 *Mr. Weber. I thank the gentleman from Texas. You
4594 know, you all have tornadoes, we have hurricanes.

4595 *Mr. Veasey. You all have hurricanes.

4596 *Mr. Weber. I am glad that somehow we are going to
4597 guarantee that we will lose all hurricanes and tornadoes in
4598 eight years.

4599 *Mr. Veasey. Yes.

4600 *Mr. Weber. I yield back.

4601 *Mr. Veasey. And Mr. Chairman, I am going to sign off
4602 with my favorite AM -- I am not a P1 listener anymore because
4603 I have to -- I am here all the time. But from my favorite AM
4604 show, "duly noted.'" And I will sign off. Thank you.

4605 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentleman yields back. The
4606 chair will recognize Mr. Bentz from Oregon for five minutes
4607 to speak on the ANS.

4608 *Mr. Bentz. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I move to strike the
4609 last word.

4610 *The Chair. The gentleman is recognized.

4611 *Mr. Bentz. So my district is, I think, the second-
4612 largest district that is not a state in the United States,
4613 70,000 square miles -- when I hear people talk about 10,000-
4614 square-mile districts, I laugh -- 70,000 square miles. It

4615 takes 13 hours to drive from one corner of my district to the
4616 other. And many of those hours there is no cell service.
4617 And so, of course, I support this bill. AM radio is
4618 essential to my district. People listen to it still because
4619 many times that is all they really have to listen to. So I
4620 support this bill, I urge my colleagues to support this bill.

4621 And again, I do wish there was cell service in all parts
4622 of my district, but there literally are hours that go by when
4623 I am driving where it is not available. Therefore, that
4624 particular argument, at least at this particular time,
4625 doesn't work. Please support this bill.

4626 I yield back.

4627 *The Chair. The gentleman yields back. Is there
4628 further discussion on the amendment?

4629 Seeing none -- oh, I am sorry. Oh, Ms. -- I am sorry,
4630 the gentlelady from Virginia is recognized for five minutes,
4631 Ms. McClellan, for five minutes to speak on the ANS.

4632 *Ms. McClellan. Thank you, Mr. Chair. I just wanted to
4633 make a point.

4634 Probably in eight years we are not going to see no more
4635 hurricanes, tornadoes, or extreme weather. But what might
4636 change in eight years is technology. And so I think, while
4637 it would be nice to not have a sunset at all, a sunset is
4638 appropriate to at least look and see if technology changes
4639 between now and eight years from now might require a

4640 different solution. And so I just wanted to make that point.

4641 I yield back.

4642 *The Chair. Thank you. The gentlelady yields back. Is
4643 there further discussion on the amendment?

4644 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion -- this
4645 is on the ANS, not on the final bill -- the -- if there is no
4646 further discussion, the vote occurs on the amendment in the
4647 nature of a substitute.

4648 All those in favor shall signify by saying aye.

4649 All those opposed, nay.

4650 The ayes have it, and the amendment is agreed to.

4651 Are there any further amendments?

4652 Seeing none, if there is no further discussion, the vote
4653 occurs on the -- excuse me, we just did that.

4654 The question now occurs on adopting H.R. 979, as
4655 amended.

4656 All those in favor -- you want a roll call vote?

4657 So a roll call vote has been requested, and the clerk
4658 will call the roll.

4659 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta?

4660 [No response.]

4661 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith?

4662 *Mr. Griffith. Aye.

4663 *The Clerk. Mr. Griffith votes aye.

4664 Mr. Bilirakis?

4665 *Mr. Bilirakis. Aye.
4666 *The Clerk. Mr. Bilirakis votes aye.
4667 Mr. Hudson?
4668 *Mr. Hudson. Aye.
4669 *The Clerk. Mr. Hudson votes aye.
4670 Mr. Carter of Georgia?
4671 *Mr. Carter of Georgia. Aye.
4672 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Georgia votes aye.
4673 Mr. Palmer?
4674 *Mr. Palmer. Palmer votes aye.
4675 *The Clerk. Mr. Palmer votes aye.
4676 Mr. Dunn?
4677 [No response.]
4678 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw?
4679 *Mr. Crenshaw. Aye.
4680 *The Clerk. Mr. Crenshaw votes aye.
4681 Mr. Joyce?
4682 [No response.]
4683 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber?
4684 *Mr. Weber. Aye.
4685 *The Clerk. Mr. Weber votes aye.
4686 Mr. Allen?
4687 *Mr. Allen. Aye.
4688 *The Clerk. Mr. Allen votes aye.
4689 Mr. Balderson?

4690 [No response.]

4691 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher?

4692 *Mr. Fulcher. Fulcher is aye.

4693 *The Clerk. Mr. Fulcher votes aye.

4694 Mr. Pfluger?

4695 *Mr. Pfluger. Aye.

4696 *The Clerk. Mr. Pfluger votes aye.

4697 Mrs. Harshbarger?

4698 *Mrs. Harshbarger. Aye.

4699 *The Clerk. Mrs. Harshbarger votes aye.

4700 Mrs. Miller-Meeks?

4701 *Mrs. Miller-Meeks. Yes.

4702 *The Clerk. Mrs. Miller-Meeks votes aye.

4703 Mrs. Cammack?

4704 [No response.]

4705 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte?

4706 *Mr. Obernolte. No.

4707 *The Clerk. Mr. Obernolte votes no.

4708 Mr. James?

4709 [No response.]

4710 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz?

4711 *Mr. Bentz. Aye.

4712 *The Clerk. Mr. Bentz votes aye.

4713 Mrs. Houchin?

4714 *Mrs. Houchin. Aye.

4715 *The Clerk. Mrs. Houchin votes aye.
4716 Mr. Fry?
4717 [No response.]
4718 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee?
4719 *Ms. Lee. Aye.
4720 *The Clerk. Ms. Lee votes aye.
4721 Mr. Langworthy?
4722 *Mr. Langworthy. Aye.
4723 *The Clerk. Mr. Langworthy votes aye.
4724 Mr. Kean?
4725 *Mr. Kean. Aye.
4726 *The Clerk. Mr. Kean votes aye..
4727 Mr. Rulli?
4728 *Mr. Rulli. Aye.
4729 *The Clerk. Mr. Rulli votes aye.
4730 Mr. Evans?
4731 *Mr. Evans. Aye.
4732 *The Clerk. Mr. Evans votes aye.
4733 Mr. Goldman?
4734 *Mr. Goldman. Aye.
4735 *The Clerk. Mr. Goldman votes aye.
4736 Mrs. Fedorchak?
4737 *Mrs. Fedorchak. Aye.
4738 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fedorchak votes aye.
4739 Mr. Pallone?

4740 *Mr. Pallone. Aye.
4741 *The Clerk. Mr. Pallone votes aye.
4742 Ms. DeGette?
4743 *Ms. DeGette. Aye.
4744 *The Clerk. Ms. DeGette votes aye.
4745 Ms. Schakowsky?
4746 *Ms. Schakowsky. Aye.
4747 *The Clerk. Ms. Schakowsky votes aye.
4748 Ms. Matsui?
4749 *Ms. Matsui. Aye.
4750 *The Clerk. Ms. Matsui votes aye.
4751 Ms. Castor?
4752 *Ms. Castor. Aye.
4753 *The Clerk. Ms. Castor votes aye.
4754 Mr. Tonko?
4755 *Mr. Tonko. Aye.
4756 *The Clerk. Mr. Tonko votes aye.
4757 Ms. Clarke?
4758 *Ms. Clarke. Aye.
4759 *The Clerk. Ms. Clarke votes aye.
4760 Mr. Ruiz?
4761 *Mr. Ruiz. Aye.
4762 *The Clerk. Mr. Ruiz votes aye.
4763 Mr. Peters?
4764 *Mr. Peters. Aye.

4765 *The Clerk. Mr. Peters votes aye.
4766 Mrs. Dingell?
4767 *Mrs. Dingell. Aye.
4768 *The Clerk. Mrs. Dingell votes aye.
4769 Mr. Veasey?
4770 *Mr. Veasey. Aye.
4771 *The Clerk. Mr. Veasey votes aye.
4772 Ms. Kelly?
4773 *Ms. Kelly. Aye.
4774 *The Clerk. Ms. Kelly votes aye.
4775 Ms. Barragan?
4776 *Ms. Barragan. Aye.
4777 *The Clerk. Ms. Barragan votes aye.
4778 Mr. Soto?
4779 *Mr. Soto. Aye.
4780 *The Clerk. Mr. Soto votes aye.
4781 Ms. Schrier?
4782 *Ms. Schrier. Aye.
4783 *The Clerk. Ms. Schrier votes aye.
4784 Mrs. Trahan?
4785 *Mrs. Trahan. Aye.
4786 *The Clerk. Mrs. Trahan votes aye.
4787 Mrs. Fletcher?
4788 *Mrs. Fletcher. Aye.
4789 *The Clerk. Mrs. Fletcher votes aye.

4790 Ms. Ocasio-Cortez?

4791 *Ms. Ocasio-Cortez. Aye.

4792 *The Clerk. Ms. Ocasio-Cortez votes aye.

4793 Mr. Auchincloss?

4794 *Mr. Auchincloss. Aye.

4795 *The Clerk. Mr. Auchincloss votes aye.

4796 Mr. Carter of Louisiana?

4797 *Mr. Carter of Louisiana. Aye.

4798 *The Clerk. Mr. Carter of Louisiana votes aye.

4799 Mr. Menendez?

4800 *Mr. Menendez. Aye.

4801 *The Clerk. Mr. Menendez votes aye.

4802 Mr. Mullin?

4803 *Mr. Mullin. Aye.

4804 *The Clerk. Mr. Mullin votes aye.

4805 Mr. Landsman?

4806 *Mr. Landsman. Aye.

4807 *The Clerk. Mr. Landsman votes aye.

4808 Ms. McClellan?

4809 *Ms. McClellan. Aye.

4810 *The Clerk. Ms. McClellan votes aye.

4811 Chairman Guthrie?

4812 *The Chair. Aye.

4813 *The Clerk. Chairman Guthrie votes aye.

4814 *The Chair. Is anyone seeking to be recorded?

4815 Mr. Latta?

4816 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta is not recorded.

4817 *Mr. Latta. Latta votes aye.

4818 *The Clerk. Mr. Latta votes aye.

4819 *The Chair. Dr. Dunn?

4820 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn is not recorded.

4821 *Mr. Dunn. Aye.

4822 *The Clerk. Mr. Dunn votes aye.

4823 *The Chair. Dr. Joyce.

4824 *Mr. Joyce. Aye.

4825 *The Clerk. Mr. Joyce votes aye.

4826 *The Chair. Mr. Balderson?

4827 *Mr. Balderson. Aye.

4828 *The Clerk. Mr. Balderson votes aye.

4829 *The Chair. Anyone on the Democrat side seeking
4830 recognition for -- to answer the roll call? It looks like
4831 your door is opening there. I want to make sure everybody is
4832 covered.

4833 *Voice. I think that is it.

4834 *The Chair. Okay, I believe that is it.

4835 *Mr. Pallone. I think we are good.

4836 *The Chair. So the clerk will report.

4837 [Pause.]

4838 *The Clerk. Mr. Chairman, on that vote there were 50
4839 ayes and 1 no.

4840 *The Chair. The ayes have it, and the bill is adopted.

4841 Without objection, the staff is authorized to make
4842 technical and conforming changes to the legislation approved
4843 by the committee today.

4844 So ordered.

4845 And without objection, the committee stands adjourned.

4846 [Whereupon, at 1:52 p.m., the committee was adjourned.]